

## From Daniel Solander

[143]

London

28 June 1775

My Dear Sir

In my last Letter I forgot to tell you, that I found nothing inclosed in your last, which I suppose was wrote the day you left Spithead – But I suppose in the hurry you forgot both to date the Letter, as well as to send what you desire me to give General Carnac –<sup>1</sup> I guess, tho', that it must concern the Boat, which is to be sent down to Cams. I have seen Gen<sup>l</sup> Carnac and I have sent ordres to the Boat Builder to get */her/* the Boat repair'd as fast as possible – I have also with Gen<sup>l</sup> Carnacs approbation desired the Boat builder to look out for an oportunity of sending her down, on board the first coaster that goes to Portsmouth. She is to be delivered there to M<sup>r</sup> Gambier I informed Gen<sup>l</sup> Carnac of what you had wrote about the Sword which was left at the Fountain.

As a Copy of Cap<sup>t</sup> Cooks<sup>2</sup> Letter was sent down to L<sup>d</sup> Sandwich, I take it for granted you Know all concerning his Voyage – I[t] does not appear from any thing Capt Cook has wrote if Oridi is on board or not – I should rather think that he is; as they musterd the day they came into the Cape of good hope as many men as when they left the Cape – and I think one man fell over board of[f] New Zealand – If he should arrive before you return, shall it be mention'd to him, that Omai wishes he would live in the same house with him? – It seems M<sup>r</sup> Omai has desired M<sup>r</sup> Vigniol to take him in, in case he should come. – in all the Letters that are come from the Gentlemen on board the Resolution, they speak much in praise of our friends and all other S<sup>th</sup>. Sea Inhabitants that they have met with; and Nova Caledonia is described as a paradise without thorns or thistles. M<sup>r</sup> Pennant has seen M<sup>r</sup> Forsters Letter to M<sup>r</sup> D<sup>r</sup>. Barrington<sup>3</sup> and made the following abstract: 260 New Plants, 200 New Animals – 71° – 10' – farthest S<sup>th</sup> – no continent – Many Islands, some 80 Leagues long – The Bola Bola savage an [in]corrigible Blockhead – Glorious Voyage – No man Lost by sickness.

Yesterday Miss Banks, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup>. Hodgkinson, Capt Cook and myself paid a visit to Capt Riddell on board the Bessborough<sup>4</sup> and afterwards [deletion] dined with Capt & M<sup>rs</sup>. Riddell upon white beat<sup>5</sup> at Greenwich; and next Friday Capt Riddell gives a Dinner on board to the Ship-owners and their friends, to which you have had an invitation. Capt Phipps & myself are to be y<sup>r</sup> representatives.

We go on pretty well in Drawing & Engraving, but M<sup>r</sup> van — will hardly have finish'd the painting at your return, he works hard till 5 oClock, but is immensely slow. The Engravers are still */here/* at your house – which will be best as long as your servants are in town, &c.

As no news has lately transpired from America the Town talks now of nothing; but the Dispute about the Regatta prices & the City Remonstrance – N<sup>o</sup>. 1. viz the Regatta prices – they are not yet distributed because a dispute has arisen /about/ among the claimants – It was stipulated that the wager Boats were to set out from the Center arch of Wstmstr Bridge and come in through the same – In coming up they observed a Barge choaking up the Center arch and therefore all /but one/ rowed up through another arch – and that one who came up the center arch was the last Boat and now claims the price as the only one who full fill'd the conditions. A Jury of old Watermen are to decide the matter to morrow.

As for N<sup>o</sup>. 2 the City Remonstrance – the King has promised to recieve it, but not on the Throne – only at a Levee, it not coming from a body corporate, only from the Livery. However that's not what the City people most grumble at – But they say their Sheriffs were not treated well at Kew, where they were made to wait a long time before the King would let them know his pleasure – and at last /were/ told that his Majesty could not there give them any answer.

I saw M<sup>rs</sup>. & Miss Banks this morning & I have dined with M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup>. Hodgkinson, all quite well.

My best respects to all y<sup>r</sup> fellow Travellers and I am for ever with the utmost regard

My Dear Sir  
Your faithfull Servant  
Dan Solander

[Banks Endorsement.]

D<sup>r</sup> Solander  
June 30-- 75

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[ML Banks Series: 72.178; DTC I 91–2.]

1. John Carnac (1721–1800): army officer in the East India Company; FRS 20 February 1772. He commanded the army that defeated the Mughal emperor in early 1761. After further service with the army and in the Indian administration, Carnac resigned in 1767 and returned to Britain. He was elected Member of Parliament for Leominster in 1768. He gave evidence to the select committee of 1772–3 that inquired into events in India, and in particular he defended his old friend, Robert Clive (1725–74) 'of India' (also an FRS 24 November 1768).
2. The second Pacific voyage led by James Cook returned in two parts. In November 1773 HMS *Adventure*, under Tobias Furneaux, was separated from HMS *Resolution*, under Cook. This happened during a storm off New Zealand. The two ships never found one another again, and Furneaux sailed home on his own, reaching Britain in July 1774. Cook arrived back much later, and he anchored at Spithead on 30 July 1775. At the time of Cook's arrival, Banks was in the north of England. He was visiting the home of his friend Constantine John Phipps at Mulgrave Hall, Yorkshire. Banks took with him the Pacific islander, Mai (Omai), and he also paid his respects to Cook's father, James

(1695–1775+), informing him of the arrival of his son. By 19 September Banks was back in London again.

3. Daines Barrington (1727/8–1800): judge; naturalist and antiquary; FRS 4 June 1767. Barrington started the *Naturalist's Journal* in 1767 as a record of natural phenomena, such as the weather and plant growth. Interested in Arctic exploration, he proposed through the Royal Society the 1773 Arctic voyage of Constantine John Phipps. He recommended the Forsters to replace Banks for the second of James Cook's Pacific missions, HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure*, 1772–5, and he also proposed Cook's last mission to the Pacific, HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Discovery*, 1776–9.
4. The *Bessborough* was an East India Company ship, commanded by Captain Thomas Riddell from 1773–5.
5. The word here appears to be 'beat', but Solander may have meant 'bait'.