

S.

By the Fleamwell, and Cap^{tn} Wron, I received yours of the third and twelfth of
November, to witte I will give you a full answer by the first Fleet that shall come with you, and then
also write to the Lords, and will not forgett what you desired to have mention'd in it. In the mean
time, to please to acquaint them, that on the sixteenth of December, the Hon^{ble} Cap^{tn} Jobman
Commander Seign^r, from hence with a small fleet, by whom I sent the above letter, on the eighteenth
Cap^{tn} Seynard who commanded the Y^elistant, brought in here a large ship of aboute twenty
and raked the Drumadary, and he fluffed du Roy, the same day in the Evening off Martinore about
ten at night he came up with us, fought her till two in the morning, being on Board and foot
her, she is a valuable Prize, being laden with Masts, Amcords, Cables and other Ordnage, what we
extraordnarily wanted for our Army's ships, and could not have been otherwise supplied unless it had been
from old England. On the twenty fifth I sent Major Crisp with prisoners to Martinore. On the 16th
of January Cap^{tn} Wron arrived here with his fleet, had sight of him at some distance, steered our
Island to Windward, when a Jamaica Sloop, by the name of the Juno of running down eight hundred
of Warr, within eight leagues, gave the same to Edward, and by two prisoners that were taken
Marigalante by the Bermoodian Sloop, I was informed, that the French designed to come hit
with their fleet, and bombard our famous Town of St^h Michaels, but I was ready to receive them
if they should have proved true.

In the two and twentieth of January: Major Crisp arrived here from Martinore, bringing with
him almost a Month's ransome of Ships being the only prize made for it, he brought me six hundred
English men, and ~~some~~ an account that their Fleet (which were of you will find in the last) Seign^r
of the Gul de Sea, of Martinore on the seventh of January, and that their design was to attempt
something upon this Island, this also was confirmed to me by Cap^{tn} Whitthorly Commander of a
Sloop, who, I said sent some days before to make discovery where the French lay, and when
they had, who returned with a Sloop much bigger then his own, which he took coming out of Martinore
and brought in wither on the 24th of January, the Master of this is a German, but speaks good English,
he agreed with Crisp as to the time of the Enemy's sailing, and particularly affirmed, that they
were to lie off our Island, and endeavor to intercept our fleet of what strength it should be, they were
not then acquainted, that in yett also, I was informed, that several great ships were soon lying off
to the North East (on w^{ch} Point they have been seen many days to the South East of January) where
I summoned a Council of Warr, which met on the 25th ditto, where it was resolved, that since it was
impossible for our men of warr, with the Jamaica, and Edward's Island's Ships to sail to
Edward, without being seen by the French, considering the situation they lay in, that two Martinore
Ships viz^t the Fleamwell, and England's flight should be taken up for a Month's term in the
King's Service, and to be immediately manned, and supplied with Gun's Ammunition and provisions,
which together with four Sloop's should be joyned to their other flight's, viz^t the Norwich, the Mary
the Antelope, the Accordant, and the Diamond, and that Cap^{tn} Wron should endeavor to find
out the French's fleet, and engage them, but this order could not be executed, for soon
reason to report, for notwithstanding, I had with all the Diligent and Imaginable put on.

Found the men of War, as well as the Merchant men and Sloops taken up every thing that was
not found, yet there was not deild to be found, to man fully the King's Frigate, remaining been
found to take about a hundred dit men from the Diamond, whose Captⁿ is since dead, but most of
the men have well recovered, notwithstanding that I had set out every sloop with Proclamation
Expressing the Penalty of death, for that those that should Harbour them or Soldiers, but
finding by Experience, that ^{the} had not good Effect, I had sent out another Proclamation
was ordered, where in I promised a Crown a head, for every man that was brought in, and at the
same time gave directions, that all the Militia of the Island both Horse and Foot, should be sent
out in small parties, to search the Woods, Gullies, and some roads, which brought me in Sunday
morning a sloop sufficient to man all our ships completely, so that they sailed from the shore
on Saturday last being the thirtieth of June, the French having been seen of the day
before, gave me great hopes, the two fleets would have suddenly met, but whether they had
intelligence from the Island (where was seen but too many Rogues) or that the wind was
against they were appointed to cruise, I cannot say, but I remain in the office of the Admiralty
not having sight of the Enemy, notwithstanding we had been about fourteen leagues to the
westward, and the Latitude of Martinico, if the ^{ships} ~~ships~~ of the Barbados sloop, had like
the men brought in their soldiers upon ~~the~~ setting out, my best Proclamation, where in I
wished them, they should receive every individual man, returned them, at the fleets arrival
we had certainly met with the French fleet, and in all probability, must have given
good account of them, but these Villains, instead of bringing their men, and all the Endeavour
possible to find them, now we have nothing to do, but to send all the Men of War
the Jamaica, and other Merchant ships to the Downward Islands, and there take the
ships, Assistance, and St. Paul sloop, and then endeavor to find out the French fleet,
if doing that course is obliged to go some times, with our Merchant fleet, and that
the King's Frigate to the Downward Islands, and another to Jamaica, upon the same account.
If the weather does not come of what we have agreed, no possibility of Pursuit, we
shall be in a lamentable Condition;

Captⁿ Wren tells me it will be four days before we can sail to Downward, the Mary, and Woodcut
having lost two Captains in this short Expedition, and the Minerva and England Frigate
sailing foul on one another, the first carrying away the foremast of the last, but a doubtless
I finish my Letter this day, designing on Monday to go to view the Downward works and fortifications
and this I will send to you at present, but that from

Barbados. Feb: 24th

P. Capt: Robinson. who sailed with our fleet when
designed for Leeward.

Yours
Yo

I write to you again sooner than I thought. the inclosed Letter to the Lords
will give you the Reasons of it. I have ordered Mr. Thombrough. to wait on you. and get
recommendation of the Lords. to the Commissioners of the Navy for the payment
of the Money drawn upon them. by the Lords and Purveyors of the Fleet here. I think
we omitted nothing in my Letter to the Lords. but to acquaint them that we still continue
very sickly and that we want extremely a considerable supply of White servants. as also

that I have now almost quite finish'd the Entrenchments and fortifications round the
Island which is made as strong as the Nature of the place and the Materials we had
to Work with would permit ~~was~~. The Militia is very Carefully lookt after and diligently
and frequently exercis'd. and I wish with all my heart the French would attack us. Instead
of the Leeward Islands: this is all I have time to say to you at Present but that I am
Barbados. March. ye 4th 1692.

Yr. most humble servant

R. M. M.

The same Vessel. that brought me last Week.
a Letter from my Lord Innesqueen when in he
gave me an account of his sickness, Inform'd
me also of his Death. so that there is the best Govern't
In their Majesties Gift. except: Ireland to be dispos'd of.

M29C

Ben-Buors 7
1692

Asst Kendall

For Mr. B. Lathwayt.

Dec 4 April 1692

J. Capt. Harris