

Portsmouth 2^d Sept. 1776

My Dear Sir,

I arriv'd here the 30th Ult^o & had ^{the} pleasure of receiving your favor of 18th the same day, It gives me Pleasure to hear of the arrival of the Morris, & the other Sloop, you mention, I call'd on Gov^r Trumble, on my way thro' Connecticut, who inform'd me of ^{the} late of affairs at the Lakes, which as you often have, a much better appearance than they had some time ago. — At Providence I endeavor'd to get guns for the Frigate but found that the owners of ^{the} Durand were determin'd to take every advantage of the times they talk'd of go^g Law Mo^s & Son but would not contract at that, unless half the Money was paid at the Signing of the Contract, I think it better to Comply with their extravagant Terms than to let the ship lay here, while one of the Enemy's ships (The Milford) is taking every thing on our Coast I therefore have advis'd M^r: Langdon to get the guns on the best terms he can, he talks of seting off for Providence to morrow, if he gets the guns, the ship will soon be ready for sea, — I have sometimes laugh'd at M^r: Langdon's Panegyric on this ship, but I am now convinc'd he has said no more in her praise than she deserves, she is really the Best ship by far, of the Nine which I have seen, & is as well Officer'd as any ship in the Service, I hope justice will be done then gentle^m in Ranking them, they really deserve to be high on the list, were they known to the Committee I am sure they would be —

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emitted £23,000, - in addition to the 60,000 emitted before I
went to Philadelphia, I could not help Expressing my
to the Committee
surprise ^{at their taking this step without asking a supply}
from the Continental Treasury, I think ^{it} very wrong to
issue such Quantities of paper notes - The Prizes Bro't
into this and the Neighbouring Ports have Lowered the
price of West India Goods amazingly, Sugars are sold at
abo' five Dollars & C^t The success Privateers have met with
has set every body Mad for that Business, & will cause
some Difficulty in getting the Frigates Man'd, however, the
Raleigh, from Present appearances will be Man'd the first,
she has now about 50 men & when her Guns are on board
I make no doubt will soon have her Complement, People
are backward about entering on Board till they see a
prospect of getting to sea, Especially while there is such
a demand for men for Privateers.

I have just seen Mr. Langdon he is determined to ^{set} out for
Providence tomorrow he will write to you from that place
& desire you'll excuse his not writing by this post, many
articles will be wanted for this ship which its Probable
are in the Public Stores in Boston, w^od it not be proper
to give the Commanding Officers there, orders to deliver such
Stores as may be wanted for the Ships? I am inform'd there
is a large Quantity of Shott at Boston, which I suppose
cannot be obtain'd without an order from some higher
Power or the Commanding Officers there,

I shall attend the Gen^l: Court at Exeter next Thursday
& hope in my next shall be able to inform you who
is to be our Colleague - I am with great Sincerity
Your very affec^d Friend &c
W^m: Whipple

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