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1644A

LETTERS FROM CAPTAIN THOMAS M.
HARDY, R.N. TO EDWARD THORNE

1825-1836

Captain Thomas M. Hardy, RN (1769-1839), later Sir Thomas M. Hardy, is best known for his service with Nelson on HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. These letters consist mainly of offers of help and advice to a certain Edward Thorne regarding his naval career. The letters also include general news as well as specific events such as election riots in Weymouth in 1828.

LETTERS FROM CAPTAIN THOMAS M.
HARDY, R.N. TO EDWARD THORNE

1825-1836

1. Saying he is happy in the Victory and that in the event of a promotion he shall be happy to have him with him again, and asking him to send his regards to several individuals [1 sheet] 27 May 1825
2. Inviting him to go with Captain Spencer to the Talbot at Plymouth, as Admiralty Clerk, and enquiring of the fortunes of several mutual friends [1 sheet] 3 October 1825
3. Telling him he is happy that he is proving useful to Captain Inglis on the Victory, and hopes to see him in Portsmouth at the end of the month [1 sheet] 11 October 1825
4. Telling him that no promotion is likely for pursers, but he will mention his name to Lord Melville [1 sheet] 22 March 1826
5. Telling him that the Navy Office has informed him that Thorne is £11.2.2 overdrawn, but if Thorne can prove otherwise he will be happy to give them any information to clear up the matter. He mentions Captain Spencer is unwell and that Mr Riley has renewed his promise not to forget Thorne. Hardy is glad that he is out of the way with the election at Weymouth and urges him to send him any papers he wants presented to the Navy Board [1 sheet] 30 January 1828
6. Asking him to procure some votes for His Majesty's Government, although if Lord D(u)ro offers himself he can do just as he likes [1 sheet] 1 February 1828
7. Urging him on no account to withhold his vote and discussing several other matters [1 sheet] 4 February 1828
8. Telling him the steamer commanded by Lieutenant Evans who was in Owen Sledoor in South America, will be happy to take him as clerk. He informs him the steamer is being fitted as a yacht to attend the Lord High Admiral and is laying at Woolwich, but that the Navy Office can give no further explanation although Mr Marshall will be happy to hear anything he has to say [1 sheet] 11 February 1828

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[continued]

1825-1836

9. Informing him the steamvessel is fitted as a yacht to attend on the Lord High Admiral and "it's quite uncertain when she will be at Portsmouth". He feels it is quite a lottery whether it would be to Thorne's advantage to join her and will remind Mr Riley that Thorne "stands first" for a flagship. He concludes "I am very sorry to hear that the riots continue at Weymouth, it makes me feel happy that I have nothing to do with the election." [1 sheet] 15 February 1828
10. Telling him that should he have any good news he will hear from him, and that the "Blaes have petitioned but I suppose it will all end in smoke." [1 sheet] 17 March 1828
11. Telling him of his failure to secure an appointment for him on the Windsor Castle, but informing him that he has applied for him to be appointed as Admiralty Clerk to the Gloucester [1 sheet] 17 May 1828
12. Telling Thorne he "belongs" to the Galatia until he receives another appointment. He tells him he is annoyed to hear from Sir Charles Sullivan that Thorne has neither joined or even communicated with the ship in question and recommends he does so immediately. If he wants, he can get him discharged [1 sheet] 4 June 1828
13. Telling him Sir Putteney Malcolm is daily expected in town, but that Malcolm only took Thorne's name down and he does not expect much from him. He adds that Thorne's discharge from the Galatia can easily be obtained, but his continued presence on her will not prevent him being appointed to another ship [1 sheet] 7 June 1828
14. Referring to an enclosed letter to a Captain Stuart and assuring Thorne of any help he can give him in the future [1 sheet] 25 August 1828

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[continued]

1825-1836

15. Telling him of the death of his sister Martha and informing him that should he hoist his flag it will be a great pleasure to have him with him. He is glad he is happy in the Gloucester and thinks the hold will be kept cleaner by stowing the tanks on iron instead of wood, but he feels it will not make the ship sail any slower or faster. He discusses friends and family [1 sheet] 23 February 1829
16. Informing him there is no vacancy in the Willesby, but telling him he has secured an appointment for him on the Victory [1 sheet] 22 April 1829
17. Asking him to tell John Wilson of the Gloucester that it is "quite impossible" for him to get the `R` removed from his name on the Books of the Triumph. He asks Thorne to let him know if he can do anything for him at the Admiralty and discusses several mutual friends, including Sir George Cockburn [1 sheet] 25 April 1829
18. Informing him he has named him to Lord Melville and hopes he will receive his promotion with haste [1 sheet] 7 August 1829
19. Telling him he is happy he is employed and pleased with the Curlew. He is anxious to get "young Bascombe" into a ship going to the Cape Station. At the moment he is in the Donegal at Sheerness and would be obliged if Captain Woolcombe could take Bascombe as a Master's Assistant if there is a vacancy. He mentions news of several friends [1 sheet] 28 April 1830
20. Asking him to thank Captain Woolcombe for his offer to employ young Bascombe, but to inform him that the Admiralty will not allow it. He confirms he shall meet with Thorne at the United Service Club House at 1 o'clock on Saturday 15 May [1 sheet] 5 May 1830
21. Telling him he will be at the United Service Club House at 1 o'clock or 2 o'clock [1 sheet] 13 May 1830

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22. Enclosing for him a letter to Commodore Schomberg, to give him should he not join the Maidstone immediately. He thanks him for the book which he has not received, tells him it was broccoli not cauliflower seeds which he requested and wishes to be remembered to Austin Chanticlin for his gift of the turtle [1 sheet] 10 July 1830
23. Thanking him for his congratulations. He tells him Admiral Warren will relieve Commodore Schomberg and he has recommended Thorne to the Rear Admiral. He mentions the death of "poor young Jessop" caused by a fall from his horse which brought on lock jaw [1 sheet] 15 October 1831
24. Thanking him for the trouble of sending roots seeds. He asks him not to send any more as Lady Mary Lennox for whom they were intended, is in bad health and has given up her garden. He is happy that Admiral Marrans is on board Thorne's ship, and 'knows' he will give him a larger ship if he has an opportunity [1 sheet] 2 November 1832
25. Thanking him for his congratulations and the Constantia which he has bought him, of which Captain Oliwie "will take charge" [1 sheet] 3 May 1834
26. Thanking him for the box and the cask of wine [1 sheet, 1 envelope] 9 July 1834
27. Explaining that the Accountant General at Somersset House wants a person who can write a good hand to assist in his office for 3-6 months [1 sheet] 6 August 1834
28. Re certain certificates for Hardy to sign [1 sheet] 8 November 1834
29. Wishing him restored health as soon as possible. He sends the regards of Mr Jessop [1 sheet, 1 envelope] 8 February 1836

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| 30. | Telling him he is glad he is getting better and that he will ask Sir William Parker, of Thorne's wishes for employment. He informs him that his sister Ann, has just died [1 sheet] | 4 November 1836 |
| 31. | Note of address of Edward Thorne, purser of <u>Hide Sloop</u> , Curlew, Cape of Good Hope in the hand of Captain Thomas M. Hardy | nd |
| 32. | Envelope addressed to Edward Thorne [unknown hand] | December 1849 |

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