

Capt. (aft. Adml. Sir) Hen. Sidueep Smith to H. R. H.

Capt. Smith from  
Stockholm  
17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1790

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Sir

Stockholm 17 Sept. 1790

It was my intention to have done myself the honour of giving your Royal Highness authentic intelligence from time to time of what passed in this quarter, during the late Campaign, but ever since my arrival the operations have succeeded each other so rapidly as not to leave me sufficient time for rest or refreshment much less to write any thing sufficiently at length to be satisfactory.

Your Royal Highness knows by official accounts



that the Naval forces in the Baltic have fought with  
 various success and that in the end the King of Sweden  
 gained a most complete victory over the Prince of Nassau  
 I had the honour to accompany his Majesty & his Royal  
 Highness the Duke of Sudermania in their late most  
 trying situations, in which they had to do with so great  
 a disparity of force that almost all the manœuvres were  
 of a most desperate nature, thus I was obliged to step  
 forward in some degree to justify the opinion Swedes have of  
 English bravery & Naval skill, in such critical circumstances  
 it was impossible not to have an opinion, it was equally  
 so not to give it when required and when given I  
 felt I could not do otherwise than support it by exposing

myself at  
 by so doing  
 into the thro  
 professed to  
 your Royal  
 withstood the  
 Majesty's ser  
 friendly advis  
 me with on  
 proof that  
 another wher  
 I own I had  
 appointments



with myself at least as much as I required others to do,  
by so doing I may perhaps be accused of entering more  
into the thick of the business than became one who  
professed to be a spectator only, but I beg leave to assure  
your Royal Highness that I have most scrupulously  
withstood the greatest temptations to enter into his Swedish  
Majesty's service ever having present in my memory the  
friendly advice your Royal Highness was pleased to honour  
me with on that subject; I hope I have given sufficient  
proof that I did not mean to quit my own country for  
another when I refused the command of a fleet (on which  
I own I had set my heart) accompanied with an offer of whatever  
appointments I chose to name, I cannot however help



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17 Sept. 1790

being anxious lest I should lose a place in your Royal Highnesses esteem by being absent at a time when we appear to be on the eve of a war with Spain; I have been frequently on the point of setting out on my return as the fluctuation in the Public News made that event more or less probable, but the King of Sweden constantly assured me that there was no occasion to be in a hurry as there was every probability of an amicable conclusion to the dispute, this being confirmed by the English Ministers at Stockholm & Petersburg, I have remained to see the conclusion of military operations in this quarter, and I now mean to set off immediately, I hope I shall not be received with less cordiality for appearing in a blue and buff ribbon the mark of the order of Sword of which his Swedish Majesty has been pleased to think me worthy. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect your Royal Highnesses obed<sup>t</sup> humble serv<sup>t</sup> W. Pitt Rivers