

Pegasus
 Pevis Road
 May 20th 1787.

Sir,

I have next to make known to Your Majesty the
 particulars of an affair that concerns me in my professional and official charac-
 ter in the highest degree. I must therefore take the liberty of writing more freely
 by, and leaving your Majesty not to mention on any account the business to
 any body but my Lord Howe. When next I shall see you, Your Majesty, must well
 remember the matter, and that for the first time in my life. I fear my mind
 that I said it was and ever said it by my opinion that all children were oblig'd
 to follow their parents' wishes for their education and situation in the world
 that on that account I must have to inform your Majesty of that foolish and
 ridiculous affair, which gave me so much uneasiness. I then said that I
 hoped your Majesty would allow me to go abroad for three years in order to per-
 form my self in my profession. I lived and in which it was my resolution to share.

Your Majesty I am so pleased with my desire of serving, and was gracious
enough to permit me to the command of the *Pegasus*, and to allow me to
choose my officers. They were Lieutenants Chamberling, who had had the honour
of serving last year with my Lord Hood in the *Sarflaw*; Lieutenant Hargood,
who was in the *Telegraph* with me, recommended by my Lady but by his own
loyalty and affection, and Lieutenant. He is recommended by the Captain
of the *Guardships* at Plymouth: with one officer. There last was; another
I was acquainted with in his official character, and the third is strongly recom-
mended as Mr. Wolfe, Your Majesty will allow that. Had a fair prospect of
everything being right on board, whilst the ship was at Plymouth, every
body behaved with propriety and as I have enclosed the narrative, I
shall not attempt to give the particulars but the general outline, in
order, I should Chamberling proceeded with regularity, but which brought
on the duty of the ship entirely, and particularly whenever I found fault,
my Lord was and show this was no passing. I highly disapproved of his conduct,
but from a decline and from the necessity of my situation I could not meet to see.

44764

tion to inform him of his impropriety and want of respect: so that I should
long perceiving my awkwardness thought he might go on as Halifax
so far forgot himself as to advise me about punishments, and neglect his
duty by dining out of the ship every day: There was the absolute necessity
of Schomberg being checked, which Your Majesty may easily conceive
did bring the first time very mildly: however he sent upon shore at the
of Spain in my presence to the West Indies the narrative relates what happened
and at St. Vincent Schomberg made some difficulties, upon which the French
English him: would be Captain of my own ship: this had a visible effect
upon him for during the time: Puerto Príncipe and Dominique he
never went on shore: however upon my coming into English Harbour
Schomberg was hurt as well as the other officers that I did not ask them to
my table for I had made and shall be observe the rule that whenever
two Captains or any strangers dine with me to have that day no officer of
the ship at my table in the night we must keep the officers at a distance;
in order that they may remember the distance the respect due to their Captain.

As the ship was fitting alongside the wharf, I allowed neither officer or
-man to accept any invitation but kept them close to their duty; there was
another grievance: on the 14th of January, that Mr. Schomburgk under-
-took for neglect of duty by disobeying my positive orders, and for disreputing
-in several instances to me his commanding officer, for exhibiting the follo-
-ing morning before the other officers of the ship in my cabin, a sum of
-Your Majesty will see in the narrative, his conceivance and said sum as
-inviolable of his improper conduct. That Mr. Schomburgk under-
-took established an order book for the use of the officers to be kept in the cabin
-the first Lieutenant, and another for the gentlemen, one for each mess, the
-board and cabin and books in heaven. Upon an order, the Clerk in
-the order, I then signed, and read it to the officers who makes it, but
-like to know, in this manner, as orders are given out in a regiment. That
-established a uniform method of proceeding with every thing on board, from
-the 15th to the 23rd of January, Schomburgk did the duty in a most shameful manner
-on that day he disobeyed my orders, and the narrative will inform Your Majesty

of my proceedings and his est. extraordinary steps, upon which Captain Nelson
 desired me to put him under arrest: four or five days after Schomberg's being un-
 der arrest, Captain Nelson gave out a very strong order against officers, writing for
 Courts Martial at a time there were not ships enough to try them: the Captains
 were directed to read this order to all the officers, upon the reading of which
 to my utter surprise and astonishment Mr. Hope doubted the legality of the or-
 der: He told him if he continued to talk in that strange stile, I would imme-
 diately report him to Captain Nelson: this language from Mr. Hope put me
 on my guard respecting him and I immediately observed an unusual disagree-
 ableness in doing his duty: this improper conduct I represented in com-
 mon conversation to Captain Nelson, who said he was by no means surpris'd
 at Mr. Hope's publickly in the most unguarded manner talking about
 Schomberg and the cruelty of his treatment from me: this language I could
 not but observe and make me naturally think Mr. Hope at a great distance: I did
 not take any notice of it at that time as it was told me by Nelson in a private
 manner, and as we at that time hourly expected Sr. Richard Bickerton's arrival

44
as I was convinced that on Schomberg's trial it must have come out if Hope
was at the bottom. However, when Mr. March's no Commodore arrived, I began to
consider the matter serious, one Lieutenant under arrest, and another
under very strong suspicions of improper language, I called upon Cap-
tain Nelson as my commanding officer to inform me of his authority
concerning Mr. Hope: without hesitation he then told me Captain Wallis,
who at that time was first Lieutenant of the Boreas. Wallis told me that as
he and Hope were going to visit the hospital, Mr. Hope at that time had at
various others told him if Schomberg had not wrote for a Court Martial, he must
have obeyed him as his commanding officer, but he would not have looked
upon him as a gentleman and never would have spoke to him in the ship upon
this Point of the affair into the cabin, and before then acquainted Mr. Hope of what
I had learn'd, that I considered him with these sentiments, as a dangerous man in a
ship, that it was my intention after Schomberg was tried to transfer my Goods
Commissioners of the Admiralty of the conduct of the different officers in this affair; that
I should certainly acquaint their Lordships of his violence, and if any thing should come

out on Schomberg's trial that W. Wolfe had been aiding, abetting, and assisting, I should
 certainly bring him to a Court Martial: Wolfe said if Captain Wallis could remember
 these things, he would not charge his memory with them, that it was his firm opinion
 and belief that I should forgive Schomberg, if Captains Nelson and Collingwood
 had not advised me to the contrary; this last respect I hurt me exceedingly. Two or three
 days afterwards W. Wolfe begged leave to speak to me in the cabin, where he ex-
 pressed me how sensible he was of his impropriety of language, that he hoped I
 would look over it. I told him he was very properly sensible of his misconduct:
 that in consideration of his inexperience in the world and in your Majesty's
 service, I would look over the business; but that it behoved him extremely to re-
 gain my best good opinion by his attention to the duty and his willingness to
 obey my orders: this he professed on the 20th March. I was informed that W. Wolfe would
 alter in those points of his conduct, which he knew did not accord with my affec-
 tion: he either would not or could not: the same unwillingness was visible that
 I was frequently oblig'd to perform him on severely: he apply'd to be appointed
 second Lieutenant of the Bonzo, and was accordingly discharged int. her the 10th May.

When my delivering him his certificate, for all officers and so numerous of men
- dead signed by the Captain, Hope, & others, and they have to refer Your Majesty to
- enclosed copy for the particulars which are in my letter to their Lordships concerning
- Mr. Hope's refusing the certificate. I have now related the misconduct of Mr. Hope
- the circumstances really are his own fault, and a ^{the} consequence of means of
- ces of the most violent, obstinate, and quarrelsome disposition. With respect to
- Schomberg Your Majesty will be enabled from the narrative and from his letter
- to see most perfectly into the affair and its circumstances. My conduct throughout this
- pleasant and difficult affair has been wholly guided by my zeal for Your Majesty
- service, my desire to act as an officer, and my own sense and reflection. The narrative
- I wrote myself. I never have taken any body's advice. I believe it is in this
- self I should do my duty to Your Majesty: my love to the office the Captain in the
- station men of his person and sense are of opinion that my conduct has been
- secondly applicable. The business has given me a confidence; I am now a private
- officer, always with his spirit and civility. However, business particular in my
- - quage. I have not obtained the grand order of being able to say so. When we be for

Martial is assembled on Schomberg, I shall be able to prove to the Officers who form
 the Court, to the Royal Navy, and to the world that I am not unworthy the honors
 conferred on me by your Majesty by commencing a man of war, and that by my eight
 years of service I have studied my profession. In justice to those Officers that
 have behaved with propriety, I must mention Lieutenant Stargood the second Officer,
 who ever since I have commanded the *Argus*, has acted in the most officious and
 respectful manner, and since Mr. Schomberg's last arrival has carried on the duty
 of the ship in a most excellent manner. The Officers, like Stargood, who know
 the discipline and rules of the service, and are with Captains that expect every Officer
 man to do his duty, never with real or any certain suspicion in their Comman-
 der: the ship is now as she ought to be: Order and obedience. Stargood is not
 done right: I am not to find the other Officers such as the Master, Surgeon, and
 Marine Officers have always behaved with respect and propriety. After having spoken
 unto this business, I have no reason to wish of your Majesty that the ship may be
 no means be recalled, but it remains as long as was first intended. Your Majesty has
 hope that will be in vain. I shall never being disagreeable to the many families on my ship.

Let me therefore remain abroad, these trying situations give an officer confidence, a habit
of thinking, and a necessity of deciding which qualities are highly requisite in great
commands: a man who does not allow passion to get the better of good sense and follows
the dictates of honor, can never be in a matter of consequence. The prospects I have are
great, and since I left England my profession has been entirely neglected in this
Island at the age of five or six and twenty, with experience as an officer and as a
seaman, with strong unimpaired health for three rheumatic attacks and nothing
Your Majesty will naturally prefer vast situations of quietness and professional
knowledge, to the advantage I have already had, I have the honor to be

I must now beg leave to return to Mr. Schomberg.

On the 23^d of January I received orders to put him under arrest; on the 1st February
Your Majesty will observe by the narrative the steps he took to ask forgiveness and
my conduct on that occasion. So far back as March Captain Nelson suggested
to me the Teguano's calling in at Jamaica in her way to the Americas should be
official account arrived of a Commanding Officer coming out to the Leeward Islands
station by the middle of May, mine was the only opinion it was the only probable
method of enquiring into a matter. I am a sworn officer give up, and in which justice re-
quires to be as soon as possible done act of humanity to the officer under arrest: according
to the 7th instant Captain Nelson writes to me on that subject. I have enclosed his letter and my

answer for Your Majesty's inspection: I accordingly on the 2nd sailed from English
Harbour at daylight for here where Captain Nelson was laying, arrived there at
noon and put with his Despatches for Jamaica.

Yours
Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate
and most devoted Son and Subject

[Signature]

44768

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Prince William
20th May 1797