

Prince George
At Sea.

August 21: 1781.

Sir,

Your Majesty sees by the Date of this Letter, that it was written on the Day, I was born. The reason I wrote it on this Day in particular is because I should naturally think both of what has happened, & what is to be my course of life hereafter. Another Reason is; because for some time after my arrival in America my thoughts & time will too much be employ'd to write long Letters.

Since I have been on Board this last time, it has been my constant rule to observe in every respect the orders of the Adm^l & M^{rs} Majindie's advice. I have so far succeeded that they are both very well pleas'd with me. M^{rs} Majindie has assur'd that he has written very favourable accounts of my Behaviour to Your Majesty. The Adm^l sent for me this morning to tell me that for the future I should keep my watches regularly like a Midshipman upon Deck day & night. I am sure I should be very much wanting

to Your Majesty, & the Queen. I did not do my utmost, after
having received so much encouragement from both, my Father
& Mother.

I must own that by nature I always feel a desire of being at
home. However, I consider that there are two very good
reasons, why I should wish now to be absent. The first
reason is; Because I have an advantage over all others
in my situation of life; both in seeing the characters of dif-
ferent nations; & in making myself acquainted with the service
in active scenes. The second reason is; because every unfortun-
ate by the Prince of Wales has taken terrible course of life,
which he might perhaps (had I been at home) induced me to
lead; which would have been very much to my own detri-
ment; & very much to your's, Sir, & the Queen's mortificati-
on & grief.

I thank you to all those, who have been concerned about me; but
particularly Mr. Majindie, I have a pretty good sense of tholi-
gion; which I hope, & I am sure will keep me out of many of
those vices, which are too apt to be practiced now a days. It
makes me put my trust in the Creator of all things, to whom
I pray daily for G. M. & the Queen's health & prosperity, &
for the whole family's turning out well hereafter.

In my natural disposition; there is not a more obstinate or
a more perverse boy; if it had not been by dint of education
I should not be what I am now (which is far from being
perfect); for which reason I should always be in duty bound
to be grateful to G. M. & the Queen, & to all those, who have
had any thing to do with such a bad & obstinate disposition
as mine.

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I beg my Duty to the Queen & my love
to my Brothers & Sisters,

Never believe,

Sir;

Your Majesty's Affectionate,
& dutiful Son,

William

1853

J. Williams
St George's Hall Aug. 21st 1781.