

Andromeda
 Halifax Harbour
 August 13: 1788.

Sir,

The unexpected manner, in which
 Your Majesty thought proper to order the ship, I have the honour to com-
 mand to America, obliges me though very reluctantly to express my senti-
 ments on the subject in a more explicit manner than I have ever yet done.
 In the present situation, from the manner in which I was ordered, it is
 plain that the step originates solely in the breast of Your Majesty
 who in this case I am only to regard as my father, and in the course of
 this letter I shall address myself I hope with the respect due to a father
 and the duty due to the sovereign.

Upon the late hostile appearances
 Your Majesty out of your usual paternal tenderness thought proper to

order me home from a situation in which I was placed at my own de-
sire for the space of three years to gain local professional knowledge.
The orders requiring me to proceed abroad in 1786 I executed with
willingness and alacrity, being to the neglect of officers and men ready to
execute such orders; during the twenty months I was abroad, from the
sudden transitions from heat to cold and from cold to heat together
with the very relaxed habit of body I had contracted in the West
Indies I was well aware that a continuance of the first plan would
prove detrimental to my health; however, from the consciousness that
part of my complaint being venereal and consequently having origi-
nated through my own indiscretion I was determined in November
1787 to have made one more trial of the West Indies though
contrary to the express desire of all physical men I had consulted.
In this determination I was when orders unexpectedly were sent for my

real. I profess Your Majesty to Admiral Sawyer for the manner in

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which I received the news, a man of Officers wishing for an award to distinguish
 myself it afforded me the greatest satisfaction: but again being apprehen-
 sive that every thing might be settled, I was sorry to cross the Atlan-
 tic Ocean to return aboard again. From the moment I arrived in En-
 gland which was December 1787 till my first sailing in last June
 I uniformly studied to remain at home for two reasons, my health and
 the certainty of the points, for which I had been originally detached
 abroad, being fully answered, and for a third very material reason the
 knowledge of there being no possibility of learning the manoeuvres of
 a fleet on foreign service. From the length of time I have had the ho-
 nour of serving Your Majesty I ought and am confident I am ade-
 quate to conduct any ship in the world, and am thoroughly ac-
 quainted with all the forms of service. My inexperience in fleets urged

me to solicit to be employed with them, where I likewise kept up my
acquired knowledge and improved daily as I have done, whilst under
the command of Admiral Fox. Whether I have gained the Admiral's
approbation meets with himself. I can safely say no officer wishes more
ardently to strive more strenuously for the good of the service than I
have uniformly done. I don't deny that the idea of remaining in England
was another motive for my wishing to serve with the Earl Admiral.
I see no harm in a young officer, to serve at home: with the desire I
uniformly asked to be employed on home service London, ^{me} believe it is
is the last place in your Majesty's dominions I wish to visit: I do not
deny my partiality for Devonshire, my connections there are
such as I am by no means ashamed of, and after having been so long
in that part of England. I confess I am attached to it: when your
Majesty's pleasure was signified to me that I should last April

return to my former situation. When made no complaint and should have
 sailed the following day. Had not the guard ships been suddenly ordered out:
 and upon your Majesty's further directions respecting my destination after
 the evening. I was equally ready to obey though very much against my incli-
 nation: but after having been three weeks at sea and returning in sight
 of the Lizard, and then to find unexpected orders to proceed abroad
 without anchoring: I must confess in time of peace my heart had not
 been intimated to me that it was to be the case, then indeed every body
 would have been prepared: with respect to myself I cannot help feel-
 ing it: but the situation of the officers and men under my command
 is very different from this: having been naturally led to suppose some
 little time would have been given after our crossing to prepare them-
 selves for a foreign voyage: the men are in a peculiar hard situation
 for from the moment your Majesty honoured me with the com-

mand of a ship. I have endeavoured to furnish the men as much as possible from the country round Plymouth and the most part of them are married, and have left their wives and families unprovided for, having made no provision for them during our absence. I cannot help mentioning the satisfaction I received from the conduct of the officers and men on this occasion.

Having repented on this matter, I shall now no longer detain Your Majesty but to make one remark more, which is that I trust the manner in which this letter is writte will appear to Your Majesty to be by no means dictated by passion, heat, or disappointment, but to be the result of my thoughts when cool, sedate, and temperate, and likewise that the language is conformable to the respect due from a son to his parents.

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Before I conclude, I must add that

my constant endeavours shall be ever exerted to procure by my future
conduct both in my publick and private situation of life

that I am, and ever will be,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate
and most dutiful Son and Subject;

W. Pitt

From William

August 26. 1900