

Hebe.

Portland Roads.

Nov: 6: 1785.

Sir,

I last had the honour of writing to Your Majesty when
 the Hebe sailed on a cruise; we were sixteen days at sea. It blew hard in the
 beginning of latter part of the time we were out. The remainder was moderate
 -rate. Your Majesty will conceive how hard it blew that we were so toward
 of the Pole of Night. I were three days beating up to it, the in night part
 the time. There was nothing worth mentioning happened except our seeing

a Dutch Ship of 64 Guns. I have very reason to think the *Atala* is the finest
-most Frigate in your Majesty's service: she is an excellent sea boat in a
gale of wind, & can turn off from a lee shore as well. I think her a
very handsome ship, as she must be in the eyes of those that like straight-masted
ships. She has tremendous masts, of yards: the dimensions of a further
are too small for her. I only wish she was better of stronger manned: our
people are by no means so scarce of them as they are tall or as stout as
are. It is an odd thing to say, but however it is true our best seamen are
the marines of the ablest fellows. Her complement is not enough: instead
of 250 she ought to have 300 men. I only wish I saw express to your
Majesty is that if it is thought proper for me to return and arriving

ship, I hope to have the Ple. Believe me, Sir, I have nothing more at heart

than Your Majesty's service, if I get the command of a Frigate, no induce-

ment in the world shall prevent me from being at sea as much as I can

be now. I am confident Your Majesty is sensible that I am zealous in the pro-

secution of that no pleasure can induce me to be inattentive to the duty

of an officer. I wish to be promoted; I am most anxious by every officer

to do the same: it is for the good of the publick; ambition makes us vie

with one another, emulation promotes the glorious spirit we have in

our corps. The situation of cruising on our particular station is certain-

ly the best to make a seaman. The sudden changes of wind & the violent

gales of wind cannot help giving experience. Believe I say with truth

say that experience is the King's sword: with respect to the rest of the com-
-modities of a man of war I am thoroughly acquainted.

Sir,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate
and most dutiful Son,

J. Pitt

Prince William
November 6. 1705