

My Lord,

pardon for intruding myself in your notice

I humbly pray your ~~Lordship's indulgence~~ ^{indulgence} ~~for taking up~~ ^{your} ~~time~~ ^{occupies}

~~your~~ ^{at a time} ~~attention~~ when so much publick business ~~occupies~~ your volentude and attention; but ~~lest~~ the Order received by Adm^r Parker for the first Lieutenants of the Dart, Arrow to hold themselves ready to join the Porpoise, in case those appointed to that ship do not appear before she sails hence - I have presumed to address ^{your} ~~you~~ Lordship, trusting that my ^{desire} ~~desires~~ and zeal for any active employment will finally recommend me as worthy of ~~that~~ promotion. ~~I have been~~ ~~that~~ ~~decision~~ ~~has~~ ~~given~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~for~~ ~~five~~ ~~years~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~four~~ ~~years~~. Most cheerfully do I embrace any opportunity which may show my submission and obedience; trusting, that twenty three years servitude in the Navy, and suffering a grievous misfortune from being blown ^{up with} ~~up~~ ~~with~~ ~~gunpowder~~ which has in no degree ^{prevented} ~~retarded~~ the greatest ^{improvement} ~~improvement~~ in my profession, will ~~not~~ ^{impress} ~~impress~~ on your Lordship's mind, ^{that} ~~that~~ ~~honour~~ ~~you~~ ~~may~~ ~~confer~~ ~~on~~ ~~me~~ ~~as~~ ~~deserved~~ ~~either~~ ~~from~~ ~~my~~ ~~character~~ ~~as~~ ~~an~~ ~~officer~~ ~~or~~ ~~gentleman~~. The testimonials of every Captain I have ^{served} ~~served~~ under, for my abilities, sobriety, and activity, I would offer to Your Lordship as the criterion whereby I would ^{ought} ~~be~~ ~~judged~~ -

I have the honor to be

My Lord

Yours Lordship's

Most devoted servant

JGB

The Right Honorable
Earl Spencer

Arrow - 6 July 97
Spencer