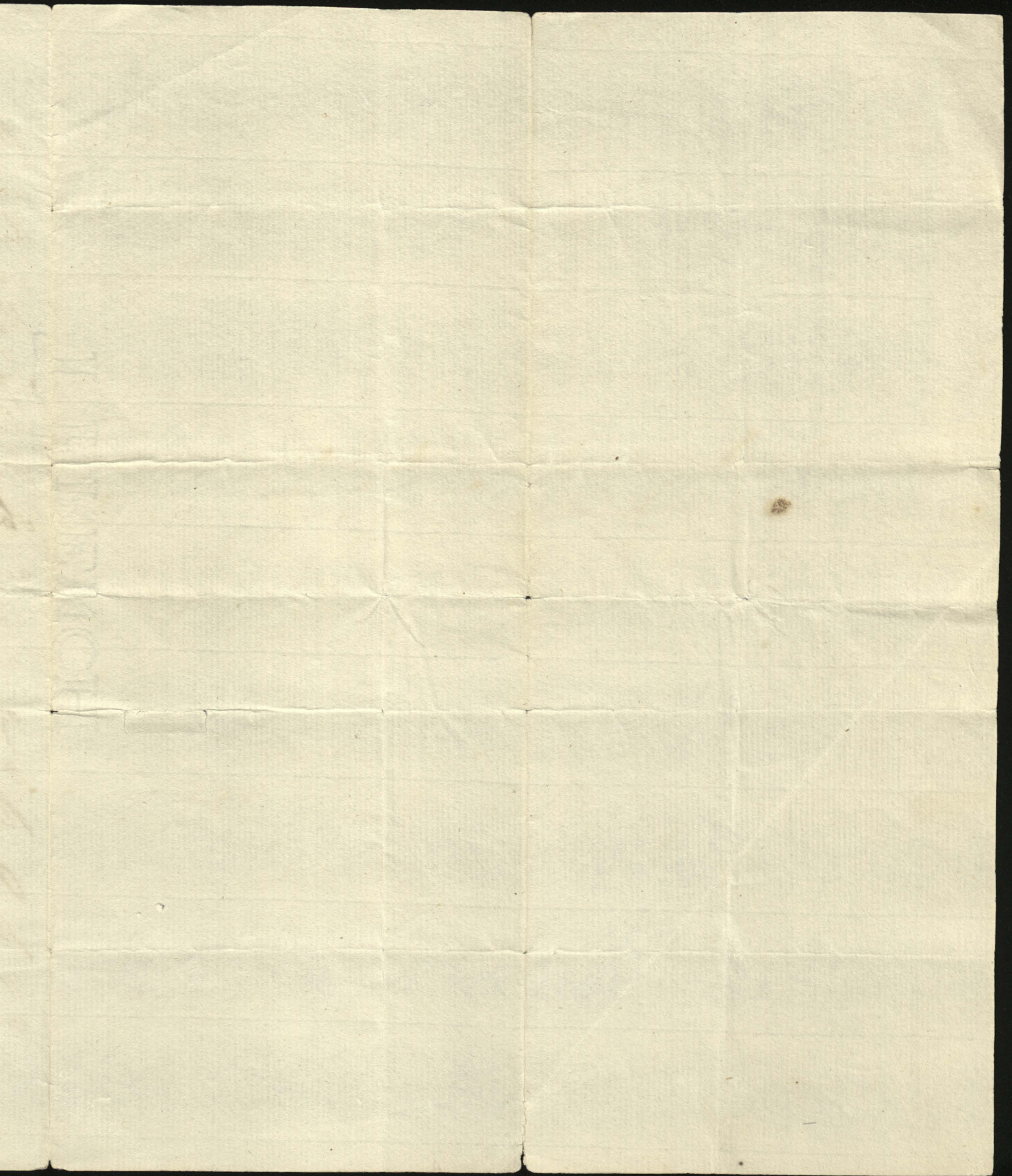


(17)  
St. James's Aug<sup>h</sup>. 2. 1781.

My Dear William Your two letters previous to Your sailing have given Me much pleasure, as they bear the marks of a consciousness that the advice I gave You on Paper when You returned to Your Ship was well founded. The smallest consideration must convince You that I can have no other object but Your prosperity in view, when I give You any Directions for Your conduct. My ideas are very clear, I wish You may become a good, a useful, and an amiable Man, this can only be obtained by a true knowledge and obedience of the Laws of God, assiduity in acquiring knowledge not only of a Professional kind, but of those things that may enable You to appear with credit in the Station of a Surgeon as well as that of a Sailor, and an habitual management of Yourself that Your Words and Actions may shew Your goodwill to mankind in general and that You have a respectable Character. I will not add more on this Occasion but my Prayers to the All mighty that He may protect You on all Occasions and that on Your return I may find You much improved and that Your conduct may at all times make me prove Myself

My Dear William  
Your most affectionate Father  
George.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged, yellowed paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]*



Aug. 2. 81