

My dear friend

How happy should I feel to fulfill  
your request, & the promise I made you to write occasionally  
when we last separated, you to enjoy the mild & peaceful  
blessings which are only found in the bosom of a domestic  
life - I, to join the worthy sons of Neptune to share in  
a perilous war on his wide domain, the good or bad  
fortunes of a Sailor, on board of that ship which had  
already twice hurled the proud Croix of Albion from  
its supposed inaccessible height - I should indeed feel  
a pleasure in gratifying a friend whom I so highly  
esteem, whose disinterested kindness will ever be repaid  
with the most pleasing satisfaction, when I promised  
to address you I did it without much reflection or  
deliberation, you must not therefore expect any  
thing interesting - you may possibly be amused at a  
humble how - you know too well my good friend  
that my inexperience, & total neglect in earlier days  
has altogether disqualified me for so pleasing a task;  
which would have been otherwise, had I received  
those advantages which the respectability of our family  
intitled me to - & which never occurs to me without  
producing the most painful recollections - I am therefore  
obliged to address you in the plain & simple language  
of an untutored Sailor, little understood in the  
polished circles of refined societies - but as it is inte-  
ended only for the eye of a friend; whose generous soul  
is willing to overlook the errors of him who is absent,  
I have nothing to fear - with all my fault & ignorance  
I expect you will give me credit for candour



2  
which will in some measure counterbalance the innumerable  
imperfections which will most undoubtedly appear at  
the first glance of your scrutinizing eye - The letters however  
which I may address to <sup>you</sup> will be dictated by the heart, & as  
I served before, the liberality of yours will I am confident  
know how to appreciate them -

I shall merely relate the  
circumstances that may come within my observation  
which in my opinion would be pleasing to you, such  
as occurrences at sea - a description of the ports & prin-  
cipal cities that I may visit at any time, & in different  
parts of the globe - I shall take a copy of my letters  
which will in some future day afford to myself,  
the gratification of reviewing the scenes of past life -  
I shall make no further apology for my imperfect  
style, because you are well acquainted with the  
busy scenes of a seafaring life & the interruptions that  
so frequently occur, particularly on board of a man of  
war -



My dear friend

Our ship is completely repaired & ready for service, we only wait the orders daily expected from the Secretary of the Navy, to proceed immediately to sea, you can well imagine how anxiously I look forward to the moment when we shall unfurl our sails & launch into the bosom of the ocean, after having been kept so long in suspense, it is like emancipation from slavery, to have my name enrolled on the list with this gallant crew, & be permitted to serve my country in a ship which has already so eminently distinguished herself as old Hou-sides; a name which has been given her by the sailors, supposing that her sides are impervious to the circumstance of very few shot having as yet penetrated her sides -

We can form no correct idea as yet of what our intended cruise will be, it is to be hoped however it will be a long & successful one, the activity of it will of course depend much upon the commander, whose character stands high in the estimation of government & we expect much from his exertions.

Having attained the object of my most unbounded wishes, in gaining admission into our little Navy (which you know is extremely difficult in consequence of the great number of applicants from all parts of the union) my next step is to get into action, my feelings on this subject is indescribable, it appears to me at present, that no man must be happy who sacrifices every thing for his country - my ambition leaves me this way, & should I be so fortunate as to prove serviceable to my country I shall be in the zenith of my glory - at the end of this cruise you shall hear from me again -



U. S. Frigate Constitution

My dear friend

We sailed from Boston on the 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. with a strong north west wind, with <sup>crew</sup> of four hundred & eighty, as fine & healthy a set of fellows, & in as good spirits, as ever walked a ship's deck - we passed the light house about sun-down, being confined below myself, I was prevented the melancholy pleasure of taking a last look of the surrounding scenery. The next morning I succeeded in getting upon the gun deck, notwithstanding I was extremely weak, & the motion of the ship was so great as to preclude the possibility of any one walking the deck without supporting themselves - when I looked out of the port & saw nothing but one wide waste of sky & water, with the tempestuous sea dashing its angry waves against the side of the ship, unceremoniously tossing her from wave to wave, as tho' she had been a light boat -

—, this scene struck me as one of awful grandeur & it did not lessen itself in any degree, when I reflected on the astonishing transition that had taken place in the short space of eighteen hours, but yesterday we lay calmly motionless in the harbour with no more motion than the hills that surround us, & when are we now? dashing about at the mercy of the winds & waves, & hinc who made us

We run nearly three months without making any captures, the crew all this time murmuring like so many devils, that the Iron Sides did not fall in with a frigate, at length one night we had some reason to suspect that fortune would once more smile upon this gallant little band - about ten o'clock we found ourselves close along side two vessels, it being too dark to ascertain immediately what they were, but to quarters



immediately & cleared ship for action - this was the moment which I have most wished to experience, to know what my own feelings on such an occasion would be - However I did not it necessary at this time to put them to the test, as the vessels we have seen proved to be His Majesty's schooner Pictou, of fourteen guns & sixty men carrying a merchantman, we captured the merchant vessel immediately, the next morning the Schooner - after taking out the prisoners & purchasing them, Captain Stewart made a cartel of the merchant vessel (Lovely Ann) & sent them all on board of her as prisoners of war -

I have received the following instructions from Captain Stewart -

U S Frigate Constitution

at Sea February 14<sup>th</sup> 1814

Sir

You will proceed with the cartel ship, Lovely Ann to Bridgetown, Barbados, and deliver over to his Britannic Majesty's Agent for prisoners of War, at that place, the crew of the Schooner Pictou taken by this ship and parole. you will obtain a receipt for the officers, seamen & marines - so detained & proceed to the United States, as early as possible & deliver the same to the Secretary of the Navy

Respectfully, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Signed Jhe Stewart

Midshipman

P. M. Whipple

P.S. The enclosed parole you will take care to preserve & deliver to the Secretary of the Navy



## Parole of Honor

We the undersigned Prisoners of War to the United States of America, taken on board His Britannic Majesty's Schooner *Pictou* - do hereby, in consideration of our release on parole, promise on oath, and pledge each our word and honor, not to bear arms in the service of Great Britain, against the United States of America, or commit any act of hostility, or serve in any civil or military capacity against the said United States, or any enemy of Great Britain until we are duly exchanged - In Witness whereof we do hereunto affix each his respective signature -

Done on board the United States Frigate *Constitution*, at sea, this fourteenth day of February A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fourteen

S Stephens Lt. & Commander

Wm. White Master

S Johnson Surgeon

T. Whittle Surgeon

J. Hammersford Surgeon

S E Wilson

Chas. J. Rogers

Here follows a list of the names of the whole ship's company

I hereby certify the above named names & survivors did agree to the within written Parole & were sworn to the same in my presence

Witness my signature

S Stephens Lieut. & Com<sup>d</sup>



7  
You know my dear Sir, with what enthusiasm I entered the service, how fondly I looked forward to the moment when we should meet the enemy, being on the very ground where we might reasonably expect to fall in with some of her cruising Frigates, judge then what must have been my disappointment when I received orders to take charge of the prisoners & leave the ship at this interesting moment, where I had expected to gain so much; all my hopes were blasted at one dash, I found there was no alternative, therefore I submitted to my fate with as good a grace as I could assume - in the evening as we were about taking leave of the Constitution, we discovered that they had set the prize schooner on fire, about dark she blew up with a tremendous explosion it was truly a magnificent sight - the following day we arrived at Barbados in the Lat of 13° 01' N Long 59° 30' W. I was received with great politeness & attention by the American Agent for prisoners of war - Mr. H. Storm Esq - in a few days I was presented to His Excellency Sir George Beckwith, the Governor, who received me with great civility, I discovered however that he suspected I had come in an assumed character, but on presenting my orders from Captain Stewart, at the same time assuring him that I had received no other either verbal or written, he was perfectly satisfied - Not so with the Admiral, Sir Charles P. Durham - I found he was inclined to be unreasonable & refractory, & insisted upon it that I was a spy, & must go to prison without delay - having come in with prisoners & being a new officer myself I could more immediately understand his jurisdiction than the Govt consequently apprehended some danger, he appeared also inimical to the Americans in general - he would listen to no reason, but blustered & swore like a mad man, the prisoners of war notwithstanding their Oath of honor should go on duty immediately, the officers refused to obey this



8  
August ~~is~~ inconsistent mandates. Through the influence  
of the Gov<sup>r</sup> I was permitted to ride out & make free  
use of the Island, but must not leave it without a  
passport & that would not be granted me until they  
were certain the Constitution had arrived in America.

I will here enclose you my report to Captain Stewart  
after my return, which will give you a correct Idea of  
my situation.

U.S. Frigate Constitution  
Boston Harbour Aug<sup>t</sup> 1814

Charles Stewart Esquire

Commander of the U.S. Frigate Constitution

Sir

Agreeably to your  
orders of the 14<sup>th</sup> of February last I proceeded with the cartel  
Ship *Lovely Ann* - having on board the crew of the British  
schooner *Pecten*, to Barbados where I arrived on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
of the same month - Immediately on my arrival I was  
presented by T. H. Storm Esquire American Agent residing  
there - to Rear Admiral Durham, with whom we at-  
tempted to effect an exchange of Prisoners & obtain a receipt  
for those sent in by your orders -

The Admiral however  
refused positively to acknowledge the *Lovely Ann*, as  
a Cartel or to permit our American seamen to leave  
the Island - alleging for reasons, that it was against the  
policy of the British Government to allow cartels of this  
description - as by doing it they would enable the American  
Frigates to remain at sea for years - The men therefore  
without any regard to the oath administered on board  
of the Constitution, or to the agreement entered into  
by the <sup>Agents of</sup> two governments, they were immediately ordered  
into actual service - the officers refusing to serve  
until regularly exchanged -



9  
Shortly after my arrival in Barbados I had an  
interview with Sir George Beckwith, Governor of the Island  
who with much civility notified me that on account of  
the critical situation in which I was placed, & the  
suspicious that might arise from my coming to the place  
in a capacity which was not acknowledged by their laws  
& not accepted to by the Admiral - he suggested that  
he should be under the disagreeable necessity of obliging  
me to take a parole - but in consideration of my  
having acted in obedience to my orders from Capt. Stewart  
& the respect he entertained for my private character, he  
would enlarge my parole & allow me greater indulgen-  
ces than were usually granted to prisoners of War

On producing my orders from you Sir, which he  
desired to see, & assuring him that I had received no others  
either written or verbal, he at length concluded not to  
hold me as a prisoner of War

Still however as my joining my ship while she was in the  
West Indies seas, would be inconsistent with those precautions  
which a state of war indispensably required, he thought it  
his duty to detain me until he should learn the Constitution  
had quitted those seas - to this order I found myself obliged  
to submit, & after a detention of three months & twenty one  
days, during which time I received from Sir George Beckwith  
every attention which politeness or humanity could bestow, I  
was permitted to leave the Island & depart for the U States.

I have now Sir laid before you the obstacles which  
prevented a due execution of your orders, relative to  
the exchange of Prisoners, & for my being unable to join  
the ship sooner -

Very Respectfully

I am your obt servt

Charles Stewart Esq

J M Whipple

Com<sup>d</sup> of U S Frigate Constitution



10  
I took my departure from Barbados about the first of  
June, in the Ship Bridgetown, Capt Duncan, we  
touch'd at St Thomas, the Island of Bermuda, &  
arriv'd at Halifax after a fair passage, it was my  
intention to have returned from here in one of the cutters  
but the being a convoy ready for St John, we were  
order'd immediately to get under weigh & proceed to  
that place, where I was oblig'd to renew my passport  
for the U.S. - I remain'd about ten days, St John  
lies at the head of the Bay of Amunoy, Lat about 43° N,  
Long 67° W - a place where the English get much of  
their ship timber - during the war it was besieg'd with  
smugglers from the U.S. - I left here & proceeded to  
St John's, three days after the English squadron  
took possession of it under Sir Thos Hickey - my desire  
was so great to see a line of battle ship that I could  
not resist the temptation of accompanying a party  
on board (the Ramaris) the flag ship - notwithstanding  
the risk I run in being expos'd as an American  
officer, the consequences would have been extremely  
unpleasant - My route from here to Boston  
was extremely hazardous on account of the enemy's  
cruisers along shore, plundering every thing that came  
in their way, I therefore was oblig'd to shulk along  
through the night, sometimes in boats & sometimes  
on shore, until we reach'd the first stage at Belfast  
where I was enabled to get some rest, & relief from  
the marauders along our coast - I reach'd Boston  
in good time happy I assure you to find myself  
safe under the guns of old Louisbourg again -  
May God bless & protect you is the sincere wish  
of your old servt H.C.H.



76

U. S. Frigate Constitution

New York

1815

My dear friend

It gives me much pleasure to inform of my safe arrival once more in the Land of Liberty, after I may say a successful cruise of nearly six months, the particulars I shall take the liberty to state you without much embellishment— we left Boston under circumstances very similar to our former cruise, both times we run out in the night & eluded the enemy who were blockading us— Our first prize was made about a week out, her name being the Lord Nelson seemed ominous among the sailors, who said that if we captured a Lord so soon, our cruise would be successful—

We next made a capture on the coast of Portugal which we men'd & sent in, & have now just acquired the golden fruits, which is much the sweetest part of warfare, unfortunately however, not without the ruin of a fellow being, who was a jolly scotchman & got most gloriously drunk the night after the capture & convalesced himself with the common remark that it was the fortune of war— on board of this vessel we found two fine young Tagers, which have in some measure domesticated & were of great amusement to the sailors—

We next steered our course towards Madeira & have almost begun to despair of meeting with success— we at length discovered a sail ahead, instantly all on board was commotion, to give you a better idea of the result of this discovery, I will give you the extracts from the log book—



Remarks on board the United States  
Frigate Constitution Tuesday Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1814  
Latitude  $33^{\circ} 17' N$  Longitude  $13^{\circ} 05' W$   
Charles Stewart Esquire Commander

Commences with light breezes from the Eastward & cloudy  
at 1 P.M. discovered a strange sail two points on the larboard  
bow, hauled up & made sail in chase, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 made her  
out to be a ship, at  $\frac{3}{4}$  past 1 made another strange sail  
ahead, at 2 P.M. made three out two ships close hauled  
upon the starboard tack - at 4 the ship to windward  
bore up & made signals to her consort then about ten  
miles distant, made all sail in chase. set fore & main top  
gallant & royal studding sails, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 carried away our  
main royal mast, with a man on the Carbooner yard  
arm who fortunately saved himself, by the yard lashing on  
the main top gallant stay, took in the sail & prepared  
another mast - at 5 P.M. commenced firing upon the  
chase from our two larboard long guns - our shot falling  
short, ceased firing - at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 finding it impossible  
to prevent them from uniting - cleared ship for action  
then about 4 miles from the two ships - at 40 minutes  
past 5 they passed within hail of each other, & hauled  
upon a wind with their starboard tacks on board -  
hauled up their courses & prepared to receive us, having  
previously had communication by signal, both ships  
unwavering to gain the weather gage, without  
success, at 55 minutes past 5 we gaining best upon  
them, shortened sail & formed a line ahead about  
one cable's length from each other - at 6 having  
them under the command of our battery; hoisted  
the American colors, which was immediately answered  
by both ships hoisting English - at 5 minutes past  
6 ranged along side the sternmost ship -



Commenced the action with two guns which was returned with great spirit from the enemy by broad sides, at 20 min past 6 the enemy's fire slackened & the great column of smoke collected under our lee induced us to cease our fire & ascertain their position & condition, we found ourselves of the headmost ship, the other luffing up to gain a position on our quarter we poured a broadside into the headmost ship, then braced aback our main & main topsail which brought us under cover of the smoke, with the other ship right ahead —

The action again became general & was continued with great spirit & considerable effect, until 35 minutes past 6 when the enemy's fire again slackened, & we discovered the headmost ship bearing up, filled our topsails shot ahead & gave her two stern rakes; the sternmost ship wearing at the same time, wore ship immediately after her & gave her a stern rake, she luffing too on our starboard bow gave us a broad side; we ranged up on her larboard quarter within hail & was about giving her a starboard broadside when she struck —

At 50 minutes past 6 took possession of His Majesty's ship Cyane, mounting thirty four carriage guns — Commanded by Gordon Falcon Esquire —

at 8 filled away after her consort which was still in sight to leeward. at 1/2 past 8 found her stemming for us with her starboard tack's ordered close hauled with top gallant set & colors flying — at 50 minutes past 8 ranged close along side on opposite tack, still to windward exchanged two broadsides, bore up immediately under her stern & gave her a raking broadside, she then crunched all sail & endeavored to escape by wearing hauled on board our tack's set the spanker flying jib &c at 1/2 past 9 commenced firing upon her with our starboard bow chaser, gave her several ships which cut her spars & rigging considerably —



At 40 minutes past 9 ranged along side & hailed her, to ascertain if she had surrendered, she answered in the affirmative; we immediately took possession of His Majesty's Ship Levant mounting 21 guns, Commanded by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> George Douglass our boats were employed during the principal part of the night removing prisoners & repairing damages, so that before morning we were enabled to make some sail on the prize - the Constitution was so little injured & the damages were repaired with such expedition that in one hour after the close of this action, she was ready for another -

Being in one of the boats that night I had a good opportunity of estimating the injury we had done them, which was very considerable during so short a time that we were engaged - I first had charge of a boat removing prisoners from the Cyane & afterwards from the Levant, I remained onboard of that vessel these days - the decks of both vessels were literally covered with dead & wounded, which amounted to between

Their spars & rigging were very much cut to pieces, particularly the Levant, whose main mast & all the apparent spars were wounded or carried away - several shots between wind & water; - this being the first action I was ever in, you can imagine to yourself what were my feelings to hear the horrid groans of the wounded & dying, & the scene that presented itself the next morning, at daylight on board of the Levant, the quarter deck seemed to have the appearance of a slaughter house, the wheel having been carried away by a shot killed & wounded all around it the main mast for several feet was covered with brains & blood; teeth, pieces of bones, fingers, & large pieces of flesh, were picked up from off the deck



threw as long time before I could familiarize myself to these  
 & if possible more horrid scenes than I witnessed, in a few  
 days we were enabled to get our prize in tolerable good repair  
 under Lieut Shubrick —

In consequence of the strict blockade of the whole of our coast, it was thought there would  
 be too great risk to proceed directly for the united states  
 however anxious we were to get our prizes into port, to  
 our universal regret therefor, Captain Stewart concluded it  
 would be more prudent to proceed to some of the neutral  
 Islands & land the prisoners, at the expiration of which  
 time, peace between the two governments would probably  
 take place, & we should by that means stand a good  
 chance of saving our prizes, I etc ordered it otherwise,  
 we steered for the Cape de Verde, where we arrived on  
 the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, Port Praya, Lat  $14^{\circ} 52' N$  Long  $23^{\circ} 30' W$

Landed some of the prisoners shortly after we anchored

To give you a better Idea of the transactions  
 which took place the following day I shall send  
 you an extract from the Log book —

Sailing in Port Praya harbour fresh breeze  
 & thick hazy weather — At 5 minutes past Meridian  
 discovered a large sail standing into port — at 8 minutes  
 past 12 saw two more large ships also standing in,  
 from their appearance supposed them to be one of  
 the enemy's squadrons; the signal was immediately  
 made to the Cyane & Levant to get under weigh, at 12  
 minutes past 12 shot a horned the topsails & cut the  
 cable, the prize ship following our motions, stood  
 out of the roads close under the eastern point within  
 gunshot of the enemy's ships to windward — sent up  
 top gallant yards, set the courses flying jib & spanker  
 the enemy seeing us under weigh tacked ship & made  
 all sail in chase — set top gallant sails —



16  
At 4 past midnight cut away the boats astern, zig & first cutter,  
at 1 P.M. found our sailing about equal to the ship on our  
be quarter, but the frigate astern luffing up for our wake &  
gaining fast upon the Cyane, made the signal at 10 minutes  
for her to tack ship which she complied with immediately -  
the enemy did not notice this manoeuvre but continued in  
full chase after this ship & the Levant. The ship on our  
quarter commenced firing by divisions the shot falling  
considerably short. The two ships on the quarter were both  
two deck'd, the one astern a frigate - At 3 P.M. found  
-ing <sup>Levant</sup> dropping fast astern & her situation becoming dangerous  
inconsequence of the Frigate gaining fast upon her, & the  
Capt. apprehensive that should she be brought to action  
in company with the Constitution, it might endanger  
the latter ship, therefore found himself under the neces-  
sity of sacrificing the Levant to save her, the signal  
was made for her to tack which was promptly obeyed  
& astonishing as it may appear to every brave man  
the enemy's squadron tacked in succession after the  
Levant, & abandoned the Constitution, where it was  
reasonably supposed by all on board, even the English  
officers, that had the most trifling accident happened  
she must have inevitably fallen into their hands -  
they (the Englishmen) behaved like mad men when  
this circumstance took place - As the Cyane was  
permitted to pass without molestation she run down  
to the presence of the Island put her helm up  
& made sail for the United States where she arrived  
in due season - Notwithstanding the poor Levant  
she was chased by this noble squadron back into  
Port Praya, where she anchored close under the  
guns of the fortifications, presuming that she would  
be protected from attack; however not the least  
show of resistance was made by the Portuguese



When the enemy's squadron came in & successively fired his broadside into this little sloop of war, & what was more disgraceful to these distinguished commanders, one or two broadsides were fired after the colors had been hauled down - Fortunately several of the Portuguese were killed & wounded on shore & some of their houses considerably injured, & fortunately, because they were such a desperately set of villains that they were not worthy to live -

This celebrated English Squadron consisted of six ships - and amongst the Squadron, Rear Sir George Collier - the New Castle, Rear, Lord George Stewart - the Acosta, Frigate Captain Kerr -

After we had anchored in Port Praya roads we found that there would be some difficulty with the government about leaving the prisoners, & there being an English Brig in the roads, she was chartered for the purpose of conveying them to the west Indies - during the time that we were getting under weigh to avoid the enemy's squadron, our master with 12 men was on board of said Brig preparing her for the prisoners - the moment the Portuguese saw her under weigh they commenced their fire upon her & the Constitution (the shot falling all round us) it was supposed that they were under the impression that it was an intention to break the neutrality of the port by taking out this English Brig, & therefore wished to protect her - they were not however so particular in supporting this neutrality, when the Levant came in, & was permitted to be taken from under the <sup>very</sup> muzzles of this gun,

In consequence of our interruption, & chase from the Cape de Verdes we were not able to leave last part of the prisoners - the Capt then concluded to run on to the coast of Brazil - we made a port called St. Louis de Maranham Lat 2° 25' S - Long 43° 40' W



St Louis, de, Morrowhom = we here succeeded in  
 landing our prisoners much to the satisfaction of all on board  
 after remaining here about ten days, we took our departure  
 for the U States, touched at the port St Johns Island of  
 Porto Rico, when we got American papers, here we learnt  
 to a certainty that the treaty of peace had been signed, the  
 most unwelcome news that I ever received, here we first  
 heard of the battle of San Asencio - we arrived in this  
 port yesterday in high health & spirits I assure you  
 happy to tread once more on the shores of Freedom  
 how shall I apologise to you for the length of  
 this letter, the subject was of such a nature that it  
 was impossible to curtail it therefore I shall send  
 it without any alteration & run the risk of its  
 meeting with your approbation -

Affectionately your obs. servt.  
 H H H

U S Frigate Constitution

Boston June 1845

My dear friend

After we had been in San Asencio about  
 ten days, we received orders from the Department to proceed  
 to this port with our ship, I believe this was pleasing  
 intelligence to all on board, for to tell you the truth  
 there was not that attention paid to the capt & officers  
 in general which we conceived to be our due, after a  
 long & pretty successful cruise - in my opinion this outward  
 show is all a hum-bug at last - there is no sincerity in it -

however those who were mortified must have been highly  
 compensated by the flattering reception which we met with  
 here, firing of guns, when we landed, & colors flying from all  
 the vessels in the harbor, & even across the streets & upon the  
 tops of the houses - the congratulation of a large company of officers  
 who came to meet us upon the wharf was altogether very pleasing -



19  
U. S Ship Washington  
Portsmouth harbor 1815

My dear friend

You will perceive by the head of this letter that I have changed ship - I received orders a few days since to join the Washington under the command of Com<sup>d</sup> Chamney, now fitting out at this port, she is one of the finest ships that ever floated & if we may judge from the formidable appearance she now makes, there is no fear that she will ever disgrace the name she bears - it is reported the Washington is destined for the Mediterranean service, but will not probably sail before next spring.

Notwithstanding I have so fine a ship under me, I could not leave my old one without seriously regretting it, she has been a good friend to many a worthy tar & carried them through long & perilous cruises, & done more honor to her self than any other ship in the Navy. I believe me most respectfully to the ladies, & believe me most sincerely yours

Truly, &c. &c.

U. S Ship Washington  
Gibraltar Bay 1816

My dear friend

My anticipations were correct & we have reached thus far our destined cruising ground, but I am too far ahead of my story & must go back a short time & inform you what took place before I left America, my last was dated from Portsmouth which place we left in Dec<sup>r</sup> for Boston where we filled up our crew, & provision & spent a cold & unpleasant winter preparing the ship for sea - in April we sailed for N<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>ropolis where we took in Mr. Birkeny & family



20  
Minister for Naples & St. Petersburg - we were here visited  
by the President of the U.S. & the heads of the Departments  
of State, War, & Navy - on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May sailed from the  
Chesapeake, & after a pleasant passage of 22 days ~~and~~  
arrived in this port -

Gibraltar is supposed to be the strongest  
fortified place in the world, mounting eight hundred pieces of  
ordnance in good condition; it lies in Latitude  $36^{\circ} 5'$  North  
Longitude  $5^{\circ} 19'$  West - it was anciently called Mons Calpe &  
forms together with, Abyla, on the African shore the pillars  
of Hercules of old - it is held in high esteem by the English  
Government, as it is considered the key to the Mediterranean  
notwithstanding it is twelve miles from shore to shore, & vessels  
may pass without molestation from their guns with a fair  
wind - It is altogether a most wonderful piece of Nature's  
work, the northern part is a perpendicular height of one  
seventeen hundred feet from the level of the sea; the  
eastern part is also nearly perpendicular, the whole strength  
of the fortress resting in the western side from the excavation  
to Europe point, which presents a formidable appearance  
indeed - The principal curiosities consist in the caves,  
the one most worthy of notice is St. Michael, which contains  
the remarkable quality of petrification (of water) which  
runs down from the roof and forms complete masses resem-  
bling icicles, until it reaches the bottom & becomes irregular  
pillars - the extent of this cave has never been truly  
ascertained, it is however very great - the bay is very  
extensive the largest fleets in the world may manoeuvre  
in it - the anchorage is good; that is it is good  
holding ground, but exposed to a south westerly wind  
& dangerous for vessels to lay there, in the winter season -  
the climate is generally mild & healthy - the inhabitants are  
composed of a heterogeneous collection of all nations, & it is  
ridiculous to pass the streets & view the variety of costumes -



U.S. Ship Washington

Bay of Naples 1840

My dear friend

I feel much pleasure in stating my first letter in the Mediterranean from this celebrated city, our passage from Gibraltar did not exceed five days, a quicker perhaps never known - we arrived here on the 10 of July - we are obliged to submit to a quarantine of 10 days which is extremely irksome - the city lies in Latitude  $40^{\circ} 51'$  North. Longitude  $14^{\circ} 18'$  East

The beautiful scenery which is here combined in one prospect deserves particular notice, I will attempt to describe it to you, but it will be done in such faint colours as hardly to give a correct idea of what it really deserves -

As we advance into the bay we see Ischia & Procida on our left, then are two fine Islands, celebrated in ancient times as having been the summer retreat of many of the Roman Emperors - the Promontory of Misenum next comes in view, forming a bay of the same name, where Pliny lay anchored with the Roman fleet, during the great eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 years after Christ, & when Pompeii & Herculaneum were destroyed & when he lost his life in attempting to rescue the inhabitants - here also commences the famous bay of Baiae, where are now the ruins of the villas of Caesar, Cicero, Pompey, Augustus, & many more characters equally conspicuous - where once stood the city of St. Paulin destroyed by an Earth quake, hot Baths of Nero - Temples of different description, together with many other ruins, which would fatigue you to detail - At this time the sea was perfectly smooth & unrippled, & we glided gently into the bay - here Mount Pausilippo made a beautiful & picturesque appearance continuing to extend along the coast covered with some fine houses, gardens & vineyards - then to make the scene more complete, Naples in all its beauties opens upon



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opens upon our view, one immense line of white edifices  
stretching over the mountain, in the rear of which is seen  
at Eluro, towering <sup>its</sup> lofty head far above the other buildings,  
the neighbouring hills & surrounding country, are covered  
with villages, convents, & churches, &c. - At the head of  
the bay you behold mount Vesuvius with its flaming  
top high among the clouds - at the base towards the sea  
seventy feet below the surface of the earth, & directly  
beneath the city of Portici - lies the ancient city of  
Herculaneum - destroyed by the lava in the year 79  
after Christ - the means by which it was discovered  
was altogether accidental, a peasant digging a well  
found several pieces of marble which excited curiosity  
& induced them to continue their excavations, at length  
they came to this theatre, by which means they knew  
it to be Herculaneum -

About ten miles from this, & partly on the  
other side of the mountain, four or five miles from the  
sea, lies Pompeii, destroyed by the ashes of the lava which  
covered Herculaneum - many streets have been exposed  
to view, houses cleared of their rubbish & restored in  
some measure to their original appearance, most of  
them having preserved their shape, the roof only  
having fallen in - many public edifices seem very  
perfect, where I was then, they had found a temple  
supposed to be (of Isis) & were reinstating its pillars  
& other ornaments, when it began to resume a respectable  
appearance - the tombs of the Gladiators were more  
perfect than any other building - the streets looked  
so natural that I could hardly realize that they  
had been buried seventeen hundred years, the  
places worn by the carriage wheels seemed as tho'  
they were still in use.



What a field for contemplation is here for a mind capable of reflecting on so sublime a subject, I felt a degree of awe in traversing these streets & viewing the surrounding objects, which had been buried in the earth nearly two thousand years, during which time, so many revolutions had taken place - new worlds discovered - kingdoms won & lost - cities totally destroyed - & here Pompeii is re-born again - some of the houses were one half of them exposed, the other, still remaining in the bank, the top not more than four or five feet from the surface of the earth, where would be large trees, vineyards & cultivated orchards of fruit trees - I left this spot with much regret - we came almost up to the ruins with our ship's boat in the river which runs from underneath a part of the city - it is a beautiful stream & leads a serpentine course into the Bay - On the opposite side of the bay of Naples commences the Appenines, stretching along into the interior until they are lost in distance - Castell mare, Terracina, & a great number of towns & villages spreading over this side of the bay, & tends to increase the perspective & forms a very distant but delightful landscape, until it terminates in the promontory of Minerva, which is the extreme point of land, & finally the Island of Capri a short distance from the main closes the scene & makes the bay complete -

During our stay here I visited the principal curiosities in & about Naples - Churches, Palaces, gardens &c. Mount Vesuvius also received my visits - it is about six miles from Naples - it is now two distinct mountains one called Somma the other Vesuvius - Somma is covered with fertile fields & gardens - the top of Vesuvius is one continued field of burning embers - its height from the level of the sea is 3780 feet perpendicular - the road leading to the top is very rough, but of a gradual ascent for about four miles, until you reach the foot of the cone - it then



becomes very steep & difficult of access, after however reaching the top, you are richly compensated for your labours the view is splendide beyond description, Cities, bays, mountains, & the whole country seems laid at your feet - there is a constant eruption now & then - when I was there the scene was truly sublime, the first notice you would have of its breaking out, would be an tremendous roaring beneath your feet like loud but distant thunder, approaching, till at length it would burst out of the crater with the greatest violence resembling in some measure the mouth of a cannon - stones of immense size would be thrown a great height into the air, being, blaring hot & of different forms & sizes, made a beautiful sight - we went as near the crater as was safe - on the opposite to where we stood hundreds of acres appeared like one mass of burning sulphur -

In the vicinity of Naples is the tomb of Virgil which every body goes to see - it is a small rough building from eight to ten feet square, & about the same height, with one arched roof, it is overgrown with grape vines & laurels - it stands directly over the entrance of the grotto of Pausilippo - this is an excavation of about three quarters of a mile in length entirely through the mountain of the same name, it is constantly lighted, paved with flat stones & is wide enough for carriages to pass abreast, the height varies from twenty to sixty feet - this leads you to the celebrated grotto of the dog four or five miles from Naples, it possesses the extraordinary quality of destroying animal life in a few moments after, the dog, or any living creature is exposed to the atmosphere which does not reach more than 18 inches from the bottom of the cone, I tried the experiment by holding down my head close to the earth & found that it produced a similar effect



to that of crushing a tumble of sparkling wine has upon the nose, a torch would become extinguished immediately by holding it near the earth - the old man who had charge of the cane had a very cruel practice of making the experiment upon a dog - the poor devil would fawn round his master's feet & seem to beg to be spiced, when he was held down to the obnoxious air, he would with a turn himself & endeavor to escape, until his strength began to fail & his nerves relax, he would fall down apparently lifeless, when his master would throw him out into the air & in a few moments he would revive, forth at the mouth & experience the same distressing convulsions that attacked him at first, until finally he would completely revive -

Respectfully

I remain &c &c

U.S. Ship Washington

Messina, Island Sicily

My dear friend

Our squadron having rendezvoused at Naples, we left the bay about the last of August on the first of September entered the straits of Messina once the celebrated whirlpool of Scylla & Charybdis, which in ancient times was considered so dangerous to mariners it proved fatal to part of the fleet of Agamemnon, it must have changed since that time as there is at present none but imaginary dangers - there was an earthquake in 1783, which probably changed its situation - in the afternoon we anchored in Messina roads -

Messina or Messana, anciently called Zancle, it lies in the straits that separates Calabria from Sicily, on the shores of the latter in Latitude  $38^{\circ} 14'$  & Long  $15^{\circ} 49'$  E it is very ancient, & supposed to be celebrated in the Grecian wars



Messina, now has a fine quay, surrounded by strong fortifications, where a large fleet may ride at anchor with perfect safety - the buildings are all of stone very few of them are however of superior architecture - the pieces of public amusement are very inferior, there is an opera house, but miserable performers & badly attended.

Respectfully your obt. servt.

U.S. Ship Washington

Algiers bay October 14 1818

My dear friend

About the 25<sup>th</sup> of last month we weighed anchor & stood out of Messina, bound as we presumed to the Barbary coast, in the evening had a fine view of Mount Aetna whose lofty head reaching far above the clouds was covered with snow - the perpendicular height of this celebrated mountain measures about 10500 feet & ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> hundred miles encompasses some of its base - here is where the cyclops under the direction of Vulcan in ancient times made thin thunder bolts -

On or about the 29<sup>th</sup> we anchored in the Bay of Tripoly, where we communicated with the Consul & ascertained that all was quiet - in the evening got under weigh & stood to the westward -

The fortifications of Tripoly are not powerful by any means, nature has done nothing for them or for the defence of the city, a small squadron well conducted, the guns served by your her sailors would soon drive the Mussulmans from this work.

In 1804 our little Navy made astonishing progress towards establishing its character before the walls of Tripoly - here the Gallant Decatur immortalized his name



October the 8th this ship came to anchor in the bay of Tunis, opposite to the ruins of Ancient Carthage - owing to some misunderstanding between the Tunisians & the United States no officer was permitted to go on shore - so that we were all disappointed in not being able to visit Carthage, Tunis lies in latitude  $36^{\circ}32'N$  - longitude  $10^{\circ}34'E$  - It is defended by the sea by fortifications called the Golette, which are capable of being made very strong; but at present are very much out of repair & would make a very weak defence against a well projected assault - from the interior nature has done much for defending the city, high elevated situations commanding the whole country & completely surrounding the city, might be made to form one complete chain of defence, but now (altho' occupied as fortresses) too contemptible to bear the name -

We left this bay the 11th & came too in Algiers on the 14th having run down the coast with a pleasant easterly wind, my first thoughts after having a little settled, was to get on shore if possible, consequently made immediate application & succeeded to my utmost wishes - Algiers is well known in latitude  $36^{\circ}49'N$  longitude  $2^{\circ}13'E$  - the city is very compact, surrounded by a strong high wall - the fortifications are strong & better supported than any other of the Barbary powers; our arrival here was shortly after the attack of the combined English & Dutch fleets - they were then engaged in repairing them & reducing the size of the Ambarums - the exaggerated account of Lord Exmouth respecting their assault would induce those who could not ascertain the fact, to believe that the batteries had been leveled with the mole, & that many houses had been destroyed - on the contrary no batteries were knocked down, & not many houses injured - it is true that many of the Algerines were killed & the shipping in the mole burnt - the streets are extremely



extremely narrow & filthy, many of them will not admit a loaded animal to pass you, & when you see one coming you must retreat into the first door you meet with - the houses are not large, many of them communicating with each other over the streets & form complete subterranean passages - they are all built of white stone & altogether form a handsome appearance in sailing into the roads

In the summer the high surrounding country about Algiers appears to great advantage - many fine country seats all of pure white, with their gardens form a pretty contrast with the mountains to the eastward which are constantly covered with snow

Algiers contains about one hundred & fifty thousand inhabitants as near as they can estimate them, no census ever being taken - composed of Turks, Moros & Jews - very few christians -

The Consulate houses are generally large commodious buildings, but are so surrounded by others inferior in size & cleanliness, with narrow dirty streets <sup>that</sup> prevent the circulation of the air - render it altogether extremely unhealthy - most of the Consuls have country seats, where they retire in those seasons - the society being very limited, & principally confined to the Consul families a very small proportion of which are females - make a life there almost equal to perpetual banishment -

The Dey of Algiers is absolute - during his life the pleasure of the janizaries, who elect him, generally from the lowest class of society - their elections are nothing more, or less, than mobs - no personal merit is necessary to become eligible to this office - the whim of the moment governs them - When he becomes obnoxious to their blood hounds, they are perhaps observed at his palace being his life guard, denounce his head, which he quietly resigns, knowing it <sup>unless</sup> to make vain - they then mob another into office -



U. S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar bay Nov<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1816

My dear friend

With a fine breeze on the 10<sup>th</sup> of last month we weighed anchor & stood out of the roads of Algiers, standing to the westward - we have experienced new weather for the last ten days - this season of the year the Mediterranean is subject to strong winds & sudden squalls, more dangerous generally than those we meet on the Atlantic -

From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of day we formed a party to visit Aljemas a small Spanish town opposite to Gibraltar, this is a place of no note or consideration at present, it was however at the siege of Gibraltar of great consequence to the Spanish, having facilitated in a great measure their preparations for the siege, the floating batteries, with other immense preparations were fitted from this place.

It contains about 1500 inhabitants, the best idea that I can give you of their true character, is, that they are extremely expert with stiletto, & make use of it on most occasions - in the center of the city is a handsome Alameda or square, at the head of which, as usual, stands a church -

Respect. yours &c &c -

U. S. Ship Washington

Malaga Bay Nov<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1816

My dear friend

we left Gibraltar in good spirits bound to the eastward, & anchored here this day - Malaga is a town in Granada old Spain - in latitude  $36^{\circ} 42'$  N Long  $5^{\circ} 19'$  W there is no harbor for Men of War - I had not time to visit any other part of the city except the Cathedral, which is a stupendous building, perhaps the largest in the country, I ascended to the top where were a number of poor families residing in small huts, the prospect was very fine -



U. S. Ship Washington

Port Mahon Dec<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1818

My dear friend

We took our departure from Malaga the 27<sup>th</sup> with a small part of the squadron bound to Algiers, having the Consul for that place on board - The last treaty with this government was made by Com<sup>d</sup> Decatur, who thought proper to return as Frigate, & sloop of war, captured by his Squadron during the war - the Frigate was well restored, but in consequence of the Sloop having been run ashore by an error on the Spanish coast, was seized by that government & detained - The Dey then demanded another vessel in her stead which our President did not comply with - the treaty was then sent off to the American Squadron, & by the Com<sup>d</sup> to the United States - A new one having been prepared & returned to the Com<sup>d</sup>, who with the Consul was bound to Algiers to obtain the ratification of the Dey - accordingly the Spark was dispatched with the Consul into port & there wait his orders - During which time the Washington would cruise off the harbor & occasionally show our colors within their waters -

While on this cruising ground we experienced the most severe gale that the Washington has yet had to contend with - it struck us with the greatest violence about 7 o'clock in the evening, & continued until 8 in morning without ceasing - the sea was also very high -

Our good Ship Washington had an excellent opportunity of proving her powers, which are astonishingly great, as she weathered the gale without much damage -

During the night we witnessed a very curious phenomenon, which is common enough among old sailors, but among our young cruisers are strange things - they are called by the name Com<sup>d</sup> Plumes, & were on the ends of the



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gords & at the mast heads, they consisted of small glimmering lights seen at the extremest parts of the spars, occasionally vanishing & returning again - they were generally faint but perfectly distinct - I have also seen balls resembling fire about the diameter of an eighteen pound shot - they were apparently upon the surface of the water, & in one or two instances gently gliding along with the ship, this is undoubtedly phosphorescence -

Port Mahon Capital of the Island of Minorca lies in Latitude  $39^{\circ} 52' N$  - Longitude  $3^{\circ} 48' E$  - This harbour is of great consequence to an squadron being considered the first in the Mediterranean, the severest gales of wind has no effect upon the vessels when they are moored in the upper harbour - it sufficiently commodious to accommodate fifty sail of the line & perhaps more, the English having already had thirty at the same time -

The inhabitants are principally natives of the Island, it is however garrisoned by Spanish troops, they are mostly convicts from the military establishments in old Spain, consequently are familiar with all manner of crimes, which make them very obnoxious to the inhabitants - there are several other towers on this Island but of little note - During the war between Spain & England this place was strongly fortified -

Fort St Phillip is an immense work - it was calculated to defend the harbour against almost any force ~~the~~ the English spent much time & ammunition here - its greatest strength appears to rest in the subterranean part of it - at the close of the war this famous Military Port was by treaty blown in the air - On the 29th the Shark arrived from Algiers with the treaty of peace, The Dey observed that we had the dagger at his throat & he was compelled to sign the Articles, but he soon broke them the first picture - poor man, he soon after became a victim to his passions -



U. S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar Feb<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

Nothing of consequence occurred during our stay at Mahon, after I wrote you, but much has since that time taken place - on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, just we sailed from Mahon, bound as a port of call to Algiers, where we once more arrived on the 26<sup>th</sup> & after having communication, & ascertaining that our affairs were in a tranquil state, we filled away & proceeded on our cruise - The evening previous to our arrival in this port, Masterman Watts while attending to his duty in the fore-top, was precipitated upon deck, & taken below apparently lifeless - he however recovered his speech, but not his perfect senses. no bones were broken it was thought the injury was internal - he lingered until the 3<sup>rd</sup> & expired much regretted by us all -

Poor Watts had many good traits in his character, generous to a fault, so much so as to sacrifice every possession & neglect his own person - at repasts there was not his equal - his wit was quick & sometimes refined - wherever he was found there was sure to be mirth & good humor -

Fortunately his senses forsook him a short time before he died - he was buried with the honors of war in the ground appropriated to the officers of the garrison - he left a widowed mother in New Hampshire to lament his unfortunate end -

Fate seems to have laid her heavy hand upon us, scarcely had we laid poor Watts in the ground, but another was taken from among us not by accident, but by a fatal duel - Wheaton has fallen a victim to his high sense of honor - how can I relate to you the circumstances of this



Melancholy affair, still it is now told - not many days since a dispute arose between him & Miss S. about young Chamney, it was supposed by most of the elder shipmen that S. had taken some improper advantage of young C. & W., remarks being now even more envious than the other gentlemen; it fell upon him to settle the disputed point; his observations were not within the bounds of decency, they had better been spared S. took them as too soon to pass unnoticed, & the following day challenged him to settle it in a more honorable way than by words - on the 7th of January they met on the neutral ground - Miss S. attended by Miss C. - Miss W. & Miss R. - as friends -

They fired the first shot without effect - the second S. pistol missed fire - his friends then came forward & requested to know if a reconciliation could not take place, - W. observed that <sup>he</sup> was willing to let it rest - but that he would never apologise - they fired again S. ball entered the thorax & passed directly through the lungs, he turned, fell, & expired without a struggle his pistol did not go off the last fire - Thus fell one of the brightest ornaments of the Navy, the generous ardour of his youthful feelings would not allow the meanest sailor under him to be imposed upon - when his honor was at stake, life had no consideration with him - his sunshine of glory faded ere it had attained its brightest splendor - to vince the coolness of his mind upon the ground he loaded his own pistols & only requested his friends to look on & see that every thing was conducted in a proper manner - the morning that this affair took place I had a long conversation with him on the subject he assured me that what he had asserted was his firm belief, & that no power on earth would ever make him recall it, or apologise - & that he did not make the remarks hastily



but on the contrary, he was cool & collected, therefore it was his opinion & he should support it at all risks - He advised his Father, had he been a god he could not have idolized him with more devoted affection, his very soul seemed bound up in his image - The sacred name of Father governed him in all his <sup>actions</sup> - he has often, after a long & tedious watch have ended, & we had retired below, taken out this kind & affectionate letters & read them to me until he was interrupted by the height of his feelings, he would dwell with so much pleasure & satisfaction upon the presented advice & tender admonitions herein always shown, that it was gratifying to listen to him

Nature had been liberal to him in every respect - his manly beauty was unequalled among his associates, the brightness of his genius rose above the ordinary talents of those by whom he was surrounded - his modest unassuming manners would never allow him to take advantage of this superiority - he has now gone to the immortal regions above where his departed spirit will rest in peace - The Omnipotent judge who made him, knew when to call him hence -

I wrote an account of this melancholy affair to his Father, who had already heard an indirect account of it - some time after I received a letter from, which plainly showed the distressed situation of himself & family - he enclosed me an epitaph appropriate to the occasion - His brother officers (friendshipmen) of the squadron raised a subscription to erect a monument over his grave & I had the satisfaction of giving direction for a plain marble one to be placed to his memory before I left the Mediterranean (to Mr. Wotles) with the greatest satisfaction I subscribe myself your obt servant H. H.



U S Ship Washington

Cádiz March 1<sup>st</sup> 1817

My dear friend

I hail the breeze with great satisfaction which again sets all in motion, after remaining four or five weeks in port - only spending our time & money, nothing is so reconcilable to a sea life, as the advantage we have over the land gentry in visiting & enjoying the variety of a foreign place - the ~~Washington~~ Washington thus far has been pretty constantly in motion, she anchored in this port two days since - the sole object in coming here is, I believe to show the Spongers an American 74, & to see the World - Cádiz = Latitude  $36^{\circ} 31' N$  Longitude  $5^{\circ} 17' W$  is the principal seaport in Andalusia old Spain - the harbour is commodious but exposed to the winds; they have a famous dry dock, dry docks &c but now going fast to ruin, also many large line of battle ships hauler up here falling fast to pieces - it made me feel the weight of time, & the effect of change to see so fine a Navy as this once ~~was~~ settling into the mud without the prospect of repairs -

The city has a high wall surrounding it & well fortified at every point, this was well attested in the war with the French when Soult tried the strength of it, but without effect - the houses are generally very high & appear to be well built, the streets of a very respectable width & cleanliness - there is a very handsome public square which is a fine promenade

Our ship was crowded with visitors of all descriptions - the women are handsome, & take great pride in rolling their dark eyes, & showing their pretty feet, which their short cloths display to great advantage - & walking with as much precision as an automaton - & flirting the fan which seem to constitute the principal graces of a Spanish fair lady -



U S Ship Washington

Port Mahon April 10<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

Notwithstanding I date my letter from this place we have visited several others since you last heard from me, it has always been customary with the commanders on this station to spend the winter in some quarters - but we have spent ours much more to the satisfaction of us all - after leaving Cadix we proceeded again for the straits - in passing cape Troffalgar I thought of the great battle which was fought here by Nelson & Collingwood, where the former died in the arms of Victory - what an enviable situation - March the 22<sup>nd</sup> anchored in Tangier bay -

Tangier is a small town in the Empire of Morocco - it is in latitude  $35^{\circ}40'$  N longitude  $5^{\circ}49'$  W in the straits of Gibraltar, it is of little consequence - after we had procured some fresh stock we proceeded through the straits, to Gibraltar where we remained until the 28<sup>th</sup> - left then for Malaga arrived on the 30<sup>th</sup> - left Malaga on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April for Mahon - after a long & unpleasant passage we reached that port -

All hands are now engaged in overhauling the rigging & repairing the Washington, she is hauled every side the Hoop yards completely stripped, & her hold swept out

As most of the Squadron have rendezvous in this port, the Woodhouse officers have taken this opportunity of concluding a Memorial to the President of the U S & to the Senate - against the commanders of this squadron, while engaged on certain Courts Martial held on this station - I enclose you a copy of this memorial, that you may judge for yourself, of the conduct of men when not under the influence of the laws of their country



## Memorial

The undersigned officers holding commissions in the Navy of the U States, beg leave most respectfully to state to the Hon Senate of the U States - That, having entered the service early in life from motives of love of country, respect for its Naval character, & a sincere wish to become useful, they would willingly encounter dangers of any kind, & endure hardships which the good of service or preservation of discipline may make necessary - That together, with a willingness to risk their lives & sacrifice their comforts, they have hitherto felt a firm reliance on that protection which the well digested laws of this country, were intended by the framers & enactors of them to afford to officers of every grade against the wanton exercise of that which all military establishments place in the hands of the superiors over the subaltern - guarding with constant jealousy their reputation & their rights against all assaults which have not been duly noticed by the laws for the guardianship & arbitration of the most respectable of all tribunals - a Court Martial -

They have witnessed with deep regret the proceedings of a late transaction, which has been brought to the decision of a court composed of the oldest officers of the Squadron - of officers who from their rank in service we had hoped would prove as jealous guardians of our rights as their own -

We beg leave respectfully to state the lowering circumstances of this case -

Captain John Heath commanding the gunner of maimed onboard the Frigate Java under the command of Oliver H Perry - was so unfortunate as to incur the displeasure of his commander, the merits of the case between the two officers, we do not presume to canvass - but we are imperiously called upon to notice the subsequent events - A Court Martial convened in the



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The harbour of Mahon onboard the Java on the 27<sup>th</sup> of  
dec<sup>r</sup> 1810 for the trial of Captain John Heath, on charges  
& specifications of which the following is a copy.

Charge the 1<sup>st</sup> - disrespectful, insolent &  
contemptuous conduct to me his superior officer -

Specification the 1<sup>st</sup> - that he did on or about  
the 22<sup>d</sup> of July 1810 onboard the U. S. Frigate, then standing into  
the bay of Naples, on being asked by me "why a certain Marine  
was suffered to appear on deck, in so dirty & filthy a dress" ans-  
wered in an insolent, disrespectful, & contemptuous manner -

Specification 2<sup>d</sup> - that he did late in the  
evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1810, onboard the U. S. Ship  
Java, then at anchor in the harbour of Messina, cause  
a letter written by himself & couched in language highly imp-  
roper to be read to his command, to be left on my  
table in the cabin of said Ship -

Specification 3<sup>d</sup> - that he did when  
sent for into the cabin, on being asked "why he took such  
a time to write to write a letter of that kind", assume a  
disrespect to me highly provoking, & disrespectful, the above said  
charge & specification being in violation of a part of the  
15<sup>th</sup> article, & a part of the 13<sup>th</sup> article, of the rules & regulations  
for the better government of the Navy of the U. States -

Charge 2<sup>d</sup> - Neglect of duty & an officer like conduct

Specification 1<sup>st</sup> - that on or about the  
evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1810 onboard the U. S. Ship Java  
when at anchor in the harbour of Messina, he the said  
Captain John Heath, did on two Marines jumping over-  
board to swim from the Ship, neglect to come on deck at the  
called & informed of this circumstance, alleging as a reason  
the subterfuge of being sick -

Specification 2<sup>d</sup> - that he did when ordered  
by me at said time & place to come on deck & muster the  
Marines - execute that duty in a careless & inefficient manner



and when the Marines were mustered, did neglect to report them to me until called & directed to do so —

Specification 3<sup>rd</sup> — That he did neglect on the desertion of seven Marines from the ship, to take three immediate steps for them that became him as commander of the detachment, to which they belonged — & were required by the urgency of the case — this charge & specification being in violation of the 20<sup>th</sup> article & the 23<sup>rd</sup> article of the rules for the better government of the Navy of the U. States —

Charge 3<sup>rd</sup> — Disobedience of orders —

Specification — That he did at the time & place referred to in the first charge & third specification through repeatedly ordered to be silent continue to speak, & thus wound of the consequence, & in the same indecorous & contemptuous manner, as is therein alleged — thereby violating a part of the 15<sup>th</sup> article of the rules & regulations for the better government of the Navy of the U. States —

U. S. Frigate *Farmer*

Algiers bay 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1815

= signed = Olinus H. Perry

Of these charges & specifications it will be necessary to observe only, that the offence in which the great step is laid was committed as the specification states on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1815, that Captain Heath was neither arrested, suspended or warned that notice would be taken of this offence — On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1815 Captain Heath is again supposed by Capt. Perry to commit an offence; for which, for which Capt. Perry suspends him from the exercise of his duty — That in the interval between the commission of the two offences, a general court martial convened in the bay of Naples of which Capt. Perry is President & Capt. Heath a member — that after Capt. Heath had been suspended from his duty two days he delivered a note to Capt. Perry of which the following is a copy —



U. S. Ship Java

Messina 18<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1815

Sir

On the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst I was ordered below by you from the quarter deck of this ship with these words, or to that effect - I have no further use for your services on board this ship - I have waited until this moment to know why I have been thus treated, & being ignorant of the causes request my arrest & charges -

Very respectfully your ob. servt.

"signed" John Heath

The language of this note Capt Perry considered disrespectful & summoned Capt Heath into his cabin. Willingly would your Memorialists draw a veil over the transaction which then & there took place, most willingly would they bury in oblivion a transaction so disgraceful to the character of an American officer but justice to themselves forbids it - it appears by the statement of Capt Heath & the acknowledgment of Capt Perry - that after some conversation had passed Capt Perry, from (as he says) a disposition to charter invulence on the spot, gave to Capt Heath a blow - & after having committed this outrage upon his person, with much abusive language ordered him to be confined to his room, & a sentinel placed over him, a measure which has hitherto been, considered as justifiable in extreme cases only -

A little reflection convinced Capt Perry of the impropriety of his conduct, & alarmed him for its consequences; he accordingly through the medium of another Post Captain & the first Lieut of the Java, made an overture to Capt Heath of reconciliation, & though then tender an apology, but insisted on terms of his own



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elitation, this Capt Heath. having a due regard for his own reputation, for the commission which he has the honor to hold & for the respectability of his brother officers of the same rank, positively refused to accept, & in his turn preferred charges against Capt Perry - a court martial convened & as we are unofficially informed for the trial of both; but Capt Perry remained in the exercise of the functions of his office, while Capt Heath was in close confinement, - of the proceedings of this court your memorialists know but little = They have on this they presume have been before the Honorable Secretary of the Navy - but they know that Capt Perry has sailed for the U States in command of the Frigate *Jenex* with the sanction of a court martial, & that of the commander in chief to support his conduct

The undersigned have now no guarantee for the safety of their persons, but the use of those arms the laws of their country have placed in their hands, & to that personal strength which nature has blessed them - to those means they must & on them in future depend, unless the Hon Senate to whom they look with filial confidence as the guardians of their rights - will by a timely interference save them the disagreeable alternative of relinquishing a profession to which they are enthusiastically attached, or become in every instance the defenders not only of their character but of their persons -

Placed at a distance from their native country & without the immediate influence of its civil laws, your memorialists rely with confidence on the decision of the high tribunal to which they now appeal, your memorialists trust it will not engross too much of the valuable time of the Senate, to institute an examination



into the proceedings of this court in their two cases they beg leave to state, that an occurrence at Naples in August last between Capt John Ordre Crighton & Midshipman Marston of the Washington —

This decision on which they consider as tending to destroy the conviction which every officer ought to feel — while in the performance of the duties of his office — that the strong arm of the law is extended to him equally for his protection during good conduct & for his punishment when he deviates from its rules —

If your Memorialists have erred in making this appeal, they hope it will be attributed rather to an exuberance than to a deficiency of good feelings — And they trust they will ever be found ready to obey the calls of their country in any contest however unpromising to themselves as individuals —

And your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray that this memorial will have its desired effect —

signed by the warrant  
officers of the Squadron

A copy of the above was sent immediately to the commander in chief of the squadron with all the names — one to the Senate of the U. States, one to the President of the U. S. — one to the governor of Virginia —



U. S. Ship Washington

Port Mahon 17<sup>th</sup> May 1817

My dear friend

At length the long looked for letter has arrived from America, no one can imagine what pleasure I experienced on this occasion - I here have the indescribable satisfaction of learning that the health of my dear Mother is considerably improved - a long time will I have to elapse before I can again enjoy her blessing - her prayers I daily have

No one but those who have experienced such happiness can have a right conception of the enjoyment which we feel when so far distant from our native shores, to have the most trying communication from those friends we have left at home - particularly those we hold most dear

Our ship is progressing rapidly in her repairs in a few days we shall be able to haul off to our old moorings - it is reported that the com<sup>d</sup>. intends going from here to France, I shall rejoice if this is true, as I have become extremely anxious to see this delightful country -

Yesterday evening the celebrated Cleopatra Barge anchored in this harbour, I am told that she is fitted out merely as a pleasure boat - she is not a handsome vessel externally, but her cabin is the most completely finished room I ever have seen - she is owned by the Brownshields - her table is free of access at all hours to all who wish pay their debts to Bacchus - & you may be well assured in a country like this, where there are such an immense number who seldom meet with good cheer that they have numerous visitors, particularly from among the gentry of the black robe, where more millions & good living is secreted, than it would be possible to credit, if we did not know that the Priests of these Catholic countries were a pest to the inhabitants

Respt. My dear Sir your obt. serv<sup>t</sup>



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U. S. Ship Washington  
Port Mahon May 1817

My dear friend

During our sojourn last September in the city of Messina, a circumstance took place which was likely to involve some of the officers of the Squadron in difficulty, & finally, a false report having been made by the author of the affair to his government, it became a serious investigation, & the officers were called upon by the Com<sup>d</sup> to make a correct statement to him to be sent to America - it originated in a Capt Bell having punished a sailor belonging to the squadron - I will enclose you an official account from the officers concerned -

Consulate of the United States  
at Port Mahon in the Island  
of Minorca

On the 17 day of May 1817 personally appeared Lieut A. Messershipmen T - C - & W - of the U. S. Navy, who being duly sworn, solemnly depose & declare, that while at Messina on or about the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1816, they entered a billiard room of a public Hotel in said city - & there saw Capt Bell of the British Schooner Ann - that Lieut A - immediately pointed out Capt Bell as the person who had a few days before flogged an American seaman belonging to the U. S. Frigate Java - when Mr T - advanced towards him & civilly enquired whether he was the gentleman who had beaten the American sailor - that Capt Bell instantly arose & drawing a brace of pistols, desired Mr T - to stand off, adding that he had been advised to prepare himself against the American officers, & that he should blow any man through that molested him - to which Mr T - coolly observed that American officers were not so easily terrified, & that he had better lay aside his pistols -



& that none but a rascal & a coward would act in such a manner without provocation - Capt Bell replied he was neither a rascal nor a coward but that he was a British officer & would have satisfaction for the insult - that Mr. J. - declared himself ready to fight him in any way he pleased - & the parties immediately repaired to an adjoining room for the purpose - that then Capt Bell objected to an immediate settlement because his particular friend refused to be present - & also on account of Mr. J. - rank - that Lieut A. - then observed that the objection as to rank should not avail him, as he was ready to personate Mr. J. - to which Capt Bell also objected on account of his being a man of family - that he had reported the affair to the Governor of Messina - that it was now in the hands of the civil authority - consequently he had nothing further to do with it - that Lieut A., Mr. J. - & W. then repaired to an adjoining room considering the affair as ended, that shortly after hearing a noise they returned & found Capt Bell scuffling with Mr. C. - that Mr. J. - interfered to separate them - & in consequence of a blow received from Capt Bell, struck him & some blows passed between them - Mr. C. gives the cause of his quarrel with Capt Bell - that he had received a gross personal insult from him that after the parties were separated Capt. Bell, insisted upon a duel the next morning, which was immediately acceded to - & Lieut A. - promised that any one of the gentlemen should be present at any time & place that should be named -

That Lieut A. on the following <sup>morning</sup> called on Capt. Bell & stated that Mr. J. - was ready for the meeting, but that if he preferred either of the other gentlemen, he, Lieut A., Mr. W. or Mr. C. - were ready to give him any satisfaction he required, to which Capt Bell replied that he should not resort to an application to the civil authority, & thus the affair ended -

In witness whereof the deponents have hereunto signed their names

ILS

Signed & sworn before me

J Theodore Laidlaw -



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W. S. Ship. Washington

Marseilles June 11<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

We all rejoiced when the signal was displayed to unmoor ship, so heartily did every one wish to leave Marseilles. Our passage to this place was 7 days, we are accompanied by the whole Squadron, which are now in the most perfect order & make a very respectable appearance -

Marseilles, was anciently called Marsilice, situated in Gaul - it was founded by the Phœnicians, 539 years before Christ, & was even in former times a place of great strength, not only in war, but in commerce & in literature - not having yet been on shore I can give you no description of its internal beauties, the appearance from our ship is very favorable the country surrounding the city is now in its highest state of cultivation - every thing looks luxuriant, gardens & fruit trees in full bloom, & in fact the whole face of nature has one smiling aspect - I only fear that I shall not get on shore to enjoy all these fine things - there appears to be some objection to giving us Protrique immediately in consequence of having our Counsel from Algiers, when the pestilence still rages - The Health officers are particular, & the Quarantine is irritable, which has already ruined our hopes -

My anxiety to visit France has been very great & I could make almost any sacrifice to have my inclination gratified - the language is almost universally spoken & I think it very necessary that every young officer should be acquainted with it

I am sorry to say that our country in this place has not acted with that energy & character which is necessary to support the dignity of our American officer - Independence, in a certain degree becomes a republican spirit, & he who represents a republican government, ought to have a good share -



U. S. Ship Washington

Leghorn roads July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1817

My dear friends

My prognostications have in this instance proved too true - the third day after the squadron anchored in Marselles, there came on a tremendous gale of wind - one of the frigates dragged her anchors, another parted her cable - which induced the com<sup>d</sup> the moment the wind ceased to get under weigh - & were that if ever he came back he hoped it would be to burn powder with them" our disappointment was very great in being obliged to leave France without having communication with the shore - there was no alternative -

Leghorn is the principal sea port in Tuscany & one of the greatest commercial places in Italy - it lies in Latitude 43° 29' N Longitude 10° 22' E - it has a fine mole for Merchant vessels - & a smaller one for thin galleys -

Men of war of the first class are moored in the roads which is very much exposed - Leghorn is a well fortified place, having a high wall with a deep ditch to protect it - nature however has done nothing for it, as it is accessible from all quarters, & could not withstand an assault from heavy artillery - there are no curiosities & very few amusements here, every body is engaged in some commercial pursuits & seems interested in that alone - travellers proceed either to Pisa or Florence for pleasure or information - not far from the wall of the city has been erected an English burying ground, which deserves notice & does much credit to those who first established it, there is indeed the bury of Smollet who died in Leghorn -

I intend visiting Pisa & Florence & Pisa if possible

Respectfully yours &c &c





U.S. Ship Washington  
Leghorn Roads July 5<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

Yesterday we celebrated the anniversary of the Independence of our Country in appropriate style, at Merculiani fired a national salute - as is usual on such occasions our ship was dressed in the colors of all nations, & the day was spent in thanksgivings to God who through our forefathers gave us Freedom

Florence July 7<sup>th</sup> 1817

I left Leghorn last night at 8 o'clock, & rode all night, at 9 this morning found myself in this city, the road is extremely fine I came in the diligence, which is not so rapid as the accommodation steers in America - I took up my quarters at the Hotel de York with some other officers, we found here good accommodations on reasonable terms

This city has been famous for many ages, for supporting the fine arts. it is said that the gallery here contains the finest collection in Europe - the Magnanimous Napoleon in transporting some of the statues & paintings mutilated them considerably - this is the first place we visited after our arrival - it is an immense building, several days should be passed in the different <sup>to see it</sup> apartments, in a proper manner I spent two mornings here with infinite satisfaction, the variety is so great that it is almost impossible for me to particularize, I will however mention two or pieces -

The Venus de Medicis is universally acknowledged to be the most perfect model of the human art, it is supposed to be from the chisel of Praxiteles who lived about 300 years before Christ - he was a Grecian sculptor & many celebrated pieces come from his hands - I wish that it was in my power to give you a description of this beautiful copy of nature, it is quite perfect & the proportion of the limbs are so perfect that you almost fancy that it is animated



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The next piece which I most admired was a painting representing Potiphar's wife & Joseph, this was indeed superb, life itself could scarcely seem to express <sup>more</sup> feeling than appears in the countenances of the figures, nature was here displayed in all her beauties — in the the range of apartments was one appropriate entirely to Portraits of ancient celebrated artists executed by themselves —

In the afternoon we visited a famous engraver, who we found extremely polite & showed us some very superior works his name is Morgan —

From this we were taken to the Academy of "Fine Arts" which is under the direction of Benvenuti a distinguished artist, he had just finished a piece which was then exhibited in the Palace of Cassini, it is said to be his master piece — In representation of Pyrrus avenging the death of his father Achilles, Pyrrus has slain Priam by the hair, he has taken refuge in the church & was then at the altar when he is sacrificed to his fury, Hector Andromache, & three other females with the Priests are the figures which make up the group & are witnesses of the murder — The fine & revengeful expression of the features of Pyrrus are most strongly delineated — while the horror & dismay exhibited in the rest of the party are wonderfully well drawn —

July 8th

This morning was passed in examining the Cathedral which stands nearly in the center of the city, it is built of marble after the mosaic style — it is an immense structure from the top we have a most delightful prospect of the whole city & surrounding country — near this & in the same square is a chapel of beautiful architecture, the doors are of bronze, most elegantly wrought in basso-relief — the windows of variegated colors, from the Egyptians the art of which is supposed to be lost — our next visit was to the chapel of St Lorenzo — the chapel of which



is said to be the richest in all Italy - that part which completed is of the most beautiful porphyry, from Egypt, Elba & Tuscany most perfectly polished, it is not yet finished, has already been two hundred years building, & cost immense sums - here is deposited the ashes of the Princes of the Medici family in rich sarcophagi ornamented with their coat of arms, on the top the crown of each Prince most superbly studded with precious stones -

Near this church is an Ancient Manuscript Library collected after the Medici family, it contains 70,000 volumes - here was shown us an original manuscript of Virgil -

### Palace Petti

The grand Duke's palace was the next consideration, we were here shown a very great collection of paintings from the first masters - in a small private apartment is the Venus de Capri, from the great modern sculptor at Rome, it is said by many to be equal to the Venus de Medici - it has one advantage, the light drapery with which it is partly covered, not enough to hide any of its beautiful proportions, but for modesty's sake it is well, she seems almost conscious of her own situation, & holds the drapery as it were to cover her charms from mortal eyes -

Old Palace, where are the portraits of the whole family of the Medici - adjoining is another ancient Library

Manufactory where all kinds of precious stones are worked - we were shown some fine specimens of them

Palace of Riccardi where the Emperor Charles the 5th was born - here was another Library & paintings

July 10

Cabinet of Physic & Natural History -

Here is the human body most perfectly represented in wax, in every variety of form of both sexes - all kinds of beasts, birds, fishes, & a great collection of precious stones, fossils, &c &c &c one Egyptian Mummy - & a thousand other curiosities -



By particular request of the gentlemen who have charge of the Galleries, we paid them another visit, he was desirous of showing us a small room containing nothing the richest minerals, pearls, diamonds, & precious stones of every description, which have been ages collecting at an immense expense - it would seem incredible were I to mention what they cost - a small dish not the size of glass sold seller of onyx was priced at 13 000 crowns -

In the evening we rode out to the Porcelain Manufactory where they make a fine imitation of china ware, it was amusing to see the different hands it passes through & in quick succession, each separate figure is made with the pencil, each man forming a single one & passes it to his neighbor who makes another, & so on until the whole is finished.

We returned from this excursion by a celebrated Promenade called the Cassine - it is a beautiful extensive walk or ride near two miles in length, lined on both sides with lofty elms, there are three different avenues very broad & straight in good condition - here all the nobility & gentry ride in the evening - & frequently the young Duke himself -

The latter part of this evening we spent at the Opera where we saw the Grand Duke & all his family attended by Maria Louise, ex Empress of France, as far as I could judge from her present appearance she is a fine portly looking woman, some of the prints which I have seen of her are very correct, she was dressed very plain, the Duke's family were also in the plainest costume - being in drab coats & red vests - The observation of Stems I think, upon the quakers - if the world had been made of them - what a drab colored creation it would have been.

The Opera house is the neatest I ever saw all the boxes are lined with silk & well accommodated with chairs - Venus & Adonis, which was performed well by a celebrated dancer from Paris, Dupont with his wife -



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Florence July 11<sup>th</sup>

At half past 4 o'clock this morning we left this city for Leghorn after we had settled our bills & taken leave of our travelling valet or interpreter who had attended us constantly during the few days we remained here, rode behind our carriage or run of errands, and such little offices - we found him highly useful & honest - The day was extremely fine, sky clear, & the sun rose & spread its cheering rays over the rich extensive plains of the Arno, as we rode over the light Menckle Bridge, with one Arch, which is so celebrated for the great perfection of its Architecture, I took a last farewell of this charming city - Our road led along the Arno, whose banks are lined with towns & villages, the whole distance, rich cultivated gardens, vineyards &c.

The season, every thing was favorable, our road was a little elevated, which increased the prospect & gave us a fine view of the wide extended plains of the Arno -

Tuscany is undoubtedly the richest country in Italy - it has many advantages, fine pastures fine fields & fine grain, consequently the finest stock, I never see superior beef in America than what we get here - In fact I every day saw something that reminded me of my own country - the inhabitants, the ladies particularly dress like ours - the forests, cultivated fields, all seemed to rise up in remembrance of my native America - we passed through Pisa in the afternoon, & only remained there long enough to take a little refreshments - this is a very interesting place, & I shall in a future letter say more on this subject -

We reached Leghorn in the evening very much fatigued but highly gratified with the trip altogether - I hope my dear sir you will not find my letters too tedious - I have not the advantages of a comfortable room by myself to write in - yours truly -



U. S. Ship Washington

Civita Vecchia July 25<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

The commodore having left the squadron at Leghorn & gone to Florence, from which place he contemplated going to Rome by land, & again joining the Washington at this place when the whole squadron had previously been ordered,

Civita Vecchia lies in latitude 42° 5' N - long 11° 46' E about 50 miles from Rome, it is an open rock-strewn & rocky bottom, consequently no place for a man of war - we had not been here but two days, before we were joined again by the com<sup>dr</sup> in the Erie which vessel had been left at Leghorn - he having altered his original plan in visiting Rome - weighed anchor immediately & stood on pretty near the land - At 5 in the evening we could distinctly see the famous City of Rome from the top, passed the mouth of the Tiber before sun down - the Dome of St Peter was visible for some time - how mortifying to be within two hours ride of the ancient mistress of the world, & not have it in our power to tread upon her ground -

U. S. Ship Washington

Naples July 27<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

Again you see I date my letter from the Capital of the two Sicilies, we anchored in the bay last evening - since we were here last year they have re-built the great Theatre San Carlos, which was destroyed by fire about two years since - it is the largest & most superb building of the kind in Europe - the inside is now finished in the most splendid style, containing six tiers of boxes the pillars supporting each of different orders of Architecture all most richly gilt - in the centre is suspended from



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An elegant chancelier, & one in the kings box which is  
in front of the stage, the top is a canopy, the whole trim-  
med with damask curtains - in front of each box is a  
small chancelier holding five lights - when the whole  
is illuminated the effect of the lights upon the gilt  
work is truly dazzling - The scenery, dresses, & performance  
altogether is not to be surpassed in this line of acting.

The orchestra contains about sixty musicians  
& as the Italians characteristically feeders you know  
of course, in this respect they are not to be outdone -  
the goodness of their music pleases for the profession -

## Pompeii

In one of my letters in July 1810, I gave you some description of these celebrated ruins - I gave it from some notes which I took, but lost apart of them; I only visited Herculaneum at that time, when we returned to Naples I went to Pompeii but omitted mentioning, the Barracks, adjoining which was the Theatre, & the Temple of Venus, all in good preservation, & the streets leading to them - we now pursued our course over a great many buildings, which had fallen down & formed one complete heap - until we entered an extensive vineyard, which no doubt covers a part of the city; on the opposite side is the Amphitheatre an immense building, capable of holding 80,000 people, it is said to be half of a mile in circumference, thirty seven rows of seats I count distinctly it was here where the Gladiators fought with the wild beasts - in returning through the vineyard we entered another portion of the city - where we entered a wine vault with the jars in their original places, having never been removed, they were perfectly sound & in good order.

I observed in this part of the city the houses were not generally more than three feet below the surface



of the south & in some places much up - in one of the buildings which I entered our guide led us into a small room entirely closed, in the centre of which was the most perfect piece of mosaic work I ever saw, not the least impaired, it could never have been in a better state than at this moment, in another place I found a mortar belonging probably to a druggist of Lower this is a certain proof that there must have been an eruption previous to that which Pliny gives an account of - I broke a piece from it, & we could discover no difference, the eruption which destroyed Herculaneum & Pompeii is said to be the first that ever took place from Vesuvius -

Catacombs - one a very extensive subterranean work consisting of long dark passages, rooms, & vaults the extent of them are not known, but I believe they have been explored for miles - our guide had many a legendary tale at his tongue's end, about them, they were not doubt originally intended for burying the dead, but now this custom seems to have been abolished, when I visited them the guide procured a flambeau lighted & led the way & we traversed this gloomy shade of the dead, until we almost unawares ourselves in reality among old Plinian associates - in some of the rooms the bones would be piled up like cords of wood - in others more perfect there would be a recess in the wall, & either a sarcophagus formed or placed there, with the bones in them apparently in the same situation that the corpse was originally placed - on some of the walls were paintings of grotesque figures - there did not appear any regularity in the size, form, or situation of any of the passages or the rooms, some were above, some below the passages - we had gone so far that we began to apprehend that the guide might possibly lose himself, however he had confidence, but I felt satisfied with my visit but more so when I got out into the fresh air -



56  
Hanging Garden at Naples.

This is one of the most pleasant places of the kind in Italy, it is more like a promenade than a garden, it is a place of great resort on Sunday evening for all classes of people, the whole extent is nearly one mile, lined with trees on both sides which affords an agreeable shade, light marble seats are fixed at short distances—

Here are a number of Statues from the most respectable Artists in Italy, that which is most conspicuous stands in the center of the garden, surrounded by a fountain—it represents the story of Dirce who was tied to the tail of a wild Bull, she dragged her own children & exposed her to the most cruel pains until the gods, pitying her fate, changed her into a fountain this piece of Sculpture is said to be deserving of great merit.

The Fawn is another celebrated piece exhibited in these gardens—it is represented as having the legs of goats, the Greeks called them Satyrs—

Another very fine statue is Hercules attacking the Nemean Lion, which was the first labour imposed upon that Hero, by Eurystheus who agreeable to a dispensation of Jupiter had a right to exercise over Hercules being the elder—

The young Apollo is also a fine piece of workmanship, many more the subject of which I do not recollect—there is a famous bathing establishment belonging to this garden—in fact it possesses all that a life of luxury in Naples makes requisite—

Positano is one of the most ancient part of Italy, there are many interesting objects which is highly worthy of notice, it is one of most pleasant excursions that a traveller can make from Naples, you pass through a delightful part of the country, until you arrive at a small town called Positano, when you take a boat & proceed across the bay, a distance of about three miles, I shall mention the principal places only—



Baiae forms a beautiful bay, there was once a city of that name founded by Baïus, one of the companions of Ulysses - The Roman Emperors & Senators had country seats & Palaces here - its ancient gardens is however destroyed by the Earth quakes which has so often convulsed Italy, there are now shown here the ruins of the Palace of Julius Caesar the Temples, of Minerva, Venus, & some others which I do not recollect, one of these possesses a very extraordinary quality of echoing the most trifling whisper from one side to the other -

Nero's baths are in some perfection, we went into one of them which is about thirty yards from the surface of the earth, on a descent of nearly thirty degrees or more, the vapours are so powerful that at your entrance you must hold your head close to the ground, to prevent suffocation, you must prepare yourself by stripping off your clothes, to prevent them from being wet through with perspiration, we reached the bottom completely soaked, there is a spring sufficiently hot to boil eggs, which experiment we tried - at the entrance are the remains of the rooms to dress & undress & take refreshments -

We proceeded from here to Sybil's grotto, on the borders of the lake Avernus, this grotto runs through a hill - in about the centre of which is the baths & apartments of the Sybil, it appears to have been deformed & considerably sunk, the lake upon which it stands was anciently considered the entrance of Hell, the waters are stagnant, putrid, & very offensive -

Jupiter Scaevus - this is at ~~Purricella~~ <sup>the</sup> floor, <sup>remains</sup> & some of the pillars are yet standing, it is supposed to be one of the most ancient churches in Italy, the pillars remaining are nearly fifty <sup>but</sup> long & five feet diameter one solid piece of marble beautifully variegated, the ring where the victim was made fast is not the least decayed some parts of the altar are still remaining -

In the bay are some of the pillars & some whole arches of a bridge which was built by Caligula -



We had a very pleasant excursion to Portici about five miles from Naples, at the foot of Mount Vesuvius - it is a modern city, & stands directly over the ancient city of Herculaneum - an entrance to the ruins of this ill fated city is not far from the main street, Portici is only famous for having a Palace & garden, belonging to the King of Naples - this Palace was a favorite retreat of Murat, & greatly improved by him, we were treated with much politeness by the Chamberlain, who has charge of the whole establishment, his venerable appearance gave us a respectable opinion of his character, when we first met, & before we took leave of him every pleasing impression was renewed - he led us through each separate apartment explaining every thing as we passed - The bed of Lady Murat, remains the same, without the least alteration wholeness, also the furniture of the room, as when she left it - there is the greatest magnificence displayed in this Palace perhaps in Italy

Naples was anciently called Pentheope, it is supposed to contain from three hundred & fifty, to four hundred thousand souls - about forty thousand of these constitute what is called *Lazzaroni*, or beggars, who live upon the charity of strangers, & the soup they get at certain periods from the convents - when the officers land from the ships there is certain to be from twenty to fifty of these poor wretches upon the wharf waiting to ask charity - if you enter a store to make a purchase, the door will invariably be invaded by them, some with one, two, & three children with them - They never beg of the native inhabitants which excited my curiosity, when they were questioned on the subject they say that they are more successful - as there is no provision made for them by the government their only shelter, even against the inclemency of the weather is the canopy of Heaven -



59  
When Murat was on the Throne of Naples, he employed a great number  
of these beggars, clearing the rubbish from the ruins of Pompeii, &  
also in improvements in the city, so that the number soon became  
diminished & the streets of Naples never has been so clear of these abominable  
characters as at that time. Such acts there & many more deeds equally  
meritorious soon rendered this monarch extremely popular among the  
citizens - notwithstanding he was a usurper - There is little doubt  
that if he had landed at Naples instead of Calabria, he would  
have given the old King some trouble, & perhaps he would again  
have been obliged to abandon his Throne -

It is astonishing to see the pride & pomp & even  
magnificence, exhibited by the nobility, merely to support the empty  
title of noblemen - notwithstanding their extreme poverty is so well  
known, they will display the most superb equipages crowded with  
living servants covered with lace, all this extravagance is to  
gratify the idle vanity of a light headed nobleman -

How much more true dignity is there in the plain  
& simple manners of a republican, whose ideas of greatness  
rest in the triumphs of Liberty, & whose proud soul aspires  
to higher dignities than springs from empty titles -



U S Ship Washington  
Syracuse August 30<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

Early on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst we were  
-sailed ship & stood out of the bay of Naples, our passage  
was very pleasant, until we arrived near Stromboli one of  
the Lipari Islands where we experienced a fresh blow—  
on the 21<sup>st</sup> we arrived at Messina where we remained but  
two days, & proceeded to this place—

I hope I shall not fatigue you with my antiquary  
description, but you already know that the whole vicinity of  
Naples is replete with Ancient Historical events, & I am  
so fond of traversing this ground, that I cannot resist the  
temptation I feel in transferring some of those gratifications  
to my friend, when on some celebrated spot, I then  
see the want of information in these affairs, which is  
necessary for every traveller— here I am again on more  
Antique ground than ever—

Syracusae, was in former times one of the  
most splendid cities in this quarter of the globe— it was  
founded about 700 years before the Christian era, by a  
Corinthian— it was said to be 22 English miles in circum-  
-ference— there are now only a few ruins left of its ancient  
greatness— The modern city occupies the Island of Ortygia  
one of the Ancient districts, it is walled & may be a  
strong garrison, it is now the centre of corruption &  
filth, the whole mass in the lowest state of poverty,  
Latitude 37° 5' N Longitude 15° 30' E— The harbour is  
very good & is the only recommendation it has—

The rich soil & fertility of Sicily is in the neigh-  
bourhood of this city, fully demonstrated, grain seems  
to rise up almost spontaneously— but the miserable  
& inefficient government of Naples, discourages the



61  
Former & deprives him of those privileges, which in our country  
he would enjoy, & which his labours so richly merit - The  
greatest proportion of his profits goes to the maintenance of  
the beggarly Priests -

Drongrius' Ear is the principal ruin now to be  
seen here, it is a monstrous ear, but little in the form of a  
human ear as has been represented - the peculiar qualities that  
it now possesses is the reverberation of sound, when a pistol  
is fired, or any explosion takes place within its mouth -  
& it is said to concentrate at a small cavity near the top  
over which the Tyrant held his private room, where the  
~~lowest~~ whisper was communicated, & where the Tyrant  
stationed himself to overhear the conversation of the  
prisoners ~~whose~~ his suspicious had confined within their  
apartments -

The Amphitheatre is very distinctly seen being  
cut out of a solid rock, many rows of seats are quite perfect  
The Colosseums are shown here as antiquities, they are  
similar to those of Naples already described -

Respt your ob. servt.

Tripoly, U. S. Ship Washington  
Sept<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

25  
We sailed from Syracuse the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. &  
passed Malta the following day, arrived in this port  
to day, came to anchor about 7 miles from the town, fired  
a salute, which was answered from the batteries - Tripoly  
32°-54' N Long 13°-11' E - it is probably less powerful than either  
of the other Barbary powers - the houses are small & contempt-  
ible - the streets narrow & filthy corresponding with all other  
Turkish places, the city is surrounded by a wall - there being  
nothing here to attract our attention we formed a party



To ride upon the deserts of Zahara, mounted horses & mules  
 & started off at full speed - on our way we passed a very  
 pleasant grove of Palms, Persea, & olive trees, -  
 although this wonderful ocean of sand opened suddenly  
 upon view - we continued three or four miles into the  
 desert & took an elevated situation where the prospect  
 became clear & distinct - it was truly a novel scene, not  
 a tree, shrub, or vine, not even the smallest spear of grass  
 was to be seen to the southward & westward, one wide expanse  
 of sand & sky, as far as the eye could extend - the sand here  
 spread itself along in many places resembling banks of sand -  
 in other places light currents of wind would seem to operate  
 upon its surface like a smooth sea, & create little waves  
 like the gentle rippling of water - after satisfying our  
 curiosity here we retraced our steps back towards the  
 city by another route - after reaching the grove we fell in  
 with a party of Arabs who were quietly seated under some  
 palm trees, I could not help observing that the curiosity  
 on this point was equally as great as ours, & to satisfy  
 both, we dismounted & went among them - one of the  
 females was particularly interesting her features were  
 extremely regular, fine eyes, & a mouth around which  
 played an agreeable smile, & a dishevelled <sup>or</sup> a row of ivory that  
 would be envied by many of our fair dames, her hair was  
 long, black, & straight, not unlike our north American  
 Indians, it was ornamented with small pieces of bone of  
 different shapes - her ears were loaded with rings, entirely  
 round the rim - wrists & ankles were girted with broad  
 arms - her face was tattooed in different parts, which gave  
 her rather a grotesque appearance -

We returned into Tripoli and refreshed ourselves upon  
 melons, which grow here in abundance & of uncommon  
 size, this was the only refreshment we could procure -

Respect given &c &c



63  
U.S. Ship Washington  
Tunis Sept 18 1817

My dear friend

we have a delightful passage from Tripoli the wind being aboast the beam the whole distance, we came to in this bay last evening, this is the second time that this ship has been here, & I have not yet had the ruin of Carthage, no officer is permitted to leave the Squadron in consequence of some difficulty existing between the Bey & the American consul - every thing is prepared in case he does not come to terms, to make an attack upon the Goltette, it is presumed however much to our regret that we shall not have an opportunity this time of trimming some of those Mussulman whistles - we have had a tremendous squall, parted our cables twice, & one of the frigates dragged her anchor - the bay is so much exposed that vessels are sometimes in a dangerous situation, we have experienced several proofs of this the last 24 hours -

An accommodation I believe has taken place between the Com<sup>d</sup> & his Highness the Bey, which will prevent some of young bloods from carrying the Turks to pieces -

I remain with great consideration  
& respect your obt. servt. J. D. A.

U.S. Ship Washington  
Gibraltar Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1817

My dear friend

27  
Now see we have again moved the Washington in this bay, we arrived here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst after a very unpleasant passage from Tunis - The prospects at length became so unfavorable that we were obliged to go upon allowance - which is not a very pleasant or common thing in this sea, on our way down we looked in to Algiers, & learnt that the plague raged there still -



64  
we have anticipated the pleasure of meeting the Franklin  
here on arrival, but were disappointed -

While off Algiers we spoke a vessel coming out of that  
port, the captain informed us that a few days previous to his  
sailing the governor had proceeded to the Palace of the Day  
in a mob, & demanded his head - as resistance was vain he  
gave himself up a sacrifice to these Barbarians -

There seems to have been of late some quarrel  
between the Great Mogul & his prime minister, which has  
terminated finally in a mutual hatred, & consequently  
separation - "Two Suns cannot move in the same hemisphere" -

Our Capt is about to return to America in the  
constellation - I have a conversation with him a few days  
since, he assured me that on his arrival at Washington  
no exertions on my part should be wanting to forward  
my views at the Department, he also said that the Com<sup>d</sup>  
felt a disposition to advocate me - At the same time advised  
me by all means to remain in the Mediterranean with the Com<sup>d</sup>  
all this was however a fatal delusion? as soon as the  
Constellation had sailed, the Com<sup>d</sup> gave an order appo-  
-intment to an officer belonging to the Frigate U.S. in prefer-  
-ence to any of his own officers who were older in service -

when this took place, I remonstrated in severe terms, &  
desired that I might be permitted to return home  
where I could get justice done me - This produced what  
I desired, an interview, which finally terminated in  
my favour, in as much as he promised to promote  
before we left the Mediterranean - This was quite as much  
as I could expect, therefore was satisfied -

My particular friend the Capt arrived at N<sup>o</sup>  
in safety, but forgot all the sacred promises which he  
had voluntarily made me - he also reached Providence  
where he still remains in ordinary?

"Bartus is an honorable man"



65  
Enclosure is the copy of a letter from a friend of mine, to a member of Congress on the subject of Promotion, as it evinces great warmth of friendship I enclose it you

27 C + K  
U.S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar Bay Oct. 28 1817

Dear Sir

Having received intelligence of your recent appointment as delegate for the house of Congress, permit me Sir, after tendering you my most fervent wishes for the full commensuration of your labors & promotion in this your secondary advancement in the public service & first of political disquisition - in the execution of which, by your characteristic department, cannot but insure you that confidence in your constituents, to contract an obligation, which as it intimately relates to a friend of mine will receive the imperishable thanks of us both - The individual referred to is a midshipman of this Ship - in consequence of the many disadvantages accruing from his absence, is compelled through this as the only channel to Promotion to exhibit his claims to the Navy Department, to that purport which he has done through the medium of the Honble Messrs Burrill & Mason now in Congress - an interest in the wellfare of Mr. Whipple, as an equal consciousness of his merits has influenced me in thus addressing you, from a belief of its meeting your patronage, which together with the other gentlemen cannot but prove instrumental at least in obtaining justice from a source that acts from the most unimpeachable prejudice than motives of justice & equity - That this intimation may not excite surprise or suspicion, be pleased to revert to the proceedings of the last session, as also those (meaning the execution) subsequent to that period & you will see the facts fully exemplified, & not a little to the detriment of many meritorious officers -

Mr. Whipple is far advanced in his profession, having been in constant active service - justly claims the prerogatives of a Lieutenant, his capacity to act & merits for Promotion leave



66  
been acknowledged by com<sup>o</sup> Channing to the Department &

still any confirmation from you will be productive of equal advantage, & not a little enhance the interest of one of whom I trust at a future period you may not be unwilling to subscribe in your catalogue of friends —

With much esteem, I am &c

Truly your obt. Servt. &c &c

P.S. should you be pleased to devote your attention to the above request, it may be advisable to confer with Capt Breighton of this ship, who in all probability will be in Washington by the commencement of the session —

Another letter, from Lieut Shubrick to the secretary of the Navy, was sent to Washington, proved as useful as the one above, not being personally on the spot, letters were of no avail, as one cruise to Washington were more useful if you wished to gain any point, than years service at sea, or all the letters in the world — impudence is the best recommendation a man can have at head quarters, with a good share of this, he would succeed, when modest merit would be stoned out of countenance —

On S Ship Washington

Gibraltar Nov<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1817

Sir

Midshipman Whipple has served with me in the Frigate Constitution & in this ship nearly three years, his conduct has been that of a diligent & correct officer, & it gives me pleasure to say that in my opinion he is worthy of the attention of the Navy Department —

I have the honor to be

The Hon<sup>le</sup>

Secy of the Navy

very respectfully your obt servt

Signal —



U S Ship Washington

Winter quarters

Syracuse Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1878

My dear friend

Abandoning all hopes of being relieved by the Franklin this winter, we finally unmoored ship at Gibraltar & proceeded to this place, came to a short time at Malaga, where we took a strong westerly wind, & in three days, the Island of Sicily was in sight on extraordinary run, - we were thus favoured until Christmas day, we had reached the Lipari Islands, - Anciently called Aeoliae after the god of the winds - we found them justly named, for when we were in the midst of them, the angry God attacked us with the most tremendous gale that we had yet experienced & threatened us with the greatest danger, in attempting to shorten sail, <sup>& dashed to pieces</sup> two of our men were thrown from the yard by its violence, it continued for eight & forty hours without much intermission, we were driven nearly upon the shores of Sicily, at length it veered a little & gave us an opportunity to lay our course the furthest of Messina, where we found it ahead, however it did not prevent us from beating up to Syracuse - here again it was ahead, & notwithstanding the narrowness of the passage the com<sup>mander</sup> beat the ship into the harbour - which perhaps is unparalleled for a ship of this size - we have to remain in this unchristian-like port until the arrival of the Franklin - I had a fine pleasant excursion in the country with a small party a few days since, we took our guns & procured up a small ruin, & was equally delighted with the country as with our success, having taken some wild fruit & birds - on our return we entered a cottage & procured some rice & boiled eggs, & made hearty meal - the cottagers are extremely poor here, there was no furniture except a bench, & stool, no floor to the building, which consisted of one room, for the whole family, consisting of several children, every thing corresponding -



U.S. Ship Washington  
Syracuse Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1815

My dear friend

To our very great satisfaction & relief the Franklin has at length arrived, she came to anchor in this port on the 29<sup>th</sup> inst, she is a beautiful ship but not so strong I think as the Washington,

About the 2<sup>nd</sup> the ceremony of transferring the Squadron from the old commander to the new one took place - at 12 o'clock went to quarters when Com<sup>dr</sup> Stewart came since the crew at their respective divisions, after he left the ship manned the yards & fired a salute of 17 guns which was returned by the Franklin & 2 others, when the first gun was fired on board the Washington, the blue broad pennant was hauled down & the red hoisted -

The whole Squadron is now preparing for our departure to Messina, our new commander not arriving this place, when the report reached the shore that we were bound off, the inhabitants became so exasperated that they threatened the life of the Consul whom they supposed to be the instigator of this movement, his establishment being at that place - it is not any particular regard for the Americans that stimulated them to revenge, but the money which they distribute on shore among them - they make more dependence up this, than the proceeds of their whole years industry - it is no insidial thing for the Syracuseans to have our American squadron winter in this port - when we take into consideration the quantity of fresh provision of every kind, & stores in stores which are consumed by the crew - Sailors shoe makers, & town keepers have an interest in this - therefore it is not so extraordinary that they should feel a little indignation, towards old broad brim -



69  
U. S. Ship Washington

39  
Merrimack Feb<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1818

My dear friend

It appears by the manoeuvring of the commander in chief, that he is determined to disappoint us, & make use of the authority government have invested him with, & detain the Washington on this station, when we had anticipated by this time to have been one third of the distance to America - I have given up all hopes of realising the promise which the Com<sup>o</sup> made me in Gibraltar, why he should delay it until he had transferred the command to another officer I cannot conceive -

The whole squadron anchored in this place yesterday - the weather now is most delightful, & has remained so for many weeks - while in Syracuse, we occasionally received a cold & penetrating blast from Mount Etna, the top of which is covered with snow the principal part of the year -

The vegetables which we receive from the shore are as <sup>good</sup> as we have them in the summer season - every kind of cultivation seems to flourish notwithstanding it is July excepting the grapes, which are not in season -

It is reported that we sail now whether for America or some other place is uncertain - the only place we find to amuse ourselves here is the Casino, where all the gentility of Merrimack meet twice each week, & amuse themselves, either in gambling, at billiards, cards, or the wheel of fortune, the ferro - appears to be the favourite game, all are attracted to this table, sometimes there is music & dancing - the American officers have a general invitation - & it is not necessary to say that they are pretty fond of attending this fashionable resort -

I hope my dear Sir that ere long I have the satisfaction of paying my personal respects to you, & closing my tedious correspondence I remain yours truly



U.S. Ship Washington

Bay of Naples April 2<sup>d</sup> 1818

My dear friend

This is the third time that I have written you from this fascinating place. we had a very pleasant run from Messina - our time is spent here in a most agreeable manner, in the day we ride, or walk about the city & visit the curiosities, sometimes take a little excursion into the country - the evenings we generally spend at the theatre, where we are charmed by the most beautiful singing in Europe, & the most splendid scenery, the dancing is unparalleled -

While at Messina I had an interview with the Com<sup>d</sup> who desired me to let my mind rest on the subject which most disturbed it - as the time is not far distant when I shall realise all my hopes & expectations, -

I despair much time of command - to be at the mercy of a man I do not know, & am obliged to show him respect - the impatience of my temper & that irritable disposition which is innate in me, will not allow me to wait on the tardy operations of a man who can only be stimulated to exertion, or do a generous action through pride or be governed by self interest -

There are a great number of English half pay officers & private citizens here, whilst at - we had a large party yesterday on board, both English & Italian, amongst them was a Russian Admiral - the Washington was in fine order & drew credit to her country, the Ladies & all the party expressed much satisfaction at the neatness, good order, & regularity on board, even Johnny Bull can not refrain making remarks favourable to the Yankee boys - we sail this evening for Tunis, when we expect to join the remainder of the squadron -

Ever yours -



U.S. Ship Washington

32/ Gibraltar May the 10<sup>th</sup> 1818

My dear friend

Our final separation from the squadron has at length taken place, & we are thus far on our homeward bound passage - we left Naples the 2<sup>d</sup> of April, & in four days anchored off the ruins of Carthage - on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Squadron came in & anchored in very handsome style in a line ahead, in the afternoon the Consul came down & informed us that the Turks were well disposed - on the 13<sup>th</sup> we anchored in Algiers bay the batteries fired a salute of fifteen guns which was returned. Our agent informed the com<sup>d</sup> that the Dey was well disposed towards the American government - but that the plague raged still, from fifty to sixty dying daily - on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> we moved ship & departed from Algiers - stood over to the North<sup>th</sup> on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 1818 the Sloop of Miranda bearing about N.W. fired an farewell salute & squarred away the yards & ran into Mohon - where we were detained some days with head winds.

We are all making preparations for crossing the Atlantic, the idea of traversing again the Pond of Liberty seems like a dream - I hope however soon to realize it -

Yours sincerely

U.S. Ship Washington

33/ Gibraltar May 19<sup>th</sup>

My dear friend

I did not intend to trouble you again but "we know not what a day may bring forth" knowing that the changes which have taken place in my circumstances would gratifying to you I hasten to lay them before you - on the 19 of May the <sup>Com<sup>d</sup></sup> sent for me in the cabin, & informed me that he was now about to fulfill his promise to me - & after a long obnoxious harangue, dismissed me, soon after he sent me something more substantial, an Acting appointment as Lieut. onboard the U.S. Ship Washington



U. S. Ship Washington

34

Madura Roads June 1<sup>st</sup> 1878

My dear friend

It is not possible to give you an adequate idea of the joy & satisfaction, which beamed in every face throughout the ship, when service orders to unmoor ship & get under weigh from Giliadtae - a light wind from the eastward had moved a very large number of merchantmen who had been waiting in port from twenty to forty days for a favorable opportunity, it being almost impossible to stem the violent current which sets through the straits without a leading wind from the eastward - there were now about seventy vessels standing out which made a very handsome appearance the superior sailing of the Washington was brought as in among them, the breeze freshened & by the going down of the sun this fleet look'd like speck, upon the surface of the water, so far we had left them behind.

Our passage to this place was extremely pleasant. The Island from where we lay anchored, presents a most splendid prospect of natural, & ~~cultivated~~ scenery; the great height of the land with the houses rising down over the tops of the mountains looks truly sublime, the season is prosperous all nature seems to smile, & I almost envied the honest gardener as he trudged along through the rich orange & lemon groves, surrounded by thousands of little canary birds sporting from tree to tree & chanting their sweet & heavenly notes - the little excursion which I took round amongst the gardens & vineyards, was indeed, most delightful, the air was so pure, that you seemed to breathe in an atmosphere, loaded with rich odors arising from the gardens & fruit trees -

On our return into Amohal, we accidentally met a funeral, curiosity prompted us to witness the ceremony on enquiring we found it to be a priest - consequently



73  
it would be worth seeing, they took him from where he lay in state surrounded by dozens of huge wase candles, & proceeded to the church chanting Requiem all the way, on their arrival at church, where we had preceded them we found to our surprise that they had opened the grave of another priest, & this one was to be deposited directly over him, on the arrival of the procession the laid the body down by the grave & performed a short service or prayer, when the body was deposited in his final apartment, in all his royal robes, dressed out in his shoes & knee buckles, hat & all, without any coffin whatever —

We were visited by several parties of Ladies & gentlemen, who were much gratified with the ship — in the roads were anchored several East-India men on their passage out — onboard of which were several young, & some of quite interesting Ladies, bound out to the East Indies in search of husbands — I have no doubt this kind of proceeding would be thought a little too far to go for husbands, by the American fair, still it is a common practice with the English, & frequently without any national protectors —

I know little more about Madeira than what I have seen, & occasionally felt from the effects of the juice of the delicious grape which is raised here in such abundance — were the gods as popular as in ancient days, there is little doubt but old Bacchus would make this his seat of government —

Madaira lies in Latitude  $32^{\circ} 28'$  North Longitude  $17^{\circ} 5'$  west. Funchal is the principal town, it is a very pleasant public square, planted with rows of trees, & is a delightful promenade in the cool of the evening — the situation of the town is well chosen being surrounded by high hills on all sides, which when highly cultivated must render it a delightful residence —

Most truly yours &c



U. S. Ship Washington  
New York July 20<sup>th</sup> 1818

My dear friend

We who are worshipers at the shrine of that glorious Goddess of Liberty - know how to estimate the goodness of Heaven who has blessed (we Americans) with so great a share of it. Judge then what were the feelings of one of her most devoted sons, when he first trod his native shores, after an absence of more than two years, & that time spent among the Spaniards, Italians, & the swartthy sons of Africa, where Slavery reigns triumphant - it is impossible to describe the gratitude which we all felt when the well known shores about Sandy Hook was discerned on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, we were disappointed & true in feeling in our attempts to get in on the day previous, but the wind would not be governed by us & we were obliged to submit to fate, we were on soundings - & it was some satisfaction to feel your feet ground, if we could not see, or enjoy it in any other sense. At Meridian we fired our lower-deck guns in gratitude for our Independence - with as much good fellowship, & thanksgiving, as you did on shore, no doubt, but not quite so much pleasure.

Our passage across the Atlantic was attended by light winds generally, which lengthened it to forty three days - on the green banks however we did not escape some severe weather, which is usual -

We are now moored in the north river off the battery, exhibiting the ship to those who please to look at her, they do not come in what you would call parties, but by hundreds - they however seem to enjoy it so truly that it is a pleasure to conduct them in different parts of her & explain the various articles of which she is composed -



U.S. Ship Washington  
New York Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1818

Sir

Mr. O. M. Whipple at present an acting Lieut<sup>r</sup> on board of this ship is anxious, in obtaining his commission to receive his rank from the time he has been acting. This I think would be only justice to a very promising young officer —

Mr. Whipple has served with me about three years & has always conducted himself to my satisfaction — I can assure you Sir, that he is very competent to take charge of a deck as a Lieutenant — I have the honor to be

my respect<sup>s</sup> your obt<sup>l</sup> serv<sup>t</sup> —

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secretary of the Navy

signed J. Henning

New York Dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1818

My dear Sir

This letter will be handed you by Mr. O. M. Whipple of the Navy, he visits Washington on business respecting his promotion, which he will explain to you —

I have known Mr. Whipple from early youth, & beg leave to commend him to your protection as a young officer of great merit & promise, he entered the service from the most honorable motives, & has performed his duty with remarkable zeal & fidelity — As he has nothing but his own talents & virtues to attract the notice of his superiors I trust there will be sufficient to secure your protection & favour —

Any attentions you may find it convenient to bestow upon him, will be regarded by me as a personal obligation of great weight

Com<sup>d</sup> Decatur

I am with great respect & esteem  
your faithful friend & servant

signed Henry Wheaton



76  
New York dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1818

Dear Sir

I take the very great liberty of introducing to the honor of your acquaintance my friend L. Whipple who visits Washington on business —

I can with great confidence recommend him to your notice & protection, as I know him to possess those solid qualities which you know so well how to estimate, I have been acquainted with him from early youth, & though his modesty will not allow him to be the herald of his own merit — yet I am sure you will be able to discern it —

With my own & Mrs W's best respects to Mrs Rogers, I remain with great esteem & respect your sincere friend & faithful servant —

Camm<sup>r</sup> Rogers —

signed H. W. —

New York dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1818

Dear Sir

I beg leave to introduce to the honor of your acquaintance my friend Lieut Whipple of the Navy who visits Washington on business connected with his situation in the service —

From a long acquaintance I can recommend Mr Whipple to your notice as a promising officer, & a man of great merit & respectability — any service you may render him will be bestowed most worthily — & that I know will be a sufficient motive to secure him your protection —

Permit me to congratulate you on your re-election, & believe me to be faithfully & sincerely your servant & friend —

Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Gillies

President of the senate —

signed &c —



77  
New York dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1818

Sir

I take the very great liberty of introducing to your acquaintance Lieut Whipple of the Navy, who visits Washington on business, & to whom I beg leave to recommend to your notice & protection as a young officer of great merit & promise -

I have the honor to be with great respect & consideration your obt<sup>d</sup> humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

signed

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Smith Thompson  
Secretary of the Navy -

New York dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1818

Dear Sir

I take the liberty of introducing Lieut Whipple of the Navy - & who visits Washington - & relative to whom I did myself the honor to write you a few days since -

I beg leave to recommend him to your attention well knowing your desire to distinguish & reward merit in the service

Any attention you may show Mr. Whipple will be regarded by me as an obligation of great weight, which I shall be glad to reciprocate on any occasion in my power -

I am with great respect &c

Benz<sup>on</sup> Hornum Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Navy Department -



Washington city Jan<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1819

Sir

Agreeable to your request I did myself the honor to call at your lodgings this evening, relative to the appointment at present in your hands, which you were pleased to assure me this morning should be confirmed -

As I feel it my duty to return on board of the Washington immediately, it will not be in my power to receive the acknowledgment before I leave the city - therefore I hope Sir, you will be pleased to enclose it with the appointment to me in New York -

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Smith Thompson  
Secretary of the Navy -

Res<sup>t</sup> I have the honor to be

U. S. Ship Washington

New York April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1819

Sir

I am advised by the hon<sup>ble</sup> Secretary of the Navy to state to you that the appointment as acting Lieut, was acknowledged by him, & is now in the <sup>office</sup> he assumed, that by writing to you I should receive it without delay - he was under the impression that it had been enclosed to me some time since - I hope you will be pleased to send it by return mail -

I am res<sup>t</sup> &c

Ben<sup>jamin</sup> Edwards Esq<sup>r</sup>

U. S. Ship Washington

New York Nov<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1819

Sir

When I had the honor of applying personally to you for active service, you were pleased to grant me permission to make a written application for the Columbus -



79  
If orders to that ship will not interfere with your arrangements  
it is most seriously hoped that you will permit me to go on board  
of her as junior Lieut - As this measure has been confirmed by com<sup>d</sup>  
Bainbridge, & rendered highly necessary by my great anxiety to go  
for experience, & become proficient in the profession I have  
chosen, I feel some confidence of success -

It has been universally acknowledged by  
the principal commanders in the Navy, that there is no  
such thing as rank among midshipmen - therefore I see no  
reason why any of that class of officers should complain that  
fortune has placed me above them - or that I should not receive  
on board of the same ship as Acting Lieut - when agreeable to the  
regulations of the Navy I am entitled to the same privileges  
of a commissioned Lieut - & should it be fairly investigated  
the case in all probability would appear that they had not expe-  
rienced that hard sea service that I have, many who were two  
or three years in the Navy before they performed their duty -

Not Sir, that I wish to detract from the merits of any officer,  
neither, do I wish them to depreciate my own - I presume  
you are well aware Sir, that the laws & customs of the  
Naval service allows me to act in that capacity - & were I  
placed over a midshipman older than myself in service,  
I should endeavour to remove all prejudices, & dissipate  
all unpleasant feelings that might occur in consequence  
of the difference of our situations - but I hope nothing  
of this kind will happen to prevent my receiving orders  
to the Columbus, as that ship is the most proper for  
me to be on board of -

I am with high

Hon<sup>d</sup> Smith Thompson  
Secretary of the Navy

Respect & consideration  
your obt<sup>d</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>



U. S. Ship Washington  
New York Dec<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1819

Sir

Allow me the honor of renewing my application for the Columbus, I hope you will be pleased to take into consideration the great length of time already elapsed since I have been at sea - & the absolute necessity there is for my being actively employed, before I can establish my character as an officer worthy of holding a rank in the navy of the U. S. - & which never can be effected while idly throwing away the most important moments of my time on shore -

I am perfectly sensible of the numerous applications for the ship, & the small hope I have of success - but when I reflect on the exertions I have made, & the assurances of Mr. Wheaton I feel some confidence of receiving orders -

I remain with great respt  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> Smith Thompson & consideration  
Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy you obt servt

Navy Department  
26<sup>th</sup> April 1819

Sir

I enclose you a copy of the honorable Secretary's letter to Commodore Chauncey, authorizing his appointment of you as Acting Lieut, & that you shall be nominated to the Senate for promotion, when you will receive a Commission; no further appointment is necessary in this instance, you being in possession of the letter of appointment of Commodore Chauncey, -

I am respectfully

Pho. Whipple

Act Lieut

U. S. Ship Washington

New York

your obt servt

Benjamin Thompson



Copy

Navy Department

January 15<sup>th</sup> 1819

Sir

You are hereby authorized to continue P. M. Whipple,  
as our acting Lieut, ~~on board~~ the ~~Ship~~ ~~now~~ you command,

I am respectfully, Sir

your very obt servant.

Com<sup>d</sup> Isaac Cheney

(Signed)

Smith Thompson

Commanding Naval

Attest

Office New York

John H. Hubbard - Register

The Honorable the Secretary of the Navy having appointed the Subscribers a Board of examiners by virtue of authority invested in him under the rules & regulations for the Government of the Navy of the United States, They do hereby certify, that in conformity with said rules & regulations they have examined P. M. Whipple a Midshipman, & found his qualifications such as to justify their recommending him for promotion.

U S Ship Washington

Harbor of New York

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1819

(Signed)

John Rodgers

Wm Bainbridge

Wharney

This is to certify that Midshipman P. M. Whipple attended the Board for the examination of Midshipmen at New York from the fourth of October 1819 to the twenty three day of the same month inclusive -

(Signed)

John Rodgers



Navy Department

30th Nov 1879

Sir

Please to this place and report yourself  
to Captain John H. Elton for duty aboard the U.S.  
Ship Columbus 74 under his command.

I am very &amp;c

(signed)

Smith Thompson

P. M. Whipple

Acting Lt. U.S. Navy

New York

U.S. Ship Columbus

St. Marys Jan 10th 1820

My dear friend

You see by the above orders that  
I have succeeded in obtaining orders for this ship, notwithstanding  
the numerous applicants & the consequent difficulty attending such an undertaking - it is a personal  
interference which I had with the Secy not long since it  
appeared that some midshipmen were ordered to sea  
who were older in service than myself, & he felt a  
delay in ordering an acting Lieut, under those circum-  
stances, in my application to him I endeavored to  
explain away his apprehensions on this subject, that  
it would be mortifying to those gentlemen - I have  
my orders & shall do my duty -

You have learned before this I presume  
that the first examination of "mice" has taken place,  
& that I was so fortunate as to obtain a certificate, not  
withstanding the severity of the examination

The Columbus dropped down a few days



83

since from Washington when she was built, this bay is  
about twenty miles from the mouth of the Potomac, no one  
can discover what can be the object in sending the ship here  
to sit for sea - at so great a distance from any Naval depot.  
it is a large bay surrounded by pine woods, not defended  
by nature against the wind or an enemy -

Your obt servant &c

U.S. Ship Columbus

St Marys June 13<sup>th</sup> 1820

Sir

Proceed to New York & assist Captain  
Samuel Angus at the Rendezvous in recruiting seamen  
& ordinary seamen for this, petty officers & boys we are  
not in want of, ship more but some healthy men -  
no blacks -

Very respt your obt servant

(signed)

John H. Elton

Act Lieut Whipple

U.S. Ship Columbus

Synhoven bay April 27<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dear Sir

The Columbus has unmoored & we shall  
be at sea in the course of the day, as I shall in all probability  
be absent from America some years I feel a strong im-  
pulsion to express to you my gratitude for the innumerable  
attentions you have shown me both in private & public life.

were I qualified to express what my heart  
would dictate, I am confident that I could convince you  
that were I allied to you by the strongest ties of consanguinity  
it would be impossible for me to feel more forcibly the



83  
since from Washington when she was built, this bay is  
about twenty miles from the mouth of the Potomac, no one  
can discover what can be the object in sending the ship here  
to sit for sea - at so great a distance from any Naval depot.  
it is a large bay surrounded by high woods, not defended  
by nature against the wind or an enemy.

Your obt servant &c

U.S. Ship Columbus

St Marys June 13<sup>th</sup> 1820

Sir

Proceed to New York & assist Captain

Samuel Angus at the Rendezvous in recruiting seamen  
& ordinary seamen for this, petty officers & boys we are  
not in want of, ship more but some healthy men -  
no blacks -

Very respt your obt servant

(signed)

John H. Elton

at Lieut Whipple



U.S. Ship Columbus

Synhaven bay April 27<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dear Sir

37  
The Columbus has arrived & we shall  
be at sea in the course of the day, as I shall in all probability  
be absent from America some years I feel a strong incli-  
nation to express to you my gratitude for the innumerable  
attentions you have shown me both in private & public life.

were I qualified to express what my heart  
would dictate, I am confident that I could convince you  
that were I allied to you by the strongest ties of consanguinity  
it would be impossible for me to feel more forcibly the



deep & indelible impression which your friendship has made upon my mind, no time or circumstance can ever erase it from my memory.

Your powerful influence in my favor at the seat of Government, as a candidate for promotion & also for this ship have the desired effect - & there is no doubt that it was the principal cause of my eventually gaining those great objects - whatever may be my situation in life, either good or bad fortune, I shall ever esteem you my friend, & I most sincerely hope that I may never prove unworthy of that sweet name -

We dropt down to this place on Saturday last (near Cape Henry light) the Columbus in manoeuvring, works extremely well, & if we may judge from her velocity in a light breeze she will prove one of the finest sailers in the Navy - her movements were most majestic I assure you -

I believe it will be to my advantage to remain in the Mediterranean three or four years & I shall make every exertion to effect this object, the Commanders seems at present disposed to favor it -

May prosperity attend you in every situation through this life, be pleased to remember me most respectfully to Mrs. Wheaton & Edward -

I have the Hon<sup>r</sup> &c. &c

U. S. Ship Columbus

Gibraltar June 4<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dear friend

Again we are separated by the vast Atlantic, our passage across was attended by those vicissitudes common to a sailors life - storms, gales, & calms, successively assailed us, sometimes we were labouring under



55  
storm staysails against a head wind & high sea, at one time perhaps a perfect column, with the sails hanging heavily about the masts - & this immense mass of lumber & live stock floating at the mercy of the waves, now & then the large dolphin spouting about the bows, seemingly amusing themselves in the light foam created by the movements of the ship

On our arrival here we learned that the squadron was in some part of Italy, but in what part we could not ascertain, therefore must run the chance of finding them

The qualities of the Columbus are not so great as we expected to find them, she does not work with that facility which other ships of her class have heretofore been celebrated for - we shall hope to find that we may be in some measure mistaken, when she is manoeuvred with other vessels, as this is the most proper method to prove her

The crew is so delightful that we enjoy it, and all its productions in the highest degree after a long cruise at sea - all the fruits of this luxuriant climate is now in delicious

Yours &c &c &c

U.S. Ship Columbus

39  
Leyhorn June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1820

My dear friend

As I am now traversing the same cruising ground which I so often took in the Washington that I fear my letters will soon become insipid, & be production of no pleasant encomiums on the merits of the subject - however you must bear with me a little longer as I would hope to open a new field to your view, far distant perhaps from the present scene of action - we sailed from Gibraltar, with a strong breeze



86  
from the westward - in the evening passed close in by the  
city of Malaga where we anticipated anchoring, but the  
wind proving to fresh we continued on our course  
on the 15<sup>th</sup> stood into the bay of Algiers, made the city  
but have no communication - arrived in this port on  
the 22<sup>d</sup> - as Leghorn is altogether a commercial place  
there are very few attractions for those whose object in  
visiting Italy is knowledge - therefore, Pisa, Florence, &  
their vicinities generally attract travellers - as I have been  
at the latter place some time & described it to you,  
Pisa will be my next object, after we are cleared from  
this most infernal quarantine -

Your yours &c

U.S. Ship Columbus  
Leghorn July 5<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dear friend

When I took leave of you in America  
in March last you was pleased to express a wish that  
I should address you on my arrival in Italy - how  
happy should I feel at your flattering were I not  
conscious of my inability to interest one so deeply read  
as your Ladyship - & particularly on subjects which  
I should be obliged to dwell - However, indifferent  
as I am at delineation I will make every exertion  
to gratify you, should I fail in the attempt, I feel  
confident that your own goodness will generously  
excuse my ignorance -

Yesterday we celebrated the Independence  
of our Country with those feelings of gratitude towards  
the great disposer of all good, who has in the plenitude  
of his wisdom bestowed upon us this mighty blessing  
with that true Patriotism which I hope will ever  
be the governing principle of every free American -



At the rising of the sun the day was ushered in by a national salute - at 8 o'clock when the colors were hoisted the ship was cheered in all the flags of different nations - her appearance was truly magnificent - On Monday another national salute was fired - in the evening she was brilliantly illuminated, all in honor of this glorious anniversary.

*Fire* - I shall now give you some little sketches of this one interesting & influential place - as being the most ancient cities of Italy, it stands in the fertile plain of Arno about fourteen miles from the sea, bounded on the north by a branch of the Apennines & at the south open to the Tuscan sea - in the tenth century it was at its zenith & declared itself independent & became a great republic its fleets were triumphant on the Mediterranean the principal harbor was at the mouth of the Arno which runs through the centre of the city - it contained one hundred & fifty thousand inhabitants - at length Florence became its rival in grandeur, & the great influence of the Medici family produced its fall.

The streets are spacious straight & clean, & paved with large flag stones, the houses are lofty & commodious, the external appearance very favorable to the character of Architecture of the age - The Arno so famed by the poets running through the city renders it clean & doubly interesting.

On the borders of the river, partly in the street, & near the centre of the city stands is a singular edifice in the gothic style, called *Santo Spirito della Spina* - which the priests say is resembling an enormous crown of thorns which was placed here, or some such stuff as this - its appearance is rather singular, than beautiful, being very low with an immense number of little obelisks rising from the roof, resembling in some measure thorns, it is made use of as a chapel -



Pisa now contains less inhabitants according to its size than any other city in Italy, many of the stately buildings are more than half the year unoccupied, in the winter season it is sometimes the resort of Invalids who seek a healthy spot - It however still contains some of its ancient greatness in the celebrated leaning tower where the beauties of Architecture are so strongly exhibited, this & the cemetery & the Cathedral & the chapel form one beautiful group, on one extensive plain

The leaning tower as it is called is one of the most extraordinary monuments of ancient Architecture now extant - it consists of eight stories or colonades supported by pillars of different orders, entirely of white marble its elevation is one hundred & eighty feet, leaning fourteen from a perpendicular height - whether by design of the architect, or by accident still doubtful - it is of a circular form, thirty feet in diameter & has winding stairs to the summit - the prospect from the top defies all description, the superhuman powers of a Corinthus could not permit to gaze in their true colours the scene which is presented - The extensive plain in the highest states of cultivation has the appearance from this elevated situation like one immense garden - at a distant view you have the sea of Cascaz which adds greatly to the lovely prospect

The Cathedral celebrated as having been built of the ruins of ancient temples in Egypt, the pillars are of oriental granite, it is altogether a beautiful church & is ornamented with some fine paintings - the altar are of superb variegated marble - built in the eleventh century

The cemetery is a long gothic building of a light airy structure, also composed entirely



of white marble of beautiful architecture - there are here many Roman sarcophagi containing the ashes of the most illustrious citizens of Pisa with inscriptions explanatory of their rank & situation in life time -

The centre is formed of earth brought from the Holy Land by the galleys of Pisa in their prosperity, from which it takes its name of Campo Santo

The chapel is a very handsome building in the form of an octagon extravagantly finished & decorated with the highest polished marble, particularly the which stands upon & is supported by four Lions of the most masterly workmanship - there are no other curiosities in Pisa worthy notice -

Sincerely your obt. servt

U. S. Ship Columbus

Naples July 11<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dear friend

Scarcely had we anchored in this bay when the English vice consul came along side requesting to see the Com<sup>o</sup>, on the most important business - the amount of it was that there had been a revolution in the city & some of the country towns, & it was expected that the night would terminate it with a horrible massacre, & that the King's own body guards had taken possession of the Palace & made His Sicilian Majesty a prisoner - & much other news of equal import which was given, at first supposing us to be Englishmen

It appears the object of this Revolution was to establish a Constitutional government which His Majesty was decidedly averse to - it had been in agitation for some months - the instigator & prime mover of all the principal machinery is a Priest whose



name is Menichero from a previous collee & blue - General Peze seemed to be the military leader in the contemplated Revolution - the astonishing regularity & good order in which the whole affair was conducted gave it a favorable character & led us to suppose that the plans were well laid - this day we understood was appointed as the most proper one for the revolutionists to take possession of the city, and <sup>was</sup> to become a spectator in such a glorious undertaking, myself & several other officers of the ship obtained permission to visit the show -

About twelve o'clock the troops were seen marching distinctly from the ship, the van of which were entering the city, while the rear were in view winding round the hills, their bright arms glittering in the sun -

Nothing could exceed our gratification in witnessing the march of the troops through the Strada de los Solos, the principal street, the tops of the houses the windows, & the balconies, were filled with Ladies waving their white handkerchiefs, encouraging & cheering the soldiers as they passed - while they seemed much worn down with a long march under a hot meridian sun, but in excellent spirits shouting "live the Constitution & the King" which was responded from all quarters, the tri-coloured flag, of black red & blue waving in every Regiment. The old Priest in the centre on horseback receiving the joyful greetings of the whole populace - whenever they saw any of our officers vive la Americans was shouted - about fifty thousand entered the city this day & passed before the Royal palace - in the balcony was stationed the heir apparent & the royal family (except the King who was indisposed) addressing the troops



91  
8 apparently welcoming them with bows & smiles, with their  
hats off - when at the same time I suppose in their hearts  
they were cursing them for all, the mutinous, Revolution-  
-izing set of villains that ever dared the impudence to  
assert their rights as men -

Judge what ~~was~~ my feelings were when I  
saw the Royal plumes lowered, how the blood thrilled  
through my veins, the most pleasing emotions to possession  
of my mind that I ever experienced, I almost wished  
myself one of those very Hottentots who were emancipating  
themselves from vice slavery - what a moment of pleasure  
it was to hear these persons by thousands of them just  
from the plough in the very face of Royalty - cry  
Long live the Constitution.

In the evening after the troops  
had all peaceably marched off to their quarters, without  
the least disturbance - Illuminations, fire works, & rejoic-  
-ings of <sup>all</sup> kinds took place & continued every night during  
our stay - the following day the King signed the constitution  
& a good order seemed to reign through the city -

The summit of Vesuvius has changed  
considerably since I was here in 1818 - there are frequ-  
-ently during the night slight eruptions which ensure us  
in a long & tedious watch - the varying flashes &  
bursting forth of the light flame attract the attention  
& tend to while away the lingering hour -

Preparations are making for our departure  
much to our regret I assure you - it is now a most  
interesting moment to be here, the fate of the city & the  
old King whose fate it seems are not yet decided  
& I feel much inclined to remain & see what will  
be the result of this mighty affair - the Com<sup>d</sup> is  
however anxious to go & as he reigns in our little world  
we must cheerfully obey  
Yours truly



U.S. Ship Columbus

Syracuse July 21<sup>st</sup> 1820

My dear friend

We took our departure from Naples on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, presuming that we were bound to Messina but no such thing, we continued our cruise under easy sail until we got windings on the southern shore of Sicily, & yesterday we anchored in this port passing through between Motta & Cape Passaro -

We learn here the the revolutionary spirit is not altogether confined to Naples, Palermo has become a scene of bloodshed & rebellion not however particularly connected with the Neapolitans - even in this mean insignificant place a regiment has taken the liberty to march out of the gates killed & mortally wounded two of their officers & more that they would not serve longer - this disaffection however did not arise from any principles of Liberty, but some other cause of less consequence - the inhabitants here have no little confidence in their medical men that when the above officer was wounded they immediately sent for our surgeon, who was dispatched on shore in the night - 20<sup>th</sup> - the Peacock, & Spork, having at length arrived so that our little squadron is now altogether the Guerrier having gone home from Lighorn - I have been engaged in sounding & surveying this harbour by order of the Com<sup>o</sup> & have got a pretty correct sketch of it -

27<sup>th</sup> - on our arrival at Gibraltar I felt anxious to join one of the small vessels, knowing the advantages I should gain by such a means not only in my profession, but I was well aware that I should see many foreign places, as one of them would probably on some service most of the time



The inactive life which I led on board of this vessel was not at all congenial to my feelings - & I was sensible that thing would be reversed could I but once change - I knew the hazard of displeasing would to reasonable men be an objection, as he very much dislikes to have officers when once under his command make application for a change - I was so young an officer on board of this ship & so many above me that my chance was very small of gaining the experience which was necessary, therefore I made the application, & it was as I expected, the Com<sup>d</sup> raised a little at first, frowned &c - mentioned the impropriety of young officers frequent applications for changing &c &c after some conversation to little effect - he observed that I might as well rest satisfied when I was - that he should not give me orders to any other vessel - however on an arrival in this port to my surprise & pleasure he sent me orders to the Spock -

Ever yours

U. S. Brig Spock  
Gibraltar September 1820

43

My dear friend

The squadron sailed from Syracuse about the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, made Tripoli the 1<sup>st</sup> of Aug<sup>t</sup> - this vessel ran in & had communication with the Consul who gave favorable accounts of our affairs - The Barkand was very desirous of seeing the Com<sup>d</sup>, he told the consul that he believed him to be an honorable man, having once when he was a prisoner, after the loss of the Philadelphia permitted him to go on board of a vessel for four hours & returning, within the limited time without any other guarantee than his word of honor - which produced among high enmities on him - &c &c &c



We went to Pedros, & passed close by Pointe-aux-Isles on the 10<sup>th</sup> (two Islands), & arrived at Tunis in the evening after communicating with the consul here we sailed on the 15<sup>th</sup> - on the 18<sup>th</sup> we arrived Minorca & anchored in Mahon - remained here 24 hours & made sail for this port when we arrived on the 31<sup>st</sup> - we are now as I had anticipated making preparations for a most interesting cruise & shall probably be absent from the squadron some months.

On the 2<sup>d</sup> visited St Roche a small Spanish town about six miles from Gibraltar, our party was extremely pleasant - after dinner, we witnessed a Bull fight which was gratifying, & some parts of it extremely unpleasant as there was a horse & a Bull wounded - the Amphitheatre was crowded with Ladies, who instead of being disgusted seemed more pleased than the other sex -

Your Servant.

W. S. Brig Spink  
Matta Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dear friend

We arrived here last evening on our way to Saryana, anchored in the quarantine harbour, this morning sailed round to Port La Valette at a clock visited the Rockfort - Admiral Sir Graham Moore - to request the salute my orders were then to call on the Lieut Gov - Sir Manley Power, who very politely assured that he would answer our salute gun for gun, made some enquiries relative to what news we had brought &c. when I left him much pleased with the urbanity of his manner, & Soldier like appearance on my return on board we saluted



the government with 17 guns & the Achmeide with 15 which was returned by both with equal number - I mention these particulars to you, because our regulations in the Navy are thus strict with all foreign powers - one object in meeting in this port was to ascertain the guarantee from Smyrna, as we intend stopping here on our return -

The Island of Metter is in latitude  $35^{\circ} 54' N$  Longitude  $14^{\circ} 29' E$  - The port of La Vallette has not its superior in the world, Ships of any size are moored here with perfect safety, it takes its name from the Grand Master of that name, who defended the Island with so much gallantry in the 15<sup>th</sup> century -

We sail early in the morning therefore I shall have no opportunity of visiting the curiosities, which are so numerous here - when we return you shall hear more from me respecting them

yours most affectionately

U.S. Brig Spork

Milo October 8<sup>th</sup> 1820

My dear friend

It gives me great pleasure to acquaint you from one of the Grecian Islands - we anchored here yesterday for the purpose of procuring a pilot to take us through the Archipelago - a strong easterly wind was also an inducement for us to make a harbor -

Milo lies in latitude  $36^{\circ} 41' N$  Long  $24^{\circ} 50' E$  it is one of the finest harbours in the Mediterranean or Archipelago, very spacious completely protected from the wind & forms one great basin which will hold the largest fleet in the world - on the opposite side to the entrance is a sandy beach, where are baths & hot springs, which are resorted to by invalids -



I made a small excursion on shore, the town of Milo is about two miles from the bay we found it a miserable dirty hole, not half the houses inhabited, some of the streets having depopulated them about two or three years previous - the houses are one story high & going fast to ruins - we walked round the Bay & procured mules to ascend to another town upon the summit of a rock, the passage to it was over precipices, hills & deep valleys - the houses are absolutely one above the other owing to the steepness of the rock upon which they stand, the object in building it here was to protect themselves against the frequent attacks of the pirates to plunder & carry off the young female slaves

We were treated with unbounded hospitality the short time we remained - Whichever house we stopped at, would soon be crowded with all the neighbours to see such curious creatures as the Americans - we being the first that ever had visited their little domain - they pressed us in the strongest terms to remain the evening & they would amuse all the fair guests & give us a ball, this extreme politeness however we were obliged to refuse -

Nature seemed to have been extravagant in her favours among the Greek females, who were much more beautiful than any women I have ever seen in any country - I saw their faces particularly their forms were not so good - Their complexion seems of the most delicate texture, they have a dark chestnut very long, & most beautifully braided & interwoven in a small light turban which was secured gracefully upon the head - The eyes not the bold expression of the Italians, nor so black - but very dark, mild & expressive beyond conception, the nose of the Grecian sort, the mouth, teeth & chin perfect in themselves



the "toute ensemble" of the face was of the most heavenly  
cast in nature's mould - I can now not surprise that  
the ancients were so perfect in their Statuary, if they have  
such models to copy from - as we passed up the steep  
narrow passage which led to the house of the pilot of our  
own vessel who was an conductor - the doors, windows  
balconies, & tops of the houses were thronged with these  
Olivinates - The prospect from the summit of the rock on  
which stands a Greek church - commands the most distant  
& sublime view, all the Islands in the archipelago are  
seen in this grand prospect -

About five years ago the pirates from the  
Maree attacked this little town, but were beat off with  
unwieldy loss - they avenged themselves upon a French  
brig in the harbor by plundering & murdering the crew

The manners of the inhabitants are  
extremely simple & unpolished - when a stranger enters their  
humble dwelling they do not see this hospitality but freely  
entertain him with good cheer

The Governor is chosen from among  
the people, which however must be sanctioned by the  
Grand Seigneur

Our old pilot who was father to two lovely  
girls was an honest Greek & seemed to be a Patriarch  
among this good people, he conducted us through these  
celebrated Islands with a skillful hand - we passed  
between & in sight of, Crete, Naxos, Tinos, Delos, Keos,  
Stamphalia, Peros, Siphanto, Serphos & Scio all famous  
in ancient story - The passage between Scio & the main  
was extremely interesting, the shore of the Island particularly  
so - being beautifully diversified with towns, villages, gardens  
& a rich cultivated country containing all the variety of  
fruit trees bearing under their delicious burdens - This  
Island is famous for the modesty & chastity of the women -



*[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*



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The President of the Senate, then in pursuance of the resolution adopted by the two houses, proceeded to announce the state of the votes to the two Houses of Congress, in joint meeting assembled, as follows :

"Were the votes of Missouri to be counted, the result would be—For *James Monroe*, of Virginia, for President of the United States, 231 votes : if not counted for *James Monroe*, of Virginia, 228 votes : For *Daniel D. Tompkins*, of New-York, for Vice President of the United States, 213 votes : if not counted, for *Daniel D. Tompkins* of New-York, for Vice President of the United States, 215 votes.—But in either event, *James Monroe*, of Virginia, has a majority of the votes of the whole number of Electors for President, and *Daniel D. Tompkins*, of New-York, of the votes of the whole number of Electors Vice President of the United States."

The President of the Senate had proceeded thus far or nearly thus far, in the proclamation—when Mr. Floyd, of Virginia, addressed the Chair, and enquired whether the votes of Missouri were or were not counted.

Cries of order ! order ! were so loud as to drown Mr. Floyd's voice.

[The President of the Senate had hesitated in the proclamation, on Mr. Floyd addressing the chair.]

Mr. Randolph rose, and was addressing the chair when loud cries of Order, Order, resounded from many voices.

The Speaker pronounced Mr. Randolph to be out of order, and invited him to his seat.

Mr. Brush demanded that Mr. Randolph should be allowed to proceed, and declared his determination to sustain his right to do so. Mr. B. was also loudly called to order.

Mr. Floyd demanded of the chair, whether he was out of order or not.

The Speaker determined that he was not in order at this time, the only business being at that present time that prescribed by the rule of this morning.

There was considerable murmuring at this decision ; but order was restored ; when the president of the Senate concluded his annunciation as follows :

"I therefore declare that *James Monroe* of Virginia is duly elected President of the U. S. for 4 years to commence on the 4th day of March, 1821 : and that *Daniel D. Tompkins*, of New-York, is duly elected Vice President of the United States, for the like term of four years, to commence on the said 4th day of March, 1821."

As the President concluded—

Mr. Randolph addressed the chair, but was required to take his seat.

On motion by a member of the Senate, the Senate retired from the Hall.



50 do red do Castile Soap  
 80 do white do  
 28 hhds. and } Tallow  
 34 brls. }  
 118 bales Italian washed Rags  
 27 hnds prime heavy Kentucky Tobacco  
 8 bales Alabama Cotton  
 880 bbls. fresh Alexandria Flour  
 20 bales first, and 20 do 2d sort Hops,  
 of the growth of 1820  
 1750 large Russia Seal Skins, for trunk ma-  
 kers  
 1000 lb Block Tin  
 3000 do prime Ivory, large teeth  
 10 tons Boxwood  
 30 do red Campeachy Logwood  
 1500 reams large and small wrapping Paper  
 1000 do do Foolscap writing do  
 3 bags Canary Seed  
 2 cases and 1 hhd. Bed Ticks, (Germany)

**D**IVIE BETHUNE & CO. offer for sale,  
 at 92 Coffee House slip—

100 hhds Claret Wine, L P Madeira Wine,  
 of approved brands, in pipes and hhds  
 5 half pipes French Red Wine  
 600 boxes English Window Glass  
 200 hampers wine and porter Bottles  
 30 casks well assorted Glassware  
 12 casks ship's Deck Lights  
 4 casks Flint Glass for cutting  
 400 boxes R G Tin Plates  
 5 casks English Seine Twine  
 1 bale Shoe Thread  
 8 bales Sail Twine  
 3 bales Bleached Sheetings  
 10 do brown imitation Sheetings  
 10 do British Canvas  
 10 do Strelitz Osnaburgs  
 2 do coarse Sheetings  
 1 bale Sacking  
 12 tons London White Lead in oil  
 12 bls Ivory Black  
 6 cases Duplex Aquafortis  
 4 Iron Chests  
 5 tons Anchors, entitled to debenture  
 An assortment of proved Iron Cables.  
 dec 6

**100** chests Souchong Tea, Chauncy's  
 cargo.

2000 pieces short yellow Nankeens  
 25 cases Satins, Sinchews and Sars-  
 nets, entitled to debenture.  
 150 bolts Russia Duck,  
 3000 Horse Hides  
 2 bales Calf Skins,  
 1 do Neutra do  
 29 Lion, and 35 Tiger Skins  
 65 casks Palm Oil,  
 50 large Elephant's Teeth  
 5 pipes & 10 gr. casks Port Wine,  
 100 bbls Juniper Berries,  
 10 do Gum Copal  
 20 boxes Olive Oil,  
 5 kegs London Mustard,  
 2 cases Sewing Silk  
 2 bbls shelled Almonds,  
 15 boxes N. Haven Mould Candles,  
 for sale by **GEO. W. TALBOT,**  
 feb 1 55 Pine-street.

**BERRY & SETON,**  
 44 WILLIAM-STREET,  
 OFFER for sale Madeira Wine in pipes.











