

Belleisle, April 29th 1763

Sir

Since the last Letter I had the Honour of Writing to you, I have been inform'd, That you are thoroughly Master of the English Tongue. I take the Liberty Therefore, to write now in English, to Prevent your having the Trouble of Reading such French as mine.

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you Sir, That, last Night, a King's Tender arriv'd Here, which brought me His Majesty's Final Order, for Delivering this Island, Fortresses &c, to such Persons, as may be Authoriz'd, by His Most Christian Majesty, to Receive Them. as also an Order from the Admiralty, to the Commandore, to Return, with the Transports under his Command, to England, as soon, as the Troops and Stores are Embarked. I need not Repeat my Assurances, of continued Vigilance on my Part, to Accelerate, as much as Possible, the Evacuation of this Island. There has been such a Swell, That no Boats could Reach our Transports this Day, and I am afraid, That notwithstanding our Diligence in Working, it may be yet four or five days, before I can with Certainty Name the particular Day, our Embarkation can be finished. But the Moment I can fix the Time, I shall without fail, Dispatch a Boat, with Notice to you.

I am really at a Loss, what Apology to make to you Sir, for a Liberty I must take, in begging your Assistance in our Present Situation. But, as Necessity has no Law, I must inform you, That through some Mistake, or Mismanagement, of the Agents for the Regiments Here, there is no Money sent out, for the Payment of the Troops, altho' they were particularly directed several Months ago, by the Treasury, Secretary at War, and Pay-Master General, to Remit Specie to this Island.

I find, by the List of Debts, owing by our Troops, to the Inhabitants Here, That, they may amount to Twelve, or perhaps fifteen Hundred Pounds Sterling, And, as it would give me great Pain, That there should be even the Smallest Debt left Unpay'd, when we leave this Place, I must Intreat, you will take the Trouble Sir, to Order Enquiry to be made at Vannes, if any Merchant or Banker There, will

Advance the said Sum of Twelve or fifteen Hundred Pounds Sterling, Receiving the Proper Exchange for the Same, For which Sum, the Several Pay Masters of the Regiments Here, will give their Bills of Exchange, on their Respective Agents, Payable, ten days after Sight, and I need not Add, That there is not the Shadow of Risk, as to their Payment.

I have desir'd Mr Aubert to write to Mr Desraisseau at Vannes, to Prevent your having any Trouble that may be Avoided in this affair, and to write, to his Correspondents at Nantes, in case our Wants cannot be supplied from Vannes.

Whoever Advances this Money, may Gain, beside the Exchange they get from Us, Another Profit, from the Bankers at Paris, for Bills on London? But, I have already taken too much freedom, in begging your assistance, in an affair of this Sort, which, I have been the Easier led to do, from the Particular Pleasure I shall Receive, on every Occasion, of Obeying any Commands of Yours, Or, of being able to shew, the Sincere Esteem and Respect, with which, I have the Honour of being,

Sir

Your Much Obliged
and

Most Obedient Humble Servant
James Forrester