

Letter Book of Pardon Mawney Whipple, Midshipman on board USS Constitution, 1813-1815.

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 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 cross 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 even be remembered 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 leisure hour - you know, too well my good friend that my inexperience, & total neglect in earlier days has all together 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 intended 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 faults however I expect you will give me credit for candor which will in some measure counter balance the innumerable imperfections which will most undoubtedly appear at the first glance of your scrutinizing eye - The letters, however which I may address to you will be dictated by the heart, & as I observed before, the liberality of yours will I am confident know how to appreciate them

I shall merely relate the little 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 & principal 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 incorrect style, because you are well acquainted with the busy scenes of a seafaring life & the interruptions that so frequently occur, particularly onboard of a man of war -

U.S. Frigate Constitution 1813

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 looked 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 Ironsides; a name which has been given her by the sailors, supposing that her sides are impenetrable, from 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 obtained 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 a man must be happy who sacrifices every thing for his country - my ambition leads 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 29th Dec with a strong north west wind, with a crew of four hundred & eighty, as fine & healthy a set of fellows, & in as good spirits, as ever walked a ships 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, not withstanding 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 hour, but yesterday we lay calmly moored in the harbour with no more motion than the hills that surrounded us, & where are we now? dashing about at the mercy of the winds & waves, & him who made us.

We cruised nearly three months without making any captures, the crew all this time murmuring like so many devils, that old 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 alongside two vessels, it being too dark to ascertain immediately what they were, beat to quarters immediately & cleared ship for action -- this was the moment which I had most wished to experience, to know what my own feelings on such an occasion would be -- however, I did not [find] it necessary at this time to put them to the test, as the vessels we has seen proved to be His Majesties schooner Pictou, of fourteen guns & sixty men convoying a merchantman, we captured the merchant vessel immediately, the next morning the schooner -- after taking out the prisoners & paroling them, Captain Stewart made a cartel

of the merchant vessel (Lovely Ann) & sent them all onboard of her as prisoners of war.
I here received the following instructions from Captain Stewart:

U.S. Frigate Constitution
at Sea, February 14th 1814

Sir:

You will proceed with the cartel ship Lovely Ann to Bridgetown, Barbadoes, & 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 & paroled. You will obtain a receipt for the officers Seamen & Marines so delivered & proceed to the United States, as early as possible & deliver the same to the Secretary of the Navy.

Respectfully, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(signed) Chs. Stewart

Midshipman
P.M. Whipple

PS 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 onboard His Britannic Majesty's Schooner Pictou - do hereby, in consideration of our release on parole, promise on oath, & pledge each our words & 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 onboard the United States Frigate Constitution, at sea, this fourteenth day of February. A.D. one thousand eight hundred & fourteen.

S. Stephens Lt. & Commander
Wm. White Master
S. Johnson Mid.
T. Whittle Mid.
G. Hannaford Mid.
J. E. Wilson
Chs. Jas. Rogers

Here follows a list of the names of the whole ship company.

I hereby certify the above named seamen & marines did agree to the within written Parole & were sworn to the same in my presence.

Witness my signature,
S. Stephens, Lieut. & Com^d.

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 that 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 Barbadoes in the Lat. of 13° 01' N Long. 59° 36' W -- I was received with great politeness & attention by the American Agent for prisoners of war – Thomas H. Storm, Esqr. -- In a few days I was presented to His Excellency, Sir George Beckwith, the Governour, 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 others 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 sea officer myself I came more immediately under his jurisdiction than the govs. 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 Parole of honor should go on duty immediately, the officers refused to obey this unjust & inconsistent mandate -- through the influence of the Govr 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, August 1814

Charles Stewart Esquire
Commander of the U.S.F. Constitution

Sir

Agreeably to your orders of the 14th of February last, I proceeded with the cartel ship *Lovely Ann* -- having onboard the crew of the British schooner *Pictou*, to Barbadoes where I arrived on the 16th 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 attempted 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 -- alledging 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 Agents of two governments, they were immediately ordered into actual service -- the officers refusing to serve until regularly exchanged.

Shortly after my arrival in Barbadoes I had an interview with Sir George Beckwith, Governour of the Island who with much civility notified me that on account of the critical situation in which I was placed, & the suspicions that might arise from my coming to the place in a capacity which was not acknowledged by their laws & not acceded 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 indulgences 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 sev't,

P.M. Whipple

Charles Stewart Esqr.
Com^{dy}. U.S. Frigate Constitution

I took my departure from Barbadoes about the first of June, in the ship Bridgetown, Capt. Duncan we touched at St. Thomas, the Island of Bermuda, & arrived at Halifax after a fair passage --it was my intention to have returned from here in one of the cartels but there being a convoy ready for St. Johns, we were ordered immediately to get under weigh & proceed to that place, where I was obliged to renew my passport for the U.S. -- I remain'd about ten days. St. John's lies at the head of the Bay of Fundey Lat about 45° N, Long 67° W -- a place where the English get much of their ship timber -- during the war, it was filled with smugglers from the U.S. -- I left here & proceeded to Moose Island, three days after the English squadron took possession of it under Sir Thos Hardy - - my desire was so great to see a line of battle ship that I could not resist the temptation of accompanying a party onboard (the Ramalies) the flag ship - notwithstanding the risk I run in being exposed 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 obliged to skulk along through the night, sometimes in boats, & sometimes onshore, until we reached the first stage at Belfast where I was enabled to get some rest, & relief from the marauders along our coast -- I reached Boston in good time happy I assure you to find myself safe under the guns of Old Ironsides again -- May God bless & protect you is the sincere wish of your obt. svt. &c &c

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 man'd & sent in & have now just reaped the golden fruit, 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 & consoled himself with the common remark that it was the fortune of war -- on board of this vessel we found two fine young Tigers, which had been in some measure domesticated & were of great amusement to the Sailors.

We next steered our course towards Madeira & had 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. 14th 1814
Latitude 33°=17'N Longitude 13°=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 chace, at 1/2 past 1 made her out to be a ship, at 3/4 past 1 made another strange sail ahead, at 2 P.M. made them out two ships close hauled upon the starboard tacks – at 4 the ship to windward bore up & made signals to her consort then about ten miles distant – made all sail in chace. set fore & main top gallant & royal studding sails, at 1/2 past 4 carried away our main royal mast, with a man on the larboard yard arm who fortunately saved himself by the yard lodging on the main topgallant stay, took in the sail & prepared another mast – at 5 PM commenced firing upon the chace from our two larboard bow guns – our shot falling short, ceased firing = at 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; & haul'd upon a wind with their starboard tacks onboard – hauled up their courses & prepared to receive us, having previously had communication by signal, both ships maneuvering to gain the weather gauge, without success, at 55 minutes past 5 we gaining fast 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 stern most 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 head most 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 topsails, which brought us under cover of the smoke, with the other ship right abeam –

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 stern most ship wearing at the same time, wore ship immediately after her & gave her stern a 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 standing for us with her starboard tacks onboard close hauled with top gallant set & colors flying – at 50 minutes past 8 ranged close along side on opposite tacks, still to windward exchanged two broadsides, bore up immediately under her stern & gave her a raking broadside. She then crowded all sail & endeavoured to escape by wearing hauled onboard our tacks set the spanker flying jib etc etc At 1/2 past 9 commended firing upon her with our starboard bow chaser, gave her several shot 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 Honb. 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 prizes – 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 on board of that vessel th[r]ee days – the decks of both vessels were literally covered with dead & wounded, which amounted to between [left blank]

Their spars & rigging were very much cut to pieces, particularly the *Levant*, whose mizenmast & all the appendant 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 mizenmast for several feet was covered with brains & blood; pieces of bones, fingers, & large pieces of flesh were picked up from off the deck T'was a long time before I could familiarize myself to these & if possible more horrible scenes that 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 therefore, 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 governments would probably take place, & we should by that means stand a good chance of saving our prizes, Fate ordered it otherwise, we steered for the Cape de Verds, where we arrived on 11th of March, Port Praya, Lat 14°=52'N Long 23°=30'W Landed some of the prisoners shortly after we anchored

To give you some idea of the transactions which took place the following day, I shall send you an extract from the log book—

Laying in Port Praya harbor fresh breezes & 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 squadron; the signal was immediately made to the *Cyane* & *Levant* to get under weigh, at 12 minutes past 12 sheeted home the topsails & cut the cable, the prize ships following our motions, stood out of the roads close under the eastern point within gunshot of the enemy 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 – At ½ past meridian cut away the boats astern, gig & first cutter, at 1 P.M. found our sailing about equal to the ship on our lee quarter, but the frigate astern luffing up for our wake & gaining fast upon the *Cyane*, made the signal at 10 minutes 1 for her to tack ship which she complied with immediately – the enemy did not notice this

maneuver 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. perceiving Levant dropping fast astern & her situation becoming dangerous in consequence 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 necessity 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 squadron tacked in succession after the Levant & abandoned the Constitution, when it was reasonably supposed by all onboard, even the English officers, that had the most trifling accident happened, she must have inevitably fallen into their hands – they (the Englishmen) raved like mad men when this circumstance took place – As the Cyane was permitted to pass without molestation, she run down to the east end of the Island put her helm up & made sail for the United States where she arrived in due season – not so fortunate 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 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 dastardly set of villains that they were not worthy to live –

This celebrated English squadron consisted of we afterwards learnt the Leander, Razee, Sir George Collier the New Castle, Razee, Lord George Stewart, - the Acasta Frigate, Captain Kerr –

After we had anchored in Port Praya roads, we found that there would be some difficulty about leaving the prisoners, & there being an English Brig in the roads, she was chartered for the purpose for conveying them to the west Indies – during the time that we were getting under weigh to avoid the enemy squadron, our master with 12 men was onboard 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 around us), it was supposed that they were under the impression that it was our 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 their neutrality, when the Levant came in, & was permitted to be taken from under the very muzzles of their guns,

In consequence from our interruption & chase from the Cape de Verds we were not able to leave but few of the prisoners – the Capt. then concluded to run over 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 Maranham = 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, where 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 New Orleans – 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 apologize 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 obd. serv^t.

&c &c &c

US Frigate Constitution

Boston June 1815

My dear friend

After we had been in New York 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 onboard, 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 humbug 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 harbour, & even across the streets & upon the tops of the houses – the congratulations of a large company of officers who came to meet us upon the wharf was altogether very pleasing –

U.S Ship Washington

Portsmouth harbor 1815

My dear friend

You will perceive by the head of this letter that I have changed ships – I received orders a few days since to join the Washington under the command of Com^d. Chauncey; 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 [sic] 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 – remember me most respectfully to the ladies, & believe me most sincerely yours

Truly obt. serv^t.

US Ship Washington

Gibraltar Bay 1816

My dear friends

My anticipations were correct & we have reached thus far on our destined cruising ground, but I am too far ahead of my story & I 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^r. for Boston, where we filled up our crew, & provisions & spent a cold & unpleasant winter preparing the ship for sea – in April we sailed for Annapolis where we took in Wm. Pinkney & family 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 9th of May sailed from the Chesapeake, & after a pleasant passage of 22 days 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°6' North Longitude 5°19' West – it was anciently called Mon Calpe & forms together with Alyla, 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 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 Europa point, which presents a formidable appearance indeed – the principal curiosities consists 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 & forms complete masses resembling 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 maneuver 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 ludicrous to pass the streets & view the variety of costumes –

U.S. Ship Washington
Bay of Naples, 1816

My dear friend

I feel much pleasure in dating 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 16^t of July – we are obliged to submit to a quarantine of 16 days which is extremely irksome The city lies in Latitude 40°= 51' North, Longitude 14°= 18' East.

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

As we advance into the bay we leave Ischia & Procida on our left, these are two fine Islands, celebrated in ancient times as having been the summer retreat of many of the Roman Emperours – 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 Bacia, 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. Julien, destroyed by Earth quake, hot Baths of Nero Temples of different descriptions, together with many other ruins, which would fatigue you to detail – At this time the sea was perfectly smooth & unruffled & we glided gently into the bay – here Mount Paussilippo made a beautiful & picturesque appearance continuing to extend along the coast covered with summer houses, gardens & vineyards – then, to make the scene more complete, Naples in all its beauties opens upon our view, one immense line of white edifices stretching over the mountain, in the rear of which is seen Mt. Etna, towering its lofty head far above the other buildings, the neighboring hills & surrounding country, all covered with villages, convents, & churches, &c &c – At the head of the bay you behold Mount Vessuvius with its flaming top hid 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 the 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 this side, lies Pompeii, destroyed by the ashes of the Lava which overran 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 when I was there, 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 would 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 have been buried in the earth nearly two thousand years, during which time so many revolutions have taken place – new worlds discovered – kingdoms won & lost, - cities totally destroyed – & here Pompeii is reborn 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 the distance – Castelli Mar, Surrentum & 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 &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 splendid beyond description, Cities, bays, more mountains, & the whole country seems laid at your feet – there is constant eruption more or less – when I was there the scene was truly sublime, the first notice you would have of its breaking out, would be a 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 blazing 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 Paussilippo – 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 cave, I tried the experiment by holding down my head close to the earth & found that it produced a similar effect to that of drinking a tumbler of sparkling cider has upon the nose, a torch would become extinguished immediately by holding it near the earth, the old man who had charge of the cave had a very cruel practice of making the experiment upon a dog – the poor devil would fawn around his master's feet & seem to beg to be spared, when he was held down to the obnoxious air, he would writhe & turn him self & endeavor to escape, until his strength began to fail & his nerves release, he would fall down apparently lifeless, when his master would throw him out into the air & in a few moments he would revive, froth 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 rendezvous'd 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 Ulysses, it must have changed since that time as there is at present none but imaginary dangers – there was an earth quake in 1783 which probably changed its situation – in the afternoon we anchored in Messina roads –

Messina or Messena, Anciently called Zancle it lies in the straits that separates Calabria from Sicily on the shores of the latter in Latitude $38^{\circ}=14'$ W & 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 places of public amusement are very inferior there is an opera house, but miserable performance & badly attended.

Respectfully your obt. sert.

U.S. Ship Washington
Algiers bay October 14 1816

My dear friend

About the 25th of last month we weighed anchor & stood out of Messina, bound as we presumed to the Barbary coast, in the evening we 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 10560 feet & one hundred miles circumference around its base – here is where the cyclops under the direction of Vulcan in ancient times made their thunder bolts –

On or about the 29th 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 yankee sailors would soon drive the Musselmen from the works

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 onshore, 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 defense 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 defense, but now (altho occupied as fortresses) too contemptible to bear the name –

We left this bay by the 11th & came too in Algiers on the 14th, having run down the coast with a pleasant easterly wind, my first thoughts after becoming a little settled, were to get onshore if possible, consequently made immediate application & succeeded to my utmost wishes – Algiers is laid down in latitude $36-49$ N longitude $2^{\circ}=13'$ East. 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 ambrazures – the exaggerated account of Lord Exmouth respecting that assault would induce those who could not ascertain the facts, to believe that the batteries have been leveled with the mole & that many houses have been destroyed – on the contrary, no batteries were broken down, & not many houses injured – it is true that many of the Algerians were killed & the shipping in the mole burnt – the streets are 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 a complete subterraneous passage – 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, Moors & 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 that 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 Consuls families a very small proportion of which are females, makes a life there almost equal to perpetual banishment –

The Dey of Algiers is absolute. During [illegible word] the pleasure of the janizzerries who elect him, generally from the lowest class of society – these elections are nothing more, or less, than mobs – no personal merit is necessary to become eligible to this office – the whims of the moment governs them – when he becomes obnoxious to these blood hounds, they are perhaps already at his palace being his life guard, demand his head, which he quietly resigns, knowing it useless to make resistance – they then mob another into office –

U.S. Ship Washington
Gibraltar bay Nov^r. 1st 1816

My dear friend

With a fine breeze on the 16th of last month we weighed anchor & stood out of the roads of Algiers, standing to the westward – we have experienced severe 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—

Nov^r 8th today we formed a party to visit Algizeras 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 15,000 inhabitants, the best idea 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

US Ship Washington
Malaga Roads 26th Nov. 1816

My dear friend

We left Gibraltar in good spirits bound to the eastward, & anchored here this day— Malaga is a town in Grenada old Spain in latitude 36°= 42' N Long 5° 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^r.28th 1816

My dear friend

We took our departure from Malaga the 27 with a small part of the squadron bound to Algiers, having the Consul for that place onboard – The last treaty with this government was made by Com^d Decatur, who thought proper to return a Frigate, & sloop

of war, captured by his Squadron during the war – The Frigate was duly restored, but in consequence of the sloop having been run onshore by our cruisers 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^d to the United States – A new one having been prepared & returned to the Com^d, who with the Consul was bound to Algiers to obtain the satisfaction 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 harbour & 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 phenomena, which is common enough among old sailors, but among we young cruisers are strange things – they are called by the seamen Corplisance, & were on the ends of the yards & 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°=52'N Longitude 3°=48'E – This harbour is of great consequence to our 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 harbor – it [is] 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 makes them very obnoxious to the inhabitants – there are several other towns 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 seems calculated to defend the harbour against almost any force, 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 post was by treaty blown in the air – on the 29th the Spark 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 should break them the first pretense – poor man, he soon after became victim to his januzarries

U.S. Ship Washington
Gibraltar Feb^f 7th, 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 22nd inst we sailed from Mahon, bound as report said, to Algiers, where we once more arrived on the 26 & 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, Midshipman Watts, while attending to his duty in the mizen top, was precipitated upon deck, & taken below apparently lifeless – he however recovered his speech, but not his perfect senses, no limbs were broken it was thought the injury was internal – he lingered until the 3rd & 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 – as reported there was not his equal – his wit was quick & sometimes refined – wherever Ned was found there was sure to be mirth & good humour –

Fortunately his senses forsook him a short time before he died – he was buried with 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 soon told – not many days since a dispute arose between him & Midshipman S about young Chauncey, it was supposed by most of the elder Midshipmen that S. had taken some improper advantage of young C – & W- remarks being more severe & censorious than the other gentlemen; it fell upon him to settle the disputed point; his observations were not within the bound of prudence, they had better been spared S took them as too severe 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, Mid. S - attended by Mid C-, Mid W- by Mid R-, as friends–

They fired the first shot without effect – the second S- pistol missed fire – his friend then came forward & requested to know if a reconciliation would not take place, - W- observed that he was willing to let it rest but that he would never apologize – 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 evince the coolness of his mind upon the ground he loaded his

own pistols & only requested his friend to look on & see that everything was conducted in a proper manner – the morning that the 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 apologize - & 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 adored 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 actions – he has often, after a long & tedious watch had ended, & we had returned below, taken out his 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 parental 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 soared 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 precisely showed the distressed situation of himself & family – he enclosed me an epitaph appropriate to the occasion – his brother officers (Midshipmen) 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 (& also Mr Watts).

With the greatest satisfaction I subscribe myself your obt. servant &c &c

US Ship Washington
Cadiz March 1st 1817

My dear friend

I hail the breeze with secret satisfaction which again sets all in motion, after remaining four or five weeks in port - idly spending our time & money - nothing is so reconcilable to a sea life, as the advantages we have over the land gentry in visiting & enjoying the variety of a foreign place – the 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 Spaniards our American 74, & to see the World – Cadiz = Latitude 35°=31'N Longitude 6°=17'W is the principal seaport in Andalusia Old Spain – the harbour is commodious but exposed to the winds; they have a famous Navy yard, dry dock &c &c but now going fast to ruin, also many large line of battle ships hauled 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

respectable width & cleanliness – here 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 with the fan which seems to constitute the principal graces of a Spanish fine lady –

US Ship Washington
Port Mahon April 16th 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 commodores on this station to spend the winters in snug quarters - but we have spent ours much more to the satisfaction of us all – after leaving Cadiz we proceeded again for the straits – in passing Cape Traffalgar 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 22nd Anchored in Tangiers bay=

Tangiers is a small town in the Emperor of Moroccos dominions. It is in latitude 31°=40' N longitude 5°=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 28th – Left there for Malaga arrived on the 30th left Malaga on the 3^d 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 along side the Navy yard completely stripped, & her hold swept out

As most of the Squadron have rendezvous in this port, the wardroom officers have taken the opportunity of concluding a memorial to the President of the US & 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 the 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 heretofore felt a firm reticence on that protection which the well digested laws of their 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 reputations & 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 in 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 leading circumstances of this case –

Captain John Heath commanding the guard of Marines on board 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 Harbour of Mahon on board the Java on the 27th of dec^r 1816 for the trial of Capt. John Heath, on charges & specifications of which the following is a copy

Charge the 1st – disrespectful, insolent & contemptuous conduct to me his superior officer –

Specification the 1st – that he did on or about the 22nd of July 1816 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” answered in an insolent, disrespectful & contemptuous manner –

Specification 2nd – That he did late in the evening of the 18th of September 1816, onboard the U.S. Ship Java, then at anchor in the harbour of Messina, cause a letter written by himself & couched in language highly improper to be used to his commander, to be left on my table in the cabin of said Ship –

Specification 3rd – that he did when sent for into the cabin, on being asked, “Why he took such a time to write to write [sic] a letter of that kind,” assume a deportment to me highly provoking & disrespectful, the affore said charge & specification being in violation of a part of the 15th article, & a part of the 13th article, of the rules & regulations for the better government of the Navy of the U States –

Charge 2nd – neglect of duty & unofficer like conduct –

Specification 1st – That on or about the evening of the 16th of September 1816 onboard the US 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 altho called & informed of this circumstance, alleging as a reason the subterfuge of being sick –

Specification 2nd – that he did when ordered by me at said time & place to come on deck & muster the marines - execute that duty in a careless & indifferent manner & when the marines were mustered, did neglect to report them to me until called & directed to do so –

Specification 3rd – that he did neglect on the desertion of said marines from the ship, to take those 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 20th article & the 23rd article of the rules for the better government of the Navy of the U States –

Charge 3rd – disobedience of orders –

Specification = that he did at the time & place referred to in the 1st charge & 3rd specification though repeatedly ordered to be silent continue to speak, altho warned of the consequences, & in the same indecorous & contemptuous manner, as is therein alleged, thereby violating a part of the 12th article of the rules & regulations for the better government of the Navy of the U States

U.S. Frigate Java
Algiers bay 14th Oct 1816
=signed= Oliver H. Perry

Of these charges & specifications it will be necessary to observe only, that the offence in which the great stress is laid was committed as the specification states on the 22nd of July 1816, that Captain Heath was neither arrested, suspended or warned that notice would be taken of this offense – On the 16th of September 1816 Captain Heath is again supposed by Capt. Perry to commit an offense; 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 addressed a note to Capt. Perry of which the following is a copy –

U.S. Ship Java
Messina 18th of Sept. 1816

Sir

On the evening of the 16th 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 service 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 obt. servt.
“signed” John Heath

The language of the note Capt Perry considered disrespectful & summoned Capt Heath into his cabin Willingly would your Memorialists draw a veil over the transactions 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 forbid it – it appears by the statement of Capt Heath & the acknowledgement of Capt Perry that after some conversation had passed Capt. Perry from (as he says) a disposition to chastise indolence 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, & through them tender an apology, but insisted on terms of his own dictation, 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 function of his office, while Capt Heath was in close confinement – of the proceedings of this court your Memorialists know but little = They have ere this they presume been laid before the Honourable Secretary of the Navy - but they know that Capt Perry has sailed for the U States in command of the Frigate Java 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 the 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 characters 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 event in these two cases They beg leave to state, that an occurrence in Naples in August last between Capt John Orde Creighton & 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 - & they trust they will ever be found ready to obey the calls of their country in any contest, however unpromising to themselves as individuals –

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

signed by the wardroom 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 May 1817

My dear friend

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

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^d 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's 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 Crowninshields – her table is free of access at all hours & to all who wish pay their devoirs 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 robes, where more villany & 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

Resp^t. my dear Sir, your obt. sert.

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^d 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 &c &c &c personally appeared Lieut A Midshipmen T- C- & W- of the U.S. Navy, who being duly sworn, solemnly depose & declare, that while at Messina on or about the 18th 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 M^r T- advanced towards him & civilly inquired whether he was the gentleman who had beaten the American Sailor – that Capt Bell instantly arose & drawing a brace of pistols, desired M^r 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 M^r T- coolly observed that American officers were not so easily terrified, & that he had better lay aside his pistols – & that none but a rascal & coward would act in such a manner without provocation – Capt Bell replied that he was neither a rascal or a coward but that he was a British officer & would have satisfaction for the insult – that M^r T- declared himself ready to fight him in any way he pleased – & that 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 M^r T- rank – that Lieut A then observed that the objection as to rank should not avail him, as he was ready to personate M^r T- 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, M^r T- & 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 M^r C- that M^r T- interfered to separate them – & in consequence of a blow received from Capt Bell, struck him & some blows passed between them = M^r 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 morning called on Capt Bell & stated that M^r T- was ready for the meeting, but that if he preferred either of the other gentlemen, he, Lieut A, M^r W- or M^r C- were ready to give him any satisfaction he required, to which Capt Bell replied that he should seek redress by our application to the civil authority, & thus the affair ended—

In witness whereof the deponents have hereunto signed their names

Singed & sworn before me. G Theodore Ladico

U.S. Ship Washington
Marseilles June 11th 1817

My dear friend

We all rejoiced when the signal was display'd to unmoor ship, so heartily did every one wish to leave Mahon 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 Marsilia, situated in Gaul = it was founded by the Phocaens, 539 years before christ, & was ever in former times a place of great strength,

not only in war, but in commerce & in literature – not having yet been onshore, 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 – everything 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 ashore to enjoy all these fine things – there appears to be some objection to giving us Pratique immediately in consequence of having our Consul from Algiers, where the pestilence still rages – the Health Officers are particular, & the Com^d 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 officer should be acquainted with it

I am very sorry to say that our Consul in this place has not acted with that energy of character which is necessary to support the dignity of an 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 3rd 1817

My dear friend

My prognostications have in this instance proved too true – the third day after the squadron anchored in Marseilles, there came on a tremendous gale of wind – one of the Frigates dragged her anchors, another parted her cable – which induced the Com^d the moment the wind ceased to get under weigh – “& swore 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 their gallies – 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, everybody is engaged in some commercial pursuit & seems interested in that alone – travellers proceed either to Piza 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 interred the body of Smollet, who died in Leghorn –

I intend visiting possibly Florence & Pisa

Respectfully yours &c &c

U.S. Ship Washington
Leghorn Roads July 5th 1817

My dear friend

Yesterday we celebrated the anniversary of the Independence of our country in appropriate style, at meridian 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 thanksgiving to Him who through our fore Fathers gave us Freedom

Florence July 7th 1817

I left Leghorn last night at 8 o'clock, & rode all night, at 7 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 stages in America – I took up my quarters in 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 apartments to see it 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 as pieces—

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

The next piece which I most admired was a painting representing Potiphurs wife & Joseph, this was indeed superb, life itself could scarcely seem to express more feeling than appeared in the countenances of these figures, nature was here display'd in all her beauties – in the range of apartments was one appropriated entirely to Portraits of ancient celebrated artists executed by themselves –

In the afternoon we visited a famous engraver, who we found extremely polite & shew us some very superiour 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 old Priam by the hair, he had taken refuge in the church & was then at the altar where he is sacrificed to his fury

Hecube Andromecha, & the other females with the priests are the figures which make up the group & are witnesses of the murder –The fierce & 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 to[wer] we had 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 church of St. Lorenzo – the chappel of which is said to be the richest in all Italy – that part which completed is of the most beautiful jasper, 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 of the crown of each Prince, most superbly studded with precious stones – Near this church is an Ancient Manuscript Library called 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 Canova, 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 the beautiful proportions, but for modestys 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 10th

Cabinet of physic & natural history – there 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 an Egyptian mummy – & a thousand other curiosities –

By particular request of the gentleman who had charge of the galleries, we paid them another visit, he was desirous of showing us a small room containing nothing [but] the richest minerals, pearls, diamonds, & precious stones of every description, which has 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 salt seller of onix was priced at 130000 crowns –

In the evening we rode out to the porcelain manufactory where they make a fine imitation of china ware, it was amusing to me 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 Cassini – it is a beautiful extensive walk or ride near two miles in length, lined on both sides with lofty elms, there are different avenues, very broad & straight in good condition – here all the nobility & gentry ride in the evening – & frequently the Grand Duke, himself –

The latter part of the evening we spent at the Opera where we saw the Grand Duke & all his family attended by Maria Louisa, an Empress of France, as far as I could judge from her present appearance she is a fine portly looking woman, some of the prints I have seen of her are very correct, she was dressed very plain, the Dukes family, were also in the plainest costume – being in drab coats & red vests – The observation of Stern 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—

Florence July 11th

At half past 4 o’clock this morning we left this city for Leghorn after we had settled our bills & taken leave of our traveling vallet or interpreter who had attended us constantly during the five days we remained here, rode behind our carriage or run of errands, & such little offices – we found him highly useful & honest – the day was extremely fine, the sky clear, & the sun soon rose rose [sic] & spread its shining rays over the rich extensive plains of the Arno, as we rode over the light marble 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 &c

The season, everything was favourable, 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 superiour 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 refreshment – 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

Citva Vecchia July 25th 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, where the whole squadron had previously been ordered,

Civita Vecchia lies in latitude $42^{\circ}=5'N$ long $11^{\circ}=46'E$ about 50 miles from Rome. It is an open roadstead & 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^d 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 6 in the evening we could distinctly see the famous City of Rome from the tops, passed the mouth of the Tiber before sun down – the Dome of St. Peters 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 27th 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 tier of boxes, the pillars supporting each of different orders of architecture – all most richly gilt [sic]. In the center is suspended An elegant chandelier, & one in the King's box, which is in front of the stage, the top is a canopy the whole trimmed with damask curtains – in front of each box is a small chandelier holding fine lights – when the whole is illuminated, the effect of the lights upon the gilt-work [sic] is truly dazzling – the scenery, dresses & performances altogether is not to be surpassed in this line of acting –

The orchestra contains about sixty musicians & as the Italians [are] characteristically fiddlers you know of course, in this respect they are not to be outdone – The goodness of their music pleads for the profession –

Pompeii

In one of my letters in July 1816, I gave you some description of these celebrated ruins – I gave it from some notes which I took, but lost a part 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 of buildings which had fallen down & formed one complete mass - 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 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 earth & in some places much less – 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 Lava 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 both Herculaneum and Pompeii is said to be the first that ever took place from Vesuvius –

Catacombs are 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 no 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 abode of the dead, until we almost imagined ourselves in reality among Pluto's grim 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 corps 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—

King's 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 disposes 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, who dragged her over precipices & 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 Faun is another celebrated piece exhibited in their 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 the garden – in fact it possesses all that a life of luxury in Naples makes requisite –

Baiae 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 Peuzzolia where 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 Baius, one of the companions of Ulysses = The Roman Emperors & Senators had county seats & Palaces here – its ancient garden is however destroyed by the Earth quakes which has so often convulsed Italy, there are now show 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 tryfling whisper from one side to the other –

Nero' 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 Sybils grotto, on the border of the lake Avernus, this grotto runs through a hill- in about the center of which is the baths & apartments of the Sybili, it appears to have been deformed & considerably sunken , the lake upon which it stands was anciently considered the entrance of Hell, the waters are stagnant, putrid, & very offensive –

Jupiter Serrapis = this is at Peuzziolia the floor remains, & 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 feet 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 favourite retreat of Murat, & greatly influenced 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 realized – he led us through each separate apartment explaining everything as we passed – the bed

of Lady Murat, remains the same, without the least alteration whatever, 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 Parthenope, it is supposed to contain from three hundred & fifty to four hundred thousand souls – about forty thousand of these constitute what is called Cazzaroni, or beggars, who live upon the charity of strangers, & the soup they get a 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 never successful – as there is no provision made for them by the government, their only shelter against the inclemency of the weather is the canopy of Heaven –

When Murat was on the Throne of Naples, he employed a great number of these beggars cleaning 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 obnoxious characters as at that time – such acts as these & many more deeds equally meritorious soon rendered this monarch extremely popular among the citizens, notwithstanding that 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 been obliged to abandon his throne –

It is astonishing to see the pride & pomp or even magnificence, exhibited by the nobility, merely to support the empty title of nobleman, notwithstanding their extreme poverty is so well known, they will display the most superb equipages crowded with livery 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 rests in the triumphs of Liberty, & whose proud soul aspires to higher dignities than springs from empty titles –

U S Ship Washington
Syracuse august 30th 1817

My dear friend

Early on the morning of the 20 inst we unmoored ship & stood out of the bay of Naples, our passage was very pleasant, until we arrived near Stromboli, one of the Lapasi Islands where we experienced a fresh blow – on the 24th we arrived at Messina where we remained but two days, & proceeded to this place –

I hope I shall not fatigued you with my antique description, but you already know that the whole vicinity of Naples is replete with Ancient Historical events, & I am 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 there see the want of information in these affairs, which is necessary for any traveler – 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 ½ English miles in circumference – 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 center 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 neighbourhood of this city, fully demonstrated, grain seems to rise up almost spontaneously - but the miserable & inefficient government of Naples, discourages the Farmer & deprives him of those privileges, which in our country he would enjoy, & which his labours so richly merits – the greatest proportion of his profits goes to the maintenance of his beggarly Priests –

Dionysius’s Ear is the principal ruin now to be seen here, it is a monstrous cave, 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 is takes place within its mouth - & it is said to concentrate at a small cavity near the top over which the Tyrant had his private rooms, where the lowest whisper was communicated, & where the Tyrant stationed himself to over hear the conversation of the prisoners whom his suspicions had confined within these apartments –

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

Respt your ob^t servt

Tripoly, U.S. Ship Washington
Sept^r 8th 1817

My dear friend

We sailed from Syracuse the 4th 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 & contemptible – 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, procured horses & mules & started off at full speed – on our way we passed a very pleasant grove of Palms, Pomaganattes & olive trees – at length 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 been seen to the south’d & west’d, one wide expanse of sand & sky, as far as the eye could extend – the sand had spread itself along in many places resembling banks of mud – 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 well in with a party of Arabs who were quietly seated under some palm trees, I could not help observing that the curiosity on their part 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, & display'd 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 was loaded with rings, entirely around the rim – wrists & ankles was girted with broad rims – her face was tato'o'd in different parts, which gave her a rather grotesque appearance –

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

Respt your &c &c

U.S. Ship Washington
Tunis Sept 18 1817

My dear friend

We had a delightful passage from Tripoly the wind being abaft the beam the whole distance, we came to in this bay last evening, this is the second time that this ship has been her [sic], & I have not yet trod the ruins 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 Gollette, it is presumed however much to our regret that we shall not have an opportunity this time of trimming some of those Mussulmen whiskers – we have had a tremendous squal, parted our cables twice, & one of the Frigates dragged her anchors – 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^d & his Highness the Bay, which will prevent some of young bloods from carving the Turks to pieces –

I remain with great consideration
& respect your obt sert &c &c

U.S. Ship Washington
Gibraltar Oct 9th 1817

My dear friend

You see we have again moored the Washington in this bay, we arrived here on the 3^d inst after a very unpleasant passage from Tunis – the prospects at length became so unfavourable 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 – we had 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 janizaries had proceeded to the Palace of the Dey in a mob, & demanded his head – as resistance was vain he gave himself up a sacrifice the [sic] 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 had 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^d felt a disposition to advance me – at the same time advised me by all means to remain in the Mediterranean with the Com^d all this was, however, a fatal delusion?, as soon as the Constellation had sailed, The Com^d gave an actg appointment to an officer belonging to the Frigate U.S. in preference to any of his own officers who were elder 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 W- in safety but forgot all the sacred promises which he had voluntarily made me – he also reached Providence were he still remains in ordinary

“Brutus is an honorable man”

Enclosed 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

US 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 happiness & promotion in this your secondary advancement in the public service & first of political disquisition – in the execution of which, by your characteristic deportment, 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 inseparable thanks of us both – The individual referred to is a midshipman of the Ship – In consequence of the many disadvantages accruing from his absence, is compelled through this as the only channel to Promotion to exhibit his claim to the Navy Department, to that purport which he has done through the medium of the Honorable Messrs Burril & Mason now in Congress - an interest in the welfare 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 unparalleled 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 executive) 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 has been acknowledged by com^d Chauncey 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 sir
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 Creighton 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 useless 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 – influence is the best recommendation a man can have at headquarters, with a good share of this, he would succeed, when modest merit would be stared out of countenance –

US Ship Washington
Gibraltar Nov^r 12th 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
very respectfully your obt Servt
Signed _____

The Honbl
Sec^{ly} of the Navy

U.S. Ship Washington
Winter quarters
Syracuse Jan^y 4th 1818

My dear friend

Abandoning all hopes of being releived 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 an extraordinary scene – we were thus favoured until christmas day, we had reached the Lapari Islands, anciently called Aeloliae after the god of the winds – we found these 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, two of our men were thrown from the yard by its violence & dashed to pieces it continued for eight & forty hours without much intermission, we were driven nearly upon the shores of Sicily, although it veered a little & gave us an opportunity to lay our course the farro [sic] of Messina, when we found it ahead; however it did not prevent us from beating up to Syracuse – here again it was ahead, & notwithstanding, the narrowest of the passage, the Com^d beat the ship into the harbour – which perhaps in 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 & proceeded up a small river, & was equally delighted with the country & with our success, having taken some wild fowl & birds – on our return we entered a cottage & procured wine red wine [sic] & 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, everything corresponding –

U.S. Ship Washington
Syracuse Feb 8th 1818

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 jany, she is a beautiful ship but not so strong I think as the Washington.

About the 2nd the ceremony of transferring the Squadron from the old commander to the new one took place – at 12 o'clock beat to quarters when Com^d Stewart examined 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 & U. States, when the first gun was fired onboard the Washington, the blue broad pendant was hauled down & the red hoisted–

The whole Squadron is now preparing for our departure to Messina, our new commander not admiring 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 counsul 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 onshore among them – they make more dependence up[on] this, than the proceeds of their whole years industry – it is no in[con]siderable [sic] thing for the Syracuseans to have an American squadron winter in their port – when we take into consideration the quantity of fresh provision of every kind, & stores in stores which are consumed by them daily – Tailors, shoe makers, & tavern keepers have an interest in this – therefore it is not so extraordinary that they should feel a little indignation towards old broad brim –

U.S. Ship Washington
Messina Feb 17 1818

My dear friend

It appears by the maneuvering 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 realizing the promise which the com^d 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 Aetna, the top of which is covered with snow the principle part of the year –

The vegetables which we receive from the shore are as good [as] we have them in the summer season – every kind of cultivation seems to flourish notwithstanding it is Feby, excepting the grapes, which are not in season –

It is reported that we sail soon whither for America or some other place is uncertain – the only place we find to amuse ourselves here is the Cassino, where all the gentility of Messina 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 motivation – & 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^d 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 are generally spent at the Theatre, where we are charmed by the most lovely singer in Europe, & the most splendid scenery, the dancing is unparalleled –

While at Messina I had an interview with the Com^d 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 despise such kind of conduct – to be at the mercy of a man I despise, & 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 exertions 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, nobility, &c – we had a large party yesterday on board, both English & Italians amongst them was a Russian Admiral – the Washington was in fine order & did 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 yankey boys – we sail this evening for Tunis, where we expect to join the remainder of the squadron –

Ever yours—

U.S. Ship Washington
Gibraltar May the 10th 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 2nd of April, & in four days anchored off the ruins of Carthage – on the morning of the 6th, 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 13th inst anchored in Algiers bay – the batteries fired a salute of fifteen guns which was returned – Our agent informed the Com^d that the Dey was well disposed towards the american government – but that the plague waged still, from fifty to sixty dying daily – On the morning of the 14th unmoored ship & departed from Algiers – stood over to the North^d on the 16th of April 1818 the Island of Minorca bearing about WNW fired our farewell salute & squared away the yards & run into Mahon - where we were detained some days with headwinds

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

Yours sincerely –

US Ship Washington
Gibraltar May 19th [1818]

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 [be] gratifying to you. I hasten [to] lay them before you – on the 19th of May the Com^d 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

US Ship Washington
Madeira Roads June 1st 1818

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 received orders to unmoor ship & get under weigh from Gibraltar – a light wind from the east^d 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 soon brought us in among them, the breeze freshened & by the going down of the sun this fleet look'd like specks 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 clouds roling 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 breath in an atmosphere loaded with rich odours from the gardens & fruit trees –

On our return into Funchal, we accidentally met a funeral, curiosity prompted us to witness the ceremony on inquiring we found it to be a priest – consequently it would be worth seeing, they took him from where he lay in state surrounded by dozens of huge wax candles, & proceeded to the church chanting Requiems 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 they 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 shoe & 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 Indiamen on their passage out, on board of which were several young, & some of quite interesting Ladies, bound out to the East Indies in search after 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 natural 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 –

Madeira lies in Latitude 32°=28' North, Longitude 17°=5' west – Funchal is the principal town – it [has] 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 &c

U.S. Ship Washington
New York July 20th 1818

My dear friend [sic]

We who are worshipers of the shine of that gracious Goddess of Liberty know how to estimate the goodness of Him 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 swarthy 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 discried on the 5th of July, we were disappointed tis true in failing in our attempts to get in on the day previous, but the winds would not be governed by us & we were obliged to submit to fate – we were on soundings - & it was some satisfaction to feel yankee ground, if we could not see, or enjoy it in any other sense. At Meridian we fired our lower-deck guns in gratitude of 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 grand 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^m 11th 1818

Sir

Mr. P. M. Whipple at present an acting Lieut on board this Ship is anxious, in obtaining his commission to secure 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
very respect your obt servt—

signed I. Chauncey

The Hon. Secretary of the Navy

New York dec^m 24th 1818

My dear Sir

This letter will be handed you by Mr. P. 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 these 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

I am with great respect & esteem
Your faithful friend & servant
signed Henry Wheaton

Com^d. Decatur

New York dec^m 24th 1818

Dear Sir

I take the very great liberty of introducing to the honor of your acquaintance my friend Lt. 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 discover it –

With my own & Mrs. W[heaton], best respects to Mrs. Rodgers, I remain with great esteem & respect your sincere friend & faithful servant –

Com^d Rodgers

signed H. W[heaton]

New York dec^m 24th 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, & as a man of great merit & respectability – any services 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

signed &c &c

Hon. John Gilliard
President of the Senate

New York dec^m 24th 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 humble servt

Signed

Hon. Smith Thompson
Secretary of the Navy

New York dec^m 24th 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 will be glad to reciprocate on any occasion in my power –

I am with great respt &c &c

Benj. Homans Esq^r.
Navy Department

Washington City Jan 1st 1819

Sir

Agreeable to your request I did myself the honor to call at your lodging 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 onboard of the Washington immediately, it will not be in my power to receive the acknowledgement before I leave the city – therefore I hope Sir, you will be pleased to enclose it with the appointment to me in New York –

Respt I have the honor &c &c

Hon Smith Thompson
Secretary of the Navy –

US Ship Washington
New York april 22^d 1819

Sir

I am advised by the hon Secretary of the Navy to state to you that the appointment as acting Lieut, was acknowledged by him, & is now in the office, he assured me 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 respt &c &c

Benj. Homans Esqr.

US Ship Washington
New York nov^m 2^d 1819

Sir

When I had the honor of applying personally to you for active service, you was pleased to grant me permission to make a written application for the Columbus – 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 jun Lieut – As this measure has been confirmed by Com^d Bainbridge, & rendered highly necessary by very great anxiety to gather 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 had placed me above them - or that I should not serve on board of the same ship as Actg Lieut – when agreeable to the regulations of the Navy I am entitled to the same privileges of a commission'd Lieut – & should it be fairly investigated the case in all probability would appear that they have not experienced 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 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 onboard of –

I am with high
Respt & consideration
your obt servt

Hon Smith Thompson
Secretary of the Navy

U.S. Ship Washington
New York dec^m 4^h 1819

Sir

Allow me the honor of removing 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 onshore –

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

I remain with great respt
& consideration
Your obt servt

Hon Smith Thompson

Sec Of the Navy

Navy Department
26th April 1819

Sir

I enclose you a copy of the honorable Secretarys letter to Commodore Chauncey, authorizing his appointment of you as Acting Lieut, until 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 possessed of the letter of appointment by Commodore Chauncey –

I am respectfully
your obd servt

Signed Benjamin Homans

P M Whipple
Act Lieut
US Ship Washington
New York

Copy

Navy Department
January 15th 1819

Sir

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

I am respectfully, Sir
Your very obt servt
Smith Thompson

(signed)

Attest John H. Sherborne – Register

Com^d Isaac Chauncey
Commanding Naval
officer New York

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.

US Ship Washington
Harbour of, New York
October 23^d 1819

Signed

John Rodgers
Wm. Bainbridge
I. Chauncey

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

(signed) John Rodgers

Navy Department
30th Nov^m 1819

Sir

Proceed to this place & report yourself to Captain John H. Elton for duty onboard the US Ship Columbus 74 under his command

I am respty &c &c

P. M. Whipple
Acting Lt US Navy
New York

(signed) Smith Thompson

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 – at a personal interview which I had with the Secy not long since it appeared that some midshipmen were ordered to her who were older in service than myself, & he felt a delay in ordering an actg Lieut, under those circumstances, 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 Mid has taken place & that I was so fortunate as to obtain a certificate, not withstanding the severity of the examination

The Columbus dropt down a few days since from Washington where 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 a ship here to fit for sea - at so great distance from every Naval depot. it is a long bay surrounded by pine woods, not defended by nature against the wind or an enemy –

Your obdt servt &c

U.S. Ship Columbus
St Mary Jan 13, 1820

Sir

Proceed to New York & assist Captain Samuel Angus at the Rendezvous in recruiting seamen & ordinary seamen for this [sic], petty officers & boys we are not in want of, ship none but sound healthy men –

Very respt your obt servt
(signed) John H. Elton

Act Lieut Whipple

US Ship Columbus
Lynhaven Bay April 27th 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 inclination 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 would 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 favour at the seat of Government as a candidate for promotion & also for this ship had 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 sacred name –

We dropt down to this place on Saturday last (near Cape Henry Light) The Columbus in maneuvering works extremely well, & if we may judge from her velocity in a light breeze, she will be one of the finest sailors 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 Commodore seems at present disposed to favor it –

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

I have the Hon &c &c

U.S. Ship Columbus
Gibraltar June 4th 1820

My dear friend

Again we are separated by the vast Atlantic, our passage across was attended by those viscidities [sic] common to a sailors life – storms, gales & calms, successively assailed us, sometimes we were labouring under storm staysails against a heavy wind &

high sea, at another time perhaps a perfect calm, 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 lazy dolphin sporting about the bows, seemingly amusing themselves in the light foam created by the movement of the ship

On our arrival here we learned that the squadron was in some port of Italy, but in what port 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 the facility with 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 maneuvered with other vessels, as this is the most proper method to prove her –

The season 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 [sic]

Your obt servt &c &c

U.S. Ship Columbus
Leghorn june 23^d 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 productive of no pleasant encomiums on the sameness of the subject - however you must bear with me a little longer as I soon 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 from the westward – in the evening passed close in by the city of Malaga where we anticipated anchoring, but the wind proving to[o] fresh & we continued on our course on the 14th stood into the bay of Algiers, made the city but had no communication – arrived in this port on the 22^d – 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 travelers – as I have been at the latter place more time & described it to you, Pisa will be my next object, after we are cleared from this most infernal quarantine—

Ever yours &c

US Ship Columbus
Leghorn july 5th 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 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 usher in by a national salute – at 8 o'clock when the colors were hoisted the ship was dressed in all the flags of different nations – her appearance was truly magnificent – at meridian another national salute was fired – in the evening she was brilliantly illuminated, all in honor of the glorious anniversary

Pisa = I shall now give you some little sketches of this once 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 Appenines & 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 harbour was at the mouth of the Arno, which was 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 cleanly & doubly interesting

On the borders of the river, partly in the street, & near the center of the city stands is a [sic] singular edifice in the gothic style, called Santa Marie della Spina – which the pri[e]sts say is resembling our saviours crown of thorns which was preserved here, or some such stuff as this – its appearance is rather singular, than beautiful, being very low with an innumerable penicil 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 cematy [sic] the cathedral, & the chapel form one beautiful group, on an extensive plain

The leaning tower as it is call'd 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 superior powers of a Carinna could not paint to you in their true colours the scene which is presented – The extensive plain in the highest state of cultivation has the appearance from this

elevated situation like one immense garden – at a distant view you have the sea of Tuscany 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 altars 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 inscription explanatory of their rank & situation in life times –

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] altar 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 11th 1820

My dear friend

Scarcely had we anchored in this bay, when the English vice consul came along side requesting to see the Com^d, on the most important business – the account 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 Kings own body guard 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 Menichino from a province called Nola – General Pepi 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 favourable character & led us to suppose that their plans were well laid – this day, we understood, was appointed as the most proper one for the revolutionists to take possession of the city, anxious to become a spectator in such a glorious undertaking, myself & several other officers of the ship obtained permission to visit the shore –

About twelve o'clock the troops were seen maneuvering 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 dell Toledo, the principal street, the top 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 center on horseback receiving the joyful greetings of the whole populace – whenever they saw any of our officers vive la Americano 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 & 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 Revolutionriry [sic] set of villians that ever had the impudence to assert their rights as men –

Judge what my feeling were when I saw the Royal plumes lowered, how the blood thrilled through my veins, the most pleasing emotions to possession [sic] of my mind that I ever experienced, I almost wished myself one of those very Italians who were emancipating themselves from vile slavery – what a moment of pleasure it was to hear these peasantry 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, fireworks, & rejoicing of all kinds took place & continued every night during our stay – the following day the King signed the constitution & good order seemed to reign through the city –

The summit of Vesuvius has changed considerably since I was here in 1818 – there are frequently during the nights slight eruptions which amuse us in a long & tedious watch – the varying flashes & bursting forth of the light flame attract the attention & tend to while away the lingering hours –

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^d is however anxious to go & as he reigns in our little world we must cheerfully obey

Yours truly

U.S. Ship Columbus
Syracuse July 21st 1820

My dear friend

We took our departure from Naples on the 12th inst presuming that we were bound to Messina but no such thing, we continued our cruise under easy sail until we got soundings on the southern shore of Sicily, & yesterday we anchored in this port passing though between Malta & Cape Passero-

We learn here the revolutionary mania 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 & swore 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 so little confidence in their medical men that when the above officer was wounded they immediately sent for our surgeon, who was dispatched onshore in the night – 20th – the Peacock, & Spark have at length arrived so that our little squadron is now altogether, the the [sic] Guerriere having gone home from Leghorn – I have been engaged in sounding & surveying this harbour by order of the Com^d & have got a pretty correct sketch of it –

27th – On our arrival at Gibraltar I felt anxious to join one of the small vessels, knowing the advantages I should gain by such a measure not only in my profession, but I was well aware that I should see more foreign places, as one of them would probably [sic] on some service most of the time the inactive life which I live onboard of this vessel was not at all congenial to my feelings - & I was sensible this 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 to make application for a change – I was so young an officer onboard 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^d raved 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 where I was – that he should not give me orders to any other vessel – however on our arrival in this post to my surprise & pleasure he sent me orders to the Spark –

Ever yours

U.S. Brig Spark
Gibraltar September 1820

My dear friend

The squadron sailed from Syracuse about the 27th of July, made Tripoly the 1st of augt – this vessel run in & had communication with the Consul who gave favourable accounts of our affairs – The Bashaw was very desirous of seeing the Com^d— he to 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 onboard of a vessel for four hours & returning within the limited time without any other guarantee than his word of honor – which produced many high encomiums on him- &c &c &c We saw la Pedosa & passed close by Pentalaria on the 10th (two islands) & arrived at Tunis in this evening, after communicating with the Consul here we sailed on the 11th – on the 18th inst arrived Minorca & anchored in Mahon – remained her [sic] 24 hours & made sail for this port where we arrived on the 31st – 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^d visited St Roake 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 murdered – the amphitheater was crowded with Ladies, who instead of being disgusted seemed more pleased than the other sex –

Your obt servt

U.S. Brig Spark
Malta Sept 29th 1820

My dear friend

We arrived here last evening on our way to Smyrna, anchored in the quarantine harbour, this morning hauled round to Port La Valetta at [blank] o'clock visited the Rochfort – Admiral Sir Graham Moor – to regulate the salute my orders were then to call on the Lieut Gov^r Sir Manley Power, who very politely assured that he would answer our salute gun for gun, made some enquiries relative to what new [sic] we had brought &c &c when I left him much pleased with the urbanity of his manners, & soldier like appearance on my return on board we saluted the government with 17 guns & the Admiral with 15 which was returned by both with equal number – I mention these particularities to you, because our regulations in the Navy are thus strict with all foreign powers – our objective in anchoring in this port was to ascertain the quarantine from Smyrna, as we intend stopping here on our return –

The Island of Malta is in the Latitude 35°-54'N Longitude 14°=29'E – the port of La Valetta has not its superior in the world, Ships of my size are moored here with perfect safety, it takes its name from the Grand Master of that name, who defended the Island with much gallantry in the 15th 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 Spark
Milo October 8th 1820

My dear friend

It gives me great pleasure to address 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 harbour

Milo lies in Latitude 36°=41'N long 24°=50'E it is one of the finest harbours in the Mediterranean, or Archipelago, very spacious & completely protected from the wind & forms one great bason 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 fatal disease 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 pinnacle of a rock, the passage to it was over precipices, hills & deep vallies –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 females as slaves

We were treated with unbounded hospitality the short time we remained – whatever house we stopped at, would soon be crowded with all the neighbors 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 assemble all the fair greeks & give us a ball, this extreme politeness however we were obliged to refuse –

Nature seemed to have been extravagant in her favors among the Greek females, who were much more beautiful than any woman I have ever seen in any country – I mean their faces particularly their forms were not so good – their complexion seems of the most delicate texture, The hair a dark chestnut very long, & most beautifully braided & interwoven in a small light turban which was placed gracefully upon the head – The eyes not the bold expressions of the Italians, nor so black - but very dark, mild & expressive beyond conception, the nose of the Grecian cast, the mouth, teeth & chin perfect in themselves the “toute ensemble” of the face was of the most heavenly cast in nature's mould – I am now not surprised that the ancients were so perfect in their statuary, if they had such models to copy from – As we passed up the steep narrow passage which led to the house of the pilot of our vessel who was our conductor - the doors, windows, balconies, & tops of the houses were thronged with these divinities – 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 Morea attacked this little town, but were beat off with considerable loss – they revenged themselves upon a French brig in the harbour by plundering & murdering the crew

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

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

Our old pilot who was father to two lovely Girls was an honest greek & seemed to be a Patriarch among the good people, he conducted us through these celebrated Islands with a skilful hand -we passed between & in sight of Crete, Naxia, Tino, Delos, Zea, Stamsphalia, Paros, Sephanto, Sapho & Scio, all famous in ancient story – the passage between Scio & the main was extremely interesting, the shores of the Island particularly so - being beautifully diversified with towns, villages, gardens & a rich cultivated country containing all the variety of fruit trees bending under their delicious burdens – this Island is famous for the morality & charity of the women –

[Transcribed by USS Constitution Museum, 2014]