

**Naval Documents  
related to the  
United States Wars  
with the Barbary Powers**

**Volume III**

**Naval Operations  
including diplomatic background  
from September 1803 through  
March 1804**

**United States  
Government Printing Office  
Washington, 1941**

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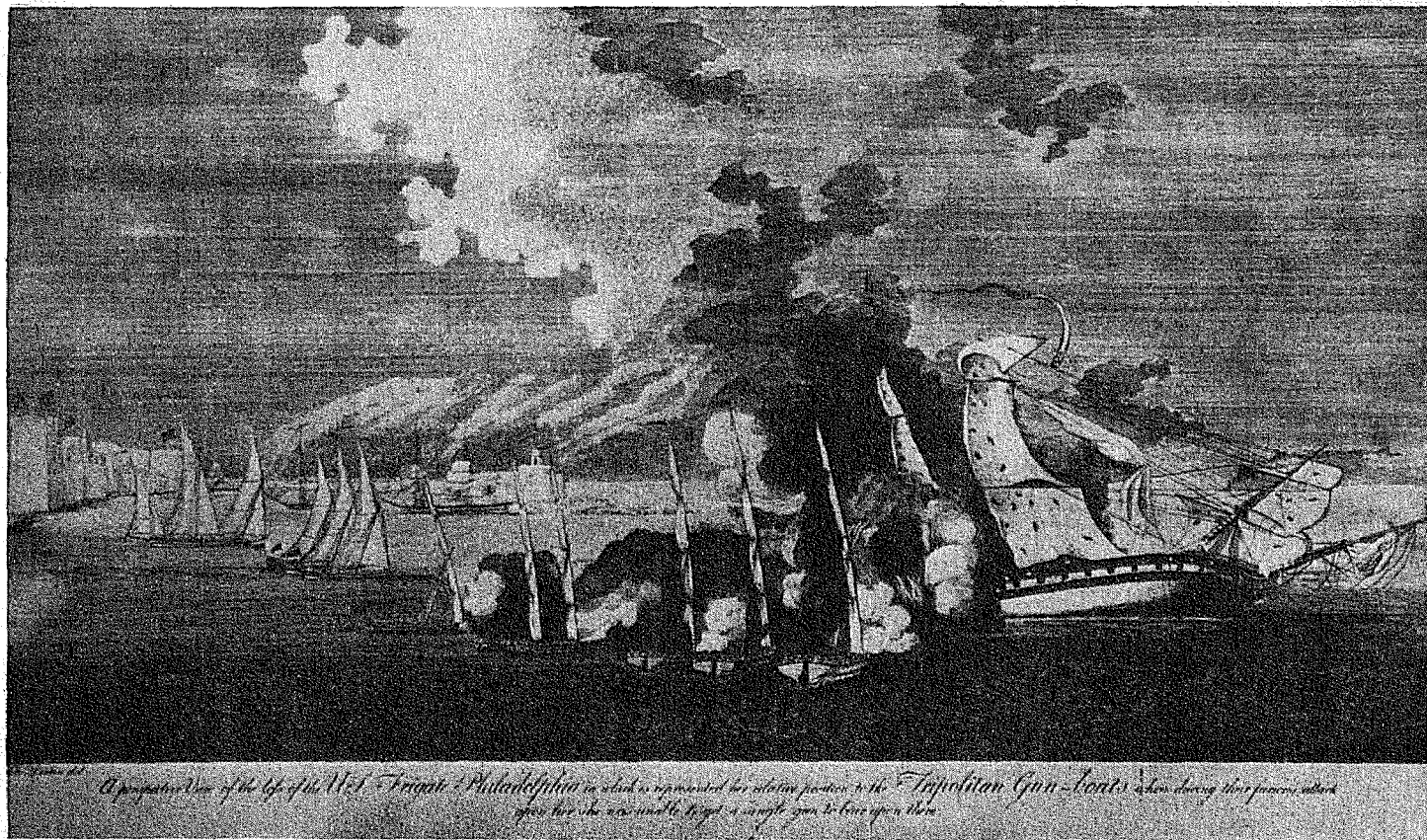




# NAVAL OPERATIONS

FROM SEPTEMBER 1803 THROUGH MARCH 1804

WARS WITH BARBARY POWERS



*A representation of the loss of the U.S. Frigate Philadelphia in which is represented her relative position to the Tripolitan Gun-Boats when during their pursuit, after  
noon here she was unable to get a single gun to bear upon them*

THE LOSS OF THE U. S. FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA.

# NAVAL DOCUMENTS

RELATED TO THE

UNITED STATES WARS  
WITH THE BARBARY POWERS

VOLUME III

## NAVAL OPERATIONS

INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC BACKGROUND  
FROM SEPTEMBER 1803 THROUGH  
MARCH 1804

PUBLISHED UNDER DIRECTION OF

*The Honorable FRANK KNOX*  
*Secretary of the Navy*

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RECORDS AND LIBRARY  
NAVY DEPARTMENT, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
CAPTAIN DUDLEY W. KNOX, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

*By Authority of Act of Congress*  
*Approved March 16, 1934*



UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1941



## PREFACE

This volume is the third of a projected series of documentary source material relating to our wars with the Barbary States (1785-1816). It covers naval operations from September 1803 through March 1804. Among the events dealt with in this volume are the declaration of war against the United States by the Emperor of Morocco and the naval demonstration before Tangier, Morocco, in conjunction with diplomatic pressure, in the hope of averting hostilities. A notable success was achieved in this very early example of American naval and diplomatic efforts working together. The Emperor was so much impressed by the naval strength concentrated within his sight that he ceased all warlike operations against our shipping and ratified and confirmed the treaty previously made in 1786. Other events also covered are the blockading of Tripoli; the grounding of the U. S. frigate *Philadelphia* and her subsequent capture by the Tripolitans; the captivity of Captain Bainbridge and the crew of the *Philadelphia*; the capture by the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* of the Tripolitan ketch *Mastico*, which was taken into the service of the United States and renamed *Intrepid*; and finally the epic boarding and burning of the *Philadelphia* by the then Lieutenant Stephen Decatur.

The first and second volumes of the Barbary Wars series, already published, dealt with such important events as: the voyage of the *George Washington* from Algiers to Constantinople under compulsion by the Dey of Algiers; the beginning of war with Tripoli; the operations of the squadrons under Commodore Richard Dale and Commodore Richard V. Morris, against Tripoli, together with details of the captures made by the vessels of those squadrons.

Included in this third volume, as also in the first two volumes of the series, are a number of diplomatic and other state papers necessary to present an adequate political and economic background to naval operations.

Throughout the work it has been the endeavor to make the text of the printed document identical with the original source. Spelling, punctuation and abbreviations are reproduced as found in the originals or in the copies on file. It should be noted that the spelling of proper names is sometimes inconsistent and that capitalization and punctuation as found in the copies on file may not always be identical with the originals.

In addition to the individuals, private organizations and government activities, mentioned in previous volumes, special acknowledgment is made to Mr. Stephen Decatur for his kindness in making available original letters written by Captain Bainbridge while in prison, and containing secret writing; and to Dr. Vernon D. Tate, National Archives, Washington, D. C., for his persistent, and remarkably successful, efforts to bring out this faded and illegible secret writing by new processes.

This volume has been prepared under the immediate supervision of Lieutenant Joe W. Boulware, U. S. Navy, and his successor, Lieutenant Commander R. S. Robertson, Jr., U. S. Navy, (ret.). The detailed preparation of the volume is largely the work of Miss Loretta I. MacCrindle. Others who have given valuable assistance are Mr. Henry F. Lunenburg, Miss Catherine M. MacDonnell, Mrs. Clara R. Collins, Miss Georgia T. Munroe, Miss Mary D. Hall and Miss Mary C. Leeman.

The publication of these documents was made possible by the Acts of Congress approved March 15, 1934, and May 25, 1939, quoted below:

*"Provided, That in addition to the appropriation herein made for the Office of Naval Records and Library, there is hereby appropriated \$10,000 to begin printing historical and naval documents, including composition, clerical copying in the Navy Department, and other preparatory work, except that the 'usual number' for congressional distribution, depository libraries, and international exchanges shall not be printed, and no copies shall be available for free issue: Provided further, That the Superintendent of Documents is hereby authorized to sell copies at the prorated cost, including composition, clerical work of copying in the Navy Department and other work preparatory to printing without reference to the provisions of section 307 of the Act approved June 30, 1932 (U. S. C., Supp. VI, title 44, sec. 72a)."*

*"For continuing the printing of historical and naval documents, including composition, clerical copying in the Navy Department, and other preparatory work, in accordance with the provisions of the appropriation made for the commencement of this work as contained in the Naval Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1935, \$12,000, together with the unexpended balance for this purpose for the fiscal year 1939: Provided, That nothing in such Act shall preclude the Public Printer from furnishing one hundred and fifty copies of each volume to the Library of Congress."*

DUDLEY W. KNOX,  
*Captain, U. S. Navy (Retired),*  
*Officer in Charge of Office of Naval Records and Library,*  
*Navy Department.*

## ILLUSTRATIONS

|  | Page         |
|--|--------------|
| The loss of the U. S. Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i> . . . . .  | Frontispiece |
| Reproduced by courtesy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt from an engraving by Charles Denoon, in his collection.  |              |
| Lieutenant Edward Preble, U. S. Navy . . . . .   | 12           |
| From a pen and ink portrait drawn by J. Trumbull (1798) in the possession of Lieutenant Commander Dundas Preble Tucker, U. S. Navy, great-great-grandson of Lieutenant Preble, and reproduced by his courtesy.   |              |
| Map of the Bay of Tangier . . . . .  | 52           |
| Reproduced by courtesy of the Library of Congress from "The Mediterranean Pilot" published by W. Heather, London, 1802.  |              |
| The U. S. Schooner <i>Enterprize</i> . . . . .   | 66           |
| From a photostat of a rare etching by Baugean, 1806, presented to the Navy Department by Mr. Charles H. Taylor.  |              |
| The capture of the U. S. Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i> . . . . .   | 168          |
| Published by courtesy of the New York Historical Society from an original drawing by Captain William Bainbridge Hoff, U. S. Navy, in its collection.   |              |
| Map of the Port of Tripoli . . . . .   | 174          |
| Reproduced through the kindness of U. S. Naval Academy Museum, from an original drawing in its collection, made by Midshipman F. Cornelius de Krafft, U. S. Navy, in 1804.   |              |
| References to ships shown in the original, other than U. S. Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i> , have been deleted in this reproduction.  |              |
| Map of Valetta harbor, Malta . . . . .   | 236          |
| Reproduced from "The Naval Chronicle" for 1811.  |              |
| The burning of the U. S. Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i> . . . . .   | 288          |
| Reproduced by the kind permission of Dr. Eugene H. Pool, from an aquatint, in his possession, engraved by F. Kearney, published by F. Kearney, 1 August, 1808. (Other sources say published by A. Maverick).   |              |
| The landing-place at Syracuse . . . . .  | 322          |
| From an etching by I. S. Stadler, after a drawing by Cooper Willyams, appearing as an illustration in "A Voyage up the Mediterranean", by the Reverend Cooper Willyams, published by I. White, London, 1801.   |              |
| The burning of the U. S. Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i> . . . . .   | 414          |
| Reproduced by courtesy of the Maine Historical Society from a colored engraving by Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de St. Memin, in its collection, probably after an oil painting, considered contemporary work by an unknown artist, in the collection of Mr. Stephen Decatur. |              |

NOT A  
RARE  
ETCHING;  
A FAIRLY  
SCARC  
LINE EN-  
GRAVING  
1817.

## ERRATA

Barbary Wars, Volume III  
On page V, "Illustrations"

1. Change page number "414" to "288".
2. Change page number "288" to "414".





## ABBREVIATIONS INDEX TO SOURCES

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| A-4                       | Archivist's symbol, Navy Department Archives.  |
| Ac 3647                   | Accession number, Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division.   |
| Acct.                     | Accountant.  |
| Aff                       | Affairs.   |
| Am                        | American.  |
| Appts                     | Appointments.  |
| Bk                        | Book.  |
| Bn <sup>1</sup> B 162 H   | "The Life and Services of Commodore William Bainbridge" by Thomas Harris.  |
| Boston PL                 | Boston Public Library, Boston, Mass.   |
| CL                        | Consular Letters, State Department Records.  |
| CMR                       | Court Martial Record.  |
| Col                       | Collection.  |
| Cong.                     | Congress.  |
| Cong. LB                  | Letter Book of letters to Congress from Secretary of the Navy, Navy Department Archives.                                       |
| Dale LB                   | Letter Book of Captain Richard Dale, U. S. Navy, from collection of Mr. E. C. Dale.  |
| Dana, H. W. L., Col.      | Collection made available by Mr. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana.  |
| Decatur, Stephen Col.     | Collection of Mr. Stephen Decatur.   |
| Dip. Cor                  | Diplomatic Correspondence, State Department Records.   |
| Disp                      | Dispatches, State Department Records.  |
| Disp. to Con              | Dispatches to Consuls, State Department Records.   |
| Doc.                      | Document, or Documents.  |
| Dom. L                    | Domestic Letters, State Department Records.  |
| EPP                       | Edward Preble Papers, Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.   |
| Fox, J., Papers           | Josiah Fox Papers, Peabody Museum.   |
| GLB                       | General Letter Book, Navy Department Archives.   |
| Hepburn, Earle, Col.      | Collection of Mr. Earle Hepburn, Philadelphia, Pa.   |
| HS of Pa                  | Historical Society of Pennsylvania.  |
| H. E. Huntington<br>L&AG. | Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, California.   |
| Inst. to Min.             | Instructions to Ministers, State Department Records.   |
| Journal 1803              | Journal of U. S. Frigate <i>John Adams</i> , written in French and translated by the Office of Naval Intelligence, July, 1939. |
| L&AG                      | Library and Art Gallery.   |
| LB                        | Letter Book.   |
| LC                        | Library of Congress.   |
| Let                       | Letters.   |
| LR                        | Letters Received, U. S. Marine Corps.  |
| LS                        | Letters Sent, U. S. Marine Corps.  |
| Maine HS                  | Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me.  |
| MCA                       | U. S. Marine Corps Archives.   |
| MC LB                     | Letters received from Master Commandants, Navy Department Archives.  |
| Misc. LB                  | Miscellaneous Letter Book, Navy Department Archives.   |
| Misc. L                   | Miscellaneous Letters, State Department Records.   |
| NA                        | The National Archives, Washington, D. C.   |
| NA. ND                    | Navy Department Records in the National Archives.  |
| NA. SDA                   | State Department Records in the National Archives.   |
| Nav                       | Naval.   |
| Naval Chronicle           | "United States Naval Chronicle," by Charles Washington Goldsborough, 1824.   |

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| ND.....                   | Navy Department.   |
| NDA.....                  | Navy Department Archives.  |
| NHF.....                  | Naval Historical Foundation, Washington, D. C.   |
| Nom.....                  | Nominations.   |
| NR&L.....                 | Office of Naval Records & Library, Navy Department,<br>Washington, D. C.               |
| NYHS.....                 | Courtesy of The New York Historical Society, New<br>York, N. Y.                        |
| Off. Comg. Gunboats...    | Letters to Officers Commanding Gunboats, Navy De-<br>partment Archives.                |
| Officers LB .....         | Officers Letter Book, Navy Department Archives.  |
| OSW.....                  | Letters to Officers of Ships of War, Navy Department<br>Archives.                      |
| PL.....                   | Public Library.  |
| Picking, S. ....          | Commander Sherwood Picking, U. S. Navy.  |
| Roosevelt, F. D., Col.... | Private Collection of President Franklin Delano<br>Roosevelt.                          |
| SDA.....                  | State Department Archives.   |
| Sec.....                  | Secretary.   |
| USMC.....                 | United States Marine Corps.  |
| USNA.....                 | United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.  |
| Wa' D 451, 14347.....     | NR&L symbol; "Capture & Destruction of the Frigate<br><i>Philadelphia</i> at Tripoli." |

# NAVAL OPERATIONS

FROM SEPTEMBER 1803 THROUGH MARCH 1804

WARS WITH BARBARY POWERS



# NAVAL OPERATIONS

FROM SEPTEMBER 1803 THROUGH MARCH 1804

## WARS WITH BARBARY POWERS

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To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Siren*  
*New Castle Sep<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1803*

SIR I have the honor to inform you that we are now ready for Sea & shall procede as soon as the severe Noath East wind that now blows, abates. I received your favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Valencin the Tripolitan applied accordingly for his passage, but as he was not ready & would not be untill he got his papers he remain's — Oweing to the bad state of health of M<sup>r</sup> Clem<sup>t</sup> Biddle & Mr Brown Midshipmen which you will perceive by the enclosed certificate of Doctor Marshall I have given them permission to remain on shore —

[NDA. Misc. LB, 1802-3-4.]

---

To Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

*Circular.*

GIBRALTAR 1<sup>st</sup> September 1803.

SIR — I have to inform you that yesterday Evening I received advice from Cap<sup>t</sup> Baimbridge of the U. S. Ship *Philadelphia* that he had taken possession of one of the Emperor of Morrocos Cruizers of 22. Guns & 100. Men off Cape de Gatt, as she [*Mirboka*] had taken the American Brig *Celia* Cap<sup>t</sup> Barns of Boston & had orders to take & send to Tangiers all American Vessels — Said Emperor has a 30 Gun Ship off Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincent & two Roe Boats with 4 Guns & 50 Men each in the Gutt, which suppose has same orders as the Ship stoped by the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* Please do the needfull with this information that your trade may not suffer —

The above Brig & Crew was also recaptured & are expected here —

---

[NOTE.—For fuller information the following letter is included herein, as well as in Volume II of "Naval Documents related to U. S. Wars with the Barbary Powers".]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul Tangier, Morocco, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

(Copy)

U. S. FRIGATE *Philad<sup>a</sup>*  
*East of Malaga a 10 Mils*  
*Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1803*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR I wrote you from Gibraltar on the 24<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> mentioning that we should sail the next Morning for Malta —

Hearing at the Rock that two Tripolitans were off Cape de Gatt made me proceed with all Expedition to Examine that part of the Spanish Coast. On the 26<sup>th</sup> blowing very fresh at 8 P. M. being nearly up with Cape de Gatt fell in with a ship carrying only her foresail & had a Brig in Company under the same sail, it being night & her Guns housed prevented an immediate discovering her to be a Cruiser, after hailing for some time found that she was a Vessel of Warr from Barbary, on which information I caused her Boat to be sent on board the frigate *Philad<sup>a</sup>* with her Pass ports — from w<sup>ch</sup> I discovered that she was a Cruiser belonging to the Emp<sup>r</sup> of Morocco Calld *Mesboha* [*Mirboka*] Commanded by Ibrahim Lubarez Mounting 22 Guns & Mand with 100 Men, by not making ourselves known to the officer who came on board he Confessed that the Brig [*Celia*] in Company was an American & had been with them 3 or 4 days, was bound to some Port in Spain, had been boarded by them, but not detaind, the low sail in w<sup>ch</sup> the Brig was under induced me to suspect that they had Captured her notwithstanding their having your Passport which must appear from the sequel was only obtaind to protect them against the American ships of Warr —

I sent my first Lieu<sup>t</sup> on board to Examin if they had any American Prisoners, on his attempting to Execute my orders, he was prevented by the Cap<sup>n</sup> of the Cruiser, this increased my suspection and I sent a Boat with armd Men to inforce my Intentions, after they were on board they found Cap<sup>n</sup> Richard Bowen of the American Brig *Celia* Ound by M<sup>r</sup> Amasas Th[a]lver of Boston and several of his Crew, who was taken the 17<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> from Barcelona — bound to Malaga within 2 or 3 Leagues of the Spanish shore, & about 25 Miles to the Eastward of Malaga, the Cap<sup>n</sup> & the Crew they had Confined below Deck which they always did when speaking a Vessel, after Making this Discovery I instantly ordered all the Moorish Officers on board the frigate, for I made no hesitation in Capturing her after such proceedings on their part and Violation of the faith of Passports which ought to be Sacred — Oweing to the high Wind and Sea it took me the greatest part of the Night to get the Prisoners on board and Man the Prize which detention Occasiond loosing sight of the Brig, the following Morning discovering many Vessels in diver directions the Day was spent by the frigate & Prize in chasing to find the Captured Brig about 4 P. M. made her coming round Cape de Gatt from the Eastward, standing close in shore for Almeria Bay, oweing to the wind being very fresh we was going slow in approaching her, all the greatest Exertions was made by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cox in Towing & Rowing the Prize, fortunately the Wind increased in the Evening and we recapturd her at 12 cClock at Night. — The Moors Confess that they came out aCruising for the sole purpose of Capturing Americans to be sent to Tanger. I have rec<sup>d</sup> a paper from them written in Moorish

w<sup>th</sup> they say is their authority from the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Tanger for so doing — I inclose this to John Gavino Esq<sup>r</sup> with a particular request to have it safely Conveyd to you that you may be informed of the Circumstance and act accordingly. I beleive the Govenour of Tanger is much disposed for Hostilities with the U. S., the Moorish Prisoners accuse him as the sole cause of their present Cituation. I sincerely hope that this Capture may be productive of good Effects to the U. S. with the Emp<sup>r</sup> who may be assured that if he injustly goes to Warr with the U. S. he will loose every large Cruiser he has, & God grant that it may not in the least prove a disadvantage to you. My Officers and self have made it a Markd point to treat the Prisoners not only with the lenity that is due from Humanity but with particular attention of Civility to impress on their mind a favourable Opinion of the American Character.

That you may receive this information as Early as possible I dispatch my Boat on shore at Malaga to request W. Kirkpatrick Esq<sup>r</sup> Consul to forward it by Express to Gib<sup>r</sup>. I shall be Extremely anxiose to hear from you, as also for the arrival of Comodor Prible to receive his Instructions relative to the Captured ship. I am bound to Gibraltar Bay with the Prize, but am fearfull we shall be detaind for want of an Easterly wind.

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

---

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 1 September 1803

At 2 P M . . . Headed for the city and made sail. The convoy astern of us followed in our course. At 3 P M one mile from the city . . . The boat went ashore. Tacked to the south to wait for the convoy. At 4.30 P M headed N E for the city. The convoy had rallied. Found three vessels in the roadstead, one Danish, one Ragusan, and the other flying no flag. At 4 P M cast anchor . . . The Lighthouse to the N W, Monjuich W N W. The most southerly point to the W . . . The entire convoy anchored in the said roadstead . . . At anchor at Barcelona.

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *New York*, Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, commanding, 1 September 1803

Off Corsica North Point. \* \* \* Once More afloat on the Ocean & bound to Gibraltar the *John Adams* sailed sometime ago with a Convoy. The *Adams* sail'd for Tunis — We shall meet at Gibraltar. This Morning we were chased by two British Frigates, hove too & spoke them the *Narcissa* & *Active*. —

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

To Secretary of State from James L. Cathcart, giving Details of Operations at Tunis, 2 to 8 September 1803

[Mr. Cathcart left Leghorn 27 August 1803, on board U. S. Frigate *Adams*.]

FRIDAY SEPT: 2ND 1803. — Anchored in Tunis bay at 6 p. m. —

SATURDAY 3<sup>d</sup>, I went on shore, At 5 A. M. and dispatched a Courier to Tunis, to inform the Bashaw of our arrival, and sent a Copy of inclosure N<sup>o</sup> 1, to Doctor Davis. I came on board at 8 A. M. While on shore the Dutch Colonel of Engineers, mentioned in my former communication, informed me, that Doctor Davis had been at the Gouletta, last Evening, when the frigate Anchored, and had told him he had seen her flag, and that she was an American. — At 2 p.m. Doctor Davis came on board and Dined with us: on our interrogating him respecting our situation with the Regency of Tunis, he answered, that perfect tranquility existed at this moment; that he had exerted himself considerably since he resided at Tunis; and that he was happy his efforts had been crowned with success. On my expressing an impatience to land as soon as possible, as Captain Campbell's instructions limited him to Four lay Days at Tunis, he answered, the Bashaw had not granted permission for our landing, and that He had come to know our business, which he would explain to his Excellency, as soon as possible, in order that the desired permission might be granted. Captain Campbell presented him with a Letter from Commodore Morris, informing him of my appointment and suspending his functions; and I informed him of the motive of my errand. He seemed considerably agitated, and went on shore at 5 p.m. In the course of conversation, Captain Campbell declared, that he had no business to transact on shore, nor had He any desire to see Tunis; and that He would consequently remain on board. Doctor Davis said, the Bashaw would be displeased if the customary visit was not paid him; that He was extremely particular in the etiquette of his Court; that the Officers of all Ships of War paid his Excellency that compliment; and that it would be expected from us; that as no difficulty existed, there was nothing to be apprehended; and that He would forfeit his Life and reputation, if any impediment was placed in the way of his departure, when ever He pleased. I joined in Doctor Davis's request, believing what He said; and Capt: Campbell acquiesced, saying if He could be of any service, He would go, though much against His will. —

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH. Captain Campbell kept a boat on shore at the Goletta nearly all day: no news whatever was sent by Doctor Davis. We consequently were not informed of the cause which prevented our landing as customary; this however, raised some unfavourable impressions, and Captain Campbell determined that if an answer did not arrive next day by Meridian, to write to Doctor Davis upon the subject, in terms expressive of his sense of the indignity offered us, and to get under way the moment his lay days expired. —

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH. The Drogoman came on board with a Note from Doctor Davis, about 10 A. M. expressing, that the Bey of Tunis offered no objection to my landing with Captain Campbell and his suite: alledged, that want of a Carriage was the cause of our detention, and that a Headache must plead an excuse for his not receiving us at the Gouletta. —

We landed and proceeded to Tunis, where we arrived at 3 p. m, and found Doctor Davis very well to all appearance. Permission was requested to visit the Bashaw, and granted; and the audience was appointed next Morning, at 7 P. M.

TUESDAY 6TH. Waited upon the Bashaw, in company with Captain Campbell, Mr Davis, and two of the Officers of the *Adams*; was received very politely and presented with Coffee. I delivered the Presidents Letters to the Bashaw, with literal translations in Italian: informed his Excellency, that I had some Verbal communications to make, when He would please to hear me; He desired me to make them to his Minister, when I pleased. Capt: Campbell having previously determined to go on board the next Morning, wished to take leave and asked if his Excellency had any commands. The Bashaw answered, None, only to wait his answer to the Presidents Letters. Captain Campbell said the period for his remaining at Tunis, expired next Day, and that He could not deviate from his instructions. I request you (replies the Bashaw), to wait Two Days longer, you shall have my Answer on Thursday morning precisely. In that case, (replied Captain Campbell, to oblige your Excellency) I will wait the time you desire. We retired and waited on the Sahibtappa (ie) Prime Minister and seal bearer; was received politely — common place conversation ensued. We drank Coffee and retired, the minister having appointed the next day, at the same Hour for the discussion of the points mentioned in the Presidents Letters to the Bashaw of Tunis. —



WEDNESDAY 7TH. Mr Davis did not arrive at the Consular House from the Country, untill 8 A. M. We waited upon the Minister at 9. He asked what language we should discourse in. I answered Italian, as I understood it best. Well then (says He), we will begin with the frigate. Have you perused the Presidents Letters? four or Five times, answered He. Then you are informed of my instructions on that head, and consequently that point needs no further discussion. What have you to offer that will be pleasing to the Bashaw? A mark of the Presidents esteem, which is calculated to perpetuate the good understanding which so happily exists between our Nations, upon a basis permanent and unequivocal. The President viewing with some regret that other Nations enjoy priviledges by Treaty with this Regency, which are refused to the Citizens of the U. S, has ordered me to offer the Bashaw of Tunis, the sum of 24,000 Milled Dollars payable every Three Years, to commence from the date of the agreement, in order to induce him to make some alterations in our Treaty, of which, that of most consequence, is to reduce the duties paid by Citizens of the U. S. to the standard of other Nations (ie) 3 p<sup>r</sup> Cent. Advalorem; for you must be sensible, that the inequality of duties militates equally against both parties, by your exacting 10 p<sup>r</sup> Cent from Citizens of the US, while other Nations pay only Three, You give them the advantage of underselling us, 7 P<sup>r</sup> Cent; consequently you exclude our Vessels from your ports, and in lieu of encreasing your Revenue, you prevent us from trading with you.

He paused a few moments, and said, He would inform the Bashaw of my proposals, and bring me his answer. —

In half an Hour the Minister returned, and declared, that his Master (the Bashaw) had ordered him to inform me, that He had not demanded an Annuity; that He had demanded a Frigate, because He knew we had given one to another of our Friends; that He did not want Cash; that Denmark, Sweden and other Nations gave him presents occasionally, of Maritime and Military Stores; that He treated all His friends alike, and hoped the President of America would do the same. And then, by way of interrogation, asked with a smile, pray what do you pay a Year to Algiers? I pleaded ignorance and the Minister continued, I likewise am ordered by my Master to inform you, that, as his policy is peace, He cannot receive you as Consul resident, in this Regency, you having been the cause of the War with Tripoli. He has wrote to the President of the United States on the Subject, and will await his answer; during which time, He desires me to inform you, that the American flag shall be treated with respect; and that He appoints Mr George Davis to remain in the same situation, that Commodore Morris left him, untill the will of the President is known. You may call for the Bashaw's Letters in the Morning, at 8 O'Clock. —

\* \* \* \* \*

The American Drogoman brough[t] a message from the Bashaw to Capt: Campbell, informing Him, that He had determined not to receive me as Consul of the United States, for reasons which He would inform the President: that His Excellency had appointed Mr Davis to remain until answers came to the Bashaws Letters, which He would be ready to deliver in the Morning. —

Mr Davis \* \* \* said He would not wonder if Captain Campbell should be detained untill Hadgi Unis ben Unis was satisfied for the claims made by the Moors for prize goods sold at Malta; and asked me whether I would assume the debt or not. I informed Him, that I conceived this affair to depend entirely upon the Commodore of the Station;

\* \* \* \* \*

Capt: Campbell informs me (for I was not in the office myself,) that Mr Davis told Him candidly, that He was apprehensive, that He would be detained untill Hadgi Unis ben Unis was satisfied. Capt: Campbell answered, He may keep me to all Eternity; but the Ship Sails to-morrow; and I will write home for government never to pay the debt; I will remain here for ever, before I suffer such indignity to be offered with impunity; \* \* \*

THURSDAY 8TH. This Morning, Captain Campbell, Mr Davis and myself proceeded towards the Palace, in order to take leave of the Bashaw; while in the carriage, I asked Doctor Davis if He had settled with Hadgi Unis ben Unis. He said He had not yet. Captain Campbell then repeated nearly what He had said in the Office, and positively assured Mr Davis, that He had already sent an order for to get the Ship under Way; and that if He was detained one moment, she should sail without him. We waited at the Palace untill the Arrival of Hadgi Unis ben Unis; was received by the Bashaw, in the Hall of Justice, drank Coffee and passed the customary compliments. Hadgi Unis ben Unis presented a very long list in

Arabic; which, He said, was the Note of the things, claimed by the Tunisian claimants, many of whom were present, Doctor Davis answered without hesitation, or asking their Value, that He would write to Malta and have all the things returned, that were not sold; and that He would pay for the rest as soon as possible; at which, the claimants seemed perfectly satisfied. During the whole transaction, Captain Campbell nor myself were not asked one question, nor did we, in the least interfere. — [Translation of list is in NDA.]

\* \* \* \* \*

We returned to the Consular House; and being determined to go on board immediately after surmounting some little difficulties placed in the way of our procuring a Vehicle &c We arrived at the Goletta about 3 o'Clock; found the Ship under sail, and the Boat waiting for us; We embarked immediately: \* \* \* [Mr. Davis] went on Shore at 6. pm. At 9½ p. m. the boat came on board, and Captain Campbell made sail, leaving the abode of happiness, without much regret. —

My reason for not suspending Mr Davis's functions while on shore was to prevent Captain Campbell from being detained; had I informed the Bashaw that any contract entered into by Mr Davis was non-valid, He having no power whatever vested in him, but positively was instructed by Commodore Morris to the contrary, the Bashaw would immediately have said, well then, We will detain the Captain, untill the claims made by the Moors are satisfied. I therefore thought it most prudent to wait untill We got on board, and then to Write to the Bashaw, in order that the U. S. may be exonerated from the Acts of this infatuated young man.

To what a degrading situation are we reduced! the Commanders of the very Squadron which is sent out to preserve the Honor of our Nation and dignity of our Flag cannot land as the Officers of all other Nations do, and depart unmolested; but have twice, in the small period of Six Months been subjected to arrest; and at this moment it would be the height of imprudence to land at Tunis, as certain arrest maybe imprisonment, would be the consequence. \* \* \*

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART

I do certify that the above detail of our operations at Tunis is a true statement of facts, which either happen'd in my presence or came immediately to my personal knowledge; except only, the purport of the audience at the Pallace on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1803 at which I was not present; and in testimony of which I have hereunto subscribed my name —

HUGH G CAMPBELL,

Commanding the United States Frigate the *Adams*

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801-1806.]

[2 September 1803]

Temporary Orders issued by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Whenever all hands are call'd for the purpose of making or taking in sail, tacking or wearing Ship &c<sup>a</sup> The Officers are immediately to repair to the following Stations, to keep Order, and to cause the Orders from the quarter deck, to be promptly and correctly executed —

Viz<sup>t</sup>

First Lieutenant to take the trumpet on the quarter deck —

Second Lieutenant to take the trumpet on the Starboard Gangway and waiste —

Third Lieutenant to take the trumpet on the Larboard Gangway and waiste —

Fourth Lieutenant on the Gun deck

M<sup>r</sup> Reed on the fore-castle

M<sup>r</sup> Deacon, fore and foretopsail Braces Starb<sup>d</sup> Side

M<sup>r</sup> Morris      D<sup>o</sup>                      D<sup>o</sup>                      D<sup>o</sup>      Larb<sup>d</sup> Side

M<sup>r</sup> Izard

M<sup>r</sup> Haswell      } Near the commanding Officer

M<sup>r</sup> Dexter to attend Signals

M<sup>r</sup> Burrows to attend, Main and Maintop sail Braces Starboard side  
 M<sup>r</sup> Baldwin — D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup> Larboard Side  
 M<sup>r</sup> Hunnewell Cross Jack braces Starb<sup>d</sup> Side  
 M<sup>r</sup> Bartell — D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup> Lar<sup>d</sup> Side  
 M<sup>r</sup> Nicholson Fore top —  
 M<sup>r</sup> Rowe Main top —  
 M<sup>r</sup> Thompson Mizen top —

Given under my hand this 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1803  
 on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution* at Sea  
 E P —

M<sup>r</sup> Hunt Gun deck Fore sheet, and main tack Starboard side  
 M<sup>r</sup> Laws — D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup> Larboard Side  
 M<sup>r</sup> Davis Main sheets Starboard side  
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E. P.

The Officer of each division is on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of each month to make a return to the Captain of the necessary clothing wanted by the men of his division in order that it may be issued on the last day of the month; as clothing will not be delivered excepting on those days —  
 First division 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant his division to consist of all the men stationed at the first Division of Guns on the lower Deck, and the fore topmen —

Second Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant his division to consist of the men stationed at the second division of Guns on the lower deck, and the Main top-men —

Third Division — 4<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant his division to consist of the men stationed at the third division of Guns on the lower Deck and the Mizen Topmen —

Fourth Division — 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant his Division to consist of all the men stationed on the upper deck, together with those stationed at the Magazine, Shot lockers; Pumps, Galley and Store rooms —

On board U S Frigate *Constitution*  
 at Sea 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803

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[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

[2 September 1803]

To the Emperor of Morocco from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

Copy —

May it Please Your Majesty —

It is with great concern I find myself constrained to address Your Majesty on matters so unpleasant as will be the chief subject of this Letter. —

When Your Majestys intimation was made to the Consuls here that the Ship *Mes[h]ouda* had become Your Majestys property, I instantly granted the usual Passport for her as such\*, and she sailed from Gibraltar in the presence of the Commodore and several Ships of War of the United States, unmolested; but having been overtaken by an American Frigate when attempting to enter the Port of Tripoly after having taken on board a variety of Articles of Warlike Stores at

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When Your Majestys intimation was made to the Consuls here that the Ship *Mes[h]ouda* had become Your Majestys property, I instantly granted the usual Passport for her as such\*, and she sailed from Gibraltar in the presence of the Commodore and several Ships of War of the United States, unmolested; but having been overtaken by an American Frigate when attempting to enter the Port of Tripoly after having taken on board a variety of Articles of Warlike Stores at

Algiers, for the avowed purpose of being carried to that Port, altho' well known to the Commander to be blockaded, it became the duty of the Captain of that Frigate to conduct the *Meshouda* to a Port for examination and she was taken to Malta. — The American Commodore instantly acquainted me of this event, saying at same time if this proved to be an Act of Raiz Omars unauthorised, the Ship should be liberated as a proof of the disposition of the American Government to gratify Your Majesty on every occasion, for had this Vessel been under any other Flag than that of your Majesty, she would perfectly consistent with the Law of Nations and invariable Custom in such cases, been instantly confiscated.

I communicate all these circumstances to Alcaide Hashash who assured me Raiz Omar had acted contrary to the Orders he gave him in Your Majestys name, which I lost no time in writing to the American Commodore, but unfortunately the want of conveyance for Malta delayed that Letter a very long time at Gibraltar, insomuch that to this day I have not got the Commodores determination. — I have however always entertained good hopes the busyness of the *Mes[h]ouda* would be amicably accommodated. —

To my very great astonishment yesterday I received information that another American Frigate had fallen in with Your Majestys Ship *Mirboka* Commanded by Raiz Lubarez to the Eastward of Malaga, having the American Brig *Celia* from Barcelona for Malaga with him as Prize, and the Master and seven Mariners on board the Ship Prisoners.

Raiz Lubarez confessed he Cruized for purpose of takeing American Vessels and gave up a paper in the Arabic Language which he said was his authority for that purpose delivered to him by Alcaide Abdashaman Hashash. —

As my Passports were applied for and granted for the *Mirboka* and all the other Vessels of War sent out from Your Majestys Ports this Summer, I could not but be very much surprised to find they were authorised to capture American Vessels, as I never had received the least information that Your Majesty had seen any cause to disturb that harmony which so happily had been restored and continued to subsist, between Your Majesty and the United States of America. — Under the mentioned circumstances it became the indispensable duty of the American Captain to retake the Brig of his Nation, and also to detain the *Mirboka* as she had been sent to Sea for the purpose of making War against America. — The Naval force of the United States at this time in these Seas is such as to afford ample protection to its Commerce and for every other purpose it can be required; yet as it has ever been my steady endeavour since I have had the honour of being placed near Your Majesty by the Government of the United States, to do every thing within the compass of my power to maintain Peace and Good Friendship between the Countries, so now I beg leave to answer Your Majesty that I am highly disposed to receive such propositions as Your Majesty may be pleased to make thro' me for a re-establishment of Peace, which I will transmit to the Commanding Officer of our Squadron in these Seas who is daily expected at Gibraltar, or send them on to America as circumstances may appear to render most proper for furtherance of the Grand object in view. —

A first and very necessary measure for this will be Your Majesty withdrawing the authority the Captains of your Cruizers have for

capturing American Vessels, when that shall be done they will no longer be in any danger from the Ships of War of the United States. —

Alcayde Hashash thought proper to confine me to his house — Your Majestys known attachment to strict Justice I am fully persuaded will induce you to order that no such insult be offered to me again.

I pray the Almighty to have Your Majesty in his good keeping and beg to assure you I am

TANGIER 2<sup>d</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1803

His Imperial Majesty MULEY SOLIMAN Ben Mohamet  
Ben Abdallah — Ben Ismall &<sup>cs</sup> &<sup>cs</sup> &<sup>cs</sup>

\*In the Arabic copy was added "but not to enter Ports blockaded".

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 2 September 1803

Standing down the Delaware

Clear & pleasant weather with light breezes from the W<sup>d</sup> at 7 A. M. set up rigging below & aloft fore & aft. At 8 A. M. sent up top Gall<sup>y</sup> yards At 9 unmoor'd & brought up on the stream anchor, at 11 sent on shore 5 water casks being more than could be stow'd. — at 2 P. M. hove short on the stream cable. At 1/2 past 3 P. M. hove up & got under way with the wind from the south<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> At 1/2 past 7 P. M. came too in 4 1/4 fathoms water, about 2 miles to the S<sup>d</sup> of Reedy Island, gave the ship about 20 fathoms Cable, ends with light breezes from the S<sup>d</sup> —

[NDA.]

Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 3. 1803 —

Agreeably to your requisition of the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo, I have this day directed you a remittance of four thousand dollars for the purpose of paying half the freight of the ship *Old Tom*, to be charged to the appropriation of "Barbary Negotiations". —

[NDA. Barbary Powers LB, 1803-1808.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 3<sup>rd</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR, Your favour of the 29<sup>th</sup> past I received on thursday at noon, with news which you will have seen by my letters to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino I [space] but certainly did not expect at that moment, for our Governour on a very recent occasion assured the Consuls thro. Sir Peter Wyk that his Imperial Majesty did not authorize his cruisers then at Sea, to capture vessels belonging to any Nation West of the Straits besides Russia & Prussia, repeatedly mentioning America as one of the nations with whom they were at Peace; this contradiction does not surprise me, as I know where I am.

At receipt of your letter I immediately waited on Alcayde Hashash and acquainted him of the capture and re capture [*Mirboka* and *Celia*] you had made, when he denied in the most positive terms Raiz

Lubarez being authorized by him or any other person to capture American Vessels. I could only insist on the advice you had given me, and he was as positive on the contrary strain. At a second interview in the early part of the evening he was Civil, the subject was again canvassed without any interesting issue; — he had called me a third time to his house at eleven at night, when I was told by his people the Governour had retired (& I did not see him) but that it was his orders I should be detained untill such time as the Frigates were released; they instantly shut the doors and there I was until yesterday morning at ten. My release was obtained by a demand made to that effect by all my Brother Consuls, but he insisted on their becoming answerable that I should not leave the country without previously obtaining his Majestys permission. God knows I had no intention of going without it — the necessary representations and complaint on this violence has been laid before his Majesty by the Consuls collectively, as well as by myself. I conclude you will have had the paper delivered to you by Raiz Lubarez, as the authority he had for capturing American Vessels translated, but the question is whether you have been able to obtain a faithfull translation of it be really what he said it is a most material paper, I beg to have a copy and translation of it by the earliest *direct* conveyance. — I have sent an express to the Emperour at [space] with my account of what has happened, whose return I may expect by this day week — At this time it is impossible for me to say by whose authority Raiz Lubarez acted in capturing the *Celia*, — by what him and his officers told you it appears likely to have come from Hashash in whom the Emperor has of late placed unbonded confidence, insomuch that we have seen acts of his of a most extraordinary nature sanctioned by his master. From whatever source the order came, I have not the smallest doubt but the object in view thereby, was to influence the restitution of that most unfortunate Vessel the *Mes[houda]* In the night of thursday a Moor had escaped from that ship at Malta arrived here, & the Governour brought him before me on Friday, when he made a declaration on subject of the ill treatment he said the crew met from Captain Rodgers, in such terms as I could not possibly believe; but at that moment it suited the Governour's purpose extremely, as well as at the conference with the Consuls in the fore noon, and I am persuaded he has painted the whole as facts, and in very lively colours to the Emperor. For this reason I must particularly request that some others of that crew be examined if possible before Hamet Bigga or some other principal Moore at Gibralter, on subject of the treatment they met with, that I may be prepared to efface from the Emperor's mind the impression this fellows story may have made with him. — In this view I beg to have in writing what those men may say, substantiated in the best manner circumstances will admit of.

You know there is an other Frigate of this country at sea, it is to be supposed her commander has similar Orders as Lubarez, but I do not know how it is possible to ascertain the fact, unless she actually makes some captures, however I doubt not but she will be looked after — it is not at all likely she is gone to the Eastward. At this time it appears impossible to say what may be the best termination to be aimed at in this most unfortunate business — some light may be thrown on it by the Emperors answer, for I have told him if he desires a restoration of Peace I will be very ready to recieve his propo-



sitions, and transmit them either to the Commanding Officer of our ships of War in these seas, or to the President, as circumstances may appear to render necessary; — adding that a primary measure must be his withdrawing the authority given his Cruisers to capture American Vessels, which alone could give them security with our ships of War. I was led to hold forth this because we have security in hand for their good behaviour. War with this Country is of all others most to be avoided, but Peace must not be bought on terms incompatible with the honor & dignity of the Nation. If Commodore Morris has reached Gibraltar I persuade myself he will in the present critical state of affairs remain untill Commodore Preble arrives, or at least untill can transmit by him to Government the Emperours answer to my dispatch of yesterday. — I must not omit expressing the very great satisfaction I felt at your handsome treatment of Raiz Lubarez and his ships Company, it does yourself honor and even with these people must impress favourable opinions of us not possible to be forgotten by all of them.

JAMES SIMPSON

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 3 September 1803

Departure from Barcelona on Saturday, 3 September 1803. At sunset signalled to the convoy to unmoor. . . Weighed anchor and set sail. The entire convoy followed. . . At sunrise. . . the convoy to leeward of us. . . At 11 A M went to rally the convoy. . .

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 3 September 1803

At ½ past 1 A. M. weighed the Larboard bower & got under way with the wind W.N.W. At 6 A. M. unbent the stream cable & got the anchor in board, Likewise stow'd the sheet & Larboard bower —

At 8 A. M. the Pilot left us the light house on Cape Henlopen bore S.W. by S. distance 2 Leagues. — People employ'd on necessary duty such, as stowing the sparrs anchors, &c. &c. —

At 12 A. M. Cape Henlopen bore W. by N ½ N distance 4 Leagues from which we shall take our Departure —

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Lat: of Cape Henlopen.....                      | 38°46' N. |
| Long: of Cape Henlopen.....                     | 75° 5' W. |
| ((NB.) These remarks include but 12 hours.....) |           |
| Lat: of Gibraltar.....                          | 36° 5' N. |
| Long: of Gibraltar.....                         | 5°16' W.  |

[NDA.]

[4 September 1803]

U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean]

THE SQUADRON OF COMMODORE EDW<sup>d</sup> PREBLE:

*Constitution* [Flagship]  
*Philadelphia*

- Siren* Brig — Built at Phil<sup>a</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1803. carrying 16 — 24<sup>lb</sup> Carronades.
- Argus* Brig — Built at Boston Aug<sup>t</sup> 1803. carrying 16 — 24<sup>lb</sup> Carronades.
- Vixen* Schooner — Built at Balt<sup>o</sup> July 1803. carrying 14: 6 Pounds.
- Nautilus* Schooner. Bought of Tenant: Balt<sup>o</sup> May 1803. 12. 6 Pounds.
- Enterprize* — Schooner. Part of Morris's Squadron — ordered to remain.

Commodore Preble in the *Constitution* arrived at Gibraltar 12 Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803, and was soon after joined there by Rodgers in the *J. Adams*, Morris, the *New York*, & Campbell The *Adams*. Morris then took the *Adams* and returned to the United States. Rodgers assumed Command of the *New York* and of Morris's Squadron, and Campbell took the *J. Adams*.

At this time The Emperor of Morocco was committing hostilities against the United States.

Rodgers and Preble having taken their measures, Sailed from Gibraltar for Tangier Oct<sup>r</sup> 6: and laying their Ships before the Town, on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1803, compelled The Emperor to sign the Treaty of 1786. The *Philadelphia* was at this time off Tripoli. — Commodore Preble then proceeded aloft where he found that the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* on 31 Oct<sup>o</sup> 1803 had been taken by the Tripolitans and moored in the Harbour. The Commodore formed a plan for burning her which was executed by L<sup>t</sup> St. Decatur J<sup>r</sup> in the Ketch *Intrepid* of 4 Guns & 70 Men on the Night of the 16 Feb<sup>r</sup> 1804. April 19 The Brig *Argus* joined Company. The Brigs & Schooners continued the Blockade while the Commodore repaired to Naples where he obtained from the King a Loan of 6 Gun Boats carrying each a 24 Pounder, & 2 Bomb-Vessels carrying each a 13 Inch Sea-Mortar. July 25<sup>th</sup> He arrived off Tripoli, his whole Force consisting of the *Constitution*, *Siren*, *Argus*, *Vixen*, *Nautilus*, *Enterprize*, (*Scourge*,) 2 Bomb-Vessels & 6 Gun Boats, cont<sup>g</sup> 1060 Men. Tripoli was protected by Batteries mounting 115 pieces of Cannon — the Harbour by 19 Gun Boats, 2 Gallies, 1 Brig of 10, & 2 Schooners of 8 guns each, moored within a long range of Rocks & Shoals which form the Harbour — The Enemy's Flotilla having advanced without the Rocks.

AUG<sup>t</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> AT 2 P M, the Signal was made for Battle. The Mortar-Boats commd<sup>d</sup> by Lt. Cmm<sup>t</sup> Dent & L<sup>t</sup> Robinson attacked the Town: The 1<sup>st</sup> Division of GBoats was commanded by M. Cmm<sup>t</sup> Somers who in N<sup>o</sup> 1, attacked & drove within the Rocks 5 of the Enemy's W. division — L<sup>t</sup> J<sup>r</sup> [James] Decatur in N<sup>o</sup> 2 carried one of the Enemy's Boats but was shot dead when taking possession of her. L<sup>t</sup> Blake in N<sup>o</sup> 3 did not go into close fight. The 2<sup>d</sup> Division was commd<sup>d</sup> by Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur who in N<sup>o</sup> 4 attacked the Enemy's E. Division, boarded & carried one which he took in tow & then boarded & carried a Second. L<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge N<sup>o</sup> 5, had early his Latteen Yard shot away w<sup>h</sup> prevented him from closing. L<sup>t</sup> Trippe in N<sup>o</sup> 6 with Mids<sup>a</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Henley and 9 Men boarded & carried 1 of the Enemy's Boats: L<sup>t</sup> Trippe rec<sup>d</sup> 11 Wounds. These Attacks were seconded by the Brigs, Schooners & by the *Constitution* which fired within 3 Cables' length of the Flotilla & Batteries which she always silenced as she c<sup>d</sup> bring her Guns to bear. The Action ceased at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 4, the Enemy



LIEUTENANT EDWARD PREBLE, U. S. NAVY.



having lost 3 Boats taken, 3 sunk; much damage done to the Town & Batteries & many men killed. — The Prize-Boats under L<sup>t</sup> Caldwell, Crane, & Thorn, being ready.

AUG<sup>t</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> ½ PAST 2 P. M. the Signal was made for Battle. The Bomb Vessels attacked the Town from a small Bay to the Westward, while the Gun Boats were to silence a 7 Gun-Battery which guarded the Approach to that position. N<sup>o</sup> 3 Com<sup>d</sup> by M<sup>t</sup> Brooks Master of the *Argus*: N<sup>o</sup> 6 by L<sup>t</sup> Wadsworth. It being a Calm, the *Constitution* c<sup>d</sup> not get into Action. At ½ past 5 the Action ceased. 48 Shells & ab<sup>t</sup> 500 24<sup>lb</sup> shot were thrown into the Town & Batteries, & the 7 Gun-Battery nearly destroyed. G Boat N<sup>o</sup> 9 was blown up by an hot shot from the Enemy, & L<sup>t</sup> Caldwell who commd<sup>d</sup> with Mids<sup>z</sup> Dorsey & 10 Men, were Killed — 2 other men were killed & 4 wounded. At 8 in the Evening, the *John Adams*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey joined Company. —

AUG<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> AT 2 A. M. Commenced Bombarding the Town & continued it till daylight

AUG<sup>t</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> AT 3 A. M. The GBoats covered by the Brigs & Schooners, attacked the Town, Shipping, Castle, & Batteries. The Mortar-Boats were not in a situation for action. At ¼ past 5 a m the Boats were towed off, & the *Constitution* which had been re-inforced by Cap<sup>t</sup> Chauncey in person, & a number of his Officers & Men, ran in within Musket-Shot of the Batteries, 2 of which with the Castle, she silenced for some time. At ¼ past 6 the Action ceased. Upwards of 700 round shot beside Grape & Cannister, were thrown into the Town & Batteries wich suffered greatly from this day's Action. N<sup>o</sup> 2 was commanded by L<sup>t</sup> Gordon & N<sup>o</sup> 5 by L<sup>t</sup> Lawrence. Our Vessels suffered in Sails & rigging.

SEPT<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> AT ½ PAST 3 P. M. The B. Vessels bombarded the Town. The GBoats drove the Enemy's Gallies & Boats under Fort English which was then attacked by the Brigs, Schooners, & 1 division of the GBoats, while the other still continued the fight with the Gallies & Boats. The Bomb-Vessels being in great danger from the Batteries, the *Constitution* ran between, brought to within grape shot, in a position where 70 guns c<sup>d</sup> bear upon her & fired 11 Broadsides into the Batteries. At ½ past 4 the Action Ceased. One of the Enemy's Batteries was silenced & the Town & Batteries much damaged. The *Constitution* & y<sup>e</sup> other Vessels suffered much in their Sails & Rigging only. B. Vessel N<sup>o</sup> 1 Commanded by L<sup>t</sup> Robinson was disabled.

A plan being laid to destroy the Town & Shipping by a Fire-Ship filled with Powder & Shells, Sep<sup>r</sup> 4, M. Comm<sup>t</sup> Somers, & L<sup>t</sup> Wadsworth & Israel with 10 Men attempted to put it in Execution, but being boarded before they had gained their point of destination, & preferring death to Slavery, they put fire to the Magazine & blew themselves & Enemies up together.

Commodore S. Barron in the *President* arrived off Tripoli 10 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1804 & the Command of the Squadron was delivered up to him with the usual Ceremonies. —

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Flagship of Commodore Edward Preble, 14 May 1803 to 9 November 1804]

The *Constitution* Frigate

Put in Commission 14: May 1803:

Recruited. 7: June —

Sailed from Boston 14: Aug<sup>t</sup> —

Arrived at Gibraltar 12: Sep<sup>t</sup> —

The Emperor of Morocco having commenced hostilities against the United States, The *Constitution* in company with the *New York & J. Adams*, came to an Anchor before Tangier, & on the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> compelled the Emperor to sign the Peace of 1786. The *Constitution* then sailed for Cadiz from whence she returned to Gibraltar Nov<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> & from thence sailed for Algiers to land Col<sup>o</sup> Lear, Consul General. Sailed thence 22<sup>d</sup>

Arrived at Malta 27: Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803. Appeared at different [times] off Tripoli & at Tunis rendezvousing at Syracuse.

Anchored in Naples Bay 15: May 1804, & procured from the King — 6 Gun & 2 Mortar Boats for an attack on Tripoli.

Sailed for Messina with an order for their delivery. Appeared off Tripoli with the squadron July 1804. Took part in the actions of Aug<sup>t</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> & Sept<sup>t</sup> 3. — Comm<sup>rs</sup> Barron having joined, Comm<sup>rs</sup> Preble gave up the Command 10 Sep<sup>t</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers in consequence of Com<sup>rs</sup> Preble's Return to the United States took Command of the *Constitution* Nov<sup>r</sup> 9. 1804.

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, commanding, 21 May 1803 to 31 October 1803]

#### The Frigate *Philadelphia*:

Put in Commission . . . . 21: May 1803.

Recruited . . . . . 19: June —

Sailed from Philadelphia 28: July —

Arrived at Gibraltar . . . . 24: Aug<sup>t</sup> — and repaired to her Station on the Coast of Tripoli early in October 1803. —

OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup> 1803 chasing a Tripolitan Vessel 4 or 5 Miles to the Eastward of Tripoli, Run on Rocks 12 feet water forward and 17 abaft. After endeavouring to get her off by every means possible and a resistance of 4 hour's duration, The *Philadelphia* struck her Flag and was taken possession of by the Gun Boats. See letter of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge on file, Tripoli, Nov<sup>r</sup> 1. 1803.

NOVEMBER 2: 1803, a strong Gale of Wind raising the waters on the Coast, The Tripolitans succeeded in getting her off the Rocks, and moored her in the Harbour of Tripoli. See Letter of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge on file, Tripoli, Nov<sup>r</sup> 6, 1803.

FEBRUARY 16: 1804, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stephen Decatur Junior in the Ketch *Intrepid* 4 Guns and 70 Men, at Night, attacked, took possession of, and set fire to, the *Philadelphia*, which in a short time, was totally consumed. The Tripolitans lost in the Attack 20 Men: Decatur had 1 Man only, slightly wounded. — The *Philadelphia* was Moored within half gunshot of the Bashaw's Castle, and the principal battery: Two of their Cruisers lay within two Cable's Length on the Starboard Quarter, and their Gun Boats within half gunshot on the Starboard Bow.

*Officers present at the Attack.*

|                                |                |               |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Stephen Decatur j <sup>r</sup> | } Commander.   | } VOLUNTEERS. |
| James Lawrence                 |                |               |
| Joseph Bainbridge              | } Lieutenants. |               |
| Jonathan Thorn                 |                |               |
| Louis Heerman                  |                |               |
| Ralph Izard                    | Surgeon.       |               |
| John Rowe                      | } Midshipmen   |               |
| Thomas Macdonough              |                |               |
| Tho <sup>s</sup> O. Anderson   |                |               |
| Charles Morris                 |                |               |
| John Davis                     |                |               |
| Alexander Laws.                |                |               |

See Decatur's Letters to Commodore Preble. Dispatches N<sup>o</sup> 8.

*Commission and Warrant Officers:—*

| Station                | Names of Officers.                          | Casualties and Remarks               |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Commdr.                | William Bainbridge esqr. ....               | Returned home in the <i>New York</i> |
| Lieuts.                | John S. H. Cox .....                        |                                      |
|                        | Jacob Jones .....                           | From the <i>N York</i>               |
|                        | Theodore Hunt .....                         |                                      |
|                        | Benjamin Smith .....                        |                                      |
|                        | David Porter .....                          |                                      |
| S <sup>r</sup> Master. | William Knight .....                        |                                      |
| Surgeon.               | John Ridgely .....                          | To the <i>Enterprise</i> .           |
| Mate                   | Jonathan Cowdery .....                      |                                      |
|                        | Nicholas Harwood .....                      |                                      |
| Purser.                | Keith Spence .....                          |                                      |
| Boatsn.                | George Hodge .....                          |                                      |
| Gunner.                | Richard Stephenson .....                    |                                      |
| Carptr.                | William Godby .....                         |                                      |
| S <sup>t</sup> Maker.  | Joseph Douglass .....                       |                                      |
|                        | James Gibbon .....                          |                                      |
|                        | Daniel Todd Patterson .....                 |                                      |
|                        | Benjamin F. Read .....                      |                                      |
|                        | Thomas Macdonough .....                     |                                      |
|                        | James Biddle .....                          |                                      |
|                        | Barnard Henry .....                         |                                      |
|                        | Wallace Wormeley .....                      |                                      |
|                        | William Cutbush .....                       |                                      |
|                        | Simon Smith .....                           |                                      |
| Midshipmen.            | Robert Gamble .....                         | From the <i>John Adams</i>           |
|                        | Richard B. Jones .....                      |                                      |
|                        | James Renshaw .....                         |                                      |
|                        | William S. Osborne 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. .... |                                      |
| M. Officer.            |   |                                      |

Peace with Tripoli being effected 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1805 — The Officers and Crew of the *Philadelphia* were liberated under its Provisions. —

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Brig *Siren*, Master Commandant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding; 6 August 1803 to 30 September 1804]

*The Brig Siren*

Launched at Philadelphia ..... 6: August 1803.

Sailed from Philadelphia ..... 27 " "

Arrived at Gibraltar ..... 1: Oct<sup>r</sup> "

Sailed about 15<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> from Gibraltar to Leghorn for Money & Presents to the Dey of Algiers.

Arrived at Syracuse from Algiers early in January 1804. — then ordered on a Cruise off Cape Bonn & Tunis, then off Tripoli.

Off Tripoli March 1804 — At Syracuse early in April 1804

Off Tripoli April. Present at the Attacks on Tripoli in Aug<sup>t</sup> & Sept<sup>r</sup>. Continued off Tripoli till 11<sup>th</sup> then rep<sup>d</sup> to Syracuse. Ordered off Tangier by Com<sup>rs</sup> Barron last of Sept<sup>r</sup>. \* \* \*

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., and Master Commandant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding; 21 August 1803 to 23 June 1805]

#### The Brig *Argus*:

|                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Launched at Boston.....           | 21: Aug <sup>t</sup> 1803. |
| Sailed from Boston.....           | 8: Sep <sup>r</sup> "      |
| Put into Newport in distress..... | 18: " "                    |
| Sailed from Newport.....          | 28: " "                    |
| Arrived at Gibraltar.....         | 1: Nov <sup>r</sup> "      |

Sailed Beginning of Dec<sup>r</sup> from Gibraltar to Marseilles and Leghorn with convoy. —

Returned to Gibraltar 4 January 1804, & employed in watching the movements of the Emperor of Morocco and in Cruising along the Coast of Spain.

Convoyed up the Provision Ship *Woodrop Sims* & at Syracuse early in April — 19<sup>th</sup> Repaired off Tripoli in Company with the *Vixen*. Tunis Bay 20<sup>th</sup> June. Latter part of June off Tripoli. —

Present at the Attacks on Tripoli Aug<sup>t</sup> & Sept<sup>r</sup>. Convoyed Gunboats to Messina ab<sup>t</sup> 15 Sept<sup>r</sup> — Off Tripoli 1 Oct<sup>o</sup> Ret<sup>d</sup> to Syracuse. Off Tripoli 1 Nov<sup>r</sup> Ab<sup>t</sup> 16 Nov<sup>r</sup> sailed for Alexandria in Egypt with M<sup>r</sup> Eaton. Arrived 26: — Left Alex<sup>a</sup> 19 Feb<sup>r</sup> 1805 & ret<sup>d</sup> to Malta or Syracuse. Sailed again with the provision Vessel the Sloop *Hornet* to Bomba with the ExBashaw's Secretary on board, 26 March 1805 — Off Derne Head 3 Ap<sup>r</sup> and off the coast in company with the *Hornet* Cutter L<sup>t</sup> Evans. & *Nautilus* L<sup>t</sup> Dent to 27<sup>th</sup> — April 28<sup>th</sup> with the above named Vessels came to ½ mile from the Batteries of Derne, & attacked them by Sea while Gen<sup>l</sup> Eaton with L<sup>t</sup> OBannon, & the ExBashaws Army and a few American Marines assaulted it by Land. The Action began at 2 P. M. and ended at 5, at which time OBannon and his party took possession of the Batteries. June 12. joined by the *F. Constellation*. Left Derne 13<sup>th</sup> — arrived in Syracuse Harbour 23<sup>d</sup> June.

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, Master Commandant John Smith, U. S. Navy commanding; 25 June 1803 to 22 May 1805]

#### The Schooner *Vixen*:

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Launched at Baltimore..... | 25 <sup>th</sup> June 1803. |
| Sailed from Baltimore..... | 3: Aug <sup>t</sup>         |
| " " Capes.....             | 11. "                       |
| Arrived at Gibraltar.....  | 14: Sep <sup>r</sup>        |

Repaired off Tripoli early in Oct<sup>r</sup> in Company with the *Philadelphia* and in the latter part of Oct<sup>r</sup> was dispatched by Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge on a Cruise off Cape Bonn. —

Dispatched Beg<sup>g</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> to Gibraltar with Bainbridge's dispatches giving account of Loss of his Ship. Returned to Syracuse middle of Dec<sup>r</sup> —

Beg<sup>g</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1804 — Ord<sup>d</sup> to Tunis Bay & to Algiers. At Malta from Algiers 1<sup>st</sup> April. Ord<sup>d</sup> off Tripoli with the *Argus* 19<sup>th</sup> —

Present in the attacks on Tripoli in August & Sept<sup>r</sup>. Returned to port ab<sup>t</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> — Off Tripoli 1 Oct<sup>r</sup>. Returned to Syracuse. Off



Tripoli 27 Nov<sup>r</sup> Betwixt the Islands & Barbary Shore 9 March 1805. Arrived at Malta 21 April. Syracuse 23<sup>d</sup> Sailed May 11<sup>th</sup> Tunis Bay May 22<sup>d</sup> — One of Com. Rodgers's Squadron from this date.

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding; 5 May 1803 to 31 May 1805]

The Schooner *Nautilus*:

Purchased of M<sup>r</sup> Tenant of Baltimore.

Put in Commission..... 5: May. 1803.

Sailed from Baltimore..... 24: June “

“ “ Capes..... 30: “ “

Arrived at Gibraltar..... 27: July “

Beg<sup>t</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> sailed with the *Constitution* to Algiers and then off Tripoli. Beg<sup>t</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1804 in Tunis Bay — then to Syracuse. —

Middle of March off Tripoli. Latter part of April at Messina repairing: until July 5<sup>th</sup>, then Repaired off Tripoli in company with the *Constitution*. Present at the Attacks on Tripoli in August and Sept<sup>r</sup> Syracuse 11 Sep<sup>r</sup> Off Tripoli 28: Off Tripoli 24 Oct<sup>r</sup> with *Constellation* in Vicinity of Tunis Bay 9 March (1805) in Company with the *Constellation*. Returned 26 March. M. Cmd<sup>r</sup> Dent took command Sep<sup>r</sup> 16. 1804. — Malta March 27. 1805. Syracuse Ap<sup>l</sup> 1. Sailed Ap<sup>l</sup> 8. Malta 10. Sailed 18. Bomba Ap<sup>l</sup> 25. Off Derne 27. One of the Vessels that attacked Derne on 28. Off Derne & the Coast until May 13<sup>th</sup> then engaged in covering Hamet's Army while in Action Off Malta 25. Tripoli 31. —

[Résumé, presumably prepared in Navy Department about 1806 or 1807, concerning the U. S. Brig *Scourge*, April 1804 to 11 February 1805]

The Brig *Scourge*:

This Vessel was present at the several Attacks of the 3<sup>d</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> of August, & 3<sup>d</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1804, made by Commodore Preble on the Town, Shipping and Batteries of Tripoli, being Commanded by Lieut<sup>t</sup> Wadsworth and Izard. —

The above statement is incorrect. — The *Scourge* was not present in the attacks but assisted the *Boats* of the Squadron & was Commanded by M<sup>r</sup> Rowe. — The other officers were employed in other vessels of the Squadron —

Left the Coast of Tripoli under command of L<sup>t</sup> Izard 4 Sep<sup>r</sup> 1804, Arrived at Syracuse 10<sup>th</sup> — Left Syracuse 17 Nov<sup>r</sup> Arrived at Messina 19<sup>th</sup> Left Messina 22<sup>d</sup> — Arrived at Palermo 27<sup>th</sup> — Left Palermo 29<sup>th</sup> — Arrived at Norfolk V<sup>s</sup> 11 Feb<sup>r</sup> 1805, was dismantled & placed under charge of the Boatswain and 3 or 4 Seamen. —

The *Scourge* a Tripolitan Vessel [the *Transfer*] of 16: 6 Pounders, Captured by M. Cmd<sup>r</sup> Charles Stewart of the *Siren* under the Guns of the Castle of Tripoli: Valued by three Gentlemen at 5,000\$: taken into the Service of the United States and Officered by Commodore Preble from the Officers of his Squadron April 1804.

## Commission and Warrant Officers. —

| Station                     | Names.                            | From what Vessel —  | Casualties and Remarks  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Commr                       | John H. Dent Esqr. ....           | <i>Constitution</i> | To the <i>Nautilus</i> . —<br><br>Killed Sept 4, 1804 with Somers<br>Aug. 8 to <i>Argus</i> as Lieutenant.<br>Promoted to Command to<br>bring her [ <i>Scourge</i> ] home |
| "                           | Ralph Izard. ....                 | do. ....            |   |
| Master                      | Henry Wadsworth. ....             | do. ....            |   |
|                             | Charles Morris. ....              | do. ....            |   |
|                             | Ralph Izard. ....                 | do. ....            |   |
| Lieut.                      | G <sup>r</sup> A. Marcellin. .... | do. ....            |   |
|                             | J. M. Haswell. ....               | do. ....            |   |
| S <sup>r</sup> Master. .... | Seth Cartee. ....                 | <i>Enterprise</i>   |   |
| Surgeon                     | Thomas Marshall. ....             |                     |   |
|                             | Patrick Sim. ....                 |                     |   |
|                             | John Rowe. ....                   | <i>Constitution</i> |   |
|                             | John Davis. ....                  | do. ....            |   |
|                             | George S. Hackley. ....           | <i>J. Adams</i> . — |   |

[NDA. Ships' Service, 1801-1809.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES Ship *Constitution* 4<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803*Cape St Vincent bearing N. b. E 6 Leagues distant* —

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that the *Constitution* is thus far on her passage, we are now in sight of the land, and I hope by the day after tomorrow to Anchor in Gibraltar Bay— I detain the Brig *Jack* of Cape Ann, Captain Haskell a few moments to give you this information — Cap<sup>t</sup> H. informs me, that the *Philadelphia* left Gibraltar 10 days since, in pursuit of two, three masted Tripolitan's, which had touch'd at Algiers — but were cruising off Allicant, when Cap<sup>t</sup> B went in pursuit, I hope he will be fortunate enough to fall in with them. The length of our passage has been owing to light and unfavorable winds the whole of the Ships Company are in health and the Officers have given me satisfaction

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, from Sunday, 4 to Monday, 5 September 1803

Afternoon . . . five convoyed vessels. At 4 PM signalled to rally. Fired a shot. At sunset observed Cape Salou to the N W, Point [word illegible] to the west . . . under way . . . At sunrise . . . the convoy astern of us. At 8 A M fired a shot at a vessel of the convoy which was proceeding ahead . . . standing on to the west . . .

Latitude observed 40° 17' N.

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

To Captain Billups, Master of the American Ship *Traveller*, from Secretary of the NavyNAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 5. 1803

As soon as you are prepared for sea you will weigh anchor and proceed to Gibraltar and there deposit agreeable to bill of lading the public property committed to your care with John Gavino Esq<sup>r</sup> the American Consul to whom you will also deliver the accompanying letter — Should you meet on your passage any of the Public Ships

in want of Provisions you will supply them therewith taking the captains duplicate receipt therefor one of which you will transmit to this Department the other you will present to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino who thereupon will duly consider such supply in the Bill of lading and no interruption with respect to the settlement of freight will be experienced

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Captain Thomas Tingey, Superintendent, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> *Septem 5. 1803*

One hundred Gun Carriages are to be sent as soon as possible to the Emperor of Morocco — You will therefore caused to be repaired in the completest manner and with the utmost dispatch 100 of the Gun Carriages of the navy with suitable coins & handspikes — The wooden axeltrees must be taken out and Iron axeltrees substituted in their place. These must be not of wrought but of Cast Iron, and you will contract with M<sup>r</sup> Foxall for the casting of them. If the present wheels should not suit the Iron axel trees new wheels must be made, and in such case the wheels must be made somewhat larger. — But upon the proper size of such enlarged wheels you will communicate with the Secretary at War who will cheerfully afford you any counsel you may need — In selecting the 100 Carriages to be repaired for this object let there be a due proportion of the largest we have in the navy yard from 12 pounders upwards — the greatest exertions must be made to accomplish this business soon all other engagements must yield to this — as soon as you shall form an opinion of the time when this business can to a certainty be executed you will inform me. It is important that I be possessed of information upon this subject so precise, that absolute reliance may be placed on it.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco  
N<sup>o</sup> 62. — Triplicate. — TANGIER *5<sup>th</sup> September 1803*

SIR I had the honour of addressing to you N<sup>o</sup> 61 on the 15<sup>th</sup> last Month in triplicate by the way of Lisbon & Gibraltar. —

It was extremely distressing to me to find by advice from Captain Bainbridge of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* dated off Malaga 29<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> that the suspicions I had entertained of hostile intentions on the part of this Country against our Flag, appear to have been but too well founded, altho' they were on such slight grounds as justified no more than my recommending measures of precaution. —

At receipt of Captain Bainbridges Letter thursday last I went to Alcaide Hashash who denied in the most positive terms either having given Raiz Lubarez authority, or that he knew of such coming from any other quarter for his capturing American Vessels: this assurance he extended to all His Majestys Cruizers, but I confess I cannot have full reliance on all that Man says, as by subterfuge it is not uncommon with him to evade declaring facts. — I was with him a second time same Evening on the busyness, without any Interesting or decisive issue, his complaints on detention of the *Mesouda* were unceasing at both interviews. —

At eleven at night he again sent and desired to see me at his House, as it is no uncommon thing to do busyness with Ministers and sometimes with Governours even at that hour in this Country I readily went, when to my great astonishment the doors were immediately shut, and I was informed by a relation of the Governours that it was his Orders I should be detained — he was gone to Bed and I did not see him so there was no remedy but submit to that gross insult, which none but a person of his rude manners would have been guilty of. — The only answer I received to the messages I sent was that I must remain untill both the Frigates should be set at liberty. — I will not detain you at present farther on this subject, than to say I remained in the same situation untill Friday at ten O'Clock, when my Brother Consuls came in a Body to demand my enlargement, on the principle of the person of a Consul in this Country as representative of his Nation being exempt from all Arrest.

The Governour at last consented to release me, on condition that they became Security I did not quit the Country without the Emperours permission. — A complaint has been made to His Majesty by the Consuls collectively, on the occasion besides what I have mentioned to him on the subject. —

With this you will find copy of a Letter I dispatched on Saturday for the Emperour at Fez, untill we receive his answer I do not see that any thing can be determined upon with respect to the *Mirboha*. — I have in the mean time written Captain Bainbridge fully on the busyness, and pointed out to him what steps in my oppinion are best to be taken to ascertain unequivocally the fact whether the Commander was authorised or not to Capture American Vessels, which is the grand point essential to be known. —

From the sense I have always in view of the great utility of an uninterrupted Peace with this Country, I was induced to say to the Emperour I was ready to receive such propositions as he might be pleased to make for an accommodation, holding forth as an encouragement security to his Cruizers on his withdrawing the orders for takeing American Vessels. —

To take upon me this measure (which I hope will meet approbation) I had strong inducements, the first that Commerce might not meet interruption or be burthen'd with heavy Insurance beyond the actual Risque, the next to bring on a Negotiation with security in our hands for their good behaviour in the course of which we may be able to obtain a farther Ratification of the existing Treaty, and lastly because if an open Rupture takes place it will be a most tedious and expensive busyness to make a new Treaty and very doubtfull if will be obtained on such good terms as the present. —

The first of next Moon is the time now fixed upon for the Emperour setting out on his tour to Tetuan and Tangier — I should not be surprised if this affair brings him sooner. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, 1803-1810.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from William Court & Co., Mogador

MOGADORE 5<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, As several American Vessels may be expected here shortly, it would probably prevent their entering this port if a Sloop of War could run down and cruise off this Port for 20 or 30 days, standing

off and on, and keeping the Land in sight during the day — We don't know how affairs stand, or if they are likely to be arranged — We have no news from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson — The American Brig *Hannah* Captain Williams of Salem is detained. The Cap<sup>t</sup> & Crew are in liberty on shore; the whole of his cargo deposited in the King's wareh<sup>se</sup> but under our Locks —

[See letter to Captain Preble from John Gavino, 20 September 1803.]

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 5 September 1803

Saw Cape St. Vincent.

[LC, original.]

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, from Monday, 5 to Tuesday, 6 September 1803

Afternoon . . . Heading WSW . . . The small boat went alongside the *Mesaouda* [*Meshouda*]. The convoy astern of us. At sunset hoisted in the small boat. Sighted Colibre to the west distance about 10 miles [?] . . . all the convoy astern of us. Heading for Cape San Martin . . . At sunrise sighted several vessels to the south of us. Sighted the island of Iviza to the SSE . . . At 8 A M sighted a frigate to the south heading west. At 10 A M bore down on Cape San Martin about 15 miles distant. Sighted a very white square rigged vessel [?] . . . Cape San Martin to the NNW. At noon . . . the convoy astern. Heading SW. Cape San Martin to the NE. . . Cape Benidorm west distance 3 or 4 leagues.

Latitude observed 38°38' N.

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*

NANTASKET ROADS Sept<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR I have the honor to inform you I am at last in a preparation for sea, at the time I informed you I would sail in ten days, I had not discovered that the Commodore had contracted with the riggers & other workmen that they should have fourteen days after launching to compleat their work in, I have found it impossible to urge them to finish their work before the time they contracted for, I dropt down yesterday with an intention to proceede to sea but the wind failing was compelled to come to an anchor, & am now waiting for a wind — Agreeable to your directions I have the honor to inclose you William Moshier's warrant, also a letter to D<sup>r</sup> Bullas incloseing an invoice of Medicines received, which he requested me to inclose to you; we are now compleating our muster roll which shall be forwarded as soon as compleated, —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Sir Thomas Trigge, Lieutenant Governor of Gibraltar

(Copy)

HEAD QUARTERS Gibraltar 6<sup>th</sup> Septemb<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR In Consequence of your wish that the *Mishoba* [*Mirboka*] Prize to the *Philadelphia* should be admitted to Prattick, I have to acquaint

you that I am ready to order her to be admitted on your assuring me that it is not intended to Sell, or in any manner to dispose of the ship or any part of her stores in this Port —

I also hope that she may not long remain in this Port as it will tend to embroil us with the Emp<sup>r</sup> of Morrocco; the Mischivious consequences of which you are well acquainted with —

[SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. II, April 1796–Nov. 1804.]

To Sir Thomas Trigge, Lieutenant Governor of Gibraltar, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

(Copy)

GIBRALTAR 6<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I have the honor of owning Rec<sup>d</sup> of your Ex<sup>cy</sup>s Letter of this date on the subject of my request in admitting the Ship *Marboha* (Detaind by the U. S. Ship *Philad<sup>a</sup>* W<sup>m</sup> Baimbridge Esq<sup>r</sup> Comm<sup>r</sup>) to Prattick which observe y<sup>r</sup> Exc<sup>y</sup> is ready to grant on my assurance that neither the ship or stores will be sold in this Port, and altho I am Convinced that neither will be the case yet I cannot take upon myself to enter into stipulations of the kind, particularly as Cap<sup>n</sup> Baimbridge will soon be in, and Comodor Prible every moment Expected from America, also Comodor Morris from Malta, who I am fully persuaded will act in every respect so as to prevent any Embroils, and at same time keep up the good Harmony which subsists between His Maj<sup>ty</sup> the King of the United Kingdoms and the Government of the U. S. of America, in the inter[im] I still hope your Ex<sup>ty</sup> will be pleased to Direct the *Marboha* being admitted to Prattick. —

[SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. II, April 1796–Nov. 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 6 September 1803

Light breezes and hazy Weather — Bent Cables — at ½ past 2 P.M. saw the land about Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincents, at sun set Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincents bore NbW dis<sup>t</sup> 6 or 7 Leagues — Several Vessels in sight the wind too light to speak them — at noon Cape S<sup>t</sup> Maries bore EbS by Compass 6 Leagues dis<sup>t</sup> and Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincents WNW 10 Leagues — Several Vessels and fishing boats in Sight —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, from Tuesday, 6 to Wednesday, 7 September 1803

. . . The convoy astern of us. Sighted a frigate to the south of us. Made the distinguishing signal. Answered. Unable to recognize . . . At 3 P M sighted the Citadel of Alicante to the west distance about 15 miles. Lay to in order to wait for the convoy . . . The convoy went ahead, one convoyed vessel remaining astern. Fired two shots. She came at once. At 5 P M cast anchor in the roadstead of Alicante . . . The boat then left for the shore to arrange for entry and notify the convoyed vessels. The Citadel of Alicante to the north distance one mile. The island of St. Paul [Santa Pola?] to the SW distance about 15 miles. Found several vessels, mostly Swedish . . . The point east of Alicante to the east.

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

To Secretary of State from William Willis, U. S. Consul, Barcelona, Spain

BARCELONA September 7<sup>th</sup> 1803

RESPECTED SIR

\* \* \* \* \*

Captain Ro[d]gers of the United States frigate *John Adams* Sailed from this place four days ago for the Strieghts with Six Sail of American Merchant Vessells and the next day a large frigate pass'd in Sight of this Port Suppos'd to be the Commodore Morris and Yesterday the *Nautilus* Schooner pass'd here in Search of Captain Rogers: Captain Rogers had with him the Tripoline Ship *Meshouda* that had been so long Blockaded in Gibralter.

• • • • •

[NA. SDA. CL, Barcelona, Vol. 1, 1797-1809.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

On Board the U STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

at Sea, near the COAST OF SPAIN, between

*Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincents & Cape S<sup>t</sup> Mary's* September 7<sup>th</sup> 1803 —

SIR, Agreeably to your request that I would go on board the Moorish Ship, now laying near us, to examine the passport and signature of James Simpson Esq<sup>r</sup>, the United States Consul at Tangier, with whose hand writing I am acquainted, I have the honor to inform you, that I accordingly repaired on board said Ship, where the Captain shewed me the Passport of M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, dated at Tangier, the twenty third of July 1803, addressed to the Commanders of All United States Armed Vessels; stating that the Ship *Maimona*, belonging to the Emperor of Morocco, mounting 30 Guns, and carrying 150 men, Commanded by Hadge Tacher Aumed [?], was bound on a cruize, and request<sup>d</sup> all Commanders of United States Armed Vessels to treat him as a friendly Vessel, he conducting himself accordingly. —

The Consular Seal was affixed to said Passport, the impression made on Wax, very clear & fair.

The said Captain Also shewed me the top of a Parchment Passport, with a certificate thereon, signed J. Simpson, stating that it was the true top of an American Passport. — From the Knowledge I have of M<sup>r</sup> Simpson's signature, having often seen it in the Office of the Secretary of State, I really beleive these signatures to be genuine. The number of Guns & men appeared to correspond with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson's Passport.

The Captain informed me, through an Interpreter, that he had been from Sallee 23 days — that he was bound to Lisbon, on business for his King, and that the Emperor of Morocco was at present at peace with all nations. —

I demanded a sight of his Commission from the Emperor of Morocco; in consequence of which, he shewed me a paper written in Arabic, with a Seal made with an impression from ink, which he said was his Commission, & the royal seal; but as there was no one who could translate the Arabic, I was obliged to be satisfied with his own declaration on this point.

The Ship appeared to be quite new, was clean and in good order about the Hull; but appeared to be very deficient & slovenly in her sails & rigging. She mounted 22 six pounders on her Gun deck & eight four pounders on her quarter deck

The reason which the Captain gave for having been so long from Sallee was, that he had met with contrary winds, which obliged him to put back several times.

Upon the whole, his Passports appear so clear & correct that, according to our Treaty with the Emperor of Morocco, I should not conceive it adviseable to Detain the Ship, or give her any undue molestation.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 7 September 1803

Boarded the Moorish frigate *Maimona* of 30 guns from Sallee bound to Lisbon, Cape S. Maria in sight.

[LC, original.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 7 September 1803

Light airs and Variable. three strange sail in sight to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> one of which a Frigate under french Colours/ at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 P. m. Tack<sup>d</sup> to the North<sup>d</sup> and cleard ship for action/ The Sail i mentioned at noon standing towards us hoisted Red colours/ at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 shortned sail and Boarded her/ a frigate belonging to the Emperor of Morocco Mounting 30 Guns and carry<sup>e</sup> 150 Men. Capt<sup>n</sup> Hadge Tacker arrived, 23 days from Sallee on a Cruise with the American Mediteranean pass Top, and Consular pasport dated at Tanger 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1803, and Signed by James Simpson with the Consular Seal — Shee was examined By the Boarding officer. after this By Col<sup>o</sup> Lear, who is a passenger on Board of the *Constitution*/ as Counsil general to the Barbary powers/ at 8 in the Evening fier'd a Gun at a Brig in shore/ which we boarded Shee was a Spanish Brig from Malaga bound to le Vowe [?]/ the wind was light all the afternoon and at sundown/ the Eastern part of Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincent Bore NW b W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W 7 leagues Latitude ob<sup>d</sup>, 36. 03 N<sup>o</sup>

[NA. ND original.]

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To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy

At Sea off BOSTON LIGHT  
U. S. BRIG *Argus* Sept<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, I had the honor of addressing you the fifth stateing my readiness for sea, on the evening of that day a gale commenced from the Eastward which continued untill this morning, when the wind shifted & we got underway, — I feel pleasure at having it in my power to inform you the *Argus* sails well — I have forwarded to the office a compleat muster roll of the Crew of the *Argus* —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

[8 September 1803]

To the Bey of Tunis from James Leander Cathcart, appointed U. S. Consul, Tunis

James Leander Cathcart Consul for the United States of America in the Regency of Tunis unto his Excellency Hamuda Bashaw, Bey of Tunis —



Health Peace & Prosperity

Whereas Doctor George Davis the person who now is appointed by Your Excellency to remain in the American Consular house at Tunis was merely appointed by Comodore Morris to sign Passports of the Vessels belonging to the Regency of Tunis & to perform the functions of the Consulate until the will of the President of the United States was known relative to the appointment of a Consul, And whereas said Comodore Morris has suspended the functions of said George Davis, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the United States of America their Agents & Officers consider themselves by no means bound to fulfill any contract publick or private made by said George Davis & conceive themselves exonerated from the payment of all debts that he has or may contract, until the will of the President of the U S of America is known.

In testimony of which I have hereunto subscribed my name & affix'd the Consular Seal of the United States of America

Done onboard the United States Frigate *Adams* Tunis Bay this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord 1803 —

JAMES LEA<sup>r</sup> CATHCART

[Boston PL. NDA photostat.] \_\_\_\_\_

[9 September 1803]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from the Emperor of Morocco

Translation of Letter from His Imperial Majesty—Muley Soliman.

Praise be given to God alone. —

There is no Power or Strength but that proceeding from the Great and Almighty God. —

Imperial  
Seal

To Our Servant James Simpson the American Consul — Health. —

We have recieved your Letter and understood its Contents respecting what has happened with Raiz Ibrahim Lubarez and your Frigate. —

So soon as this Our order shall reach you, send for the said Lubarez that he may bring those papers which you suppose he had in his possession and let the Captain of your Frigate come also to Tangier and there we will examine and see those papers, and what has happened will then be seen in its true light. —

With regard to any offence being given you, there is no cause for it; for in truth you enjoy Our Friendship and are under Our protection therefore nothing disagreeable shall happen to you. —

What has happened at Sea must be considered and enquired into, and when the truth shall be made manifest affairs shall go in their proper Channel. —

Nothing more can be said untill they come to the Port of Tangier. —

Dated 21<sup>st</sup> Chemadi (the first) 1218 (Corresponding to the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1803. —

Original of the foregoing was translated from the Arabic to Spanish by D<sup>r</sup> Manuel de Baccas, and from Spanish to English by

JAMES SIMPSON  
TANGIER 14<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding

*Friday, 9 September 1803*

Departure from Alicante on Friday, 9 September. At noon signalled to the convoy to unmoor . . . At 1 P M weighed anchor and got under sail . . . the convoy unmoored, composed of five vessels. At 2 P M headed for Cape Palos . . . At 6 P M Cape Palos to the S W, Cape Santa Pola to the N E. The entire convoy rejoined . . . At sunrise saw two convoyed vessels astern . . . At 8 A M sighted two brigs heading east. When close to us they hoisted the Swedish flag and continued on their course. At 11 A M sighted Cape del Gate to the west distance about 25 miles . . . At noon abeam of Cape del Gate to the NE distance about 15 miles.

Latitude observed 36°36' N.

*From Saturday, 10 to Sunday, 11 September 1803*

Afternoon . . . the convoy rejoined us . . . At sunset heading WNW . . . At sunrise . . . the convoy astern of us, only 4 vessels. At 8 A M sighted the city of Malaga to the NE distance 18 miles . . . heading for Malaga . . . At 10 A M sighted the city of Malaga ahead of us and two frigates moored in the roadstead . . . the city to the NW of us distance about 12 miles. Malaga to the NW distance 10 miles. on Sunday, 11 at 3 P M we anchored in the roadstead of Malaga . . . The city of Malaga to the NW distance about 2 miles. Found the Commodore and the schooner [*Enterprize*].

Latitude observed 36°37' N.

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

[11 September 1803]

To all the Consuls resident at Tangier, Morocco, from the Emperor of Morocco

In the name of the Most Merciful God. —

There is no Power or Strength but in the Most High and Great God. —

Imperial  
Seal.

To all the Consuls Resident at Tangier — Health. —

Your Letter has reached Our presence exalted by God, in which you represent to us the Act of Our Servant Hashash in Arresting the American Consul when he received advice of the taking Our Ship the fighter for the Islam. — We neither ordered nor will we Order the Consul to be Arrested, should War ensue between Us and his Nation he shall be sent to his Country in Security both with respect to his person and property. — In truth what has happened with our Ship, perhaps it may have been occasioned by our Servant Ashash having sent a Tripoline Ship was under his direction with our Flag, after having taken all your Signatures and that of the American also, and they have acted unjustly and taken that Vessel when under our Flag without any War being between Us and them; — for this reason perhaps Our said Servant may have ordered the Arraez to take some Vessel of theirs to detain her untill the Tripoline should be restored, — but that War should happen without Our order certainly that cannot be. — And now let the American send for Our Ship that she

may be brought to Tangier with his Ship and we will see that affair from its beginning, — if he will do that which is just and right in this, he will obey it and execute it, then we will continue as we have been in Peace and Friendship. — And if he will have War it shall be so and we will send the Consul to his Country.

In God alone is aid and in him we have put our trust. —

Written 25<sup>th</sup> Chemadi the first 1218 corresponding to the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1803. —

A Faithful copy of the translation in possession of the Consuls. —  
TANGIER 26<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1803. —

JAMES SIMPSON

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, 1803–1810.]

To William Jonas Keen from Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Nautilus*  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 1803 *Malaga Roads Sunday*

DEAR BROTHER I arrived here from up aloft on the Ninth. I write you this to [be] prepared against an opportunity may offer of sending it to you. I will give you a small description of my travels since my arrival in the Straits

I left Gibraltar after laying forty eight hours. Got my provisions and water in. Made sail with a head wind and it so continued 17 days out of twenty to which time I arrived at Malta. I chased every thing that had appearance of Tripolitan. I found none of our ships at Malta and but little information could I get of them only that they had sail[ed] about forty days before. From thence I proceed'd to Tripoli, saw none of our ships there — and but only two small Tripolitan boats close in. I went close in to the Batteries & fired a shot at them. I hove to for a short time, but I saw no Gunboats make any appearance. I then boar away for Malta again. The batteries at Tripoli are much improved — by their appearance they might mount 300 pieces of Cannon, if they had them. On my return to Malta I found that the *Enterprise* had been there the day before in pursuit[?] of men; by Commodore Morris' orders. I found that the Squadron had all been together at Leghorn — My anchor was down but one half hour. I proceed toward Leghorn in pursuit of Capt. Ro[d]gers — in passing round the West end of Sicily I exchanged signals with the *Adams*, Capt Camble. I then went in chase of a Latteen boat that hove in sight. The fellow, when he found I stood for him, fired a gun to windward in defiance of me, but in 3 hour chase he fired one to leeward and hoisted English Colors. I just drop two close alongside & he hove directly and was very glad to find we were Americans. He mounted 8 guns. I left him immediately and went down and spoke the *Adams*, who was from her hull in sight only top Gal't sail above water. Capt. Cambell inform'd me that Capt. Ro[d]gers had gone down with a Convoy that I should find him at Barcellona to which place I proced'd. — but wind never hid'd [?] any vessel equal to this, for let me alter the course any where I was sure to have a head in the course of a couple of hours. On my arrival there, I sent the boat in. Capt. Ro[d]gers had sail'd 2 days before. I then made sail with a fair wind for the first time for a month at the U. S. N [?] at 12 next day was within 20 miles of Allecad [?] when it came on to blow very severe from the

south east, then had to haul my wind to keep off the land. I expected that he had left there that day, supposing he would not loose the Levant that had blown all that morning and the day before. That night was very squally but the next day they hauld round to Eastw'd. I arrived here in thirty six hours, I was much surprised to see Com-modore's ship here — as I had no despatches for him and he had heard that I had. I would not for one hundred Dollars been so disagreeably situated but I had to obey the orders of a superior officer — at the moment Mr Decatur tells me there is a square Rig'd vessel to windward. It must be the convoy, and I shall this day get off the despatches — my anxiety mind has engross'd all my time since I have had them in possession.

The Schooner has not got no paint on her. The rigging is bleatch'd as white as a sheet, and one suit of sails better than half worn. This thing would wear the devil out in a short time if he was anywhere forward of the main mast.

I hear that Capt Bainbridge has arriv'd & captured a Moorish Cruiser of twenty guns & took an American brig & now in pursuit of a thirty gun ship to the [ms illegible] So you can tell Sally I will renig from the prize money — for I now expect to make prizes or be a prize but I think but little about the latter. I bid you adieu God bless you all. I shall write often — I yesterday dined with Mr Kirkpatrick who treat'd me as he formerly had which was very politely

[From a copy in pencil received from the Earle Hepburn Col.]

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 11 September 1803

At sunset the Commodore signalled to set sail . . . the entire convoy got under way, there being only four vessels . . . At sunrise . . . the Commodore ahead of us, the schooner astern . . . At 8 A M . . . the Captain of the schooner [*Enterprize*] came on board . . . At noon . . . rejoined . . . in sight of Malaga distance about 18 miles to the W S W.

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

#### Statement concerning Bowsprit of U. S. Brig *Argus*

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
At Sea, Sept<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1803

Persuant to an Order of the above date, from Stephen Decatur Esquire Commander, to us directed, We have examined the Bowsprit, and give it as our decided Opinion, that it is by no means fit to perform the passage Across the Atlantic, or even safe to bring the Ship by the Wind, in a Common Wind & Sea; And further, that it is so badly Sprung as to make it Utterly impossible to Secure it in any way for the Safety of the Fore Mast. —

JOS BLAKE  
H. MAGRATH *Sailing Master*  
GEORGE NICHOLSON *Bos<sup>r</sup>*  
STEPHEN HURLY *Carpenter*

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from the Secretary of State of the Emperor of Morocco

Translation of Letter from Sidy Mohammed Selawy dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 1803. —

Praise be given to God alone. —

There is no Power or Strength but in the Great and Almighty God. —

To Consul Simpson the American. —

Receive the paper herewith — pay attention to it, and see what you have done to the Flag of Our Master whom God preserve. —

A Ship of Our Masters intending to bring a Vessel of yours and detain her untill the Tripoline should be returned, and you know what happen'd. — If you wish that Peace and Friendship should subsist as heretofore, let Our Masters Ship be brought back to Tangier and Justice shall be done with regard to the Tripoline; — if this was taken justly and with reason keep it, and Our Master whom God preserve will provide a Recompence for the proprietors; if it was not taken with Justice but that you have acted wrongfully in takeing it let it be restored. —

If you desire War and will not listen to what we have here said to you, we will put Our trust in God, whose name be praised.

We admonish and advise you on this occasion, because of the Friendship we have for you, but if you neglect it and matters remain as they are, or Our Masters Ship be not sent before his arrival at Tangier we cannot say what he may then do, for this reason we have admonished and advised you. —

MEHAMMED BEN ABD E SALEM SELAWY. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, 1803–1810.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 12 September 1803

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 a light Breeze sprung up from the Westw<sup>d</sup>/ Made all plain sail and set the starboard studdingsails/ in order to proceed from off[f] Cadiz to the Straits of Gibraltar we steerd along the coast with an offing of nearly 5 leagues/ we unstowed the Tow Bowers and Bitted a long Raing on the Best bower Cable/ at sundown the south Extreme of Cape Trafalgar Bore by compas ESE. nearly five leagues/ at the same time we saw the land on the Barbarie Coast bearing ESE[?], which we suppose to be Cape Spartel.

\* \* \* We saw Cape Spartel bearing WbS  $\frac{1}{2}$  S, nearly 7 or 8 miles/ and the land on the Spanish shore Bore from NEbN to NEbE at 10 AM. fired a gun and hosted our colours off[f] the town of Tanger/ the Swedish coulours was the only colours, we saw in the Town of Tanger/ We continued off[f] the Town nearly one Hour/ and Repeated the gun/ at 11 AM. bore up and Run through the Straits/ We spoke a Spanish Brig from the Havannah bound to Malaga at noon the Town of Tariffe on the Spanish side bore NE 6 miles/ the weather clear. Winds from the WNW

[NA. ND original.]

Extract and translation from a journal kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, from Monday, 12 to Tuesday, 13 September 1803

Afternoon . . . quite close to the coast of Spain. The convoy astern of us. The Commodore ahead of us. To windward of us several strange vessels proceeding east ahead of us. At sunset quite close to Fuengirola to the N E distance about 10 miles. At 8 P M fired a shot at a Swedish brig. Spoke with her. She proved to be from Gibraltar and bound for Alicante. Passed several other vessels. At sunrise sighted the Commodore ahead of us and several convoyed vessels. At 10 A M . . . sighted several strange vessels. Signalled to the schooner [*Enterprize*] to give chase. She carried away her [word mutilated] mast. Came up to aid her.

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. S. *New York*, Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, commanding, 12 September 1803

At Sea off Malaga \* \* \* On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst we arriv'd at Malaga. On our passage we fell in with the British Fleet to the Northward of Minorca, consisting of 6 sail of the line & one or two Frigates, under command of Nelson, we passed close under the stern of the *Victory* & while the Com<sup>d</sup> & his Lordship were conversing we had a full view of him.

Off Cape de Gate we fell in with the *Enterprize*; she had not seen the *Nautilus* & was cruising off Cape de Gate in quest of two Tripolines of 10 guns each, agreeable to the orders of the Com<sup>d</sup> she had chased a Tripoline of superior force into Tunis Bay. we left her cruising on her station.

The next day after our arrival [10 Sept.] the *Nautilus* Capt Summers came in. We have learnt of War with Morocco that the *Philadelphia* Capt Bainbridge has arriv'd at Gibraltar, that he has taken the Moorish commodore (Capt. Ibrahim Louberais in the *Merboka*) of 22 guns & retaken an American Brig (the *Celia* of Boston) her prize that the *Constitution* Com<sup>d</sup> Prible, with 2 Brigs & one Schooner of War are expected soon. We learn! strange to tell!! we learn that the Commodore is order'd home: \* \* \*

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Gibraltar 13<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that the United States Frigate *Constitution* of 44 Guns under my command arrived here this day she is one of a squadron of seven men of war (independant of those under the command of Commodore Morris) which the President of The United States, has been pleased to place under my command for the protection of our commerce

I have perused the letter from Commodore Morris to you, on the subject of the Capture of the Ship *Mishauda* by Captain Ro[d]gers: and your Ans<sup>r</sup> thereto; from the late conduct of the Emperors cruisers it cannot be doubted, but that Ship was intended to be convey'd to

Tripoly, under the protection of the Emperors Flag, with a quantity, of Naval, and Warlike stores, in Order to enable her, and the other cruisers of the Bashaw of Tripoly to act more efficiently against our commerce, for it cannot be doubted, but that she belonged to the Bashaw at the time she was captured: but admitting she did not; the Emperor knew of the Blockade of Tripoly by our cruisers, and that she would be captured if met by them. If he had not been acquainted with the Blockade, it would have been proper, for Cap<sup>t</sup> Ro[d]gers to have Ordered her away on her making the first attempt; and to have captured her, if the Captain should have made a second attempt —

Commodore Morris has the Controul of that business, and must act as he pleases, but if she came within my command, I should most certainly send her to the United States. The Captains and Officers of the Emperor, dare not act without his Orders —

On my passage hither I met with his Imperial Majesties Frigate *Maimona* of 30 Guns and 150 men admiral Hadge Tacher, [word illegible] 22 days from Sallee, on a cruise, I boarded & very closely examined her papers, and finding she had your passports, I treated her as a friendly vessel, & left her The Admiral told me, that the Emperor was at peace with all nations; But from the number of Guns, and men, he had on board, and the length of time he had been out, I was doubtfull; and had I not most sacredly regarded our treaty, with his Imperial Majesty I should have detained the *Maimona*, until my doubts could have been satisfied: and I have now good reason to wish I had, as I have no doubt, but she has Orders to Capture American vessels, and may do much Mischief unless the wind favors my sailing to the westward, with the Squadron —

The Emperors late gross Violation of our treaty in issuing Orders to his Cruisers, to Capture American Vessels, and one of his ships the *Mirboka*, Captain Abraham Lubarez actually having taken one, will justify my giving Orders to the Captains of the Squadron under my command, to capture and bring into port all vessels belonging to the Emperor of Morocco, or armed vessels belonging to his subjects, as I must consider them as acting under the Authority of the Emperor in capturing our vessels, knowing that they dare not act without such Authority, and if I can ascertain that the *Maimona* or any other Moorish Cruiser has captured a single American vessel, & should meet with her; you may acquaint the Emperor from me, that it is my intention in future to sink every such vessel as a Pirate, as he denies having given Orders to justify their conduct,

The United States are known for their good faith, and sacred observance of Treaties, and expect it from other nations — The President is extremely desirous that the United States should have peace, and free commercial intercourse with all the States of Barbary, more particularly with Morocco but is determined, neither to purchase or maintain that peace and intercourse by submitting to treatment dishonorable to our Country — The Ship Captured by Captain Bainbridge, I think it probable I shall send to America, together with all the Crew, but before I come to any positive determination I shall wait until the Emperor's answer to your letter arrives —

I feel for your unpleasant situation, and hope you may soon be relieved from it; the Emperors Answer I suppose will determine you how to act, with regard to yourself and family —

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

**Internal Rules and Regulations for U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 1803-1804, by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Mediterranean Squadron**

1<sup>st</sup> Strict attention must be observed to the printed instructions issued by the President of the United States.

2<sup>nd</sup> The time by glass, must be regularly attended to, by night and by day; and the bell, at the call of the quarter master from the lee gangway, must be struck every half hour, and rung every four hours.

3<sup>rd</sup> The log is to be hove at sea every hour, and the rate of going, courses, winds and occurrences instantly marked on the board, and at noon each day, the same are to be entered on the log-book by the master.

4 — A good look out to be kept, night and day, and the officers are always to cause to be kept clear, the cannon, and ropes of every description, and to have every man in his Station.

5 — The pumps are to be sounded by the carpenter or one of his mates every two hours, or oftener, if necessary, and the ship pumped out, whenever there are three inches more water in the well than the ship sucks at.

6 — On seeing a vessel or vessels of any description whatsoever, as also on a change of the wind by night or by day, I must be immediately informed thereof, in order to determine on the line of conduct I may judge proper.

7 — Every superior officer is to inform and check those under him, of every impropriety he may see, or hear of their committing, either wilfully or ignorantly, and to notify me of the same if it is of any magnitude.

8 — The officer of the watch will be ever attentive in seeing the sails neatly trimmed, and that no ropes are towing overboard; at day light in the morning, the stock are to be fed, and every evening before sun set, previous to the decks being swept and wetting the ship inside and out, which is to be done every morning & evening.

9 — A sea lieutenant is always to be on the quarter-deck, together with a midshipman and quarter-master.

10 — The honors due the quarter deck, can not be dispensed with on entering, either from below or a boat, and a polite address, and decent deportment from one officer to another is expected at all times thereon, for the character of a gentleman and an Officer can never be Separated.

11 — The weather side of the quarter-deck is reserved for the walk of the captain, or in his absence, the commanding Officer of the watch.

12 — The time glass is to be regulated every evening by the watch; and the quarter-deck is always to be kept clear of cloaths, lumber and dirt, the ropes flemished, coil'd and hung up on the pins.

13 — No person is to be struck on the quarter-deck, or improper language used thereon; good usage is directed to be strictly observed to those who merit it, and those who do not, shall be punished as I may hereafter direct.

14 — No duty to be done on Sunday, except on extraordinary occasions, or such as washing and wetting the ship, trimming the sails, or what may be required by the general instructions.

15 — The warra[n]t and petty Officers, together with the seamen, ordinary seamen, and marines, are to breakfast at eight oclock, and have their dinners regular at noon; one hour is allowed them for each meal. The common duty which all hands are employed in, is to be concluded at four P. M. every day.

16 — When the time allowed the ship's company at their meals is expired, the commanding officer on deck, will send a midshipman to the Boatswain, and desire him to call all hands immediately, and set them to the work ordered, which the said officer will see executed without the loss of time.

17 — The salt meats, agreeable to the acts of Congress, are to be delivered out every evening before sundown, to the cook, who is to be accountable, and to have the same well washed and soaked, by changing the water in steep tubs every four hours.

18 — The flour, peas, and other provisions are to be served out every morning in due time for the cook, the rum is to be served out twice a day at twelve o'clock and at Four; a scuttle butt of water is to be kept filled and lashed near the main-mast, for the use of ship's company; special care is to [be] taken to prevent any sort of waste of this precious article.

19 — All sorts of slops and cloathing, must be issued only on a Special Order from me.

20 — Whenever we are near a coast, or a situation where the anchors may be wanting, the two bowers are to be bent, the cables kept clear for running; same time, must be bitted, and the stoppers and ring ropes in readiness, also canvass and cable plats.



21 — The sails are always to be neatly handed, in the order directed at the time, the yards squared, stay, back stays, and every rope hauled taught, and the decks and sides kept clear of dirt.

22 — Commissioned Officers are requested to exact upon all occasions of duty from the warrant and petty officers, and they also from their inferiors, the most ready, unequivocal and respectable compliance with their orders, and it is expected of all inferiors that they do not neglect any exterior mark of respect whenever they address or are addressed by a superior upon duty.

23 — Officers of every denomination are expected when the duty requires them at quarters on their different stations, to be particularly attentive to preserve silence amongst the men, and see that the orders issued from the quarter-deck are executed with celerity and without any noise and confusion.

24 — It is my particular request that officers will upon all occasions, encourage and pointedly distinguish, those persons who are particularly cleanly, alert and obedient from those of different characters, in order that the deserving may see their merits are not disregarded, as well as the underserving be made sensible of the vigilance of the officers, and the advantages resulting from good and respectable conduct.

25 — Discipline (as it respects alertness) can only be preserved by a constant and steady attention to whatever is carrying on; it is requested, the officers of the ship will not suffer the most trifling thing under them to be executed with indifference.

26 — Blasphemy, profaneness, and all species of obscenity or immorality are peremptorily forbid and it is hoped the officers of every denomination will upon all occasions, discountenance and discourage such disorderly and despicable practices amongst the men.

27 — The officers and petty officers are required to make themselves personally acquainted with the ships company, in order to their being able to address them by their own names [sic] whenever they have occasion to call to them aloft or elsewhere.

In port in the United States, women will be permitted to come on board, but this indulgence is to be granted (as indeed all others) in proportion to the merits of the men who require them and upon their being accountable for the conduct of the women with them.

28 — The commanding officer in port in the united States, will therefore permit such men to have women on board as he may choose, and he will direct the master at arms to keep a list agreeable to the following form, which he will carry to the commanding officer every morning for his inspection

WOMENS LIST

| Womens names | with whom | married or single | when rec <sup>d</sup> on board | Conduct |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
|--------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------|

29 — Every seaman belonging to the ship is expected to supply himself with the following list of cloaths

| Jackets | Waist coats or inside jackets | pairs of Trowsers |       | Shirts | pairs of stockings | Black silk Handk'fs. or neck cloths | Hats                         | pairs of |         |  |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|---------|--|
|         |                               | Blue              | white |        |                    |                                     |                              | Gloves   | drawers |  |
| 2       | 2                             | 2                 | 2     | 4      | 2                  | 2                                   | 1 hat or<br>1 hat &<br>1 cap | 2        | 2       |  |

In addition to the list of cloaths above named the ships company are expected to supply themselves with a white outside jacket and waist coat to be worn occasionally in Summer or a warm climate, with long white trowsers.

30 — Whenever all hands are called, no person is to go below from his station upon pretence of the work being finished, before the people are piped down.

31 — The captains of the fore-castle, tops, after-guard and waist, having command over the men of those Stations are expected to Keep them clear and clean, the rigging & C neatly coiled, the captains of the Starb<sup>d</sup> watch are considered as particularly responsible for the Starb<sup>d</sup> side in harbour — the captains of the Larb<sup>d</sup> watch for the Larb<sup>d</sup> side, and the captains of the 3<sup>d</sup> watch or auxiliary captains to be responsible in the absence or illness of either the others for their Stations.

32 — Two Lieut<sup>s</sup> only can be absent from the ship on leave, but not the first and second at the same time.

33 — At Sea and in harbour, a commissioned officer is to have charge of the watch

34 — The first Lieut<sup>s</sup> is not to keep watch, the Jun<sup>r</sup> Lieut[en]ants are to be in three watches.

35 — The mates and midshipmen are to be at three watches at sea and in port, one third of which may be absent on leave at a time

36 — The decks are to be washed in the morning watch when the gun carriages, port sills, quick work, head and head rails, chains, sides & C, & C, are to be wash'd and great care taken that the water ways are well dried. In port the necessary boats to be hoisted out either before or after the washing of decks, as circumstances of weather and duty may make requisite, yards neatly squared, ropes hauled taught — and hammocks stowed to admit of piping to breakfast precisely at 8 oClock

37 — After setting the watch, great attention is expected from all ranks, not to disturb the tranquillity of the men.

38 — In like manner, great care is to be had that the duty of the service be either completed or suspended at 7 bells in order that decks may be swept, and nothing prevent piping to dinner at 12 oClock.

39 — The first Lieut<sup>s</sup> or commanding officer, whether at sea or in harbour, is to visit the ship throughout every forenoon, to see that the tiers, cockpits, wings store-rooms, passages & C & C are clear, clean and in proper condition, and report is to be made to the captain when ready for his visitation.

40 — The between decks are to be cleaned every forenoon, to be washed twice a week, and fires shall be made, over which centinels are to be placed and the people not permitted below until the decks are dry, the cockpit is to be cleaned whenever the between decks are as are all ladders, gratings, port sills, combings, hatchways, store-rooms & magazines passages & wings.

41 — The officers are requested to see that the men do not work in their best cloaths, and when employed washing decks, they are desired to make them pull off their shoes and stockings and tuck their trowsers up.

42 — Every day after dinner and just before the hammocks are piped down in the afternoon, the decks are to be swept.

43 — The cockpit and birth deck are to be visited occasionally by the master at arms and corporal during the day, and once at least each watch by a midshipman who are to report any deviation from the general Orders, and if any lights are discovered out of lanthorns or improper persons found there

44 — Warrant and petty Officers lights to be put out at eight oClock at sea — at 9 oC. in port.

45 — No lights on any account whether at Sea or in harbour, are to be allowed to remain unattended in any birth or Cabin, and none but in lanthorns elsewhere in the tiers. No smoking tobacco is to be allowed but in the established place, under the fore-castle

[46 — This number has been skipped in the original manuscript.]

47 — The commanding officer and officer of the watch will remember that spirits are always directed to be drawn off upon deck, and never by candle light.

48 — The main deck is to be constantly kept as clear as possible and no chests, empty casks, or lumber of any kind suffered to remain on it — a great object, being the health of the men. Dry air should be admitted especially in Summer or warm climates, but rain and the wash of the Sea should be avoided, and air that is damp admitted with great caution, a thorough draft of air in the channel is not necessary for any length of time, and should be introduced in preference at such times as the men are employed on deck

49 — The ventilation is to be constantly worked by day in winter, and by night and by day in summer or a warm climate, the wind sails should be used at all times in the summer when the air is dry and at times in the winter when the weather is fine.

50 — In port, the commanding officer is required to have all parties sent on duty or elsewhere, on board rather before 12 o'clock; the boats (except on very particular service) are not to be absent during meal times, nor in any roadstead after Sun Set, or in port after gun fire.

51 — No alteration is ever to be made in the ships company's provisions, or allowance but by the captains order.

52 — The men are to mess in messes of 8 each, the Boatswains mates and petty officers by themselves, or with some other petty officers.

53 — The Boatswains, Gunners and Carpenters mates, Quarter masters, captains of the fore-castle, Tops, and masts, armourer, Sergeants and corporals of marines are allowed to have chests and one to every mess.

54 — The men of the different messes are every Sunday to appoint one of their mess mates to keep the birth and mess utensils clean and in proper order for the following week, such men are to be responsible to the officer for any neglect that they may discover and none but men belonging to boats when in harbour are to be exempted from this duty.

55 — Any person finding himself ill, is to make his complaint without loss of time to the Surgeons mates, as no excuse for neglect of duty on the score of illness will be received but through the Surgeon.

56 — Washing days will be appointed as the weather, and duty of the ship will admit and then things are to be dried on lines stretched from shroud to shroud forward, or in such other places as the commanding officer shall direct.

57 — Mates and midshipmen being acquainted with the established orders and regulations are expected zealously to enforce them and report any slackness or deviation they may observe in particular persons.

58 — The mates and midshipmen are ordered to sleep in hammocks, which are to be brought upon deck and taken down the same time the ships company.

59 — Mates and midshipmen are to keep log books, a public order book, cloaths list of their subdivisions, Watch, Quarter and Station bills clean and well written all of which are to be brought to the captain the last Sunday in every month for his inspection.

60 — Twelve minutes and no more will be allowed from the time of piping hammocks up, till they are completely stowed, the same time also will be allowed to take them down and hang them up.

61 — The hammocks belonging to people absent on duty, are to be lashed and taken up by the men birthed next without them, but if an outside man should be absent, then the men next within him is to preform that service.

62 — The cloathing and bedding of all run [deserted] men, or men suspected to be run, is to be ordered by the commanding officer into the Boatswains store room, a list of which is to be taken by the Petty (Warrant) officer of the division to which they belong.

63 — Foremast men going out of the ship on leave are to leave their cloaths and bedding with one of their mess mates, the Petty Officers of the division to which such men belong is to satisfy himself that every thing they do not wear is left behind, and that the mess-mate considers himself responsible for its safety and forth coming.

64 — When the weather is so bad that the hammocks cannot be stowed in the nettings, they are to be taken down and piled up in such places as the commanding officer shall appoint.

65 — Officers answering signals are to carry the public order book with them, and all officers of every denomination going out of the ship on duty are expected to be dressed in their uniform with swords.

66 — No seaman or marine will be suffered to go out of the ship on leave, who shall not upon examination of his divisional Officer be found clean and decently dressed.

67 — No body is allowed to lounge in ports, and it is strictly forbidden to throw any bones, dirt, or dirty water out of them, but dirt of all sorts is to be taken to the head, and lowere'd well down before it is started.

68 — It is forbid to enter the ship or get into boats through the ports, or down the side, or any other way than the gangway steps or stern ladders.

69 — No men are to be allowed to lounge in the chains or in the boats, or on the booms, nor are cloaths of any sort to be hung below the hammocks, nettings, or in other than the established places.

70 — Upon the loss of any money, cloaths, bedding, or other articles, the looser is immediately to make it known to the Officer of the Watch or commanding Officer, who will take such measures as appear requisite to discover the thief. No man is permitted to appropriate to himself any cloaths or other articles that

he may at any time find about the ship, and if he cannot find the owner he is commanded to take it to the Officer on the Quarter deck.

71 — The Officers of the different divisions will order the petty officers under their command occasionally to examine into the state of the peoples mess utensils of their division, to see that they have a sufficiency of those Articles and that they are kept wholesome and clean.

72 — Boats crews are commanded to obey with as much alacrity and punctuality the orders of the cockswains as those of any other officer on board, no excuse will therefore be received for a boat being left on shore, or for any thing lost or damaged belonging to a boat unless previously reported to the commanding officer.

73 — Cockswains are strictly forbidden to take any thing whatever in their boats to carry on shore without permission from the Quarter deck.

74 — Boats are not at any time to be left without boat keepers; they are not allowed to lye at the gangways, nor indeed ever along side of the ship when they can lye a stern.

75 — In port, a boat to be sent on shore every evening to bring off whoever may be on shore, which boat is to put off at sun set.

76 — The ships company are to be mustered every evening at sun set, at quarters or divisions, all absentees or men found in liquor to be reported and proper notice to be taken at such times of men that are dirty or slovenly. No long untied hair to be allowed and cloaths however old should not be ragged: the people are all expected to be clean, shaved and dressed by 10 oClock every Sunday morning (when they will be mustered in divisions by the different officers commanding them, and) the last thursday and Sunday of every month is appointed as days of general review or muster of cloaths, when the officers are expected to examine very particularly into the peoples cloathing and bedding and are to report to the captain any deficiency that may appear.

77 — On thursdays as well as Sundays the ships Company is expected to be shav'd, to put on clean shirts and to shift their trowsers.

78 — No man is to be confined by night or day when I am on board without representation having been made to me of his crime or offence and my orders having been given to that purpose.

79 — The master at arms is to keep a list of the boys and their cloaths and to have an especial eye to their conduct, Cleanliness and behavior; every morning at 7 oClock he is to take care that they are assembled on the quarter deck attend[ed] by himself or one of his corporals, and after having been examined report them to the Officer of the Watch whose orders he is to receive to dismiss them.

80 — The Commissioned, Warrant and Petty Officers having boys attending on them as servants, are expected to take care they are properly clothed and kept clean and neat

81 — The Boatswain & his mates conformable to the old custom of the service, are to carry rattans, but they are to be used with discretion.

82 — The different warrant officers are to report every morning before 8 oClock, and every evening the state of their several departments, to the officer of the watch in the morning and to the captain or commanding officer at quarters in the evening.

83 — When an alarm of fire the boarders, engine & fire men with their respective officers, are to repair to the Quarter-deck, the boarders are to be ranged on the Starb<sup>d</sup> side, and the fire men with their buckets on the Larb<sup>d</sup> side, the marines with their Officers are to appear under arms on the quarter-deck, the first & third Lieut<sup>s</sup> are to repair immediately to the place from whence the alarm has arose, the surgeon and his mates and the purser to their Store rooms, each to examine those places and to report with all haste to the quarter-deck; the day mate, the master at arms & his corporals are to proceed to examine & report the tiers, the pumpers with their Officers are immediately to rig & fetch the pumps, and fix & fill the long hose, and water (by the carpenters stationed in the wings in action) is immediately to be let into the cistern & well, the other carpenters with their axes and mauls are to assemble on the Larboard Gangway, the remaining Officers and men are to repair to their different stations as watched (unless the drum should beat to divisions) and wait further order from the Quarter deck.

84 — Upon the return of men to the ship that may have been absent any time, and upon the receipt of men, whether as part of the crew, Supernumeraries or prisoners, they are to be mustered, and examined by the surgeon and his mates, and any found ailing are to be reported immediately their cloaths and bedding are also to be aired and smoaked (if at all necessary) before they are allowed to mix with the ships company and frequent musters and examinations to be observed for a week after their receipt or untill the Surgeon shall be satisfied that no injury can accrue to the health of the ships company from their mixing with them.

85 — No midshipmen is allowed to quit the Deck at the expiration of the watch, under pretence that there is no one to relieve him, without having made such representation to the officer of the watch, and obtained his permission for so doing.

86 — Each Officer[r] is to take for his division the men quartered at the guns of which he has the command and direction. The first Lieut is to consider as his division the men who are quarter'd at the Quarter deck and forecastle guns; the carpenters stationed in the well and wings, the men quartered in magazine passage & hatchways. Each Officer is to keep a list of his division, and to be respectively responsible for the good order, cleanliness and sobriety of his division.

87 — All boats are to quit the shore & return to the Ship on or before sun set; They are to be searched by the master at arms or corporal, and liquor found in them without permission having been obtained, to be thrown overboard.

88 — That the boats, their sails, oars &C — may be kept clean and in good order the Lieutenants (except the first) are to take care of the following

|                                |       |                      |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut          | ----- | Barge                |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> D <sup>y</sup> | ----- | Pinnace & Jolly boat |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> D <sup>y</sup> | ----- | Lanch                |

to see they are kept clean and in complete order for their respective Service.

89 — A book is to be kept on the Quarter deck, in which each mans name who has leave of absence, is to be inserted, — the day of leave, the term of it, and the day he returned; and no blottings are to be made in it.

90 — Seamen having leave of absence to go on Shore are to be review'd by the Officer of the division, previous to their going; and no man who is not clean in his person, and decent in his appearance, is to go on Shore. All returns of leave are to be before Gun fire; and no shore boat is to be admitted a long side after the setting of the watch, and the capt to be informed

91 — The Store rooms are to be as seldom opened as possible, and never without every care, and precaution to prevent accidents by fire. The keys are to be kept in possession of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut, and not to be taken from his cabin but by his Orders or that of the Officer of the Watch, who, on the occasion, appearing to him necessary, is to send a midshipman with them, and also to direct the master at arms or corporal to attend, till all the stores wanted are taken out, and the door again locked.

92 — The keys of the stewards room are also to be kept by the first or Sent Lieut — they may be delivered to the purser from 7 to 10 oC. in the morning, and from 4 to 7 in the afternoon for the purpose of serving provisions.

93 — The keys of the after hold, spirit & fish rooms are to be kept in the masters care, but are not to be opened without the first Lieut's permission, and at all such times the master is to take care that one of his mates attend, who is to be the last person in the hold or room, in order that no accident may accrue from lights and that they may be carefully locked afterwards.

94 — No cloaths to be left neglectfully about the decks, but all packed in the Hammocks or bags, nor are such cloaths which may be found [by] sweepers or others, on any pretence to be appropriated to their own use, but to be brought on the Quarter-deck to the officer of the watch who will direct a proper enquiry to be made for the owners.

95 — After setting the night watch, at gun fire, the centinels are to pass the word "all's well" the centinel on the Quarter Deck begining, repeated to him on the Starboard gangway, the forecastle and larboard gangway in turn. In case of not being answered, the last centinel who gives the word is to inform the officer of the watch.

96 — The centinels are to inform the officer of the watch, of all boats he observes approaching, or passing near the ship, and is not to suffer any person to enter or go from the ship between sunset and sunrise, without leave & permission of the Officer of the Watch.

97 — The centinels are not to Suffer any noise or irregular behavior on their post and when ever they observe any improper conduct in any person, they are immediately to send for the sergeant of the guard and inform him, that it may be reported to the officer of the guard, & by him to the officer of the watch.

98 — In case of neglect of duty, or misdemeanor in a centinel, he is to be re-leived and not punished or questioned concerning his crime till regularly releived from his post.

99 — That one day in every week a Lieut and the surgeon do visit the hospital and make a strict enquiry into the state of the sick belonging to the *Philad* and report to the captain (agreeable to the form annexed.)

100 — In tacking, wearing or reefing the topsails, getting up or down top gallant masts or yards in the daytime the first Lieut<sup>t</sup> or day Officer is to take the direction on the quarter deck altho' all hands are not called, and the Officer of the watch to take such station as is necessary to the ready execution of the duty to be done, but the Officer of the watch will not understand this as precluding him from tacking, wearing or reefing topsails or getting down top gall. masts or yards, when the occasion requires immediate execution

101 — Sunday, ships company to be dressed & mustered at half past 9 oClock; to be considered as the hour of general muster, previous to which the officers are to examine their respective divisions, at what time after 8 oClock may be most convenient to themselves.

102 — The strictest silence is to be observed by the men at their guns, and the Officers are to prevent any unnecessary noise and all confusion. Particular orders will be given in sufficient time for the manner of shott<sup>t</sup>ing the guns; It is most likely that 2 round shot will be ordered for the two first rounds on the Gun-deck, one round shot & one load grape for the two first rounds on the upper-deck. The cap<sup>t</sup> of the guns are ordered not to attempt to put any other charge into their guns, than that which is expressly ordered, as the fatal consequence of loading the gun improperly has been too often experienced with the loss of their lives. The greatest attention is ordered to be paid in pointing and elevating the guns, as it is most necessary & essential to fire a well directed shot and to fire often. When order for the gun locks is given, the first captains are to go for their locks and place them on the Starb<sup>d</sup> Guns, — the second captains in the same manner are to place their locks on the Larb<sup>d</sup> guns and they are to have their respective guns cast loose and ready for action on either side of the ship or on both as the order may be given for that purpose, and the captains of the guns are to take charge of the powder-horn and see that every necessary article is supplied to his gun on coming to action; by night the lanthorn-men at each gun must immediately upon the drum-beating, go for his lanthorn & secure it midships at the place appointed. The powder men at such time take care to guard the salt boxes from sparks of fire. There being a fire bucket appointed for each gun on each deck and its opposite gun in the ship, the bucket men are to bring their respective buckets opposite to their guns on coming to action, and they are to be in readiness to break off from their guns to supply water at any part of the ship it is called for. The officers commanding at their different quarters, are directed to see the Decks wetted and sand or ashes strewed upon them, whenever the ship is going into action also that water in the proper casks is supplied for the people in action, and it is my directions that they make known immediately at all times any articles deficient at their quarters that may be either delayed or missing and to caution the people when coming to action to have vents and a Seizing of Spun yarn about them. The boarders who may be called upon either to board the enemy is [or] to repel the enemy who may attempt to board the Ship are to be attentive to the drum, & upon the call of the long roll they are immediately to assemble on both gangways according to their Stations, from which place their Officers will lead them on.

103 — The colors, in port, are always to be hoisted at 8 oC. A. M. from 1<sup>st</sup> April to first Nov<sup>r</sup> & from the 1<sup>st</sup> of novem<sup>r</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> April at 9 oC. A.M. and hauled down at sun rise; they are never to be kept aloft in blowing or stormy weather

104 — On tuesdays & thursdays general exercise of cannon, small arms & Sails. On each day (Sunday excepted) Officers having charge of a division of Guns are to exercise their men alternately one hour; at such times in the day as will least interfere with the duty carrying on, they are requested to see that the men pay particular attention in pointing and elevating the pieces, and go through all the manœuvres with alertness

105 — On tuesday, thursday & Saturday the Jun<sup>r</sup> Lieut is to have the division of small arms exercised by the master at arms

106 — In going into ports or coming out of ports, all Lieutenants & midshipmen are requested to be on deck in their respective stations to preserve silence and carry the Orders of evolution in execution ~~in execution~~ with celerity and without confusion; immediately after the sails are furled the Boatswain is to go in a boat and square the yards, the ropes on the Quarter deck to be immediately flemished & coiled, and all decks made clear and swept; after the anchor or anchors are let gone, the master is directed to sound round the Ship two cables length distance to note the depth of water with the kind of bottom, and clearness of anchorage place; the Lieut<sup>t</sup> of Marines is to place the centries on the gangway immediately after coming too with the ship in port, and are to take them from that part directly after the ship is got under way.

107 — The Lieut<sup>t</sup> of Marines is to exercise his men twice a day at sea when the weather permits he is charged with placing all centinels, and no centry is to be relieved but by his order; he is required to pay strict attention to the cleanliness of the centinels; he is to command the marines in time of action; he is to direct them in ceremonial honors in receiving company agreeable to the regulations directed in the "harbor rules". The marines in the routine [?] of duty in a watch is under the direction of the Officer of the watch in the same manner as any other part of the crew except in being sent aloft; the Lieut<sup>t</sup> of marine, will pay particular attention in seeing his men's arms kept clean and in perfect order for action — the Officer of the watch is directed to spare the marines for cleaning their arms when the duty of the ship will admit of it; but should any evolution for the ship require their immediate attention, the marines are directed to repair instantly to their station in the watch.

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ORDERS PARTICULARLY ADDRESSED TO THE MASTER

He is required to pay great attention to the preservation of the rigging and cables, and to control the expenditure and conversion of all Boatswains & Carpenters Stores and at the expiration of each week, to demand from the Boatswain & Carpenter an account of their expenditure & conversion, which after having examined and approved, he will present to the Captain

2 — He is required to have the cables and hawser tiers kept clean & clear, at anchor to be studious that the hawse be kept clear, and to examine frequently (especially when the ship rides a strain) the hawse and cables, that no chafing or injury may arise from a foul hawse, or want of proper service

3 — He is required to see that there are always a sufficient number and a good store of nippers, points, robands, gaskets, chafing mats and platts for the Cables

4 — When at anchor in any road, two ship buoys with a sufficient length of buoy rope (according to the depth of water) are to be kept ready, the buoys to be stopped without the head, and the ropes neatly coiled on them.

5 — When moored, the sheet anchor is to be got over the side, the tier to be kept clear, & if at single anchor a second bower anchor and cable are always to be clear and ready.

6 — He will never suffer any spirits to be drawn off but upon deck, and never by candle light.

7 — He will attend very particularly to the expenditure of the water and suffer no waste thereof — On the Ships arrival in port he will expedite as much as in him lies the completing the hold with provisions and water, which is always to be kept clean & he is never to suffer any empty casks to remain upon the upper deck

8 — On the Ships arrival in port as also when she is complete for sea, he will mark in the log book her draught of water, both forward & aft, also the hight of the lower Wale from the water

9 — When at Single Anchor, he is to attend the ship at the turnings of the tide and be careful that in little winds the cable be shortened in and requisite precaution taken to prevent the anchor being fouled.

10 — The keys of the after hold, spirit & fish rooms are to be in the Masters care, but are not to be opened without the first Lieutenants permission and at all times the Master is to take care that one of his Mates attend, who is to be the last person in the hold or room, in order that no accidents may arise from lights, and that they may be carefully locked afterwards.

11 — The log, deep sea & hand lead lines; half and quarter minute glasses are to be frequently measured and tried by him. The log line is to be marked at the rate of 47 feet to 28 Seconds with a large proportion of stray line.

12 — He will wait upon the Captain or, Commanding Officer every day at One oClock with the log book, and a written account of the expenditures & remainder of water

13 — He will occasionally visit the galley with the Surgeon, and examine into the state of the coppers, provisions & boiling utensils & C in order that no injury may accrue to the health of the ships company from any neglect or improper provisions being served

14 — He is considered as particularly responsible for the placing of the masts, & is therefore required to examine their position every day at sea, in order that they may not be subject to be crippled or liable to be sprung or carried away, should it become necessary to carry a press of sail, and as no alteration will be made in the stays or standing rigging without his knowledge. He is required to

be present whether at sea or in harbor, whenever it becomes necessary to take in or slacken the stays, or set up rigging.

15 — He will every Saturday morning, take with him the Carpenter and visit with the different warrant Officers their respective Store rooms, bread room, wings, tiers, sail room, pumps, bulk heads, &c and examine nicely into the state of the different stores, to discover if there are any suffering from leaks, damp, vermin, improper storage or any other cause; and make his report accordingly to the Captain or Commanding Officer.

16 — He is directed to examine into the state of provisions when received on board, and frequently into its stowage, and state when on board, and on the discovery of any leakage or injury to make immediate report thereof to the Captain.

#### ORDERS PARTICULARLY ADDRESSED TO THE PURSER

He is required on the Ships arrival in port to take early measures and be particularly careful to supply the Ship with fuel & necessaries of every sort sufficient at least to last the time for which she is to be stored and victualled, and in case of any material difficulty or impediment arising to prevent the execution of this order, he is directed to state them in writing to me before the ship is supposed to be ready for sea, and at all events before she proceeds

2 — He is required to see that his steward and attendant keep the stewards & bread room & passage clean, & neatly arranged.

3 — The key of the Stewards room is to be in the possession of the first Lieut or Commanding Officer, who will deliver it to him for the purpose of preparing & serving provisions, from 7 O'Clock in the morning till 10 and from 4 in the afternoon till 7 O'Clock and at such other times as circumstances of particular duty may render necessary

4 — Upon receiving slops he is required to be particularly careful to examine if they are of the proper size and quality & to report to the Captain any that may prove different in size or inferior in quality

5 — Great attention is expected to the part of the instructions which directs the oldest provisions to be served first and unceasing attention is requisite to prevent vast and unnecessary surveys by taking care that provisions (especially in the article of cheese) the most likely to suffer by keeping, is served in preference.

6 — No change or alteration whatever is to be made in the Ships company's provisions without my particular direction.

7 — He is required to visit every Saturday with the master & carpenter, the bread room, stewards room and slop room, and point out to him any leaks, damp, or injuries his stores or provisions may be suffering from those or any other causes whatever.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Particular attention is to be paid to the regulations relating to the cutting up of fresh beef, that 'choice pieces be never purposely selected for the Officers from that which is cut up for the Ships Company, and that choice pieces of Salt meat be never taken for the Officers out of the tub or vessel from which it may be served to the Ships Company.'  
 "That Officers do not select casks of the best wine or spirits for their own use from those intended for the Ships Company, nor exchange any wine or spirits of their own for that which has been sent on board for the use of the Ship."

8 — Immediate notice in writing is to be made to the Captain on the discovery of any provisions which may be found unwholesome or unfit for men to eat; and if at any time, any part of the crew shall refuse to receive the provisions which may be serving, or murmur at, or complain of the quality, he is directed to make report thereof without delay to the Captain or Commanding Officer.

#### CEREMONY AND RESPECT

A Commodore of a Squadron to be received on board with a guard under arms and a march; the number of the guard to consist of as many marines as can be made to appear decent; the side to be piped by the Boatswain and manned by Six Sidesmen.

Captains of the Navy to be received on board with a guard without beat of drum, the guard to consist of 15; the side to be piped by Boatswain, and 4 sidesmen.

On the Commodores visiting the Ship, all Officers are to be on the Quarter deck.

On Captains coming on board, two Lieut<sup>ts</sup> with the Midshipmen are to be on the Quarter-deck; the first Lieut, if on board, if not, the next in rank is to be one of the two. The same ceremony to be observed on their leaving the Ship as in receiving them.

On my coming on board or going out of the Ship, the etequette for a captain must be observed.



The Officer of the Watch is to particularly observe that attention of politeness is paid to all gentlemen coming on board, to have the Side piped by a Boatswain's Mate and manned by two Sides men, and himself to receive them at the break of the Quarter-deck.

#### HARBOR REGULATIONS

At the begining of the break, the reveille is to be beat, all hands are to be turned out, hammocks piped up and neatly stowed in the nettings; decks washed as early as possible; the Ship wetted outside, yards squared; at 7 bells the Officer of Marines will have the Marines turned out and exercised; ten minutes before 8 oClock, the hands to stand by trieing lines, colors & bell, the Boatswain & his mates to be ready with their calls; five minutes before 8 oClock, the drummers call to be beat, in order to call the attention to the following execution. Precisely at 8 A. M., with the roll of the drum, colors hoisted, tacles triced up, bell rung, all as expeditiously as possible, after these manouvres, the Marines dismissed and the troop beat. When top gall' yards are exercised they are to go up with the roll of the drum, and crossed with a flam, in exercising top gall' yards, the order for the Colors, tacles & bell must be carried into execution at the time of crossing the yards; the evening execution of this Order is precisely the same as the morning except in time, the distance from sunset, instead of 8 oClock must be observed, & the retreat beat, instead of the troop at 9 P. M. the tattoo to be beat, the bell rung and all lights put out. The Marines in harbour are to be exempted from standing watches, and when not urgent business is to be carried into execution; they are to be exempted from doing Ships duty by day; but by no means this order is meant to prevent the Sea Officer from calling on them to do ships duty when necessary, the intention is, that the Marines may have an opportunity of having themselves and arms clean & decent.

[H. E. Huntington L&AG. NDA photostat.]

To William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, from Robert Montgomery, U. S. Consul, Alicante

Copy

ALICANTE 13<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803.

DEAR SIR, My last respects were under the [space] I am since deprived of your favors and have only to advise that the *John Adams* Frigate, Cap<sup>t</sup> Ro[d]gers arrived here a few days ago and sailed with a small Convoy to the Westward, he brought with him a Tripolin Frigate of 28 Guns captured in the Bay of Tripoli near which place he also forced on shore and blew up another of 22 Guns, great part of the Crew perished.

[NA. SDA. CL, Lisbon, Vol. 2, 1803-1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 13 September 1803

Arrived at Gibraltar and found the U. S. Ship *Philadelphia*, Captain Bainbridge with a Moorish man of war of 22 guns his prize and the brig *Celia* of Boston Cap<sup>t</sup> by the Moor and recaptured by the *Philadelphia*.

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 13 September 1803

Light winds from the Westward and hazy weather steering through the Straits of Gibralter, at 1 P M saw the Rock bearing NEbN, Steered into the Bay at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 Anchored in 23 fathoms water soft bottom. The New Mole S. S. E. 2 Miles dis<sup>t</sup> Algeziras W  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. Saluted the Garrison with 15 Guns, which was returned by an equal number. I found the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* Captain

Bainbridge at anchor, with the Moorish Ship of War the *Mirboka* of 22 Guns and 98 Men — Captain Ibrahim Lubarez her prize. Captain Bainbridge fell in with her off Cape De Gat and took possession of her in consequence of finding on board orders to capture all American vessels, and property of Americans; whether found on board American vessels or the Vessels of any other Nation, and of her having under those orders actually captured the Brig *Celia* of Boston, Captain Richard Bowen, which Brig, Captain Bainbridge recaptured and brought into this Bay — and delivered her up to the Master. I received the usual compliments of respect & ceremony from the Governour and the Portuguese Admiral — Captain Bainbridge delivered me copies of his correspondence with Consul Simpson on the Capture of the *Mirboka*, and all the papers relative to that Ship

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 13 September 1803

Steering through the Straits of Gibraltar wind from the WNW/ at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 P. M. we saw the Rock of Gibra bearing NEbN, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 PM came to with the Best Bower in 27 fath<sup>s</sup> soft Bottom in Gibraltar Bay/ Veerd to a cable/ The New Mole/ SSE nearly two miles/ algisiras/ on the West side of the Bay Bore WbS  $\frac{1}{2}$  S, we found here the United States Frigate *Philadelphia*/ Captain Bainbridge/ with a Moorish arm<sup>d</sup> ship detain'd on suspicion/ we also found here three portugeas namely/ one ship of the line and two Frigates/ the portugea admiral/ sent an officer on board the *Constitution*/ who waited on Commodore Preble/ offering his serveces if Required/ Captain Bainbredge waited on Commodore Preble/ we found here no English man of war/ at 8 PM. mustered the Larboard watch/ as an anchor watch/ and made the necessary arraingments for mooring ship at day light/ i forgot to mention it above on our anchoring/ we saluted fifteen guns/ an Equal number was Returnd from the English Garrison/ at day light Veerd away on the Best Bower and moored ship a cable Each way/ Best bower WNW in 27 fath<sup>s</sup> the small Bower SEbS in 25 fath<sup>s</sup>/ out Barge/ the Commodore/ waited on the commanding officer/ at Gibraltar/ the ships company Emp<sup>d</sup> painting the two Bower cables/ fleeting the Topmast Rigging and setting up the Bobstays/ at 11 AM. anchored here the united States Schooner *Vixen* Lieutenant Smith/ who Brought dispatches for Commodore Preble/ from the Honorable Secretary of the Navy, at noon winds from the westw<sup>d</sup>

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract and translation of a journal\* kept in French by an unknown person on board the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding, from Tuesday, 13 to Wednesday, 14 September 1803

Afternoon . . . sighted several vessels. Delivered the convoy to the schooner [*Enterprize*] . . . Close to the coast of Spain . . . At sunset the Rock of Gibraltar to the N W distance 8 miles. Mons Limi [?] to the S W distance 18 miles. At 8 P M abeam of Gibraltar . . . At 1 P M entered the Bay . . . At sunrise saw three American frigates the *Constitution*, the *Philadelphia* and the *New York*. On Wednesday, 14th at 8 A M came to anchor in the roadstead of Gibralt-

tar . . . Europa Point to the south, Ceuta to the S W, San Roque to the N W, the battery of San Felipe [Castle] to the north . . .

Disembarked Friday, 16 September 1803.

[\*This journal was written in French, by someone on board the *John Adams*, until 16 September, 1803. It is continued, in French and in the same handwriting, on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, beginning 22 October, 1803.]

[LC. EPP, Journal 1803.]

[14 September 1803]

To Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, from the Bey of Tunis

HAMUDA Bassa, *Prince of Princes and the well defended city of tunis, the abode of Felicity*

To commodore MORRIS, *commanding the naval force of the U S, of America in the Mediteranean.*

SIR by superior reasons, I had beg'd the President of the U S, To exuse me for not explaining to you my reasons, concerning the conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart. as I thought it improper, that he should remain by me as consul for the U S. In this letter I affirm that the same cathcart Wrote me from onboard, and set out without waiting for my answer. you will see that I had very good reasons for not accepting a subject Of this kind for a consul, as your acting consul M<sup>r</sup> Davis will Write you, and you will juge my moderation in this circumstance. I wait with impatiance the friendship and Justice of The President, and the satisfaction that may be Agreeable to you Sir, the exact declaration if I can consider myself in good friendship with your nation. whilst that without my consent you Left M<sup>r</sup> Davis to act as consul untill the Government should appoint another. and if M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart had foreseen, that as not being accepted M<sup>r</sup> Davis could not also have been. it would have been indifferent to me who should have Been appointed. Desiring to hear what as Been decided between M<sup>r</sup> cathcart and the U S. So that I may know how to conduct myself. I remind your esteem with pleasure. and wish you the greatest felicity —

DAL BARDO OR CASTLE OF TUNIS *Sep<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1803*  
HAMUDA Bassa Bay.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier  
Morocco

TANGIER 14<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1803. —

SIR Fully satisfied it was the *Constitution* I saw pass to the Eastward on Monday I dont hesitate at addressing you, to congratulate you on your arrival in these Seas and to assure you of my respect. — Having been informed you were expected at Gibraltar I lodged with M<sup>r</sup> Gavino such details on the actual state of the Public concerns under my care, as I trust will have given you ample information regarding them. — It is matter of great consolation to me that you are so near me at this critical moment. — It is not necessary for me to repeat to you on Captain Bainbridges operations — we must view that Gentleman meeting the Emperours Ship with the captured Brig in company as a very fortunate event, for thereby a most deceitfull and criminal conduct towards the United States has been detected,

and I trust will be so fully substantiated by the papers found on board the Cruizer and the Captain's declaration, as to put the matter past all doubt. — As it is proper you should be fully acquainted with every particular respecting this very interesting affair I enclose with this copy of the Letter I wrote His Majesty the 2<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>, also an Arabic copy and translation of the answer thereto received this morning. — By the Latter you will see His Majesty may be supposed ignorant of Alcayde Hashash having directed the Captains of his Cruizers to seize American Vessels, — however extraordinary this may appear it is not impossible, for we have seen the Emperour place the most unbounded confidence in that Man, nay we have it from good authority he is possessed of a Letter from His Majesty containing these words "do by Land and Sea as you see fit and I will support you." — You will see the mode of proceeding the Emperour desires for investigating the matter, which certainly cannot be precisely followed, nor is the propriety of Captain Bainbridges conduct to be submitted to his determination. — In my Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> to Captain Bainbridge I requested he would send me copy & translation of the paper delivered to him as the authority Raiz Lubarez had for taking American Vessels, the Emperours demand shews the necessity of that measure & I trust the *Philadelphia* may have returned to Gibraltar that it may be done without delay. — I would not advise the original being sent, but it ought to be lodged so as to be within my reach should the validity of the copy be denied, that reference may be had to it. — With this is a Letter from the Emperour for Lubarez desiring him to come to Tangier, before it be delivered or that he be told of the Emperours request, it will be highly necessary that he give a declaration stating the time when he was authorised to capture American Vessels, where and from whom he received that authority, the time he sailed from Larach and when he captured the *Celia*. — If he can be brought to state these particulars with the assistance of one of the Jews of Gibraltar acquainted with the Arabic Language it will be essentially usefull; — if he of himself will not state such a declaration then in my opinion the best way will be to bring him on board the Flag Ship and propose questions to him to the effect of what I have mentioned, if not inconsistent with your established Interrogations; and the like with one or two more of the principal persons of the Ship, without allowing either any opportunity of knowing what has passed with the others. — After this has been gone through the Letter may be delivered Lubarez, and if you find that facts only have been stated in such declaration as he may make, then I hope you will not see any inconvenience to complying with the Emperours wish of his being sent over here by any opportunity may offer. — Such papers as may be necessary to send me respecting this busyness M<sup>r</sup> Gavino will be good enough to enclose and put under cover to D<sup>r</sup> Ant<sup>o</sup> Salmon Spanish Consul here, and they will reach me in safety. —

15<sup>th</sup> September Noon. —

What precedes I had written yesterday to be in readiness for any opportunity might offer — I have just now had the honour of receiving your Letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and must admit that the observations you make on hostile intentions of the Emperour of Morocco against the United States stand strongly justified by actual occur-

rences. — In the instance of the *Meshouda* I was instructed by Commodore Morris to say if the Act was that of the Master, and unauthorized by the Emperour the Ship would be liberated. — he will now determine her fate, which certainly must be influenced by what has recently happened. — M<sup>r</sup> Gavino has sent me a translation of the Orders given Raiz Lubarez, which appear to be from Hashash — after having seen this paper I am fully satisfied the Emperour will positively deny having authorised any such being given his Captains, — from the thorough knowledge I have of these people I perfectly believe that Muley Soliman did not know the particulare Orders Hashash gave Lubarez, but that he confided in him & has been led into the situation he now is with the United States unintentionally. — This even admitted I will fully allow in no Justification of what has happened, but if you find that the Emperour should be inclined to an accommodation I submit to you whether it would not be very advisable to close with him on such terms as you may consider honorable, rather than press a continuation of hostilities.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

[14 September 1803]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

The Captains and Commanders of the Ships and Vessels composing the Squadron, under my command, are not to allow their Boats to land at any other place, excepting at Ragged Staff after 5. oClock P M —

Given on board the United States Frigate  
*Constitution* at Anchor in Gibraltar Bay  
14<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1803 — E. P.

[Same to: Lieutenant Richard Somers, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus* and Lieutenant John Smith, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803–1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 14 September 1803

The *John Adams* and *Adams*, U. States Frigates arrived from the eastward on their way to the U. States.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 14 September 1803

Moored in Gibraltar Bay. delivered to the united States Frigate *Philadelphia* Eleven gang casks/ nearly 60 gallons Each/ at 3 anchor<sup>d</sup> here the united States Frigate *New York*/ Commodore Morris/ Commodore Preble waited on Commodore Morris/ \* \* \* at 9 AM. anchored here the united States Ship/ *John Adams*/ Captain Ro[d]gers/ and the united States Schooner *Nautilus* Lieutenant/ Summers/ Captain Ro[d]gers of the *John Adams*, and Lieutenant of the *Nautilus* waited on Commodore Preble Lieutenant Smith of the Schooner *Vixen* waited on Commodore Preble/ the ships company Employ<sup>d</sup> cleansing ship and Squaring the Ratling of the Topmast Rigging/ the united States Frigate *John Adams*, had in company a amerd ship which she

captured under Tropletie Colours at Noon Moderate Breezes from the Westw<sup>d</sup>

[NA. ND original.]

Circular to the Consuls in the Straits of Gibraltar, from William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon

LISBON 15<sup>th</sup> September 1803.

SIR, Understanding by a recent arrival that Hostilities have been commenced against us by the Crusiers of the Emperor of Morocco, I embrace the earliest opportunity to inform you that on the Night of the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant, arrived here the Moroquin Cruiser fitted out at Salleé, it is said without having made a capture; she is Ship rigged and taunt masted, both her Bottom & sides are black excepting a pretty narrow bright streak round the latter, her stern is painted Dove Colour, but not ornamented with carved work, has a prow head resembling a fiddle head, carries 24 long sixes on the Main and 6 or 8 two or three pounders on the Quarter Deck, manned with 150 Men and is a round sided Ship somewhat after the Greek model. What she is after or how long she will stay is not known, the moment either comes to my knowledge I shall immediately communicate it. You will have the goodness to give this information to the Commodore or to the Commanders of our Ships of War, leaving to their better judgment to act thereupon as they shall conceive most conducive to the Protection and safety of our flag.

N. B. Since the foregoing I have learnt that one of her Mast is sprung which she came in to repair, if this Government allows her to do it she will probably lay here some time. She is now under Quarantine, but it is likely will be cleared Tomorrow or next Day. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Lisbon, Vol. 2, 1803-1805.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE

*Constitution* GIBRALTER BAY 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1803

Captain Bainbridge has observed to me that your sensibility as an Officer, has been very deeply affected by observing a Commodore's Pendant on board the United States Frigate *Constitution* under my command, I have only to observe Sir, that it is not hoisted for the purpose of injuring your feelings or those of any other Officer but to designate that I command a Squadron of the United States Ships of War (independent of any other squadron) and that the Officers commanding the Ships and Vessels composing that Squadron, may know where to apply for Orders, and from whence to receive Signals for their Government &c<sup>t</sup> — and for further satisfaction (as I conceive that the success of our negotiations with Morocco, in a great measure depend on unanimity of sentiments, and good understanding among the commanders of our Ships of War) I take the liberty to quote to you part of my instructions from the President of the United States —

"The Squadron under your command will consist of the *Constitution*—the *Philadelphia* Captain Bainbridge—the *Siren* Lieutenant Stewart the *Argus* Lieutenant Hull, the *Vixen* Lt Smith the *Nautilus* Lieutenant Somers, and the *Enterprize* Lieutenant Stephen Decatur —

This force is committed to your direction, for the purpose of protecting effectually the Commerce and Seamen of the United States against Tripolitan Cruisers, on the Atlantic Ocean the Mediterranean and adjoining Seas" —

After this explanation, I presume you will rest perfectly satisfied with the propriety of my conduct — I have no disposition to be on such terms with any officer of either the United States squadrons now in these Seas, as to injure the interests of our Country, if it possibly can be avoided I shall with pleasure meet you, to consult what measures may be best calculated to keep peace with the Barbary Powers that we are now at peace with and what measures it will be proper to pursue to bring those powers to terms, which are at war with us —

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *John Adams*,  
*Gibraltar September 15<sup>th</sup> 1803.*

SIR, I have this moment received your letter of this Date, and in Reply to your observations, permit me to observe, this is not an affair between private individuals, and that my feelings as an officer has been most sensibly injured, and I do (also) insist that if the Date of your Commission is subsequent to mine, that it is not in the power (Even) of the Government, to place you or any other Officer in a situation which could afford an opportunity of treating me with Disrespect. — It would give me pain to leave the Mediterranean on unfriendly terms with you, but there are certain points of Etiquette which I can not in justice to myself pass over and which you havenot explained — however to prevent our feelings acting in a manner that can in any [way] effect the Interest of our Country I drop the subject until we have more leisure to Define what has past. — I propose going to Tituan with the *John Adams* immediately in order to know the Emperors Determination which Business I wish to consult you on, and would thank you to inform me whether you will be on Board at 2 o'Clock If you are I will call for that purpose.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philadelphia* Gibraltar Bay  
*15<sup>th</sup> September 1803*

SIR, This moment my Carpenter has reported to me, that the main pintel of the Rudder of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* is broke off.

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

To Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, from Surgeon George Davis, U. S. Navy,  
U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

Duplicate

CONSULAR HOUSE.  
*Tunis Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> 1803.*

SIR, By the enclosed extract from my present Dispatch to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State — The letter I had the honor to address to you by Capt. Campbell — And the one now forwarded you from his

Exc<sup>t</sup> Hamuda Bashaw Bey of Tunis, You will learn that the extravagant passions of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, his *folly*, and ill Judged communication to the Bey, has hurried us to the brink of a war — Your early answer to the Bey's letter, will not only calm my extreme anxiety; but I trust reduce our Affairs with this Regency, to their former friendly posture —

I feel it, unnecessary to make any remarks, on the conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart towards me; (And which will be cancell'd when we are alike free'd from public responsibility) You Sir, are too well acquainted with my character, and principles not to be satisfied, that I am incapable of abusing in any way the confidence you have reposed in me — And I feel satisfied that the decision of my Gov<sup>t</sup> will be as honorable to me, as agreeable to yourself. I have this day drawn on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen Purviance & C<sup>o</sup> on the faith of your Credit, (as p<sup>r</sup> advice from Malta) for Two thousand Pezzes de Otto Reali—in order to defray the public expences annexed, to the Visit M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart &c &c. I also enclose You the Acc<sup>t</sup> of Hadgeunis-Ben Unis; on which Subject You will be pleased to give your orders — I must again repeat the extreme necessity for Y<sup>r</sup> forwarding an immediate Reply to the Bey unsealed; as I must make the translation in Italian —

RICHARD V. MORRIS Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Comod<sup>o</sup> & Commander in Chief  
of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean*

Original with the Bey's letter, is forwarded to the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen Purviance & C<sup>o</sup> Leghorn.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution* Gibraltar Bay

16<sup>th</sup> September 1803

SIR, The Emperor of Morocco appears (from recent hostile conduct, such as the detention of an American Merchant Vessel in the Port of Mogadore) to evince a determination on war; you will therefore detain and send to this place for examination *all* vessels belonging to him or, his subjects until this Order is countermanded — you will write me often & keep me regularly informed from time to time of your proceedings —

[Similar letter sent to Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, 18 September, 1803.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803–1805.]

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To Lieutenant John S. H. Cox, U. S. Navy, of U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

Gibraltar Bay 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, you are to take charge of the Ship *Mirboka* Prize to the United States Ship *Philadelphia*, and to keep her in your possession safely moored at anchor where she now lies, untill further Orders from me; and to be extremely carefull that not any part of her stores are embezzled — You may make such requisitions, for provisions and necessities, on John Gavino Esquire our Consul as may be wanted by yourself, the Midshipman and four Men, attached to her — You will



also receive on board the *Mirboka* such invalids as Captain Bainbridge sends on board from the *Philadelphia* and provide for them in such manner as may be suitable for their state of health —

I shall send a Surgeons Mate on board to give them the necessary medical aid —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philad<sup>a</sup>*

*Gibraltar Bay 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR Is Lieut<sup>r</sup> John Cox to remain on board the prize *Mirboka* or does he receive your orders to join the *New York*.

In what manner am I to proceed, to send the Invalids on board the Frigate *Philadelphia* to America. could I not send them for the present on board the Prize, are the Midshipmen and four people now on board that Vessel to remain there.

Will you be pleased to give orders respecting the Prisoners on board the *Phila<sup>a</sup>* I should wish to be clear of them one day, prior to Sailing, to enable us to clean Ship

I enclose you a Letter for M<sup>r</sup> William Lynch of Philadelphia in case of your sending the *Ship* to America appointing him our Agent in the Affair

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

*at Anchor Gibraltar Bay 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR, Lieutenant Cox, the Midshipman and four Men on board the Prize Ship *Mirboka*, are to be continued on board, and you may send the invalids agreeable to your request to that ship together with their Baggage and accounts — You will please to send on board this Ship all the principle Officers of the prize and the remainder you will send on board the prize ship the *Messuda* captured by Captain Ro[d]gers

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautika*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution* GIBRALTER BAY

*16<sup>th</sup> September 1803*

SIR, you will sail immediately for Malaga and take under Convoy all the American Merchant Vessels bound to the Westward and bring them into this Bay, you are not to stay at Malaga longer than 24 hours — Should you fall in with any armed vessels of the Emperor of Morocco, or, of his subjects, you are to bring them into this place for examination

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean

UNITED STATES FRIGATE

*Constitution* 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1803

Sir, You will please to proceed to sea as soon as you can possibly get ready, and take such American Merchant Vessels, as are bound from this place to the Eastward under your Convoy, and stop at Malaga 24 hours, to take our trade from thence, and proceed up the Mediterranean, with them as far as in your opinion you may think adviseable, for the good of the service, agreeable to circumstances and events, that may take place, the *Vixen* Lieutenant Smith will accompany you, and you may make such use of her as may to you appear most proper—

Pass near cape de Gatt, Cape Palos and Cape Martin — it will be well to send the *Vixen* well in shore to look into the Bays, and snug places, along the Coast, if you do not see or hear, any thing of Tripoline Cruisers by the time you reach Cape Martin, you will proceed to Malta taking that track, most likely to fall in with them you will land at Malta all your unnecessary spars & lumber, but are not to stay there more than 24 hours, unless necessity should require it; but proceed off Tripoli, and maintain (during the season, in which it may be safely done) an effectual Blockade of that place as can be done with the force you have with you; and annoy the enemy by all the means in your power —

You will detain all the Cruisers of the Emperor of Morocco, that you may meet with, and send them to this place until further Orders, You are not to suffer the vessels of any nation to enter, or have commerce with Tripoli, but you have a right to treat as an enemy, whoever attempts to enter that place, or carry any thing to it, without your leave, while it is blockaded by you — you are to respect the right of all Nations with whom we are at peace, and not to capture Vessels within the Jurisdictional limits, or under the protection of such nations, you are at all times so far as may be in your power, to succour, aid, relieve and free any American Vessel attacked by the enemy, or in their possession —

The Officers of your Ship, may receive payments of money from time to time, but no advance beyond what may be due to them, in all your bills (should you have Occasion to draw any) you are to be carefull to mention the purpose for which they are drawn, and when it can be done, you are to draw on the Secretary of the Navy, with letters of advice to him, but when that cannot be done, you are to draw on Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie and Glenni London, or Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen and Perviance Leghorn, when you cannot receive a supply from me in consequence of our separation —

On the arrival here of the rest of my Squadron I shall send you more force, and further Orders and directions —

As soon as the Season makes it dangerous to cruise on the Coast of Tripoli you may harbor at Malta until you hear from me, or until it is proper weather for cruising —

It will be well for you to shew yourself, off Tunis occasionally, as soon as force enough arrives off Tripoli to keep their cruisers in check.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, from  
Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philad<sup>a</sup>*  
*Gibraltar Bay 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR. You will much oblige me by sending the Chart back, and the Italian Servant: and I assure you that it would be rendering an assistance to the Service by turning over some of your Men whose times have not expired, to the Frigate *Philadelphia*

[LC. John Rodgers & others, Let. & Doc., 1799-1848, Ac. 3647.]

To Captain Otway, R. N., Commissioner at Gibraltar, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Gibraltar Bay 16<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR, The Rudder of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* one of the Squadron under my command has received damage you will oblige me by allowing it to be repair'd in the dock yard, and furnishing the necessaries for such repairs as it may require

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate  
*Constitution*, Friday, 16 September 1803

Waiting for dispatches from Tanger — Wind Westward — Sailed the Schooner *Nautilus* Lt Somers for Malaga, with orders to convoy the Trade from thence to this Bay, and capture Moorish Vessels — Gave Sailing Orders to Captain Bainbridge of the Frigate *Philadelphia* — and Lieutenant Smith of the *Vizen* —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. S. *New York*, Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, commanding, 16  
September 1803

Gibraltar On our arrival here we found Com<sup>r</sup> Preble in the *Constitution* Capt Bainbridge in the *Philadelphia* the Schooner *Vizen* & the Moorish Prize The *Constitution* fell in with a Moor of 30 guns but not knowing of War let her escape, the *Vizen* fell in with a privateer & let her go — unfortunate.

I have recieved orders from the Secretary of the Navy to join the *Constitution*: today I put them in execution, & I have gotten up very early this morning to bring my journal to a close.

They received me \* \* \* on board the *Constitution*.

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captains Edward Preble  
and John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

On board the U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Tanger Road Sep<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR We have the honor to inform you that we yesterday rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> [14] Ins<sup>t</sup> with its enclosures, in consequence of which, the U. S. Ships *Constitution* under my command, and *John Adams*, under the command of Comm<sup>r</sup> Ro[d]gers have come to this place, with a view of having an interview with you, and of pursuing pacific

measures, and accomodating our present differences with the Emperor of Morrocco, if he should be inclined to promote them, as his letter to you declares it to be his wish; and provided it can be done with honor and propriety on the part of the United States.

We have on board the Moorish & Tripoline captains, of the *Massuad* [*Meshouda*] and the captain and Six Off<sup>rs</sup> of the *Marboka*, and as it may be necessary that these Officers should give a full explanation of their orders, and conduct, it is our wish that some proper person may be sent off, on the part of the Emperor, to make this examination. It will also be necessary, that a good interpreter should come off with the person who may be sent for this purpose.

As an interview with you, appears to be indispensable towards a proper understanding, and accomodation of this business, we have no doubt but you will be permitted to come off. if it is the sincere wish of the Emperor to settle this business amicably. We shall, therefore, forbear entering into any details, untill we have the pleasure of seeing you on board, or receiving an answer to this. We have a translation of the Original order given to Rais Lubarez to capture American Vessels certified in his own hand writing to be a true copy of the order he rec<sup>d</sup> from Hashash and the original also which may be examined by any person sent on board for that purpose. Any Officer belonging to the Emperor who may come on board, shall be at liberty to go on shore the moment he pleases we shall first know if you are permitted to come off before we send the certified copy on shore. We made a proposal to the Officers of *Marboka*, that one of them should accompany this letter. this they did not relish unless the whole could be liberated.

Col. Tobias Lear is on board the *Constitution* and will assist in the negotiations

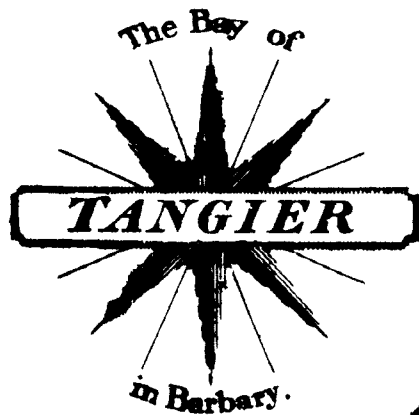
[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Captains Edward Preble and John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson,  
U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 17<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

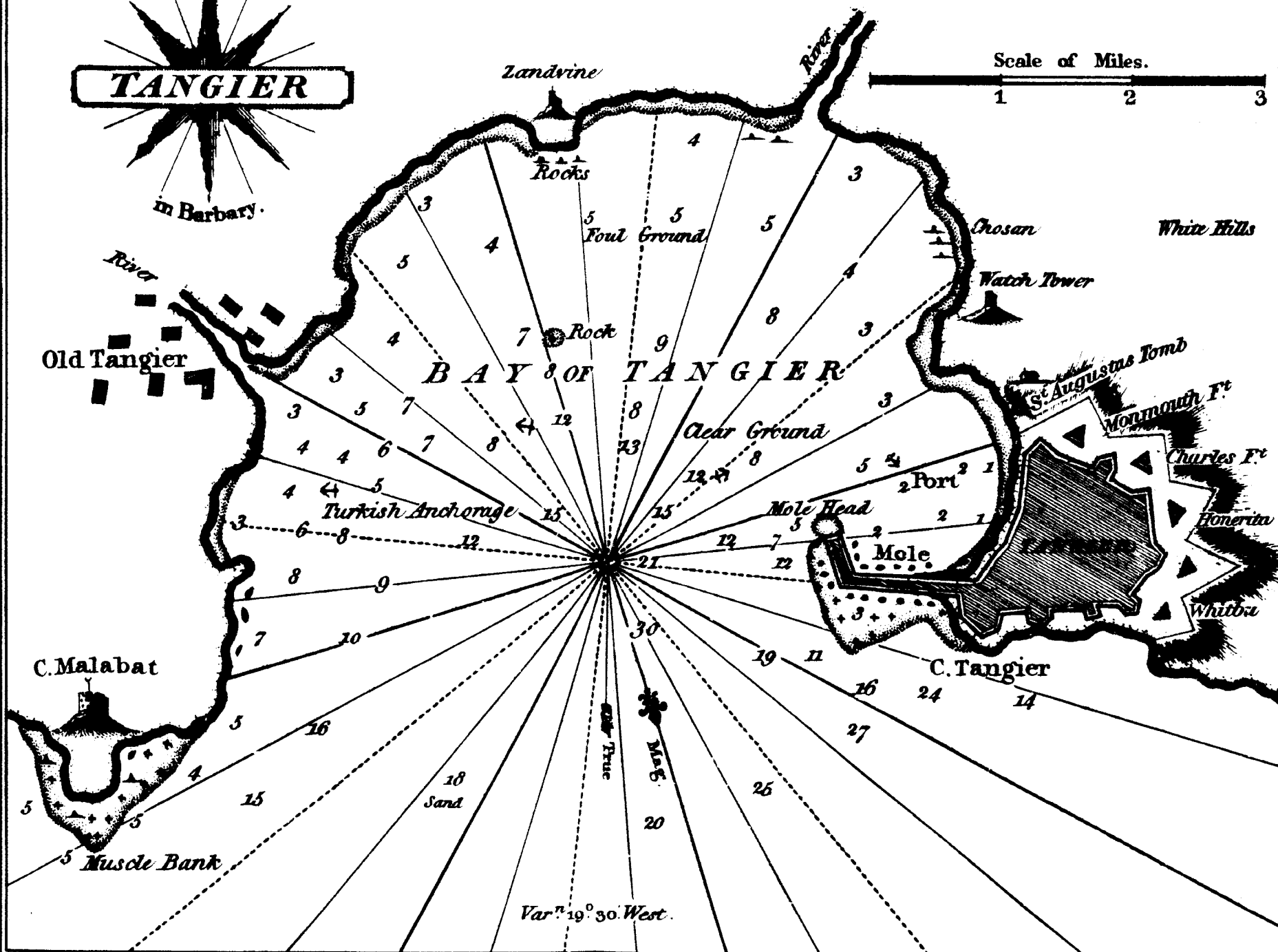
GENTLEMEN — At receipt of your Letter of this morning I sent for the person who commands in the absence of our Governour and communicated to him the object of your coming to this Bay — he is not provided with any authority on the subject, therefore is to send off an Express to Tetuan to give Alcayde Hashash the necessary information and take his orders, which will be here tomorrow evening or Monday morning. — This step was indispensable or I would not have taken it, as you will believe I have but too well founded reason to throw every objection in the way of that Man having any thing to do with our Negotiations and if possible it must be avoided. — As the expression in the Emperours Letter may be taken to apply to himself "we will examine" — some Tabbs translate it as carrying his intention to have the busyness investigated under his own immediate inspection. — by the answer Alcayde Hashash may give that matter will be cleared up. — Monday is the last time fixed for His Majestys leaving Mequinez, if he comes here direct he may be with us on Friday, but if he goes by way of Tetuan it will be at least three days latter. —

If you stand into the Bay on Monday I shall then be able to hand you the answer from the Governour, and speak with more precision than now on the Emperours motions —



Scale of Miles.

1 2 3



By the enclosed you will see a Novelty of no small consequence, as it appears to throw back the source of our present situation to the Emperour himself — be that as it may I fully hope the Capture of the *Mirboka* will incline him much to Peace, and if the *Maimona* could be added to the list of Captures, we might I very much believe dictate our own terms. — I do not know that by the Laws of War your errand here to day should in any shape barr your pursuing those who are in search of opportunities of acting hostilely against our Country. —

I shall ask the Governour by Express to allow me to go off to you on Monday which I very much wish he may consent to. — I would not advise any Boat being sent on shore yet, we cannot have reliance on these people —

Commodore Rodgers will have the goodness to excuse my not replying to his favour of the 9<sup>th</sup> — it shall be ready for Monday — in the mean time I consider his arguments in support of detention of the *Meshouda* very conclusive —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 17 September 1803

Unmoored and got ready for Sea — Ordered Captain Bainbridge to send the Moorish Captain and Six of the principal Off<sup>rs</sup> of the *Mirboka* on board — ordered the other Officers & Crew consisting of 92 Men on board the *New York's* prize, as a prison Ship, I consulted with Col: Lear & Commodore Rodgers, and concluded to go to Tanger with the *Constitution* & *John Adams* to endeavour to settle the present existing difference between the United States and Emperour. At 7 P M Col: Lear came on board to assist at the negotiation — Commodore Rogers hoisted a Broad Pendant — Commodore Morris hauled down his — at 9 the *John Adams* sailed — at Midnight weighed and sailed with the *Constitution* — stood out of the Bay, and run along the Barbary Coast to the Westward at 6 AM saw the *John Adams* to the westward, at 7 Anchored in Tanger Bay, the *John Adams* in company — our depth of water 16 fathoms hard bottom Cape Tanger WNW — the town of Tanger SWbS 2 miles dis<sup>t</sup> Eastern part of the Bay ESE 2 miles. In this situation we had a fair view of the whole Bay and of the Town. I have a very contemptible opinion of the Strength of the place from its appearance, The English, French, Swedish, Danish, & Spanish Colours were flying at the Flagstuffs of the Consuls of those Nations. At 10 AM a boat came from the shore with 4 Spaniards to receive letters. Commodore Rogers came on board — we wrote to Consul Simpson assuring him of our pacific dispositions towards the Emperour.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 17 September 1803

Went to Tanger to demand satisfaction for the insult offered our flag in the capture of the *Celia*.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 17 September 1803

Moored in Gibraltar Bay, Running from Gibraltar to Tanger/ and laying at single anchor in Tanger Bay, winds from the Eastw<sup>d</sup>

we recie'd from the Frigate *Philedelphia*, the Moorish Captain and six of the officers that was Taken in the arm<sup>d</sup> ship Belonging to the Emperor of Morocco/ Con<sup>l</sup> Lear who disambark<sup>d</sup> from the *Constitution*, with his Family/ came on board at 8 in the Evening in Boats/ we wiegh<sup>d</sup> at Midnight and came to sail/ *John Adams*/ in company/ we let in Gibraltar Bay/ the united States Frigate *New York*, Commodore/ Morris, without a Broad pendant/ the Frigate *Philadelpha*/ Captain Bainbridge/ and the Schooner/ *Vixen*/ Lieutenant/ all left three portugees man of war/ namely the *Arabella*/ *Malgrate* and the *Tossa*/ we had a leading wind from the Eastw<sup>d</sup> and Run along the Barbary shore in order to anchor in Tanger Bay/ at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 in the morning, we came to in Tanger Bay in company with, the *John Adams* Commodore Rogers/ Commodore Preble waited on Commodore Morris/ i belive Commodore Ro[d]gers is the seinor officer for the time being out depth of water is 16 fath<sup>s</sup> heard Bottom/ Cape Spartel WNW. Cape Tanger, which is the North Extreme to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> the Town of Tanger SWbS nearly three miles/ the Eastern part of the Bay, ESE, nearly two miles/ in this situation we had a fair View of the Town of Tanger. we saw flying in the Town of Tanger/ English Colours/ Swedesh, French Spanish/ and Hambourgh Colours/ at noon Moderate Breezes and clear weather winds from the Westw<sup>d</sup> severael letter past and Repas<sup>d</sup> Between, Commodore Ro[d]gers/ Commodore Preble and M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, the American Counsil at Tanger Tobias lear Esq<sup>r</sup> Counsil General to the Barbary powers/ accompany<sup>d</sup>/ the two Commodores from Gibraltar to Tanger/ there was not any Boat Belonging to Either of the ships Went on shore at Tanger

[NA. ND original.]

To Secretary of State from James Leander Cathcart, appointed U. S. Consul, Tunis N<sup>o</sup> 13

U S FRIGATE *Adams*  
off Almeria bay Sep<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR The enclosed detail will inform you of our actual position at Tunis, in addition to which I have the honor to inform you that I was creditably inform'd that the Bashaws political reason for not receiving me at Tunis, is no other than in consequence of a request from the Dey of Algiers to that purport, in compliance with the will of the Sanhedrim & their most righteous Secretary; I am consequently consider'd by them as no longer encharged with the affairs of the United States in either of those Regencys, & when I have offer'd to the Regency of Tripoli the terms of peace prescribed by my instructions & deliver'd the Jewels & property of the United States in my possession to any person appointed to receive them, who I presume will either be the Commander of the Station or whoever is appointed Consul general at Algiers my functions will cease, unless the President should think proper to send me fresh instructions — If the interests of the United States should dictate the necessity of appointing an Agent to superceed me at Tunis, I request Sir that it may be done in as delicate a manner as possible, that my reputation may not suffer in the estimation of my fellow Citizens, and in order that I may not





be subject to the animadversions of the ignorant & malicious of whom we have too many in the United States, I request Sir that this may be consider'd by government as my resignation —

I am now in quest of the Comodore who I expect to find either at Gibraltar or Malaga & shall proceed to the execution of my instructions at Tripoli as soon as he may find it convenient to take me there, the result of which I will take the earliest opportunity to inform you of & will from thence proceed to Leghorn to hold myself in readiness to return to the United States on receiving the Presidents orders —

I should have dispatch'd a courier from Tunis but in consequence of the Bashaws refusing our offer of an annuity at that place I was apprehensive that the Bashaw of Tripoli would be very exorbitant in his demands unless our offers are accompanied with force, making propositions in any other way would look as if we were tired of the war

I hope the manner I open'd the negotiation at Tunis will meet the Presidents approbation, I offer'd a premium to be allow'd a commercial privilege which we do not enjoy that privilege was denied us, consequently we are exonerated from the promise of the premium —

I most sincerely congratulate the President and all those particularly concern'd in the negotiation for the cession of Louisiana as well as my country; this event has form'd an epoch in our national history second to none but the declaration of Independence, & while it opens an ample field for commercial enterprize, it consolidates the Union so far as the western territories are concern'd & prevents our being subject to the devices of an intriguing ambitious & restless neighbor which at some future period might produce incalculable consequences —

As a number of appointments must necessarily take place previous to our taking possession of Louisiana I should conceive that refraining from petitioning government in due season to be inserted as an applicant for one of said appointments would be acting enimical to the interests of my family, more especially as contrary to the example of some Barbary Consuls I shall return home five thousand dollars at least poorer than I was the day I was appointed Consul for Tripoli, I therefore request you to mention me to the President & Senate in such a manner as you may think I merit, & should I be so happy as to succeed both the President & yourself Sir may depend upon my gratitude for the preference shewn me & my country may depend upon my faithful services according to the best of my abilities — Whether my services gives me any claim to public employ in common with my fellow Citizens the President and yourself are the proper judges: my knowledge of the languages used in that country probably would render me as useful and I hope my character at this period of my life is not doubtful —

In whatever way the wisdom of government may determine you would render me a singular service by informing me of my fate as soon as possible, M<sup>r</sup> Gavino at Gibraltar will know where to find me, I shall either be onboard our Squadron or at Leghorn —

As Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell will be at Washington when you receive these dispatches I refer you to him for any additional information he being perfectly acquainted with all my operations for some time past, in the mean time I have the honor to subscribe myself with the most respectful esteem —

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Gibraltar Bay 18<sup>th</sup> September 1803 —

SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that the United States Ship *Constitution* under my Command arrived here the 12<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> on my passage off Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincent, I fell in with the Ship *Maimona* with 30 Guns and 150 Men, Admiral Hadge Tacher [word illegible] belonging to the Emperor of Morocco, bound to Lisbon on business for his Master, I boarded and made three several examinations of her papers and found them, all fair, as far as we could understand them, she had the passport of our Consul at Morocco, dated at Tangier 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1803 addressed to all the commanders of the U. States armed Vessels stating that the Ship *Maimona*, belonging to the Emperor of Morocco mounting 30 Guns and carrying 150 Men commanded by Hadge Tacher [word illegible] was bound on cruise, and requesting all commanders of the United States armed vessels, to treat him as a friendly vessel, he conducting himself accordingly the Consular seal was affixed to the said passport, the Captain had likewise the top of a parchment passport, with a certificate thereon, signed James Simpson, stating that it was the true top of an American Passport her papers were so fair, and clear that I could not detain her — Indeed I should as soon have thought of detaining a British Vessel — Altho I must own, I felt uneasy at parting with her but should have felt more so, had not Col<sup>o</sup> Lear, (who was acquainted with M<sup>r</sup> Simpsons hand writing) volunteer'd his services to go on board and examine the papers himself he did so, and pronounced them correct, I enclose you his report to me after the Examination —

I found here the *Philadelphia* Captain Bainbridge with the Morocco Ship of War *Mirboka* of 22 Guns and 98 men Captain Ibrahim Raiz Lubarez her prize. Captain Bainbridge fell in with the *Mirboka* off Cape De Gatt with an American Vessel which she had captured in company, this circumstance was sufficient Justification for Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge to take possession of her, to prevent her doing more mischief — Captain Bainbridge was also so fortunate, as to recapture the prize [*Celia*] —

On translating her papers one was found to be an Order to capture American Vessels which the Captain said he received from the Governor of Tangier, *sealed*, with Directions not to be opened until he was at Sea — I suppose the Ship which I met off Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincent has Orders to do the same, on her return from Lisbon, but do not suppose she will Capture before as she has gone there to receive a present and be well fitted in order to act more efficiently against our Commerce — Captain Bainbridge deserves much credit for his vigilance, and active exertions in re-capturing the prize, as well as capturing the cruiser, and for the humane and very proper treatment, the Officers and crew of his prize have received, since they fell into his hands —

14<sup>th</sup> Schooner *Nautilus* L<sup>t</sup> Comd<sup>t</sup> Somers, arrived from a Cruise up the Mediterranean — The Schooner *Vixen* arrived from Baltimore — The Frigates *New York* and *John Adams* arrived from Leghorn with the prize Ship *Messuada* — taken by Captain Rodgers in attempting to enter Tripoli — The Circumstances of that affair, I presume you are acquainted with —

16<sup>th</sup> sent the *Nautilus* to Malaga to bring down a Convoy of 18 sail of Merchant Vessels waiting there, and gave sailing Orders to the *Philadelphia* and *Vixen* to go Eastward

17<sup>th</sup> I unmoored, and got ready for Sea, and directed Captain Bainbridge to send the Moorish Captain, and the Six principal officers on board the *Constitution* and the other Moorish Officers, and the Crew by permission of Captain Ro[d]gers I sent on board the *Missuada* his prize in Consequence of the Suspension of Commodore Morris from the Command of the former Squadron, it devolv'd on Captain Ro[d]gers, of course Morris hauled down his broad pendant, and Ro[d]gers hoisted his as Commodore of that Squadron — I felt the Necessity or propriety of proposing to Com<sup>re</sup> Rodgers (Notwithstanding his Orders to return home) that he should remain a few days longer on the Station with the *New York* and *John Adams*, and that we should sail together for Tangier, to assist M<sup>r</sup> Simpson in bringing about an accommodation of our affairs with the Emperor of Morocco, which Commodore readily assented to — And I requested Colonel Lear to accompany us, that we might have the advantage of his able advice and Assistance in any negociation that might take place —

This Gentlemans Zeal for the public service insured a ready compliance on his part, he immediately embarked and at Midnight we weighed Anchor, and sailed, and at 7 o'Clock next morning, anchored in Tangier Bay, with a white Flag at the fore, as pacifically inclined — a boat was sent off by M<sup>r</sup> Simpson with an open slip of paper, purporting that he only was allowed to send a Boat to receive letters — I wrote in behalf of Com<sup>re</sup> Rodgers and myself, and received Answer<sup>rs</sup> thereto which were apparently written under restraint, but M<sup>r</sup> Simpson found an Opportunity to slip a letter into the packet, which confirms me in my first opinion that the Governor of Tangier has not acted without higher Authority, he states that he has a scene of the deepest treachery to unfold as soon as a personal interview can take place, and that the Emperor has been guilty of another act of hostility at Mogadore by seizing on the Brig *Hannah* of Salem Joseph W. Williams Master (who was there on a trading voyage) and making prisoners of the crew — The Governor was at Tetuan, and no person at Tangier that had Authority to permit M<sup>r</sup> Simpson to come off to us, he stated that he was confined to his house with two centinels at the door this being the case, and the Emperor not expected until Thursday we made the following arrangement that Commodore Rodgers should go to the westward and cruise off Larache, Sallee and Mogadore and myself to return to Gibraltar to give additional Orders to Captain Bainbridge and Lieut Command<sup>t</sup> Smith, and to leave Orders for a new disposition of the force under my command — I accordingly weighed at 8 in the evening and Sailed for Gibraltar at 10 AM entered the Bay — found the *Philadelphia* and *Vixen* under way — I made Signal for the Captains, gave them additional Orders and they left the Bay, wind westward — I anch<sup>d</sup> with an intention to get under way, and be at Tangier the next night, but the wind from the Westward has prevented us — I shall weigh this evening and proceed to Tangier and endeavor by every honorable means to bring about an accommodation, but if that cannot be done, I shall make them feel that we are sensible of the injury & injustice they have done us, but shall take no hasty steps, you will at once discover my opinion of

this business by a perusal of N<sup>o</sup> 1 of my dispatches which accompanies this; that letter was not wrote in warmth, but you may rest assured that cringing to those Barbarians will not Answer I am fully aware, that it is for our interest to have peace with Morocco but it is not necessary, or proper that we should be so over anxious, as to induce them to believe we must have it, on any terms they choose to dictate — I have an ardent desire to do right I hope I shall — You will have all the information in my power to give you by a perusal of my dispatches as they are arranged, you will there be made acquainted with every transaction since I came on this Station, and with some transactions before I arrived — some of the numbers are important documents, particularly the translation of the Order to capture American Vessels which discovers the deep designing treachery of those Barbarians, who could give such an Order and withhold a signature in order to deny it if discovered — If their vessels of War had been successfull they would not have denied but on the contrary would have justified the Order by some pretext or other; I cannot hear of their having captured any American at Sea except the one re-captured by Captain Bainbridge

I am weighing anchor for Tangier — L<sup>t</sup> Gordon and the Midshipmen ordered to this Ship have joined her —

The *Adams* is momentarily expected here, and the *Enterprize* now in sight standing into the Bay, I shall want her services for a few days previous to her carrying the Orders N<sup>o</sup> 27 into effect — It is some time, I believe since any of the old squadron were off Tripoli, & fearfull that the Tripolines would be induced to think we neglected them, I thought prudent notwithstanding our Morocco business to dispatch the *Philadelphia* and *Vixen* to pay them a Visit, I had not time to give L<sup>t</sup> Comd<sup>t</sup> Smith such full Orders as I wished therefore directed him to Sail in Company with Captain Bainbridge and follow his directions until further Orders — I shall give him full instructions by the first of the Squadron that goes to the Eastward —

You will discover the disposition I have made of the force under my command by the orders each Commander has received, copies of which, are among my dispatches; I hope the President will approve of the Orders I have given to the Commanders of the Vessels of my squadron to capture the vessels of the Emperor of Morocco I conceived it was my duty, as he had given Orders to his cruisers to Capture ours — the greater the number of his Vessels and subjects we can get into our possession the easier we can make peace with him I have no doubt, but this business will be soon settled, and enable me to bend my whole force against Tripoli, should I be wrong in my conjectures, I think it will be necessary to keep a small Frigate a Brig & a Schooner to rendezvous at this place, and cruise along the Morocco shore — I find it necessary to remain here myself at present — and hope the liberal instructions which you were pleased to give me, for my Government, in allowing me to exercise my Judgment without restraint for the good of the service, and our situation with Morocco will justify my conduct — I think with the addition of a 32 Gun Frigate, a Brig of 16 — 32 pound Carronades, and a Schooner of 14 — 24 pound Carronades I can effectually Blockade Morocco, and Tripoly, and by hiring a few Gun boats bring them both to any terms we please —

It is absolutely necessary that every Article which composes our ration's should be sent out from the United States as they cannot, in consequence of the War between England and France be purchased at Gibraltar and even if they could the prices at present are 50 p<sup>t</sup> Cent higher than in time of peace; Candles and Molasses have heretofore been much wanted by the other squadron, they are articles that cannot be procured, on any terms in this Country

I shall be able to give you further information on my return from Tangier, which will not be for some time hence unless our affairs with Morocco are amicably settled, as I shall cruise for Ship *Maimona* soon expected to be ready to sail from Lisbon

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Kirkpatrick, U. S. Consul, Malaga, Spain

MALAGA 18 Sept 1803

DEAR SIR I have learnt from Lieu<sup>t</sup> Somers with great Satisfaction your safe arrival at Gibraltar, and that you were in better Health than you had lately enjoyed in America, I shall have much pleasure in seeing you in this Quarter, and beg you may not think of going aloft without paying us a Visit, — Some untimely rains, the beginning of this month has retarded materially the Shipment of Fruit, it only was permitted yesterday, and not One of the Vessels now loading for America are in readiness, or can be made so, at the expiration of the 24 Hours Capt Somers has allowed, He consequently returns, but I beg you may have the Goodness to send him, or some other immediately back, the Whole of the Americans now here 14 in number will be ready for Sea on Thursday should the Weather permit Shipping, on this you may depend, I mentioned this day Week to Capt. Rodgers that in 10 or 12 days they would be ready. — I hope you will find it Convenient to attend to the Solicitation of so many Americans who anxiously wait for a Protection from you. — \* \* \*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

GIBRALTER, September 18<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, The unexpected disposition and evidences of hostility which have been recently given by the Emperor of Morocco towards the United States, making it necessary to guard, as much as possible, against the evils which may result to the Commerce of the U. States in consequence of such an event; I am convinced that you will not consider it prudent to leave this station until some measures can be taken to place our commerce in the best security that the nature of the case will permit; I therefore conceive that I shall be fulfilling the duty which I owe to my Country to remain here, until the *Constitution*, or some other proper Vessel can proceed with me to Algiers, without too much endangering the interest of our Commerce by leaving this important Coast unguarded: And I am the more especially induced to this, from the instructions of my Government to have an interview or communication with M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart previous to making any dispositions relative to our Affairs with Tripoli and Tunis, and as the

arrival of the U. S. Frigate *Adams*, which is daily expected here, will probably produce this desirable event.

Knowing your anxious wish to pursue such measures as, in the unlooked for and critical state of our Affairs with Morocco, may be most conducive to the interest of our Country, I am persuaded that the President of the United States will cordially approve of any steps which may be taken to effect this object, altho' it may cause a delay in executing your original intentions of proceeding immediately to Algiers.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

[18 September 1803]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from the Governor of the Emperor of Morocco

Translation of Letter from Alcayde Abde-Rahaman Ashash. —

Praise be Given to God. —

There is no Power or Strength but that proceeding from God. —

From the Servant of his Master and the Servant of [His] Majesty exalted by God — Hadge Abde-Rahman [H]Ashash whom God assist, to the American Consul Simpson. — Peace be with those who follow the right way. —

We have received your Letter and read and understood its Contents.— Know that we continue in the Friendship established between Our Master (whom God preserve) and your people without any change or alteration. — What you say regarding your two Frigates that were near the Port of Tangier but do not come in, nor did any person go to speak with them, now we give you liberty to send and bid them come into the Port under the Security of God, — and if any of them chuse to land for transacting the busyness they come upon they shall be wellcome and if they chuse to come to Tetuan they shall be wellcome there also — every thing they desire to do for the good of both Nations I am ready to carry into effect with the greatest attention; therefore our deputy Sidy Ahmed el Metigui and the Director of Customs Hadge Alarbi Fecurt are there and will treat with them, informing us what may happen. — But you cannot be with them alone on board, and on shore only in company with our Deputy. —

We have been told here that you dont hoist your Colours as usual— We have not forbid you — then hoist them as you have always done for in truth there is no motive why you should not as Freindship still continues between us. — Peace be with you —

date should be 18<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 18 September 1803

Laying at single anchor in Tanger Bay with the Frigate *John Adams* in company in the cours of the afternoon, we recie'd different despatches/ by the conveyence of shore Boats/ from the American Conunsil the Moorish Captain/ and six of his officers, who accompany<sup>d</sup> us from Gibraltar/ to Tanger/ some of them had permission to proceed

on shore But they declined to offer/ there plea for not going a shore is this/ all officers serving under the Emperor of Morocco/ after being made Captives/ must first have liberty. granted them from there government/ before they can land at 7 in the Evening we saw fiers on all the high Hill and Mountain along shore/ which we suppose to be there alarm signal/ at 1/2 past 7 in the Evening Commodore Preble waited on Commodore Roggers/ at 8 Comm<sup>d</sup> Preble/ come on board/ we weigh<sup>d</sup> with a light airs off[f] shore/ made sail and steerd over for Gibraltar Bay/ we parted Company with the *John Adams*/ Commodore Roggers/ who is belive cruises a short time off[f] Cape Spartel

[NA. ND original.]

To Richard O'Brien, U. S. ex-Consul General, Algiers, from Surgeon George Davis,  
U. S. Navy, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

TUNIS Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 1803.

DEAR SIR, Your favour of the 10<sup>th</sup> Aug. was received on the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst. — the Affair of Eaton, on which I begged your advise must remain in Statuquo, untill I can receive some intelligence from the Gov<sup>t</sup>

On the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst. arrived the U. S. frigate *Adams*, with James L<sup>t</sup> Cathcart Esq<sup>r</sup> Consul for the Regency of Tunis — The Bey after learning the Powers this Gentleman was possessed of, as also his Instructions from Gov<sup>t</sup>, refused to accept him as Consul for the U. S. — his extreme mortification, not only hurried him into many extravagancies, but nearly precipitated, his Country into an immediate war — I enclose you an Extract from my present Dispatch to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State — without any further remarks, Indisposition must plead my apology for not writing you more fully — I also forward you by this occasion a number of letters, long since received (from M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart) —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To James L. Cathcart, appointed U. S. Consul, Tunis, from Nicholas C. Nissen,  
Danish Consul, Tripoli

TRIPOLI Sept<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR Two days ago arrived the Cruiser commanded by Raiz Halifa after an absence of two months during which she cruised on the Coast of Spain & Algiers and made no captures —

The Bashaw has terminated the trouble at Guerrian partly by Negotiation and partly by force of Arms, the Inhabitants have agreed to pay him an Indemnification of 100,000 dollars and to permit him to build a Castle & place a Garrison on their Mountain; the Bashaw is now sending an army to Derna to subdue his brother Hamet, who is in possession of half that Town, but the Coast & Harbour is in the hands of the Bashaw of Tripoli who has two Cruisers there one of 10 & the other of 12 Guns, to prevent his brother from having any communication with the Island of Malta. lately was captured at Derna and sent here a vessel belonging to Malta, which had gone there, notwithstanding the prohibition published by the British Government at Malta on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April in consequence of the Bashaws demand — The actual force of Tripoli is as follows —

|   |           |   |                         |
|---|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| A Zebeck of   | 10 Guns   | Comm <sup>d</sup> by Raiz Hash  | } Station'd<br>at Derna |
| A do.....   | 12 do---  | Saci[?] by Raiz Mohammed<br>Suai  |                         |
| A New Brig of   | 14 d°---- | built at Tripoli said to be bound to<br>Derna with Murad Raiz on board<br>— who is Peter Lisle the infamous<br>English Renegado — |                         |
| A Galliot of  | 8 Guns    | which it is said will likewise be sent to<br>Derna  |                         |
| A do.....   | 6 do----  |   |                         |
| A do.....   | 4 do----  |   |                         |
| A do.....   | 2 do----  |   |                         |
| Building a kind of Schooner to mount 10 or 12 Guns      |           |   |                         |
| 6 Gunboats mounting each one long 18 pounder            |           |   |                         |
| 2 do----- do--- each one long 24 do                     |           |   |                         |
| 2 do----- do--- one 12 pounder & the other an 8 pounder |           |   |                         |

The above is an exact statement of the Maratime force of Tripoli, there not being any of their Cruisers at Sea

We have not seen during the last 3 months any of your vessels of War, we are informed that they keep up a vigilant Cruise between Cape Bon, Malta & Sicily, with Schooners, this plan is well conceiv'd and I presume more useful than a Blockade.

On the point of Girgash 3 or 4 miles to the Westw<sup>d</sup> of Tripoli the Bashaw has erected a Fortification to protect his Cruisers as they run along shore — The Merch<sup>t</sup> vessels in this port are

viz<sup>t</sup> One under the Ionian Flag bound to Leghorn  
One under the Imperial do bound to Trieste  
Two vessels bound to Malta

Two do----- to the Levant and one expected from Leghorn in a few weeks — This is all I have to communicate to you worthy your attention — Should any thing interesting occur, you may depend upon receiving information by the earliest opportunity

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 19<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR Since my last to you of 15<sup>th</sup> I have received your Esteemed favours of the 13<sup>th</sup> (2) 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> for which I thank you. — The declaration of the Moorish Captains on subject of the treatment they received on board the *John Adams* & *Philadelphia* is very satisfactory, to men of sense it certainly could not be necessary, but to the generality in this Country, and to stop the malignant reports most industriously propagated by Alcayde Hashash on the Occasion, — they were indispensibly requisite, and I trust they have had their full force. —

Yesterday I had occasion to send an Express to the Minister, to whom I gave full information on the subject that he might acquaint His Majesty. —

Commodore Preble & Commodore Rodgers have been here, the latter gives me very ample information respecting the *Meshouda*, & such as if I had been possessed before, matters respecting her, would



have been in a Very different State, to what they are; I dont write, either of these Gentlemen as I conclude they are not with you, besides we have not had the least novelty, worthy of imparting since my last letter to them of Saturday, save that by one I received yesterday from a private friend near the Emperor, I find His Majesty does not leave Mequinez untill Friday next, so that probably, it will be fourteen days from this day [before we shall see him. Hashash has orders, to meet him at the River Ayesha, a day & a half from hence. —

I advised Commodore Preble of orders having reached Mogador on the 4<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> for Seizing all American Vessels and Property, might be at that Port, and the Brig *Hannah* of Salem Cap<sup>n</sup> Williams lately arrived from thence, was taken possession of with her Cargo consisting of 75 Bales Cotton 10 Chests Tea some Iron, & a few Bales of Piece goods. — The Cap<sup>n</sup> & Crew were given up to M<sup>r</sup> Court on his Security to be Answerable for their appearance. This has been a deep laid Schem, but I trust they will yet pay dearly for it. —

Two guards continue at my door and altho, the Justice of my cause, and the Emperors favourable disposition manifested on more than one occasion lately towards myself, gives me hopes no further Violence will be offered me, yet as there is no dependence on any thing in this Country, I have thought best to send back the forty Loaves Sugar, as I have not been able to find a purchaiser for them at any price — they are Shipt but whether on *Athalaya* or the *Misticoi*, Very fine has not come to tell me, and our friend is about to Seal his letter; I will write you two lines by M<sup>r</sup> Miller and tell you. — I thank God M<sup>r</sup> Simpson keeps up better than I expected what may be attributed to her having by the merest chance met a satisfactory nurse, for her Child

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Gibraltar Bay 19<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR Immediately on your arrival in this Bay, you will Victual, and Water your Vessel (making your requisitions on John Gavino Esquire for that purpose with whom I have left orders to supply you) and sail without delay to the Westward. Look into Tanger Bay, and if you do not find me there, proceed off Larach, Sallee & Moggadore. and cruise off Moggadore three weeks — speak every American Vessel you meet with, and inform them, the Emperor of Morocco's Cruisers have orders to capture American Vessels; and that *He* has detained a Brig in Moggadore and made prisoners of the crew belonging to Salem — You will send into this Bay all the Vessels you may meet with belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli, the Emperor of Morocco or their subjects at the expiration of three weeks you are to return to this Bay, and wait my further orders.

You are at all times as far as may be in your power to succour, aid, relieve, and free, any American Vessel attacked by the Enemy, or in their possession; but always to respect the rights of Nations, with whom we are at Peace, and not to capture Vessels within the Jurisdictional limits, or under the protection of such Nations.

The Officers of your Vessel may receive payments of money from time to time, but no advance beyond what is due them.

In all your Bills, should you have occasion to draw any, you are to be careful to mention the purpose for which they were drawn and to forward letters of advice with them. You are to draw on the Secretary of the Navy, when it can be done, and when it cannot, you may draw on Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>r</sup>Kenzie & Glenni of London, or on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degan & Perviance of Leghorn —

Write me by every Opportunity (care of John Gavino Esquire Gibraltar) and keep me informed of all your proceedings

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Gibraltar Bay 19th Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR I have directed this to be hand'd you immediately on your arrival in this Bay, and you are in 12 hours after the receipt of it, to sail to the Westward, if your vessel is in a situation to do so. You will look into Tanger Bay, and if you do not find me there, proceed with all possible dispatch off Larach, Sallee, and as far South as Moggadore, and stretch from thence to Cape Spartel. Keep a good look out for a ship of 30 Guns and 150 Men called the *Momona* [*Maimona*], Admiral Hach Tacher [word illegible] belonging to the Emperor of Morocco. She is out for the purpose of capturing American Vessels, and if you meet with her bring her into this Bay for examination. She is about 350 or 400 Tons, Mounts 11 six pounders on a side on the Gun-deck, and 4 four pounders on her Quarter Deck — has very poor quarters is slovenly about the rigging & sails, has a Billet-Head Turpentine Waist (very dirty) Black Bends & Bottom — Stern rather high, with two large plain mouldings, one about two feet below the other. No fore top gallant-mast up, her Fore & Main Topsails a great hoist and square by the head with only two reefs in them — A Mizzen Topmast with a very short pole head, and three reefs in the Mizzen Top Sail — a small storm Mizzen — no Spanker-boom — Yards all the colour of the wood — I met her off Cape St Vincent on my passage hither. examined her passports, which were fair and proper; and not knowing the Emperor of Morocco had made War on us, let her proceed to Lisbon whither she was bound. She is, I understand, soon expected to return to Sallee. It is probable some alterations will be made in the appearance of the ship at Lisbon, that she may not answer the above description. It will be a glorious thing for you, to take her; You can easily do it, if you meet with her; and, my orders are, that you make the attempt.

You will inform all the American Vessels you meet with, of the hostile disposition of the Emperor of Morocco. — Cruise between Cape Spartel and Moggadore ten days, and if you do not meet with me, return to this Bay, and prepare your vessel for a cruise with all possible expedition and sail to the Eastward. Cruise from Cape de Gat, to Cape Martin 10 days, and if you do not meet with any Tripoline or Morocco Vessels, you will proceed to Malta, and may stay there 24 hours to Water, and gain information from thence proceed off Tripoli to assist the *Philadelphia* and *Vixen* in the blockade of that place. You are to capture all Vessels of the Bashaw of Tripoli and his Subjects, and to annoy them by all the means in your power.

You are also to capture any vessels attempting to enter that place while we are Blockading it — and should you meet with any of the Vessels of the Emperor of Morocco, or of his subjects, you will send them to this place for examination — Cruise off Tripoli as long as the Season will allow you to do with safety and then Harbour at Malta — but I do expect that you do go out occasionally and shew yourself off Tripoli even in that season when the Weather is most severe, as it will have a good effect.

If you have occasion for money, for the necessary expences and supplies of your Vessel you will draw on the Secretary of the Navy, when it can be done, and when it cannot you are to draw on Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>r</sup>Kenzie & Glenni of London or on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degan & Purviance of Leghorn. And always forward your letters of advice, with your Bills mentioning therein, the purpose for which they were drawn.

You will respect the rights of all Nations with whom we are at Peace. and not capture Vessels within the Jurisdictional limits, or under the protection of such Nations.

The Officers of your Vessel, may receive payments of money from time to time, as it becomes due, but not any in advance.

Make your requisitions for Provisions at this place on John Gavino Esquire, and he will supply you.

You will as often as opportunity offers inform me of all your proceedings.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803–1805.]

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To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*, GIBRALTER BAY

19<sup>th</sup> September 1803

SIR On your arrival in this Bay, you will prepare the *Argus* for Sea with all possible expedition make your requisitions on John Gavino Esquire for what provisions &c you can find room for, and if the *Enterprise* should arrive before you are ready to Sail, you are to exchange commands with Lieutenant Hull; but if she does not, you are to proceed with all possible dispatch to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> pass near Cape de Gatt, Cape Palos, and Cape Martin, and proceed from thence to the Blockade of Tripoli. You will cruise off that place, untill the season makes it dangerous; and you may then Harbour in Malta. But you must even in the very worst Season, go out and shew yourself off Tripoli occasionally if only for a day or two at a time, as it will have a good effect, by convincing those Barbarians that their Vessels are not safe in leaving Port at any season of the Year — You are to Capture all Vessels belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli, or his subjects and to annoy the Enemy by all the means in your power. You will detain and send to this place for examination all the Vessels of the Emperor of Morocco, or of his Subjects, which you may fall in with untill further orders. You are not to suffer the Vessels of any Nation to enter or to have commerce with Tripoli but have a right to treat as an Enemy whoever may endeavour to enter that place or carry anything to it whilst Blockaded by us — You are to respect the rights of Nations with whom we are at peace, and not to capture Vessels within the Jurisdictional limits, or under the protection of such Nations: You are at all times as far as may be in your

power, to succour, aid, relieve, and free, any American Vessel attacked by the Enemy or in their possession

The Officers of the *Argus* may receive payments of Money from time to time, but no advance beyond what may be due them —

Should you want Money for the necessary expences of the *Argus*, you will draw on the Secretary of the Navy when it can be done, expressing in the Bills the purpose for which they are drawn — When you cannot draw on him, You may draw on Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie & Glenni of London, or on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degan & Perviance of Leghorn, and letters of advice must accompany your Bills —

You will write me by every opportunity care of John Gavino Esquire Gibraltar and keep me informed of all your proceedings.

L<sup>t</sup> Commandant S. DECATUR[\*]

[Substituting “*Enterprize*” for “*Argus*” and “*Hull*” for “*Decatur*”, similar instructions were sent to Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, on 19 September. On 22 September 1803, these orders to Lieutenants Decatur and Hull were countermanded, and new ones issued.]

[\*An officer commissioned Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, when in command of a Ship of War, was often addressed as Lieutenant Commandant.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803–1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy

NEW PORT, U. S. BRIG *Argus* Sept<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, You will perceive by the letter I had the honor of wrt<sup>g</sup> you on the ninth. I left president Roads on that day, for the first two days after leaving the port we had fresh breezes increas<sup>d</sup> from the Northward & Eastward, on the 3<sup>d</sup> day we entered the Gulph in Lat. 40° 40 the gale becomeing heavy from the N E with a remarkable heavy sea going, I hove to under a close reefed main topsail, reefed fore sail, & storm main staysail, at this time we had got the top gallantmast, flying Jibboom, & spritsail yard on deck, with the Jibboom rigged in, at 8 A M sprung our bowsprit & got her before it to secure our foremast, after securing the fore mast had the bowsprit surveyed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup> Master, Boatswain & Carpenter, the result of which survey I enclose you, the opinion of those gentlemen agreeing with my own, the short distance we had progressed, the certainty of loosing our fore mast should we meet with another blow, & knowing the difficulty of procureing spars in the Medeteranian, induced me to put back for the first port we could fetch, I arrived here last night and am informed by the agent he will be able to get me a new bowsprit in four days. —

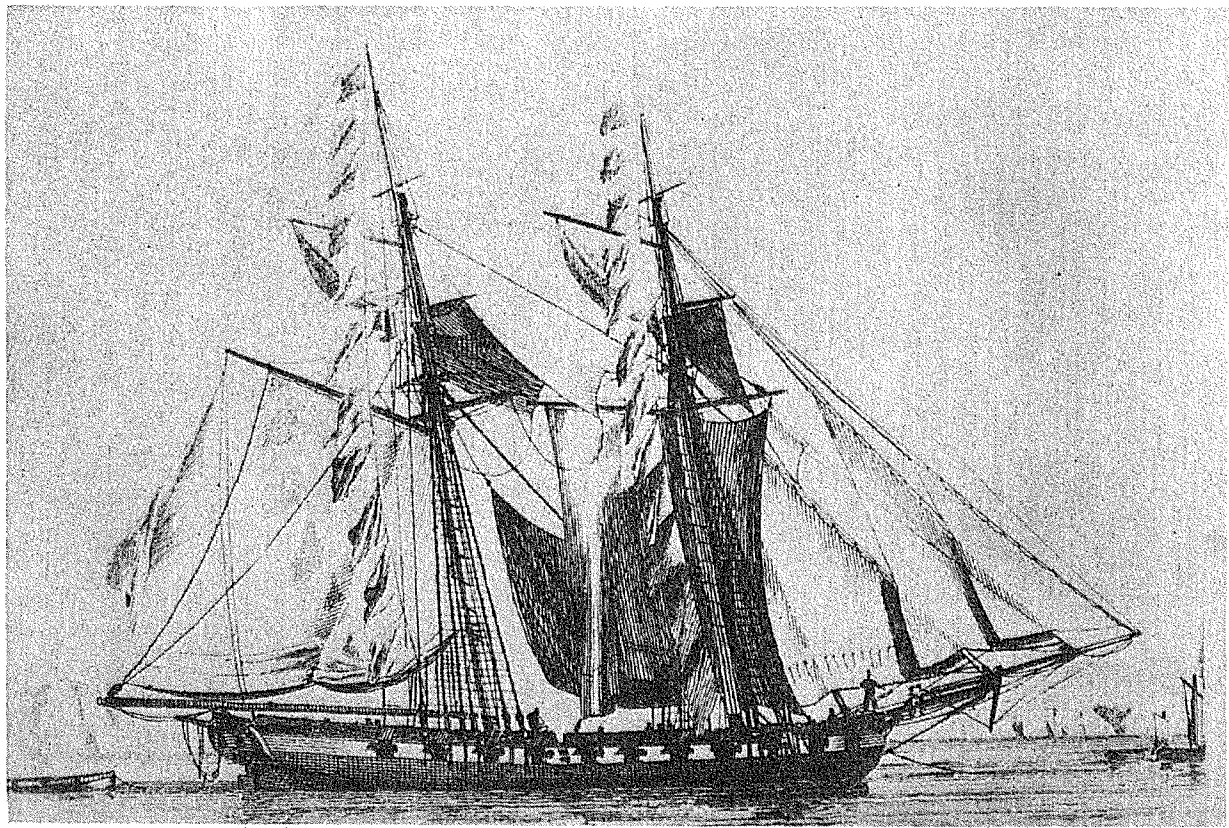
The *Argus* sails fast. is very stiff & scuds well, but in lying to she pitches remarkably heavy. —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802–1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 19 September 1803

Sent the *Philadelphia* and *Vixen* to blockade Tripoli and placed both vessels under immediate orders of Captain Bainbridge.

[LC, original.]



THE U. S. SCHOONER ENTERPRIZE.



Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 19 September 1803

Laying to in Gibraltar Bay, at 2 fill'd and stood in for the anchorage/ parted company with the *Philadelphia* and the *Vixen*/ at 3 came too with the small bower/ in 20 fath<sup>s</sup> Veerd to a cable Europa point/ SbE, the North Extreme of the old Mole EbN. nearly two miles/ in this situation we was about one mile from the Rock/ and three cable lengths, with in us. ther was 10 fath<sup>s</sup> sandy bottom Captain Otway of the Royal Navy, now Commissioner at Gibraltar waited on Commodore Preble. \* \* \* on our anchoring here [Gibraltar] yesterday we found here the United States Ship *New York*, Commodore Morris who has Hauld down his Broad pendant/ the two prizes i mentioned on our first arrival belonging to the *Philadelphia* and *John Adams* still continue here/ we sent an officer and a party of men on board/ the *Philadelphias* prize, to strike Lower yards and Topmasts.

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, from William Kirkpatrick, U. S. Consul, Malaga, Spain

MALAGA 20 Sept 1803

DEAR SIR I wrote to you on the 18 Inst, by the Schooner *Nautilus*, that as Capt Somers did not find himself Authorised to remain for the Vessels then loading for the United States, He had determined to return, and I consequently requested you would have the goodness to either send him, or another back to arrive on the Thursday when I expected if the Weather kept favorable, they might be in readiness; This I now Confirm, altho' some of the Captains have come to tell me that Untill Friday or Saturday they will not be despatched by their Consignees, if you could therefore allow the Schooner to remain 48 Hours to take the whole at once, it would prove more agreeable, in the Event of her getting back on Thursday as I expect.

Yesterday at Midday Capt Bainbridge, & Smith gave us a call, they proceeded on, in the afternoon, as no Vessel offered for the Eastw<sup>d</sup>

I repeat my best Wishes for your Health, and Success in your undertakings, and in hopes of your giving us a call on your way up I remain very truly

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

[20 September 1803]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from the Secretary of State of the Emperor of Morocco

Translation of a Letter from Sidy Mahammed Ben Abd-Salem Selawy. —

Praise be given to God alone. —

There is no Power or Strength but in the Great and Almighty God. —

To Consul Simpson the American — Health. —

We have received your Letter and we see Hashash had sent for you but that you were unwell, and that he wished to compell you. — Our Master whom God preserve orders that you shall not go to Hashash, but that you remain in your House quiet, respected and honoured as the other Consuls, for you are still respected by him, and Peace

remains as before untill the affair of these Vessels shall be determined, when things will be as they were.

Here you have what His Majesty whom God preserve writes you on your concerns — and he leaves you the same as the other Consuls: — If you should hear of one of your Vessels being detained at Mogadore — it is perhaps they have detained her because of the Tripoline Ship — she will be in perfect security untill that matter be finished and then she shall be sent to her destination — there shall not be the pairing of a Nail lost of her, therefore you have nothing to fear respecting that Vessel.

*2<sup>d</sup> of Chemade (the second) 1218 — 20<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803*

MUHAMMED BEN ABD-SALEM SELAWY —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTER 20<sup>th</sup> September 1803

DEAR SIR This day arrived a boat from Tanger that left it last night — With her some of M<sup>r</sup> Simpson's Servants who have been expected some days ago. — I understand the Emperor had left Tetz [sic] and that 150 Soldiers had gone from Tanger to meet him on the road so that he must be near at hand — The Boat goes tomorrow at Midday for Tanger should you have anything to say. — As yet I have no letter from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson —

I herewith annex you copy of a letter from Mogadore [5 September] received by the Boat from Tanger. If any Vessel could be spared for that service, I think would be usefull The Cargoes they bring in general are valuable, as they chiefly consist of India Goods

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

Correspondence between Hadge Alcayde Abde-Rhaman Hashash, Governor or Minister of the Emperor of Morocco, and James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

My Answer to the foregoing Letter Dated 21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803

HADGE ABDE-RHAMAN HASHASH.

I have received Your Excell<sup>ty</sup> Letter and I have seen Sidy Mohamet Emfadal. — The American Commodore came to this Bay for purpose of treating on the affairs of his Nation with whosoever might be authorised to that effect by His Majesty Muley Soliman (whom God preserve) but when we received the news of the Governour of Mogadore having seized an American Brig at anchor in that Port, together with all her Cargo and made the Master and Seamen prisoners, he put to Sea and has not since returned. — The said Governour declared he had orders to do the same by every American Vessel might arrive at Mogadore. — I submit to Your Exc<sup>ty</sup> consideration whether these be Acts of Peace or War. —

signed JAMES SIMPSON —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from the Governor or Minister of the Emperor of Morocco

Hadge Abd-e-Rahman Hashash's answer to my Letter of 21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> [1803]

In the Name of the only God. —



HADGE ABDE-RAHMAN H[ASHASH] to J SIMPSON *American Consul*. —

This is the same as the Letter I sent you by Mohamet Emfadal who will be a Cheif Assistant in this busyness. — Your Letter we recieved by the Express in which you tell me the Governour of Mogadore had stopt an American Vessel — Whatever may be stopt at Mogadore or any of the Emperours Ports you will not lose any thing of. — I shall be answerable for the whole. — Whatever I do with any Consul the Emperour will approve of. — When the Commodore arrives he may come on shore to talk on the Public busyness, or if he chuses to come to Tetuan he will be very wellcome, as in Tetuan he also will be very safe. — We are in Peace the same as before this busyness. — Let those matters remain between us untill all be settled. — You tell me the Christians are Prisoners at Magodore — They will not be kept Prisoners, they are only stopt — If you know certainly the people are in Jail let me know and I will send a Letter to get them out. —

4 Chemade (2<sup>d</sup>) 22<sup>d</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 21 September 1803

Laying at single anchor in Gibralter Bay and cruising Between the Barbary Coast and Gibralter winds Vble from the Westw<sup>d</sup>

\* \* \* at 3 anchored Here the united States Schooner *Enterprize*/ Lieutenant Hull/ who waited on Commodore Preble/ Lieutenant Hull came a long side of the *Constitution* but he did not come on board/ at 5 PM. we weigh<sup>d</sup> and made Sail in order to work out of Gibraltar Bay/ \* \* \* We was becalm<sup>d</sup> off [f] uropa point till 10 in the Evening at which time a which time a breeze sprung up from the WSW we fill'd and stood over for Ceuta/

[NA. ND original.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

(1) U S SHIP *Cons<sup>t</sup>* at Sea off the Coast of Barbary near  
CEUTA. — Sep<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1803. —

SIR I had the honor to write you the 20<sup>th</sup> and inclose you various dispatches as p<sup>r</sup> list since which in consequence of information from Moggadore that several valuable American Vessels were expected there and that two Gallies which the Emperor of Morocco has at Tanger were about moving, I have thought proper to countermand the orders for the *Argus* and *Enterprize*, the latter Vessel is now along side taking in Provisions for a cruize off Maggadore to prevent our Vessels from entering that Port, & falling to the hands of the Moors and to watch the Moorish Crussers the *Enterprize* will have to touch at Gibralter for a few hours for additional stores I am in great want of the *Argus* & *Siren*, at the present moment & hope they may soon arrive, the *Nautilus* has not yet returned from Mallaga the winds have been contratry which has prevented her from coming down with the convoy, I want her to watch the two Galleys and a ship loaded with Moorish property at Tanger & prevent them from escapeing, until I can learn the emperors determination, I understood that the Vessels at Malaga were all ready to sail & had been waiting some time

before I sent the *Nautilus*, of course I gave Lt Somers orders to wait at Mallaga only 24 hours, & return to Gibraltar with what vessels he could find ready by that time. I have been endeavoring to reach Tanger Bay since the 20<sup>th</sup> but find it impossible to beat through the Straits with a Westerly wind. however I am still striving and shall not anchor until I reach it. Col<sup>o</sup> Lear agrees with me that it would be imprudent for me to leave this Station for Algiers, Tunis or Tripoly at present and has written me a letter to that effect which you will find among my dispatches,

As the winter is fast approaching I conceive there will soon be very little danger from the Tripolines until the spring opens in the mean time Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge will be able to keep them in check with the *Philadelphia*, and *Vixen*, I shall send another vessel up as soon she can be spared from this station, to convoy a vessel to Malta with provisions of which by the way there is no great stock at Gibraltar, I enclose you a list of all the Consul has on hand. —

Sep<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> —

Last evening I fell in with the *Adams* from Tunis with Consul Cathcart on board, Cap<sup>t</sup> Cammel and M<sup>r</sup> C. came on board the *Constitution*, The Bey of Tunis has refused to receive M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, and positively demands a frigate, should that demand be acceded to, it will require another Frigate on our own account to watch her motions. I suspect the demands of the Barbary Powers will increase, and will be of such a nature as to make it imprudent for our Government to comply with, all of them excepting Algiers appear to have a disposition to quarrel with us unless we tamely accede to any propositions they chuse to make, I believe a firm and decided conduct in the first instance towards those of them who make war against us would have a good effect

The Emperor of Morocco has no doubt long been meditating War with the U. S. he has only been waiting for some pretext, and the Capture of the *Messuda* by Cap<sup>t</sup> Ro[d]gers I suppose he will alledge to be a sufficient one altho I think he has no cause of complaint on that score, the Christian powers will have no chance with these people until they determine never to pay tribute or supply them with military or naval stores or ships but[?] to destroy every thing they can belonging to them. — They send out their Cruisers, and if they prove successfull, it is war, and we must purchase peace, — suffering them to keep all they have taken, but if they are unfortunate and we capture their Cruisers before they have taken any thing valuable it is not war altho the orders for Capturing our vessels are found on board, and we must restore all we take from them, which enables them to commence again. I know not how long we shall be obliged to submit to this sort of treatment, the Moors are a deep designing artfull treacherous sett of Villains and nothing will keep them so quiet as a respectable naval force near them. I think Gibraltar should never be left without a frigate and two Brigs or schooners, as they can effectually prevent any cruisers from aloft passing into the Atlantic and at the same time keep the Moors in check —

The wind has the appearance of changing in favour of reaching Tanger, and I must for the present conclude, M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart will forward dispatches to the Sec<sup>ry</sup> of State by the *Adams* and inform him of his proceedings at Tunis.

I have been very much engaged since I came on the station & have only written a few lines to Mr Maddison refering him to my dispatches to you for such information or documents as belong to the State department.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
at sea off the rock of Gibraltar —  
September 22nd 1803

SIR Adverse winds keeps me from Tanger Bay. I am endeavouring to reach it, but I find it hard striving against wind & Current. however I shall keep a good look out, and not go into Port before I visit it, I feel disposed to accomodate our differences with the Emperor on fair and honorable terms, and if he arrives at Tanger before I do, you may so inform him — I have sent three vessels off Mogadore, Sallee, and Larach, and one off Tetuan —

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution* cruising off the Rock of  
Gibraltar 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, I find it necessary from the information I have this day received from John Gavino Esquire Consul at Gibraltar to countermand my Orders to you of the 19 instant —

You are immediately on your Arrival in Gibraltar Bay, to prepare the *Argus* for Sea, making your requisitions on Consul Gavino at that place for what provision &c<sup>a</sup> you may want; and sail without delay, to the westward, look into Tangier Bay, pass cape Spartel, and stand to the Southward look into Larach, Sallee, and Mogadore, Cruise off the latter place three weeks unless sooner relieved by some of the Squadron under my command —

Speak with every American Vessel you may meet with, and inform them that the Emperor of Morocco's cruisers, have Orders to Capture American Vessels; and that he has detained a Brig in Mogadore, and made prisoners of the Crew, belonging to Salem —

You will send into this Bay, all the Vessels you may meet with, belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli, the Emperor of Morocco or their Subjects and at the expiration of 3 weeks you are to return to this Bay, and wait my further Orders

\* \* \* \* \*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution* cruising off  
the rock of Gibraltar 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1803 —

SIR, I find it necessary from the information I have this day received from John Gavino Esquire Consul at Gibraltar to countermand the Orders I gave you the 19<sup>th</sup> inst you will immediately proceed to Gibraltar, and prepare the *Enterprize* for Sea, with all possible

expedition — making your requisitions on Consul Gavino at that place for what provision &c\* you may want, and sail without delay to the westward, look into Tangier Bay, pass Cape Spartel, and stand to the southward, look into Larach, Sallee and Moggadore cruise off the latter place 15 days unless sooner relieved by some of the Squadron under my command — speak with every American vessel you meet with, and inform them that the Emperor of Morocco's cruisers have Orders to Capture American Vessels; and that he has detained a Brig in Moggadore, and made Prisoners of the crew, belonging to Salem —

You will send into Gibraltar Bay all the Vessels you may meet with, belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli, the Emperor of Morocco or their subjects, and at the expiration of 15 days you are to return to this Bay, and wait my further Orders —

\* \* \* \* \*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from  
Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

Copy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philadelphia*  
at sea 22<sup>nd</sup> Septem. 1803  
Alicant bearing N. N. W. 15 leag

SIR Should we unavoidably be separated, you will be pleased to proceed with all expedition to Malta, taking the Island Lapidosa in your way, to examine the harbour for Tripolitan cruisers. On your arrival at Malta, if the Frigate *Philadelphia* has not been there, you will fill your water as soon as possible to be ready for a cruise; and after waiting six days, and receiving no news of me, you will proceed on a cruise off Tripoli, where I shall join you.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 22 September 1803

Employ<sup>d</sup> working to the Westw<sup>d</sup> Between Gibraltar and the Barbary shore/ at ¼ past 12 we had a squall from the Northw<sup>d</sup>/ at ½ past 12 the weather cleared up/ we saw a strange sail in shore with her Topmast, carried away/ we Bore up and Boarded her/ Shee was an English manawar Brig, Lieutenant Bolton/ who sent an officer to waite on Commodore Preble/ Requesting assistance for His Majestys Brig the *Childres*/ we Took her in Tow/ about 5 or 6 leagus to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> of Europa point, and made sail over for the Barbary Shore/ we continu<sup>d</sup> Running over for the Harbour of Tetuan with fresh breezes/ till 5 P. M. at which time it fell a dead calm/ We cast her off, Lieutenant Bolton/ who is the commandin officer/ of the *Childres*/ waited on Commodore Preble/ at sundown laying becalmd between Ceuta and Tetuan nearly three leagues to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> of the land

[NA. ND original.]

Presumably to Secretary of State from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. F *C[onstitution]* Cruising off the  
Coast Barbary 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPT<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I have been very much hurried in preparing my dispatches for the Navy department — and, altho several of the papers apper-

tain more immediately to the Department of State I have not had time to make duplicates to forward by this conveyance and beg leave to refer you to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy for such papers relative to our situation with Morocco as more immediately concerns your Office. I have issued orders to all the Captains under my command to capture Moorish vessels & bring send [sic] them to Gibraltar for Examination, in consequence of the Emperors having given orders to his cruisers to capture American property and one of them having actually captured the Brig *Celia* of Boston Cap<sup>t</sup> Bowen and of his having detained the Brig *Hannah* of Salem Joseph W Williams Master, at Mogadore for the whole of which Transactions I must refer you to the documents enclosed to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Anthony Terry, U. S. Vice Consul, Cadiz, Spain

(Copy)

CADIZ, 23<sup>d</sup> September 1803.

SIR, I have now to inform you with the utmost sorrow, the information given in the Consular Office by Capt. John Appleton, [of Schooner *Columbia*] arrived here yesterday evening from Oporto, and declared —

“That on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. at 11 o’Clock, he fell in with the U. S. “Frigate *\*Adams*, the Commander informed that he had spoke an “English vessel, who advised him of having met a Moorish Frigate, “with four American Vessels, prizes, of which 3 were Brigs, & that “agreeable to the course he gave him, the *\*Adams* was in search of “the Moor & expected to be up with him the same evening; The “Pilot that brought Cap<sup>t</sup> Appleton in told him that he had seen “2 Galleys off Cape Trafalgar & was most certain they were Moors.”

I request you will make this as public as possible, that your trade may not suffer —

(\* meaning the *John Adams*.)

[Similar letter sent to William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, Portugal.]

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801–Dec. 1803.]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philadelphia*

At Sea latitude 38°40' N long 3°20' E

Septem. 24<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR By our parting company we shall be more likely to intercept any Tripolitan Cruisers that may be in our rout; you will therefore make the best of your way to Malta Via Lapidosa, and attend to the Orders you received from me on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

[24 September 1803]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from the Secretary of State of the Emperor of Morocco

Translation. —

Praise be given to the only God. —

There is no Power or Strength but that proceeding from the Almighty and Great God. —

*To Consul Simpson — the American — Health. —*

We have received your Letter and understood what you say therein. — His Majesty whom God preserve now orders that you may cease to speak with Hadge Abd-e Rahman Hashash on these affairs and altho' he should write you Letters on any subject dont answer them. — The conclusion of these affairs will be when His Majesty shall be at Tangier. — What I encharge and recommend to you is, if it be necessary for you that your Treaties of Peace and Friendship remain as they were, with Our Master whom God preserve, that you dont allow Our Master to reach Tangier before that the Ship of Arraiz Ibrahim Lubarez be there with your two Frigates — let them keep at Sea untill Our Master arrives. — There will be nothing for your people but what is good if you do this, and if you can make them bring also the Tripoline Ship it will be a proof of disposition to fulfil the engagement you made, let them come soon, — and then His Majesty will see your word fulfilled, and you will have a testimony in aid of what you may ask, and it will altogether be a great support for you with His Majesty, whom God preserve. — If His Majesty does not find there the Arraiz with his Ship, I dont know what he may not do. — I have advised you of this of myself by way of admonition — beware of delays for this will be a great matter for you and for all those who support you and speak well of you here — dont be slack or deficient in this matter of consequence for yourself. —

Written the 6<sup>th</sup> Chemadi the second 1218 — 24<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803.

The departure of Our Master whom God preserve will be after the day of the date hereof —

MAHAMMED BEN ABD E SALEM SELAWY

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution* GIBRALTER BAY

24<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

SIR, M<sup>r</sup> Gavino will deliver you my Orders to proceed to the westward and Southward and cruise off Moggadore for the purposes therein mentioned. — While you are in this Bay victualing and watering, you will Anchor the *Nautilus* very close to the prize Ship *Messuada* to protect her, as she has a great number of prisoners on board, and it is to be apprehended they may if opportunity offers endeavor to rise upon our Men, and run the Ship on shore —

This Order I expect you will particularly attend to —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

Extract from letter to Zilpah Wadsworth, from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth,  
U. S. Navy

[Sept] 24<sup>th</sup> 1803 Gibraltar.

[Written to Zilpah Wadsworth]

The *Adams* has arriv'd & Com<sup>rs</sup> Morris sails for America tomorrow Adieu I am just going on board the *New York*—to deliver my packet & bid adieu to M<sup>r</sup> Morris &c — — —

HENRY WADSWORTH

[Copied by S. Picking from H. W. L. Dana Col.]

Extract from letter to Nancy Doane, from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

. Constitution 44 Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1803

Gibraltar Bay

DEAR COUSIN [Written to Nancy Doane]

\* \* \* \* \*

I can't leave you without giving you the News of the Morning: The *Enterprize* was order'd to get under way & chase a ship which appear'd in the Straits. We suspected her to be the Danish Ship laden with valuable Moorish property, which we saw two days ago under the guns of Tangier: & if it does not prove to be the same, we are going to Tangier to cut her out, this very day. The Active Capt Hull was under way in 8 minutes after the Signal was made. They are now both becalm'd in the Gut about 5 miles from us & two miles apart. We have 12 Moorish Officers on board. The Capt named IBRAHIM LOUVERAIS a princely fellow invites me (after the War) to go home to Sallee with him & says he will give me four wives. —

Com<sup>r</sup> Morris told me he should sail this eve<sup>r</sup> for America. I am very agreeably situated in this ship & meet many acquaintances . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Warrington a Mid. of the *Vixen* 14 told me he saw Samuel in Richmond . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

Your cheerful Cousin

HENRY WADSWORTH

MISS NANCY DOANE.

[Copied by S. Picking from H. W. L. Dana Col.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 24 September 1803

at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 shortened sail and Brought to with the main Topsail to the mast/ in Gibraltar Bay/ we saild from here on wednesday last/ in order to proceed over to Tanger Bay/ after Beating in the Straits for three days, we was well convinced that a passage from Gibraltar to Tanger Bay cannot Be made Except with a leading wind in consequence of which we bore up and Run into Gibraltar Bay/ we found here the united State Frigate *New York*/ the late Commodore Morris/ the *Enterprize*/ Lieutenant Hull/ Lieutenant Chuncy of the *New York* and Leutenant Hull of the *Enterprize*/ waited on Commodore Preble M<sup>r</sup> Cathcarth/ who was appointed Consul at Tunis/ also waited on Commodore Preble at 3 anch<sup>d</sup> here the united States Frigate *Adams* Captain Campbell/ who waited on Commodore Preble at 4 we came to off[f] the old Mole/ Gibraltar side in 18 fath<sup>s</sup> heard Bottom/ \* \* \* Joined the *Constitution* Lieutenant Dent/ Lieutenant Jenckes, was this day Removed from the *Constitution*/ to the *Adams*

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

AGAIN 25 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

DEAR SIR The enclosed Sheet was begun this morning when a Schooner, was in the offing at day break, brought to — but the Moors were so tardy in getting a Boat ready she bore away.

After the Emperours Freindly assurances it can scarce be supposed there would now be danger in your landing, but as I said before we cannot have full reliance on these people, and as the return of my mentioned Express must be near at hand I think it is as well excuse it untill he comes — if this answer be such as to render it perfectly safe for you to land with a Flag, or rather say send one, I will shew the blue American Jack, — which you will be pleased to direct being answered by the same Flag at either of the Top Gallant Mast heads; for after the insults our Flag has met here, I do not see it consistent to hoist it for any other purpose than I have mentioned, untill matters be accommodated, or that the Emperour desires it.

The Emperour we have every reason to believe left Fez on Friday Afternoon — if so he may be here tomorrow week — at present I think it highly proba[b]le the Minister will not go to Tetuan but come here direct to treat with us, that the busyness may be finished before His Majestys arrival, — by the Express we shall know the precise. —

I beg my best respects to Coll Lear if with you, and that you will be assured I am with great respect

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

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To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

Tangier Bay 25 September 1803

SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your dispatches of this date and shall particularly attend to them. I shall have no hesitation in giving up the *Mirboka*, and releasing all the Moors in our possession upon our being assured from proper authority that the Emperor did not himself Issue the order to capture American vessels at Sea, or to detain the vessel at Mogadore but we shall expect that he will punish those who did, and release the property which he has sequestrated.

I have given orders to the Ships of my squadron to capture Moorish Vessels, but will withdraw those Orders, and restore to the Emperor everything that may fall into our hands, he doing the same by us, and consenting to ratify the treaty of 1786. I shall be off Tangier again in two or three days, and will att<sup>d</sup> to your Signal.

We ought not to consent on our part, that Hashash shall be the person with whom we are to treat; it will be more satisfactory to our Government if the Emperor should appoint some other person.

Peace, and a good understanding between the United States and His Imperial Majesty is the wish of our Government, and I sincerely hope it will soon be permanently established —

The Capture of the *Mishouda*, I presume the Emperor will allow to be just, and of course will make no demand of her without a proper compensation —

All the Moorish officers are on board the *Constitution*, and are well in Health and well treated. The Captain and Priest live with me in the Cabin —

P S: I have enclosed the certified Paper you wish Col: Lear is not on Board —

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]



[25 September 1803]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Secretary of State of the Emperor of Morocco

Translation. —

Praise be given to God alone. —

To Consul SIMPSON the American — Health. —

Take care — take care that you be not tardy in what I have beforehand told you of in writing, on subject of Lubarez Vessel being brought, and that Our Master whom God preserve may find her in the Port; for truly such would be for your good and for Ours. — I am with you, — take care take care that you be neither tardy nor deficient in this. —

Written 7<sup>th</sup> Chemadi the second 1218—25<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803

MAHAMED BEN ABD-E SALEM SELAWY —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 25 September 1803

Laying at single anchor/ in Gibraltar Bay, and Running through the Straits to the Westw<sup>d</sup>/ winds Variable from NW to ENE

Leeutenant Elbortt, [Samuel Elbert] was this day orderd from the *Constitution* on board the Moorish Ship/ prize to the Frigate *Philadelphia*/ and to Take charge of her/ M<sup>r</sup> Reed/ Mate/ and M<sup>r</sup> Morris Midshipn was also orderd on board with him/ the sail in the offing/ which the *Enterprize* was orderd this morning to chace/ anch<sup>d</sup> here this afternoon/ She is an american Ship from Baltimore put in here of Convoy/ Toward the Evening we weigh<sup>d</sup> the kedg and Hove short in order to proceed to sea/ at 9 a Breezes sprung up from the Eastw<sup>d</sup> Veerd to a half a cable/ Commodore Preble/ whent on board of the two prizes/ belonging to the Frigate *Philadelphia*/ and the *John Adams* the Moorish Ship/ *Missuada* [Meshouda]/ was captured by the *John Adams*/ the Moorish/ Ship/ *Mirboka*/ was captured by the *Philadelphia*/ we Recied from the *Missuda*/ five Moorish officers/ Colonel Lear/ did not come to sea with us this time/ He was left at Gibraltar/ at 5 in the morning weigh<sup>d</sup> and came to sail/ We left at Gibraltar the Frigate *John Adams* and the *Newyork* We Run from Gibraltar over for Ceuta

[NA. ND original.]

To Secretary of State from Anthony Terry, U. S. Vice Consul, Cadiz, Spain

CADIZ 26<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

SIR. I have the honour of confirming what I had the pleasure of addressing you p<sup>r</sup> Duplicate on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> & 31. August & 10<sup>th</sup> instant; and at same time to advise you with the utmost regret of the Declaration given in this Consular Office by John Appleton Master of the American Schooner *Columbia* arrived in this Bay on the 22 inst<sup>t</sup> from Oporto & which is as follows — [See 23 September 1803]

In consequence of the foregoing the Masters of Vessels ready in this Bay fearing to Sail, requested I should forward a petition (Copy herewith) to Commodore Morris requesting Convoy, & which was

forwarded this very day to Gibraltar; the results I shall have the honour of acquainting you in due time.

In absence of M<sup>r</sup> J. YZNARDY  
ANTHONY TERRY

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

[Enclosure]

To Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, from Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

CADIZ 26. September 1803.

We the undersigned Masters of Vessels in this Bay ready for Sea, but fearing to Sail on account of the Declaration given by Cap<sup>t</sup> John Appleton of the Amer<sup>n</sup> Schooner *Columbia* arrived on the 22 ins<sup>t</sup> from Oporto Copy inclosed — We request that you will be so good & obliging as to order one of the U. S. Frigates under your Command to come round to give us Convoy as far as you may think convenient — Relying on your protection to our just request — We have the honour to be with the most profound respect — Sir —

Your most ob<sup>t</sup> hble Serv<sup>ts</sup>

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| BENJAMIN MASON           | Master of the American Brig <i>Concord</i> — |
| JOHN APPLETON            | Schoon <sup>r</sup> <i>Columbia</i>          |
| JAMES BUFFINGTON         | Schooner — <i>Eliza</i>                      |
| NATH <sup>l</sup> BISSEL | Ship — <i>Eliza</i>                          |
| ALEXANDER WOOD           | Brig — <i>Mary</i>                           |
| PHILIP KEAN              | Brig — <i>Ann &amp; Mary</i>                 |

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 26<sup>th</sup> September 1803

N<sup>o</sup> 132

SIR I beg leave to Confirm my last N<sup>o</sup> 131 under date 9<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> — since then arrived Comodors Morris & Prible, with the latter Colonel Lear to all whom have made every Communication. and as said Gentlemen now fully informs you & the Hon<sup>l</sup> Secretary of the Navy of every Occurrence I think it needless to enter into Repititions, and only trouble you with an annexd Copy of a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Ant<sup>y</sup> Terry the Vice Consul at Cadiz dated 23<sup>d</sup> Instant which is truly displeasing, and it is to be hoped Cap<sup>n</sup> Rodgers may fall in with the Vessels in question —

Consul Simpson Continues arrested in his house with Sentries over him —

[SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. II, April 1796-Nov. 1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

GIBRALTAR Sept<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR, The communications which you will receive by this conveyance from Commodore Preble, are so full and complete that I can add nothing to them that is interesting excepting the enclosed copy of a letter received here yesterday after (after Com<sup>o</sup> Preble's

departure for Tangier) by M<sup>r</sup> Gavino, from the consular house at Cadiz.—the information contained in this letter is of a very disagreeable nature; but even if it sh<sup>d</sup> prove true, I think the measures which have been taken to guard the Coast of Morocco, on the Atlantic, will prevent either the prizes or cruizer from getting in. — The *New York* sails this day to releive the *John Adams*, and will probably remain on that Station, until the arrival of the Brigs, which is anxiously & hourly expected—I presume that Com<sup>e</sup> Preble informed you of his intention to touch at Tangier Bay merely to see if M<sup>r</sup> Simpson had any thing new to communicate, and proceed from thence out of the St[r]aits, and run along the affrican coast for a few days, untill the Emperor's arrival at Tangier, which is expected on the 3<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> when he will return to this place to see if this unpleasant business cannot be settled by negotiation. He went out yesterday morning with a fine wind from the Eastw<sup>d</sup>

I should have gone out again in the *Constitution*, as I have already been out twice in her since my arrival; but the arrival of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart in the *Adams*, From Tunis makes it necessary for me to remain here to receive from him such communications as he has to make respecting our affairs with Tunis & Tripoli. — Our first trip to Tangier was on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. the second day after the arrival of the *John Adams* in the Bay — The zeal of Commodore Ro[d]gers to do every thing in his power either to settle this disagreeable affair with the Emperor &<sup>e</sup> or to take the best possible measures to protect our commerce, did not allow him to hesitate a moment about going down to Tangier with his ship in company with the *Constitution*; altho he was not prepared for being out but a few days, and had had no opportunity of writing to the Navy Dep<sup>t</sup> after his arrival here. — Indeed when we went down we had no expectation of being gone more than two days; but the information rec<sup>d</sup> there from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson (the full of which you will have with Com<sup>e</sup> Preble's dispatches) made it necessary to guard the Atlantic Ports of Morocco without a moments delay; and as Com<sup>e</sup> Preble was obliged to return here to give additional orders to the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* & *Vixen* previous to their going up the Mediterranean, Com<sup>e</sup> Ro[d]gers with a zeal & alacrity which must do him credit, determined to go into the Atlantic & cruize as long as his provisions and water lasted, of which he had not more than 12 or 15 days allowance. — Before we parted he requested I would state to you his reasons for not having written to you; which were, that he rec<sup>d</sup> his instructions to take charge of the Ships returning home, only two days previous to his arrival in this Bay — and that the short time he continued here, was occupied without the loss of a moment, in making the necessary despositions in consequence of the charge in the homeward bound ships — and in concerting measures to guard against the evils which might result from our unexpected difference with the Emperor, or terminate them by a negociation.—And his going into the Atlantic instead of returning here immediately from Tangier, as he expected, must totally deprive him of the oppertunity of writing by the *Adams*. — The full communications from Com<sup>e</sup> Preble will inform you of every event which has taken place with respect to Morocco, and the return of the *Adams* will, undoubtedly give, full information of the operations of the other Squadron previous to their arrival here; so that Commodore Ro[d]gers will have the satisfaction of knowing that you will receive all the intelligence on these points that his letters could have

given and he feels fully persuaded that the part which he has taken in this unexpected and critical state of our affairs with Morocco, will be more approved by the President than if he should have complied with the strict letter of his instructions & returned immediately to the U. S., when it is probable that the continuance of his ships for a short time on the coast will be attended with very happy effects.— Indeed nothing but Patriotism and a deep sence of the duty which he owed to the interest of the U. States could have prevailed upon him to take the part he has in this business when the term of service and his instructions directed him homewards and under these impressions he has entered into it with his usual ardour and alacrity. —

The Zeal activity and intelligence of Com<sup>e</sup> Preble must afford satisfaction to our Government. — and I flatter myself the President will have good cause to be pleased with the conduct of this Officer who so far as I can observe, seems actuated only by a wish to render the best services to his country, and make them acceptable as well as useful. — He has undoubtedly stated his ideas of the necessity of an additional force in these seas, even if we should make peace with Morocco, for it would not be strange if Tunis should break out, upon hearing of our differences with the Emperor, and knowing that we were not expecting it, & of course, not provided against it. —

I hope on the return of the *Constitution* she will be able to proceed with me to Algiers, whither I am anxious to go; but I trust the present state of our affairs here will be a sufficient justification of my delay. — We have not heard any thing of the store ships sent to Algiers. — M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart informs that he heard from Algiers when he was at Tunis, and that all was well there as it respected the United States. — M<sup>rs</sup> Lear desires her best respects and regards may be given to your good Lady, to which I beg leave to join mine.

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Secretary of State from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 1.

GIBRALTER, *September 13<sup>th</sup> 1803.* —  
to *September 26<sup>th</sup>* —

SIR, I had the honor of writing a few line to you on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>s</sup> which was put on board the Brig *Jack*, Capt<sup>n</sup> Hashill, from Cadiz to Cape Ann, off Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincents. — We then flattered ourselves with being in this Bay two days afterwards; but the easterly winds and unfavourable weather baffled all calculations, so that we did not reach this place 'till the 12<sup>th</sup>

As the information which we received on our arrival here of the hostile disposition and conduct of the Emperor of Morocco towards the U. States, has opened a new & unlooked for scene of operation for the Squadron under Commodore Preble, and has caused a pretty active succession of events, I shall take the liberty of stating those things which occurred to myself, or within my knowledge, from day to day, as noted in my diary. —

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> between Cape S<sup>t</sup> Vincents & Cape S<sup>t</sup> Mary's, we fell in with a Frigate [*Maimona*] belonging to the Emperor of Morocco, mounting 30 Guns & carrying 150 men; bound, as the Commander said, from Sallee to Lisbon. Neither her appearance nor conduct discovered anything hostile towards us: indeed so little did she appear like a suspicious Vessel, that the Commodore would not

have thought it worth while to notice her particularly, had she not discovered a wish to speak with us; & finding she was a moorish ship, he then sent his boat along side, with an Officer to make every requisite examination and enquiry respecting her. On his return and reporting to the Commodore that her passport &c from our Consul, M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, was correct, and nothing appeared suspicious about her, the Commodore, who was anxious that we should be placed upon as much certainty as possible respecting her, requested, that, as I was acquainted with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson's handwriting & signature, I would go on board with the Officer, and examine the passport &c — This I most readily consented to, and accordingly repaired on board with the first Lieutenant and a Midshipman, when I found everything as stated in my report to the Commodore, on my return on board, a Copy of which I have the honor to enclose, (N<sup>o</sup> 1). Altho' everything appeared so clear & correct on board this Vessel, that there could be no pretext for detaining her, and the Commodore was fully satisfied that he could not do it with propriety; yet such was his anxiety & uneasiness lest there should be some deception, that might operate against the Am. Commerce, that I really beleive, had she been in sight next morning, he would have ventured to detain her.

From this time 'till the 12<sup>th</sup>, we had strong easterly winds, or calms, which prevented our reaching the Straits. —

On the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>, we entered the Straits, and stood into the Bay of Tangier, with a light breeze from the westw<sup>d</sup>, hoisting the colours and firing a signal for the Am. Consul to send or come off, if he had any communications to make, and the Commodore being very desirous of seeing him, to know, if possible, the destination of the frigate before mentioned. — Upon standing in near the Town of Tangier, we saw the Consular flags of other nations hoisted; but not that of the U. States; and no boat coming off, we then felt a pretty strong assurance that all was not right with the Emperor. Seeing no probability of a communication with the shore, we stood over to Gibraltar Bay, where we came to Anchor about 3 o'clk P. M. — Upon our arrival here the business with Morocco was explained; for we found the U. States Frigate *Philadelphia*, with her prize, a cruiser, belonging to the Emperor, called the *Mirboka*, commanded by Ibrahim Raiz Lubarez, one of his principal Captains. — Capt<sup>n</sup> Baimbridge immediately came on board the *Constitution*, and communicated to Commodore Preble the particulars of the Capture.

It appears that, on Capt<sup>n</sup> Baimbridge's arrival here from the U. States, he rec<sup>d</sup> intelligence that two Tripoline Cruizers had been seen off Cape De Gata and he immediately went in search of them. — That in looking for them, he fell in with this Moorish Ship of 22 Guns & 90 men. After examining her papers & passport from the Am. Consul, and finding them correct, he was about to let him depart; but seeing an Am. Brig, which appeared to be in company with the Cruiser, he was led to some enquires respecting her, and their answers creating suspicion, he had her examined, and found she had been captured by the Cruiser, and was then in her possession; the Am. Capt<sup>n</sup> & Crew having been put below. Capt<sup>n</sup> B. then took possession of the Cruiser & her prize and brought them in here. — The prize was delivered up to the Master to proceed on his voyage, and the Cruiser detained. — The Moorish Captain produced his Orders from

Alcady Hashash, the Governor of Tangier & that coast, to capture am. vessels and send them into the Ports of Morocco; and also to capture Sweeds, Danes, Dutch, Russians, Prussians &c — These orders, written in the Arabic language, were not signed; but the Captain affirmed and certified, that they were the same which he rec<sup>d</sup> from Hashash; under a sealed cover, with directions not to open it until he sh<sup>d</sup> be at sea; and that, when he came out, he had no idea that he was to cruize ag<sup>t</sup> the Americans. — These orders were faithfully translated into English here, and the Moorish Consul, Hammet, of this place, saw the Original, and declared it was the handwriting of Hashash, or his Secretary, as he had letters from him written in the same hand.

The Moors had been remarkably well treated since their capture, and acknowledged it with gratitude. — The Capt<sup>n</sup> of the Am. Brig which had been taken by the Moors, said he and his crew had been very well treated by them, and were only obliged to go below when any vessel appeared in sight which was suspected to be an Am. Ship of War.

A Salute was fired by the *Constitution*, and returned from the Garrison, with an equal number of Guns. —

TUESDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>

In the forenoon I went, with Commodore Preble, on board the *Philadelphia*, and from thence on shore, where we paid our respects to the Governor, Sir Thomas Trigge, who received us with great cordiality & politeness. He expressed some anxiety on the subject of our rupture with Morocco, as he said the Garrison of Gibraltar was wholly dependent upon the Moors for supplies of fresh provisions in time of war, and he was very apprehensive lest they should refuse those supplies, when they found we were permitted to bring their Vessels in here as prizes. — This, however, was conveyed in a delicate manner, and without intimating that we should meet with any obstruction contrary to our Treaty with Great Britain.

The U. States Frigate, *New York*, arrived here from a Cruise up the Mediterranean — And the Schooner *Vixen*, from Baltimore.

Dispatches were prepared by Commodore Preble to send over to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, by a dispatch boat this evening. I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson by the same conveyance (Enclosure N<sup>o</sup> 2)

I prepared Lodgings on shore for M<sup>rs</sup> Lear & myself, and in the afternoon we took up our quarters on shore.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

Last night the U. S. Frigate *John Adams*, and the Schooner *Nautulus* arrived from a cruise, They brought several Am. Vessels under their convoy from Malaga, Alicant &c &c — The *John Adams* also bro<sup>t</sup> in a prize; the Ship *Mishouda*, Capt Raiz Amaz [Omar], which she had captured attempting to enter the port of Tripol, under the flag of the Emperor of Morocco, altho' in her passport from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, blockaded ports were excepted, and she had on board a quantity of naval & military stores, which she took in after she left Gibraltar, and had on board a Tripoline Captain, and a number of Tripolines more than she took from Gibraltar. (This is the same ship which had been the Tripoline Admiral, and had been so long blockaded in Gibraltar by our Vessels)

THURSDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

Dined at the Governor's, with the Commodore and Commanders of the Am. Ships of War. The *Nautilus* sailed for Malaga, to bring down a convoy of 18 sail of Am. Vessels, laying there, bound down.

FRIDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>

This forenoon the dispatch boat sent to Tangier, arrived with letters from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, which I immediately carried on board the Commodore, in which our apprehensions of a serious rupture with the Emperor, are confirmed; but still a *hope* of accommodation remains. — After perusing, and considering these dispatches, it was determined by Commodores Preble & Rodgers, that they would sail immediately with the *Constitution* & *John Adams* for Tangier Bay, to have further communications with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, and endeavour to terminate this disagreeable business by negotiation. — They both express a strong wish and desire that I would go over to assist at this negotiation (if it should take place) to which I consented, after stating to these Gentlemen, that I had no powers vested in me to interfere in any affairs with the Emperor of Morocco; but that my wish to be useful to my Country, would lead me to give any aid I could in this business. And as this unexpected event w<sup>d</sup> make it necessary for Commodore Preble to remain on this station until something could be done to give Security to our Commerce, I wrote him a letter (Enclosure N<sup>o</sup> 3.) on the subject of my going to Algiers.

I went on shore, made my *Congé* to the Governor, and after placing M<sup>rs</sup> Lear under the kind care of Miss Gavino (Sister to our Consul) I returned on board the *Constitution* at 7 P. M. — At midnight weighed Anchor & stood out of the Bay.

SATURDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>

At day light the *John Adams* was to leeward, standing over for Tangier and we, being to windward, stood in, under easy sail, and about half past seven, both Ships came to Anchor in the Bay, about two miles from the Town; with a White flag at the F. T. G. mast head of each ship.

There were on board the *Constitution* the Capt<sup>n</sup> & six officers of the *Mirboka*, and on board the *John Adams*, the Moorish & Tripoline Captains of the *Mushouda*.

Soon after the Ships came to Anchor, a boat came from the Town rowed by 4 Spaniards, who brought an open slip of paper from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, saying, the boat was permitted to come off to bring on shore any letters the Flag of Truce might have to send.

Commodore Rodgers came on board the *Constitution*, where a joint letter was written by him & Commodore Preble to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, stating that they had come here to see if the differences could be settled by a negotiation. — That the Captains &c of the two prizes were on board, and the papers so certified and established as to place everything in its true light — requesting that a proper person might be sent off to examine the Officers &c engaging him security, — and urging the necessity of a personal interview with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson himself, if possible. —

I also wrote a few lines to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, expressive of my feelings for his situation, and of my desire to be useful; but telling him I was not instructed by Gov<sup>t</sup> to do anything in the affairs of Morocco, and therefore could not act officially in them. —

About 4 o'clk P. M. another boat, rowed by Spaniards (not the same which had been off before) came on board from the Town, and brought

answers from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, stating that he could not come off, as he had guards set over him in his own house; and as the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Tangier was then at Tituan, the Officer commanding at Tangier, would not, or could not, permit him to go off. He had sent an Express to the Emperor immediately on receiving the Commodores' letter, expected an answer from him on Monday, and that the Emperor was expected at Tangier on Friday next. — Desired that the *Constitution* might be off Tangier on Monday or Tuesday, when he expected the Emperor's Answer, and would endeavour himself to come off to the Ship. He recommended not to send any boat on shore from the Ship. — The foregoing is the purport of the letter which was subject to the examination of those having power over him; but he slip'd under the same cover, another letter, stating that we must look to a higher source than Hashash, for the orders given to the Moorish Cruizers — That an Am. Brig, the *Hannah* of Salem, Jos<sup>h</sup> W. Williams master, which was in the Port of Mogodore, on a trading Voyage, had been seized on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> instant, the Cargo taken from the Consignee's, and lodged in the Custom House, and the Capt<sup>n</sup> & Crew delivered to the Consignee upon his responsibility for their appearance. M<sup>r</sup> S. still hoped matters might be accommodated; but those hopes were faint. —

In his letter to me (Inclosure N<sup>o</sup> 4) he says he will open to me, when we meet, a scene of deep deceit — which will astonish me. —

After perusing these letters, and writing a short answer to M<sup>r</sup> S. informing him that the *John Adams* w<sup>d</sup> go on a Cruize, and the *Constitution* return to Gibraltar, to be back again to Tangier on Monday or Tuesday; it was determin'd that the *John Adams* should proceed along the Western Coast of Morocco, as far down as Mogodore, to intercept cruizers and warn any Am. Vessels she might meet with, of their danger; and that the *Constitution* should proceed to Gibraltar, for Commodore Preble to give some additional Orders to Capt<sup>n</sup> Bambridge, in consequence of the late information obtained at Tangier, previous to his going up the Mediterranean.

Commodore Rodgers left the *Constitution* about sunset, and at 8 o'clk, both Ships got under way, for their respective destinations, with a light air.

Commodore Preble offer'd permission to any of the Moorish Officers on board his ship to go on shore & relate the circumstances of their Capture & treatment; but they all declined; saying they did not dare go while their men remained prisoners. — They all appeared very sad, when the[y] found there was no probability of an accommodation at present.

After dark large fires were made on all the Mountains along the coast, to give the alarm, and prevent a landing being effected from the Ships, as the Moors on board said. —

The Fort above the Town, and the Batteries in front, appear formidable; but it is said they are in a bad condition as to their guns, and not furnished with Engineers or Gunners. — There was in the Bay a Ship with Danish Colours, said, by the Boats which came off, to be a prize to a French privateer which lay along side of her, recaptured from the English, who had taken her going into a French Port. — All the Moorish Gallies & boats were hauled close in shore, under the Guns of the Battery. — The Flags of the English, French, Spanish,



Danish, Sweedish & Portuguese Consuls were kept up during our continuance in the Bay.

SUNDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

Having had little or no wind all night, we were not far from Tangier Bay in the morning; but having got into the Current we went fast to the Eastward. — The *John Adams* was at a distance standing out of the Straits.

A breeze springing up we got into Gibralter Bay about 11 o'clk, where we met the Ship *Philadelphia* & Schooner *Vixen* standing out, bound up the Mediterranean. Upon signal from the Commodore, Capt<sup>a</sup> Banbridge & Lt Comd<sup>t</sup> Smith came on board the *Constitution*, where they rec<sup>d</sup> orders from the Commodore. The Ship *Port Mary*, Capt<sup>a</sup> John Collins, of Charleston S. C. from Hull, bound to Messina, was under their convoy. — At 2 P. M. we came to Anchor in the Bay, just above the New Mole. In the afternoon I went on Shore. —

MONDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>

The Commodore having determined to go down to Tangier this evening, or in the morning, to meet M<sup>r</sup> Simpson's further Communications, as he had desired; he requested me to go with him; and in the Evening, I accordingly accompanied him on board; but the wind being too light to get under way, we waited until morning. —

The Commodore brought from Gibralter, a Jew Interpreter of the name of Manna, who speaks the Moorish & English languages well, to facilitate any communications we may have with the Moors. —

In the evening the Commodore & myself had a long conversation with the Moors on board; particularly with Ibrahim Rais Lubarez, who appears to be a sensible, considerate and well informed man. — He is personally well known at Gibralter, has been two years Ambassador from the Emperor to Madrid, and is a person of consideration at home.

We endeavoured to impress them with the injustice, as well as the impolicy of the Emperor's making war upon us, particularly in the insidious manner in which it has now been done, where the passport of the Consul was obtained, which sh<sup>d</sup> be held sacred, and never violated — That, altho' we wished for peace, yet, if forced into a war, we should be found formidable & terrible to the Moors, as they might well know, from what they have seen of our force — That the kind treatment which they had rec<sup>d</sup> was not the effect of fear; but proceeded from principles of humanity and manliness which the Americans always exercised towards their enemies when they had them in their power — That the Emperor w<sup>d</sup> be much more benefitted by our Commerce, than he could by a war with us — That our Commerce extended to all nations, which would enable us to carry to the Moors every thing they could want; besides what was produced in our own Country; and that we should take from them such things as they had to dispose of, which w<sup>d</sup> be very profitable to the Merchants, as well as productive to the Revenue of the Emperor — That our Shipping was very numerous & powerful — That we w<sup>d</sup> strive all in our power to keep peace with them upon proper & honorable terms; but if we were obliged to go to war, we should not only destroy all their Vessels, which w<sup>d</sup> not require much of our force to do; but we should send ships and batter down every Sea Port Town in the Empire

These observations appeared to make a deep impression upon them, and brought tears into their eyes. — They acknowledged it was all just and true, and Capt<sup>n</sup> Lubarez observed, that the present Emperor was one of the best Princes they ever had, that he was just and considerate; but that he was surrounded by bad advisers, particularly by Hashash, who had given Orders for capturing Am. Vessels. — He also declared, that if ever he got to his own country again, he would see the Emperor, face to face, (to whom he was personally known) and would tell him those solid truths, let the consequences to himself be what they might. That he was fully persuaded the Emperor only wanted to be justly informed of the disposition of the Americans to agree to every thing that was right; — and that the kind and generous treatment they had experienced since their capture, would make a lasting impression on their minds, and they would, on their return home, endeavour to inculcate the same feelings on their Countrymen. —

We told him the conduct of Hashash had been so outrageous & wicked towards us, as well as unjust towards the Emperor, that we would never treat with him; nor with the Emperor, unless he inflicted condeign punishment upon him, if he had acted without his orders. — They acknowledged this would be right. —

The Commodore proposed to send four of the Moors on board the *New York*, until his return from Tangier, as the captain and two others were as many as was necessary to carry over, and such a number in his Cabin & at his Table, were inconvenient to him. — They received this with submission; but when the four had collected their things, and were preparing to depart, they were found in Tears, at the idea of leaving the Ship, and the Commodore humanely permitted them to remain on board. —

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>

The light airs of wind and calms, did not permit us to get under way 'till about dark, when we weighed with a light breeze from the S. W. to beat out of the Bay. —

In the Afternoon the Schooner *Enterprize*, arrived from a cruize, when the Commodore ordered Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comd<sup>t</sup> Hull, to follow him tomorrow to Tangier —

WEDNESDAY SEPT 21<sup>st</sup>

In the morning we found the current had set us above the Rock of Gibraltar, the wind having been light & variable through the night. — Stretched over under the African Shore. — About 11 Oclk A. M. off Cuta, a sudden squall came on, which struck an English Brig near us, standing up the Mediterranean, with all her sails set, and carried away both her Topmasts. — The Commodore immediately hauled up for her to give her assistance. She sent her boat on board, with an Officer, who informed that she was His B. M. Brig the *Childers*, commanded by Sir George Bolton, from Eng<sup>d</sup> with dispatches for Lord Nelson. She had touched at Gibraltar, to leave letters for the Governor, and came out this morning. — The Commodore offered every assistance in his power, and as the Officer said Sir George wished to go into Tituan, where there was an English Frigate which would take his dispatches up immediately, the Commodore sent his boat on board with a hauser to take him in tow, & carry him into Tituan, which was then in sight. The wind freshening, we towed her at the rate of ten knots per hour: but soon after falling calm, Sir G. B. came

on board, and after expressing his warm acknowledgem<sup>ts</sup> for the assistance he had met with, said, as the weather would now permit him to get up other Topmasts and make sail, he w<sup>d</sup> do it in preference to going into Tituan, and proceed on his way. The Commodore offered him spars, rigging or anything he might want; but he said he had everything on board he stood in need of. — About sun-set we left him, with one Topmast on end, and the other going up, and stood with a light wind from the Westward, over to the Spanish Shore.

THURSDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup>

The wind still continuing to blow from the Westward, and the current setting strong to the East, we could make no progress through the Straits. — In the forenoon the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* came out of Gibralter Bay and stood for us. — Capt<sup>n</sup> Hull came on board the *Constitution*, when the Commodore gave him Orders for his immediate Government, and she returned to Gibralter to take in water &<sup>t</sup> for a cruize of a few weeks off Larache, Sallee & Mogodore.

In the afternoon saw a Ship coming from the Eastw<sup>d</sup>, which proved to be the U. S. Frigate *Adams*, Capt<sup>n</sup> Campbell, from Tunis, which place he left on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant. — In the evening the two Ships having stretched in back of the Rock of Gibralter, Capt<sup>n</sup> Campbell came on board with M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, whom he had taken from Leghorn to Tunis, by order of Commodore Morris: But M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart not having been received by the Bey of Tunis, as Consul from the U. States, he was proceeding to Gibralter in the *Adams*.

I delivered to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart a letter I had for him from the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State; and Commodore Preble also delivered to him some dispatches with which he was charged. — M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart del<sup>d</sup> to Commodore Preble, for his and my perusal, a copy of his proceedings at Tunis, which he had prepared for the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State; which states his arrival & reception — the Bey's reason for not receiving him as Consul, and his dispute w<sup>th</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Davis, left at Tunis by Commodore Morris, in charge of our Affairs. —

M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart informed me that he had laid out about eleven thousand doll<sup>s</sup> of the money he had rec<sup>d</sup> for the Consular presents at Algiers, in watches, Jewelry &<sup>t</sup> — which were at Leghorn, where was also the balance of said cash, ready to be vested in other Articles for the present; — and that he had there also a large sum (I understood him 24,000 dollars) which he had obtained on his own credits, for the U. States, to negotiate affairs with Tunis, and which he should account for to me. — He had left M<sup>rs</sup> Cathcart at Leghorn, which would oblige him to return thither, as well to bring her away, as to take up, and deliver to me the Present & Cash deposited there. —

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23<sup>d</sup>

We were this morning near the Rock of Gibralter, with a light wind, which soon left us, and we lay becalmed 'till near 12 o'clk, when a breeze sprung up, and the Commodore stood into Gibralter Bay, to put his dispatches on board the *Adams*

The foregoing detail of events, as they took place, will fully inform you of my proceedings since our arrival at Gibralter; and also give a general idea of the operations which have taken place with respect to Morocco. — Commodore Preble writes so fully to the Secretary of the Navy on this subject, and everything else which relates to the Navy Department, that it would be totally unnecessary, even if it were

proper, for me to add anything thereto. His communications will undoubtedly be made known to you, that you will be enabled to see more fully the particulars of this business.

Permit me to add, that the Zeal of Commodore Preble to promote the interest of our Country, can be equalled only by his activity and diligence to carry into effect such measures as appear best calculated to restore a good understanding; or, in the event of a decided rupture, to best protect our Commerce and injure our Enemy. — I flatter myself the President will find in this Officer prudence & good judgement, joined with firmness, activity and a real wish to promote, all in his power, the best interests of the U. States.

At any rate it may be highly proper to have some force on this Station, even if we should terminate this affair amicably, as the late deceitful conduct of these people proves that they are not to be trusted to the obligation of Treaties. — The addition of one Ship and two Brigs or Schooners, would be the least that could Keep a watchful eye over the Coasts of Morocco on the Atlantic & Mediterranean; but on this subject I must submit to the opinion of more competent Judges.

I presume that M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart will send by this Opportunity, his dispatches relative to the Business at Tunis. — He will remain here until an opportunity offers of his going to Leghorn in one of the U. States Vessels, so that I shall have full opportunity of communicating with him on the subject of our affairs at Tunis & Tripoli.

I have not heard a word from Algiers since my arrival here; it is not known whether the Store Ships have arrived there or not; They have not touched here; and the communication between this place & Algiers is not very frequent, particularly at this moment, when the Dey has sent off the English Consul, on account of some personal difference with him. — He is now at Gibraltar, and having had several opportunities of being in Company with him, I understand he expects to return to his Post again, as he says he has received an order from his Court to repair to Lord Nelson, now before Toulon, who will receive orders to take him to Algiers and oblige the Dey to receive him. Whether this will take place or not is, I confess, uncertain to me. — M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart says he heard from Algiers while he was at Tunis, and that all was well there with respect to the U. States; but he could not tell if the Store Ships had arrived. —

SUNDAY SEPT<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>

This morning the *Constitution* went out with a fine wind from the East, for Tangier, to touch there for intelligence from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, and then proceed to the Atlantic, and run down the Coast as far as Mogodore, and return again into the Straits in 7 or 8 days, when the Emperor is expected at Tangier. The *Enterprise* will keep a look out along shore for the galleys to prevent their taking any Am. Vessels in the Straits. —

The enclosed copy of a letter from the Consular office in Cadiz to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino (N<sup>o</sup> 5) rec<sup>d</sup> this day, brings unpleasant intelligence — But I have strong hopes, that if the Vessels there mentioned have been captured, they will be retaken before they reach their ports of destination, and that the Frigate also (which is undoubtedly the *Maimona*) will be taken; for besides the *John Adams*, there will be the *Constitution* out this day — and tomorrow the *New York* takes the same course.

SEPT 26<sup>th</sup>

I must now close my long, and I fear tedious, narrative, as Commodore Morris informs me he shall get under way in an hour. — I hope the President will approve of the step I have taken to remain here until something can be determined, with certainty as to this business with the Emperor, rather than to take one of our Vessels from the coast at this moment. — Whether this affair be speedily & amicably concluded with the Emperor will depend upon his success or our's. — No doubt remains on my mind, of the Orders for capturing Am. Vessels having proceeded from him; and if his Cruizers sh<sup>d</sup> be successful, he will avow it; if otherwise he may deny it, and readily place things upon the footing they were before. But another evil may spring from this. — It is not unlikely but Tunis, hearing of our differences with Morocco, may break out upon us, either with or without a pretext. — When the *Adams* left that place, there was nothing indicating this disposition; but we know that these people only wait a favourable opportunity of making heavy captures without regard to treaties or promises.

The return of the Frigates *New York* & *John Adams* will afford another Opportunity of writing in a short time, when I pray we may have something more pleasing to communicate

Accept the Assurance of high respect and Sincere attachment, with which

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obliged & Obnt Serv<sup>t</sup>

TOBIAS LEAR.

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801-Dec. 1803.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

N<sup>o</sup> 64. — Triplicate. —

TANGIER 26<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1803. —

SIR

\* \* \* \* \*

It was very fortunate Captain Bainbridge met his Cruizer with the captured Vessel in actual possession, as that put the question of their intention out of all doubt. — Be that as it may the Emperour is now most undoubtedly much disposed for Peace, as I foresaw that I recommended to Commodore Preble to meet him on that ground, which he has readily assented to inasmuch as it can be done on honourable terms. — That Gentleman came to this Bay on the 17<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> for purpose of entering upon a Negotiation, but as there was not any person here sufficiently authorised to that effect by the Emperour he returned same Evening to Gibraltar. — The day following I sent a Messenger to the Minister to notify our having closed with the wishes expressed in His Majestys Letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> whose return I expect tomorrow. — Commodore Preble called in this Bay yesterday and is now run to Leeward of Cape Spartel as the Wind blows hard at East. —

I trust my next will hand you intelligence of matters being at least far advanced toward a re-establishment of Peace with this Country, in the mean time entreat you will excuse my writing in such haste, but not to lose so favourable an opportunity of conveying my Letter speedily to Lisbon is the motive of it. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, 1803-1810.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Richard V. Morris,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Adams*  
Gibraltar Bay 26<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, M<sup>r</sup> Henley has just presented your letter of yesterday expressing a desire of M<sup>r</sup> Henley's procuring my permission to join the Frigate *Constitution* with an enclosed Letter from Commander Preble consenting to receive him under his command, provided he could gain my consent to leave the *Adams*; I think it will be of advantage to M<sup>r</sup> Henley to be in active service, and he has my leave to remain in the Mediterranean —

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To William Jonas Keen from Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Nautilus*  
Gibraltar Bay Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 1803

DEAR BROTHER I have just arrived from Malaga, to which place I went for to convoy all American vessels that were ready to come to the Westw'd, having only one, & with her a tedious time. Head wind, calm, & a current setting two nots per hour. On the seventh day out was five leagues to the Eastw'd of Malaga — & in twelve hours tow'd him into the rocks— the *Pheonix* of Phila — Capt. Parterson.

I have just receiv'd orders, soon as provision'd and water'd, to take a transon[?] station for this ocasion of the year to cruise off Magadore on the Western coast of Barbaria against the Emperor Morrocco. He has commened hostilities, & taken four of our American vessels — he has got one thirty gun ship. What small vessels, I do not know. I hope I shall have the pleasure when I write you again to inform you of bringing some of his vessels in to port. I should be much pleased with the station if summer time for drawing the strong gales from the Westw'd begin to set in. I have but little time to write. Commodore Morris sails for American in the *Adams*. Commodore Preble is on a cruise. Commodore Ro[d]gers likewise is on a cruise. Commodore Bainbridge is on a cruise of[f] Tripoli. The rest I cant say when not knowing. Capt Bainbridge has a separate command having the Schooner *Vixen* Capt. Smith, under him; so must be stiled at present. We have no less than three Broad pendants flying in the Straits — Morris, Ro[d]gers Preble. Capt Rogers was to [have] been the Command until Preble arrived of Commodore Morris' Squadron, but the Emperor of Morrocco committing depredations on our commerce is the cause of the Capt. Rogers, for so I must stile him, never assuming the command what few hours I was under him in the presence of Commodore Preble, though an older officer remaining out here. I am now going on shore and will bid you adieu. I [space] regret the time I have lost in convoying this ship down. Give my best respects to all friends. I expect'd to have receiv'd a line from you by Capt. Benbridge of the *Philadelphia*

Mr W<sup>m</sup> JONAS KEEN

Merchant Phila North Water St No 38

[From a copy in pencil received from the Earle Hepburn Col.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 26 September 1803

Stanging [sic] off[f] and on in Tanger Bay/ We saw flying at Tangier/ seven different National flags/ the Americans/ was not Hoisted/ at 1 PM a dispatch Boat come along side with dispatches for Commodore Preble/ from Tangier/ the Boat continued a long side till three P M/ at which time the Boat was orde<sup>d</sup> away/ we then Bore up and Run along the Coast to the westw<sup>d</sup>/ at 5 P M we came by Cape Spartel nearly one mile from the shore/ in Hauling Round the SW side of Cape Spartel we saw two/ Ketches at anchor in a small Bay/ we saw Breakers/ from the North Extreme of the Cape/ nearly two cable length from the shore/ and white water some distance from the shore/ We hauld in Towards the two sail at anchor/ and sent an armd Boat to Examine them/ they were two Spanish Vessels Employ<sup>d</sup> in the Coasting Business Between Cadiz and Malaga we then bore up to the southw<sup>d</sup> and Boarded the Spanish Brig *Rosetta*/ Emp<sup>d</sup> in the same Business

[NA. ND original.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy  
U. S. BRIG *Argus* at sea — off RHODE ISLAND light.

Sept<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that the repairs of the *Argus* was yesterday compleated, & have also to inform you we found the old bowsprit very defective; there were four large knots in the wake of the spring that extended nearly to the heart of the stick, & two of those knots we found rotten, this spar was made before I joined the *Argus* & was objected to by Comm<sup>r</sup> Prebble who afterwards concluded it might do. —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

[27 September 1803]

Receipt for articles received from James L. Cathcart, appointed U. S. Consul, Tunis, by Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

(Copy)

Received from James L. Cathcart Esq. three public Seals, viz<sup>t</sup> two appertaining to the U. S. Consulate of Tripoli and one to the U. States Consulate of Algiers; also forty five Tops of Mediterranean passports, and a number of blank consular passports, and blank consular Bills of Health — and blank consular Certificates of Prizes, all appertaining to the U. States Consular Office of Tripoli. —

GIBRALTAR Sep<sup>t</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1803

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 27 September 1803

Sailing by chart/ Between Cape Spartel and the Rocks near Cape Trafalgar/ Winds Vble Between NE and ESE

[NA. ND original.]

To James Leander Cathcart, appointed U. S. Consul, Tunis, from Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli

TRIPOLI Sept<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1803.

SIR, Yesterday arrived here from Malta a fine brig of 16 Guns & another vessel under the command of Cap<sup>t</sup> Agostino loaded with timber for Ship building and Stores of that kind navigating under the *British flag* the brig is the property of the Bashaw of Tripoli and is intended for a Cruiser, the[y] were both sent from Malta by the Bashaw of Tripoli's Agent there. —

Pray Sir is Great Britain at War with the U States of America, that their flag is permitted to protect the Cruisers & maritime & military stores belonging to the enemies of the United States of America? if this is permitted we may soon expect to see the Cruisers of Tripoli, capture American vessels under english Colors & conduct them to Malta for sale. —

Make what ever use you please of this intelligence but do not imlicate me nor say you receiv'd it from any person at Tripoli, it is a fact as well known at Malta as here. —

SIGN'D. N. NISSEN. —

JAMES LEA<sup>r</sup> CATHCART Esq<sup>r</sup> *Leghorn*. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. and LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Secretary of State of the Emperor of Morocco from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

Copy —

TANGIER 28<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803. —

SIR I have had the honour of receiving both your Letters of the 2<sup>d</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> this Moon, — translation of the first and of the papers it accompanied have been sent the American Commodore, but as he continues at Sea because of bad weather I have not yet received his answer to the particular points they treat upon. —

I will now only say respecting the *Meshouda*, that she was represented to all the Consuls here as a Ship belonging to His Imperial Majesty at the time the Passports were applied for, as you will see by the paper I send you with this.

I also enclose a copy of the Orders Arraiz Lubarez had for takeing not only American Vessels but also the property of Americans on board of Neutral Vessels. —

Notwithstanding all this as a proof of the sincere desire of the American Nation to maintain Peace and Friendship with His Imperial Majesty, I am happy to tell you that the Commodore is highly disposed to gratify His Majesty in the accommodation of the differences has arisen between the Nations, and that the Restitution of the Ship *Mirboha* with all the Moors in his possession will not be a barr there-to, — when His Majesty shall be pleased to restore the American property detained at Mogadore or elsewhere and Ratify the Treaty made between the United States and his Father of Glorious Memory, that perfect Freindship may again subsist between us. — As we cannot believe His Majesty authorised the breach of Peace we have experienced, it is but Justice to both Nations that whoever has been the cause of the present differences be exemplarily punished to deter others from doing the like at any future day. —



I am happy to say the Captains and Seamen of the *Mirboha* and *Meshouda* all continue to enjoy good health.

L S

SIDY MAHAMMED BEN ABD-E SALEM SELAWY —

*Secretary of State of His Imperial Majesty*

&<sup>ra</sup> &<sup>ra</sup> &<sup>ra</sup>

[LC. EPP, Vol. 6, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 28 September 1803

Cruising Round Cape Spartel/ and Laying too Seven or Eight Leagues to the Westw<sup>d</sup> of the same Cape/ winds Variable from ESE to SW

\* \* \* at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 spoke with two american/ the Ship *Trent* and the Brig *Hanah* [*Rajah*?] from Salem bound to Gibraltar and Malaga/ they Req<sup>d</sup> that Commodore Preble would convoy them through the Straits/ the Commodore answered them in the affirmative/

[NA. ND original.]

To Degen, Purviance & Co., Leghorn, from James Leander Cathcart, appointed U. S. Consul, Tunis

GIBRALTAR Sept<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1803.

GENTLEMEN. I arrived here on the 23<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> & found the *Constitution* Comodore Prebble, & Col<sup>l</sup> Lear who is appointed Consul gen<sup>l</sup> for Algiers, he proceeds to that place as soon as circumstances will permit, & I am awaiting the arm'd brig *Argus* to proceed to Leghorn in order to ship on board of said brig the jewels & cash which I am in possession of, or responsible for. — I therefore take this opportunity to inform you that the cash belonging to the United States in your possession will be demanded on her arrival & in order to prevent inconvenience to you in procuring it, I have judged it expedient to give you this timely notice.

According to my prediction the Emperor of Morocco has declared War against us, & captured a brig which was recaptured by Cap<sup>tn</sup> Bainbridge with the Cruiser which took her mounting 20 Guns & 180 men she is now here, Comodore Prebble on his passage out fell in with the Emperor of Morocco's Admirals Ship, but she having M<sup>r</sup> Simpsons passport he immediately let her go, since which she has taken \*four Sail of Americans & Cap<sup>tn</sup> Rodgers is in quest of her & the Prizes in the western Ocean it is supposed they were bound to Lisbon I hope he may fall in with them. —

\*This report was forwarded officially from M<sup>r</sup> Anthony Terry American Vice Consul at Cadiz to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino at Gibraltar but was afterwards contradicted.

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801-1805.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 29 September 1803

\* \* \* at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 we bore up for Cape Spartel/ with the Ship *Trent*/ Captain Nath Kimble and the Brig *Rajah*/ Emneul Ward/ Master/ under Convoy/ from noon till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 P M we had frequent squalls and showers of Rain/ at 4 we parted company with the Convoy and Hauld on a wind into Tangier Bay/ at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 we Tack<sup>d</sup> nearly in the center of the Bay/ and filld to the WNW/ we sounded in stays 33

fath<sup>a</sup> we saw at anch in Tangier Bay/ one arm<sup>d</sup> Brig and Schooner/ they Hoisted french colours/ one clump ship/ deanish colours/ at 5 we saw a strange sail to the westw<sup>d</sup> of Cape Spartel/ out two Reef from the Topsails and stood Towards her/ at 6 Joined company the united States Frigate *John Adams*/ Commodore Roggers who we parted company with ten days ago/ the *John Adams*/ has been cruizing to the Westw<sup>d</sup> of Cape Spartel this nine or ten days/ for the Moorish Admiral/ which was Boarded by the *Constitution* on the 7 September last at 7 in the Evening we stood into Tangier Bay/ in company with the *John Adams* and made the necessary arrangements for anchoring

[NA. ND original.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. F *Constitution* GIBRALTAR BAY

Sep<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1803 —

DEAR SIR After a short and most uncomfortable cruise I am again at Anchor in this Bay, a slight indisposition deprives of the honor of personally paying my respects at Gibraltar to day, I hope tomorrow better weather & better health will enable me to see you on shore,

I have had correspondence with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson shall make you fully acquainted with the present state of affairs with our Morocco friends as soon as I see you, present me respectfully to your Lady & to M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Gavino.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

[30 September 1803]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, from the Secretary of State of the Emperor of Morocco

Translation. —

Praise be given to God alone. —

There is no Power or Strength but in the Almighty and Great God. —

To Consul SIMPSON the American — Health. —

We have received your Letter with a copy of His Majestys Order was on board the Tripoline Ship and copy of a Letter from Ashash to Lubarez, and we have understood the whole. — His Majesty whom God preserve will be at Tangier, and he will only do all that is good with your Nation. —

The Vessel detained at Mogadore is in all security, you have nothing to fear and you may be perfectly easy respecting her. — What I have to encharge you is what I have written you before, which is that you make all haste to have the Vessel at Tangier readily, for if His Majesty finds you delay he will suppose you are inclined for War and then he may do something but if he meets the Vessel he will be certain you desire to remain in Peace.

He who has been the cause of all this you will see his punishment, and you will hear how His Majesty in his great Wisdom will act with him. —

Make haste that the Vessel come in order you may secure the good will of and give satisfaction to His Majesty. —

Written the 12<sup>th</sup> Chemadi the second (30<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1803)

MAHAMED BEN ABD-E SALEM SELAWY —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S. SHIP *Constitution*, at Anchor in GIBRALTER BAY  
30<sup>th</sup> September 1803

SIR, I have just received information by a Vessel from Salem that several Vessels were to sail about a Month since from that place for Moggadore of course it will be necessary for you to keep a good look out in sight of the land off that port, and to continue on that Station the 15 days mentioned in your Orders, Notwithstanding the Arrival of the *Nautilus* —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 30 September 1803

Cruising Between the Rock of Cape Trafalgar and Cape Spartel/  
Running through the Straits of Gibraltar and laying with two anchors  
a head in gibraltar Bay

[NA. ND original.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Gibraltar Bay Oct<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1803* —

SIR I had the honor to enclose you by the U S Ship *Adams* Cap<sup>t</sup> Morris, two letters — a monthly Muster Book, and 34 other dispatches relative to the Squadron and our affairs with Morocco, and also a letter to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State. I now enclose you a copy of the arrangement of dispatches, together with Copies of sundry letters that have passed between the Emperor of Morocco, his Ministers, M<sup>r</sup> Simpson & myself, since that period after a perusal of these papers you will be convinced that the Ship [*Meshouda*] Captured by Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers was a Tripoline and ought not to be given up, and that the Emperor is very desirous of Peace as his cruizers have been unsuccessful, I have no doubt but he would have discovered a different disposition if they had been otherwise our squadron arriving so opportunely has disconcerted their plans & prevented a great mischief to our commerce,

I arrived here last night from a cruise along their coast was in Tanger Bay three times in the course of a week, they find themselves so closely watched that it will be for their interest to have peace, which I have no doubt will be established in a very few days. but to prevent any of our vessels falling into their hands which would render it more difficult to make terms with them, I have sent the *Enterprize* & *Nautilus* off [f] Moggadore, where several of our merch<sup>t</sup> vessels are momentarily expected to arrive & the *Siren* which arrived this day will sail for the Western coast in 48 hours, several vessels are here waiting for Convoy for Leghorn & other Ports aloft, the moment the *Argus* arrives she shall sail with them but it would not be prudent for me to send a vessel up until then, The Emperor with his Court are expected at Tanger next Tuesday, I shall endeavour to be there & shall cooperate with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson in all such measures as are necessary & proper to the reestablishment of peace, the Cruiser [*Mirboka*] taken by Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge is such a miserable piece of naval architecture that

I do not believe we have an Officer in our service that would be willing to attempt to cross the Atlantic in her for ten times her Value. I have concluded to restore her to the Emperor together with all his subjects in our possession and to withdraw the orders I have given for Capturing Moorish Vessels, on certain conditions which my letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson (a copy of which is inclosed) will explain to you, the Emperor of Morocco has such an extensive sea coast on the Atlantic, and is so advantageously situated on the Straits for annoying our commerce that it is very much for our interest to be on good terms with him, His 30 gun ship [*Maimona*] which I met on my passage here arrived at Lisbon has not taken any thing and is ordered to remain there until peace is restored. The threat I made on my arrival to sink that ship or any other of his cruisers, that I might meet with & the active Vigilance of our squadron has had a good effect on the Moors. I have no doubt but this quarrel will eventually be for our advantage, as I do not believe his Imperial Majesty will be disposed to War with us again, & we shall get clear of having any thing to do with Ashash the former Governor of Tanger who has ever been opposed to our Interest. — The *John Adams* & *New York* will remain a few days longer until all is settled & I hope by the last of this week to transmit to you by those ships satisfactory accounts of our situation relative to Morocco. —

Doctor Boy'd is very much out of health & not expected to recover, of course I have ordered Doctor Weems to the *Argus* on her arrival. L<sup>t</sup> Dent is with me, L<sup>t</sup> Jenks is in the *Adams*, & L<sup>t</sup> Cox in the *New York*.

The *Enterprize* has been new coppered at Malta, & I shall new Rigg her here as soon as she returns from off Moggadore. —

I am watering at present & expect to sail tomorrow evening, — for Tanger. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

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To Captain Benjamin Mason and others from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy  
UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
1st October 1803. GIBRALTAR BAY.

GENTLEMEN — A letter directed to Commodore Morris has come to my hand, and as Commodore of the Mediterranean Squadron I beg leave to observe that there can be little danger in your proceeding to the United States, as there is two of my Squadron cruising off Moggadore, Salleo, & Larache, will prevent their cruisers from putting to Sea. The Moorish Frigate is now at Lisbon, & has orders not to go out until peace is established between us & the Emperor. A sloop of War, however, I have ordered to take a Convoy from this Bay, & pass near Cadiz that you may take advantage of her Convoy. She will sail the first East Wind. There is no truth in the report the Moorish Frigates having taken four American Vessels.

To Capt. BENJAMIN MASON & Others.

[NDA. A-4, Seville Consulate Archives.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 1 October 1803

Light winds & pleasant, saw a ship ahead at 2. At ½ past 2 bent the larboard bower anchor. at 5 shortened sail and spoke the above

ship, proved to be his Britanic Majesty's frigate *Amphion*, At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 made sail & stood on our course. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 call'd all hands to quarters & loadened the great guns fore & aft with grape; run them out & secured them. Midnight pleasant with a fine breeze from the W<sup>d</sup>. At 2 saw land ahead to the northward of Cape Trifalgar, At 8 Cape Trif bore N. N. E distant 3 leagues. At 9 bent the larboard cable & prepar'd for coming too, At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 saw the rock of Gibraltar, At 11 discover'd several American vessels lying in the bay. At 1 came too with the larboard bower. St Roque, bearing N by E. Europa point S  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. The above vessels proved to be the U. S. Frigates *Constitution*, *John Adams* & Schooner *Nautilus*. —

3564 miles Distance run by Log from cape Henlopen to cape Spartell. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 2<sup>d</sup> October 1803. —

DEAR SIR The accompanying Letter for you was put up on thursday in hopes I might have found means of conveying it to you — but the Weather has been such since then I conclude this will meet you in Gibraltar Bay. —

Enclosed you have the Ministers answer to what I wrote him on Wednesday last — in order you may receive all these papers before an Easterly Wind, I send this Boat on purpose with them, that you may determine how far you may consider it proper to meet His Majestys earnest desire of having his Ship brought to this Bay. —

The excessive bad Weather has delayed his Journey exceedingly, on Friday my Express found him encamped at a short distance on the other side of Alcazar River, and Hashash on this side of it, but their communication perfectly cut off the River being impassable, but on Rafts supported by Goat Skins filled with Wind. — My Man passed and was brought back in that way. —

As we had very little Rain after Friday at Sunsett I conclude the Emperour will have been able to pass the River yesterday Afternoon and that we shall see him on Tuesday. — I wish him to be here before you whether you bring the *Mirboha* with you or not — if you come without her we shall have a violent dust with him, for His Majesty is allowed to be as positive a Gentleman & strong headed as any Man can be. — However on this occasion we must not be an atom less strenuous for securing a permanent Peace to the United States, so far as any engagements of these people can be deemed security. — By the enclosure with this, you will see the Minister threatens vengeance on the author of these troubles, and he well deserves it; — most probably tomorrow we shall know his fate —

As you will now meet his Majesty here, I submit to you whether it will not be well to shew him all your force; and as he has disavowed any intervention of War with the United States, you will be the best judge how far it will or not be consistent to pay him honours at your first arrival in the Bay; — perhaps it might be well to send in a Brig or Schooner first with a Flag of truce & let her Boat bring me a Letter from you in answer to which I shall immediately acquaint you what farther may have occurred, which will be some guide to you. — I

hasten to send the Boat off that she may if possible reach you to-night —

The Emperour does not go to Tetuan, he comes here direct. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* [2] Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, It is my orders that you sail from this Bay tomorrow P<sup>r</sup> Signal and take under your Convoy all the American Vessels ready by that time to proceed to the Eastward It will be proper for you to see them safe, into the ports to which they are bound as far as Leghorn which port you are to stop at a few days. M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart will embark on board the *Syren* for Leghorn and on his arrival there, will deliver into your charge, money and other property of the United States, which property you are to proceed to Algiers with, and deliver it to the order of Tobias Lear Esq<sup>r</sup> Consul General residing at that place — You will then proceed to join the Squadron off Tripoly — If you do not fall in with any of our Ships after remaining 6 days on that Station, You will proceed to Malta for orders —

It is expected that you do not make any unnecessary delay at any port you may touch at

P. S. I shall make the Signal for you to make the Signal for the Merch<sup>t</sup> Ships to get underweigh about 8 o'clock tomorrow morning —  
E P.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803–1805.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 2 October 1803

Riding with the Two bowers a head in Gibraltar Bay/ winds from the WNW/ at 3 anchored here the united States Brig *Syren*/ Lieutenant Stewart

[NA. ND original.]

To Richard O'Brien, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Tobias Lear, appointed U. S. Consul General, Algiers

GIBRALTAR October 3<sup>d</sup> 1803

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that I arrived at this place on the 12<sup>th</sup> Ultimo in the U. States Frigate *Constitution* bound to Algiers; for w<sup>h</sup> Regency, you have undoubtedly been informed, I am appointed to succeed you as Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the U. States in compliance with your repeated applications for permission to return home

Our unexpected differences with Morocco has prevented the *Constitution* from proceeding to Algiers for the present; but I hope they are now in a train of adjustment, as the Emperor has expressed a readiness to settle them upon proper & equitable grounds.—I shall proceed to Tangier this evening with Commodore Preble, where the Emperor is expected tomorrow, and I flatter myself we shall terminate this disagreeable affair satisfactorily.

I have been peculiarly anxious to reach Algiers as soon as possible on your account that you might have taken advantage of our Ships going to the U. States for your return; but it w<sup>d</sup> have been committing

the peace of our Country with Morocco, if Commodore Preble had left this Coast before an adjustment of the differences with the Emperor. —

I have dispatches for you from the Departm<sup>t</sup> of State, which I must retain untill I can have the pleasure of seeing you; as there is no direct, or safe conveyance from this place to Algiers, and I commit this letter, by post to the care of Rob<sup>t</sup> Montgomery Esq<sup>r</sup> our Consul at Alicant — to take a chance of a conveyance from thence. —

I have my wife with me, who desires her best respects may be presented to M<sup>rs</sup> OBrien to which I beg leave to add mine — As we shall wish to get settled as soon as may be after our arrival, I must depend much on your frie[ndly] advice & aid to put us in the best way of accomplishing that object. —

We have brought no furniture except some Beds, Bedding &c — we have some stores necessary for house keeping; but as we were totally ignorant of what we might be able to procure in that way at Algiers, we did not know exactly what to lay in. —

I hope the store ships with the two Years Annuity have arrived before this time, and I shall come provided with the means of furnishing the consular & Biennial presents and such parts of them as have been procured by M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart — at Leghorn, will be sent over to meet me at Algiers. —

We are happily now very strong in these seas, there are the Frigates, *Constitution Philadelphia N. York & John Adams*, two Brigs of 18 twenty four pounders, cannonades, and three Schooners of 16 and 18 Guns. —

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you soon. I have the honor to be

RICH<sup>d</sup> OBRIEN Esq<sup>r</sup>

Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the U. S. Algiers

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Circular to U. S. Consuls from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

GIBRALTAR Oct<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1803

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that I arrived at this place, on the 12<sup>th</sup> Ultimo in the U. States Frigate *Constitution*, bound to Algiers; for which Regency I am appointed Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> with a superintending power in the Affairs of the U. States over the other Barbary States. —

Our unexpected differences with the Emperor of Morocco has prevented the *Constitution* from proceeding to Algiers for the present, but I hope they are now in a train of adjustment, as the Emperor has expressed a readiness to settle them upon reasonable grounds, and I shall proceed this evening to Tangier, with Com<sup>o</sup> Preble, where the Emperor is expected tomorrow, and I flatter myself we shall terminate this disagreeable affair satisfactorily

I have the happiness to inform you that M<sup>r</sup> Simpson is liberated from the guard set over him, and has the strongest assurances from the Emperor, of protection & friendship. — It will afford me great pleasure to hear from you at Algiers, and I will feel peculiarly happy if it should be in my power to render you, or your friends, any Service

(Circular To.)

W<sup>m</sup> KIRKPATRICK Esq  
U. S. Consul at Malaga

Jos<sup>h</sup> IZNARDI Esq  
U. S. Consul at Cadiz

JOHN JARVIS Esq  
U. S. Consul at Lisbon &

ROB<sup>t</sup> MONTGOMERY Esq  
U. S. Consul at Alicant

P. S. to M<sup>r</sup> Montgomery's letter.

I take the liberty of committing a letter to your charge for M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, as there is no opportunity of writing from this place directly to Algiers, & I am informed a Packet sails from Alicant for that place. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Captain C. M. Schomberg, Royal Navy, H. B. M. S. *Madrass*, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philadelphia*  
Malta Harbour 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 1803

SIR Having several spare spars on board the US: Frigate *Philadelphia* which I wish to land at Malta, I shall esteem it as a particular favour if you will give permission to receive them in His Majesty's Yard at this place —

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

[3 October 1803]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain C. M. Schomberg, Royal Navy, H. B. M. S. *Madrass*

SIR Immediate orders shall be given for the reception of any Stores belonging to the United States at His Majesty's Arsenal, as also to render the *Philadelphia* any assistance she may stand in need of  
*Madrass* 10 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1803

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Stren*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 1803 *Gibraltar Bay*

SIR, You will sail from this Bay at 6 o'Clock, and convoy the American Vessels ready to sail by that time 20 leagues west of Cape Spartel, and return to join me in Tangier Bay as soon as possible

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant Joseph Tarbell, U. S. Navy, on board Prize *Mirboka*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution* 3<sup>rd</sup> OCT<sup>r</sup> 1803  
*Gibraltar Bay*

SIR, You will get the *Mirboka*, prize to the U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia* under way tomorrow morning, and follow me with all possible speed to Tangier Bay —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]



[3 October 1803]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

[U. S. FRIGATE] *Constitution*

DEAR SIR I have rec<sup>d</sup> dispatches from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, & wish to consult you immediately. be so good as to come in the Boat which brings you this, as I cannot leave the ship at present. I shall sail this afternoon. —

Sep<sup>t</sup> [October] 3<sup>d</sup> 1803

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 3 October 1803

Two of the Watering Party deserted — rec<sup>d</sup> dispatches from Tanger on Public Service and answered them — ordered the *Mirboka* to be rigged and sails bent ready for Sea. The *Nautilus* sailed on a cruise, ordered the *Siren* to convoy the *American Trade* 20 Leagues to the Westward of Cape Spartel and to return and join me in Tanger Bay. Ordered L<sup>t</sup> Tarbell and 10 Men on board the *Mirboka* to sail her to Tanger Bay —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 3 October 1803

\* \* \* laying in gibraltar Bay watering ship/ the Twelve Moorish prisoners/ who Joined the *Constitution* the 18 and 25 September last/ was Rec[e]ived on board as Gentlemen/ and for some time mess<sup>d</sup> at the Commodores Table/ after this they mess<sup>d</sup> under the half deck and had the Commodores Servants to attend them/ \* \* \* the Commodore/ i am Told Reciv<sup>d</sup> despatches this morning from the Emperoure of Morrocco/ a Lieutenant and 20 men was sent from the *Constitution* on board the *Merboko*/ to sway up her topmasts and bend her sails

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 3 October 1803

Pleasant weather, wind from the N<sup>e</sup> Hands employ'd stowing the Hold & getting ready for sea. — Sent on shore a number of sails, an anchor & cable, a number of sparrs & kentledge, chests of tea & boxes of sugar. —

At 3 P. M. the Captains of 6 American vessels (which were to sail under our Convoy) came on board for their Instructions. At 4 the U. S. Frigate *Constitution* got under way & stood out of the harbour to the W<sup>d</sup> At ½ past 5 we fired a gun for the convoy to prepare to get under way, hoisted in our boats brought too & prepar'd for heaving up. At 6 hoisted up our jolly boat astern — At ½ past 6 hoisted 3 lights at the Peak & fired a gun for the convoy to weigh & stand out of the bay, hove up our larboard bower & stood out of the bay in Company with 6 American vessels under a convoy, Light winds & pleasant.

At 10 P. M lower'd down our jolly boat & sent her on board the Commodore with dispatches. At day light little or no wind, convoy all in sight — At 9 AM about 3 Leagues to the W<sup>d</sup> of the bay, saw a Galley firing at an American Schooner, made sail in chase of the galley, on the discovery of which she hove about, mann'd her Sweeps, & pull'd in under the Spanish shore which render'd our getting at Her ineffectual. Call'd all hands took in sail for the convoy to come up. —

Meridian light winds & pleasant weather. —

[NDA.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution* OCT<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1803

6 oClock p m, Tang<sup>r</sup> Bay

SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your communication of this evening I shall not send a Boat on shore until I have the Emperors permission, but shall wait your communications by a shore Boat.

As you think it will gratify his Imperial Majesty, I shall salute him & dress ship, and if he is not disposed to be pacific *I will salute him again.*

P. S. I shall attend to the Sig<sup>r</sup>

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

U S. S. *C[onstitution]*. OCT<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1803

Tangier Bay

SIR I yesterday had the *Mirboka's* sails bent, & put on board an Officer & men to bring her here, a Change of Wind will prevent her arrival for the present as she is but an indifferent sailer, indeed I cannot conceive what advantage to us or to the Emperor it can be to have her here previous to settlement of our affairs and a re-establishment of Peace, as immediately on that event taking place, I shall deliver her up in as good or better order than when detained by us, together with all the Moors in our possession — & I certainly shall not deliver up either vessel or people previous to a renewal & ratification of our Treaty. I wish exceedingly to see you on board if only for a few minutes neither his Imperial Majesty or his Ministers can have any objection to your visiting me for the purpose of our consulting on the best means of bringing about a speedy & happy termination of all our differences.

With the charge of the squadron resting on me, I cannot think of leaving my ship at present particularly as they have not themselves the liberality to allow you to come on board, if the[y] wish a hostage the Officer who brings this will remain on shore, until your return, but I should presume that they can not require any other security than your family.

Please inform me when the Emperor may be Expected —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier,  
Morocco

TANGIER 4<sup>th</sup> October 1803 —

DEAR SIR I have both your Letters of this date. — Before His Majesty can arrive here tomorrow I shall acquaint him of your having anchored, and I have every hope he will direct your being well received, — the moment I have his answer you shall be acquainted with the particulars. —

Untill I can either have an interview with him, or receive such assurances of his Freindly disposition continuing, I think its just as well you excuse landing yourself, but I sincerely think there can be no sort of danger in your sending a Flag, with injunctions however to the Officer not to land, or approach the Gallies. — At His Majestys arrival tomorrow I cannot excuse hoisting the Flag of the United States, and if you think well to Salute and dress Ship it will be a good time after the Garrison has finished fring, as then His Majesty will be up in the Castle and in view of the Ship —

I understand the Garrison fires a triple Salute — when the Emperour reaches the Castle I will besides the Flag, *shew the blue Jack*, for your information. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, from Captain  
William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philadelphia*

Malta Harbor 4<sup>th</sup> October 1803

SIR I have the honor of informing you that we arrived in this port on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, after a passage of 14 days from Gibralter; in conformity to your orders, I called at Malaga to take our trade under convoy, but found no American Vessels bound to the eastward; after remaining there five hours to water the *Vixen*, we proceeded along the Spanish Coast as far as Cape St Martins speaking all Vessels we saw, but learnt no news of any Tripolitan cruizers; between the Cape and the Island of Ivica [Iviza], on the 22<sup>d</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> we parted with the Ship *Port Mary*, and passed to the southward of Majorca & Minorca. On the 27<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> made the Island of Galitta, on the African coast; and the same day passed the Bay of Tunis, saw no Vessels but the Schooner *Vixen* who I ordered to separate on the 24<sup>th</sup> the copy of my orders for her separation, as also to pass by the Island Pedusa I herewith enclose.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> abreast of Girgintas, in the Island of Sicily, gave chase, brought to and examined a Tunissian cruiser of 22 Guns & 120 men; she had George Davis's Esq<sup>r</sup> *Charge des affaires* passport dated the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1803 — from that day to the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. experienced a very heavy blow from the eastward.

Immediately on my arrival here I made application to the Commander afloat for permission to land my spare spars, which was politely granted. My letter of soliciting and his reply I have the honor of enclosing. I have landed a quantity of Boatswains, Carpenters & Gunners stores in the Magazine of Joseph Pulos Esq<sup>r</sup>, and under whose charge they are placed. Having from 20 to 30 sick on board, this number with 13 left at Gibralter has reduced the force of our ship considerably, was a powerful reason for me to clear my ship as much as possible before I attempted the bad coast & ill climate of

Tripoli; this measure I hope will meet your approbation. I transmit you the state & condition of our ship [Page 1778, of below-mentioned source.].

Your Orders ran to remain but twenty four hours in this Port; I find with every exertion, my spars & stores cannot all be landed before this evening, when, if the wind permits, I shall proceed immediately on the Coast of Tripoli.

By the return made to you of provisions on hand, you will find them nearly expended in December.

The Schooner *Vixen*, Commandant Smith, this morning arrived, who will proceed with the *Philadel*.\*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[Enclosure 1]

To Captain C. M. Schomberg, Royal Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

Copy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philadelphia*  
Malta Harbor 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1803

SIR Having several spare spars on board the United States Frigate *Philadelphia*, which I wish to land at Malta, I shall esteem it a particular favor if you will give permission to receive them in his Majesty's Yard at this place.

Cap<sup>t</sup> SCHOMBERG

of His Britanick Majestys Ship *Madrass*.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[Enclosure 2]

[3 October 1803]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain C. M. Schomberg, Royal  
Navy

Copy

SIR Immediate orders shall be given for the reception of any stores belonging to the United States, at His Majesty's Arsenal, as also to render the *Philadelphia* any assistance she may stand in need of.

Sign<sup>d</sup> — C. M. SCHOMBERG

*Madrass* — 10 A. M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Oc<sup>r</sup> 1803

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 4 October 1803

Laying at single anchor in gibraltar Bay/ Running through the Straits to the Westw<sup>d</sup> and working into Tangier Bay/ Winds Variable from NW to E b S \* \* \* The Schoone[r] *Nautilus* Leiutenant Smith saild from here on a cruse/ the second of October in the afternoon/ the Frigate *John Adams* Commodore Roggers saild yesterday in the afternoon at 4 PM. we hove short/ at 5 we wiegh<sup>d</sup> and came to sail/ Leiutenant Tarbell of the *Constitution* is order<sup>d</sup> with 8 seaman on Boarde the prize *Merbocka* Luitenant Elbert/ who has had charge of the *Merbocka*/ for this ten or twelve days/ is orderd on Board the *Constitution*/ M<sup>r</sup> Reed/ Mate/ and M<sup>r</sup> Morris/ midshipman/ Both belonging to the *Constitution*/ are orderd to Remain on board the *Merbocka*/ Tobias Lear Esqr/ the american counsel general/ came on Board/ from Gibraltar/ the *Constitution* this afternoon/ he accompanyes

Commodore Preble over to Tangier i mentioned in the fore noon/ of sending an officer and a party of men on board the *Merbocko*/ in order to Rigg her for sea/ we leave her here at anchor with the united States Brig *Siren*/ they Both will weigh to morrow morning/ and proceed from Gibraltar over to Tangier Bay/ w[h]ere the *Constitution* is now Bound/ the *Merssuda*/ the Tripoleten ship Taken By the *John Adams*/ we leave at gibraltar/ as a prison ship/ and the Moores Taken in the *Merbocka*/ is on board of her/ all Except the officers who are devided amongst the Squadron Names of the Officers and Men sent to the *Merbocka*/ Lieutenant Joseph Tarbell/ M<sup>r</sup> Reed Master Mate and M<sup>r</sup> Morris Midshipmen/ was sent the 24 September [word illegible] Penneg/ Joseph Dunbevare. Thomas Jackson/ Joseph Marlett/ James Allen/ James Rayason/ James Percey/ Will<sup>m</sup> Sinclear and two Marines/ namely Semin Wyman/ Gidden Goold at 8 in the Evening shew a light over the stern as a signal to the united States Brig *Siren*/ we lay becalmnd drifting about Gibraltar Bay till 10 PM/ at which time a Breezes sprung up from the Eastw<sup>d</sup>/ we steerd over for the Barbary Shore/ in order to proceed to Tangier Bay/ at 7 in the Morning we lay becalm<sup>d</sup>/ about two miles/ to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> of Cape Malabut/ and about one mile from the shore/ punished/ George Summers/ Robert Liddy/ James Carling/ Jam<sup>s</sup> Willison/ and Hugh M<sup>c</sup>Cormack/ Seaman with Twelve lashes Each for Negligence and a perfect neglect of duty/ Between seven and Eight in the morning we was becalm<sup>d</sup> under Cape Malabat/ with a swell setting on shore/ out all Boats and Tow<sup>d</sup> off/ we saw a sail to the Northw<sup>d</sup> with the Schooner *Nautilus*/ distinguishing flag out/ we made her signal to come within hail/ at 9 in Boats and and spoke with His B/ T/ Majestys Sloop *Termagant*/ Captain Stewart/ a little after nine a fresh breezes sprung up from the WSW/ in Top gallant sails/ the ships company Employ<sup>d</sup> working ship Round Cape Malabat in order to Enter Tangier Bay Between nine and ten in the morning there was in sight 21 sail on different Bearing/ passing and Repassing the strights

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Stren* 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 4 October 1803

Commences with warm & sultry weather, light breezes from the Eastward. Ceuta bearing S by E Europa point bearing E by N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Meridian wind hauled round to the W<sup>d</sup> the convoy being unable to stem the current, with contrary winds, the signal for making a harbour was made, when all made the best of their way into Gibralter bay again. At 2 P. M. came too with the larboard Bower to the S<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> & the stream to the N<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup> in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms water. St. Rocque bearing N by E Europa point South. A Schooner from Salem anchored in the bay, the Cap<sup>t</sup> of which inform'd us that the U. S. Brig *Argus* was to have sail'd 1 day previous to his Departure from Salem, but did not & was expected to sail in a day or two. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 5<sup>th</sup> October 1803 4 P M —

SIR I received this morning the favour of your 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> from Gibraltar and that of last Evening. —

His Majesty at coming in took a different Route to what was mentioned yesterday — he was expected by the Beach and came on the West side of the Town and entered the Castle by a back Gate — his Brother Muley Absolam, and a favourite Queen arrived late last night. —

The minister Sidy Muhammed Selawy has been dispatched to Tetuan two days ago, to bring from thence some money and Effects Alcayde Hashash acquainted His Majesty was there belonging to His Majesty — this is unexpected, it remains to be seen if such public property will be found. —

Yesterday the Friends of Hashash circulated a Report that the Command of all the Army with the Emperour had been conferred on him — but we have seen His Majesty arrive & Hashash follow some time after and go to his House in Town where he Remains —

The Letter I wrote Muley Soliman met him on the Road, and was not delivered, the Messenger erroneously thinking it must pass thro' the Ministers hands — however that is of little consequence. — Most probably I shall hear from His Majesty in the course of this night, if I do not I shall tomorrow morning find some mode of communicating with him, and send you notice of what may be the Result — my first application will be to Represent your being here, and for what purpose, but as he must be fatigued I would not wish to hasten the matter this Afternoon —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Tanger Bay Oct<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1803 6 p m*

DEAR SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with yours of this afternoon, and shall wait, until tomorrow to hear the result of your communication with the Emperor, If Hashash is continued in favour with additional honors conferred on him, we cannot have any thing friendly to expect, of course I shall be under the necessity of employing my whole force in the best possible way for the protection of our commerce, & to revenge the Insult and indignity offered our flag. I however still hope that every thing will be amicably adjusted

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Miss Hash Tash, from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

TANGIER BAY, point Nam-shot[?] from the  
*Batteries October 5th [1803]*

DEAR HASH You undoubtedly wish to hear the particulars of the Moorish War of 1803: to begin then, when in the *Newyork* we arriv'd at Gibraltar from the eastward on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of last month, we found there the *Philadelphia* 44 [guns] Capt Bainbridge; he had taken some time before the Moorish ship *Merboka* of 22 guns, Capt

Ibrahim Louberais off Cape di Gatt & retaken the *Celia* Brig of Boston a prize to the Moors. The *Constitution* was likewise at Gibraltar with the schooner *Vixen* just from America. Com<sup>r</sup> Preble off Cape St Vincent fell in with the Moorish Admiral[?] of 32 guns, the passport being regular & not knowing of the War she was permitted to proceed, being as they said bound to Lisbon, to receive a promised present from Portugal: we have since heard of their arrival via the Portuguese Admiral stationed at Gibraltar. The Emperor finding that his cruisers sent in no prizes, & losing the *Merboka*, & the *Constitution* *Newyork* & *John Adams* with the *Nautilus* *Enterprise* & Brig *Siren* constantly on his coast which not only would endanger his remaining cruiser, but prevent any prizes getting to his ports: again considering all this he is desirous of Making Peace, & disavows making War at all, or giving his Corsairs orders to go out, laying it all on Hash Hash Gov. of Tangier. Hash denies giving the Captains orders to go out, & the Captains declare that Hash did give the orders, but it is thus Hash gave the Capts Sealed orders, & when they arrived at the place where they were to be opened, there was no signature to the orders Why then did they obey the orders by taking the Brig? I think we may conclude them all to be in Plot, & not meeting with success — they wish to clear off, knowing our Frigates all to be aloft & our trade in this Quarter unprotected, the dam'd rascals sent their damn'd rascally cruisers out, but the fortunate arrival of Com Preble's Squadron prevented the sequel they expected M<sup>r</sup> Simpson our Consul here was at first confined, he is now released & the Com<sup>r</sup> invited to Tangier, where the Emperor is to meet him to conclude a Solid Peace. An American Brig from Salem, being at Mogadore when the War began, became a bon[?] prize & the crew Slaves, but they were treated very well indeed. —

Com<sup>r</sup> Morris sailed for America about the 20th inst. The *Philadelphia* & *Vixen* have been dispatched to watch the State Affairs in the Levant. — The *Argus* expected daily from America. *Siren* just arrived. — Com<sup>r</sup> Roldgers is removed to the *Newyork* & has the command which Com<sup>r</sup> Morris had before his recall. —

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 5 October 1803

Employ<sup>d</sup> working Ship to windw<sup>d</sup>/ to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> of Cape Tangier/ at ½ past 12 spoke with the Schooner *Nautilus* Leu<sup>t</sup> Smith/ in working into Tangier Bay/ we saw seven flags/ flying in different parts of the Town/ which we suppos<sup>d</sup>/ hoisted by the forighen Counsels/ distinguishing there different Nation/ the American flag was flying among them at ½ past 1 P M, came too with the Best bower in Tangier Bay in 13 fath<sup>s</sup> over a Sandy Bottom/ Veerd to two thirds of a cable and furld sails/ the following Bearing are Taken by compass/ under the immediately inspections of Commodore Preble/ the Town of Tangier/ Bore W ½ S/ about two miles distance/ the Tower E/ ¼ N/ the walls of old Tangier SbE/ the white forte at the Bottom of the Bay SE/ Cape Tangier NWbW/ Lower<sup>d</sup> down the Jolly Boat/ the Schooner *Nautilus*/ anchored in company/ Lieutenant Summers waited on Commodore Preble/ on our leaving Gibraltar Bay last Evening i Mentioned/ of our leaving the united States Brig *Siren* there/ i was mistaken/ for

shee sail the same Evening with a number of American/ in order to convoy them through the Straits of Gibraltar and clear of the Barbary Coast/ as we are to continue at anchor all night in Tangier Bay/ and within gun shott of the forte/ the Commodore ordered the ship cleard for action and the guns all primed/ the ships company to be kept at Quarters during the night/ after 8 P M/ till day light the ships company was order<sup>d</sup> to sleep at Quarters in sub divisions the Night was plesent with light Breezes from the Westw<sup>d</sup>/ in the course of the afternoon yesterday Commodore Preble Recv<sup>d</sup> different despatches from the shore How frendly they might bee i know nothing off/ but the Commo<sup>dore</sup> was very attentive to there Manoeuvring on shore and kept the ship all night in a perfect state of Readiness for action/ from daylight till noon/ we saw more then ten Thousand of the Moorish inhabittance marching in from different parts of the Country/ they formed in different detachments on the sandy beach which is a little to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> of the Town/ We suppose them to be waiting/ in order to recive there Moorish Magesty/ which is momentarily Expected to arrive from the Country/ there manoeuvring there different Squadrons of Hors/ was Very pleasing/ Commodore Preble orderd the *Constitution* compleately dr[e]ssed with colours and flags/ but not to be Hoisted/ till the arrival of the Emperour was announced which was to be by a Salute from the fortes/

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 6 October 1803

At Anchor in Tanger Bay, wind from the Eastward — Light breezes and pleasant Weather, a Body of about 5000 Troops consisting of Horse & Foot encamped opposite the Ship — preparing to dress ship, at 2 P M the American, and other consular Flags were hoisted on shore as a Signal that the Emperor had arrived and was in view of the Ship. I ordered the Ship dressed and a Salute of 21 Guns fired in compliment to the Emperor which was returned — I rec<sup>d</sup> dispatches from the Consul and returned Answers — All hands Slept at quarters — At 4 AM. the Frigates *New York* & *John Adams* arrived, and anchored in a line of bearing to the Southward — At 8 AM I fired the Signal for the other two ships to Salute the Emperor, which was done with 21 Guns from each Ship, and returned with an equal Number — at 11 Consul Simpson came on board by permission of the King. He informed me, that the Emperor's Minister had not yet arrived, but that he was momentarily expected, and as soon as he appeared we could open a Negotiation for Peace, and that the Emperor was Pacifically inclined, at noon the Consul returned, Saluted him with 3 Guns —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 6 October 1803

The Emperor of Morocco with 2500 troops arrived at Tangier.

[LC, original.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 6 October 1803

Moderate Breezes from the Westw<sup>d</sup>/ Laying in Tangier Bay/ Moored a half a cable Each way with the Best bower and stream/ a



little after one P M/ the different detachments form<sup>d</sup>/ collectively/ they Extended from one End of the Beach to the Other/ which is at the least two and a half miles they were all mounted on Horse/ at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past one P M. they Commenced there march/ with innumerable Volleys of small arms/ Towar[d]s the Town and Castle/ a few minutes after two P M the American Colours was hoisted in the Town of Tangier/ they then saluted from the lower Battary Eighteen guns/ we immediately dress<sup>d</sup> ship and Retur<sup>d</sup> them an Eaq<sup>u</sup>el number/ Toward the Evening the Commodore Reiv<sup>d</sup> dispatches from the shore at 7 in the Evening Musterd at Quarters/ and cleard ship for action/ at 8 Musterd the starboard Watch/ and fired the Evening Gun/ the ships company slept<sup>d</sup> at Quarters in Sub div[is]ions during the night at three A M/ the weather was Very clear and plesent we saw two ships standing in To the Bay/ at 4 we answerd the united States Frigate/ *John Adams* private signal Towards daylight anchored here in Tangier Bay the united States Frigate/ *John Adams*/ Commodore Roggers and the united States Frigate *Newyork*/ Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell imead- etely after the *John Adams* came to an anchor/ Comm<sup>re</sup> Prebble waited on Commodore Roggers/ at Eight in the morning we fied a Gun/ imeadately after the *John Adams*/ and *Newyork* saluted the Moorish Garrison with sixteen guns Each/ the salute was Returnd from the Moorish Garrison with 33 Guns/ in the cours of the fore noon Commodore Roggers waited on Commodore Preble/ after which he Hof[is]ted his Broad pendant on board the *Newyork* Captain Campbell/ was Removed from the *Newyork*/ to the command of the *John Adams* the Emperour of Morrocco continus in Tangier M<sup>r</sup> Simpson the American Consul/ at Tangiers this forenoon/ waited on Commodore Preble he came on board by the convayance of a Shore Boat/ he went away a little after a 11 A M and was saluted with three guns/

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 7<sup>th</sup> October 1803. —

DEAR SIR That your Boat might not meet detention, I had a few lines ready to put in the Officers hand when I went to receive that expected from you. — By that you will have seen the reason I do not find myself at liberty to go afloat this morning; besides the possibility of the Consuls together being called up to the Castle, the Emperour may either send for me, or make me some communication, — in either case it would not be well in me to be absent. — The two Spanish Gentlemen who translate Arabic papers for me being attached to their Consulate, they would not like to be seen taking part so far in our concerns just at this day, as to go on board for the purposes you mention — but if the Tripoline Captain will make a written declaration of what you may tell him by your Interpreter you wish to be proven on any point, I will get it translated. — If this and any other Arabic papers can be got ready against tomorrow morning, I will then wait on you to receive them: — the earlier the better for me, so if you think well of this mode I shall be ready to step into your Boat at seven O'Clock, in order I may be on shore again by Nine. —

The mark I mentioned to you of His Majestys attention to the Squadron, may fairly be taken as a proof of his pacific disposition — he will not certainly transact busyness with us immediately himself, and as we know his Minister may be said at least not to be inimical to us, I must beg to say I am of oppinion it would not be adviseable to press the matter immediately, as we might thereby throw it into hands, we would not wish. —

I am concerned you should have given yourself so much trouble to explain on subject of the Salute — with some Nations it is customary to pay that mark of attention to Consuls — to tell you the truth I had believed it was not so with the Ships of War of the United States, as I did not see it on board the *Philadelphia* — *Essex* or *Chesapeake* —

Whatever Vegetables or other necessarys you may be in want of beyond what you will find in the intended Present, I will now feel no Difficulty in desiring permission to purchase and send you —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[7 October 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier,  
Morocco

DEAR SIR Nothing could have been more apropos than your Salute just finished — His Majesty you no doubt saw, was on the lower Battery at the end of the Mole — he went there for the purpose of viewing the Frigates with a stand Tellescope, and I am persuaded must have been gratified by the unexpected addition of the firing. —

This may yet overtake the Boat carries the Cattle. —

Friday One O'Clock

7<sup>th</sup> October [1803]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier,  
Morocco

TANGIER 7<sup>th</sup> October 1803

DEAR SIR I have satisfaction in acquainting you the Emperour was last night pleased to order a Present to be sent the Squadron this morning in his name to consist of ten Bullocks — twenty Sheep and some other lesser articles of provision. —

It is now getting ready and will be sent off in a Moor Boat — Commodore Rodgers and you will determine on the quantity for each Ship, which had better be taken in their own Boats. —

No tidings yet of the Minister — it is still very probable His Majesty will not see the Consuls untill his arrival, but as I must be in the way I am compelled [to] deny myself the intended pleasure of seeing Commodore Rodgers and Captain Campbell this 'forenoon. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[7 October 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier,  
Morocco

DEAR SIR The bearer of this my Interpreter waits on you to deliver the articles of provision noted at foot, which His Imperial

Majesty has been pleased to order to be sent in his Name, as a Refreshment for the Squadron of ships of War of the United States now at Anchor in this Bay —

TANGIER 7<sup>th</sup> October 1803

10 Bullocks

20 Sheep

4 Dozen Fowles

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

U S. SHIP *Constitution*

Oct<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR I am honored with your favours & the Emperors presents, for which I beg you to present my thanks, The Salute I meant as a compliment of respect to His Imperial Majesty on his appearance at the Forts. I am gratified that it was received by him as such —

My Boat as I before observed will attend you tomorrow at 7 o'Clock —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Thomas  
Appleton, U. S. Consul, Leghorn

LEGHORN 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1803

SIR I have duly received the letter you did me the honor to write under date of the 5<sup>th</sup> of September. — Since my last no event worthy of relating respecting the war with Tripoli, has come to my knowledge. — M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart after having been rejected by the Dey of Algiers as Consul from the U. States near that regency, was named by the President as consul for Tunis, with certain powers to negotiate towards an accomodation with Tripoli, to this end he embarked on board of one of our frigates to proceed for his destination, but on his arrival, I am informed, was unconditionally refused admission, although he was the bearer of the accustomed presents on reception — we must therefore presume, that the same reasons which influenced the Dey of Algiers, have actuated likewise the Bey of Tunis. — inclosed you will find the Copy of a letter I have just received from the american Consul at Malaga, by which you will percieve Sir, how alarming is our situation with regard to Morrocco. I have been verbally advised that three american Vessels have been captured, the truth of this information I cannot vouch for. — it is in Conjecture alone I can find any cause for these outrageous acts of Violence, so I therefore attribute them to the capture of the Tripoline admiral by Com<sup>d</sup> Morris. — this Vessel was sold to the Emperor of Morrocco, and suffered to depart from Gibraltar on this express Condition, that she should proceed no farther than Tunis, but having been overtaken in the waters of Tripoli, was viewed as an infraction of the Stipulation, and therefore captured. — the principle for which we contend with Tripoli, is a principle, if established, would strike a deadly blow to the political existance of all the barbary regencies: it is for this reason, they will avowedly, or in a more concealed manner, make it a general cause. — not knowing the address of my brother, I have taken the liberty to inclose a letter for him. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Leghorn, Vol. 1, Oct. 1793–Dec. 1806.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 7 October 1803

Moderate Breezes from the Eastward/ Moored in Tangier Bay/ the *Newyork*/ *John Adams* and *Nautilus* in company/ we have nothing meteriel going on in the ship/ we musterd at Quarter at 8 P M the ships company continue to sleep at Quarters in sub divisions/ during the night/ from daylight till 7 in the morning the ships company emp<sup>d</sup> scrubbing Hammocks/ from our arrival of[f] Tangeir Bay/ Sep<sup>r</sup> 12/ 1803 we stood well in with the Town/ we hoisted the American colours/ and fierd a Gun/ this signal is well known to all the furrin Consuls of Residue in the Moorish dominions/ Commodore Preble/ and Tobias lear/ Esq<sup>t</sup> who was a passanger on board the *Constitution* as Consul general to the Barbary powers was a little surprised at not seeing the American colours/ Ho[f]lsted with the other National Colours at Tangier/ we anchord in Gibraltar Bay the same day/ and soon lear[n]t that the Moorish Crusers was out against the Americans/ and Consul Simpson/ in Tangier was confined/ this news was Very disagreeable to Commodore Preble/ perticular as we had boarded the Moorish Admiral/ on the 7 September last/ the perticulars of wich is in that days log/ in a few days after this inttelegence we proceed from gibraltar to Tangier/ w[h]ere a correspondance was carried on by flag truce/ between Commodore Preble and Consul Simpson/ from our first arrival at Gibraltar/ September the 13/ 1803/ Commodore Preble/ has Been Very attentive in Restoring peace Between America and the Emperour of Morrocco and should Commodore Preble succeed/ it must be a pleasing Reflection/ in the Evening of his days at 7 this morning Commodore Preble sent an officer and a boats crew on shore/ this is the first Boat sent from the American Squadron/ sunce the commencement of war Between the two nations at 9 in the morning the boat Returnd with dispatches for Commodore Preble/ as the Commodore immedately whent on board the/ different ships of the squadron/ one of which wiegh<sup>d</sup> an anch<sup>d</sup> near in Towards the fort[?]/ i Exspect the Commodore did not meet that Reply which national faith and Justice demands/ the Emperour of Morrocco still continues at this place/ his incampment Extends/ from one End of the Bay of Tangeir to the other/ which is nearly three Miles/ by the survey of John Josep Allezard/ who was survarer general to the Emperour of Morrocco

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain John Gore, Royal Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

U. S. SLOOP OF WAR *Siren* [\*]—

*Gibraltar bay Oct<sup>r</sup> 7 1803*

Cap<sup>t</sup> JOHN GORE — Comm<sup>r</sup> of

his Majesty's Ship *Medusa*

SIR Three men named Joseph Dunbevan James Pearce and John Coxe, have deserted from the Ship *Mabockah* [*Mirboka*] prize to the United States Frigate *Philadelphia*, and as I am inform'd have claimed protection onboard his Majesty's Frigate *Medusa* under your Command — I have to request that you will deliver them to the Officer who hands you this, upon your being satisfied they are the persons above mentioned, I cannot think it is your intention to violate the laws of Hospitality, toward a Nation in Amity with his Britannic

Majesty, and contrary to the good Disposition he has Shewn and express'd in the Treaty, by detaining the above named persons, whom I demand as Fellons & Deserters —

[\*The *Siren* was a brig. It is believed "sloop of war" was used in a broad sense and not to indicate a change in the character of the brig *Siren*.]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, from Captain John Gore, Royal Navy

*Medussa GIBRALTAR BAY October 8<sup>th</sup> 1803*

Captain STEWART Comm<sup>d</sup> of }  
the United States Sloop of }  
War *Siren*—

SIR, I have received your letter of yesterday's date requesting that I would deliver up the Three men named in the Margin [Ja<sup>s</sup> Dunbervan Ja<sup>s</sup> Pearce John Cox], being deserters from the United States Man of War

In reply to which I have the honor to inform you that there is no such man as Joseph Dunbervan in his Majesty's Ship under my command, and that your request is inadmissible, for those men are subjects of his Britanic Majesty and have returned to their duty and allegiance—

I beg leave to assure you that it is neither my intention or inclination to Commit any Act of violence upon the laws of Hospitality or infringe upon any treaty which may exist between the States of America and his Majesty and I hope to find the same disposition in the Officers Commanding the American Men of War, which I am fully informed have a large proportion of British Subjects on board as Seamen, who have enter'd for them during the time of Peace, the Officers knowing them to be such, and finding now that their Sovereign is engaged in a serious War with an inveterate Foe, wish to return, to their own Flag, but are detain'd by force, and as such Conduct is a violence against the laws of Nations, I must presume it Cannot be the intention of yourself and other Officers Commanding the Ships of the United States to persevere in it

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your very humble Servant

Sign'd JOHN GORE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Secretary of State from Frederic Hyde Wollaston, U. S. Consul, Genoa

*GENOA 8 October 1803*

SIR On the 17<sup>th</sup> August, I had the honor to enclose a Copy of my respects of the 25 July & then suggested the Idea that this Government might be induced to pay a part of the Expences of the Squadron in these Seas against the Barbary Powers, or might purchase from the Un: States some of the Government Vessels laid up

The evident difficulty of maintaining Peace with the Barbary Powers on the one Side & the encreasing trade from the United States to these Seas & to the Levant on the other has suggested to me the Idea that a Treaty of Amity & Commerce with the Grand Signior might be effected with ease & with peculiar advantages to the trade

& navigation of the United States, especially during the present War in Europe—

Being particularly acquainted with that Country especially with its mercantile resources in the course of several Voyages & a constant Traffic there until my appointment to the Consulate in this Port, I have corresponded much on this subject with my worthy & estimable friend Mons<sup>r</sup> Anselme Roubaud De Ponteves at Constple a french Gentleman & very able Negociator who has passed his whole life in the Levant, who is intimately acquainted in the Divan & with all the Ministers & their intrigues, & who would, I am confident, by his knowledge of the Country, his abilities in Negotiation & his experienced probity, be of essential service in the success of a Treaty which might very greatly contribute to make the Barbary States more faithfully observe the stipulations of the Treaties with them —

I have the honor to enclose you the result of my Correspondence, in a memorial on the subject which I request you will lay before the President for his mature Consideration — I should esteem myself really happy were I deemed trustworthy of so important a mission; I dare not make a boast of my abilities, but what would be deficient on that score, would most assuredly be most amply replaced by my exertions to do honor to the Office entrusted to me & impressed as I am with the Consequence & Importance of the subject there would be no danger of my transgressing the powers confided to me, in forming the Treaty in question, which would be modelled on those of the most favored Nations & would at all events be subject to the Ratification of Congress — \* \* \*

Nothing of any importance having occurred here since my last worth your notice, I remain with due Respect & the highest Esteem

[NA. SDA. CL, Genoa, Vol. 1, March 1799–Oct. 1836.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

N<sup>o</sup> 66. — duplicate —

TANGIER 8<sup>th</sup> October 1803.—

SIR I have the honour of acquainting you the Emperour reached this place on Wednesday last, but the prime Minister Sidy Muhammed Selawy having been sent to Tetuan on some busyness His Majesty has not yet given audience to the Consuls or any other Christian.— Commodore Preble anchored in this Bay on tuesday with the *Nautilus* Schooner. —

On Wednesday night the *New York* and *John Adams* Frigates also arrived and they all remain here. — This Squadron has paid every respect to His Majesty and on his part he has shewn equal marks of Friendship. — On Thursday evening His Majesty was pleased to send me notice he had ordered ten head of Cattle, twenty Sheep and some Fowles to be sent in his name for the Ships, which was done yesterday. — This morning I wrote His Majesty a Letter of acknowledgement for this mark of attention, translation of his answer I have just received you will find with this, which request you will have the goodness to lay before the President. —

You have also herewith translation of the order mentioned in that Letter for release of the Brig *Hannah* and her Cargo detained at Mogadore. — His Majesty having thus so readily given up that Vessel, is a fresh proof of his desire for Peace, for the furtherance of which it is the Commodores intention to give up the *Mirboha* and

Crew, when His Majesty shall by an Act in writing declare himself at Peace and Friendship with the United States and ratify the Treaty of 1786, all which I have not a doubt but he will readily do.—

In my opinion no fixed determination can properly be taken respecting the *Meshouda* untill the pleasure of The President be known on the subject, which I trust will soon appear. — Monday being not only appointed for Commodore Preble and myself to have an Audience of the Emperour, but that all the Consuls shall also see him, we conclude the Minister will be here tomorrow. —

\* \* \* \* \*

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, 1803-1810.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier,  
Morocco

TANGIER 8<sup>th</sup> October 1803. —

DEAR SIR The signal was made for me in consequence of His Majestys answer to my Letter of this morning having been sent to my House. — It has been read to me but not yet translated, it is very Friendly and as a proof of his sentiments being such, he sends me at same time an order under his private Seal, and signed by himself, to the Governour of Mogadore for the release of the Brig detained there, with her Cargo and Crew. —

His Majesty appoints Monday for giving us audience, the hour is not mentioned, but as he has fixed on ten that morning for seeing the Body of Consuls, its probable we shall not be with him before twelve. — I shall endeavour at getting this point settled and give you advice. —

I cannot excuse takeing the most speedy means of giving you this intelligence as it is no doubt a strong proof of what we all wish. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier,  
Morocco

TANGIER 8<sup>th</sup> October 1803

SIR, By the translation of papers I have had the honor of transmitting you, you will have seen the desire his Imperial Majesty has repeatedly express'd of remaining at peace with the United States, than which, I am persuaded few things of that nature can be more desirable to our Government, or more necessary for cherishing the Extensive commerce of our Country, to this quarter of the world, free from that burthen of heavy insurance, which is ever its bane —

It was on this principle I have so much recommended to you readily to meet his Majesty on this pacific disposition — for the furtherance of that desirable issue to the present misunderstanding, the restitution of all captures on both sides can only extend to deprive you of the miserable vessel the *Mirboka*, whilst you are certain of releasing a Brig with a pretty valuable Cargo to a Citizen of the United States — we have beside the chance in our favour of other vessels having arrived at Mogadore, & these his Majesty also promises to restore, to whatever extent they may be —

It is no uncommon thing amongst Nations to agree to restitution of Captures on both sides to bring about accommodations — in this instance it appears we have a prospect of the advantage being on our side, and in point of National honor, since his Majesty has so repeat-

edly disclaimed having given authority either for Captures of the *Celia*, or detaining the *Hannah* at Mogadore, he thereby endeavors at an acknowledgement of the fault —

You have Also seen the Anxiety his Majesty expresses for the restitution of the *Mishouda*; when I received in June last the first notice of that Vessel's being detained I was authorised by Commodore Morris to say to the Emperor that if the attempt to go into Tripoly, was an act of the Commanders unauthorized by his Majesty — that the ship should be released — I made that Communication immediately to quiet his mind, as we were at the eve, of his cruisers going to Sea, and the Straits totally destitute of Vessels of War of the United States for the protection of our commerce —

It has fully appeared that his Majesty left the sole direction of this Ship to that Abominable Character Alcaydi Hashash, and as his Majesty did not himself give the Orders to Arraiz Omar, or Issue the passport given in his name, stating that the Ship was his: — we may equally suppose he was Ignorant of the prohibition stated in my passport for the Ship, against her entering blockaded ports —

If Commodore Morris saw cause to release the Ship on it's being proved the fault lay with Omar, and authorized me to say so to the Emperor, he may expect an equal Friendly part from us: — on the blame's resting with the Governor —

These are arguments for the Ship's being restored; but however by no means conclusive. So it may be argued that the occasional suspension of the blockade of Tripoly takes away that consequence stamp'd on regularly maintained blockades by the Law of Nations, and the Declarations of the chief powers of Europe on that subject, in the year 1780.

What I have now most to recommend to your serious consideration is, that in every other point we have seen his Majesty disposed to a perfect reconciliation with the United States, and when I quote to you the following paragraph of a letter written to me, by the Secretary of State 21<sup>st</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> 1802 — you will I'm fully satisfied say with me, that the restitution of this Ship to the Emperor (under the special condition that neither the Vessel nor any part of the stores on board of her, shall be sent to Tripoly during the Continuation of the present War, between the United States and that Regency) should not be suffered to stand in the way of so desirable an event, as peace with this Country — The Paragraph is as follows

"Should money or it's equivalent be found an indispensable agent  
"in fixing the Emperors disposition to peace, you already know  
"that Commodore Morris has a small fund on which you may  
"draw; — be as sparing of expence however as possible; both from  
"a regard to Oconomy, and to the policy of keeping down the  
"hopes, and pretensions of these mercenary powers, In no event  
"you are to exceed Twenty thousand Dollars; nor to go as far as  
"that sum, unless it shall produce a firm peace, and an express or  
"Tacit relinquishment of the claim set up to presents at stated  
"periods, which are another name only to Tribute — "

I made no calls on the fund here alluded to; — neither have I expended a Sixpence of money in consequence of that Authority, because I saw no opening for its being done, with solid prospect of attaining the object in View

Circumstances appear to have been most happily combined for our now obtaining a ratification of the Treaty of 1786 by which all



claim to periodical presents will be most expressly relinquished; as the demand to that purpose made last year, was founded on an erroneous Idea, that an arrangement was made posterior to that period promising presents —

I beg to Submit these sentiments dictated by a sincere desire of seeing peace restored to your Consideration and to assure you I am

N<sup>o</sup> 18 A Copy N. MORRIS

EDWD PREBLE Esq<sup>r</sup> *Commodore*  
and *Commander in Chief of the*  
*Squadron of the U S. in the Mediterranean*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[8 October 1803]

Concerning Order issued by the Emperor of Morocco, releasing American Ship *Hannah*, at Mogador

Translation —

Praise be given to the Only God.

May God be propitious to our Master Mohamet and to his Family —

Private  
Seal

In his Majesty's handwriting — Soliman — may God make him happy —

To our Servant the Governor Muhammed Ben Abd el Sadak — God assist you and keep you. Peace and the Mercy of God be with you — Then we order that you set at liberty the American Vessel detain'd there, with all her Cargo, and everything else. Take care that nothing be lost was in her, and peace be with you.

P. S — Whatever you may have landed belonging to the Christians, let it be put on board again, and let them have everything they may be in need of, and send them away in a good state, and in the best manner

20<sup>th</sup> *Chemadi* (2<sup>nd</sup>) — 8<sup>th</sup> October 1803

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[8 October 1803]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, presumably from the Emperor of Morocco

Translation

Praise be to the Only God

AMERICAN CONSUL, We have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter — There is nothing between us, but what shall be to your satisfaction in the continuance of Peace and Friendship — We have ordered the Governor of Mogadore, that he set at liberty your Vessel to her Owners — What has happened we will not attribute to your delays with us; what we will believe is, that if your Enemy had come under our protection, you would have spared him for our sake. What your Sea captain has done he is not to be blamed for; it was but what he ought to have done — You shall see nothing from us, but what is Just. On Monday please God you will bring with you your Admiral to meet with us —

You will receive with this the mentioned letter that you may send it yourself

Date should be 8<sup>th</sup> October 1803 —

The two preceding translations were made from Arabic to Spanish by D<sup>r</sup> Manuel de Baccas, and from Spanish to English by —

JAMES SIMPSON  
*Tanger 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[8 or 9 October 1803]

**Declaration of Peace between the United States and the Emperor of Morocco**

Translation

Praise be given to God Alone

May God be propitious to our Master Mohamet and to his family —

Imperial  
Seal

Know all those who shall see this noble writing, all our Governors those encharged with our affairs, and Captains of our Vessels: that the American Nation are still as they were in peace and Friendship with our person exalted by God — their Vessels are safe both sea and in port, and so are their Merchants, & you are not to disturb the peace, between us and them —

What has happened with their and our Vessels, has been an affair among the Vessels but the said Nation continues respected, as they were with us, and under all security and equally so their Vessels —

Wherefore we hereby Order that all those of our Governors, those encharged with the Command of our ports, and Captains of our Vessels who shall see this writing, that they act in all respects for the fulfillment of this Order, and that they do not deviate therefrom

Those who shall contravene it, will be punished with a severe punishment.

This Order was given on the 21<sup>st</sup> Chemadi  
(the second) in the Year 1218.

8<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803.

And at last we are in peace and Freindship, with the said American Nation as our Father (to whom God be Mercifull) was, according to the Treaty made the first day of Ramadan in the year 1200 —

The foregoing translation was made from Arabic to Spanish by Doct<sup>r</sup> Mannual Baccas, and from Spanish to English by —

JAMES SIMPSON  
*Tangier 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

8<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 3 p m [1803]

DEAR SIR I am this moment honored with your much esteemed favour of this date,

The order for the release of the Vessel [*Hannah*] at Moggadore is an act of justice on the part of the Emperor & augurs favorable things to us. —

I shall be ready to pay my respects to his Imperial Majesty the moment you give me notice that I shall be favorably received & that I shall not be detained on shore one moment contrary to my wishes.—

I ardently wish this business may be speedily settled. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES' FRIGATE *Constitution*,  
Tangier Bay, October 8th, 1803.

SIR: I am honored with your favor of this date, and have duly considered its contents, and think your arguments so far conclusive, that I shall not hesitate in giving up the *Murboka*, and am authorized by Commodore Rodgers to assure you that he will do the same by the *Meshouda*, on the emperor's renewal and acknowledgement of the treaty of peace and friendship, entered between the Emperor, Sidi Mahomet, his father, and the United States, in the year 1786, and the fulfilment of his promise to release all American property and citizens he may have in his possession.

I am fully aware of the happy combination of circumstances which has facilitated that so much desired object of our Government, without the agency of money, or even the promise of any future tribute or present, either of which must have degraded us in the eyes of these barbarians, and would only have been a prelude to greater insolence and demands.

If the arguments adduced in favor of the restoration of the *Murboka* and *Meshouda* should appear rather specious to the Secretary of State, I feel confident they will give place to the importance of the object accomplished thereby. Indeed, your extract from his instructions assures to us his approbation of the measures we have taken for the security of our large and increasing commerce to this part of the world, by the establishment of an honorable and permanent peace.

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff., Vol. 1.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 8 October 1803

\* \* \* the Squadron continues at anchor in Tangier Bay/ Winds from the NNE in the course of this day several letters have pass<sup>d</sup> and Repass<sup>d</sup> Between Commodore Preble and the Emperour Morocco and Consul Simpson/ in Consequence of which a sudding change has Taken place/ Between one and two this after noon the Emperour marched down on the Beach accompanied By his Court several persons of the first distinction and a Numerous crowd of spectatores/ he came down to View the american Squadron/ Commodore Preble immediately saluted 21 Guns/ the Emperours Band immediately play<sup>d</sup> the march of Olestor/ which signifys peace and friendship/ during this interview Between Commodore Preble and the Emperour/ the hole shore was crowd<sup>d</sup> with the inhabitance as fair as the Ey could Extend/ the Emperour immediately sent off[f] to the *Constitution*/ as a present to Commodore Preble Ten Bullocks Twenty Sheep and four dozen of fowles/ Commodore Preble orderd on board the *Constitution* four of those Bullocks Six Sheep and one dozen of fowles/ the others was

Equally divided on board the *Newyork John Adams* and *Nautilus* the Convayer of the present was/ Captain Malamorta/ an officer in the Emperours Service/ he had with him two Moorish Boats and Twenty men/ on his going ashore he was saluted with three guns from the *Constitution*/ it is perhaps unnecessary for me to mention during our stay here which is four days the *Constitution* has been kept perfectly clear for action and the Hammocks has not been piped down till this Evening \* \* \* at 7 in this morning Commodore Preble sent his Barge ashore to Bring M<sup>r</sup> Simpson/ the Consul at this place/ at ½ past 8 A M. he came on board the *Constitution* after this M<sup>r</sup> Simpson went on board the *New York* and *John Adams*/ the Emperour still continues at Tangeir/ his incampments, Extend from one End of the Bay to the other/ his Body Guard which is now at this place/ consists of Eight thousand light Horsmen/

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain John Gore, Royal Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*

N<sup>o</sup> 2. Copy —

October 9<sup>th</sup> 1803

U. S. SLOOP OF WAR *Serin* GIBALTAR BAY

Cap<sup>t</sup> JOHN GORE Commander of  
his Majesty's Ship *Medusa*

SIR, I received yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> in Answer to my Note of the 7<sup>th</sup> — I have to inform you that the Officer Commanding the Prize Ship *Mabocka* saw the person named Jos<sup>h</sup> Dunbervan on board his Majesty's Ship *Medusa* — You must therefore be deceived by the Man's having changed his name

I have the honor also to inform you, that those men enter'd voluntarily in the United States to serve Two Years and at a time when they knew his Britanic Majesty was engaged in a war and not during the peace as you have been informed — All persons onboard our Vessels of War are enter'd in the same manner and we only require of them a performance of their engagements, therefore we by no means "do a violence to the law of Nations by forcibly detaining them" as you have asserted, but on the Contrary, You, by detaining those men whom I have demanded "as Deserters & Fellons" assume the Violating hand and deny us the Justice which is the basis of that Law, While Sir I assure you, that you will always find on our part a desire to render you ev'ry just claim and to give you in every instance all the satisfaction in our power that is Consistent with Reason & propriety, permit me to hope it will be reciprocated by the Commanders of his Majesty's Ships of War. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from Captain John Gore, Royal Navy

*Medusa* GIBALTAR October 9<sup>th</sup> 1803

Capt. STEWART

U. S. Sloop of War *Siren*

SIR I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your 2<sup>nd</sup> letter, and am Sorry you should have thought it necessary to write it much more to adopt such a Style of recrimination, equally unworthy of us both — Whether the mens names is Joseph Dunbevan or Jos. Perry

is very immaterial — He and the other two men are subjects of his Britanic Majesty, were known to be such when they were enter'd as part of the *Philadelphia's* Crew, and having again placed themselves under the Flag of their Leige Sovereign cannot possibly be given up either to the United States or any other Foreign power, whatever engagements they may have enter'd into, whether their own Nation was at peace or whether it was at War; and as I had the Candour in the first instance to read one Maratime law upon that subject to one of your Officers, I could not have expected that you would attach such language to my Conduct as you have thought proper to do; and as a further instance of my Candour, I assure you had the three men in question been Subjects of the United States, neither myself or any other Captain of his Majesty's Ships would have hessitated restoring them

As you are the Senior Officer of the Men of War of the United States in this Bay, I have to request, that you will order the Officer Commanding the Ship *Mabokah*, prize to the *Philadelphia* to discharge into his Britanic Majesty's Ship under my command the two men named in the Margen [Tho<sup>s</sup> Graham Ja<sup>s</sup> Cox] being Subjects of his Britanic Majesty and wishing to return to their Duty and Allegiance

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain John Gore, Royal Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy  
N<sup>o</sup> 3 — Copy — U. S. SLOOP OF WAR *Siren* GIBRALTAR BAY  
Octob<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR In answer to yours of this date, I have the honor to inform you, that there is no Authority vested in me to discharge, or Order any Officer in the Navy of the United States to discharge, any persons belonging to our Ships of War, therefore your request cannot be Complied with

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[9 October 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

U. S. SLOOP OF WAR *Siren*

SIR — I have the honor to inform you that during your Absence from Gibraltar, several Men belonging to the prize Ship *Mabockah* deserted and Carried with them the boat belonging to that Ship — The Officer Lieutenant Tarbell Comm<sup>dr</sup> that prize hearing they were on board his Britannic Majesty's Ship *Medusa* (after satisfying himself of the Truth thereof) made application to me to have them returned to their Duty — In consequence of which I made a demand of them as you will perceive by the Copy of my Note to Cap<sup>t</sup> Gore on that subject — Enclosed you will also receive, copies of all the Communication I had with him, by which you will perceive, that we are liable to great inconvenience and contention with the Officers of the British Navy, as, many of our men may be claim'd on the same principle — I therefore solicit your instructions on that head, that I may know in future, how to conduct in similar Cases should they occur. — My Conduct in that affair, I hope will meet your approbation, as I assure

you the only inducement was my duty to prevent as far as in me lies, any loss or injury towards my Country —

P. S. — Cap<sup>t</sup> Gore sent a verbal message by one of my officers, that he had Orders to demand all persons, subjects of his Britanic Majesty, that were on board of all foreign vessels, and that if they were not given up civilly to take them by force

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

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To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* TANGIER BAY

9<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, I have parted a Cable, cut off[f] by the rocks as the ground is foul I shall get under way before night and stand off and On, until morning, and return to the Bay again if the wind will allow me to —

You will get under way when I make the Signal, but only for the purpose of examining your Cable, and shifting your birth further in shore, and nearer the Dane, where you will have clear Ground — as the weather is boisterous you will lay there in safety as it respects any attack in the night; but if the weather Moderates much it will be well for you to keep under way in the night and anchor in the morning, for the purpose of receiving communications, from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson for me.

If you will come on board I will give you the marks and directions, for Anchoring — you must remain near this Bay until I return

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803–1805.]

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To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SLOOP OF WAR *Siren*

Octob<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1803. at Sea

SIR I have the honor to inform you of our Safe Arrival at Gibraltar after a passage of 28. days from the Delaware, all hand in good health.—

We are now proceeding with a convoy as p<sup>r</sup> Inclosed.

This morning about 11 OClock the United States Frigate *New York* Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers, hove out a Sig<sup>l</sup> to speak us with which we complied, but on thier bearing down she ran Aboard of us, and carried away every thing from our bows, even to the Anchor which was broke in two, fortunately no person's was hurt on board the *Siren* except one man who I fear will loose his hand by the unfortunate circumstance — The *New York* lost her lower yards and what other damage I do not know.

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802–1805.]

[Enclosure]

A list of Merchant Ships & Vessels under the Convoy of the U. S. Sloop *Siren*  
Ch<sup>r</sup> Stewart Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander from Gibraltar

| Date                                | Vessels Names               | Masters Names      | Owner's Names  | Where bound        | To whom Consigned | Lading &c    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1803<br>October<br>10 <sup>th</sup> | Ship <i>Union</i> ....      | George Hodges      | Nichols Hodges & C <sup>y</sup>                                  | To Newyork.....    | .....             | Brandies     |
|                                     | Shp. <i>Friendship</i> .... | Barzillai Goodrich | O & B Goodrich of &  | to Newyork.....    | .....             | Wine & Fruit |
|                                     | Brig <i>Hector</i> ....     | John Allen         | E & J Allen of &   | to Salem.....      | .....             | Fruit        |
|                                     | Ship <i>Monsoon</i> ....    | David Nickerson    | W. Hayden J <sup>r</sup> Banter [or Baxter] & J Tate — of Boston | to London.....     | .....             | Wine & Fruit |
|                                     | Brig <i>Celia</i> .....     | Richard Bowen      | Amaze Thayer of Boston   | to Alexandria..... | .....             | Wine & Fruit |
|                                     | Brig <i>Betsey</i> ....     | Elias Grant —      | Abiah & H Wood   | to Leith.....      | .....             | Fruit        |

CH<sup>r</sup> STEWART

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 10<sup>th</sup> October 1803

DEAR SIR The Weather rendered it impossible for me to make you any communication yesterday. —

At Ten the Consuls wait on His Majesty together, as there matters of general concern to be treated upon. — that cannot be of long duration, so I reckon our particular audience may be about twelve. —

I am perfectly satisfied you are in no sort of personal danger, therefore hope you will not hesitate at comeing on shore. — You will please let me know by the bearer, at what hour you will land, and who will accompany you to His Majesty as we have a short way to ride. —

M<sup>r</sup> Simpson hopes for the favour of your Company — Coll Lears, and whoever else may come with you, at dinner today. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 10 October 1803

The Squadron continues at anchor in Tangier Bay/ \* \* \* at 10 in the Morning Commodore Preble and Col<sup>o</sup> Lear whent ashore at Tangeir to wait on the Emperour \* \* \* at 11 AM arriv<sup>d</sup> here the prize ship *Merboka*/

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 9 and Monday, 10 October 1803

Commences with heavy squalls of wind from the W<sup>d</sup> & rain. At 6 P. M got a range of cable on deck, 7 the wind begining to moderate. At ½ past 3 AM the wind haul'd to the N N. E blowing a fine breeze. made a signal for the convoy to get under way & stand to the westward, hove up our larboard bower & stood out under topsails. At 9 hove too for the convoy to close in with us. At 11 abreast Tangier, saw

lying in the bay the Frigates *N. York*, *John Adams* & schooner *Enterprise* Meridian pleasant weather. —

(NB) these remarks include 36 hours)

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier,  
Morocco

TANGIER 11<sup>th</sup> October 1803 —

DEAR SIR I am happy to tell you I have at last overcome the many objections made to putting the addition I required to the paper sent me last Night, and that by the enclosed translation thereof you will see the Emperour has ratified the Treaty made with his Father, of consequence I hope you will now put Arraiz Lubarez in possession of his Ship, that His Majesty may see his Flag flying on her. — I am promised a Letter for the President more fully to express the Emperours resolution of maintaining Peace with the United States, but the Minister said in order that he might be able to state in it a good reason for that determination it would be expected His Majestys request of having the *Meshouda* put in his possession would be granted. — The arguments I urged yesterday to you and Collonel Lear in support of this measure have still their full force in my mind, and now we have got the Emperour in a good humour with us, assuredly it cannot be well to hazard losing what we have been for years striving to gain, for such a trifling object — but I would still advise that if this Ship be given up it shall be on the express condition that she remain in one of the Ports of this Country during continuance of the War between the United States and Tripoly. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[11 October 1803]

To President Thomas Jefferson and to the Senate of the United States, from the  
Emperor of Morocco

Translation —

In the name of the clement, and most Merciful God,  
In him we have put our trust, and he is our best protector  
There is no power or strength, but in the Great God.  
From the servant of God. Prince of the Believers.

He who has put his trust in the Lord of all the  
Creation — Soliman Ben Mohamet, Ben Abdallah Ben Ismael —  
descended from the Prophet from Hassan and from Alli —

May God magnify his charge, and may his Sun and full Moon  
shine in the highest Heaven with splendour —

Imperial  
Seal

Impression — Soliman Ben Mohamet, Ben Abdallah — May God  
be merciful to him —

In Six Angles — God, Mohamet, Abuleker, Omar, Ottaman, Alli —  
Around the Seals God alone directs me, in him I trust and to him  
I turn —

To the President of the Americans. a Prince, and to all the Senate —  
Health —



Know ye that between some of Our Vessels rendered victorious by God, and some of Yours — some enmity has happened at sea, and the affair became so serious, as that some Vessels of each party were taken

So soon as we heard of this we felt concerned at it, as we were still in peace and friendship; and we desired that all the Vessels might be brought to Tanger, which is under the protection of God. When we had seen what had happened between the Nations, we found it was a matter of little consequence, and such as demanded no great attention, we sought to accomodate it, and we succeeded — And we make known to you what has happened that you may know we continue upon that Peace and Friendship you settled with our Lord and Master, and Father (to whom God be merciful) in the Year 1200, and the same which you settled with us, (exalted by God) when we renewed that Treaty in the Year 1210.

And know Ye that all the Treaties entered into between the two nations, remain as they were, and that they shall not be altered or changed —

This you are all to understand and be assured of with all certainty, and you are to hold to this —

This has been written to you at the Port of Tanger. (which God surrounds) on the 24<sup>th</sup> Chemadi the second in the Year 1218 which corresponds to the European Date the last of September in the Year of the Messiah 1803 —

Memo)

The Moors reckon by the old Style the date corresponds to the 11<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

The foregoing translation was done from the Arabic (and in my presence revised) by D<sup>r</sup> Manuel di Baccas to Spanish and from Spanish to English (M<sup>r</sup> Baccas also assisting, by —

JAMES SIMPSON  
*Tangier 12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[11 October 1803]

To the Governor and Officers of Mogador from the Emperor of Morocco

Translation —

Praise be given to the Only God. —

May God be propitious to our Master Mohamet and to his Family. —

Imperial  
Seal. —

Our Servant the Governour Ben Abd el Sadak and all the Officers of Our Port of Mogadore — May God assist you — Peace with the Mercy and Blessing of God be with you. —

Now know ye that the Almighty having reconciled what had happened with the American Nation because of the Acts of the Vessels, and that we are now as we were before with them, in Peace and Friendship as settled with Our Father to whom God be Merciful. — Take care — take care that none of you do any thing against them or shew them any disrespect or disregard, for they are as they were in Friendship and in Peace, and we have encreased our regard

for them in consequence of the Friendship they have manifested to Our person which God has exalted. — And we order that you be carefull and be diligent in all their concerns, and we order that you do well with their Vessels and with their Merchants. — Peace be with you all. —

24<sup>th</sup> Chemadi the second, 1218 (11<sup>th</sup> October 1803)

The original of the foregoing was translated from the Arabic to Spanish by D<sup>n</sup> Manuel de Baccas, and from Spanish to English by

JAMES SIMPSON

*Certified at Tangier 17<sup>th</sup> October 1803*

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, 1803–1810.]

To Mrs. Ralph Izard, Sr., South Bay, Charleston, S. C., from Midshipman Ralph Izard, U. S. Navy

TANGIER BAY. U. S. Constitution —

11<sup>th</sup> October 1803. —

We have been cruising in Straights of Gibraltar for these 2 weeks without meeting with any success. We returned to Gibraltar & after remaining there two days came here for the purpose of accommodating matters with the Emperor of Morocco. Hash hash the Governor of Tangiers gave orders to his vessels to cruize against all Americans, after having procured passports for his ships from our Consul M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. By which means whenever one of his men of war fell in with one of ours they produced these certificates & of course were allowed to proceed without molestation. The *Philadelphia* fortunately fell in with an Amer<sup>n</sup> Brig [*Celia*] that had been captured by one these vessels & recaptured her. He also fell in with the captor [*Mirboka*] which he took also. Hash hash as soon as he heard of the capture of this vessel confined M<sup>r</sup> Simpson & would undoubtedly have put him to death had not the Consuls of the European powers interceded in his behalf & wrote on to Fez informing the Emperor of this outrage. He came to Tangier the other day with an army of fifteen thousand men. On the 9<sup>th</sup> instant Commodore Preble went on shore accompanied by Col. Lear, one of our midshipmen & myself. We were introduced to his Majesty with very little ceremony. I had connected with the idea of Emperor of Morocco, something grand, but what was my disappointment at seeing a small man, wrapped up in a woollen *heik* [haik] or cloak sitting upon the stone steps of an old castle in the middle of the streets, surrounded by a guard of very ill looking blacks with their arms covered with cloth to prevent them rusting. We stood before the Emperor with our Caps in hand & the conversation was carried on by means of an interpreter. The Emperor said he was very sorry that his Governor had behaved so much amiss & said he should punish him "more than to our satisfaction". That was his expression. After having assured us of his ignorance of Hash hashes proceedings, he promised not only to ratify & confirm the treaty made between the U. S. & his Father Muley Soliman [sic], but to write to the President of the U. S. that altho' the treaty made by his father was to have effect but for 50 years he will consider it as binding for ever. We then made our bow & the Com<sup>dr</sup> Col [Tobias] Lear & M<sup>r</sup> Simpson had a private conference with the prime minister who is an intelligent

man & to all appearance very much our friend. — The prize is given up & the Emperor has issued an order to the Governors of the different districts of his Empire to release all vessels that may have been detained in any of his ports & henceforward to receive all American vessels as becomes a favored nation. The Com<sup>r</sup> goes on shore every day for the purpose of settling all differences. The Emperor departs to day with his army & leaves his prime minister to manage things as shall seem best to him. Hash hash goes with the Emperor, it is supposed, to be executed. Tangier is a very inconsiderable place & the natives are excessively savage. It is matter of astonishment to me that a people living so near a civilized nation as Spain should not imbibe some customs less barbarous than such as they have been accustomed to. We shall shortly go to Algiers from thence to Tripoli & then take up our quarters for the remainder of the winter at Malta. I am afraid that we shall have some difficulty with the British. Several of our men have deserted & have taken up their abode on board some of his B. M. Ships, & the Commanders have refused to deliver them up, & threaten to take from us as many British subjects as we may have on board of any of our vessels. I think they will not find it the most agreeable job they ever entered upon. I should have no objection to that sort of thing, if they would in return give up to us all the poor Americans they have impressed. I am afraid it will be a business not easily effected. For it appears to me a matter of impossibility to draw a proper line of distinction, by which we may know an American from a British Seaman. —

M<sup>r</sup> Smith sent the letter I gave him for you by the *Adams Comm<sup>r</sup>* Morris. You will get one I wrote you afterwards at the same time. This goes with M<sup>r</sup> Smith who will go home with the first Frigate that sails. The *New York*, & *John Adams* & schooner *Nautilus* are with us here & the natives were trembling in their shoes for fear we should batter down their town, which can very easily be done. For you can have no idea of the miserable situation their batteries are in. They have several Guns it is true but the carriages they rest upon are so rotten that three times firing will render them perfectly useless. —

I shall write to George shortly & to Harry Barclay. The *Argus* has not arrived yet. I expect several letters by her. As our cruise will be long I presume I may want a small supply of linnen. If it is not inconvenient I will be much obliged to you my dear Mother to send me a few shirts by some of our vessels that may be coming out here next Summer. Christopher is well & desires to be remembered. My best love & duty to my Father, & be assured my Dear Mother of the constant duty & affection of

Your Son

RA: IZARD jun<sup>r</sup>

[NDA. A-4.]

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To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 11. 1803

It having become unnecessary to send out the *Essex* you will consider my order to you for the furnishing a detachment of marines to that Vessel as hereby countermanded

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 11 October 1803

Tangier Bay. \* \* \* the Convoy we saw in the offing/ we learnt was under the united States Brig *Syren* from Gibraltar Bound to america/ the *Syren* was ordered to convoy them clear of the land/ we observed the Frigate *New York*/ which sail<sup>d</sup> from here about one Hour Before/ with her fore and main yard carried away/ the wind continued fresh from the NE all the afternoon/ Commodore Preble and Col<sup>o</sup> Lear came on board Towards Evening/ the *Newyork* Re anchored here again/ with her fore and main yard carried away/ \* \* \* at 9 A M/ Commodore Roggers waited on Commodore Preble/ the Business of yesterday/ Between the Emperour and Commodore Preble/ was not Totally settled the Commodore whent a shore this fore noon at 10 AM/ Col<sup>o</sup> Lear did not accompany the Commodore on shore today/

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 11 October 1803

Commences with fresh gales from the Eastward. The *New York* got under way from Tangier bay & stood out for us under her topsails & jib. at 1. A. M. the wind increased, the weather thick & unpleasant, At  $\frac{3}{4}$  past 1 the *N. York* made the signal for speaking us, we hove too with our head to the S<sup>d</sup> in a suitable situation for speaking the *N. Y.* we lay expecting she would heave too some small distance to windward of us, but she run within twice her length of our gangway, the dangerous situation in which we were plac'd required an Immediate manoeuvre, the *N Yorks* helm by her steerage must have been hard a starboard & then hard a port, in this manner the *N. York* came within once her length of our gangway at which time the Helm was put to Starboard with an intention if possible to shoot ahead of us, but instead of bracing the yards to the wind they were left in their original position; (Square) the rapidity of her coming too in a few moments, brought them flat to the mast, and there being a very heavy sea forc'd her broad side on our larboard bow, & brought her with a dreadfull crush on board of us. In this critical moment the destruction of the brig appear'd inevitable. Orders was issued from Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart to put the helm up & shiver the after sails, by this well tim'd manoevre we only lost our jib boom, spritsail yard, Larboard cathead & bow anchor, the *New York* sustaind much more damage having her fore, main & spritsail yards broke in the slings, in this situation she sent her boat on board of us with a packet for L<sup>t</sup> Stewart to send by one of the convoy to America. At 4 made the signal for speaking one of the convoy, at the display of which the Ship *Friendship* hove too, we lower'd down our boat & sent it on board with our dispatches for America when the boat returnd we hoisted her up. At 6 left the convoy haul'd our wind & stood to the N. E. Td [tacked] occasionally, made & took in sail as the wind would permit.

Meridian fresh gales & squally with rain.

[NDA.]

To Captain Thomas Tingey, Superintendent, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 12, 1803 —

\*You will immediately charter if practicable at this place or Alexandria a Vessel of a suitable size to carry the 100 Gun-Carriages to Morocco. You will report to me as soon as you shall have informed yourself whether you can procure a Vessel for this purpose or not. —

\*The schooner *Citizen*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Lawson, was engaged and sailed from Washington Nov<sup>r</sup> 15, 1803 —

[NDA. Barbary Powers LB, 1803-1808.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *New York*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

TANGER 12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR Peace between the United States & the Emperor of Morocco is re-established I conceive the *John Adams* can leave this station without injury to the service — whenever you think proper to order her away.

[F. D. Roosevelt Col.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* TANGIER BAY

12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, I have the pleasure of informing you of the re-establishment of peace, between the United States and the Emperor of Morocco — You will therefore consider your Orders to Capture Moorish Vessels of no effect, and will immediately on the receipt of this, repair to Gibraltar, and wait my further Orders

You will be very carefull to treat all Moorish subjects you may meet with, in a friendly manner —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* TANGIER BAY

12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803.

SIR, I have the pleasure to inform you of the re-establishment of peace between the United States and the Emperor of Morocco; you will therefore Consider the Order I gave you, to Capture Moorish Vessels as invalid, and will treat the Vessels and people of that Nation as friends —

You will proceed immediately to Gibraltar and prepare for going up the Mediterranean with a Convoy, give notice to the American Vessels bound up to prepare themselves, and you will deliver them the necessary signals and instructions

But you are not to sail until you have further Orders from me, as I expect to be at Gibraltar in a day or two —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* TANGIER BAY

12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, It is with pleasure I inform you of the re-establishment of peace, between the Emperor of Morocco, and the United States

You will immediately on the receipt of this, Sail for Mogadore, charged with a packet directed to Peter Guyn Esquire containing an Order for the release of the American Brig *Hannah*, her Cargo, and Crew, also a declaration of Peace, and many other papers of Consequence you will therefore take particular care, that they are safely delivered, you will on approaching the town of Mogadore, hoist your Colours & a white Flag, heave too, and send your boat in, as a flag, with the dispatches under charge of a Lieut<sup>t</sup>, after which they will no doubt permit you to go in with the *Nautilus*

You will wait there 48 hours for any Communication they may wish to make, either to Consul Simpson or myself; and then return to Gibraltar Bay, after stoping long enough to send your boat on shore at Tangier, to deliver such letters as you may receive for our Consul — You will be very carefull to treat all Moorish Subjects in a friendly manner —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803–1805.]

To William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, Portugal, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

Copy

TANGIER 12<sup>th</sup> October 1803 —

SIR, I am happy to acquaint you, Peace is fully re-established between the United States and the Emperor of Morocco and that of consequence our Vessels are no longer in danger of meeting interruption from his Cruisers.

I pray you to make this known to all Citizens of the United States, or others within your District, to whom it may be interesting.

[NA. SDA. CL, Lisbon, Vol. 2, 1803–1805.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 12 October 1803

\* \* \* the *Newyork*, *John Adams* and *Nautilus* still continues at anchor in Tangier Bay the hour of investiture or Restoring the Ship *Merbocka* to the Moorish officers was this afternoon at 2 P M/ Liuten[ant] Tarbell and the men sent on board of her at gibraltar/ dus not leave her till tomorrow/ She is now laying at anchor alongside of the *Constitution* with Moorish colours there is Twelve Moorish officers this day sent from the *Constitution* to the *Morbocka*/ seven of them was reci<sup>d</sup> from the Frigate *Pheledelphia*/ the 17 September last/ and five of them was reci<sup>d</sup> from the *Mersuda* the 25 September last/ the *Mersuda* is a prize to the Frigate *John Adams* Captured under Tropil- iton Colours/ and is now a Prison ship at Gibraltar/ the ships company or the Prisoners Taken in the *Merbocka* is now on board the *Mersuda*/ at Gibraltar/ Commodore Preble who has been all day on shore with the Emperour did not come on board till nearly seven in the Evening at which time it blew nearly a gale/ \* \* \* this is the third day the Commodore is had interviews with the Emperour/ the General Report of this Eventful war between america and Mor-

rocco/ is that it originated by, a Govenor Residing at Tangier/ by the name of Hash/ Hash/ but this Report/ i suspect/ Commodore Preble thinks will beare Questioning/ as the Commodore is on shore with no other attendance Except a private secretary/ there is but little doubt he is well convinced of there friendship Toward Him

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 13 October 1803

Peace re-established with the Emperor of Morocco and the Treaty of 1786 ratified and confirmed.

[LC, original.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 13 October 1803

Moored in Tangier Bay. Moderate Breezes from the Eastw<sup>d</sup>/ the *Newyork*/ *John Adams* and *Nautilus* in company/ this afternoon the wind shifted by degrees to the Northw<sup>d</sup>/ the Moors that was on board the *Newyork* was this afternoon sent on board the *Merbock*[a] Lieutenant Tarbell, the two officers six seaman and two Marines, Regained the *Constitution*/ when the *Constitution* left Gibraltar last for this Bay, the Commodore orderd three officers Eight seaman and two Marines/ to the *Merbocka*/ to Navigate her to this Bay/ two of the seaman deserted at Gibraltar/ namely/ Joseph Dunbeaver and James Pierce/ the Emperour this day left Tangier Commodore Preble came on board between three and four PM/ the first intelligence of war Between America and Morrocco/ was communicated to Commodore Preble the 12 September last/ from that periord to the present date Commodore Preble has Emp<sup>d</sup> the following men of war/ Either as convoys or stationed them along the Moorish Coast/ the *John Adams*/ *Syren*/ *Enterprise*/ *Vixen*, and the *Nautilus*/ the *Newyork*/ Commodore Roggers/ has been aiding and/assisting/ but he has not been a shore there is now a perfect and friendly peace between America and Morrocco/ the Exemplar conduct of Commodore Preble in this undertaken/ i senciarily hope will be hearfater mentioned/ Toward the Evening the Brig *Syren* stood into the Bay and Saluted the Moorish forte Shee was immediately dispatched with the *Nautilus*/ with Commodore Prebles despatches to call in all Cruisers the *Newyork* and *John Adams* wiegh<sup>d</sup> and stood out the Bay/ the *Newyork* Re anch<sup>d</sup> per signal/ Commodore Preble waited on Commodore Roggers/ we had fresh Breezes and Variable during the night/ we Recie<sup>d</sup> from the *Merbocka*/ Twelve men belonging to the *Philadelphia* Names as followes/ Jesse Tuttle/ John Stillwell[?]/ John Morgain John M<sup>c</sup>-Craken/ John Cherry/ John Hassan/ Dav<sup>d</sup> Warren/ W<sup>m</sup> Raiden/ James Fainsworth/ W<sup>m</sup> Johnson/ and Charles M<sup>c</sup>Kinley/ this morning several of the *Constitution* officers when[t] a shore on liberty/ Commodore Preble and Com<sup>r</sup>/ Roggers/ when[t] a shore

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipmen F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 13 October 1803

Fresh gales from the E<sup>d</sup> with rain, making short tacks to windward for Tangiers bay, overhaul'd a range of Starb<sup>d</sup> Cable. At 4 spoke the Commodore who sent his boat on board for L<sup>t</sup> Stewart. At ½ past 5 the *John Adams* & Schooner *Nautilus* got under way & stood out of the bay. At 6 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart returne'd: fill'd away & stood out to the N<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup>. At ½ past 6 cape Spartel bore W by S. distant 3 Leagues. At 8 double reef'd the topsails, handed square main sail & tack'd to the S<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup>. At ½ past 11 close reef'd the topsails & wore to the N<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup> saw a sail supposed to be the *John Adams*. Midnight fresh gales with thunder & lightning. At ½ past 12 double reef'd the after main sail. At 1 tack'd & sprung the main boom near the sheet blocks, Wore ship every four hours the remainder of the night. At 7 made all sail, tacking to windward for Gibraltar. At 12 the bay in sight. At 5 P. M. came too with the Starb<sup>d</sup> Anchor in 17 ½ fathoms. Europa point bearing S ½ E. S<sup>t</sup> Rocque N by E. At 10 the *John Adams* (frigate) came too in the bay. Midnight fresh breezes from the E<sup>d</sup> —

[NDA.]

[14 October 1803]

To President Thomas Jefferson from the Dey of Algiers

Copy by Translation

This letter of Mustapha Pascha dey of Algiers

To The Great of The Gov<sup>t</sup> of The Divan of America. —

If you are my friends and wish to remain so and wish to preserve your treaty with me you will send to me 10 Guns Brass 24 pounders with Carriages &<sup>e</sup> and allso 5 Brass Guns 18 pounders with Carriages &<sup>e</sup> — Guns long for Batteries. I request you will not forget our friendship I have spoken to your Consul on the subject and he is not inclineable to write although I consider him as Equal to one of y<sup>r</sup> divan — and therefore request for our friendship and our treaty That you will not write me evasive to my demand — as any favour demanded on your part I shall comply therewith. whether your demand is great or small —

this letter by order of Mustapha Pascha dey of Algiers & with his great Seal. The 26<sup>th</sup> of The Moon of Grimad Alahar 1218 — Corresponding with The 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1803 —

Certified to be The substance or translation of the deys letter wrote in Moorish —

OBRIEN

NB The dey further requires 60 Ths<sup>d</sup> Bricks for furnaces

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801-Dec. 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain John Rodgers, and Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, and Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

Copy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Newyork*, TANGIER BAY,

October 14, 1803.

SIR; Agreeably to your request that we would examine the Moorish Ship *Mirboha* now in this Bay, prize to the United States frigate *Philadelphia*, and state to you what we consider the real value



as she now lays, we have the honor to inform you that we have examined said ship, and consider that her Hull, Masts, Spars and rigging, Cables, Anchors, Cannon, Military stores and other Articles belonging to her are worth ten thousand dollars. —

signed { JN<sup>o</sup> RODGERS  
TOBIAS LEAR —  
ISAAC CHAUNCEY —

Commo<sup>o</sup> PREBLE.

[NDA. Cong. LB, Vol. 1, 1798-1811.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Joseph Tarbell, U. S. Navy

TANGIER BAY Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR. Agreeable to your order I took charge of the prize ship *Mirboka*, with ten men from the *Constitution*. found on board Messrs Reed Morris & McDonough, Midshipman, and 15 men I gave orders to the above mentioned officers to keep a regular watch on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Mr. McDonough having the morning watch, took the boat with 6 men went on shore to get provisions for the ship, while he was procuring it, the men left the boat, Viz. Thom<sup>s</sup> Green, W<sup>m</sup> Hughes & John Cox., on the 5. M<sup>r</sup> McDonough, again being on shore, while he was absent from the boat, John Tuck[?], left the boat. on the morning of the 6. Mr. Reed having the middle watch & Morris the morning watch, between the Hours of 4 & 5. A. M. in Morris watch, at daylight discovered the boat was gone which was moored a stern, in mustering the men, found, James Pierce & Jos Dunbevin, missing, I borrowed a boat, sent the officers on shore at the old Mole, found the boat taken up by a Spanish Latteen boat, by reason of the Centinal not suffering them to land without a permit. by information they got of the sergeant of the guard at the landing, concluded they had proceeded to Algeisiras I then borrowed a boat and sent the officers to that place, who returned the same evening, without having been able to obtain any information of them. the next morning I sent Mr. McDonough, & Morris on shore at the old mole, with orders to look through the Town, & to search the shipping at the new mole and to enquire of the officers of the *Medusa* Frigate if they had received any men on board within a Few days, accordingly at the ragged staff, they enquired of a Midshipman belonging to the *Medusa* for them and found that two men had Joined her the day before, they then proceeded to the new mole to get a passage on board, on their way thither, they saw Green, Cox, & Hughes pursued and overtook Green & Cox, conducted them to the nearest centinel, requested the centery to take charge of them which he did, they could not cetch Hughes then, but got information of his having gone up to the new mole, they prosued after him, where they found him with an officer, and boats crew belonging to the *Medusa*, he claimed protection from under his flag as a british subject, from whom they demanded him as belonging to the service of the U. States which demand he refused to comply with, and requested them to go on board, with Hughes on board the *Medusa*, and demand him of the commanding officer of the ship as he should not give him up, Accordingly they went on board, & found two others, Viz. Pierce & Dunbevin, and demanded the three as belonging to the U S. Navy, the commander refused to give them up, because they had come on board and claimed the protection of his Majestys Flag as British sub-

jects. Mr. Morris & McDonough, returned on shore, to take the other two, which they had placed under the care of the Centinel, on coming to the box was informed, the Cap<sup>t</sup> of the guard had liberated them, they could not be found. they then returned on board and made their report. I then went on board the *Medusa*, and again demanded them of Cap<sup>t</sup> Gore, but without affect. I then immediately reported it to Lt. Stewart commanding the Brig *Syren*. — the above is a true statement. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 14 October 1803

we continue at anchor/ in Tangeir Bay/the *Newyork* in company/ at ½ past 1 P M Commodore Preble come on board/we had fresh Breezes all the afternoon the shipes company Emp<sup>d</sup> airing and drying sails/ Towards the Evening saild the united States Frigate *Newyork*/ when she was standing out the Bay she saluted the Moorish garrison/ the garrison Return<sup>d</sup> the salute/ after the garrison saluted we cheeard ship which was answered by the *Newyork*/ there is now no American ship in Tangier Except the *Constitution* the *Merbocka* stills continues here

[NA. ND original.]

[15 October 1803]

To Secretary of State from Richard O'Brien, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

Supposeing you would think it best at present to send or procure the 10 — Guns 24 pounders & 10 ditto 18 pounders Cariages — Ramers Spunges ladles — & 2 Ths<sup>d</sup> Shot. — & 30 Ths<sup>d</sup> Bricks — I should suppose this Commission would be executed in London for 20 — or 25 Ths<sup>d</sup> \$ — and the dey to take these Guns, for one years Annuity — as he sayes he will pay the cost. or am<sup>t</sup> — this business could thus be managed here by the Consul — that is if the Present Dey — should exist if not & the Guns to be forwarded — The new dey might insist on them as presents — as this dey did on the Corsair tack — this would take a time of 2 y<sup>rs</sup> or 18 months — As the dey has wrote on the business of the Guns but one letter — and its fate of arriveing safe is uncertain. the Gov<sup>t</sup> might say that they did or did not receive it, and the new Consul might say that the old Consul made no mention or representation on the business of the Guns to the Gov<sup>t</sup> of the U States. — Should y<sup>r</sup> ans<sup>t</sup> be as I have presumed to sketch it will be necessary that the Consul should be apprized some months before hand in order that he should concert his Plans for his own Personal Safety & allso — y<sup>r</sup> gaarding our Citizens & their property from any sudden surprize — and allso — to have a force ready and adequate to act — in case the dey should make war — therefore you should write at least 3 different letters — differing in words & leave all three to the Judgem<sup>t</sup> of the consul which should be the most proper to give the Dey as an ans<sup>t</sup> for it will be difficult to say — that when you wrote said letter — you might consider one thing but had the same person to deliver said letter & had the power to act he perhaps would, have given them a different ans<sup>t</sup> — Those Extra Events will finally Bring us into difficulties with All Barbary — we should therefore

directly build the 74 Gun Ships — and 6 more large frigates — We shall have to do it at last — if some great Event of Europe does not Curb the pride avarice & System of Barbary —

Respectfully Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> Most Ob<sup>d</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

OBRIEN

SECRETARY OF STATE —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

Letter suggested as an answer to the Dey of Algiers

Suposed DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I have received and perused The letter of y<sup>r</sup> Highness dated the 26<sup>th</sup> of The Moon of [Grimad] Alahar 1218 and has to inform you in Ans<sup>r</sup> that we have not brass Guns for your use. which Ans<sup>r</sup> we gave on a former application on this Subject which our Consul personally communicated to you

We wish to preserve the friendship of your highness. agreeable to the treaty we made with your Regency. but will not admit of any extra demands. or over acts. our regard for peace made us throw a veil. over your exacting from our Consul. The largest of the three Corsairs — notwithstanding y<sup>r</sup> Predecessor. had given a document with his Seal thereto. That The amount of Said Corsairs would cost, should be paid for by y<sup>r</sup> Gov<sup>t</sup> — or regency — but after This mark of our patience and friendship you wounded our feelings by obligeing our Public Ship to go on your affairs to Constantionople — we Cannot help reminding your Highness of y<sup>r</sup> gaurantee of our treaty with Tripoli — That your Highness of great influence with The states of Barbary should admit The Pascha of tripoli to infringe Said treaty. and do away y<sup>r</sup> gaurentee. and in defiance thereof declare war against The U States. and your highness make no Effort to have your gaurentee respected. The same time any Passport issued by y<sup>r</sup> Highness on any occasion is respected by The Said Pascha. of tripoli — add to this y<sup>r</sup> demand for Passports. for Sending the crews of tripoline corsairs to tripoli. y<sup>r</sup> admitting the corsairs of tripoli to Bring american Vessels and crews into your ports. and granting The corsairs of tripoli Supplies — and allso insisting on sending cargoes to tripoli. The said port being in a state of Blockade — add to this your demand for 5 — or 6 of y<sup>r</sup> suposed subjects captured in a tripoline corsair — We cannot avoid calling These Circumstances of The infringement of the treaty to The recollection and consideration of y<sup>r</sup> highness — not doubting but you will Perceive that you have thus Voilated the treaty on your part. whereas on ours for all the articles sent on The Annuities you have given or allowed for said articles the prices you thought proper — and on which we have been The sufferer — add to This that we have stipulated to pay to The amount of 12 Ths<sup>d</sup> Sequins in money or Stores and if you do not take The stores at The prices they cost. you will accept of The cash — this is The light of equity in which we view or consider The treaty Stipulation — But beyond its limits. we give consular presents. Bennial presents Extra & Extraordinary presents — therefore we wish to keep to The treaty on terms of equity & Justice. but we have too great a regard to our Honor & dignity Then to con-

descend and acquire to all The Unjust and Extra demands of your Highness —

JEFFERSON

Suposed Ans<sup>r</sup> of The PRESIDENT

*To The Meditteranian Don Quixotte*

NB The dean Swede dutch & spanish consuls has acquired to The deys demands on the business of The Guns their amount is to be deducted out of The Annuities of Powder & Cables prices no doubt  $\frac{1}{4}^{\text{th}}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}^{\text{d}}$  less then The Value of The Guns — If The gov<sup>t</sup> of The U States. should acquire to Search [?] for The guns required by the dey, it would be best. to write to London and know what Sums Said guns carriages &<sup>e</sup> would cost. and to forward said prices or Values to The consul at Algiers if The dey was content to have Them on Said terms well if not he might do as he had a mind —

OBRIEN

ALGIERS *The 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1803*

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801-Dec. 1803.]

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[15 October 1803]

N<sup>o</sup> 2 —Vessels Convoeyed by U. S. Sloop of War *Siren*A list of Merchant Ships & Vessels under the Convoy of the U. S. Sloop of War *Siren*, Cha<sup>t</sup> Stewart Esq<sup>r</sup> Com<sup>d</sup>r from Gibraltar

| Date                              | Vessel's Names                       | Master's Names                   | Owner's Names                   | Where bound                               | To whom Consigned             | Number of |      |                | Lading &c                               |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------|------|----------------|---|
|                                   |                                      |                                  |                                 |   |                               | Men       | Guns | Tons<br>burden |   |
| 1803                              |                                      |                                  |                                 |   |                               |           |      |                |   |
| Oct <sup>r</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> | Ship <i>Petapoco</i> .....           | Bap <sup>t</sup> Mezick .....    | Smith & Buchanan .....          | of Balte to Leghorn .....                 | Dagan & Purviance .....       | 12        |      | 230            | Coffee Sugars Flour &c                  |
|                                   | Brig <i>Fame</i> .....               | Lew <sup>s</sup> Nicholson ..... | Geo: Stile — .....              | of d <sup>o</sup> to ditto .....          | Jos <sup>t</sup> Stile .....  | 11        |      | 130            | d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> Pepper &c |
|                                   | Schr <i>Equality</i> .....           | Abiel Burgess .....              | A. Burgiss — .....              | of Salem to d <sup>o</sup> .....          | A Burgess .....               | 7         | 4    | 102            | Fish & d <sup>o</sup>                   |
|                                   | Sh <sup>r</sup> <i>Ossipee</i> ..... | Benj: Hutchins .....             | Loring & Curtis — .....         | of Boston to Marseilles .....             | Jerem <sup>b</sup> Lee .....  | 13        | 2    | 153            | Pepper                                  |
|                                   | " <i>Hibernia</i> .....              | Jn <sup>o</sup> Leach .....      | Jos <sup>t</sup> Taylor — ..... | of d <sup>o</sup> to d <sup>o</sup> ..... | Jn <sup>o</sup> Emery .....   | 13        | 2    | 185            | Sugars Coffee Pepper &c                 |
|                                   | " <i>Trent</i> .....                 | Nat <sup>l</sup> Kinsman .....   | W <sup>m</sup> Gray — .....     | Salem to Leghorn .....                    | Nat. Kinsman .....            | 11        | 4    | 191            | Sugars                                  |
|                                   | " <i>Genl Wayne</i> .....            | Tho <sup>s</sup> Spire — .....   | Jn <sup>o</sup> M. Forbes ..... | New York to Zant .....                    | Jn <sup>o</sup> Newbold ..... | 10        |      | 200            | Ballast                                 |

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Secretary of State from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Gibraltar Bay 15<sup>th</sup> Oct: 1803*

SIR It is with pleasure I announce to you the renewal of Peace between the United States & Morocco. The enclosed documents will inform you that the Treaty of 1786 is ratified by the present Emperor I hope and trust that this important object has been effected on as favourable grounds as was anticipated by our Government. I offer for your consideration, not only the enclosed papers, but beg leave to refer you to the Secretary of the Navy whom I have advised of the most minute transactions before, and during our negotiations with His Imperial Majesty —

Enclosed is a letter from the Emperor to the President of the United States. It seems that His Majesty is very desirous of a correspondence. Indeed he appears very much hurt, that he has not rec<sup>d</sup> any letters from the President. I beg leave to suggest whether the answering this letter, and afterwards to send him one annually, might not have a good effect, for as far as I am capable of judging the native deposition of these Barbarians I think them highly susceptible to attentions of this kind — I however submit this matter to your better Judgment

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 15 October 1803

Wind ENE fresh Gales and Rain — at 5 PM weighed & Sailed for Gibraltar Saluted the Moorish Garrison with 13 Guns which was returned with an equal number at 7 AM the Wind shifted to the Westward at 10 Gibraltar Town bore NEbN. dist<sup>s</sup> 6 Miles Steering into the Bay at 11 AM anchored in 15 fathoms Water — Col: Lear landed —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 15 October 1803

we continue at single anchor in Tangeir at 3 the Commodore and Conoler Lear came on board at ½ past 4 P M. weigh<sup>d</sup> and came to sail/ under the following sail/ three Reef<sup>s</sup> in the fore and main Topsail close Reef<sup>d</sup> Mizen Topsail/ Saluted the Garrison with 13 Guns/ an Equal number was Returnd from the garrison/ we set the fore sail and stood out into the Straits in order to worke up to Gibraltar/ \* \* \* by 6 in the Morning we was well up with Ceuta/ which is the Eastern land of the Straits on the Barbary side/ between 7 and 8 in the morning the wind shifted Round to the SW/ Squared away and steerd for Gibraltar Bay at which place we came to with the Best Bower at ½ past 10 in the forenoon/ the depth of water 13 fath<sup>s</sup> hard Bottom/ Europa-point South ¼ E. the old Mole SEbE. nearly two miles/ we found here at anchor the *Newyork John Adams* and the Brig *Syren* Commodore Roggers and Captain Campbel waited on Commodore Preble/

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 15 October 1803

[Gibraltar Bay] \* \* \* \* \* At 9 the launch which had been sent on shore for the larboard Anchor, return'd, got the Anchor on board & stow'd it. Att 11 arrived & anchor'd the U. S. Frigate *Constitution* Commod<sup>r</sup> Prebble from Tangier, after affecting an honorable peace with the Emperror of Morocco. Hands employ blacking spritsail yard &c &c. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

(Copy)

GIBRALTAR, Oct<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1803.

SIR, As Mr. Cathcart informs me that he has at Leghorn, Jewelry & Cash, to a considerable am<sup>t</sup> belonging to the U. States, which he is directed to deliver over to me, on account of the Consular present, &c. to be made to the Dey of Algiers — I beg leave to suggest, whether it might not be proper, and conducive to the interest of the U. States, that Capt. Stewart of the U. S. Brig *Syren*, which you are about to send with a convoy to Leghorn, should take on board Mr. Cathcart, who is now at this place, proceed with him to Leghorn, & there receive the cash & such other articles as he may put on board, belonging to the U. States, and from thence go to Algiers, where I may expect to be, previous to his arrival, and deliver the same to me. —

As the Consular present will be necessary for my regular establishment at Algiers, and as that, and the cash at Leghorn, is of considerable value, I conceive it would not be prudent, either as relating to time or security, to trust it to a casual conveyance; I am therefore persuaded, that you will give such orders on this subject, to Capt. Stewart, as will best effect the object & promote the interest of our Country.

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801–Dec. 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 16 October 1803

Laying in Gibraltar Bay/ *Newyork/ John Adams* and the Brig *Syren/*

[NA. ND original.]

[5 to 17 October 1803]

Presumably to Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES' FRIGATE *Constitution*,  
Tangier Bay, October 5, 1803.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I arrived here this day, and as the *Nautilus* was in sight to the westward, I made her signal to join me, considering it of importance to display as respectable a force to his Imperial Majesty's view as possible. Several letters passed between Mr. Simpson and myself. Among my despatches you will find arranged all my correspondence since I have been on this station.

*October 6th.* Mr. Simpson paid us a visit on board the ship; informed me that the Emperor was momentarily expected.

The *New York* and *John Adams* joined company. Our ships are constantly kept clear for action, and men sleep at quarters.

I sent a boat on shore with a letter to the Consul. The letter was delivered, and the boat returned without molestation. At 2 P. M. the Emperor arrived, and in consequence of his declaration that he was pacifically inclined, I ordered the ship dressed, and a salute of twenty-one guns, as a compliment to his majesty. The morning following he received a salute from the other ships. All our salutes were returned.

*October 7th.* The Emperor sent a present of ten bullocks, twenty sheep, and four dozen of fowls, for the squadron, as a token of his friendship.

*October 8th.* The Emperor appeared on the beach with his court and army, for the purpose of viewing the squadron. I saluted him from the ship, and was complimented with a return.

*October 9th.* The Emperor gave an order, under his seal, for the release of the brig *Hannah*, her cargo and crew, detained at Mogadore, and appointed Monday next to grant Mr. Simpson and myself an audience. The proofs which the Emperor has given of his pacific disposition, since his arrival, inclines me to believe that our differences will soon be adjusted, and peace fully restored. The weather has constantly been very stormy for several days past.

*October 10th.* The prize ship *Murboka* arrived here from Gibraltar by my orders. I gave those orders to enable me to restore her to the Emperor as soon after the adjustment of our differences as possible, to get clear of the trouble and expense of the crew.

The *Syren* passed to the westward with a convoy of seven sail of American vessels. I landed at Tangier about 11 o'clock in the forenoon, accompanied by Colonel Lear, Mr. Morris, as Secretary, and two midshipmen. At one P. M. with the addition of Mr. Simpson to our company, we were all conducted to the castle, and were soon ushered through a double file of guards, and conducted into the presence of the Emperor. Mr. Simpson and myself were desired to advance close to his majesty; the other gentlemen were kept back. We conversed with him by means of an interpreter. He expressed much regret that any differences had arisen between the two nations; disavowed having given any hostile orders, and declared he would punish those of his Governors who had. He said he was at present at peace with the United States, and wished to continue so. He promised to restore all American property, and release all our citizens that have been or may be detained in consequence of orders from any of his Governors. We assured him, on our part, that it was the wish of the President of the United States to be on terms of peace and friendship with his majesty; and I promised to deliver up to him the *Murboka*, and all other vessels of his nation that may have been detained by any of the vessels of my squadron, and to recall the orders I had given to capture Moorish vessels; and observed to him that I was authorized by Commodore Rodgers to say he would restore the *Meshouda*, but that we expected his majesty to ratify the treaty made by his father in 1786; this he promised most sacredly to do, and said his friendship for the Americans should last forever, and increase in strength in consequence of our disposition to oblige him. At two



o'clock, Colonel Lear and the other gentlemen, not admitted to the audience, returned to town. Mr. Simpson and myself finished with the Emperor, after his having assured us that whatever his prime minister should do with us, should be sanctioned by him, and receive his seal; and that he would authorize him to do whatever we pleased to ask of him, as a proof of his declarations. We were then conducted to a building in the castle, where we had a long conversation with the minister. I endeavored to impress on his mind the advantages of a free commercial intercourse which they might have with all nations; and that the revenues of the Emperor arising from that source, would be much greater than any thing they could expect if at war with us; as I should immediately blockade all his ports, and not suffer a vessel of any nation to enter or pass out; this appeared to have its full weight. He assured us every thing should be settled perfectly to our satisfaction. I ordered his majesty's colors to be hoisted on board the *Murboka* to gratify him.

*October 12th.* I received the orders of the Emperor, addressed to all his Governors and officers, for the release of the *Hannah*, at Mogadore, and all other vessels, &c. detained; his declaration, or proclamation of peace, and his ratification of the treaty, all with the imperial seal. I this day delivered up the *Murboka* to the Moors, agreeable to my promise, and Mr. Simpson and myself had an audience with the prime minister, who delivered me a letter from his Imperial Majesty to the President of the United States, expressive of his friendship for our nation, and his ratification of the treaty. The original Arabic and translation of the letter, and translations of all the other papers relative to the treaty, I shall forward to the Secretary of State, under cover to you, and shall send you copies of the whole, at the same time, in my despatches.

*October 13th.* Peace having been re-established, I despatched the *Nautilus* to Mogadore, to carry the news, and the order for the release of the brig *Hannah* and crew, and to recall the *Enterprise*, cruising off that port, and sent orders countermanding those for capturing Moors. The passage to Mogadore is fourteen days by land, and not more than forty-eight hours by water, with an easterly wind, which is now blowing a fresh gale. The *Syren* entered the bay; I immediately despatched her for Gibraltar, and sent letters to you and to our Consuls at different ports in Europe, with the news of peace, and ordered the *Syren* to prepare for conveying a number of merchant vessels from Gibraltar to Leghorn, which have been waiting several days for the settlement of our affairs with Morocco. The *John Adams* left the bay for Gibraltar.

*October 14th.* Commodore Rodgers, for the first time, landed with me, and, on our return, Colonel Lear accompanied us on board the *Murboka*, to estimate her value, and I hope the United States will make some allowance to the ship that captured her, as an encouragement to the officers and men. In the evening the *New York* left the bay for Gibraltar.

*October 15th.* Having settled every thing here, at six in the evening weighed and sailed for Gibraltar, saluted the garrison, and had an equal return. In the whole of this business, I have advised with Colonel Lear, Mr. Simpson, and Commodore Rodgers. I am confident we have all been actuated by the same motives — *the good of our country*; and I hope the President will approve our conduct.

I lost one of my heavy anchors, and a part of a bower cable, in the bay, and, as the buoy rope parted, I could not recover it, although several trials were made; I also lost half my stream cable; both were cut by the rocks.

*October 16th.* Arrived at Gibraltar, and anchored. The *Syren* getting ready for Leghorn; and the *New York* and *John Adams* for America. I shall wait here a few days for the *Enterprise*, *Nautilus*, and *Argus*; and proceed to Algiers. The *Nautilus* will go with me; the *Enterprise* will follow, as soon as she is new rigged, and has a convoy to take up: The *Argus*, Lieutenant Hull, I shall leave on this station this winter, and until she can be relieved by some vessel from the United States; as it absolutely necessary that one vessel, at least, should always rendezvous at Gibraltar, and show herself in Tangier Bay, and along the Morocco coast, occasionally. If this is done, we shall always be good friends with the Emperor. Mr. Simpson can give notice of any unfriendly appearance. I beg leave to recommend, in the strongest terms, the necessity of sending out, in addition to the present squadron, one of the small frigates and a brig or schooner, to remain on this station. I could call the frigate to my aid, if Tunis should threaten, and the schooner or brig would always be ready to come with despatches, while the frigate could remain here, if Morocco should again break with us. However, I do not believe they will; but it is best to look out for them.

While I was absent from this bay, four men, belonging to the *Philadelphia*, and two to this ship, deserted from on board the prize ship in this bay; three of them got on board the British frigate *Medusa*, Captain Gore, and were refused to the officer of the prize, who went and demanded them. The *Medusa* is now at sea, but expected in a few days. I have a letter prepared for the captain, which, I think, will bring the men back. I shall write you more of this business when it is concluded. Mr. Cathcart is here, and will proceed to Leghorn, in the *Syren*, to deliver the public property to Captain Stewart, to be transported to Algiers for Colonel Lear. I shall, agreeably to Colonel Lear's request, give Captain Stewart orders for that purposes. I expect to be able to leave this bay in eight days, for Algiers, and from thence off Tripoli. I do not expect to do much this winter, but, when the spring opens, I hope to convince the Bashaw of Tripoli that it will be for his interest to have peace with us on our own terms. I am confident that more active exertions have never been made by the same number of ships and vessels, of any nation, than have been made by the ships and vessels of the United States on this station, within these four weeks past. I have much pride and pleasure in making the assertion, as it adds reputation to our navy in the opinion of other nations. The ships sail this evening for the United States. My time is very much engaged in the various duties that call for my attention, and I hope you will excuse any want of information which I may have neglected to give you.

*October 17th.* The ships not being ready to sail, I kept my letter open, and have the pleasure to acquaint you that the ship *Betsy Walker*, which loaded at Norfolk, for Algiers, has delivered her cargo there, and arrived here this day. Every thing stands fair and friendly at that regency, but I much fear some accident has happened to the other ship loaded at Norfolk, as I have not heard any thing of her.

I have sent home, by the *New York* and *John Adams*, eight invalids, belonging to the *Philadelphia*, and eight belonging to this ship; also, the acting boatswain and gunner which I brought out, neither of which being competent to their duty; and have also taken the boatswain of the *New York*, and the gunner of the *John Adams*, to fill their stations.

It is absolutely necessary that every article of the provision, &c. composing our rations, should be sent from the United States, as well as wood and coal, as they cannot be procured in this country, in consequence of the war between France and England. I would inform you that Mr. Gavino has but a small quantity of provision on hand.

It is probable that we shall fix on Malta for our deposit of provisions; it is, however, impossible to determine on this till I go there myself; it would, therefore, be advisable to charter the provision ships to go to Gibraltar, stipulating that they should proceed to Malta, if required.

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff., Vol. 1.]

To Captain John Gore, Royal Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATE'S SHIP *Constitution*

17th. October 1803

SIR Captain Stewart of the United-State's Brig *Siren*, has reported to me, that Joseph Dunbeavan, Thomas Pierce, and William Hughes, deserters from the United-States' Squadron under my command, are detained on board his Britanic Majesty's Ship *Medusa*, under your command. The above named deserters, are subjects of, and have taken the oath of allegiance to the United-States; and I now demand them as such, and have a right to expect, that you will deliver them up to the Officer who will hand you this.

Your Officers committed an unjustifiable outrage, by forcibly detaining a deserter from the Service of the United States, at one of the landing places in Gibraltar; protecting him from the Midshipmen who were sent on shore to recover him, and transporting him to the *Medusa*; and I regret that I have reason to suppose, this conduct of your Officers to have met with your approbation. On your part, this is so very extraordinary, and different from anything that any of our ships have heretofore met with, on this, or any other Station, that I must confess myself at a loss to account for the sudden and inhospitable change of conduct towards us. I presume it cannot be authorised by your Government. If so, I wish to be informed of it. If you decline satisfying me on this head, I must apply to the Admiral, and at the same time, I shall make a representation to my Government.

The Officers of our Navy, have invariably given up deserters from the British Navy or Armies, on the first application; and have a right to expect the same liberality on your part.

I am not willing to believe it is your intention to encourage desertions from our Ships, by affording your protection to every one who, has an opportunity to claim it; if it should be, it will throw into your Ships, every man who, has conducted improperly, and has been treated according to his demerits, who has an opportunity to desert.

I now take the liberty to inform you, that I know of no such person as a *British Subject*, on board of any [of] the Ships of the Squadron under my command: I know them only as *Citizens* of the United States,

who have taken the Oath of Allegiance to our Government, and have volunteered their Services.

I presume this notice will induce you to give such orders, as will in future prevent any of your Officers from attempting to entice, or forcibly take from, any of the United-States' Officers, the Men placed under their charge, either in Boats or Prizes; as I shall consider every such attempt, in a National point of View. It is my duty, and that of every Officer in our Service, as carefully to avoid the commission of, as the submission to, *Injury* or *Insult*.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captains Edward Preble, Hugh G. Campbell, and Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey,  
U. S. Navy, from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *New York*,  
*Gibraltar Bay October 17<sup>th</sup> 1803*,

Gentlemen, The *Mashouda* Tripoline Ship being ready to proceed to Tangier with the first fair Wind, and then to be Delivered up to the Emperor of Morocco, in consequence of his Ratifying the Treaty between the United States and his Empire of 1786. As the most Interested persons in this Business, and for the good of the Parties concerned, I have to request that you will appraise the *Mashouda* with her Cargo and everything belonging to her, as the Laws of the United States direct and furnish me with a Certificate of her valuation for my exoneration,

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[17 October 1803]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Captains Edward Preble and Hugh G. Campbell, and Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy

SIR, Agreeable to your request of this date to us directed, we have taken a survey of the Ship *Messhouda* for the purpose of estimating her value, and it is our unanimous opinion that the ship together with her guns & stores of every description and Merchandize on board as p<sup>r</sup> Inventory presented to us by you, would be worth in the United States \$17,189 agreeable to the foregoing statement. —

signed. — { ED<sup>d</sup> PREBLE  
H. G. CAMPBELL  
I. CHAUNCEY.

To Commo<sup>r</sup> JN<sup>r</sup> RODGERS  
U. S. frigate *New York* —  
*Gibraltar Bay. Oct<sup>r</sup> 17. 1803.*

[NDA. Cong. LB, Vol. 1, 1798–1811.]

#### Estimate of Value of Prize Ship *Messhouda*

Estimate of the value of the Ship *Messhouda* a prize to the United States frigate *John Adams* [captured 13 May 1803]

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| The Ship with her Boats, Masts, Spars, Cables and Anchors,<br>Sails and Rigging, Water Casks, Colours, Compasses and<br>other Ship Chandlery..... | \$6, 500 |
| 20 p <sup>r</sup> Cannon with Carriages, Tackles, Britchings, Worms,<br>Ladles, Rammers & Sponges & <sup>r</sup> & <sup>r</sup> complete.....     | 5, 000   |
| Muskets, Cutlasses, Pistols, & boarding pikes.....  | 1, 136   |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 30 bbls powder & all the Shot on board agreeable to Inventory                             | 1, 000 |
| Merchandize on board estimated at <i>Prime Cost</i> to be delivered up with the Ship..... | 3, 553 |

D<sup>r</sup> 17, 189

[NDA. Cong. LB, Vol. 1, 1798-1811.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 17 October 1803

Moored in Gibraltar Bay/ winds Variable from WNW to ESE  
on our arrival here the 15 of this month i was informed that the *Mesouda* was to be given up to the Emperour of Morocco/ perhaps it may be necessary to mention some of the particulars about the *Mesouda*/ Shee was Blockaded in Gibraltar sometime ago/ by Commodore Dale afterwards by Commodore Morris/ as one of the Cruisers Belonging to the Bey or the Bashaw of Tripoly/ on application from the Bey or the Bashaw of Tripoly to the Emperour of Morrocco/ Shee was permitted to sail from Gibraltar/ under the immedeatly order of the Emperour of Morrocco/ Shee not being navigated agreeable to the Emperours directions/ Shee was captured by the Frigat *John Adams*/ and is now in Gibraltar/ Agreeable to the Treaty Between Commodore Preble and the Emperour of Morrocco Shee is given up to the Emperour of Morrocco/ the *Mesouda* proceed from gibraltar with all the Men Taken on board of her/ to the port of Salle/ Shee is there to be hauld up and never to go to sea again/

[NA. ND original.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 18. 1803

agreeably to the information given you in my letter of yesterdays date I have ordered shipments of Pork and beef to be made to you from Baltimore, Philadelphia New York and Boston, the whole of which together with what you have on hand is intended to be sent to the mediterranean for the use of our Squadron in that Sea

I wish you to provide in Season a Vessel to carry —

|         |                           |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 300     | barrels of Beef           |
| 250     | d <sup>o</sup> -----Pork  |
| 90      | d <sup>o</sup> -----flour |
| 75, 000 | <sup>lb</sup> -----Bread  |
| 15, 000 | -----Rice                 |
| 300     | Bus beans or pease        |

The Beef and Pork you will have in Store — the flour, Rice, beans or pease & 45,000 <sup>lb</sup> of Bread you will provide on the best terms in your power — The Bread must be baked twice and sent out in Barrels or Hogsheads — Be pleased to be particularly attentive to this article — We shall send you 30,000 <sup>lb</sup> of Bread from Alexandria. —

The Vessel must be engaged so as to be ready to take in her cargo by the time the Beef and Pork arrives at norfolk which we presume will be about the 15<sup>th</sup> of next month — The provisions are to be sent to Gibraltar and probably thence to malta — I will thank you to ascertain as early as may be practicable the terms on which you can engage a Vessel to carry the Provisions to Gibraltar and also on what terms her owner or Owners would engage that she shall proceed thence to malta

with the cargo — It will be proper if practicable to engage her conditionally to proceed to Malta — this however must be left to the option of the Government and must be determined by John Gavino Esq<sup>r</sup> at Gibraltar on the arrival of the Vessel at that place — The cargo must be ensured Value \$14195 —

It will be agreeable to me to hear from you that you will experience no inconvenience in the Execution of these instructions —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Secretary of State from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 2.

GIBRALTER October 18<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, My last (duplicate of which I have the honor to transmit by this conveyance) was down to the 26 of Sept<sup>r</sup> — On that day the U. S. Frigate *New York*, left this bay on a Cruise off Larache, Mogodore &<sup>e</sup> — On the 29<sup>th</sup> the U. S. Frigate *John Adams* returned from her cruise, without having met the Moorish Frigate *Maimona*, which was the object of her search — At the same time our Consul, M<sup>r</sup> Gavino, rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis, our Consul at Lisbon, informing him that the said Frigate had arrived at Lisbon on the 13<sup>th</sup> ultimo, without having captured anything, so that we were happily relieved from our anxiety occasioned by the report from Cadiz of her having taken 4 Am. Vessels.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> OF SEPT<sup>r</sup> the U. S. Frigate *Constitution* came into the Bay, the weather having been so bad for some days past as to make her continuing in the Straits, not only useless, but even hazardous. Commodore Preble stated to me the information he had rec<sup>d</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson relative to our affairs when the *Constitution* was off Tangier. — The Emp<sup>r</sup> of Morocco denies having given orders to capture Am. Vessels — has liberated M<sup>r</sup> Simpson from his confinement — ordered him not to have any communication with Hashash, nor attend to any directions he might give — expresses a strong wish to be at Peace with the U. S. agreeably to the Treaty of 1786 — proposes that what has been taken on both sides shall be given up — and that the affair of the *Moushouda*, taken off Tripoli, under his flag, be investigated and decided upon equitable principles. — He is expected at Tangier on Tuesday, when the commodore intends going down with the *Constitution* to meet him, and requests that I will accompany him, which I readily consented to do. —

In the afternoon of this day (Oct<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>) the U. S. Brig *Syren*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart arrived from Philad<sup>a</sup>

On the 2<sup>d</sup> the U. S. F. *John Adams* sailed from Gibralter Bay to go off Larache &<sup>e</sup> to meet the *New York*, and return with her to Tangier Bay to join the *Constitution*, and display before the Emperor a respectable force, and be able, in the event of decided hostility, to shew him that we were able to injure him more than by capturing his Vessels. —

On the 3<sup>d</sup> Commodore Preble rec<sup>d</sup> dispatches from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, enclosing his further correspondence with the Emperor & his Prime Minister on the subject of our Affairs; stating that the Emp<sup>r</sup> was sincerely disposed to peace, and desired that the Ship *Mirboka* sh<sup>d</sup> be bro<sup>t</sup> to Tangier to be del<sup>d</sup> up to him, in the event of an amicable adjustment of our differences — that he had given an order for the release of the Am. Brig. *Hannah*, Crew & Cargo detained at Mogodore,

w<sup>h</sup> sh<sup>d</sup> be del<sup>d</sup> up without loss — and earnestly desired the Commodore might meet him at Tangier. — M<sup>r</sup> Simpson recommended that the *Mirboka* sh<sup>d</sup> be bro<sup>t</sup> down, agreeably to the Emp<sup>r</sup>'s wishes; which the Commodore determined to comply with, and accordingly sent a Lieut. and 20 men from his own Ship to put her in order and take her over to Tangier when the *Constitution* sh<sup>d</sup> sail, w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> be this evening. And orders were given to Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart of the Brig *Syren* to sail at the same time, with a convoy of Am. Vessels bound to the Westward, and proceed with them 20 leagues out of the Straits. — We got under way about 7 o'clk with a light air of wind. — The *Syren* & her Convoy got under way at the same time; but without much prospect of getting out of the Bay with this light wind. — The *Mirboka* not being quite ready the Lieu<sup>t</sup> on board was ordered to follow the Commodore to Tangier as soon as possible.

On Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> we reached Tangier Bay, and came to anchor about 12 o'clk, within a short distance of the Forts. — At the same time the U. S. Schooner *Nautulus*, Capt Sommers, came to Anchor in the Bay — we having met him off Tangier, and the Com<sup>d</sup>e giving him orders to that effect. —

A boat was got ready to send on shore from the Ship, to bring off any communications w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Simpson might have to make, when her going was rendered unnecessary by a Spanish boat coming off with a letter from him to the Com<sup>d</sup>e saying that the Emp<sup>r</sup> w<sup>d</sup> be here tomorrow, and request<sup>d</sup> that the Com<sup>d</sup>e would, if agreeable to his own ideas on the subject, dress ship, and salute the Emp<sup>r</sup> on his arrival, as he conceived such a complim<sup>t</sup> w<sup>d</sup> be attended with good effects. — The Com<sup>d</sup>e readily agreed to it. —

After sun set, all hands were called to quarters, and every thing prepared for Action; which continued so through the night; the men sleeping at the Guns. (The same order was observed every night until our affairs were fully settled with the Emp<sup>r</sup>) This was a very proper and judicious measure to prevent the possibility of a surprize by an attack from the Forts, if they sh<sup>d</sup> be disposed to annoy us; and it had a most excellent effect on the Moorish Capt<sup>s</sup> & Officers on board, by convincing them that the Ams. w<sup>d</sup> never be taken by surprize or unprepared.

On Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> the Emp<sup>r</sup> arrived at Tangier about 2 o'clk P. M. when the Commodore saluted him with 21 Guns & dressed Ship. — In the evening a boat come off with a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson to the Com<sup>d</sup>e saying that the Emp<sup>r</sup> had sent his prime Minister to Tituan on business, and that he w<sup>d</sup> not give an Audience or enter into any negociations until his arrival

Early in the Morn<sup>g</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> the U. S. F<sup>rig</sup> *N[ew] Y[ork]* & *J<sup>n</sup> Adams* came to anchor in the Bay; and at 8 they saluted with 21 Guns each, which was returned by the Forts, with a like number of Guns for each Ship.

In the forenoon M<sup>r</sup> Simpson came on board the *Constitution* for the first time. — He observed that the Emp<sup>r</sup> had sent him word that he might either go off to our Ships, or the boats might come on shore with perfect safety, and that all things are, as they were before. — This permission was given without any application on the part of M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. — M<sup>r</sup> S. expressed a full expectation of everything being perfectly adjusted; but that nothing w<sup>d</sup> be done until the arrival of the Minister from Tituan; and indeed he expressed a wish that the

Emp<sup>r</sup> might not be pressed to an attention to our affairs until the Minister's arrival, lest he sh<sup>d</sup> authorize some other person to adjust the differences, who might not be so well disposed towards us as he knew the Prime Minister to be. —

FRIDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>

In the morn<sup>g</sup> the Com<sup>d</sup>e sent a boat on shore, with a flag to carry a letter to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. — At noon the Emp<sup>r</sup> appeared on the Battery, for the purpose of having a better view of the Ships. The Com<sup>d</sup>e upon seeing him there, saluted him with 21 Guns, which, it appears, had a very good effect upon him. — In the afternoon he sent off to the Ships a present of 10 Bullocks & 20 Sheep, which was considered as a strong evidence of his wishes for an accommodation, as it had never been customary heretofore to send presents of this kind to Men of War, until after the Commanders had landed and had an audience. —

SATURDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Simpson came off this morn<sup>g</sup> to Breakfast, when we had much conversation with him on the subject of settl<sup>g</sup> our differences with the Emperor. — On his return on shore M<sup>r</sup> S. found a letter for him, from the Emp<sup>r</sup> enclosing an Order for the release of the Vessel, Crew & Cargo detained at Mogodore, signed by himself & sealed with his private seal, without any conditions annexed to it; and appointed 12 o'clk on Monday for an audience to be given on the subject of our affairs. —

SUNDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 9.

The weather was too bad to admit of any communications with the shore. A strong gale of wind from W<sup>t</sup> with heavy squalls & violent rain, continued all day. The Ship's cable was cut off by the Rocks, and finding her birth very bad, the Com<sup>d</sup>e got under way in the afternoon, stood out of the Bay, & ret<sup>d</sup> again to a new birth. —

MONDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

At 11 o'clk A. M. Commodore Preble & myself went on shore, having rec<sup>d</sup> satisfactory assurances of safety & permission to return on board. — On reaching M<sup>r</sup> Simpson's House, the Swedish, Danish, Dutch, & Spanish Consuls called to pay their compliments. At 12 o'clk, a message came from the Castle that the Emperor was ready to receive us. We repaired thither, and after waiting a short time, were conducted through a narrow passage (lined with the Emperor's guards) leading to a pair of large folding doors, which appeared to open into an interior apartment of the Castle. — When we had got within 20 paces of the folding doors, the Emp<sup>r</sup> made his appearance, from a side passage, near these doors, and seated himself on the Steps of them. — The Moors bowed to the Earth, and we, as requested, uncovered our heads. — After this ceremony the Emp<sup>r</sup> sent his Prime Minister (who had arrived this morn<sup>g</sup> from Tituan) to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson and the Commodore, to assure them of his friendly dispositions towards the U. S. — his regret at what had happened, w<sup>h</sup> he declared was without his Orders, and his readiness to do whatever might be desired to restore harmony and a good understanding. — He hoped that his Ship w<sup>h</sup> had been captured by the *Phil\** w<sup>d</sup> be restored, together with his subjects in our possession, as he had given orders for the restoration of the Vessel & c<sup>t</sup> detained at Mogodore: — and he also expressed a wish that the Ship *Mishouda*, w<sup>h</sup> had been taken enter<sup>d</sup> the Port of Tripoli, with his flag, might be given to him



as a favor, declaring that if the Capt. had attempted to go to Tripoli, it was contrary to his orders, and he sh<sup>d</sup> answer it with his head. — He acknowledged that her attempt<sup>s</sup> to enter Tripoli made her a good prize to us; but he requested her restoration as a favor (and particularly as Com<sup>re</sup> Morris had, upon her being captured in May last, written to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, saying, that if it was shown that the act of her going to Tripoli was without the Emp<sup>r</sup>'s orders, she sh<sup>d</sup> be restored to him. The purport of w<sup>b</sup> letter had been communicated to the Emp<sup>r</sup>) and declared that if she sh<sup>d</sup> be given up she sh<sup>d</sup> never go beyond the extent of his own dominions while we might be at war with Tripoli.

In answer to this the Emp<sup>r</sup> was told, that we were equally desirous of peace & friendship with him, provided it could be received on a permanent & solid foundation; — that we only wanted a Solemn & formal ratification & confirmation of the Treaty made with his Father in 1786, with the best assurances the nature of the thing w<sup>d</sup> admit, that it sh<sup>d</sup> not be violated or altered, on his part, during the term for which it is to continue — That what we had done was only in consequence of the conduct of the Commander of his Vessel, which he had disavowed — that we were perfectly ready & willing to give up his Ship *Mirboka* and his subjects, upon a ratification being made, and a certainty that all Am. Vessels w<sup>b</sup> had been, or might be detained in his Ports, or captured by his cruizers sh<sup>d</sup> be given up with their crews & cargos, without loss; but that the restoration of the *Mishouda* w<sup>d</sup> be a subject of further consideration. — To all this the Emp<sup>r</sup> readily assented, and then desired that the Com<sup>re</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Simpson might advance nearer to him, which they did, within a few paces. — While there, they had a further conversation on the foregoing subjects; when the Emp<sup>r</sup> assured them he w<sup>d</sup> grant all we had asked, and w<sup>d</sup> empower his prime Minister to settle the business immediately, to our entire satisfaction. — M<sup>r</sup> Simpson informed the Emp<sup>r</sup> of the unworthy treatm<sup>t</sup> he had rec<sup>d</sup> from Hashash, the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Tangier, who had confined him without just cause, and contrary to our Treaty made with his father, which he considered as a high indignity offered to the Nation which he represented, as well as to himself. — The Emp<sup>r</sup> declared it was done without his order or knowledge, that it was an aggression improper & unmerited, and that it sh<sup>d</sup> never happen again. — The Com<sup>re</sup> informed him that he had his Ship *Mai[m]joma*, with his high Admiral, in his power, but had let her pass in friendship, finding she had the regular passport from our Consul; but that we could have no confidence in future in passports, or any other documents, if the late instance of them was not disavowed & corrected. — He also expressed to him, in strong language, the superior advantages which he w<sup>d</sup> receive from a full & secure commercial intercourse with the U. S. who, tho' prepared for war, and always ready to meet it, if necessary, yet preferd peace & commerce. —

The Emp<sup>r</sup> attended to these observations, again repeated his strong desire to be on the best terms with the U. S. and his readiness to ratify & confirm our treaty of 1786, in evidence of this disposition. — He said the Ship *Maimona* had no orders to capture Am. Vessels, w<sup>b</sup> was a proof that what had happened with the other Vessels was a mistake, and could never have been sanctioned by him. — He said he sh<sup>d</sup> write a letter to the President of the U. S. confirming all he had said. — After the audience was broken up, the Prime Minister took the

Com<sup>d</sup>e & M<sup>r</sup> Simpson into an apartment of the castle, when he had a conversation with them on the points before stated, and promised that the letter to the Presid<sup>t</sup> of the U. S. the order for the restoration of all Vessels w<sup>h</sup> had been or might be detained or captured, and the other documents sh<sup>d</sup> be made out without delay. —

The Ship *Mirboka* arriv<sup>d</sup> in Tangier Bay while we were with the Emp<sup>r</sup> and anchored near our frigates, which afforded the Emp<sup>r</sup> an opport<sup>y</sup> of mak<sup>g</sup> a comparison between his ship & ours as to size. — At the same time the U. S. Brig *Syren* passed down the Straits, with her convoy from Gibralt<sup>r</sup> — We dined at M<sup>r</sup> Simpson's, and ret<sup>d</sup> on b<sup>d</sup> the *Constitution* after dinner. — The Moors, as we passed through the Town, expressed by their words & looks, the high satisfaction they felt on the prospect of our differences being amicably settled. —

TUESDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

Com<sup>d</sup>e Preble went on shore this forenoon to have a further conference with the Prime Minister on our Affairs. — He had the letter fm. the Emp<sup>r</sup> to the Presid<sup>t</sup> of the U. S. and two orders prepared (one to go by sea and one by land) for the release of the Vessel at Mogodore, and all others w<sup>h</sup> had been, or might be taken or detained. — It was intended to have been made a point with the Com<sup>d</sup>e that in future no passport for a Cruizer sh<sup>d</sup> be demanded of our Consul, but in writing, under the seal of the Emp<sup>r</sup> to prevent his Governors from obtain<sup>g</sup> them as had been lately done: But as this was a subject in w<sup>h</sup> the other Consuls were also deeply interested, and as they had determind to make a joint application to the Emp<sup>r</sup> thereon, it was tho<sup>t</sup> best to waive it, for the present, and unite with them in this business.

The subject of the restoration of the Ship *Mishouda* to the Emp<sup>r</sup> was again mentioned at this meeting; when finding it was requested as a favour, and under the restrictions before ment<sup>d</sup> — and seemed to to be a thing w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> be highly gratifying to the Emp<sup>r</sup> who had already shewn so earnest a desire of being upon the best terms with us, and especially too, as Com<sup>e</sup> Rodgers, (under whose controul she was since the departure of Com<sup>d</sup>e Morris) had, this morning, very readily consented to release her, if it could be productive of good to us, particularly after the letter w<sup>h</sup> had been written to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson by Com<sup>e</sup> Morris — Com<sup>e</sup> Preble did not hesitate to say she sh<sup>d</sup> be restored. — This was rec<sup>d</sup> with strong marks of sensibility & satisfaction. —

The Emp<sup>r</sup> ordered that the U. S. Ships of War sh<sup>d</sup> be furnished with 20 Bullocks — 50 Sheep & 100 doz of fowles, which was a very extraordinary supply. —

WEDNESDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>

I went on shore early this morn<sup>g</sup> with Com<sup>d</sup>e Preble. — We found the Emp<sup>r</sup> on the point of departing for Fez, and his prime Minister was soon to follow him; but, previous to his going, he sent for the Com<sup>d</sup>e & M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, to whom he recapitulated the Emperor's strong assurance of peace & friendship, and his readiness to evince this disposition by every means in his power; — and expressed the high satisfaction of the Emp<sup>r</sup> on being assured that he sh<sup>d</sup> have the ship *Mishouda* restored to him; and again declared that the Moorish Capt<sup>n</sup> of that Ship sh<sup>d</sup> lose his head for daring to disobey the Emp<sup>r</sup>'s orders in attempting to go into Tripoli.

We ret<sup>d</sup> on board after an early dinner, when the U. S. Brig *Syren* coming into the Bay, the Com<sup>d</sup>e did not permit her to anchor; but put on board her letters to be forwarded to our Consuls at Malaga,

Cadiz, Lisbon, Bourdeaux, London &c &c and to the Secretaries of State & Navy Departm<sup>ts</sup> — and ordered her to Gibraltar to get ready for tak<sup>g</sup> under her convoy, such Am. Vessels as might be bound up the Mediter<sup>n</sup> — At the same time he dispatched the U. S. Schooner *Nautulus* to Mogodore, with one copy of the Emp<sup>r</sup> order for the release of the Am. Vessels &c — and directed Capt Sommers to return immediately to join him at Gibraltar. — The U. S. F. *Jn<sup>s</sup> Adams*, left Tangier Bay the same time for Gibraltar. —

THURSDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>

I went on shore with Commodores Preble & Rodgers. — The letter from the Emp<sup>r</sup> to the Presid<sup>t</sup> of the U. S. was copied & translated, and the other papers prepared. — In the Even<sup>g</sup> the U. S. F. *N. Yk* got under way for Gibraltar. —

Information was rec<sup>d</sup> from our Consul at Gibraltar that a yellow fever of a very malignant nature had appeared at Malaga; in consequence of w<sup>h</sup> all communication with that place & other Ports of Spain was cut off — and adviseing against having any communication with Vessels from there. —

FRIDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

I went on shore in the forenoon with Com<sup>dr</sup> Preble, when all the business with the shore was ultimately closed. We ret<sup>d</sup> on b<sup>d</sup> in the afternoon & got under way for Gibraltar, — salut<sup>d</sup> the Fort, w<sup>h</sup> was ret<sup>d</sup> with an equal number of Guns.

SATURDAY OCT<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

We anchored in Gibraltar Bay about 10 o'clk A. M. where we found the U. S. F<sup>ts</sup> *N. Yk* & *Jn<sup>s</sup> Adams* & Brig *Syren*.

I have now, Sir, given you a detail of occurrences up to the 15<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> and for a more full & satisfactory acc<sup>t</sup> of the transactions with the Emp<sup>r</sup> and the ultimate adjustm<sup>t</sup> of our differences with him, I must refer you to the copies of the various letters & documents of every description, w<sup>h</sup> will be transmitted to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy & yourself, by Commodore Preble, who is as indefatigable in furnish<sup>g</sup> full information of every thing w<sup>h</sup> occurs, as he is active & able in producing events, w<sup>h</sup> may render such communications necessary & agreeable.

I trust the President will receive, with full satisfaction, the news of our differences w<sup>h</sup> Morocco being settled almost as soon as he will hear of their hav<sup>g</sup> assumed a serious aspect. A concurrence of fortunate events put into our hands one of the Emp<sup>r</sup>'s frigates, and about 160 of his subjects; and the juncture of the outw<sup>d</sup> & homew<sup>d</sup> bound Squadron, at this place, in a critical moment, gave an opp<sup>y</sup> of displaying a large force — effectually protecting our trade — and striking no small terror into the inhabitants of the coast. — The activity of the Squadron was equal to its unexpected appearance. — Every Seaport in the Empire, from Mogodore to Tituan, had one or more cruisers off, to prevent the entrance or departure of any Vessels. — The Emp<sup>r</sup> came to Tangier. — Our frigates were drawn up ready to destroy his town, if he sh<sup>d</sup> be determined on hostilities. — The impression was strong; — and, the Emp<sup>r</sup> not only disavowed, in the most positive manner, every thing that had been done on his part of a hostile nature; but offered anything we could ask. — A very important point with us was to obtain a full & unequivocal ratification of our Treaty made with his father in 1786. — This was at once complied with, and not a demand or intimation of the expectation of a present from us, either in a gross

sum, or by way of annuity. — Thus was that business, which threatened serious evil to the commerce of the U. S. in these Seas, happily terminated in a few days.

In giving up to the Emp<sup>t</sup> his Ships & subjects, he had an evidence of our readiness to oblige him, and to cultivate a further good understand<sup>g</sup>; at the same time it was not injuring or disobliging ourselves in any degree; for the ships were scarcely worth tak<sup>g</sup> to the U. S. and his subjects were an expence & burthen upon us. — It is, however, presumed that, as they were acknowledged to be fair prizes, the U. S. will pay to the Captors accord<sup>g</sup> to their valuation, as a due encouragem<sup>t</sup> for exertion, and a reward for the readiness with w<sup>h</sup> they were resigned without a reservation. —

In giving up these Vessels we can only be said to give a *quid pro quo*; for we understand that the Am. Brig detained at Mogodore, had a valuable Cargo, mostly of India goods, w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>d</sup> am<sup>t</sup> to considerably more than appraisem<sup>t</sup>[?] of the ships. —

Before I close this subject, I must do justice to the active & judicious measures pursued by Com<sup>d<sup>e</sup></sup> Preble, as well as the disinterestedness with w<sup>h</sup> he appears to act on all occasions, by saying that the spirited & determined manner in w<sup>h</sup> he wrote to M<sup>t</sup> Simpson, on his first arrival, request<sup>d</sup> that the same might be communicated to the Emp<sup>t</sup> — and his subsequent conduct correspond<sup>g</sup> with that determination, has been productive of very happy events. — The disposition made at Tangier had, undoubtedly the good effect to prevent any intreagues being used to turn the Emp<sup>t</sup> from his purpose of a satisfactory accommodation of our differences; for the best Houses in the Town belonged to the Consuls individually, or nationally: and their being fully persuaded that the town w<sup>d</sup> have suffered, probably have been destroy'd, in case the business sh<sup>d</sup> issue in a complete avowal of hostilities, kept them at least quiet, perhaps might have influenced some to endeavour to promote an accommodation. — Com<sup>d<sup>e</sup></sup> Rodgers deserves great credit for the cordiality & activity w<sup>h</sup> w<sup>h</sup> he has cooperated in such measures as were intended to promote the best Interest of the U. S. — And, indeed, the conduct of the commanders of the Vessels engaged in this service, appeared to be influenced by the same desire to terminate this business speedily & happily, that actuated the person who conducted it. —

But notwithstanding this business has been bro<sup>t</sup> to this favorable issue, and has terminated in a way that astonished all persons here, acquainted with Barbary Affairs; particularly as the Emp<sup>t</sup> has lately tho<sup>t</sup> proper to increase the tribute on some nations, w<sup>h</sup> has been acceded to; Yet I still entertain the opinion I had before, viz<sup>t</sup>, that if they sh<sup>d</sup> have captured a number of Am. Vessels, before their Cruizers were stop'd, and their ports blockaded, the thing w<sup>d</sup> not have been disavowed; but if we had been solicitous for a peace, it could not have been purchased on any tolerable terms for less than 50,000 doll<sup>s</sup> — and perhaps on no terms w<sup>d</sup> our former treaty have been ratified & confirmed; for it is considered by far the most favorable that any nation has with the Emp<sup>t</sup> — And I am also fully of opinion that this Coast sh<sup>d</sup> never be left entirely destitute of armed Vessels, while it may be tho<sup>t</sup> any ways necessary to keep a force in these seas. —

I have no doubt but we are perfectly secure ag<sup>t</sup> molestation from them, for some time to come; and, in the meantime, Com<sup>d<sup>e</sup></sup> Preble will make such arrange<sup>ts</sup> for security here, as his present force will

permit, consistent with his other objects; but if all the force now here, be wanted at Tripoli, and addition [sic] will become necessary for this coast.

In conversation with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, he mentioned to me repeatedly, with deep regret, that the Emp<sup>r</sup> had never been noticed by our Gov<sup>t</sup> for many years past, even so much as to have written him a letter, and he has reason to think that this is considered as a pointed neglect; and that the long-promised gun carriages hav<sup>e</sup> never been furnishd, confirms the idea of our hold<sup>g</sup> him in contempt. — Our peace is now renewed & confirmed, as far as the forms of these people ever confirm anything, and not a word has been said, by them, about the Gun carriages, or an intimation of a present. — This may be considered as leav<sup>g</sup> it optional as to the fulfill<sup>t</sup> of the former promise; but w<sup>d</sup> not good policy dictate the propriety of fulfill<sup>g</sup> it now, and mak<sup>e</sup> it appear as a new obligation? — For I presume these people never forget the non-fulfill<sup>t</sup> of a promise, however justifiable a nation may be in not complying with their engagem<sup>ts</sup> to them. — M<sup>r</sup> S. also laments that he hears so seldom from the Departm<sup>t</sup> of State, as to be left almost without instructions; and at a loss to know whether his conduct be approved of or not. — He complains of the lowness of his salary, and that he has repeatedly informed Gov<sup>t</sup> that he could not continue in his place unless it sh<sup>d</sup> be increased; and particularly as he has no house furnished him as is the case with other Consuls at Tangier. He now has a few inconvenient rooms in part of a house belonging to, and occupied by the Sweedish Consul. His own House in the Country is a pleasant & convenient summer residence; but in winter it becomes necessary to reside in Town, to be at hand to receive or give information to Vessels &c —

I am persuaded, Sir, you will not consider the foregoing observations as an officious interference in matters w<sup>h</sup> do not come immediately under my cognisance; but place them, as they truly ought to be, to the acc<sup>t</sup> of my desire of giving you all the information in my power, on subjects w<sup>h</sup> relate to your departm<sup>t</sup> and w<sup>h</sup> you may not be likely to receive from another source.

The U. S. Brig *Syren* will sail immediately with a convoy for Leghorn, — M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart takes passage in her, and will send by her to Algiers, the Consular present, Cash &c — I have the honor to enclose copies of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart's letter to me, my answer thereto, and my letter to Com<sup>d</sup>e Preble on this subject (Enclosures N<sup>o</sup> 1. 2. 3.)

The Ship *Betsy Walker* arrived her yesterday from Algiers, where she landed the stores ship<sup>d</sup> on board her. — M<sup>r</sup> Gavino has a letter from M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien (a copy of w<sup>h</sup> he will probably transmit you) by this ship; but it mentions nothing of importance relating to our affairs at Algiers. — He says the Dey wants some of his subjects w<sup>h</sup> were in the Tripoline Ship. — If there were any such we will take them up in the *Constitution*; but I have never understood there were any of that regency on board. —

We shall sail for Algiers in a few days — The Com<sup>d</sup>e merely waits the arrival of the Schooners *Enterprize* & *Nautulus*, w<sup>h</sup> may be expected every day. — The Brig *Augus* is anxiously looked for from Boston \* \* \*

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* 18<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, I have the pleasure to inform you of the re-establishment of peace between the United States of America, and Morocco: — this object has been effected by the restitution of all captures on both sides, and the acknowledgment and ratification of the Treaty of 1786 &c<sup>s</sup> the particulars of which, I hope to communicate Verbally in a very short time, as I shall sail from this to Algiers in 8 or 10 days, and from thence off Tripoly —

After the receipt of this, you will cease to act under that part of your Orders which extend to the Capture of Moorish Vessels: — you will take care that L<sup>t</sup> Comd<sup>t</sup> Smith is advised of this —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 18 October 1803

Completed my dispatches — Sent home in the *New York & John Adams* Eight Invalids belonging to this Ship, and Eight belonging to the *Philadelphia*. Discharged the Acting Boatswain & Gunner into the *New York* to do duty before the Mast, and rec<sup>d</sup> on board the Boatswain of the *New York* & Gunner of the *John Adams* and Nine Men and a Boy — two Men, John Plover & William Brown deserted from this Ship they swam off. M<sup>r</sup> Lewis Pilot of the *Newyork* Joined this Ship —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 18 October 1803

We continue at anchor in Gibraltar Bay/ the *Newyork/ John Adams* and *Syren* in Company/ we this afternoon invalided from the *Constitution* to the *Newyork/* fifteen Seaman and two Marines/ Eight of those men we Rec<sup>d</sup> from the *Merboka* Belonging to the united States ship *Philadelphia/*

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 18 October 1803

[Gibraltar Bay] \* \* \* \* \* At 4 P. M. the U. S. Frigates, *New York & John Adams* got under way & sail'd for America. Rec<sup>d</sup> on board 33 barrels of bread likewise the sails & rigging that had been landed the 3<sup>d</sup> instant, Ends with the wind from the E<sup>d</sup> & pleasant weather. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Sutton, of the Royal Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Gibraltar Bay* 19<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I am informed that two Deserters from this Ship, John Plover, & William Brown, are on board H: B: M Ship *Amphion*, under your command. I beg leave to inform you that, they are both citizens of

the United-States of America, and largely indebted to the Ship; and Plover, has left an allotment of half his Monthly pay to his sister residing in Boston. It has ever been the practice of the commanding Officers of Ships in our service to give up Deserters from the British Navy, or Army, on the first application; and I have a right to expect the same liberality on your part. You will oblige me, by ordering the men to be delivered to the Officer who will hand you this, that they may return to their duty.

EDWARD PREBLE  
Commodore of the U: S: Squadron  
in the Mediterranean

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Degen, Purviance & Co., Leghorn, Italy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy  
UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution* GIBRALTAR BAY  
19th October 1803

Gentlemen I have the pleasure to announce to you the restoration of Peace between the United States and Morocco. and of the renewal & ratification of the Treaty of 1786 —

I have ordered Captain Stewart of the Brig *Syren*, to take charge of a convoy for Leghorn; and James L Cathcart Esquire, takes passage with him, for the purpose of delivering certain presents the property of the United States, in his possession, for the Dey of Algiers. I have to request that, you will lend Captain Stewart your assistance in facilitating his departure from your Port in case of quarantine &c. as it is of the first importance that the Presents above mentioned should arrive at Algiers as soon after Col: Lear (the American Consul General to that Regency) as possible. Col: Lear takes passage with me in 8 or 10 days —

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 19 October 1803

Moored in Gibraltar Bay. Towards the Evening saild the united States Frigates, *Newyork* and *John Adams* and the *Mesouda*/ they were to stop at Tangier Bay and give up the *Mesouda* to the Emperour of Morrocco they than will proceed for America/ \* \* \* during the night/ anchord here the united States Schooner *Interprise* Lieutenant Hull/ who waited on Commo<sup>re</sup> Preble/ the *Interprise* has returned from her station to the westw<sup>d</sup>

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain George Hart, Royal Navy, H. B. M. S. *Monmouth*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Gibraltar Bay 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1803

SIR Since I came to this Bay several men have deserted from the ships of the squadron under my command. They are all considerably indebted to the ships they ran from, and many of them have made an allotment of half their monthly pay for the support of their families. They are all Citizens of the United States, and have taken the oath of Allegiance to our Government: and the oath which each man has subscribed to, is lodged in the Secretary of States Office.

Three of those men are detained on board His Britanic Majesty's Ship *Medusa*. In my absence from this, they were demanded of Captain Gore by the commander of the United States Brig *Syren* and refused to be given up. If the *Medusa* arrives before I put to Sea, I shall make a further demand of the deserters previous to making a representation to the British Admiral, or to my Government.

I am informed that John Plover, and William Brown deserters from this ship are on board the *Amphion* now in this Bay. If this information is correct, you will oblige me by directing them to be given up to the Officer who will hand you this.

The Officers commanding our Ships of War have invariably given up deserters from the British Navy or Army, on the first application and hope I shall not be disappointed in expecting the same liberality on your part.

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 20 October 1803

We continued at anchor in Gibraltar Bay/ the *Syrin* and *Enterpris* in Company/

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 20 October 1803

At 2 came too in 24 fathoms Europa point bearing S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E S<sup>t</sup> Rocque N  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. Hands employd in making up spare sails & stowing them below. —

[NDA.]

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To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain George Hart, R. N.

HIS MAJESTYS SHIP *Monmouth*  
*New Mole Gibraltar 21<sup>st</sup> October 1803*

SIR I had yesterday the honor of receiving your letter respecting the seamen therein mentioned, who you say have deserted from the ships of your Squadron; You assert "they are all Citizens of the United States of America, have taken Oaths of Allegiance & to your Government: that three of those men are detained, on board His Majestys Ship *Medusa*, and that two more are on board the *Amphion* at present in this Bay"; after receiving your letter I went on board the *Amphion*; Cap<sup>t</sup> Sutton says that two Seamen did come on board his ship to enter as Volunteers declaring themselves Englishmen, and that he did enter them accordingly, being first convinced, from a strict enquiry that he made, of their being Englishmen; the other three you mention that are on board the *Medusa* I can say nothing of till I see Cap<sup>t</sup> Gore. —

I beg leave to inform you that it is the Orders & Instructions of our Government, on our meeting with Ships of any foreign Nation whatever to demand all such British Seamen that may happen to be on board them. I am informed there are at present several of that description on board the *Constitution*, however being well convinced that it is far from the intentions of our Government to distress yours



in the smallest degree by Obliging any of our Seamen to quit your ships when it may be of the smallest Injury to your service; If however any British Seamen (when you are convinced they are such) wish to return to their own Service I trust you will Comply as far as in your power with their request; and we on our parts are ready to deliver to you all Seamen of the United States on an Application being made and a promise on your part of a like number of British Seamen in return. —

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Gibraltar Bay

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[21 October 1803]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from  
Surgeon Samuel S. Marshall, U. S. Navy

SIR Influenced by a desire to erase from your mind any unfavorable impressions which might have been received of the conduct of the officers of the brig *Syren*, whilst on shore, on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant; I conceive it a duty, I owe to them and myself, to assure you, that no riot, or other improper conduct, took place in the street, or in any other situation.

We spent the evening, with some British officers, in a *private* room of Bernards tavern, and altho' some misunderstanding did occur between them and us, it was confined to the room in which it originated, and has since been amicably and honorably adjusted. — I beg leave to assure you, that I feel as warmly interested in the honor and respectability of the service, as any man, and that I shall never give countenance to improper conduct in any place or situation. —

U. S. B. *Syren* 21<sup>st</sup> Octob<sup>r</sup> 1803

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To James Duff, His British Majesty's Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from John Hunter,  
Madrid

*Circular*

MADRID 21<sup>st</sup> October 1803

SIR, In Consequence of instructions which I have this day recieved from Vice Admiral Lord Nelson Commander in chief of his Majesty's Fleet in the Mediterranean; I am to acquaint you that the Ports of Genoa & Spezzia have been declared in a state of Blockade; & you are hereby requested to communicate this information to all the Consuls or Vice Consuls of Neutral Powers in the Ports of your residence or its district, in order that, they may give notice to the Vessels of their respective Flags.

All Neutral Vessels attempting to enter the Ports of Genoa & Spezzia after the receipt of this Notification or found on the Coast between Leghorn & Cape Delle Melle will be stopped by his Majesty's Squadron & sent into Port of adjudication.

(Signed) JOHN HUNTER.

JAMES DUFF Esq<sup>r</sup>  
H M Consul & Cadiz.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain George Hart, Royal Navy, H. B. M. S. *Monmouth*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

Gibraltar Bay 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I am honored with your letter of yesterday in answer to mine of the 20th. ins<sup>t</sup> Cap<sup>n</sup> Sutton acknowledges having received two men on board who say they are Englishmen. They were seen on board the *Amphion* by an Officer I sent to that Ship to make some enquiry respecting them; their names are John Plover, and William Brown, and both belong to this ship. Plover has allotted half his monthly pay for 18 Months to come to his family resident in Boston. They are both Citizens of the United States, and as such I demand them. As you are the Sen<sup>r</sup> Officer of H:B:M Ships in this Bay, it is from you that I have a right to expect an order for them to be given up to me.

I was not willing to believe that it was the intention of the Officers of the British Navy, to encourage desertion from our Service, untill Cap<sup>n</sup> Sutton avowed to a Lieu<sup>t</sup> of the *Constitution*, his determination to afford his protection to every man who has an opportunity to claim it, and will say he is an Englishman; and that he had given orders to the Officers of his Boats to that effect. This declaration will undoubtedly throw into your Ships every man who has conducted improperly on board ours, and has been treated according to his demerits and that may find an opportunity to desert, as every such man will say whatever he finds necessary to screen him from punishment.

This treatment is so very different from anything we have heretofore met with on this or any other Station that I must confess myself at a loss to acc<sup>t</sup> for the sudden and inhospitable change of conduct towards us. "You say that it is not the intention of your Government to distress us", and yet the most direct means have been taken by Captains Gore and Sutton for that purpose. I take the liberty to inform you that I know of no such person as a British Subject on board the *Constitution*. They were all considered Citizens of the United States, when they en[g]aged with our Service, and I have not encreased my compliment by impressing Englishmen, or receiving Deserters, of course I have it not in my power to make the exchange you propose; although I am ready to receive any Americans who have not voluntarily entered your service, that you are willing to discharge into this, or any of the United [States] Ships of War.

Captain Gore has asserted, that he is convinced that if Lord Nelson was here, he would demand every man on board our Ships whom our deserters say are Englishmen, *and if not given up, would take them by force*. I am confident from the exalted opinion I have ever entertained of his Lordship from the character he has established in the world for magnanimity and justice that he would not demand them; and that he will not approve the late conduct towards us.

I enclose you Circular Orders to the Captains of our Navy, which are still in force. As they have been published in England, I presume they must be known to most of the British Commanders, who of course will not attempt to take by force our men unless they have orders from your Government to commence hostilities against us, which I presume is not, and I hope never will be the case. I am confident the U.S. as they now are so they wish to continue at peace with Great Britain and that the best possible understanding should exist between the two Nations.

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain George Hart, Royal Navy

H<sup>t</sup> MAJ<sup>r</sup> SHIP *Monmouth*  
new Mole Gibraltar 22 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

Capt<sup>n</sup> Hart presents his respectful Comp<sup>ts</sup> to Commodore Preble & has y<sup>e</sup> honor of acknowledging his letter of this days date with y<sup>e</sup> enclosed Copy of his Orders signed B. Stoddart for which he is much obliged.

Capt<sup>n</sup> Hart is sorry he cannot add any thing to what he did himself the honor of stating to Commodore Preble yesterday in Answer to his of the same date respecting the Seamen he Complains of being detained by Cap<sup>t</sup> Sutton but will as soon as possible acquaint Lord Nelson (the Commander in Chief) with the circumstances & take his Lordships Orders respecting them, and in the mean time Communicate the contents of Commodore Preble's letter to Captain Sutton.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Philadelphia*  
At Sea off Tripoli 22<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR It being so very uncertain of Leiu<sup>t</sup> Command<sup>t</sup> Smith falling in with the *Constitution*, makes me brief in this letter to you.

The Frigate *Philadelphia* & Schooner *Vixen* left Malta in the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> made the Coast of Tripoli on the 7<sup>th</sup> and have remained on this solitary station without the good fortune of seeing our enemies except under the refuge of well fortified works. I shall remain off here if the weather will permit untill the 20<sup>th</sup> of next month: after which I presume it would be dangerous Cruizing; in fact I conceive it so at present; but fervent zeal in the cause of my Country and desirous of giving you satisfaction in my conduct will induce me to perservere to the last.

To Leiu<sup>t</sup> Command<sup>t</sup> Smith I refer for particulars of our cruize.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Gibraltar Bay Oct<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 1803

SIR On your arrival in this Bay, you will not take on board an additional Stores of any sort, excepting such, as are necessary for immediate use, and waite here for my Return, The *Enterprize* which you are to take command of sails and is to Return with me, when you will Exchange with Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull,

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell Col.]

To Secretary of State from Anthony Terry, U. S. Vice Consul, Cadiz, Spain

CADIZ 22<sup>d</sup> October 1803.

SIR.

\* \* \* \* \*

You will have heard of the Sickness that has lately taken place in Malaga, which is reported to be the Black Vomit, the last accounts

mentions that it was mending as the number of Dead diminished daily; but thanks to the Almighty it has not spread out of Malaga, and in this part of the Country we enjoy the most perfect health, which you will please make publick that our trade may not suffer by ungrounded reports.

In absence of M<sup>r</sup> J. Yznardy  
ANTHONY TERRY *Vice Consul*.

Governm<sup>t</sup> Notes . . 39½ a 40%.

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S: FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Gibraltar Bay Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 1803*

DEAR SIR You may venture to reserve all the Beef & Pork on hand for this Ship. All the other provisions after the *Nautilus* is supplied, I wish you to send to Syracuse or Malta, as may be most convenient in consequence of the late inhospitable conduct of some of the British Captains towards us here. I have determined on Syracuse for a general rendezvous & deposit of Stores; but as they can easily be transported from Malta, you can ship them to that place if opportunity does not offer to the other before I return.

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 22 October 1803

we continue at anchor in gibraltar Bay/ the *Syrin* and *Enterprise* in Company/ Within this Seven or Eight days, several Seaman have deserted from our Squadron/ and join<sup>d</sup> the English/ there is a fellow by the name of Bartel a Midshipmen on board the *Constitution*/ who has been detected in the most rascally correspondence with the English/ the *Monmouth* 64 Captain Sutton/ who is the Commanding officer at this port has two men belonging to the *Constitution*/ Commodore Preble demanded them/ Captain Suttons Refuses to give them up/ his plea is he has legal power for Retaining them as they are English Subjects/

[NA. ND original.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Cadiz Bay 23rd October 1803*

SIR, The *New York* & *John Adams* sailed from Gibraltar Bay with a strong East Wind the 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> for the United States. By those ships I wrote you very fully relative to the settlement of our affairs with the Emperor of Morocco; and the disposition of the Squadron under my command. since which nothing material has taken place excepting the loss of 8 of our men by desertion at Gibraltar. Their having received 4 Months advance leaves them as yet in debt to the Ship; and every one who receives punishment for crimes, deserts if opportunity offers. This they would not dare to do if not encouraged by the declaration of some commanders of the British Men of War on the Gibraltar Station particularly Captain Sutton of the *Amphion* & Captain Gore of the *Medusa* frigates; that they would protect every

man who would claim their protection if he would say he was an Englishman. This of course every deserter will do to screen himself from punishment.

I enclose you the correspondence between Captain Hart of the *Monmouth* of 64 Guns and myself on the subject of the Men detained.

This conduct of the British in affording protection to our Deserters will at once ruin the discipline of our Ships if we frequent their Ports, as every man we punish will desert if in his power, and at Malta the Ships lay so near the shore that it will be impossible to prevent it which has determined me to make Syracuse the deposit of all our provisions & Stores and the general rendezvous of the Squadron. It is an excellent harbour, safe and easy of access: To be sure it does not offer the Public amusements & rare curiosities of many other ports; but I trust we will find amusement enough in the necessary duties of our Ships.

The wind still strong from the Eastward has prevented the *Syren* from Sailing with the convoy for Leghorn & Naples; and has prevented the arrival of the *Argus*, and return of the *Nautilus* from Mogadore. A change of wind to the Westward will I trust make everything right.

In consequence of the Yellow Fever at Malaga all communication is cut off between Gibraltar and the Spanish Territories near it. This prevents us from watering at Algeciras, or the watering place without the Rocks; and the scarcity at Gibraltar, and number of British to be supplied, rendering it impossible for us to water there, induced me to come to Cadiz with the *Constitution* & *Enterprize*; to fill up our water, and to procure a Stream Cable in lieu of the one we lost in Tanger Bay; & a Bower Cable in lieu of an old one which we have twice parted and has occasioned the irrecoverable loss of one Anchor which I shall also have to replace here. Both the Cables & Anchor can be procured on better terms here than any place in this quarter; and as the wind is still from the Eastward, we are not losing time I had one more object in view, in coming here, which was to shew ourselves in Tanger Bay, and to give M<sup>r</sup> Simpson a call on our return, to let the Moors know that we have not forgot them. Everything however appears to be quiet in that Quarter and I am still of opinion that we shall have peace with Tripoli in the Spring or ensuing Summer I wrote you that I should leave the *Argus* on the Gibraltar Station to watch the motions of Morocco untill the Spring. I have made choice of this Vessel more particularly on acc<sup>t</sup> of the judgment prudence and firmness of her Commander Lieu<sup>t</sup> Commandant Hull on whose discretion I rely with confidence. All the Provisions that the Squadron have on board, and all on hand at Gibraltar, will be expended by the first of April next. If a supply does not arrive from the United States by that time, it will distress me very much; as it will retard my operations against Tripoli, by obliging me to seek the provisions at the season most proper to act with effect on the Tripoline Coast. If our Provisions could be sent out in a good sailing Ship of about Four hundred Tons, armed with Guns & Men sufficient to protect her, and directed to proceed immediately to Syracuse, it would in my opinion reach us with more certainty in less time and at less expence to the Government than if shipped to Gibraltar; and reshaped from thence; and if I could be allowed to detain such vessel as a Store & Hospital Ship, it would be preferable to landing our provisions or men, as the men will often desert, when they recover, and no ship in

Port to receive them; and the Casks and Provisions are liable to injury by being too often transported

I forgot to inform you in my former communications that Six of the *Philadelphia's* men deserted from the Prize Ship, while in Gibraltar Bay; none of which have been recovered. I shall sail from this as soon as my Cables are made, and my stock of water compleated, which I expect will be in three or four days, and shall remain in Gibraltar not more than 24 hours just to take Col: Lear and family on Board, and sail immediately for Algiers, and from thence off Tripoli. My Ship's Company are healthy. I wrote you in a former letter, that I had sent some Invalids belonging to this Ship, and some belonging to the *Philadelphia* home in the *New York* and *John Adams*; that I had dismissed the Acting Boatswain and Gunner as unfit for their Stations and that the Gunner of the *John Adams* & Boatswain of the *New York*, had taken their places in this Ship. They are both good Officers. I was also supplied with 10 Men and a Boy from those Ships but the Deserters and Invalids sent home still leave me short of the number I brought out which was far short of my complement. I am now 40 Able & 9 Ordinary Seamen short of the complement allowed; which makes it necessary to call all hands so often in stormy weather and we have had no other since we came on the Station that duty has been very hard and fatigueing. I shall be able to procure a few men here as several have applied already to enter.

Oct. 30. We were obliged to perform quarantine 3 days after our arrival which with the tardiness of the Spaniards in making our cables has detained me longer than I calculated on. They make their rigging in the open field; of course in rainy weather they cannot work. And as it has rained every day since our arrival, we shall be here two or three days longer.

I have not yet heard of the arrival in these Seas of the *Argus*. — hope no accident has happened to her. I shall enclose you from Gibraltar a copy of the orders I give L<sup>t</sup> Hull for his government on this Station when she arrives, and also a copy of the official declaration of the Blockade of Tripoli, in consequence of the European War.

All kind of Canvas is very high Russia-Duck 28 to 30 Dollars p<sup>r</sup> Bolt. It is probable some of the Squadron may want some within 12 Months. Will it not be well to send some of different numbers out by the first Store Ship?

Our Trade to the Mediterranean is valuable and encreasing. While it has protection it will continue to encrease, if not destroyed by French prohibitions and English Blockades. The French prohibit English Manufactures, and the English have Blockaded the Ports, Toulon, Genoa, and Spezzia. and the coast between Leghorn and Cape Delle Melle; and I think it probable they will extend it to other Ports.

I shall write you again by a Vessel that is to Sail in a few days from Gibraltar.

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 23 October 1803

We continue at anchor in Gibraltar Bay/ the *Syren* and *Enterprise* in company the ships Company Employ<sup>d</sup> as necessary/ at 5 in the

afternoon we wiegh<sup>d</sup> and stood out the Bay we made the *Enterprises* Signal to follow/ we had fresh breezes from the Eastw<sup>d</sup>/ we continued steering out the Bay till we pass<sup>d</sup> Cabretta point we than gradually bore up and Enterd the Straits/ the Evening was clear and we could see the land on both side/ by ½ past 9 in the Evening we was up with Cape Spartel/ we than hauld to the Northw<sup>d</sup> in order to proceed to Cadiz/ by 10 P M. it blew strong close Reef<sup>d</sup> the Topsail/ by 11 the wind had Encreased to a gale, down Top gall<sup>t</sup> yards and Reef<sup>d</sup> the foresail/ at ½ past 11 spoke with the *Enterprise* at little after this wore and came to the wind on the Larboard Tacks to the SE/ parted company with the *Enterprise*

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 24 October 1803

Standing off and on Cadiz/ light House waiting for a pilot we wore and Tack<sup>d</sup> as necessary as to keep clear of the land/ at 2 P M. a pilot came along side in a sail Boat/ the laws of the Quarentine will not allow the pilot to come on Board the *Constitution* we Took the pilot Boat in Tow/ the pilot stay<sup>d</sup> in the Boat and gave the Necessary orders and direction for working in to Cadiz/ \* \* \* at ½ past 9 P M. we came to with the Best Bower/ nearly abreast of the senter of the Town/

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday and Tuesday, 24 and 25 October 1803

Light breezes from the E<sup>d</sup> At 1 A M. calm. at 8 condem<sup>d</sup> 12½ lb of bread 3 qts of rum being the bottom of a cask: calm & pleasant. At 1 P. M. brought too on the starboard cable. At 3 weighed the starb<sup>d</sup> anchor. At 4 hove short on the larb<sup>d</sup> cable hoisted in our boats & made the signal for the convoy to get under way. At 7 hove up & stood out of the bay, in comp<sup>y</sup> with 7 sail of American Merchantmen under our convoy bound up the Mediterranean — At 9 light airs from the W<sup>d</sup> — M<sup>t</sup> Cathcart came on board, he going in the brig to Leghorn Midnight light airs & pleasant. At 10 AM the center of Gibraltar bore N. W. Ceuta West — At ½ past 10 made the signal for the convoy to heave too At 11 made sail & stood to the eastw<sup>d</sup> made & took in sail occasionally Meridian pleasant all the Convoy in sight. —

[NDA.]

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To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 25<sup>th</sup> October 1803. —

DEAR SIR On the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> the *New York* and *John Adams* Frigates with the *Meshouda* appeared at Anchor in this Bay. — The Frigates got their supplies of firewood and stock, and sailed in the Afternoon with a most favourable Gale. — Commodore Rodgers delivered up the *Meshouda* to Arraiz Omar of Tetuan, and she went round to Larach on the 22<sup>d</sup>, leaving however that Man here; — he has been severely bastinadoed and now lays in the Castle loaded with

Irons. — Alcaide Hashash sent me notice this was done by the Emperours order in consequence of Omar having received on board the Ship Stores and Passengers at Algiers and Tunis. — I forbear comments on such conduct, as you are too well acquainted with circumstances not to see it in its true light. —

On enquiry I find there was but two Algerines among the Passengers on the *Meshouda*, and that they are gone to Salle with some Merchandize they landed from that Ship. —

I am told the Salle Ship [*Maimona*] was at Lisbon is arrived at Larach, but I have not any Letter on the subject. —

Alcaide Hashash set off for Tetuan at two OClock on Sunday Morning, it is generally believed in consequence of His Majestys Orders, and that we shall have but little of his Company here. —

There has not been any Partridges for sale since you left this, the Rainy Weather has prevented any being caught, besides these Birds after tasteing the young grass will not eat dry seed so as to feed upon it —

I shall now hourly expect the *Nautilus*, by her you will receive the Cabbages and Pumpkins you desired — I should have told you that no supplies of any sort can be sent from hence on trading Vessels for Ships of War —

At Mogadore there was not any thing new on the 30<sup>th</sup> last Month. — I beg you will be assured I am with great respect

[LC. EPP, Vol.7,1803.]

[25 October 1803]

Payment for Piloting U. S. Frigate *Constitution* into Cadiz Harbour

[Translation]

No. 2

DON JOAQUIN FIDALGO, Knight Pensioner of the Royal and distinguished Spanish Order of Carlos III, Captain of the Royal Armada and of this Port, Deputy of the Board of Health.

The pilot, Francisco Cexezo, has piloted the American frigate *Constitution* from the sea (into the) Bay.

Please order payment of 64 silver reales for one trip in accordance with the Royal Orders of 3 January 1755, 9 March 1793, and Article 36 of the Regulations of this Harbor-master's Office.

Office of Harbor-master of the Port of Cádiz, 24 October 1803.

Also 60 copper reales for the boat which came alongside.

s/ JOACHIN FIDALGO

CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES

Paid 25 October 1803

[Maine HS. NDA photostat.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

CADIZ 25<sup>th</sup> October 1803.

SIR — Being Decreed to admit to Pratick the two United State Vessels under your Command this Evening; Tomorrow morning between 9. & 10. I will do myself the pleasure calling on board, to accompany you to the House of his Exc<sup>y</sup> the Governor; a Ceremony



established by this Governm<sup>t</sup> for all foreign Chiefs or Officers; when I shall have the honour of Personally congratulating you, on your Safe arrival.

JOSEF YZNARDY

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[25 October 1803]

To Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, from Thomascee Morta, Cadiz, Spain

Not being in my power to Answer the Salute Gun for Gun that the American Vessels of War the *Constitution* & *Enterprize* (wishes to make) that arrived in this Port on the 23 ins<sup>t</sup> and having no Royal Order communicated me in which they give instructions respecting the American Republick; I can only answer the Salute with Two Guns less, in conformity of the general orders that actualy exist — I am to observe notwithstanding for your government that I have sent a Copy of your Office to Court this very Post, with the view that they should determine what his Majesty thinks proper —

Signed THOMASCEE MORTA —

CADIZ 25<sup>th</sup> October 1803.

JOSEF YZNARDY Esq<sup>r</sup>

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* 25<sup>th</sup> OCT<sup>r</sup> 1803.

SIR, The Surgeons Mates are exclusively to Occupy the Cockpit, excepting they chuse to admit one or two of the Masters Mates or, Midshipmen —

You will please to attend to this Order and take care that it is carried into effect

Given on board the *Constitution*  
this 25<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803 — E. PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 26 October 1803

We continue under Quarentine with the *Enterprize* in company Cadiz Bay

\* \* \* at 11 in the forenoon the health officer came on board and gave us pratique after being in Quarentin 66 Howers/ M<sup>r</sup> Yzn[a]rdi the American Consul waited on Commodore Preble and lieutenant Hull of the *Enterprize* waited on Commodore Preble/

[NA. ND original.]

To Secretary of State from Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

CADIZ 27<sup>th</sup> October 1803 —

SIR. Notwithstanding that since my arrival from Madrid, I generally keep at my Country Seat on account of my bad state of health; immediately on advice of having arrived to this Bay the United State Vessels *Constitution* Commodore Edw<sup>d</sup> Preble, & Schooner *Enterprize* Cap<sup>t</sup> Isaac Hull; I cam over without loss of time to assist them with

every thing they might be in want of; which is Sea Stores & Cables, and expect to have every article in readiness in the course of Eight or Ten days, when they intend to go to Sea immediately. —

Agreeable to what I promised you respecting the instructions you called for, I am only waiting for those I called for, from the agents under my district, which when received I will with out loss of time forward you in the most correct manner possible.

As I had the honour to mention to you, that I had made to this Court a representation regarding the Salute due to our Flag on arrival of our State Ships, and as nothing is determin'd on this point; I have presented to this Governor an Official Letter \* \* \* respecting the Salute to be made to Commodore Preble, to which he answer'd as you will be informed by the annex'd Copy [25 October]; in consequence of which Commodore Preble has determined before he salutes to wait for the results from Court.

Authentic Letters from Malaga of the 22<sup>d</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> mentions that the Sickness was daily encreasing, and the Yellow Fever had penetrated thro all Malaga, the number of Dead were as follows. On the

|                        |                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> ----- | 51 Persons                           |
| 20-----                | 46 D <sup>o</sup>                    |
| 21-----                | 71 D <sup>o</sup> The Rich Merchants |

chiefly had retired to their Country Houses & shut up their Stores.

The Last Letters from Madrid dated the 21<sup>st</sup> mentions that this Country will remain perfect neutral in the actual contest between France & England; and a sign that it is generally believed, is that Paper Money which last week was loosing from 42. to 44%. are now down to 34%.

\* \* \* \* \*

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 27 October 1803

Strong Gales from the Eastward, and clear weather — Went on shore and rode to Point-all to view the making of our Cables & Hawsers and to give directions. All the Ship's Crew engaged taking on board Water, repairing & refitting rigging & Blocks &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup> — Our Ship's Company remarkably healthy.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

[28 October 1803]

To Secretary of State from Eiselen & Horne, Alexander Webster & Co., and Mayer & Brantz, Baltimore, Md.

SIR The Owners of the private armed Ship *Warren*, commanded by Lewis Brantz, intending to send that ship on a Voyage into the Mediterranean, beg the favor of you to request the President of the united States to grant a Commission to said ship under the act of congress of 6th February 1802, together with such instructions as the President will deem proper to enjoin.

The ship is about three hundred and ninety Six Tons burthen, mounts Ten Carriage Guns and will be manned with twenty four men. She is owned by the Subscribers Citizens of the united States residents in this City, Charles Venn to be first and John Deal, Second Lieutenants.

As we are not exactly acquainted with the necessary forms in such cases, we presume you will forward the Commission to the Collector of the port of Baltimore, where the Ship will take her Clearance about the 5th November ensuing, with instructions to deliver the same to us on giving the requisite Securities. Shou'd any further formalities be necessary we beg you to inform us, in order to avoid any delay in the Ships departure.

We are respectfully

Sir

Your obedient Servants

EISELEN & HORNE  
ALEXANDER WEBSTER & Co  
MAYER & BRANTZ.

BALTIMORE 28th October 1803.

if you shou'd have occasion to reply to the above, it will be sufficient to direct to either of the Subscribers.

[NDA. Misc. LB, 1802-3-4.]

To Captain Thomas Tingey, Superintendent, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> 29. Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803 —

Be pleased to procure & Ship with the Gun-Carriages, six Tierces of Rice. If you should not be able to stow so many away, procure only so many as you can stow in the Vessel. Be particular in procuring that of the best kind.

[NDA. Barbary Powers LB, 1803-1808.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S SHIP *Constitution*  
Cadiz Bay October 30<sup>th</sup> 1803.

SIR In consequence of an imprudent promise made by Commodore Morris to the present Crew of the *Enterprise*, entered at Gibraltar last May, that they should be discharged in six months although they must ship for twelve; much difficulty has arisen, however they have in consequence of a small advance to each, [agreed] to remain untill the expiration of the time they shipped for, which will expire next April. She will then at the time when I shall most want her services be left destitute of at least half and I think probable more than that proportion of her crew, as many of them will insist on returning home; and I do not see any probability of procuring men in the Mediterranean to replace them. I therefore think it is absolutely necessary that 50 Men at least should be sent out for the purpose of compleating her crew. If an Armed Store Ship should be sent out, those Men would add much to her security.

[LC. EPP, LB, 1803.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 30 October 1803

At Anchor in Cadiz Bay — Wind from WNW to ENE — receiving Water on Board from S<sup>t</sup> Maries by Spanish Boats Six Men on the Sick List and Seven Convalescent —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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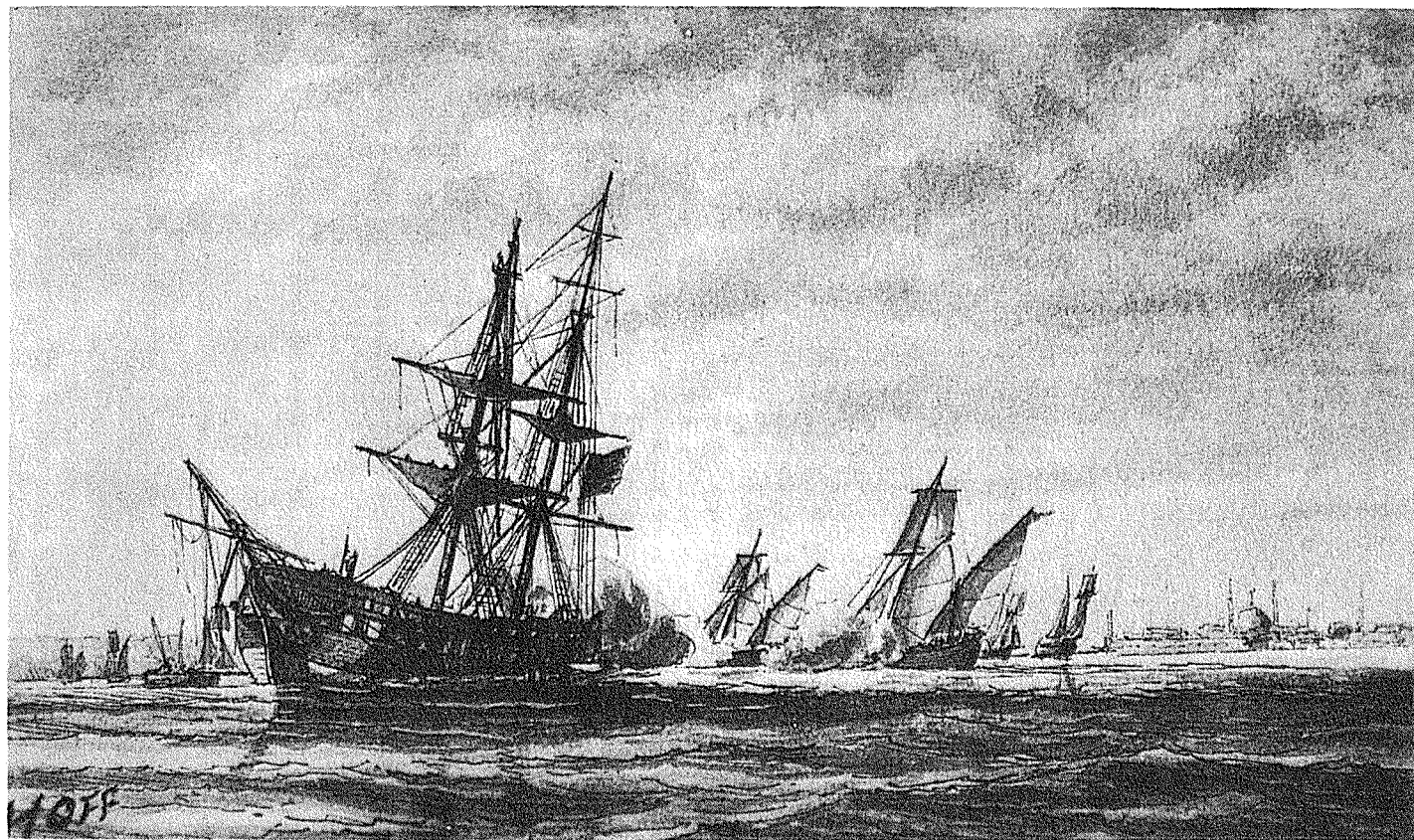
To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *October 31<sup>st</sup> 1803.*

SIR. I acknowledge the receipt of your letters from N<sup>o</sup> 56 to N<sup>o</sup> 60, both inclusive. By this conveyance of the Schooner *Citizen* you will receive the so long expected gun carriages. From the pains which have been taken in getting them ready, it is hoped that they will prove an acceptable present to the Emperor, and you will not fail to make use of the occasion to confirm him in sentiments most conducive to a continuance of that friendship & peaceable intercourse which has so long subsisted between us. If a few casks of rice can be procured in season for this conveyance it is intended to ship them: they may be presented to him with the carriages, or if you think proper they may be retained for some future occasion which may call for such a small token of attention.

In expectation of soon hearing from Commodore Morris his intentions with respect to the Ship *Meshouda* and in hopes that your advice & representations would induce her redelivery, a definitive order has not before been given for that purpose: but least any difficulty may arise on the subject the commanding Officer of our Squadron is now instructed to deliver her up, provided that your opinion of its expediency remains unchanged, and you shall signify it to him accordingly. In that case you may, if you find it necessary, give immediate assurances to the Emperor that she shall be returned at the time and in the manner you may concert with him & the commander of our Squadron. In taking this step you will as far as is prudent give it the appearance of a gratuitous and voluntary surrender of an indisputable right to our desire of conciliating his esteem & obtaining a reciprocation of good offices. To guard against future claims referring to this transaction as a precedent, it may also be observed that as it constitutes the first occurrence of the sort, which has happened between the two Nations, we were unwilling to take advantage of the culpable conduct of the Captain of the *Meshouda* to the injury of the Emperor, more especially as we were fortunate enough to arrest the mischief meditated against us before it took effect, and that this act of liberality is further influenced by the persuasion that care will be taken by his Officers to provide against a repetition of similar infractions. You did well to refrain from urging compensation for the freight of the Brig *Mary* as suggested by the Supercargo, but you will not omit any opportunity presenting itself, at a more favorable season to procure for the owners all the justice which may be attainable.

[NA. SDA. Disp. to Con., Vol. 1, Oct. 1800–Feb. 1817.]



THE CAPTURE OF THE U. S. FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA.



[1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Junior Officers on board the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*

Comm<sup>d</sup> EDWARD PREBLE

SIR Having formed ourselves into two Messes, and purchased our stores; if agreeable to you, we should wish to remain so during the cruise —

We are with Respect  
Your Obe<sup>d</sup> Humb<sup>l</sup> Ser<sup>ts</sup>

DAVID DEACON  
HETHECOAT J. REED —  
JOHN DAVIS  
ALEXANDER LAWS  
FRANCIS C. HALL  
DAN<sup>l</sup> S DEXTER  
CHA<sup>s</sup> MORRIS —  
W<sup>m</sup> BURROWS  
RA[LPH] IZARD —  
J. M. HASWELL

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

[31 October 1803]

To Officers of U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

GENTLEMEN As I am about informing the Government of our Country of our late unfortunate event; and the opinion of the Officers on my conduct in the distressing circumstance, may be desirous to be known by the President of the United States; you will be pleased to give me your opinions thereon; a certificate from Officers whom I esteem will in some measure alleviate my feelings which are beyond description

Your unfortunate but faithful Commander

W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

To the Officers late of the  
United States Frigate *Philadelphia*

[HS. of Pa. Gratz Col. NDA photostat.]

[31 October 1803]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

SIR: We, late officers of the United States frigate *Philadelphia*, under your command, wishing to express our full approbation of your conduct concerning the unfortunate event of yesterday, do conceive that the charts and soundings justified as near an approach to the shore as we made; and that, after the ship struck, every exertion was made, and every expedient tried, to get her off, and to defend her, which either courage or abilities could have dictated. We wish to add, that, in this instance, as well as every other since we have had the honor of being under your command, the officer and seaman have distinguished you. Believe us, sir, that our misfortunes and sorrows are entirely absorbed in our sympathy for you.

We are, sir, with sentiments of the highest and most sincere respect,  
your friends and fellow sufferers,

DAVID PORTER, *Lieutenant*,  
J. JONES, *Lieutenant*,  
THEODORE HUNT, *Lieutenant*,  
BEN. SMITH, *Lieutenant*,  
WM. S. OSBORN, *Lieutenant Marines*.  
JOHN RIDGELY, *Surgeon*.  
KEITH SPENCE, *Purser*.  
WM. KNIGHT, *Sailing Master*.  
JONA. COWDERY, *Surgeon's Mate*.  
NICH. HARWOOD. do.  
BERNARD HENRY, *Midshipman*.  
JAMES GIBBON, do.  
BENJAMIN F. REED, do.  
WALLACE WORMLEY, do.  
ROBERT GAMBLE, do.  
JAMES BIDDLE, do.  
RD. B. JONES, do.  
D. T. PATTERSON, do.  
WM. CUTBUSH, do.  
SIMON SMITH, do.  
JOSEPH DOUGLASS, *Sailmaker*,  
GEORGE HODGE, *Boatswain*,  
RD. STEPHENSON, *Gunner*.  
JAMES RENSHAW, *Midshipman*.  
WM. GODBY, *Carpenter*.

[1 November 1803]

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff. Vol. 1.]

[31 October 1803]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from  
Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY 1<sup>st</sup> November 1803

SIR The enclosed letter to Commodore Preble which I leave open for your perusal will inform you of the unfortunate event of the loss of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* under my command— You will please to take the Dispatches which I send to the care of Consul Pulis, and carry them to the Commodore at Gibraltar, or wherever he may be On your arrival at Gibraltar should the Commodore not be there, you will deliver those letters for America in charge of John Gavino Esq<sup>r</sup> our Consul, to forward them in the most direct manner to the United States It is unnecessary for me to urge dispatch, You can readily conceive the importance of giving Congress the earliest information.

Glory and happiness attend you! and may you never experience what I have, since parting, is my present wish.

[LC. EPP, I.B, May-Dec. 1803.]



[31 October 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI 1<sup>st</sup> November 1803

SIR This letter conveys to you, the distressing information of the loss of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* under my command, by being wrecked on rocks about four and a half Miles from the town of Tripoli For particulars of this unfortunate event I refer you to the enclosed copy of my Letter to the Secretary of the Navy, which you will be pleased to accept as full information to yourself — the distressed state of mind must plead an excuse for the reference. Had I not sent the Schooner from us, the Accident might have been prevented: If not we should have been able to have extricated ourselves from Barbary Prison, but my Motives of ordering her off Cape Bon, was to grant more efficient protection to our Commerce, than I could by keeping her with me.

I hope that you will consider the Arrangement as judicious, and done with the best of intentions; although it has proved unfortunate. It is with sincere pain, I reflect on my Services under your Command, in which I had promised myself much pleasure, has been so short and cruelly terminated.

We are left entirely without the least change of cloathing: Negotiating Bills here for Money will be attended with difficulty and loss: We shall rely on your aiding and assisting us, as much as lays within your power

May Success attend the Squadron under your Command is the wish of

Sir

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

Commodore EDWARD PREBLE

*Commanding the United States Squadron  
in the Mediterranean*

M<sup>r</sup> Nisson the Danish Consul who has rendered us every assistance in his power and is very instrumental in alleviating our distresses — he thinks a Credit on Tunis would be the most proper place to meet our wants —

W B

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[31 October 1803]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy  
(Copy.)

TRIPOLI 1<sup>st</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, Misfortune necessitates me to make a communication, the most distressing of my life, & it is with the deepest regret that I inform you of the loss of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* under my command by being wrecked on Rocks between 4 & 5 Miles to the Eastward of the Town of Tripoli; The circumstances relating to this unfortunate event are: At 9 A M about 5 Leagues to the Eastward of Tripoli, saw a Ship in shore of us, standing before the Wind to the Westward, we immediately gave chase, she hoisted Tripolitan Coulers & continued her course verry near the shore; about 11 Oclock had approached the shore to 7 fathoms Water, commenced firing at her, which we continued by running before the Wind untill half past

Eleven, being then in 7 fathoms water and finding our fire ineffectual to prevent her getting into Tripoli gave up the pursuit & was beating, off the land when we ran on the Rocks in 12 feet water forward & 17 feet aft. Immediately lowered down a Boat from the Stern, sounded & found the greatest depth of water a stern, laid all sails aback, loosed top Gall<sup>s</sup> Sails and set a heavy press of Canvass on the Ship, blowing fresh to get her off, cast Three Anchors away from the Bows, started the Water in the hold, hove overboard the Guns except some abaft, to defend the ship against the Gun Boats, which were then firing on us, found all this ineffectual, then made the last resort of lightning her forward by Cutting away the Fore Mast. which carried the Main Top Gall<sup>s</sup> mast with it, but labour & enterprize was in Vain; for our fate was direfully fixed. I am fully sensible of the loss that has occurred to our Country & the difficulty which it may further involve her in with this regency, and feel beyond description for the Brave unfortunate Officers & Men under my command, who done every thing in their power worthy of the character & stations they filled, & I trust on investigation of my own conduct that I will appear to my Government and my Country, consistant to the station in which I had the honour of being placed.

Striking on the Rocks was an accident not possible for me to guard against, by any intimation of Charts, as no such shoals was laid down in any on Board, and every careful precaution (by three leads kept heaving) was made use of in approaching the shore, to effect the capture of a Tripolitan Cruizer, & after the Ship struck the Rocks, all possible measures were taken to get her off, and the firmest determination made not to give her up as long as a possible hope remained; although annoyed by the Gun Boats, which took their position in such a manner as we could not bring our Guns to bear on them not after cutting away part of the Stern to effect it, when my Officers & self had not a hope left, of its being possible to get her off the Rocks; & having withstood the fire of the Gun Boats for four hours & a reinforcement coming out from Tripoli, without the least chance of injuring them in resistance, to save the lives of Brave men, left no alternative but the distressing one of hauling our colours down & submitting to the enemy whom chance had befriended — In such a Dilemma the Flag of the United States was struck however painfull it will be to our fellow Citizens to hear the news, they may be assured that we feel in a National loss equally with them, Zeal of serving our Country in doing our duty, has placed us in that situation, which can better be conceived than described & from which we rely on our Countrys Extricating us. The Gun Boats in attacking fired principally at our Masts, had they directed their shot at the Hull, no doubt but they would have killed many.

The Ship was taken possession of a little after sun set & in the evening myself and all Officers with part of the Crew were brought on shore carried before the Bashaw who asked several questions from the Palace the Officers were conducted to the House which M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart lived in, where we lodged last night & this day the Minister has become guarantee to the Bashaw for us Officers and we have given our parole of honour — Enclosed you will receive a list of the Officers and a few of the People to attend on them, who are quartered in the American Consular House and we are to be provided for by such ways & means as I can best adopt, which will be on as equinonomical

a plan as possible, the remainder of the Crew will be supported by this Regency.

We have all lost every thing but what we had on our Backs & even part of that was taken off, the loss of the Officers is considerable as they were well provided for a long station — M<sup>r</sup> Nisson the danish Consul has been extremely attentive, & kindly offers every service of assistance —

I trust Sir, you will readily conceive the anxiety of mind I must suffer, after the enclosed Certificate from the Officers on my conduct, should you be pleased to express the Opinion of Government, you will much oblige me

P. S. Notwithstanding our Parole we are not at liberty of leaving the house, or going on the Top of it, they have prevented our View of the Sea which they allowed at first. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[31 October 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1803

SIR, I wrote you on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. informing of the distressing event in the loss of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* on the Rocks off Tripoli; since then, owing to the assistance of their Gun boats, and a strong Westerly wind that came on about 40 hours after we struck, which raised the Sea so as to enable them to get her off; this still adds to our calamity, but feel conscious that it was morally impossible, situation as we were, to effect it: however distressing it is to us, we feel some consolation in knowing that it is not the first instance where ships have been from necessity (of running aground) obliged to surrender, and afterwards got off by the enemy, which could not have been effected by the ships company; — witness the *Hanibal* at Algesiras, the *Jason* off S<sup>t</sup> Maloes, and several others.

We are confined to the American Consular House, notwithstanding our having given our parole of honor.

When a vessel of the United States appears off here, if she hoists a white Flag at the Fore & fires a Gun, and should the Bashaw hoist a white Flag & fire a Gun in answer, I presume a Boat with an Officer would be safe to come on Shore; — this I am told is their method.

Negotiating Bills here; for money will be attended with a great loss

Present my best respects to Col<sup>o</sup> Lear, who must excuse my not writing him at present.

Every wish attend you for glory & success, but I am doubtful of the Field

W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

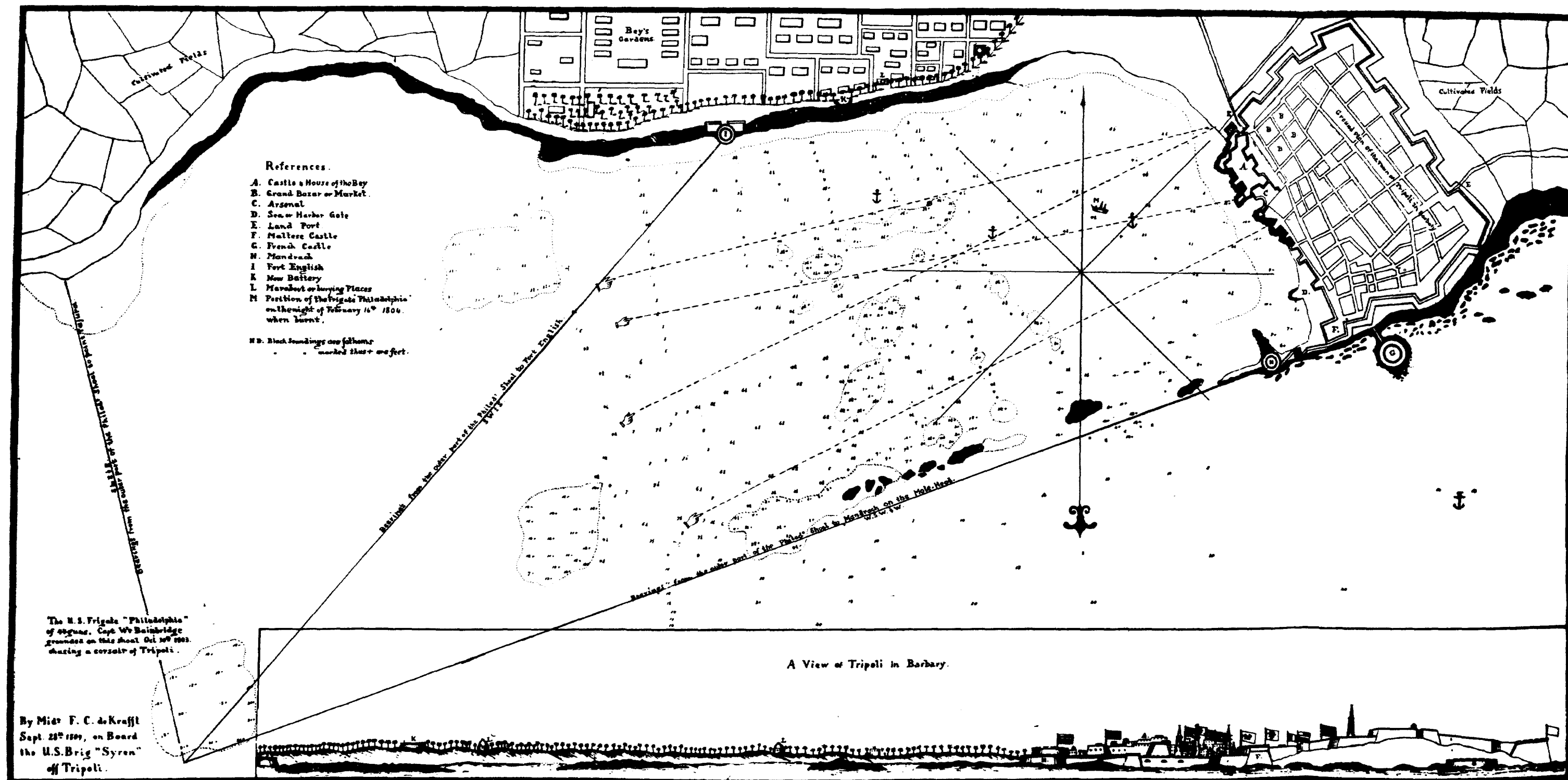
[31 October 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 12<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I had the Honor of writing to you on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> from this place giving an account of the loss off the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* late under my command: I now transmit you the

Particulars of that unhappy event; The following bearings were taken from the Place where the Ship grounded — The Westernmost of the small rocks which form the Harbor W b S  $1\frac{1}{2}$  S; The Steeple of a Mosque near the Danish Consuls flag staff S W b W; Fort English to the East of the Town S W: bearings taken by point of compass — When the ship grounded her head was N E — After giving up the chase in pursuit of the cruizer, striking on the rocks was as unexpected to me as if it had happened in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea: Immediately laid all sails aback, ran all the guns aft; Sounded and found a sufficient depth of water astern, and a small distance from Each Side: a consultation of the officers was called when it was unanimously agreed to heave the guns overboard and start the water; this was done as expeditiously as possible and a fire kept up at the Gun boats from our stern and Weather Quarter Guns: In firing the lower stern chasers the stern caught fire which was put out without much confusion: the gun boats carrying brass 18 and 24 Pounders were keeping up a fire at us but directed their shot at our masts. Finding that the Guns & water did not lighten her sufficient the Officers were of opinion that the foremast should be cut away which was done but without the desired effect. A reinforcement of five more Gun boat coming upon our lee Quarter where it was impossible for us to fire a gun except down in the water; and the Weather Guns could not be depressed sufficient to heave within the distance of the boats; At 4 P. M. every hope was fled of our being able to get her off, and not the least power whatever of injuring our enemies, and saw no alternative but our eventually becoming prisoners to Tripoli; A Council of Officers was called when they were unanimously of opinion that it was impossible to get her off the rocks; And that continuing in our present situation would be only a sacrificing lives without effecting our enemy or rendering the least service to Our Country; In such a dilemma too painful to relate, the Flag of the United States was struck I trust that a want of Courage can never be imputed where there is no chance of resistance — distressing indeed to brave minds to be obliged to surrender without having had an opportunity of defence — Some Fanatics may say that blowing the ship up would have been the proper result. I thought such conduct would not stand acquitted before God or Man, and I never presumed to think I had the liberty of putting to death the lives of 306 Souls because they were placed under my command, And those persons who argue thus to have been in our situation would no doubt have had very different Ideas. I have zealously served my Country and strenuously endeavored to guard against accidents, but in spite of every effort misfortune has attended me through my Naval life. — Gaudaloupe and Algiers have witnessed part of them, but Tripoli strikes the death blow to my future Prospects, Although I am conscious that my conduct will bear the nicest investigation, but I am no stranger to the censure of an ungenerous world & the regrets & mortifications which are incident to a change of public opinion which does not always follow meritorious exertions And an accident although occasioned by circumstances which no prudence could foresee or valor countroul may weigh against years of Arduous Services Yet I have consolation in believing that my friends are too sincere to let adversity of fortune change their opinion



(Scale of one Geographical mile.)



[31 October 1803]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

THURSDAY, Nov. 24th. [1803]

At 9 A. M. spoke His B. M. ship *Amazon* on a cruize the Cap<sup>n</sup> of which gave me the melancholy and distressing Intelligence of the loss of the U. S. Ship *Philadelphia*. He said she ran on shore near Tripoly in chase of an Algerine schooner, that the Officers and Crew were made prisoners and the ship got off by the Tripolines and Towed into Tripoly. The loss of that ship and capture of the Crew with all its consequences are of the most serious and alarming nature to the United States; and if it should not involve us in a war with Tunis and Algiers in consequence of the weakness of our squadron, yet still it will protract the war with Tripoly.

[LC, original.]

[31 October 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARIE 25 Novem. 1803

SIR, Since the first instant I have written you seven letters announcing the unfortunate loss of the United States Frigate *Philadel<sup>a</sup>* under my command, on rocks  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant from this place, which are not laid down in any Chart; presuming that you must get the information before this can arrive to you, makes me forbear particulars on the distressing event, having already detailed them to you.

I severely feel the loss which my country has Sustained; but feel conscious that no impropriety in truth can be attached to me, and have not a doubt on investigation but it will appear so to my Government. Still I am no stranger to the censures of an ungenerous World; and the premature opinions, which are too hastily formed on the misfortunes of the unfortunate: but I trust that an accident occasioned by circumstances which no prudence could foresee, or valour controul, will not weigh against years of zealously serving my country. Every imaginable precaution was made use of to avoid the danger, and when it was encountered, all which Seamanship could possible dictate, was acted upon to be relieved from it. Courage had no chance of resistance, the ship laying Six feet out of water on rocks, and creening in such a manner as to make every Gun useless. I hope Sir, that you will do me the justice in believing that I neither wanted firmness or courage in the distressing situation: I trust no act of my life will ever justify such an opinion. The only alternative left of becoming prisoners to Tripoli, was that of blowing the ship up; — some Fanatics may say that was the proper one to have pursued; had they been placed in our situation (which never can be conceived but by those who may sadly experience it) I doubt not but they would have thought very different. I never presumed to think that I had the liberty of putting to death 306 Souls because they were placed under my command.

The Gale of Wind which came on about forty hours after we surrendered to the rocks raised the waters on this Coast so as to get the ship off much damaged, her keel & C, broke; this added to our distress; but feel conscious that it was morally impossible for us to have effected it; We were not Gods to foresee the Wind, and to know that the Sea

would so rise; and had we been apprised of it all, it could have availed us nothing; for in far less time than that period, ten Gun boats carrying 18 & 24 pounders, besides several Vessels, which could take their Station on each Quarter; and not a gun of ours could be brought to bear on them, certainly would have cut us all to pieces. Had we been able in our situation to have injured our Enemy in the least, never would I have surrendered while such means was in my power; but alas! fortune deprived me of a chance of convincing my Country the Veneration I have for their Flag.

I wrote you on the 15<sup>th</sup> informing that myself and Officers was confined one day to the loathsome prison of our Crew, without any thing to eat, on account of letters said to come from the Tripolitan prisoners at Gibraltar, mentioning that they were cruelly treated; by the Ministers interference for us to the Bashaw, we were permitted in the Evening to return to our quarters, where we are still confined. The crew are employed at their respective trades; — the Officers have not yet been made to work, — myself never will; — my life is in their power, but my Soul is above their command.

The Seamen are much in want of cloathing; what measure am I to pursue to cloath them. There is some infamous characters among them who even rob the last Jacket from their ship mates, to sell for liquor to get drunk on. I believe there never was so depraved a set of mortals as Sailors are; under discipline they are peaceable & serviceable; — divest them of that, and they constitut[e] a perfect rable.

A Sweed who we had on board (cockswain of my Barge) a most infamous character (his conduct I mentioned to you in my last letter) by his rascality. I think that it is probable he will be permitted to leave this; if he should and any of our Vessels of War meets him, I hope they will apprehend him as a deserter, to answer several capital charges which I shall bring against him.

If Government negotiates a ransom or peace, they would find advantage by having a mediator; F. & E. are the nations most dreaded. While we have Commerce in this Sea, a Treaty with the Ottoman Porte will be found useful.

We trust that my Country [will] soon 'relieve [us] from [this land of Bondage, and hope they will reflect that serving our Country, doing our duty as Officers has placed us here.

W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

P. S. An ordinary Seamen & Boy has turned turks —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

[31 October 1803]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 8<sup>th</sup> February 1804

(re<sup>d</sup> 21 Ap<sup>l</sup> 1804)

D<sup>r</sup> SIR, Your much esteemed favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> Decem last this moment came to hand, which gave all of us much pleasure and particularly myself as it convinces me that my friends have not deserted me in misfortune; the sympathy which you express for our unfortunate situation, and the kind assurances of your service to alleviate it, claims our warmest acknowledgements.



I presume before this period that my letters to my Friend O'Brien must have reached Algiers; in them I have detailed the particulars of the loss of the United States Frigate *Philadelph*<sup>a</sup>, by which you will perceive that she struck on rocks (not laid down in any Chart) between 3 & 4 miles from this place, tho' every precaution was used to avoid the danger of shoals; I had given up the pursuit of a Tripolitan Cruiser, and was bearing off shore, going between 7 & 8 knots, when very unexpectedly ran into 12 feet water forward & 17 abaft; this happened about 12 oClock, when 9 Gun-boats were sent from the Harbour to attack us. All that seamanship could dictate was acted upon to relieve us from the rocks, but proved in Vain! The Guns were hoisted over-board, except a few to defend us against the Boats, — the anchors cut from the bows — the water started in the hold — the Foremast cut away, and the Main Top Gall<sup>l</sup> Mast lost; and the ship creak'd in such a manner as to make the few Guns reserved become entirely useless: all possible hopes being fled of getting the Frigate off, and having withstood the fire of the Gun-boats for upwards of four hours without any power of resistance. In such a situation a Council of Officers were called, who were unanimous of Opinion that the ship could not be got off, and to continue in our exposed situation would only prove a sacrifice of lives without injuring the Enemy or serving our Country, for our fate must inevitably be to fall in the hands of the Tripolitans; — In such a dilemma, the most *painful* of my life, was the Flag of the United States under my command struck, which event has left an impression on my feelings that time will not be able to erase, altho' I feel conscious of the rectitude of my own conduct and of those I had the honor to command; but the ever distressing reflection of being obliged to surrender without a chance of resistance will be a perpetual sting. The report of their having carried us by boarding is incorrect, would to God the attempt had been made, we should then have had a chance of convincing our Country that an opportunity and not courage was wanting, and we should have considered it glorious to have resisted as long as we could have destroyed her enemies; but unfortunate for us they gave no such a chance, and possessed too much prudence to try that mode of conquest, but by taking their stations in their Gun-boats in such situations that we could not bring a Gun to bear on them, pursued a more effectual plan, and without any danger whatever to themselves; in fact a just comparison of our situation, is one man tied to a stake attacked by another with arms. — believe me that it cannot be fully conceived but by those who may sadly experience. We had none slain on board, owing to their directing their shot altogether at the masts; had they pointed at the Hull the slaughter must have been great, for with their heavy metal they could chose any distance out of musket reach.

About 40 hours after we struck, a gale from the westward raised the waters on this coast and made such a sea as floated the ship off; we were not Gods to foresee the wind and sea, and if we had, our fate must have been the same, for in far less time she would have been cut to pieces; and verily believe that nothing less than the assistance of the Elements could have got her off. Before I surrendered, had the magazine drowned, and many articles of value destroyed: we were taken possession of about 6 oClock, and in the course of the night was brought on shore, robbed of all articles except the cloaths on our backs, and a part of them were taken — for further particulars I refer you

to my letter written the 11<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>, since which nothing particular has transpired.

I have not yet received a line from Commodore Preble and am at a loss to account for his long silence, particularly as I have wrote him many letters and pointed out the safe channel of conveyance. I hope to hear from you by every opportunity — your letters will give infinite pleasure.

My respective friends at Algiers in commiserating my misfortune does justice to that regard which I possess for them, — please to remember me to them all. The kind prayers of M<sup>rs</sup> Lear are truly appreciated by myself and Officers — tender her my best respects & sincere wishes for her happiness.

Altho' our acquaintance, my dear Col<sup>l</sup>, has not long commenced, with it began friendship I trust of a sincere duration; for your early attention to our situation as an Officer of the United States I return you thanks, and as a friend accept of my prayers for your happiness.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

[31 October 1803]

To Susan Bainbridge, Perth Amboy, N. J., from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI, *November 1st, 1803.*

MY DEAR SUSAN, With feelings of distress which I cannot describe, I have to inform you, that I have lost the beautiful frigate which was placed under my command, by running her a-foul of rocks, a few miles to the east of this harbour, which are not marked in the charts. After defending her as long as a ray of hope remained, I was obliged to surrender, and am now with my officers and crew confined in a prison in this place. I enclose to you a copy of my official letter to the secretary of the navy, from which you will learn all the circumstances in detail, connected with our capture.

My anxiety and affliction does not arise from my confinement and deprivations in prison — these, indeed, I could bear if ten times more severe; but is caused by my absence, which may be a protracted one, from my dearly beloved Susan; and an apprehension which constantly haunts me, that I may be censured by my countrymen. These impressions, which are seldom absent from my mind, act as a corroding canker at my heart. So maddened am I sometimes by the workings of my imagination, that I cannot refrain from exclaiming that it would have been a merciful dispensation of Providence if my head had been shot off by the enemy, while our vessel lay rolling on the rocks.

You now see, my beloved wife, the cause of my distress — my situation in prison is entirely supportable — I have found here kind and generous friends, such as I hope the virtuous will meet in all situations; but if my professional character be blotched — if an attempt be made to taint my honour — if I am censured, if it does not kill me, it would at least deprive me of the power of looking any of my race in the face, always excepting, however, my young, kind, and sympathizing wife. If the world desert me, I am sure to find a welcome in her arms — in her affection, to receive the support and condolence which none others can give.

I cannot tell why I am so oppressed with apprehension — I am sure I acted according to my best judgment — my officers tell me, that my conduct was faultless — that no one indeed could have done better, but this I attribute, (perhaps in my weakness) to a generous wish on their part to sustain me in my affliction.

I hope soon to hear that your health is good, and although grieved at my misfortune, are yet surrounded by dear and condoling friends, who will in some measure assuage your affliction. Perhaps, too, you will be able to tell me, that I have done injustice to my countrymen — that so far from censuring, they sympathize, and some even applaud me. God grant that this may be the case — and why should it not? The Americans are generous as they are brave. I must stop, my dear wife, for I see I am disclosing my weakness — these are the mere reveries which daily pass through my heated brain.

I beg that you will not suppose our imprisonment is attended with suffering — on the contrary, it is, as I have already assured you, quite a supportable state.

Your ever faithful and  
Affectionate husband,

WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE.

Mrs. SUSAN BAINBRIDGE,  
Perth Amboy.

[NR&L. Bn<sup>1</sup> B 162 H.]

[31 October 1803]

To Thomas L. Bristoll, Philadelphia, Pa., from Sailing Master William Knight,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>, 1803

Friend THOMAS, I take this opportunity of informing you concerning the Malencholy Loss of the *Philadelphia* on the Rocks off tripoly distance from the Town 3 Miles — on Monday at 6 A M oct<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> being between 30 & 40 miles to the East<sup>d</sup> of Tripoly discover'd a sail close in with the land — gave chase — at 10 bro't within Gun Shot commened firing she being a small Kept very close in shore, the wind being from the East Run the ship within 1½ miles of the shore soundings from to 10 fathoms firing as we could get the Guns to on her — at 12. finding we could not cut her the town nor run her on shore — ceas'd firing being fathoms, put the Helm down to stand off — & direct of a reef of Rocks the above distance — 1½ miles Nearest shore — all hands starting water & heaving the Guns — running them aft. cut away 3 anchors Bows & hove every article over that would lighting at this time 6 Gunboats came off from the Town firing on the ship keeping directly on our Quarter made it impossible for to get more than four Guns on them & them by cutting away part of the Stern at 2. Cut away the Fore mast in hopes to make float — at the same time all hands employ'd heaving every heavy article overboard (except the Men employ'd at the Guns) found all impossible — at 3 Capt. Bainbridge call'd all the officers aft to consult what was to be done to which we all answer'd that all was done

[Ms mutilated]

nothing remaind to be done but to give the ship up at ½ past 3 — hauld down the Colours at which time she had 4 feet water in the Hold. out of water at least 5 feet forehead, run on the Rocks going 6 knots — at 9 the same evening the water was up to the Orlop deck —

I was put in a boat at 6 oclock the same evening with 20 fellow sufferers & conducted to the Palace or rather Castle as we were going they began to Rob us of waches cravats money some of their coats — the Cap<sup>t</sup> treated no better than other officers — every article taken but what they stood in — When in the palace we were arraing'd before Bashaw he gave us some supper & sent all the officers to a house where our Consul formerly liv'd in being in all 24 officers he kept in the pallace or prison — [the Bashaw] is a very handsome Man at present we are [treated] well much better than I expected for — but [? knows] how long it will last & he will not tel us [I under-]stand he Dont talk to people at this time on [this subject] we are all young and I hope will out live it [We all] expect to be Redeem'd in the space of 3 or 4 years [We have a] house to live in plenty to eat at present will [be given permission] to walk out in a few days explore [the country] & so forth in fine spirits all hands & [are] well [the English] consul is keeping the Vessel on account of [word mutilated] Father & Mother must excuse me for not [writing] two letters, tel Mother not to grieve at my [plight I] live in hopes to see her again — a great loss [to the] U. S. cant be help'd all is over — [there were on board] of the Frigate when given up — 311 souls I will thank you to give this letter to my Mother after Reading it — Give My Compliments to all my Acquaintance tell them of my Captivity

Your humble Servant at

Present — a — Slave to the  
Bashaw of Tripoly —

WILL KNIGHT

THO<sup>s</sup> L. BRISTOLL

[NDA. A-4.]

[31 October 1803]

Concerning the participation of the ketch *Mastico* (subsequently captured and renamed *Intrepid*) in the capture of the *Philadelphia*

[Translation]

Recieved in this royal Vice Admiralty Court of this most faithful City of Syracuse on the Second day of February 1804 (Signed) D<sup>r</sup> Salvatore Partesano

R MAST<sup>r</sup> Not<sup>r</sup>

Testimony recieved and examined in the Royal Vice Admiralty Court of this most faithful City of Syracuse at the Petition and instance of Edward Preble Esq<sup>r</sup> commanding the Anglo American Frigate called the *Constitution* actually anchored in this Port by the Order and mandate of the respectable doctor of Both Laws Don Nicholas Thomas Fucile Judge of the said Court in force of his Provision made at the foot of the chapter or Article proved by the said Commandant Edward Preble Esquire in the said Royal Court presented, in which it is said — “Let there be presented and be recieved the Witnesses in Order that they may appear in future” —

(Signed) Fucile Judge of the Vice Admiralty and by me Royal Master Notary of the said Royal for the Information of any other Court whatsoever or Office or Tribunal, or Magistrate and thus word for word it follows.

Salvador Catalano of the happy City of Palermo being at this time in this most faithful City of Syracuse, existing present and known; of the age of thirty two years or thereabouts as he the above said and as from his look it appears, a sworn Witness interrogated and recieved on the Article probationary of the said Commandant Edward Preble Esquire in the said Royal Court presented upon the same he said (or Swore) that he the said Witness being in the latter end of October of last year one thousand eight hundred and three in the City of Tripoly on one of those days he not exactly recollecting the particular day, That an Anglo American Frigate struck on the rocks of Tripoly, after which he heard her named the *Philadelphia*: That there was at that time in the Port of Tripoli among other Vessels the Martegana [*Mastico*] commanded by Mustapha Rais under Ottoman Colors which were then flying. However as soon as the said Frigate struck on the aforesaid rocks, that the said Martigana struck her Ottoman colors and hoisted the Tripolitan flag. That also many Tripolitans at the same time armed with firelocks and Sabres embarked on board the said Martingana and finally slipped the Cables by which she was anchored, Made Sail towards the Frigate; but the said Martingana having arrived near the Rocks of Tripoli, there came to an anchor where she remained untill the evening of the same day when they then embarked in the launch of the said Martingana the Same in which they had embarked from the shore together with Mustapha Rais all armed they went on board the said Anglo American Frigate and made her a Prisoner and forthwith began to transport the Americans of the said Frigate on shore to Tripoli as Prisoners and the Said Mustapha Rais with great eagernees executed this removal of the People and he himself conducted the Americans prisoners unto the palace of the Bashaw and this the Deponent knows, declares and deposes to have actually happened in the exact form and manner in which it is here by the aforesaid witness declared and for the knowledge of facts and the confirmation of his Attestation has here undersigned

(Signed) SALVADOR CATALANO confirmed as above.

Confronted with the Original which is preserved in the royal vice Admiralty Court of this most faithful City of Syracuse.

SYRACUSE *Second day of February 1804.*

(Sign<sup>d</sup>) SALVADORE PARTESANO *roy<sup>l</sup> Mast<sup>r</sup> Not<sup>r</sup>*

Here follows a formula in Latin attesting the truth of this and Signed by the prothonatary of Senate to which also is affixed the Seal of the Senate of Syracuse.

We the undersigned do hereby certify to all whom this may concern that the above is a true & faithful translation of the deposition given by Salvatore Catalano and conformable to the Original copy deposited in the V. Admiralty Court of this City.

GOULD FRANCIS LECKIE  
W<sup>m</sup> DENISON

SYRACUSE 2<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

[31 October 1803]

To the Danish Consul, Marseilles, France, from Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul,  
Tripoli

TRIPOLY 2<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR "I embrace the opportunity of an English Vessel bound to Malta to send you this thro Naples, to inform you of the deplorable event happend on the 31<sup>st</sup> October Ult<sup>o</sup> to the U. S. frigate *Philad<sup>a</sup>* Cap<sup>n</sup> Baimbridge 44 Guns & 307 Men which touchd Ground on the Point of Tasoura near this Port at ½ Past 11 OClock A. P. in chaising a Cruiser; after useless efforts to put her a float again & having bravely fought till ¼ after 4 OClock P. M. the frigate surrendered — "There is no need to mention the advantage this Bashaw will draw from so rich a Capture and of so many prisoners, amongst whom there are more than 25 Officers, the Bashaw sent them in the U. S. house on their Parole of honour and their treatment is as soft as possible, but the Populace here stripd them of every thing as soon as they came on shore, & before they were carried into the Castle, so that they have nothing but what they wore on, as the U. S. house is con- tinue to the one of De[n]mark I am doing all what I can to render their situation supportable — in heast yours —

(Signed) NISSEN —

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796-1804.]

[31 October 1803]

Services rendered to the United States by Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul,  
Tripoli

Mr. Clark, from the committee to whom was referred a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, communicating the nature and extent of the services rendered to the captive crew of the late frigate *Philadelphia*, by his Danish Majesty's consul at Tripoli, submitted the following report:

That, at the time of the unfortunate loss of the late frigate *Philadelphia*, off Tripoli, commanded by Captain William Bainbridge, Nicholas C. Nissen, Esq. was his Danish Majesty's consul residing at that place. As soon as this disastrous event was known to him, he generously offered his services to obtain the necessary supplies for Captain Bainbridge, his officers, and crew, which he most faithfully continued to do for nineteen months and three days, the period of their captivity. This interposition was not only humane, but greatly beneficial to the captives, in supplying them with the necessaries and comforts of life, which, in some instances, were beyond their limited resources, except through this friendly agency. Consul Nissen took a prompt and feeling interest in the welfare of the American captives, and administered to their wants, by sending to them provisions and bedding from his own house, and ameliorating, as much as possible, their truly unpleasant situation; and his benevolence never suffered the least abatement during their continuance at Tripoli.

One trait in the conduct of this worthy gentleman, is too remarkable to be passed over without notice: His house was much exposed in the attack Commodore Preble made on the town of Tripoli; but such was his zeal for the accommodation of the American prisoners, and his anxiety to be near them, that he refused to seek a place of security,

although urged so to do; and by remaining at home, greatly endangered his life. From the most correct information of Consul Nissen's disinterested conduct, the committee are of opinion that he deserves well of the American Government, and, therefore, recommend the following resolution:

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be made known to Nicolas C. Nissen, Esq. his Danish Majesty's consul residing at Tripoli, the high sense entertained by Congress of his disinterested and benevolent attentions manifested to Captain Bainbridge, his officers, and crew, during the time of their captivity in Tripoli.

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff., Vol. 1.]

[31 October 1803]

**A list of Officers and Men quartered at the American Consular House at Tripoli**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Cap <sup>t</sup> W <sup>m</sup> Bainbridge      | Rich <sup>d</sup> Stephenson, Gunner         |
| David Porter Lieu <sup>t</sup>                  | W <sup>m</sup> Godby Carpenter.              |
| Jacob Jones Ditto                               | W <sup>m</sup> Anderson Cap <sup>t</sup> Clk |
| Theodore Hunt ditto                             | Minor Fountain Mast <sup>r</sup> Mate        |
| Benj <sup>t</sup> Smith ditto                   | James C. Morris Ships Stewart                |
| W <sup>m</sup> S. Osborn L <sup>t</sup> Marines | Otis Hunt Sarg <sup>t</sup> Marines          |
| John Ridgely, Surgeon                           | David Irving D <sup>o</sup>                  |
| Keith Spence Purser                             | W <sup>m</sup> Leith, Ships Cook             |
| W <sup>m</sup> Knight S <sup>r</sup> Master     | James Casey Armourer                         |
| Jon <sup>s</sup> Cowdery Surg <sup>n</sup> Mate | Peter Williams                               |
| Nicholas Harwood d <sup>o</sup>                 | John Baptist                                 |
| Geo: Hodge Boatswain                            | Lewis Hecksner                               |
| Bernard Henry Midshipman                        | Fred <sup>t</sup> Lewis                      |
| Dan <sup>t</sup> T Patterson d <sup>o</sup>     | Charles Mitchell                             |
| James Gibbon d <sup>o</sup>                     | Peter Cook                                   |
| Ben. F. Read d <sup>o</sup>                     | Leonard Foster                               |
| W <sup>m</sup> Cutbush d <sup>o</sup>           | W <sup>m</sup> James                         |
| Wallace Wormley d <sup>o</sup>                  | W <sup>m</sup> Gardner                       |
| Robert Gambel d <sup>o</sup>                    | W <sup>m</sup> Temperfelt                    |
| Rich <sup>d</sup> B. Jones d <sup>o</sup>       | 43   |
| James Renshaw d <sup>o</sup>                    | 264 Men & Boys in the Bashaws                |
| James Biddle d <sup>o</sup>                     | Palace                                       |
| Simon Smith d <sup>o</sup>                      | —  |
| Jo <sup>s</sup> Duglass Sail Maker              | 307 Total of Crew                            |

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

[31 October 1803]

Extracts from List of part of Crew of U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, commanding

Abstract of Balances due to sundry persons, part of the Crew of the United States late frigate *Philadelphia*, commanded by William Bainbridge Esq<sup>r</sup>. —

| Nº | Names   | Rank                                |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4  | Theodore Hunt   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieu <sup>t</sup>   |
| 5  | Benjamin Smith  | 4 Lieu <sup>t</sup>                 |
| 6  | William Knight  | Sail <sup>r</sup> Mast <sup>r</sup> |
| 14 | Barnard Henry   | Midship <sup>n</sup>                |
| 15 | Rich <sup>d</sup> B. Jones  | D <sup>y</sup>                      |
| 18 | Simon Smith   | D <sup>y</sup>                      |
| 22 | William Godby   | Carpenter                           |
| 26 | James Cassey  | Mat <sup>r</sup> at arms            |
| 27 | John Stretch  | Cooper                              |
| 28 | John Garrabrandt [Died at Sea 14 June 1805.]                                    | O. S.                               |
| 29 | James Barwell   | OS                                  |
| 30 | Jacob Chisrio   | S                                   |
| 31 | Benjamin Manleaf  | OS                                  |
| 32 | Thomas Conner   | Q <sup>r</sup> Gun <sup>r</sup>     |
| 33 | William Crandle   | Land <sup>sm</sup>                  |
| 34 | Peter Spyres  | D <sup>y</sup>                      |
| 35 | David Wilson  | Q <sup>r</sup> Mat <sup>r</sup>     |
| 39 | John Junor  | Boy                                 |
| 40 | John Blye   | D <sup>y</sup>                      |
| 41 | John Wolf   | D <sup>y</sup>                      |
| 42 | James Stanford  | Bo: Mate                            |
| 43 | David Nichols [claimed as French Citizen, at Tripoli.]                          | OS                                  |
| 44 | Andrew Williams   | Q <sup>r</sup> Mat <sup>r</sup>     |
| 46 | Richard Brothers  | S                                   |
| 47 | Hugh Kennedy  | S                                   |
| 48 | Corn <sup>t</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Canley   | OS                                  |
| 49 | Henry Johnson   | Q <sup>r</sup> Gun <sup>r</sup>     |
| 50 | Patrick Turner  | OS                                  |
| 51 | James M <sup>c</sup> Laughlin   | OS                                  |
| 52 | William Ruddock   | Boy                                 |
| 53 | Robert Bukerton   | OS                                  |
| 54 | Alexander Tyms  | OS                                  |
| 55 | John M <sup>c</sup> Donald 1 <sup>st</sup> [Died at Tripoli, 7 September 1804.] | S                                   |
| 57 | John Baxter   | OS                                  |
| 58 | Benjamin M <sup>c</sup> Elwain  | Sh. Const <sup>t</sup>              |
| 59 | George Carson   | S                                   |
| 60 | Hugh Anderson   | OS                                  |
| 61 | William M <sup>c</sup> Laughlin   | OS                                  |
| 62 | James Holms   | S                                   |
| 63 | George Percival   | OS                                  |
| 64 | John Wright   | Bo: Mate                            |
| 65 | Samuel Calm   | S                                   |
| 66 | John Briard   | S                                   |
| 67 | John Goldsmith  | Q <sup>r</sup> Gun <sup>r</sup>     |
| 69 | Adam Kayer [or Kaiser]  | Carp <sup>r</sup> Mate              |
| 70 | David Dunbar  | S                                   |
| 71 | John Kysley   | OS                                  |
| 72 | Sam <sup>l</sup> Woodruff   | Q <sup>r</sup> Gun <sup>r</sup>     |
| 73 | William M <sup>c</sup> Kee  | OS                                  |
| 74 | William Murrain   | OS                                  |
| 76 | Sam <sup>l</sup> Johnson  | Boy                                 |



| Nº  | Names  | Rank                          |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|
| 77  | John James   | Boy                           |
| 78  | James Conner   | S                             |
| 79  | Rich <sup>d</sup> Skilling                                   | S                             |
| 81  | William Taylor   | Qr Mar                        |
| 82  | Thomas Prince  | OS                            |
| 83  | William Johnson [Sent home as an invalid.]                   | S                             |
| 84  | John Wilson [Turned Turk 29 November 1803.]                  | Qr Mar                        |
| 86  | Stephen Howell   | S                             |
| 87  | Jeremiah McLaughlin  | S                             |
| 89  | William Adams  | S                             |
| 90  | John Passmore  | OS                            |
| 91  | Thomas Murray  | S                             |
| 92  | Jesse Tuttle [Sent home as an invalid.]                      | Cap <sup>t</sup> Mate         |
| 93  | Thomas Williams  | OS                            |
| 94  | George Hassell   | S                             |
| 95  | Charles Mitchell   | OS                            |
| 96  | Joseph Griffith  | L                             |
| 97  | Nich <sup>s</sup> Stunbough                                  | OS                            |
| 98  | Mathew Holgan  | L                             |
| 99  | Henry Cockran  | L                             |
| 100 | Thomas Hazleton  | Am <sup>t</sup>               |
| 101 | Will <sup>m</sup> Drummond                                   | L                             |
| 102 | James Rutherford   | Qr Gun <sup>r</sup>           |
| 103 | Thomas Hanghey   | OS                            |
| 104 | John Robinson  | OS                            |
| 105 | John Jennings  | S                             |
| 106 | Thomas Shaw  | S                             |
| 107 | Tho <sup>s</sup> McPherson                                   | S                             |
| 108 | Mathias Holkar   | OS                            |
| 109 | William Hammond  | OS                            |
| 110 | Peter West [Turned Turk, 7 December 1803.]                   | S                             |
| 111 | John Morrison [Died at Tripoli, 24 April 1804.]              | S                             |
| 112 | Henry McClaskey  | OS                            |
| 113 | John Thompson  | Qr Gun <sup>r</sup>           |
| 114 | Samuel Hale  | S                             |
| 115 | James McDonald 1 <sup>st</sup>                               | Carp <sup>t</sup> Gunner & OS |
| 116 | Caleb Manfield   | OS                            |
| 117 | John G. Jones  | Qr Gun <sup>r</sup>           |
| 118 | John Spyres  | OS                            |
| 119 | Jacob Immell   | OS                            |
| 120 | Thomas Clighorn  | S                             |
| 121 | John McDonald 2 <sup>d</sup>                                 | S                             |
| 122 | John Johnson   | S                             |
| 123 | Thomas Smith 1 <sup>st</sup> [Turned Turk, 15 January 1804.] | S                             |
| 124 | John Taylor  | S                             |
| 125 | Elisha Wharton   | OS                            |
| 126 | John Smith 1 <sup>st</sup>                                   | Bo <sup>t</sup> Mate          |
| 127 | David Lockwood   | S                             |
| 128 | John Clark   | Boy                           |
| 129 | Arnoldus Van Rissen  | Boy                           |
| 130 | John Applidon  | OS                            |
| 131 | David Davis  | S                             |
| 132 | Edward Gooman [Died at Tripoli, 15 October 1804.]            | OS                            |
| 133 | John Mellin  | OS                            |
| 134 | Nich <sup>s</sup> McLaughlin                                 | OS                            |
| 135 | John Francis   | S                             |
| 136 | Jacob Dowerdisher  | S                             |

| Nº  | Names  | Rank                  |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 137 | John Silby   | S                     |
| 138 | John Thays   | S                     |
| 139 | William Roth   | Qr Gunr               |
| 140 | David Croll  | S                     |
| 141 | Timothy Filby  | OS                    |
| 142 | John Cherry [Sent home as an invalid.]               | Carp: Mate            |
| 143 | John Smith 2 <sup>d</sup>                            | OS                    |
| 144 | Henry Munro  | OS                    |
| 147 | James Hogg   | Qr Mar                |
| 148 | James Fryar  | Bo: Yeom <sup>r</sup> |
| 149 | John F. Shryder                                      | S                     |
| 150 | James Dougherty                                      | OS                    |
| 151 | John Hilliard [Died at Tripoli, 4 June 1804.]        | OS                    |
| 152 | Thomas Smith 2 <sup>d</sup>                          | S                     |
| 153 | John M <sup>c</sup> Mullin                           | S                     |
| 154 | John Flint   | S                     |
| 155 | Lewis Garlinger                                      | S                     |
| 156 | David Jones  | OS                    |
| 157 | John Mitchell  | S & Qr Mar            |
| 158 | James Francis  | OS                    |
| 160 | Mich <sup>l</sup> Walsh                              | S                     |
| 161 | Con <sup>r</sup> Colthoon                            | Carp: Mate            |
| 162 | Joseph Nicholas                                      | S                     |
| 163 | John Hassin [Sent home as an invalid.]               | OS                    |
| 164 | Thomas Oddy  | S                     |
| 165 | Thomas Davis   | S                     |
| 166 | Dan <sup>l</sup> Pattengale                          | S                     |
| 167 | William Clemens                                      | OS                    |
| 168 | Charles Sille  | OS                    |
| 169 | John Wymer   | OS                    |
| 170 | George Lewis   | Boy                   |
| 171 | John Hendrickson                                     | OS                    |
| 172 | Jacob Farman   | S                     |
| 173 | Peter Connolly                                       | S                     |
| 174 | James Grimes   | OS                    |
| 176 | Thomas Farr  | S                     |
| 177 | Ja <sup>r</sup> Ware                                 | Sail-makers mate      |
| 178 | John Grimes  | S                     |
| 179 | George Griffith                                      | Gunmate               |
| 180 | Rudolph Stunbough                                    | OS                    |
| 181 | John Smith 3 <sup>d</sup>                            | S                     |
| 182 | Daniel Davis   | S                     |
| 183 | John Burton  | S                     |
| 185 | Thomas Higgins                                       | OS                    |
| 186 | John Mills   | OS                    |
| 187 | John Nihell  | OS                    |
| 188 | Peter Lee  | S                     |
| 190 | John Dornyn  | Loblolly boy          |
| 191 | William Carsan                                       | S                     |
| 192 | Sylvester Parker                                     | OS                    |
| 193 | Robert Bowen [or Bower]                              | OS                    |
| 194 | Christopher Simmons                                  | S <sup>r</sup>        |
| 195 | William Jones  | S                     |
| 196 | John Hemmen  | G <sup>r</sup> mate   |
| 197 | John Fryer   | S <sup>r</sup>        |
| 198 | William M <sup>c</sup> Gowan                         | L                     |
| 200 | Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Cartney                          | OS                    |
| 204 | Rich <sup>d</sup> Thompson                           | OS                    |
| 205 | Calvin Weatherby                                     | S                     |
| 206 | John Green [Claimed as a French Citizen at Tripoli.] | S                     |

| Nº  | Names   | Rank                             |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|
| 207 | James Henry   | S                                |
| 208 | Peter Frank   | S                                |
| 210 | Charles Cape  | OS                               |
| 211 | Philip Shoot  | OS                               |
| 212 | Andrew Jones  | S                                |
| 213 | William Gillin  | S                                |
| 214 | And <sup>r</sup> Massells                                       | S                                |
| 215 | Thomas Enright  | S                                |
| 216 | Rob <sup>t</sup> Rodrick  | OS                               |
| 217 | Abram Wallington  | S                                |
| 219 | George Moore  | S                                |
| 220 | Jonathan Cook   | S                                |
| 221 | William Dane  | S                                |
| 222 | John King   | OS                               |
| 223 | Thomas Rynolds  | OS                               |
| 224 | Elijah Norman   | S                                |
| 225 | Thomas Brown 1 <sup>st</sup>                                    | S                                |
| 228 | James M <sup>c</sup> Donald 2 <sup>d</sup>                      | OS                               |
| 229 | Dumis Lundy   | OS                               |
| 230 | Thomas Collings 2 <sup>d</sup>                                  | S                                |
| 233 | Christian Myres   | S                                |
| 234 | Geo: W. Kittyham  | OS                               |
| 236 | And <sup>r</sup> Ross   | Painter                          |
| 237 | Thomas Young  | S                                |
| 238 | John Stout  | OS                               |
| 239 | Daniel Johnson  | OS                               |
| 240 | James Johnson   | OS                               |
| 241 | Frederick Shoffer   | S                                |
| 242 | Robert Jackson  | S                                |
| 243 | Antonio Minises   | OS                               |
| 244 | James Anderson 1 <sup>st</sup> [Died at Tripoli, 5 Jan'y 1804]. | OS                               |
| 245 | James Waldram   | Land <sup>s</sup>                |
| 246 | James Anderson 2 <sup>d</sup>                                   | OS                               |
| 247 | John Rawman   | S                                |
| 248 | Thomas Lidley   | OS                               |
| 249 | James White   | OS                               |
| 250 | Robert M <sup>c</sup> Cord                                      | OS                               |
| 252 | Will <sup>m</sup> Hemphill                                      | G <sup>t</sup> Yeom <sup>r</sup> |
| 254 | James Gallagher   | OS                               |
| 256 | Thomas Ward   | S                                |
| 257 | Thomas French   | S                                |
| 258 | George Javit  | S                                |
| 259 | John Smith 4th  | S                                |
| 260 | Nath <sup>l</sup> Eldridge                                      | S                                |
| 261 | John Walker 2 <sup>d</sup>                                      | S                                |
| 262 | William Scott   | S                                |
| 263 | John Null   | S                                |
| 264 | William Perry   | S                                |
| 265 | William Burton  | S                                |
| 266 | John Henscome   | S                                |
| 267 | Richard Lyne  | S                                |
| 268 | Charles Dinoon  | S                                |
| 269 | Sweeny Peters   | S                                |
| 270 | William Barsdale  | S                                |
| 271 | John Dixon  | S                                |
| 272 | Thomas Brown 2 <sup>d</sup>                                     | S                                |
| 273 | John Larrinders   | S                                |
| 274 | James Quinley   | S                                |
| 275 | John Benfield   | S                                |
| 277 | William Stevens   | S                                |
| 278 | James Robinson  | OS                               |
| 279 | Joseph Edwards  | S                                |

| Nº      | Names                              | Rank                |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 280     | David Porter                       | 1 Lieut             |
| 281     | James Rinshaw                      | Midspm <sup>e</sup> |
| 282     | Frederick Lewis                    | OS                  |
| 283     | Jacob Bugeia                       | OS                  |
| 284     | Charles Rylander                   | OS                  |
| 285     | James Ingerson [Died 19 June 1805] | OS                  |
| 286     | Daniel Shays                       | OS                  |
| 287     | Nathaniel Brooks                   | OS                  |
| MARINES |                                    |                     |
|         | Charles Hunt                       | Sergt               |
|         | George Urry                        | Corpl               |
|         | John Symmons                       | Fifer               |
|         | Abraham Hurshaw                    | Drum <sup>r</sup>   |
|         | Nathl Brush                        | Private             |
|         | David Burling                      | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John Coleman                       | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Jacob Cooker                       | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John Crutzer                       | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | William Doogan                     | d <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John Dann                          | d <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Thomas Dinny                       | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Benjamin Goodrich                  | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Francis Hubert                     | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | James Haley                        | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Frederick Hunter                   | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | William M <sup>e</sup> Hugh        | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Philip Morrison                    | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John M <sup>e</sup> Donald         | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Joseph Miley                       | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | William M <sup>e</sup> Koy         | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John Moore                         | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Charles MacGinnis                  | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Patrick Mullin                     | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Anthony Murray                     | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | William Nugent                     | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Jacob Pifer                        | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Frederick Quigly                   | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | William Ray                        | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John Rapp                          | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | William Rhodes                     | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John Stout                         | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John Sein                          | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Thomas Stewart                     | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | William Southward                  | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Jeremiah Sullivan                  | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | George Furkington                  | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Philip Tully                       | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | John VanCamp                       | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Peter Wulan                        | D <sup>e</sup>      |
|         | Rubin Wainright                    | D <sup>e</sup>      |

Washington, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1805E<sup>e</sup> E<sup>d</sup> [Errors Excepted]

KEITH SPENCE

[31 October 1803]

Court Enquiring into the Loss of U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*

Proceedings of a court of inquiry on the conduct of Captain William Bainbridge in the loss of the late U States frigate *Philadelphia* —

U STATES SHIP *Constitution*Syracuse 29<sup>th</sup> June 1805.

SIR, I am authorized by the Honorable the Secretary of the Navy to direct that on board the U States frigate *President*, under your command, you commence a court of enquiry on Captain William Bainbridge late commander of the U. States frigate *Philadelphia* for the loss of said frigate, and that you report to me in proper form the whole extent of the enquiry of said court, with its decided opinion thereon, in order that I may transmit the same to the Navy Department of the U. States.

The court of enquiry will consist of three members, yourself, & Captains Hugh G Campbell & Stephen Decatur j<sup>r</sup>

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> hum: serv:

JN<sup>o</sup> RODGERS

Captain JAMES BARRON

Commanding the U. S. frigate *President*.

In conformity to the foregoing order the court convened on board the U States frigate *President*, at anchor in the harbor of Syracuse, at ten oclock a. m. June 29<sup>th</sup> 1805. present the President and members of the Court and William Eaton Esq. acting Judge Advocate, and being opened according to law Captain Bainbridge was notified that they were ready to proceed to business; he attended and the Court entered upon the enquiry by examination of witnesses.

Lieut. David Porter, of the late frigate *Philad<sup>a</sup>* — Lieu<sup>t</sup> Jacob Jones, Lieut. Theodore Hunt, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Benjamin Smith — Mr William Knight, sailing master, Lieu<sup>t</sup> William Osborn of the marine corps, M<sup>t</sup> Keith Spence, purser — Daniel T. Patterson Benjamin F. Read and James Gibbons masters mates — Midshipmen James Biddle James Renshaw & [space] Anderson — Richard Stephenson, gunner — George Hodge, boatswain & William Godby, carpenter, all of the said frigate were sworn and improved as witnesses —

LIEU<sup>t</sup> DAVID PORTER testified, that on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1803 about eight o'clock in the morning, the ship *Philadelphia*, then under the command Captain William Bainbridge and cruising off the port of Tripoli, the wind from the eastward, and the frigate standing in and along shore, discovered a sail on her weather bow, running to the westward, to which she gave chase. The sail was soon distinguished to be an enemy corsaire standing into the port of Tripoli. The *Philadelphia* continued the chase until she came into about eight fathom water keeping up a constant fire on the enemy with her bow guns, until it was found impossible to come up with her without danger of approaching too near the shore; consequently she hawled out to gain an offing — She had constantly three leads going, one dipsey and two hand leads; a lieutenant tending the dipsey and a midshipman or master's mate at each of the hand leads. The ship

had about eight nots way upon her. This witness was ordered into the mizen top to look into the harbour of Tripoli and observe if any cruisers were in port. At this instant the water shoaled and the healm was put down. He had gotten about half way up the mizen rigging when he felt the ship strike. He immediately returned on deck — All sails were instantly set to endeavour to force her over the bank. Finding this did not succeed, Captain Bainbridge asked the witness's opinion what could best be done? Who requested him to consult his officers generally — The lead had been hove under her bows in about twelve feet water. The ship lifted at times abaft and the healm was then clear. The enemy's gun boats were already seen coming out of port, nine in number, as nearly as the witness recollects — A boat was sent out to sound around the ship and deep water was found a stern. The officers, being consulted, were of opinion that endeavors should be used to back the ship off by a press of sail; and, if that should not succeed, to run the guns abaft: both were done, and at the same time the anchors cut from the bows: but to no effect. It was then the opinion that the guns should be hove overboard, reserving only enough to resist the gun boats: this was done. In the meantime the enemy passed under the fire of the frigates stern guns and took a position on the starboard and weather quarter where no guns could be brought to bear on them by reason of their advantageous position and the deep heel to port and fixed posture of the ship — Captain Bainbridge now called another counsel of the officers, who were of Opinion that the water should be started in the hold and pumped out, and all the heavy articles hove overboard; if that should not succeed, that, as a last resort to save the ship, the foremast should be cut away: all these were done to no effect — Orders were then given to the carpenter to go down forward and bore holes through the ships bottom; and to the gunner to drown the magazine by turning the cock and securing the key: the witness heard the gunner report that he had executed this order. Orders were then given to destroy every thing on board which could be rendered useful to the enemy. It had now already been determined that the flag must be struck, as no hopes remained of saving the ship and no possible means of defending her. The Colours were accordingly struck, and the enemy took possession. It was now about sun down, and the ship had grounded about half after eleven in the morning, as nearly as the witness can recollect, during which time she was exposed to the constant fire of the gun boats, but suffered only in her spars and rigging — The ship was lost about three miles and a half from the town of Tripoli, and one and a half from the nearest point of land, which bore south.

#### QUESTIONS BY THE COURT.

Had you any boats sufficient to carry out an anchor?

Ans. It is my opinion we had not: but had this been otherwise the enemy commanded the ground where it would have been necessary to drop anchors.

What water did the ship draw when she went on shore?

As nearly as I can recollect she drew about eighteen feet forward and nineteen and a half abaft.

#### QUESTION BY THE JUDGE ADVOCATE.

During the transactions and disaster of that day did you notice any thing of remissness or neglect in her commander which could tend to the loss of the *Philadelphia*?

Ans. I did not: On the contrary, I noticed in Captain Bainbridge great coolness and deliberation.

LIEUT<sup>t</sup> JACOB JONES was called into court and examined. He confirmed in every thing the testimony of Lieut<sup>t</sup> Porter, without variation —

LIEUT<sup>t</sup> THEODORE HUNT was examined before the court — and varied only in his testimony from the two preceding witnesses in the draft of the *Philadelphia's* water when she went aground, which he stated to have been eighteen feet six inches forward and about twenty feet six inches aft, which he had ascertained from observation the day before the misfortune — And also, in answer to the first question by the court to Lieut<sup>t</sup> Porter, he adds that in the river Delaware he made an experiment in carrying out an anchor in the *Philadelphia's* launch, when she was obliged to be buoyed by casks —

LIEUT<sup>t</sup> BENJAMIN SMITH, corroborates the testimony of the preceding witnesses without adding any material circumstance —

M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> KNIGHT, sailing master, was examined. He confirms the testimony of the witnesses before recorded — And adds that he was positive the ship was pierced forward by the carpenter as ordered, for he heard the water running into the Auger wholes — When asked why the ship did not fill, he said he expected she would have filled, as he was sure there were sufficient wholes bored for the purpose; but he conjectured they must have been stopped in some manner.

M<sup>r</sup> WILLIAM OSBORNE, Lieut<sup>t</sup> of marines, on examination, confirms the testimony of the preceding witnesses —

M<sup>r</sup> KEITH SPENCE, purser, varies in nothing material from the witnesses gone before him.

BENJAMIN F. READ, Masters mate, states facts as recorded in Lieut<sup>t</sup> Porters testimony, and adds that, in order by every means to render the Ship useless after it was determined to strike her colours, cannon shot were thrown into the pumps.

JAMES GIBBONS, masters mate, says nothing more than what goes in corroboration of the preceding testimony

DANIEL PATTERSON, master's mate, confirms the foregoing testimony; but adds nothing —

JAMES BIDDLE, Midshipman, states facts as recorded from the testimony of the preceding witnesses —

JAMES RENSHAW, Midshipman, states facts generally as the preceding witnesses have done: and adds that he was the bearer of Captain Bainbridge's order to drown the magazine, after it was determined to leave the ship, and knows it was executed.

RICHARD STEPHENSON, Gunner, testifies that he knew nothing of the transactions on the *Philadelphia's* deck the day she was lost, being confined to the magazine until he received an order to turn the cock and drown the magazine; which he did and went on deck with the keys in his hand — The ship was then on her beam ends, the water running in at the ports, and such of her guns as were not thrown overboard, rendered totally useless —

GEORGE HODGE, boatswain, states facts, so far as they come within his knowledge, in exact conformity to the testimony of Lieut<sup>t</sup> Porter; but adds nothing.

WILLIAM GODBY, carpenter, was examined concerning the scuttling of the ship — He testifies that, when it was determined to abandon the *Philadelphia*, he received Captain Bainbridge's orders to scuttle

her, which he executed by calling to his assistance his two mates and piercing her bottom with chizels and augers in sufficient places, as he thought to fill her, and then reported to the proper officer: but the Turks, he believes, got on board in season to stop the holes and prevent her filling —

M<sup>r</sup> WILLIAM KNIGHT was called in and asked by the court if ever he had a chart in his possession which laid down a shoal where the *Philadelphia* grounded? M<sup>r</sup> Knight answered — No!

M<sup>r</sup> PATERSON, a midshipman, was called into court, and being sworn, testified that he destroyed the nunerary signal book of the *Philadelphia* by Captain Bainbridges orders before leaving her —

M<sup>r</sup> ANDERSON was examined concerning the disposition made of the *Philadelphia's* signal books, who declared that he saw Captain Bainbridge tear them both up and hand them to some officer to be burned or thrown overboard —

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At the opening of the court Captain Bainbridge laid before them the following statement —

“GENTLEMEN, Having to account to Government for the loss of the United States frigate *Philadelphia*, then under my command, it is a consolatory circumstance to see that it is before an inquisition, which, by its nautical knowledge, will be so fully adequate to form a correct opinion of the affair and to give that decision on my conduct which both the public and myself must be assured will be just.

In my narrative of this unhappy event, I shall mention my sending the United States schooner to cruise off cape Bon, and the causes that lead to that circumstance, which increased the misfortune that afterwards befel us, and then detail the incidents that took place on the day of our grounding, from the time of giving chase in the morning till surrendering to the enemy —

We left Malta the 3<sup>d</sup> of October, to repair to our station off Tripoli, and to blockade that port according to the orders of Commodore Preble. We arrived there on the 7<sup>th</sup> and continued to cruize off the town, with the *Vixen* in company, without meeting any occurrence of consequence till the 19<sup>th</sup> when we spoke an imperial brig, as she came out of the harbor of Tripoli, which informed us that two of the cruisers of that regency were out upon a cruise. In consequence of this information, and thinking it most probable that they were to the westward I ordered Lieu<sup>t</sup> Commandant Smith of the *Vixen*, to Cape Bon, and cruize there as the most likely place of falling in with them should they be returning from that quarter, and at the same time a safer situation for the schooner than off Tripoli at that season of the year, where the gales blow with great violence on shore, attended with a heavy sea. On the 20<sup>th</sup> the *Vixen* accordingly left us. The 23<sup>d</sup> of the month we had a very heavy gale from the northward and westward, which drove us several leagues to the eastward of our station. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, being about six leagues to the eastward of Tripoli, at 9. a. m. we saw a sail in shore and standing to the westward; we gave chase, and at 11 oclock came near enough for our shot to reach her; and the soundings not allowing of our running in shore we continued to chase along the land, hauling on and off shore as we found the soundings from 7 to 9 & 10 fathoms, in expectation of either disabling or driving her on shore, in which case we should



have captured or destroyed her — At half past 11 when within a league and a half from Tripoli, seeing no probability of preventing the chase from getting into port, we ceased firing and hauled off shore, then having eight fathoms water. We had not gone more than two cables length before we suddenly shoaled, and the next moment the ship struck forward, and having  $8\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms way, shot up as far on the rock as to bring it to the after part of the fore chains where she stopped. Her stern being at this time clear of the ground, the anchors were cut immediately from the bows (except one) the guns run aft, and all the sails laid aback, in hopes of pressing her off, as it blew a strong breeze; but the wind being on our starboard beam, and the sea setting with it directly upon the rocks, soon drove our stern upon them in 17 feet water, where we lay with our larboard port sills at the waters edge. The officer who had been sent to sound upon our first grounding, returned with information that there was sufficient water astern and off the larboard quarter, upon which I consulted my officers respecting the most probable means of getting the ship into it. It was the unanimous opinion that the only method in our power was to lighten the ship as much as possible by starting the water, heaving overboard the guns, reserving as many only as would be necessary to defend us against the enemy's gun boats which were taking their station on our stern and quarter, and to endeavour to press her off the shoals with the sails aback. We could not in addition to this avail ourselves of an anchor, as we had no boat capable of carrying one; and if we had had such sufficient for the purpose, it would have been impracticable to have laid it out, as the enemy occupied almost the ground it should have been placed in —

The gun boats having taken a station on our Starboard quarter, commenced a firing, directed principally at our masts and rigging, which we returned with two guns from our main deck and three of our quarter deck cannonades, which, from the very great heel the ship had, took no effect. The guns we got out abaft were rendered entirely useless from the same cause, although we cut away the stern as much as could be done to any purpose; for by endeavouring to give them a direction to bear upon the enemy, they could not be run out far enough to avoid setting fire to the ship, which they once did, but it was soon extinguished without difficulty or confusion. After finding it impossible to press the ship off the rocks by lightning her, and seeing every prospect of getting her afloat at an end, I ordered the foremast to be cut away, in order to right her in some degree, if possible, and to render our guns more manageable; but this produced no effect, and seeing the ship immoveably grounded on rocks, having but 12 feet water forward and 17 abaft, I conceived any further attempts as evidently useless.

After having tried every expedient that could be thought of to contribute to our relief, and exerting ourselves to the utmost from the time of our grounding until half past four p. m. in endeavouring to get the ship afloat and at the same time in resisting the enemy, but finding all hopes of the first vain, and not being able to bring our guns to bear to effect the latter, I called a council of officers to consult them on the subject of a further resistance or the necessity of surrendering to the enemy. Upon a deliberate consideration of our situation, it was the unanimous opinion that it was impossible to get the ship off, and that all further resistance would be but unneces-

sarily exposing men in a situation where neither perseverance nor fortitude would be of any benefit to our Country or ourselves; and it was unanimously agreed that the only thing left for us to do was to surrender to the enemy, which was accordingly done, after drowning the magazine, and destroying as many articles as possible, that might be of use to the enemy —

Having stated to you, Gentlemen, a narrative of facts, which you will find verified by the evidence to be heard I shall conclude after making one observation.

The usage of nations appears, that where there is no probability of successful defence, and all means of escape have been tried, the *flag* may be struck without injuring the commander's honor — These tacit but admitted regulations are founded on principles of humanity, and a nice and delicate attention to national and individual honor. If under such circumstances a commander's honor be preserved, how free from censure must it appear when placed in a situation without being able in the least to injure the enemy, and no means whatever of extricating himself —

W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE  
29 June 1805. —

The Court having deliberated on the evidence deduced from the testimony of the witnesses, heard in this case, are decidedly of opinion, that Captain William Bainbridge acted with fortitude and conduct in the loss of his ship, the U States frigate *Philadelphia* on the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1803, and that no degree of censure should attach itself to him from that event

JAMES BARRON *President*  
WILLIAM EATON  
*acting Judge Advocate.*

[NDA. CMR, No. 25.]

[1 November 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard O'Brien, U. S. ex-Consul General, Algiers

Customary at Algiers on a Ship of War Comeing in Sight, being Visited Anchoring & Departure—

1<sup>st</sup> That any Ship or Ships of war of the united States, Comeing in Sight of algiers, to hoist her Ensign — Pendent and Jack at the foretop Gal<sup>l</sup> mast head, and fire a Gun to leward, but for none of the U States Ships of war, to hoist the red flag at any of their mast heads — this Custom or Signal was in use for the Merchant Vessels — of the united States, with the annuities for Algiers, and Tunis, said red flag denoted that the Vessel that hoists it, has stores or recruits — on board for this Regency, but by our ships of war hoisting their American Jack at the fore will show, they are on the business of the United States, and wants to speak or confer with the Consul —

2<sup>d</sup> Should the wind be favourable, the ship should lie off & on untill they perceive the Algerine boat with the Consular flag Comeing off — The Ship should not salute under sail it would not be returned, by Algiers. The ship should not anchor if Posible, untill they first speak with the Consul, if the Consul does not come off — he might be sick or in the Country or detained by the Regency, under this suspicious

idea, of no boat Comeing off — The requisite precautions is to be used a sharp look out and ready on all tacks —

3<sup>d</sup> If you are by calms or light winds obliged to Anchor take Care you do it in time, before you Come within reach of Shot of the Castles, As soon as you Anchor the marine batteries of Algiers fires a salute of 21 Guns — which is as much as to Say welcome — You return the Salute with the same number of Guns — in Case you should Anchor and not be Saluted, it indicates your nation has some difficulties with Algiers —

4<sup>th</sup> Your best Anchoring ground is to the S E of the light house of the marine to anchor at the distance of 4 — or 5 Miles from the Batteries in about 22 — or 30 fathoms. between November and March there is often Strong & severe Gales from the N E, N<sup>e</sup> & NW, a Vessel to Anchor in the Bay of Algiers, Should allways be ready to get under sail and to be in order for Action — NB. every night there is a light lit at the Marine batt'ery

5<sup>th</sup> The first Question for the Captain of the Ship of war of the U States, to ask the Consul on his Comeing adjacent, is if at Algiers, we have health, or Clear of all Contagious disorders, if any Sickness. Then for the Consul with the boat of Algiers to drop under the frigates Stern — and by a rope made fast from the frigate to the Algerine boat for the Consul and Captain to Confer if not to lie on their Oars and the Captain & Consul talk on requisite affairs if there is no Sickness in the Country and the Consul with the Algerine boat Comes along Side it is customary with all other nations to Salute the Consul with 5 — or 7 Guns — on his going on board or on his departure from the Ship —

6<sup>th</sup> On the Consul going on board he will inform the Captain of the situation of the affairs of the U States with this Regency, and all other Particular news & affairs — The Consul will inform the Captain when it will be proper for him to land in order to see the dey and ministry The Captain — at his landing the Algerines Salutes him with 5 — or 7 Guns. The Ship of the U States returns an Equal number —

Should the regency Send off any Presents to the Ship such as oxen Sheep fowls & &c On receiveing Said Presents on board to Salute with 3 Guns — This miserable present is Paid for by the Consul at the rate of 20\$ to those that Carries it off & attends therewith

7<sup>th</sup> The rowers in the Algerine boats is not to be admitted on board without first Speaking to the Consul, and they are never to Enter or Come out at the Ports, further none of the Crew of the United States Ships is to be permitted to have any Conversation with any one of the Algerines, from this Circumstance often occurs misrepresentations and difficulties — and should be Avoided as much as possible —

8<sup>th</sup> On the Captain going off to depart Algiers on his Entering his boat (after his leave or audience with the dey & Minister of Marine) the Algerines Salutes him with 5 — or 7 Guns — The Ship on this Occasion returns the Salute —

9<sup>th</sup> Should any slaves belonging to the Regency made their Escape and get on board — the Captain of the United States Ship is to inform the Consul and the Slave or Slaves — are to be given up — neither Christians Moors or Jews, that illegally gets on board is to be kept. fridays is turks Sunday — The marine and City Gates is Shut, every

Evening one half hour before Sundown — and no Communication with the City untill day light —

All officers & Marines of every description in Passing in front of the days Palace is to Keep their hats off —

RICH<sup>d</sup> OBRIEN

ALGIERS The 1<sup>st</sup> novemb<sup>r</sup> 1803

P. S The algerine Salute to a ship of war of the U States Costs 76\$ [or 75\$] — this is Customary allso with the Swedes deans & dutch — with the British french & Spanish the Salute Costs 60\$ —

Each time the Consul goes off in an Algerine boat, or sends a boat off — Each trip is paid for by the Consul 8 dollars, allso feese to the Cap<sup>t</sup> apert and drogerman — attending with the Consul, as Customary with all nations —

as I suppose the minister of Marine of the United States has furnished Comodore Preble with a Copy of these observations. This Copy is intended to gaurd or serve against an Omission — on this Tack —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To John Stricker, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1803

Enclosed you will receive under a cover directed to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Eislen & Horne a commission and instructions for the private armed ship the *Warren* — which commission & instructions you will deliver to the owners after you shall have obtained their Bond with two responsible securities disinterested in the Vessel agreeably to the accompanying form and the act of congress which is also enclosed and which you may also deliver to the owners of the *Warren* You will be pleased to transmit the Bond to me —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Hon. Michael Lieb, House of Representatives, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPARTMENT, November 4, 1803.

SIR: The following statement exhibits answers to the queries which you have proposed, in your letter of the second instant, in relation to the marine corps. \* \* \*

|   | Lieut. Col. Command't. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Surgeons. | Sergeants. | Corporals. | Musie. | Privates. |
|---|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| The acts of Congress of July, 1796, March, 1799, and April, 1800, which constituted the marine corps, authorized...   | 1                      | 4         | 18                 | 18                  | 8         | 48         | 48         | 50     | 890       |
| The corps is not complete; there is a deficiency of.....  | 1                      | 3         | 14                 | 8                   | 12        | 15         | 14         | 14     | 494       |
| We have now in service, in the Mediterranean,.....  | 1                      | 5         | 4                  |                     | 17        | 16         | 15         | 239    |           |
| But, the frigates, <i>New York, Adams, and John Adams</i> , whose return is shortly expected, will bring.....   |                        |           | 2                  | 3                   |           | 6          | 5          | 6      | 83        |
| Of which it is intended to discharge.....   |                        |           |                    |                     |           | 4          | 5          | 5      | 49        |
| There will then be in service, in the Mediterranean,.....   | 1                      | 3         | 1                  |                     | 11        | 11         | 9          | 156    |           |
| And we shall then have on shore, and in the vessels in ordinary,.....   | 1                      | 2         | 12                 | 3                   |           | 21         | 17         | 22     | 191       |
| There are on shore seven marine stations, viz: barracks, navy yards at Washington, Norfolk, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Portsmouth.   |                        |           |                    |                     |           |            |            |        |           |
| We have at barracks, at present, including staff, music, armorers, artificers, servants, sick, &c.....  | 1                      | 1         | 6                  |                     |           | 13         | 11         | 15     | 112       |
| But, on the arrival of the <i>New York, Adams, and John Adams</i> , we shall have.....  | 1                      | 1         | 8                  | 3                   |           | 15         | 11         | 16     | 146       |
| Of which guards will be supplied for eleven ships in ordinary, (each ship having, agreeably to the law of 3d March, 1801, one sergeant, or corporal, and eight marines) and of which guards for the barracks, and for the navy yard at Washington, will also be supplied. |                        |           |                    |                     |           |            |            |        |           |
| We have at the navy yard at Norfolk.....  |                        |           | 1                  |                     |           | 2          | 2          | 2      | 15        |
| at Philadelphia.....  |                        | 1         | 1                  |                     |           | 2          | 2          | 2      | 15        |
| at New York—none.....   |                        |           |                    |                     |           |            |            |        |           |
| at Boston.....  |                        |           | 1                  |                     |           | 2          | 2          | 2      | 15        |
| at Portsmouth—none.....   |                        |           |                    |                     |           |            |            |        |           |
| There are belonging to the corps—officers,.....   | 1                      | 3         | 15                 | 4                   |           |            |            |        |           |

We have in actual service —

The *Constitution*, of forty-four guns; the *Philadelphia*, of forty; the *New York*, of thirty-six guns.

The *Adams*, and *John Adams*, of thirty-two guns, each.

The *Syren* and *Argus*, of sixteen guns, each.

The *Enterprise*, *Vixen*, and *Nautilus*, of twelve guns, each.

But, as before observed, the frigates *New York, Adams, and John Adams*, are expected home shortly.

|   | Captain. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Sergeants. | Corporals. | Musie. | Privates. |
|---|----------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| There will then remain in service in the Mediterranean, |          |                    |                     |            |            |        |           |
| The frigate <i>Constitution</i> , having on board,..... | 1        |                    | 1                   | 2          | 2          | 2      | 40        |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , having on board,.....             |          | 1                  |                     | 2          | 2          | 2      | 35        |
| <i>Syren</i> , having on board,.....                    |          | 1                  |                     | 2          | 2          | 2      | 21        |
| <i>Argus</i> , having on board,.....                    |          | 1                  |                     | 2          |            | 2      | 27        |
| <i>Enterprise</i> , having on board,.....               |          |                    |                     | 1          |            |        | 9         |
| <i>Vixen</i> , having on board,.....                    |          |                    |                     | 1          | 1          | 1      | 11        |
| <i>Nautilus</i> , having on board,.....                 |          |                    |                     | 1          | 2          |        | 13        |
| In service in the Mediterranean, as before stated,      | 1        | 3                  | 1                   | 11         | 11         | 9      | 156       |

The annual amount of the pay and emoluments of the commanding officer of the marine corps is one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two dollars ninety cents.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,  
 RT. SMITH.

MICHAEL LEIB, Esq.

*Chairman of a Committee of Congress.*

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff., Vol. 1.]

[4 November 1803]

To Secretary of the Navy from Eiselen & Horne; Alexander, Webster & Co. and Mayer (or Meyer) & Brantz, Baltimore, Md.

SIR. The President's commission for the private armed Ship *Warren*, has been delivered us by the Navy agent of this City according to your directions, on giving the requisite Bond and Security. In consequence of the rumors and their subsequent confirmation, of the hostile disposition of the Emperor of Morocco, which have transpired since our application for the above commission, we have been induced to enlarge the armament of the Ship *Warren* to the number of *Sixteen Guns and Twenty five men*. — We take the liberty of returning this commission again to your department for the purpose of having the alterations made therein conformable to the armament as above mentioned;

EISELEN & HOVAL  
 ALEXANDER, WEBSTER & C<sup>o</sup>  
 MAYER & BRANTZ.

BALTIMORE *4th November 1803.*

[NDA. Misc. LB, 1802-3-4.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Nov<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1803.*

SIR. Since my last (of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult.) I have rec<sup>d</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Gavino, a copy of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge's letter to you, of the 29<sup>th</sup> of August last, in which he relates the capture of the Imperial Cruiser *Mesboha* [*Mirboka*], and the recapture of her American prize the *Celia* of Boston. Notwithstanding the perfidy with which hostilities have been thus commenced by the Emperor, as it is important that the dispatches intended to be landed at L'Orient should be immediately forwarded, and as the gun-carriages are already prepared, the Schooner *Citizen* will proceed to Gibraltar with her Cargo: and if the turn which our affairs with Morocco, has assumed permits their being presented as first intended, without too much condescension on our part, and it will contribute to any object commensurate with their value, you will not withhold them. Should they not be wanted for such a purpose, you will be pleased to inform Tobias Lear Esq<sup>r</sup> our Consul General at Algiers of it. But if they can be safely and conveniently stored, it will be best not hastily to decide upon their not being wanted for the Emperor, but if they should not be immediately given, to wait a suitable time in order to observe the course our affairs may take in relation to him.

The President will probably this day, communicate to Congress the information received respecting the aggression above alluded to, and they will doubtless make provision for meeting the exegency in a manner suited to its nature. As soon as the result is known I shall com-

municate it [to] you with such instructions as may grow out of the measures they may think proper to adopt.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>.— The *Citizen* having been detained by objections made by her crew founded on their apprehensions of danger from the Emperor's Cruizers, your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> has come to hand in the interval. The President has as above intimated, communicated Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge's letter to Congress, who have not yet come to any determination respecting the measures proper to be taken. They will doubtless be only precautionary, and if in the mean time, the Emperor of Morocco is willing to disavow the hostile acts which have taken place, and to consider the peace as continued, notwithstanding what has happened, the President is willing that his ships & subjects should be restored, provided the accommodation shall not appear to you to be a feint calculated merely to obtain them with a view to further acts of perfidious hostility. The Emperor should also cause some satisfaction to be given for the insult offered to your official character by the detention of your person at the house of the Governor of Tangier. If therefore an arrangement can be brought into train, on the principles above indicated, you will connect with it a demand for such satisfaction in the form suggested, by a prudent regard to the honor of the United States. Commodore Preble is ordered to deliver up the ships & their equipages on your signifying to him that your negotiations require it.

[NA. SDA. Disp. to Con., Vol. 1, Oct. 1800–Feb. 1817.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco  
N<sup>o</sup> 70. — Triplicate

TANGIER 4<sup>th</sup> November 1803. —

SIR N<sup>os</sup> 68 and 69 having been forwarded by so good a conveyance as the *New York* Frigate sailed from hence on the 19<sup>th</sup> last Month, I do not conceive it necessary to trouble you with any copies of them.— I have now the honour to advise return of the Schooner *Nautilus* to this Port on the 30<sup>th</sup> from Mogadore with advice from M<sup>r</sup> Gwyn that on the 19<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> at receipt of His Majestys Order for that purpose, the Governour there immediately set the Crew of the *Hannah* at liberty and put Captain Williams in possession of his Vessel with every article of Cargo and private property had been taken out of her. — The *Meshouda* has been sent to Larach River, she has been entirely dismantled and the Cargo was on board of her landed there. — I have much satisfaction in seizing the earliest opportunity of giving you this intelligence of His Imperial Majesty having so far carried into effect the engagements he came under to the United States at the restoration of Peace, and I trust in God Government will experience at his hand better faith than we have for some years past. — His Majesty has sat down at Mequinez. —

\* \* \* \* \*

Immediately on my delivering up the papers of the *Meshouda* left with me by Commodore Rodgers for that purpose, Arracz Omar of Tetuan who had commanded her was seized by Alcaide Hashash, severely bastinadoed and lodged in a dungeon loaded with Irons on his Legs and Neck, where he remains to this hour; — the Governour sent me word this had been done by order of His Majesty as punish-

ment for having taken on board Stores and Passengers at Algiers and Tunis for Tripoly, contrary to orders. — The Emperours Ship *Maimona* has arrived at Larach from Lisbon after having been supplied there with a Sett of Cables, a new foremast and Rigging. —

I have the honour to repeat the assurances of respect with which I am

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, 1803-1810.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 4 November 1803

[Cadiz] Winds V<sup>ble</sup> fresh gales. received on board a 12 Inch Stream Cable, two 8 Inch Hawasers and Seventy fathoms of 7 Inch Shroud- ing — We have encreased our crew 28 Men since our arrival here —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Hon. Joseph Hopper Nicholson, United States Congress, from Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy

PHILAD<sup>a</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1803

D<sup>r</sup> SIR In the multiplicity of momentous circumstances that at present must employ your mind, it may possibly be deem'd intrusive, to call your attention to further discussion, but by late intelligence from the Mediterranean, respecting the unpleasant state of our Commerce, I am induced to give you my Ideas on that head, being well acquainted with the disposition, & locality of Morocco, & be assured that none of the powers on the coast of Barbary can annoy us equal to that.

They wanted but a slight pretence to commence their depredations, & that pretence hath been but too fully justified by the delay in sending on the gun carriages, promised long since; with some other irritating circumstances, clashing with the policy of that nation, & I am much mistaken if we have not to pay dear for it, but to obviate the evil as far as existing circumstances will admit & the resources of our Country can justify it certainly will be expedient to reinforce our Squadron in those Seas, in which no time ought to be lost, as our ships cant be got down the Potowmac in the Winter, & 'tis more than probable that we shall have to wage war with all the states of Barbary ere long, but with respect to Morocco, the ships destined to repel their aggressions, should be station<sup>d</sup> principally along the Atlantic shores, from Cape Finistere to cape Cantin as most of their naval ports are on the Atlantic, such as Tangier, which is at the entrance of the Streights, and could see any Vessel that goes in, & out, there are also Sallee, Magadore, Rabat, Arzille & several others, contiguous & if our ships once enter the streights & the Westerly winds should set in which often prevail there for several weeks in the fall, and Winter, they cannot get out through the rapidity of the current setting up, till an Easterly wind prevails, as was the case with me last Winter, when I was detained six weeks at Gibraltar; so that those Pirates may cruize without, unmolested —

I may be deemed presuming, or an interested adviser, but I declare my real sentiments, and am under a firm conviction that nothing but coercive Measures can controul those Piratical States & they will commit hostilities against us whenever the whim takes, & the more we pay the more are they emboldened, and it would be less



degrading, & more honorable, never to pay them a Cent but give tribute from the mouth of our Cannon

I find we stand much in need of some powerfull friend in Congress to save us and our families from a state of ruin, 'tho we are to bear the brunt upon all these commotions; & fain would ask your patronage in behalf of myself & our Officers generally, to put us upon a better establishment I have, & I beleive many others have, also, spent the greater part of their substance in the public service our commands are respectable & must be supported with expence, & being ever liable to be called into service precludes us from turning our attention to other pursuits, being so few in number, & 'tis hard to be confined to half pay for those intervals, when out of service, at least our one half rations ought to be annex'd to half pay — this with some other reforms I hope you will find meet to assist us in, when other more weighty concerns have been decided

I beg you will present my respects to M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Gallatin & accept of my assurances of esteem & with great regard

[NDA. A. Murray's LB, 1799-1805.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 5 November 1803

Light airs from the West<sup>d</sup> — We continue at Anchor in Cadiz bay — the *Enterprize* in C<sup>d</sup> The Ships Company employed as necessary — Towards the Evening we Veered to a half cable & ran out a kedge to the North<sup>d</sup> in order to steady the ship from fouling her anchor — At 6 in the Evening a Spanish launch came along side with an anchor — This Anchor is in Lieu of the bower anchor we parted from in Tangier bay — This Anchor is said to have been left here at the time of the American & English War by one of the U. S. Frigates — The Anchor is very rusty & has no mark shewing the weight but I suppose it to be between 32 & 37 Cwt — The Stock is perfectly sound & appears fit for Service — The Night was moderate with breezes from the N. N. W. — At day light the Pilot came along side in order to carry the *Constitution* to Sea — We Weighed the kedge By 7 in the Morning we had Variable Winds from the East<sup>d</sup> & rain — John Barteles Seaman who was an acting midshipman on board the *Constitution* was this day discharged for unofficer-like conduct at Gibraltar — A passage is provided for him on board an American Vessel bound to New York — We had heavy rains & thick weather all the forenoon — The Pilot continues on board in order to carry the *Constitution* to sea when Wind & Weather permits — At Noon thick weather winds from the N E. — We have no Communication with the shore this day — Surgeons report is 5 sick & 10 conv<sup>es</sup>

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U: S: SHIP *Constitution*  
off *Tanger Bay* 6<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR I send an Officer to receive any communications you may have to make. Has the *Nautilus* returned from Mogadore, or has the order for the release of the *Hannah* been complied with?

I left Cadiz last evening. Nothing new in that quarter. \* \* \*  
 [LC. EPP, LB, May-Dec. 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul,  
 Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 6<sup>th</sup> November 1803. —

DEAR SIR The *Nautilus* came off this Bay the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> & after sending the Letters from Mogadore on shore proceeded for Gibraltar without Anchoring; — the *Hannah* was restord with every sixpence worth of property had been landed from her. — I sent M<sup>r</sup> Gwyns Letter to me on the subject to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino for your perusal. — The *Meshouda* was sent round to Larach and has been dismantled. —

So far the Emperour has carried his engagements to us into effect, with all good faith. —

Arraiz Omar lays in Tangier Castle loaded with Irons, in a letter I wrote you to Gibraltar, I advised the punishment had been inflicted on this man, but I did not then expect they would have made him suffer so long. —

As many of the articles as can be collected have been sent down. —  
 [LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board  
 U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 6 November 1803

Sailed from Cadiz for Gibraltar.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on  
 board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 6 November 1803

Moderate Breezes & thick Hazy Weather — Winds from the East<sup>d</sup> — We continue at Anchor in Cadiz bay — At ½ past 2 P. M. the weather cleared away At 3 P. M. We Weighed & came to Sail in order to proceed to Gibraltar — *Enterprize* in Company — As we came thro' the Narrows we passed his Catholick Majesty's Ship *Bonaventuro* Admiral Lobas do Payta — At 4 we discharged the Pilot — by ½ past 4 we had Strong breezes from the S b E down top gall<sup>t</sup> Yards & double reefed the topsails at Sundown we saw Cadiz light house bearing E N E nearly 10 Miles — We parted Company with the *Enterprize* she being Ordered to make the best of her way to Gibraltar — We were in Cadiz near 13 days, 3 of which we were under Quarantine At ½ past 8 A. M. Tacked to the South<sup>d</sup> Out 3<sup>d</sup> reefs from the Topsails — At Midnight moderate Breezes from the North<sup>d</sup> — At ½ past 3 judging the Ship to be nearly up to Cape Spartell we hauled on a wind to the E N E — At ½ past 4 we saw Cape Spartell bearing S E nearly 10 or 12 Miles — We tacked to the West<sup>d</sup> — At 6 or a little after day light we tacked to the East<sup>d</sup> & stood in for Tangier bay — the *Enterprize* Joined Company At 8 up top gall<sup>t</sup> Yards & out second reefs from the Topsails — At 9 A. M. fired a gun, hoisted our Colors & bro't too off Tangier bay — We sent a boat on board the *Enterprize* — She then bore up & ran into Tangier bay — We Continued standing off & on Tangier till ½ past 11 A. M. at which time we fired a gun as a Signal for the Boat. — At noon we had light breezes from the Northw<sup>d</sup> — The *Enterprize*

has our boat in Tow standing out of Tangier bay — Surgeons report is 7 Sick — 10 Conv<sup>st</sup> & 1 discharged from the Sick list — At Noon Sailing by chart thro the Streights of Gibraltar

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Eialen & Horne; Alexander Webster & Co. and Meyer (or Mayer) & Brantz, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup>

Nov. 7, 1803

I have received your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> you will herewith receive a commission for the private armed ship the *Warren* made out in conformity to the armament & crew stated by you to be on board

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

Gibraltar Bay 7<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR You are on receipt of this to take command of the United States Schooner *Enterprize* now commanded by Lieu<sup>t</sup> command<sup>t</sup> Hull who will relieve you in the command of the *Argus*, make the necessary arrangements for the Exchange with all possible expedition, as the *Enterprize* must sail to the Eastward the 9<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> in the morning, —

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE

*Constitution* GIBRALTAR BAY

7 November 1803

SIR You will sail from this Bay with the first fair wind, and convey to Syracuse the provision ship *Traveller* — Billips — Master Loaded on account of the United States with provisions for the squadron under my command be carefull not to chase out of sight of her on any account but Afford her all the protection in your power, as it is of the utmost importance that she should arrive safe, —

Remain at Syracuse to new Rig and put in good condition the *Enterprize*, and if I should not arrive by that time, you will proceed off Tripoly, and join the Frigate *Philadelphia*, and Schooner *Vixen* in the Blockade of that place, and take care and inform Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge of the arrival of the Provision Ship in Syracuse, —

Continue to cruize before Tripoly until the season makes it dangerous, and then you must harbor in Syracuse, but you must even in the worst season go out, and shew yourself off Tripoly occasionally if only a day or two at a time, as it will have a good effect by convincing those *Barbarians* that there Vessels is not safe, in leaving port at any season of the year. —

You are to capture all Vessels belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoly, or his subjects, and to annoy the enemy by all the means in your power, you are not to Suffer the Vessels of any nation to enter or have commerce with Tripoly, But if any Vessel bound in, who might not

have been informed of the Blockade, it would be well to order her off, and if detected in making a second attempt, you will send such Vessel into Syracuse for adjudication

You are to respect the rights of Nations with whom we are at peace, and not to capture Vessels within the Jurisdictional limits or under the protection of such Nations, you are at all times (so far as may lay in your power) to succour aid relieve and free any American Vessels attacked by the enemy, or in their possession, —

The Officers of the *Enterprize* may receive payments of money from time to time, but no advance beyond what may be due them, for which and other necessary purposes, you may immediately make a requisition on me for Two thousand dollars, to prevent the necessity of your drawing Bills, which cannot be done without great loss to Government, —

In all cases of expence, observe the strictest Economy, and keep me regularly informed from time to time of all your proceedings, —

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

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[7 November 1803]

To Midshipman (acting as Lieutenant) Jonathan Thorn, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

(L S.)

By Edward Preble Esquire  
Commander in chief of the  
United States Squadron stationed  
in the Mediterranean.

To M<sup>r</sup> Jonathan Thorn hereby appointed Lieutenant of the United States Schooner *Enterprize*.

BY VIRTUE of the Power and Authority to me given, I do hereby constitute and appoint you Acting Lieutenant of the United States Schooner *Enterprize* Willing and requiring you forthwith to go on board and take the charge and command of Lieutenant in her accordingly. Strictly charging and commanding all the Officers and Company belonging to the said Schooner, subordinate to you to behave themselves jointly and severally in their respective employments with all due respect and Obedience to you their said Lieutenant. And you likewise to observe and Execute as well the general printed Instructions as what orders and directions you shall from time to time receive from your Captain or any other your superior Officer for the United States Service: hereof nor you, nor any of you may fail as you may answer the Contrary at your Peril: And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my hand and Seal on board the United States Ship *Constitution* Algeziras bay this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1803 and in the 28<sup>th</sup> Year of the Independance of the United States of America —

Signed, EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

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To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Gibraltar Bay 7<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR Being convinced that the interests of the U: S: will be promoted by leaving a force on this Station, I have selected the *Argus*

for this service; relying with the greatest confidence on your Zeal for the Honor and Interest of your Country —

Experience has taught us that, implicit faith cannot be placed in Treaties with any of the Barbary States; you will, therefore, as often as possible, appear on the coast of Morocco; and communicate with Consul Simpson at Tanger. If you learn that any of their cruisers are fitting for sea; you will inform yourself of the object of such equipment; and take care that, you repel the first aggression on their part, with the greatest promptitude; as an ascendancy can only be obtained over these, or any other Barbarians, but by a determined mode of conduct towards them.

When any considerable number of American Vessels are collected here, for the purpose of procuring Convoy to the Eastward, you will proceed with them as far as Cape Martin, or farther, if in your opinion absolutely necessary. Keep a good look out about Cape De Gatt, and cruise there occasionally.

You are to Capture all Vessels belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli, or his Subjects; and to annoy the Enemy by all the means in your power. You are to respect the rights of Nations with whom we are at peace, and not to capture Vessels within the jurisdictional limits, or under the protection of such Nations. You are at all times (as far as may be in your power) to succour, aid, relieve & free, any American Vessel attacked by the Enemy, or in their possession

As it is impossible for me to anticipate every situation in which you may possibly be placed; & owing to the distance I am from you, and the difficulty of communication, much must depend on your own judgment and prudence; you will however keep me advised of all your proceedings by every opportunity, and write frequently to the Navy Dep. In case of any event of an important or alarming nature, you will send me notice, by hiring a small swift Sailing Vessel, with an Officer in charge of the Dispatches, if you cannot consistently leave this Station in the *Argus*.

You will rendezvous occasionally in this Bay, at Cadiz, and Malaga; and frequently visit the Bay of Tanger. I expect one of the small Frigates from the United States on this station early in the Spring to watch the motions of the Morocco Cruisers. When she arrives, you will immediately take such dispatches as she may have for me, and join the squadron in the Blockade of Tripoli.

The Officers of the *Argus* may receive payments of money from time to time, but no advance beyond what may be due them; for which, and other necessary expences, you may immediately make a requisition on me, for Three thousand Dollars, to prevent the necessity of your drawing Bills, which cannot be done without great loss to Government. You will make all your requisitions for Provisions on John Gavino Esq<sup>r</sup> Consul at Gibraltar; and he will supply you with such as belong to the U: S — Such articles as he has not, you must purchase, but in all cases of expenditure you will make use of the greatest economy.

In case a provision ship should arrive, you will consult M<sup>r</sup> Gavino, and exercise your best judgment respecting the safest, and most expeditious manner of conveying the provisions to Syracuse

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U: S: SHIP *Constitution*  
GIBRALTAR BAY  
7<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR On Signal from the *Constitution*, you will get under weigh, and proceed in company with her to the Blockade of Tripoli. But if it so happen, that we should part company you will make the best of your way & join the Frigate *Philadelphia* and Schooner *Vixen* off that place; and continue to cruise ther untill the season makes it dangerous; and then you must harbour in Syracuse. But you must even in the worst season go out and shew yourself off Tripoli occasionally if only a day or two at a time, as it will have a good effect by convincing those Barbarians, that their vessels are not safe in leaving port at any season of the year.

You are to capture all vessels belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli or his subjects and to annoy the Enemy by all the means in your power. You are not to suffer the vessels of any Nation to enter or to have commerce with Tripoli, but if any Vessel bound in who might not have been informed of the Blockade, it would be well to order her off, and if detected in making a second attempt, you will send such vessel into Syracuse for adjudication

You will respect the rights of nations with whom we are at peace, and not capture vessels within the jurisdictional limits, or under the protection of such Nations. You are at all times (so far as may be in your power) to succour, aid, relieve and free, any American Vessel attacked by the Enemy or in their possession.

The Officers of the *Nautilus*, may receive payments of money from time to time; but no advance beyond what may be due them; for which and other necessary purposes, you may immediately make a requisition on me for Two thousand Dollars to prevent the necessity of your drawing Bills, which cannot be done without great loss to Government.

In all instances of expence observe the strictest economy, and keep me regularly informed from time to time of all your proceedings—

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 7 November 1803

by Sundown we was up to the shiping at anchor at gibraltar/ we was Visited by the health offcier from Gibraltar/ we found here at anchor the united States Brig *argus*/ leiutenant Decator/ the schooner *Nautilus*/ Leeutenant Sommers/ and His B. T. Magestys Ship *donnegal* and *Agincourt* a little after sundown we fill<sup>d</sup> and set the Courses/ in order to work over to the western shore or the algiseras side

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 7 November 1803

Moderate Breezes from the W. N. W — We continue our course thro' the Streights of Gibraltar — At 1 we made all plain sail & hauled over for Tariffe — We brot Europa point to bear N E b E ½ E by compass — We kept the bearings till we opened the Marks of the

Pearl Rock Those marks are always attended to by ships of heavy draft — When we opened Gibraltar bay the wind set nearly out of the Bay — We worked in on Gibraltar Side by Sundown we were up to the Shipping at Anchor We were Visited by the Health Officer at Gibraltar We found here at Anchor the U. S. Brig *Argus* Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decatur, The Schooner *Nautilus* Lieut<sup>t</sup> Sommers — & H B M Ships the *Donnegall* & *Agincourt* — A little after Sundown we filled & set the Courses in order to work over to the Western Side — After dark up Courses & in T Gall<sup>s</sup> Sails & worked up to the Anchoring ground under Topsails — This Precaution was necessary in order to obtain regular Soundings — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 P. M. We came to with the small bower in 21 fath<sup>s</sup> soft Muddy bottom Veered to 70 fath<sup>s</sup> — The Town of Algeziras W S W nearly 2 miles — The fire Tower on Carbaritta Point S S W 4 miles — Furl'd Sails & mustered the Larboard Watch as an anchor Watch — Lieut<sup>t</sup> Somers & Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decatur waited on Commodore Preble — At 9 A. M. Veered away on the Small bower & moored Ship a cable Each way the best bower to the S S E in 22 fathoms of water We had light airs from the Eastward all the forenoon; we sent down the fore & main Futtock Shrouds & shortened them in — Unbent the Main sail — Sail makers employed altering the main sail set the foremast forward by the fore runners & staying the Masts — part of the Ships Company employed scraping between decks —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Thomas Tingey, Superintendent, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Nov. 8, 1803

The Schooner *Citizen* must sail as early as she can be prepared — We shall not detain her a moment for dispatches — Let me know when she will be ready to sail

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Commanding Officer of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean from Secretary  
of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 8. 1803

By dispatches from Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge, the capture of the *Merboha* and the re-capture of her prize [*Celia*], by the frigate *Philadelphia*, has been announced to us. We approve Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge's conduct. The vigilance and foresight exercised by him in the whole conduct of this business and the rapid movements he subsequently made to arrest the Mischief intended us, entitle him to our thanks, which The President has charged me to convey to him through you. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Commanding Officer of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 8. 1803. —

It is the command of the President of the United States, that you deliver up the *Meshouda* and the *Mesboha* [*Mirboka*] to the Emperor

of Morocco, provided that M<sup>r</sup> Simpson our Consul at Tangier shall deem it expedient and shall signify the same to you. The time and manner of delivering up these vessels must be concerted between you and M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 8 November 1803

Went to Gibraltar, waited on the Governor & principal Officers of the Garrison and took leave. At 10 AM the *Nautilus* and *Argus* joined company. Ordered L<sup>t</sup> Hull to take command of the *Argus*, and L<sup>t</sup> Decatur to take command of the *Enterprize*: & Doctor Weems to the *Argus* —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 8 November 1803

Moderate Breezes & cloudy — We continue at Anchor off[f] Algeziras with the *Enterprize* in C<sup>o</sup> — Commodore Preble waited on the Governor of Gibraltar — We have no communication with the Shore on Algeziras Side — The Ships company employed setting up the Topmast & Top Gall<sup>ies</sup> rigging — Towards Evening we sent down the Top Gall<sup>ies</sup> Yards — We this Afternoon We reeved new main top sail Haulyards the old ones being unserviceable — At 10 in the Evening the U. S. Brig *Argus* & Schooner *Nautilus* anchored along Side of the *Constitution* — We had moderate Breezes during the Night till 7 In the morning when we had fresh Breezes from the S W. At 10 in the forenoon we saw an American ship near Gibraltar with the Signal of distress flying in her main topmast rigging — We Immediately sent an officer & a boats crew with a Hawser & kedge to her assistance — by 11 A. M. the S. W. Wind had increased to a Gale — Commodore Preble went on board the schooner *Nautilus* — She made sail toward Gibraltar — The Ships Company employed birthing Hammocks & Overhauling the rigging The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 7 sick & 7 Convalescents — At Noon fresh Breezes & rain Winds S W b S — We have now here in comp<sup>y</sup> the *Argus*, *Enterprize* & *Nautilus* —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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To Commanding Officer of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 9. 1803

The subject of the communications from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson & Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge relative to the movements of the Emperor, having been submitted by the President to the consideration of Congress, it is expected that such provisions will be made as will authorize our proceeding against him in any manner that will tend most effectually to the preservation and protection of our commerce. A hope however is entertained, that an adjustment of our difficulties with the Emperor, may be obtained and peace effected on terms agreeable to us. But should the authorized negotiations fail of producing so desirable a



result, an additional Frigate will be sent to you with such further powers and instructions as may be deemed expedient. In the mean time you will capture and destroy his armed vessels wherever you may meet with them on the high seas, and use such other means of vigilance and precaution as may appear to you the most effectual to the protection of our commerce and Seamen in that quarter. It is a primary object with us to be at peace with the Emperor: we must create a corresponding disposition in him, which can best be effected by coercive means. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U; S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Gibraltar Bay 9<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR I arrived here from Cadiz the 6<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> On my way I stopped at Tanger Bay and sent a boat on shore. Everything is quiet in that quarter. The Emperor has complied strictly with his promise as far as he has had opportunity. The Captain of the *Mishouda* has been severely punished; and the moment the *Nautilus* arrived at Mogadore with the Emperor's orders, the American Brig *Hannah*, which had been detained there, was released and the Crew set at liberty. The weather has been so stormy since I came into this Bay that it has not been possible for Col. Lear with his family to embark I hope they will be able to come on board to day — The *Argus* is arrived and is without exception the handsomest vessel of her rate that I have ever seen. She is very much and very justly admired by every Officer: — The order she is in does great credit to her commander — L<sup>t</sup> Decatur has delivered me the 30,000 Dollars mentioned in your letter of the 22nd of August which I now have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of and shall attend to its contents — L<sup>t</sup> Hull has exchanged commands with L<sup>t</sup> Decatur The *Nautilus* & *Enterprise* are both here. The Store Ship from Balt<sup>e</sup> has arrived — It is necessary the provisions should go to Syracuse as soon as possible; and as no vessels can be obtained to carry them there, except we trust them in the Vessels of Nations at War I have advised M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to bargain with the master of the *Traveller* to carry the cargo up, which he has done, and is to pay 3000 Dollars. This is 800 Dollars more than the customary freight in English Vessels, if they could be had, but they cannot, and the expence of landing and storing the Cargo and re-shipping it, and the damage and loss the provision would sustain in such removals would make more than three times that difference in the expence and as English Vessels would be liable to capture by the French Privateers of which there are a great number out we might be disappointed in our supplies. I have advised M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to give him that Sum, as he found the Captain determined not to take less. The best way in future will be to freight the Store Ships for Syracuse, to stop at Gibraltar for orders I regret that She has not brought out any Cheese, Butter, Molasses, or Candles, as those articles are extremely dear here. The *Enterprise* goes direct to Syracuse to convoy the Provision Ship — The *Argus* with a convoy to Mersailles and back to this Station; and the *Nautilus* accompanies me to Algiers, and from thence off Tripoli. I enclose copies of all their orders for your perusal. I shall only remain off Tripoli myself

at present a day or two, as I must go to Syracuse to make the Necessary establishments and arrangements there, but shall not remain long in port — You may rest confidently assured, there shall not be an idle Vessel in my Squadron, I shall sail the moment the wind and weather will allow me to —

The Store Ship had 2 Men impressed and taken out of Cadiz by the British Frigate *Maidstone*, Capt<sup>a</sup> Elliot. The British make a practice of taking from our Merchant Vessels every man that has not a Protection, and very often those who have — What would be said if our Ships of War were to take by force even Americans out of English Merch<sup>t</sup> Ships? it would make a bustle in America as well as England! and why have we not as good a right even to impress from their Ships English Men when destitute of Protections, as they have Americans from Ours? They certainly have no more right to presume every man without a protection on board our Merchant Ships to be English than we have to consider every Englishman in the same situation on board their Vessels an American — However, this is a matter for the Government — I shall take care that they do not go so far as to take mine by force with impunity. The *Argus* is so fine a Vessel, and so well calculated and armed for the service I shall want her for before Tripoli, that you will pardon me for again urging the necessity of sending out a 32 Gun Frigate for this Station to take her place that I may have her Services. I am still of opinion that a Schooner or Brig with the Frigate, will be necessary to watch the Straits of Gibraltar and the Coast of Morocco, and to afford Convoy to our Merch<sup>t</sup> Vessels bound up the Mediterranean.

If a quantity of good Slop Clothing could be sent to Syracuse in the first Store Ship that comes out, it would be of advantage to the Service, a quantity of Canvass and Twine will be wanted and cannot be purchased here, without paying a most enormous price for it —

L<sup>t</sup> Dent is an officer of uncommon Merit Active, Steady, Intilligent, and ever attentive to his duty. I find great relief since he joined the Ship, and hope his exertions on all occasions to promote the good of the Service will entitle him to the notice of the President e're long, and gain him the promotion of Lieutenant Commandant. But at the same time I hope I shall not be deprived of his services in this Ship while I command her. The Officers generally have conducted well. I am sorry however to inform you that L<sup>t</sup> Livingston of the *Argus* did while in Boston conduct very improperly, and in a manner disgraceful to himself as an Officer; and that there is not any probability of his amendment — He is extremely intemperate and exposes himself to observations on board and on Shore. I have forbid L<sup>t</sup> Hull from suffering him to go on shore to disgrace the Service; and the first formal complaint that is made against him, I shall arrest and order him home- this will be a painful task to me, but the Service requires it.

I have on board the *Constitution* many remarkable fine young men whose conduct promises great things to their Country —

It is necessary that as many Mediterranean passes be sent out as there are Vessels in the Squadron that each one may have a check on any Barbary Cruiser should they have false Tops — which it has been hinted to me they can procure —

[LC. EPP, LB, May-Dec. 1803.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 9 November 1803

(At Anchor off Algaziras.) A, M, Moderate Weather at 8 weighed the anchor sent up top Gall<sup>t</sup> masts hove short with the best bower. Isaac Hull Esq<sup>r</sup> came onboard and took Command, Stephen Decatur Esq<sup>r</sup> went onboard the United States Schooner *Enterprize* also M<sup>r</sup> Bainbridge —

At 3 P, M, Weighed and stood over towards Gibraltar the wind at S, S, W at 4 came to with the best bower in 10 fathoms Water Veered away and Moored [off Gibraltar] with the small bower to the N, E, Best bower to S, W, continual Showers of rain. Doctor Weim came onboard as Surgeon. A, M, Struck lower Yards

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 9 November 1803

Strong breezes & rain — We continue at Anchor under Algeziras — The Ships Company Employed working up Junk & cleaning between decks — Sail makers & carpenters employed in their different departments Towards the Evening the S. W. Wind had nearly increased to a gale — Launched Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Masts & bitted a range on the sheet cable — At 7 in the Evening the Weather became more moderate — Commodore Preble returned with the Schooner *Nautilus* — The boat which was ordered to the Ship in distress returned; the officer reports the ship in distress to be the *Shepherdess* of Boston Cap<sup>t</sup> Alex<sup>t</sup> Hodges — from 9 P. M. till 3 A. M it blew a perfect gale from the S W b W — We had smooth water all the gale — We are about 1½ miles from Algeziras which makes a weather shore — From day light till 7 A. M. we had light Airs & Variable which gave us a foul hawse which was immediately cleared as the weather had the appearance of a gale from the East<sup>d</sup> — The Wind from the East<sup>d</sup> blows on shore on Algeziras side & has a reach of near 6 miles — The Anchorage ground on this side being Very Extensive & the bottom good it is judged much safer than Gibraltar side — At 10 A. M. bent the Main Sail Lieut<sup>t</sup> Hull & Lieut<sup>t</sup> Somers waited on the Commodore At Noon Winds from the North<sup>d</sup> with rain — The Surgeons report this day is 9 Sick & 6 Conv<sup>sts</sup>

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To Mr. McCreery, United States Congress, from Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy

PHIL<sup>a</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1803

D<sup>r</sup> SIR I am happy to find that you have taken your station in Congress, flattering myself in the hope of an acquisition of one more friend in Congress, to keep up the spirit of our Navy, and to put us upon a more permanent footing than we are at present. —

I have written to my friend M<sup>r</sup> Nicholson on this subject, & can assure you that there are but few of the Officers, belonging to Navy, who have families that have not nearly ruined them in the service, for how is it possible that we can maintain ourselves, when out of commission, upon our half pay, not being even allowed half Rations? 'tis well known, that to keep up a decent ship, and to carry with us that respect which our Rank, & stations require, every Cent of our

pay is only sufficient to meet our expences on ship-board; and when we consider that being ever liable to be called into service, it is impossible to turn our attention to other objects, for a livelihood in the intervals. —

As the cheif revenue of the U. States arrives from its commerce, which must have at least an apparent protection, surely our Countrymen cannot be so ungenerous as to suffer her Officers to be ruined, or very much embarrassed, especially as there are so few of us, but I fear that the object of keeping up that rigid Economy absorbs every other consideration. —

It is often found expedient to appropriate a little money to save a good deal, & the eyes of Europe are now upon us, watching our deportment towards the states of Barbary, & badly as our arrangements have been executed, we have spread no small degree of terror among them, but like a Dam to impede a rushing torrent, often when least expected, forces its barrier, and ruin and desolation is the consequence, so, be assured that when ever those Barbary states find us off our gaurd that they will commit serious mischief upon our Commerce, the seeds of Discord, & Envy, are now sowed and especially with Morocco and we ought to keep a vigilant lookout in that quarter. —

I feel happy in seeing your name annexed to the Committee, to enquire into the expediency of coercive measures, & when we recollect that Tripoli, & Morocco are nearly 1500 miles apart, & those seas so uncertain in traversing up, & down, a seperate division should be provided in case of emergences notwithstanding it may clash with Financial arrangements & should it be deem'd necessary I hope the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy will give me the preference to command, for altho' high on the list of Rank I have never yet been honor'd with the charge of a division, for what reason I know not, but if I have not merited such a trust I am unconscious of my errors

[NDA. A. Murray's LB, 1799-1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Enterprize*

Gibraltar bay Novr 10<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR I have the honor to inform you I arrived here on the first of this month after a passage of thirty four days, twenty five of which we had the winds easterly; the *Argus* sails well and possesses a number of excellent qualities, yesterday I delivered the *Argus* to Lieu<sup>t</sup> [Isaac] Hull and relieved him in the Command of the *Enterprize*. —

Agreeable to Your instructions I inclose you Commodore Preble's receipt for the thirty thousand dollars I brought out —

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To whom not indicated, from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

ALGESIRAS Nov 10th. [1803]

DEAR SIR The *Constitution* the *Argus* *Enterprise* & the *Nautilus* are here in company at Algesiras: if you ask why we have deserted our old moorings at Gibraltar — why it is because the English commanders have treated us with great indignity have protected our Runaway Seamen, have refused to give them up, when demanded, have anchored close to us in order to give our men an opportunity of

swimming on board of them. Capt Gore of the *Medusa* & Capt [space] of the *Termagant* have done this. The Gov. Col Trigge disapproves it & we know it to be contrary to the orders & wishes of the British government — which are to give us all the assistance in their power, & keep up a good understanding.

The *Argus* has just arriv'd from America & brings me a letter from my much lov'd friend Mr [Peter?] Thacher: \* \* \*

The *Nautilus* has just arrived from Mogador where she has been to witness the delivery of the American Brig seized at the commencement of the disturbances. \* \* \*

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*. Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 10 November 1803

[Off Gibraltar] P. M. at 1 departed this life James M<sup>e</sup>Kinlie Marine committed the body of the diseased to the deep —

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 10 November 1803

[Off Algeiras] Wind S E and rain. delivered orders to L<sup>t</sup> Hull of the *Argus* for this station but previously to convoy the Trade from this to Mersailles and Leghorn, and take the Trade down with him — Gave orders to L<sup>t</sup> Decatur of the *Enterprize*, to convoy the Store Ship *Traveller* Geo<sup>f</sup> Billups Master to Syracuse and orders to L<sup>t</sup> Somers of the *Nautilus* to accompany the *Constitution* to the Blockade of Tripoli. The *Argus* and *Enterprize* sailed for Gibraltar to Water and take in provisions & Stores. In the Night the Brig *Frances* of and from Salem Captain Chapman ran on the rocks near Carbrita point & Bulged with a Valuable cargo on board. sent Boats to his assistance

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 10 November 1803

Moderate Breezes from the W S W with rain — We continue at Anchor at Algeziras with the *Enterprize* *Argus* & *Nautilus* in company — Lieut Hull was this day ordered to the command of the Brig *Argus* & Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decatur to the command of the *Enterprize* — By 2 P. M. the wind had Veered to S S E with a constant rain — Application was made to Commodore Preble for a boat to assist in Weighing the Anchors of the *Shepherdess* — At 4 P. M. the Weather became more moderate — The *Argus* & *Enterprize* Weighed & stood over Gibraltar Side — At 7 in the Evening we had heavy squalls from the W S W which continued by Intervals till 3 A. M. at which time we had a dead calm & rain The Eddy & Counter Currents have given the ship a foul hawse — The Necessary duty of cleaning decks in the Morning prevents the clearing Hawse — At day light the Commodore Ordered an officer & boats crew to the Assistance of the *Shepherdess* — At 9 A. M We had fresh breezes from the S W b W — The master of the American brig [*Francis*] belonging to Salem came along side of the *Constitution* in the Brigs boat with his mate & 5 men — He reports that last Evening at 7 P. M. He ran ashore

in a heavy Squall from the West<sup>d</sup> on the reef of rocks near Carbaritta Point This Point is the Western Side of the Entrance of Gibraltar bay — The Master of the Brig acknowledges it was an Error in his Judgment which caused his running ashore — Commodore Preble immediately ordered an Officer with a boats crew to her Assistance with a Kedge & Hawser — The Commodore also recommended the Master Immediately to Employ a number of Spanish boats to take out her Cargo — She is in sight from the *Constitution* — Her situation does not Appear Very alarming while the Westerly Winds continue — She is on a reef about a cables length from the shore — At 10 loosed sails to dry — Surgeons report is 12 sick & 6 convalescents — At Noon strong breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> — We attempted clearing Hawse but as the Ship rides by both cables we found it unsafe —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To the Hon. William Eustis, United States Congress, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Nov<sup>r</sup> 11. 1803.

In answer to your letter of the 10 ins<sup>t</sup> I have the honor to inform you, that we have at present in the Mediterranean and adjacent Seas, the following Vessels of war employed for the protection of our commerce in that quarter. — The Frigates *Constitution* of 44 Guns; *Philadelphia* of 40 Guns; *Newyork* of 36 Guns; *Adams* and *John Adams* of 32 Guns each; the Brigs *Siren* and *Argus* of 16 Guns each; the schooners *Enterprize*, *Vixen* and *Nautilus* of 12 Guns each. But the Frigates *Newyork*, *Adams* & *John Adams*, are ordered home, and their return is expected in the course of the present and the ensuing month. There will then be left in the Mediterranean,

The Frigates, *Constitution* — 44 Guns. —

|           |                            |                        |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
|           | <i>Philadelphia</i> — 40 “ |                        |
| Brigs,    | <i>Siren</i>               | } of 16 e <sup>s</sup> |
|           | <i>Argus</i>               |                        |
| Schooners | <i>Enterprize</i>          | } of 12 e <sup>s</sup> |
|           | <i>Vixen</i>               |                        |
|           | <i>Nautilus</i>            |                        |

[NDA. Cong. LB, Vol. 1, 1798–1811.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 11 November 1803

At 3 furled sails the Commodore came on board people employed as Necessary — Moored off Gibraltar

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 11 November 1803

Fresh breezes & cloudy — We continue at Anchor at Algeziras with the Schooner *Nautilus* in company — The *Argus* & *Enterprize* at Anchor in Gibraltar — At 4 P. M. We had moderate breezes — Cleared Hawse & furled sails — Towards the Evening Tobias Lear Esquire the American Consul at Algiers came on board the *Constitution* from Gibraltar with his Attendance & baggage — At 7 in the Evening the boat which was ordered to the Assistance of the American

brig (on the rocks off Carbaritta Point) returned — The Officer reports it to be the Brig *Francis*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Chaplain belonging to Salem loaded with Fish, Butter Cheese Candles Salt provisions & some dry goods — When Our boat left her a little after Sundown the Brig was full of Water — We had frequent Squalls from the North<sup>d</sup> with rain during the Night At 2 A. M. the Boat returned which was ordered to assist in weighing the Anchors of the *Shepherdess* We recieved the Kedge & Hawser we lent her — At day light the Commodore ordered another boat to the assistance of the Brig *Francis* — At 9 A. M. loosed sails to dry — The boat returned from the *Francis* — She is now a complete wreck with her masts standing — We supplied her yesterday with a five inch Hawser of 120 fathoms, 40 fath<sup>s</sup> of which were lost among the rocks — At 11 A. M. the Weather became squally — Furl'd sails & swayed up Top Gall<sup>t</sup> masts — Made the necessary Arrangement for unmooring ship — Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull of the *Argus* & Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decatur of the *Enterprise* waited on Commodore Preble — During our stay here we have had no communication with Algeziras Side — Surgeons report is 17 Sick 6 Conv<sup>ct</sup>s & one discharged from the Sick list — At noon we had moderate breezes from the W N W & light rain —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE

*Constitution* GIBALTAR BAY

12<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I enclose you a copy of the declaration of the Blockade of Tripoly, which has been sent to the direct courts of Europe you will please make the purport thereof as public as possible, —

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

To James Monroe, U. S. Minister to London, England, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

CIRCULAR

U: S: SHIP *Constitution*

*Gibraltar Bay* 12<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR Whereas the United States of America and the Regency of Tripoli, are in a state of War and actual hostility with each other I have thought proper in order to distress the Enemy by preventing any supplies from reaching him to Blockade the Port of Tripoli by a detachment of Ships of War, acting under my orders: and you are hereby requested to communicate this information to the British Government. To all the Ministers and Consuls of Neutral Powers at London, and to the Consuls for the United States at the ports in England; to be communicated by them to the Consuls of Neutral Powers residing there, that they may warn the vessels of their respective Flags, that all Neutral Vessels that attempt to enter the Port of Tripoli, or are met with on the coast near that Port after this notice is received by such Neutral Powers, will be stoped by the Squadron under my command and sent into port for adjudication

Copies of the foregoing Circular letter have been sent to the American Ministers at the Courts of Madrid & Paris; and to the Consuls for

the United States residing at the following places Viz — Mersailles, Barcelona, Cadiz, Allicant, Malaga, Leghorn, Naples, Lisbon, Gibraltar, and Tanger —

[LC. EPP, LB, May-Dec. 1803.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*. Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 12 November 1803

[Off Gibraltar] At 8 P M unmoored ship, Rob<sup>t</sup> Murray seaman attempted to desert by Swiming towards the *Donegall* British ship of War Confined him in Irons

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 12 November 1803

Declared Tripoli in a state of blockade.

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 12 November 1803

Wind Westerly, wrote to our Ministers at the different Courts in Europe and to our Consuls in those countries — where Ministers are not resident notifying them of the Blockade of Tripoli, and desiring them to notify to the Ministers and Consuls of the different Neutral Nations of the same

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 12 November 1803

we continue at anchor at algesiras with the Schooner *Nautilus* in company the *argus* and *Enterprise* at anchor at gibraltar Captain Chapline of the Brig *Francais* came and Took away, the chists and orther articles that was left on board the *Constitution* Thursday last/ \* \* \* the Brig *Francais* now a wreck of[f] Caberetta point belongs to M<sup>r</sup> Reess [or Russ]/ Merchant in Salem/ Every assistance and advice has been given by Commodore Preble conserning the saving her cargo/ the Reef shee is on is intierly oppen to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> and a gale from that Quarter will Tottaly destroy her/ in consequence of her situation the Commodore has Recommended the Taking out her cargo/

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 12 November 1803

Moderate Breezes & cloudy — We continue at Anchor at Algeziras with the *Nautilus* in com<sup>y</sup> — The *Argus* & *Enterprise* at Anchor at Gibraltar Cap<sup>t</sup> Chaplin of the Brig *Francis* came & took away the chests & other articles which were left on board on Thursday last — At 3 P. M. We Veered away on the best bower & unmoored ship — We hove into a cable on the small bower — Stowed the best bower — We had moderate breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> all the Afternoon with showers of rain — From Sundown till midnight light airs & Variable from the North<sup>d</sup> — The Brig *Francis* now off Cabaritta point belongs to M<sup>r</sup> Russ Merchant in Salem — Every



Assistance & Advice has been given by Commodore Preble concerning the saving of her cargo — The reef on which she is, is entirely open to the East<sup>d</sup> and a gale from that Quarter will totally destroy her — In consequence of her situation the Commodore has recommended the taking out of her cargo — At day light we hove short on the Small bower & up top Gall<sup>i</sup> Yards — The Weather to the West<sup>d</sup> is foggy with light Airs from the North<sup>d</sup> — We stowed the sheet anchor in order to have all clear for sea as soon as a breeze sprang up — At 9 A. M. the Weather in some measure cleared up — Loosed Studd<sup>e</sup> Sails to dry — Ships company employed Cleaning Ship — By 10 A. M. we had light rain & Variable winds from the Eastward — For these last 4 weeks we have had a great Quantity of rain & damp weather — The Sails not bent are more or less Mildewed although every opportunity which has offered for drying them has been attended to — The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 16 sick 7 convalescents & one discharged from the Sick list — At noon a light breeze Sprang up from the S S E — The brig *Francis* is now in Sight & we can perceive two or three lighters taking out her cargo. —

[LC. EPP, *Log Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 12 November 1803

[Convoy duty since leaving Gibraltar 25 October] Commences with fresh breezes & heavy sea. The *Petapsc* & *Fame* close under our stern. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past meridian hove too & spoke the aforesaid vessel she prov'd to be a (Ragusa) Brig from Leghorn bound to Alicant, out 4 days. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 boarded main tack. At 2 haul'd up main sail. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 close reef'd topsails & sent down top gall<sup>i</sup> yards. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 reef'd fore sail & handed main sail. At 5 hove too under close reef'd topsails. Cape Corso bearing S. E. dist. 6 leagues. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 fill'd away & made the Island of gorgona. Midnight moderate — Gorgona bearing N E by E 2 leagues distant. At 1 AM hove too for the convoy. At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 1 fill'd away E N E. At 2 hove too Gorgona bear<sup>e</sup> NW. made signal for the convoy to heave too with Starboard tacks on board. At 6 sent up top gall<sup>i</sup> yards. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 made signal for the convoy to keep their course, same time fill'd away & stood in for the port of Leghorn. got the anchors ready for coming too & overhaul'd a range of cable. At 9 came too with the convoy in Leghorn bay in 7 fathoms water. Cape Nero bearing S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E light house S E by S Marona W. N. W. At 10 hoisted out boats, sent down top gall<sup>i</sup> yards & overhaul'd a range of the larboard cable. — At 11 launch'd top gall<sup>i</sup> masts at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 barge went on shore with M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart. At meridian gave 50 fathoms more cable to the 1<sup>st</sup> scope. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Gibraltar Bay, Nov<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1803.*

SIR, As you have been necessarily and usefully detained in this part of the Mediterranean, in consequence of our difference with the

Emperor of Morocco, until the season is so far advanced as not to admit of active or permanent operations before Tripoli until next Spring; I have concluded that it would be most proper for me to remain at Algiers during the winter, and not proceed to Tripoli, to endeavour to enter into any negociations for a peace with that Regency (which I am impowered to do by the President of the U. States) until the season will admit of pushing, with vigour & activity, such operations as you may judge will be most effectual for reducing our Enemy to the necessity of making peace, if he should not be disposed to do it, upon proper and admissible terms, before that time. —

Should this arrangement meet your approbation, I will be ready to proceed to Tripoli whenever you will be pleased to advise me that the season is proper and your arrangements made, and will join you off that place in such Vessel as you may send to Algiers for me. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Gibraltar Bay 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR, I am honored with your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup>. Your proposition to wait at Algiers until the Spring I think prudent and proper, as the season is now too far advanced for active operations, against Tripoli with any prospect of success, I shall Order a respectable force early in the Spring to accompany you to Tunis previous to your joining me off Tripoli

[LC. EPP, LB, May-Dec. 1803.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S SHIP *Constitution*  
*Gibraltar Bay 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR You may make the best of your way for Leghorn with the Vessels you have under Convoy pass near Cape de Gatt where it is probable you will meet with me — You will attend to your Convoy, and take no notice of my motions, unless I make a signal for you, When you return to this Station, you will not convoy any Merchant Vessels excepting they are loaded for acc<sup>t</sup> of the U: S above Cape Martin, but attend to the other part of your instructions —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from the Minister of the Bashaw of Tripoli

[Translation]

TRIPOLI, November 13th, 1803.

Captain BAINBRIDGE, former Commander of the frigate *Philadelphia* of the United States of America.

Yesterday I sent you my Secretary and at the same time I requested Mr. Nissen, Consul General of His Danish Majesty, to inform you of the letters which the families of the prisoners, which are at Gibraltar, had received, of the rage in which His Excellency was, and of his

dispositions. To-day to my great surprise I learned all that has been done by order of His Excellency, assuring you that I am very much concerned at not knowing what to do to have you and your officers again undisturbed in your house, for the advice which I am able to give you is to oblige His Excellency by returning to him his subjects, without loss of time, and for this purpose to write to Commodore Preble, explaining your situation to him. If the latter consents, you will have fulfilled your obligation, and if he does not agree to your request, at least you will have gained all the time until a reply is received, during which you will not be interfered with. If what I have told you is agreeable to you, send your reply in French, and on your account I shall go to the Castle this evening in order to do my best to persuade His Excellency.

Your humble servant.

Signed in Arabic.

MAHOMED DGHIES.

[Translator's Note: This letter is in poor French (badly misspelled in places). Some of the statements are not very clear, which makes a closely literal translation impracticable. A somewhat free translation is given in some cases, but true to the intended meaning, to the translator's best judgment.]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, Sept-Nov. 1803.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 13 November 1803

This day beings with light airs from the Southw<sup>d</sup> at 8 A. M. the Commodore made the Signal to prepare for sailing, cleared the deck and hoisted in the launch at 9 made the Signal with a Gun for the Convoy to weigh, weighed and made sail with the Ship *Alexander Hodgdon* of Boston & Schooner *Hazard* of Salem in Company, the Commodore and *Nautilus* weighed at Algaziras and stood out of the bay —

(Sailing out of Gibralt<sup>r</sup> Bay)

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 13 November 1803

Sailed for the coast of Tripoli.

[LC, original.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 13 November 1803

Light airs & rain — We continue at Single Anchor at Algeziras perfectly clear for sea as soon as the wind permits — The Schooner *Nautilus* in company At 3 P. M. lighted the small bower — found it foul — Let go the best bower & Veered to a third of a cable Stowed the Small bower — Lieut<sup>t</sup> Somers of the *Nautilus* waited on Commodore Preble — We had no communication with the Shore all day except one boat Sent to Gibraltar — In the Evening Lieut<sup>t</sup> Hull of the *Argus* waited on Commodore Preble — We had light airs from Noon till 9 in the morning at which time a light breeze sprung up from the North<sup>d</sup> — We Weighed & came to Sail. We have been here at Anchor Seven days; the greatest part of the time we have had rainy Weather. We have recieved no supply of any kind during our

stay here — Yesterday we recieved from the U. S. Brig *Argus* Daniel McAllea & Edward Madden marines who now belong to the *Constitution* — We sent from the *Constitution* to the *Argus* Simeon Saunders marine — On Friday last we supplied the brig *Argus* with a Quantity of Junk supposed to be 1500 CW<sup>t</sup> We also supplied the Schooner *Nautilus* with a small quantity of Wood — When we weighed at 9 this morning the light breezes continued till 10 A. M. After that till noon we had a dead calm We continued over Algeziras Side on Soundings with the best bower clear in case it should be wanted — We have now on board the *Constitution* 90 Leaguers 76 Butts & 56 Gang Casks of Water which is 41385 Gallons — At Noon a dead calm We are off the Town of Algeziras nearly 2 miles from the Shore in 28 fathoms of Water — The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 19 Sick & 8 convalescents The Marine Officer reports to the Commodore 7 Marines Sick — 2 Marines confined & 3 on Extra duty — Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decator of the *Enterprize* waited on Commodore Preble — The Ships draft abaft this day is 23 ft 4 In forward — 21.6 which is 22 Inches difference

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Secretary of the Treasury from Secretaries of State, War, and the Navy

NAV. DEP.

Nov. 14, 1803

To avoid the expence to which we are exposed for the rent of Houses for the messengers of the Departments of State, War and navy — General post office and of the accountants of the War and navy Departments — & to provide against accidents of fire to the Buildings occupied by these Departments we conceive that it would be expedient for Congress to make provision for building Six small brick Houses with necessary buildings attached to them & for purchasing two fire engines and erecting Pumps &<sup>t</sup> we therefore submit the following Estimate of monies necessary to effect these objects and request that you will lay the same before Congress

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Six small brick dwellings a 1000 each..... | 6000 — |
| other necessary Buildings.....             | 1200 — |
| Fire Engines.....                          | 1400   |
| Pumps.....                                 | 350    |
| Buckets.....                               | 200    |
|  | <hr/>  |
|  | 9150   |

GID<sup>n</sup> GRANGER.

JAMES MADISON

H. DEARBORN

R<sup>t</sup> SMITH.

[NDA. Treasury, Vol. 2, 1803-1821.]

To Lieutenant John Cassin, U. S. Navy, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> —

Nov<sup>r</sup> 14: 1803. —

You will proceed with all practicable dispatch to put the *General Greene* in a state of complete repair. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

*At Sea, November 14<sup>th</sup> 1803.*

SIR, If you can with propriety, and without injury to the Service, permit M<sup>r</sup> Robert Henley, a Midshipman on board the *Constitution* to remain with me at Algiers this Winter, I shall feel highly gratified by the indulgence, as his services may be useful to me in the discharge of my public duties there. —

Should this request be granted, M<sup>r</sup> Henley will hold himself ready to join the service at any moment he may be called upon.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 14 November 1803

Laying Bealmd in Gibraltar Bay, at ½ past 12 a light Breeze sprung up from the Southw<sup>d</sup> we filld Towards the Rock/and Tack<sup>d</sup> as necessary to clear Europa point, at 4 P M. we weathred Europa point and Made Sail to the Eastw<sup>d</sup>/in order to proceed as far up the Mediterranean as algiers/the Brig *Argus* and the Schooner *Nautilus* are in Company, with two american Vessels under convoy/Latitu<sup>d</sup> ob 36. 28

[NA. ND original.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP

*Nov. 15. 1803*

Daniel Bedinger Esq navy agent at norfolk will transmit to you Bill of lading and invoice of the cargo of the provision ship the *William and Mary* the freight is to be paid here — The Captain of the *William and Mary* is directed either to land the Cargo at Gibraltar or to proceed with it to Malta as he may be advised by you on his arrival at Gibraltar — In forming your determination on this point you will consult the convenience of our Squadron — Should you send the *William and Mary* to malta you will give the Captain the necessary instructions with respect to the Disposition of the Cargo

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>

*Nov<sup>r</sup> 15. 1803 —*

Enclosed you will receive copies of my letters to you of the 8<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> The originals were sent by the schooner *Citizen* Cap<sup>t</sup> Lawson, which vessel sailed from this port with 100 Gun carriages for the Emperor on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant. —

P. S. The *Citizen* goes to L'Orient first, then to Gibraltar. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

[15 November 1803]

To President Thomas Jefferson from Richard Farquhar, Malta

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

In consequence of not receiving an answer to a Letter, which I forwarded to you from His Excelency Cidy Hamet Carmile Bashaw of Derna I send you the other copy whith His Seal & Signed by His Secretary

In which he requests the loan of forty Thousand Spanish Dollars with Guns Powder &c he will give the United States any Security in his Power viz by Putting American Troops in Possession of one of the forts in Tripoli when ever it is taken untill that sum is repaid

Should the City of Tripoli be taken by Storm he the said Bashaw of Derna will then have Plenty of Cash & the American Troops will receive their Share of Prize Money,

the Bashaw of Tripole has been at War with a great Nation of Arabs but has come to some terms with them, but has lost many of his Troops also with his Brother the Bashaw of Derna who has defated him, altho in want of every thing, but finding his Brothers Troops daily arrive from Tripoli & no assistance from America he thought Proper to leave Derna for the Present.

Therefore the United States will consider whither it is better to assist this said Bashaw of Derna to be Bashaw of Tripoli or to pay the Present Bashaw his unreasonable demand of three Million of Dollars and then not certain of keeping Peace with him one year afterward if the United States assist the Said Bashaw of Derna to be Bashaw of Tripoli they are certain of being successfull and it will be the means of keeping America at peace with all the other Barbary States

I understand your late Consul at Tripoli has been the cause of this War & he has recommended to be your Consul in Malta a M<sup>r</sup> Poulis who was latly Consul to the Present Bashaw of Tripoli which does no good to your Affairs. as I was a witness to the unfortunate loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia* and was of great Service to the Officers who was stript of every thing I also advanced Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge three Hundred Spanish Dollars. I have done the United States many Services & will do them more as I send off a Small Vessel to Tripoli to get Intellgence which I will give to the American Comodore or any other Officers who may come hear

MALTA Nov<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1803

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 15<sup>th</sup> Novemb<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR Deprived the honor of any of your Commands I beg leave to refer to my last Respects N<sup>o</sup> 135 Accompany<sup>g</sup> Copy of one from Consul OBrien of Algier under date 14<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> last.

Coll<sup>d</sup> Lear in the *Constitution* left us with the *Nautilus* the 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> for Algiers, as did said day the Brig *Argus* with two Vessels under her Convoy for Leghorn —

Yesterday saild the Schooner *Enterprize* Cap<sup>t</sup> DeCature for Cyra-cuese with the Victualler ship *Traveller*, for the use of the Squadron —

A few days ago four spanish ships the Line past this from the East, two got to Cadiz, the others supposed to have gone for Ferol

The Contagious Disorder still Continues at Malaga, & altho one half the Inhabitants quited the Town, and the Governour suspended all Communication with the Mole & Harbour, 70 to 100 were by our last accounts of 8<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> carried off daily; The Governour of this Place admits no Vessels to anchor in his Bay from the intermediate Coast of Spain, between Alicante & Cadiz, and from those Ports & others beyond them, they are subjected to quarantine in Conformity to the Accounts that the Health office may have of the state of Publick health, when they arrive

As to Barbary Occurencys have nothing new, yet referr to the Inclosed from Consul Simpson of Tanger. — On the 2<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>: arrived the ship *Old Tom* Cap<sup>t</sup> Cormick from Norfolk with stipulations for Algier; was Quarantind having no Bill of health, he proceeded the 6<sup>th</sup> —

A few days ago arrived a Convoy from England with Stores for this Place and Malta. Admiral Nelson Continues off Toulon, has 11 Sail the Line and many frigates, three of the former now here for Provisions & Stores, one is Stationd off Cadiz.

The British Consul Falcon who was sent away from Algiers some time ago, has gone by orders from Government to ad<sup>l</sup> Nelson, who is to return him there, and if refused has (it is sayd) Discretional orders to act as may think best for the honour of the Nation; the Admiral owes that Regency an old Grudge. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796–1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARIE 15<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR Owing to letters said to be received from the Tripolitan Prisoners in Gibralter, taken in the Ship *Misoudra* [*Meshouda*], to their families in this place; mentioning that they were cruelly treated, the Bashaw of this Regency had myself and Officers taken from our Quarters, and carried down to the loathsome prison of our Crew, amongst whom we were confined the whole day without any thing to eat; in the Evening the Minister got us removed to our Quarters, where I received a letter from him, a copy of which I enclose you & my reply to it.

About 10 OClock at night was sent for by the Minister, who I saw, and perticularly explained to him that the information must be false, and he must be sensible that I did not command the Commodore and could not & would not come under any obligation respecting the return of the Tripolitan subjects here; he requested that I would write and give you *this* information; which I conceive it my duty to do. You will find by the Ministers letter that he has interrested himself in our situation it was to him that we gave our parole which obtained us the *Quarters* of the late American Consular house.

Our People are kept employed at various branches of their profession and labour; the Officers as yet, have not been made to work, myself never will

A seamen belonging to the Crew who was my Coackswain (& a favorite) by the name of John Wilson a Swede, has behaved in a most infamous manner; by telling the Bashaw numerous lies to exasperate him to treat the Officers & Men with severity myself he has impu-

dently insulted, and expects to take protection under the Sweedish Consul; as it would be grateful to the feelings of myself, Officers, & Men to have the rasscall returned [?] with us, to answer for his villainous conduct; you will much oblige the unfortunate, by writing to the Sweedish Consul at this place requiring his desisting in any manner to claim the said Wilson, as he will be considered a deserter from the service of the United States. The Consul's *character* prevents my having the least communication with him on the subject. my situation is such that I cannot treat him as he justly deserves

P. S. you will please to address all your letters for me to N. Nissen Esq<sup>r</sup> Danish Consul —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

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To the Minister of the Bashaw of Tripoli, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARIE 15<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I've the honor of receiving your letter respecting the treatment which myself and Officers have this day experienced said to be by His Excellency's order on account of some letters received from the Tripolitan Prisoners at Gibraltar captured in the Ship *Misoudra*, mentioning their being cruelly treated; the information must be incorrect, as it is directly contrary to the Naval laws of the United States and to the known humanity of the Americans to treat their prisoners ill.

I shall write to Commodore Preble and state the demands of his Excellency the Bashaw, and feel sensible of your politeness in the buissiness

MOHAMMED DGHIES Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Minister to his Ex. the Bashaw of Tripoli*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 15 November 1803

at 5 Malaga bore N $\frac{1}{4}$ E distance 9 Leagues made & shortened sail as occasion required to Keep Company with our Convoy —

At 7 A, M, the Barbary shore in sight and 4 strange sail in sight standing to the Westw<sup>d</sup>

At 10 the Commodore and Schooner out of sight Convoy in Company —

Latitude Observed 36°29' N.

[NDA photostat.]

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To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution* at Sea

16<sup>th</sup> November 1803

SIR, Enclosed is a permission for M<sup>r</sup> Henly to remain at Algiers with you agreeable to your request, and should it be disagreeable to M<sup>r</sup> Lear to part with her Brother, during your absence in the spring, he may remain at Algiers, 'till your return, and then join the Squadron —

[Stephen Decatur Col.]



Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 16 November 1803

These 24 hours Commence with moderate breezes and Cloudy Weather at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 P. M, bore up for the ship and Schooner they being considerably astern. at 4 Modril bore N. dist. 5 leagues saw a large sail to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> made the signal for the Ship to close in which was not answered At 6 took the Schooner in tow she sailing dull and made sail

Latitude Observed 36°23' N.

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 16 November 1803

*Nautilus* returned from her chase and reported one vessel to be a Latine Spanish merchant Vessel from Cadiz for Leghorn and the Brig a Dane from Tetuan for Tunis with Six Algerine Passengers on board; Wind from the Eastward: Tacked ship occasionally:

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 16 November 1803

Moderate Breezes & pleasant Weather — We continue Standing towards the land, till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 at which time we tacked from the land Grenadine Mountains bearing N. E. We are at this time nearly Six Miles from the land to the East<sup>d</sup> which is just in Sight in the night & supposed to be near point Sacraftil [Sacratif] bore East nearly 5 leagues Towards the Evening the Weather became cloudy with fresh breezes from the E S E — In second reefs in the Topsails & down Top Gallant Yards — In the course of the Afternoon We punished Edward Madden Marine with 48 lashes for refusing duty, contempt of a Commissioned Officer, Insolence to a non-commissioned Officer & attempting to desert This Marine is a very Notorious character & was recieved on Sunday last from the U. S. Brig *Argus* in Irons — Punished Thomas Jones Seaman Thirty Six lashes for Drunkenness Insolence to his superior Officer & Neglect of duty — Punished also James Butler seaman with 24 lashes for drunkenness & neglect of duty — From 5 P. M. till midnight we continued standing to the south<sup>d</sup> at which time we tacked to the N. E. by 4 A. M. The Wind had shifted by degrees to the S S E — At 6 A. M. We saw the land bearing from N E b N to E b N The weather being Hazy & the clouds hanging over the land makes our situation doubtful but from the distance ran from Our bearings last night we suppose the land within us to be point Adera & the land E b N to be Cape De Gatte At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 A. M. We out reefs & up Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Yards. After 7 A. M. till 9 A M we had light Breezes with calms & rain — By Intervals after this till noon we had fresh breezes & rain with frequent Squalls from the West<sup>d</sup> — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 A. M. in third reefs in the Topsails & down Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Yards — Surgeons report 18 Sick & 6 convalescents. —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

[17 November 1803]

To Hon. William Eustis, United States Congress, from Secretary of State

The Secretary of State presents his respects to M<sup>r</sup> Eustis, and has the honor to enclose to him a statement of the Naval force of Morocco as far as known.

JAMES MADISON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

17<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803.

[Enclosure]

The following is an account of the Naval Force of Morocco, as far as is known, exclusive of the two frigates captured by the Vessels of War of the United States.

A Ship of 30 Guns and 150 Men.

Two gallies built last year.

Another galley was getting ready at Tatuam in August, and the Governor of Tangier at that date expressed his intention of arming a two masted boat lately seized there under Genoese colours. In the month of September last passports were issued by all the Consuls at Morocco, except the American, for another Frigate which was to proceed to Cadiz, Lisbon or elsewhere to be coppered and repaired.

[NA. SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 14, May 1802–May 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN Nov<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, I have the honor to communicate to you the intelligence contain'd in the following extracts from the letters of M<sup>r</sup> Nissen his Danish Majesty's Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> at Tripoli in Barbary and must request that you will at all times avoid mentioning the source from whence you gain your intelligence as it might have serious consequences and might even tend to place M<sup>r</sup> Nissen's life in Jeopardy, should the Bashaw be inform'd of his friendly interference, this Gentleman has been of great service to the U. States, he is candid sensible & above the mean intrigues of those Consuls, who prefer their own Interest and ease to the honor of their Country As such give me leave to recommend him as the most proper person to be employ'd, should a negociation commence on your arrival off Tripoli —

I am with sentiments of perfect respect Sir Your &amp;c

(Signed) JAMES LEA<sup>r</sup> CATHCART

[For enclosures see documents dated 15 July, 19 and 28 September, 1803.]

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP

novem 18<sup>th</sup> 1803

I am honored with your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> — If you can procure in season 10,000<sup>lb</sup> more of bread at norfolk be pleased to do so otherwise the Vessel must sail with the quantity already supplied — I hope the rice will arrive in time — it is an important article and cannot be procured in the mediterranean but on extravagant terms — Be

pleased to add to the Cargo if they can be stowed away in the vessel the following articles —

Viz —

- 3000<sup>lb</sup> of Butter firkin
- 10,000 “ of Suet
- 8,000 “ of Cheese — good New England
- 1,300 Gallons of Melasses
- 1,300 Gallons of Vinegar
- 50 Boxes of Candles of w<sup>h</sup>
- 20 must be Spermaceti

If the *William & Mary* will not receive the whole of the additional articles but part you will in that case proportion the quantity of each to the whole amount directed to be put on board —

As the owners or crew of the *William and Mary* may in consequence of the late intelligence from the mediterranean entertain fears of her capture by the Moors I deem it proper to inform you, that you may quiet such fears if entertained — that there are now cruising northward & southward of the rock of Gibraltar the following Vessels —

- The *Constitution* 44 Guns
- Brig's *Syren & Argus* 16 — 24 p<sup>d</sup> Caronades
- Sch<sup>r</sup> *Enterprise & Nautilus* 12 Guns each

The frigates *New York* of 36 Guns and *John Adams* of 32 Guns were also in the neighborhood of Gibraltar in September last and it is presumed they would remain there untill their cooperation in the protection of our commerce should have been considered unnecessary —

The frigate *Philadelphia* of 40 Guns and the Schooner *Vixen* of 12 — 18 p<sup>d</sup> Carronades are cruising Eastward to protect our commerce against the Enemy up the mediterranean —

Be pleased to deliver the accompanying letter addressed to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to the Captain of the *William and Mary*

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 18: 1803.

Commodore PREBLE. — Mediterranean.

I have received your dispatches by Commodore Morris. —

The distribution which you have made of the force committed to you, is judicious — your construction of your authority is correct — your orders to your Officers are Soldier-like — in a word Sir, your conduct presages a complete fulfilment of our expectations, & justifies the high confidence reposed in you. — The President has charged me to convey to you his thanks — be pleased also to accept mine. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Charles Pinckney, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain

MADRID 18<sup>th</sup> November 1803.

DEAR SIR, I received yesterday a letter from the french Ambassador at this Court in which he mentioned to me that some Deserters from the french Marine had taken refuge on board the United States frigate, the *Constellation*, & requests, that I would, in compliance with the good understanding which subsists between our two Governments, use my endeavours to have them delivered up to the french Commissary at Cadiz. — In consequence of this request I take the liberty of recommending to you not to suffer any french Sailors to be shipped by the Officers under your command — The present situation of the United States with respect to their Commerce & Flag is so happy & valuable a one, that it can never be prudent in us to risque a dispute with either of the belligerent Powers for the sake of obtaining a few Sailors — We surely have Sailors enough of our own to prevent this necessity — In short, the state of affairs requires that we should be very exact indeed in our conduct, & as the French *have, I am told, given up several American Sailors who had entered their service*, I hope you will enable me to say that we have done the same.

You will let me hear from you on this subject as soon as possible, & I should be obliged to you to write by duplicate, as there is a probability that one of your Letters may miscarry, unless indeed you should happen to be in a Spanish Port at the time you write.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN Nov<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1803.

SIR. I have the honor to inform you that we arrived here on the 12<sup>th</sup> Ins: and on the 14<sup>th</sup> I got pratique, the brig by an accident was quarantined for some days longer. —

Enclosed is the latest intelligence from Tripoli by which you will be inform'd of the whole marine force of that Regency, & that several of their Cruisers are at Derna where they will undoubtedly remain until the Bashaw of Tripoli subdues his brother Hamet, in order to prevent the latter from receiving supplies from Malta, this will take up a considerable time to effect, & it occurs to me that the[y] would fall an easy prey to any of our vessels of war that would attempt the enterprize. — Derna is the easternmost Port or Bay of the Regency of Tripoli, it is defended by a small fortification of 8 or 10 Guns the water is not deep, but sufficiently so for our Schooners when lighten'd for the purpose. —

You will likewise receive copys of two letters from me to Com<sup>o</sup> Morris which will give you my unalterable opinion relative to the manner of negotiating with Tripoli, their is nothing formidable in that Regency but 10 Gun boats & the Bashaws obstinacy; the first must be destroy'd; & the last subdued by force of arms before we will be able to effect any thing, unless government thinks proper to comply with all his demands, which will furnish the other Regencys with pretext to encrease their demands upon us & their will be no end to their exactions depredations & insolence; we had better be at war with all the Barbary States at once than to be treated by them as a subdued nation, which We certainly shall be, if we condescend to comply with

the Bashaw of Tripoli's demands; all Europe as well as Barbary has view'd our conduct in silent expectation, since the war with Tripoli commenced, the former with an intention to follow our example if worthy imitation, & the latter to know how to rank us among the nations of the earth, whether to class us with Great Britain and France the only nations who make themselves respected, or with the northern nations whose miserable pusillanimous aconomy has so far preponderated in their Councils as to induce them in many instances to sacrifice their national dignity merely because it cost's them something less to bribe those Regencys to confer the honor of permitting them to navigate the mediterranean sea, than it would to maintain a Squadron in the Mediterranean: it is true they have an excuse for so doing that we have not: they say the act is by no means consider'd as national, the Chamber of Commerce defraying the expences occasioned by an intercourse with the Barbary States: and say they, if the merchants finds that it is to their advantage to pay those sums for the enjoyment of a trade (by no means secure) in the mediterranean why should we go to a considerable expence to oppose them, when the *King* pays nothing; it is different with us the money comes out of the public treasury and is appropriated by a public act of the legislative body of the nation which makes it the more dishonorable. —

I shall remain here until May, in the mean time if I can be of any use either in procuring Gunboats or accomplishing any thing conducive to the good of the service, I am always ready at a moments warning; I mention Gunboats because I am convinced that with two mortars mounted on the brigs & eight or ten Gunboats that the force under your command is sufficient to reduce Tripoli to ashes & probably to effect a revolution in that Regency favourable to our interests in the whole of the Barbary States, it would at least in the sentiments of the heads of the other Regencys which would insure us more respect in future, as we must at some period adopt energetic measures, the sooner the better as it will be attended with less expence. —

I would thank you to inform me where you will most probably find any communication that I may have in my power to make you, as M<sup>r</sup> Nissen & others communicates intelligence to me with less reserve than they would to a stranger. —

If any thing worth your attention should occur before the departure of the *Siren* it shall be the subject of another communication, wishing you success in all your enterprizes, I remain with the greatest respect. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 18 November 1803

we are now Running to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> with the Barbary Coast in sight/ in order to proceed to algiers/

Latitu<sup>d</sup> ob<sup>d</sup> 36. 56 N<sup>e</sup>

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy,  
commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*

MALTA Nov<sup>r</sup> 19th 1803

SIR, I have the honour to inform, that agreeable to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge's letter of the 1st I left Malta on the 15th with dispatches for you, after having m[any] Calms on the 17th Gozo bearing S. S. E. 39 Miles, I experienced a heavy Blow from the N. W. which compelled me to return to Malta, speaking at the same time a Convoy from Gibraltar to Malta, having in Company a Ship with Provision, by which I received letters for Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge & myself, mine not informing me of your situation, I conceived that the nature of the service rendered it consistant to read of those from you to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge, in order to preclude the possibility of not falling in with you on my way to Gibraltar.

Herewith I take the liberty of enclosing my letter from Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge, with a copy of his to the Secretary of the Navy — I have left one letter in the hands of the Consul of this place from Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge for you — I shall leave this place to day on my way to Gibraltar, keeping the southern shore on board in order to meet with you — which should I not effect, I shall proceed to the before mentioned place, depositing in the hands of M<sup>r</sup> Gavino the letters to be forwarded by the earliest conveyance to America, from whence I shall repair with all possible dispatch to join the Squadron, trusting that you will view my arrangement as consistant as my situation will admit of

P S. Coinceiving it probable that you may wish some communication with the Town of Tripoli; I have directed the Cap<sup>t</sup> of the English Vessel that carries my Letters to that Place, should he be there on your arrival, that on y<sup>r</sup> hoisting an English Jack at the Fore Top Gall<sup>y</sup> Mast head to come out to you

JOHN SMITH

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Kirkpatrick, U. S. Consul,  
Malaga

MALAGA 19 Nov 1803

DEAR SIR, I have the Pleasure to reply to your esteemed Favors 2. 10 & 12 Ult<sup>o</sup> Whereby I learn with much Satisfaction the reestablishment of Peace with the Emperor of Morocco, and ratification of the Treaty made with his Father, This pleasing Intelligence I have communicated to the Citizens of the U. S. that happened to be in the district of this Consulate, and in other respects given it every possible publicity, I consider it a most fortunate circumstance for our Trade and rejoice that you have been the Instrument of rendering such an essential Service to the United States, in conjunction with M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. —

I was extremely mortified the Sickness in this Place rendered it unsafe for you to pay us a visit. I would have been happy in seeing you before you went up the Mediterranean, and having an opportunity of renewing our old acquaintance, I however hope on your return you will give us a Call, Here you can water & procure every thing you stand in need of much better than at Cadiz, or Gibraltar, and it is quite in your way, therefore I hope you will not pass without see-

ing us, Give my best respects to our good Friend Bainbridge who I presume you will meet with off Tripoly. —

Tho Yellow Fever has made very considerable ravages in Town, and tho' it has within these few days somewhat abated and the Physicians are of opinion it will be all over in the course of this Month, still a great number are daily carried off. It is thought above 6000 have died to this day, notwithstanding that more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Inhabitants have retired to the Country, my Family I sent out to my Country House Six Miles from Town on the 4<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> I afterwards used to go in every day Untill the 15 When I found such numbers going off that I determined to Join them, and have not since gone back, M<sup>r</sup> Gruegnée & his Family is also here, having shut up our Counting House, we dispatch what Business offers from hence, We have been fortunate in escaping hitherto, tho' we have lost Two Aunts & an Uncle and many Friends no Symptoms whatever of the Sick-ness have reached this Village tho' at a neighboring One some few have died, so soon as every thing is over, and we can With Safety return, I will again write to you, In the mean while I wish you every possible Success against the Tripolines, and flatter myself you may be fortunate in bringing them to terms of accommodation;

We are under great apprehensions this Country will be soon involved in the War, —

I have a few Lines some Posts back from your Brother Henry, He has deferred his departure to America till this Spring.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

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To Purser James S. Deblois, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Algiers Bay 19<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR In consequence of a representation made to me by the Surgeon of this Ship, that a quantity of fresh Meat and Vegetables are wanted for the use of the sick, and to preserve the health of those that are well. You will, therefore, purchase the following supply for that purpose, or as near the quantity as can be procured.

fifty bushels Potatoes, fifty bushels Onions, four hundred heads Cabbage, one thousand Lemons & Oranges, six dozen Fowls and four bushels Barley.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 19 November 1803

These 24 hours commence with moderate breezes and Clear pleasant Weather the Schooner [*Hazard*] still in Tow, the Ship [*Alexander Hodgdon*] astern with all sail set, set and took in sail as Necessary — Latitude Observed 41° 20' N.

[On 21 November cast off the schooner.]

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 19 November 1803

We continued working into Algier bay till noon at which time we brot to with the Main Topsail to the mast about four Miles from

Cape Coxine — Consul Obrien & Consul Lear with all his baggage & Attendants were landed by the Conveyance of a Shore Boat — On Consul Obrien & Consul Lear leaving the *Constitution* we Saluted them with 7 Guns — On their landing they were Saluted by the Garrison with 5 Guns — We returned the Same number — By Noon the Wind had fell to a calm — The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 18 Sick & 8 convalescents —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

[20 November 1803]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Anthony Terry, U. S. Vice Consul, Cadiz, Spain

CADIZ 28<sup>th</sup> November 1803 —

DEAR SIR On the other side please to find copy of what I had the honor of addressing you on the 21st Ins<sup>t</sup> via Gibraltar.

By orders of M<sup>r</sup> Yznardy I have to inform you that the American Ship *Sally* Capt<sup>n</sup> R. Archer chartered by the United States Gov<sup>t</sup> with Naval Stores for the Regency of Algiers was lost the 20<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> on the sands near the Bar of S<sup>t</sup> Lucar the Vessel is entirely lost. M<sup>r</sup> Yznardy was luckily at his Country House of Rola and used all his activity in trying to save some of the Cargo

I give this information likewise to Mess<sup>rs</sup> OBrien and Lear that they may inform the Dey of this *Novelty* that he may not imagine that the American Government has neglected sending the Naval Stores. My next will give you further intelligence on this important matter

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To his Father from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

ALGIERS Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 1803 — *Eveg.*

SIR — The squadron separated at Gibraltar the *Constitution* & *Nautilus* arriv'd here yesterday the *Argus* — gone with a convoy to Marseilles & Leghorne, *Enterprize* to convoy the store ship to Syracuse.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Nov 24th 1803 Morning. South end of Sardinia in sight.

Spoke the English Frigate *Amazon*: the Capt. informed us that the *Philadelphia* Capt Bainbridge had ran on shore off Tripoly in chase: had been captured, got off & carried into Port.

25th West point of Sicily in sight.

Spoke & Boarded a Tunisian Xebeck of 16 guns out 50 days, & taken a Neapolitan & a Sardinian had the crews on board. *Constitution* under English Colors. —

[H.W.L. Dana Col.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday, 20 November 1803

Light Southerly winds and Pleasant Weather. At 1 P. M. three boats came from the shore for Col<sup>o</sup> Lear, his family and baggage: At 2 P. M. they embarked: M<sup>r</sup> Obrien accompanied them — Saluted them with 7 Guns as they left the ship On their landing Col<sup>o</sup> Lear was saluted by the Algerine Garrison with 5 Guns which I returned.



At 6 P. M. anchored in the Bay in 22 fathoms water muddy bottom — Moderate all night. At 7 A M we hoisted our colors: the Garrison saluted us with 21 Guns which we returned with an Equal number — Our position in the bay appears to be a very good one — The Mole head at the Town bearing W N W about 5 Miles — Cape Coxine N  $\frac{1}{2}$  W seven miles — Cape Matifora E  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. 5 miles, The rivers mouth S S W five miles — White fort in the bottom of the Bay E S E three miles At 10 A. M. I left the ship in the barge to go on shore: At 11 landed under a salute of 5 Guns from the Algerine Marine Battery and was immediately conducted to the General of Marine where I was politely recieved and treated with Coffee and Sherbet: from thence I was conducted to the board of Admiralty and treated in the same way, Visited the City, and the Dey's palace, gardens &c Stables and dined with our consul and at 4 P. M. returned on board — Was saluted with 5 Guns from the Admiralty Battery on leaving the Shore: I did not see the Dey as he was at his Palace in the country [LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Commanding Officer of U. S. Frigate *Adams*, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Nov<sup>r</sup> 21, 1803 —

The *Adams* must be dismantled and the Crew paid off without delay. Be pleased to send up your Purser immediately to receive the necessary monies. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Under sail in ALGIERS BAY

21 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I have the honor to inform you that I arrived and anchored here the 19th Ins<sup>t</sup>, with the *Nautilus* in company; but the wind shifting suddenly from S S W to N W and a prospect of a gale made it prudent to get under Weigh last night and stand out to Sea — I am now stretching into the Bay to receive a present of Bullocks, Sheep, Fouls, and Vegetables provided by order of the Dey to be sent off to us; and shall immediately after make sail for Tripoly — Col: Lear has been favourably rec<sup>d</sup> The Usual Salutes were passed between the *Constitution* and the Garrison on anchoring — I was on Shore yesterday and received under a Salute of Cannon from the Marine Battery; and treated with politeness and attention I believe our Nation Stands as high with this Regency as any of the European Nations, and perhaps higher.

The two Ships the *Betsy Walker*, and the *Old Tom* loaded on account of the United States have both arrived safe— and the Store Ship the *Traveller* loaded with provisions for the Squadron, passed this place the day before yesterday, under convoy of the *Enterprise* for Syracuse — M<sup>r</sup> OBrien thinks it necessary that we should at all times have one of our strongest Frigates full manned at Gibraltar and a Schooner or Brig to prevent either of the Barbary Powers from passing through the Straits to capture our Merch<sup>t</sup> Vessels in case of

any sudden rupture; and I cannot but agree with him that it is necessary, as there is not any dependence to be made on these capricious Tyrants — A force known to be stationary near the Straits will make our peace more secure with them all. I enclose you some remarks of M<sup>r</sup> OBrien's on the Regency of Algiers in his own words —

The Dey is now in the Country at his seat & expected in Town tomorrow but previous to his going out he left orders for Col: Lear to be received by his Prime Minister, and to be acknowledged as Consul. The Col I suppose will give every requisite information to the Secretary of State — It is the custom of all the European Nations to salute their Consuls with 7 Guns on their first visiting and leaving their Ships of War arriving in any of the ports in these Seas — I think we should not respect our Consuls less than other Nations do theirs, as it has an unfavourable effect on the Barbary Powers particularly — I have therefore saluted on such occasions; and I submit to you whether it will not be proper for an order to issue from the Navy Dep<sup>t</sup> to all the Commanders to this effect.

\* \* \* \* \*

[LC. EPP, LB, May-Dec. 1803.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren*, of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 21 November 1803

[At Leghorn] Commences with fresh breezes from the S<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> Hands employ'd on necessary duty. At 3 rec<sup>d</sup> on board 10 casks of water. (At 7. 5 bales & 1 trunk of sundries came on board as presents for the Day of Algiers) Ends with moderate breezes from the S<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup>. Rec<sup>d</sup> 120 lb fresh beef, a quantity of vegetables for the hands, & some bread for the sick. 2 men came on board with an intention to ship as seamen, they being englishmen, prisoners at Leghorn. —

[NDA.]

[22 November 1803]

Impressment of American by H. B. M. S. *Donegal*

CONSULAR OFFICE OF THE U. S. OF

AMERICA AT GIBRALTAR —

On this Twenty Second day of November 1803 Personally appeared in my Consular Office James Norman Comander of the American Brig *Sophia* of Baltimore and after being Solemnly sworn did upon Oath Declare, That he saild from Triest on or about the Twenty second day of October last with a Cargo of sundry Merchandize for Baltimore aforesaid in the U. S. of America, That he proceeded with Variouse Winds & Weather untill Yesterday that he was obliged to enter this Port of Gibraltar, having met with head Winds.

That he Anchord yesterday Evening in this Port when was admitted to Prattick — That imediately after he was boarded by a Boat belonging to His Brit<sup>h</sup> Majestys ship of Warr *Dunegal* Commanded by Sir Richard Straughan, who Pressd John Felt a Citizen Mariner belonging to the said Brig *Sophia*, whose Wages is Demanded by the Commander of said ship of Warr —

Wherefore he the said James Norman hereby Protests against the said wind and weather that obliged his puting into this Port, as well as against the said Sir Richard Straughan for Impressing the said John

Felt, as well as all others whom it doth or may Concern in any ways for all and singular the Damages, Deteriments Losses Detentions and Oother Occurrences in Consequence thereof, already happend or that may hereafter happen, and for remedy and redress in a due course of Law.—

Thus Sworn, Declared and Protested  
before me at Gibraltar the Day and Year  
first within written Witness my hand  
Seal of Office.-----

JAMES NORMAN

JOHN GAVINO

Consul of the U. S. of America —

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796-1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 22 November 1803

These 24 hours commence with strong gales at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Meridian close reef the topsails and launched top Gall<sup>t</sup> masts at 8 P, M, Veered ship to the N. W. At 2 AM more moderate swayed up the T. G. masts at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 made the Island of Gorgona bearing E N E. distance 5 or 6 leagues, got up T. G. yards made sail the ship in sight at 8 AM, Gorgona bore N b W distance 2 or 3 leagues light airs Inclimb<sup>le</sup> to Calm tacked ship Leghorn light house bore E b N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. At 7 brought too with the Starboard Anchor in 6 fathoms Water good bottom found here the U, States Brig *Syren* Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart, the Ship *Alexander Hodgdon* & Schooner *Hazard* our Convoy anchored in Shore of us At Meridian fine pleasant Weather —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 22 November 1803

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 P M. we filld and made sail to the NE. with pleasant Breezes from westw<sup>d</sup>/ Cape Caxine W  $\frac{1}{2}$  S nearly nine miles/ Cape Matifora SEbE  $\frac{1}{2}$  E nearly the same distance/ we continued steering the NE during the night with light Breezes and pleasant weather/  
Latitu<sup>d</sup> ob<sup>d</sup> 37. 33 N<sup>o</sup>

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 23 November 1803

(Moored in Leghorn Roads — ) At 8 AM. Moored ship Starboard Anchor to N W, and larboard anchor S. E.

At 9 hoisted out the barge the Protique boat came off the Captain went on shore being informed by the Protique boat we were put under Quarantine and returned on board at 1 P M bent one of the Starboard Cables to the sheet Anchor and prepared for letting it go.

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 24 November 1803

Spoke the British Frigate *Amazon* and received information of the loss of the *Philadelphia* on the coast of Tripoli.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 24 November 1803

Moderate breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> — We continue our course to the East<sup>d</sup> with the *Nautilus* in company in order to proceed between Sardinia & the Island of Galite — Towards Evening we in studding Sails in order that the *Nautilus* might join company — At Sundown we judged the ship to be nearly 12 or 14 leagues from the S. W. part of Sardinia, but the Horizon was much contracted by a light haze; to the north we could not see the land — We continued Steering to the East<sup>d</sup> during the night with pleasant breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> — We made and shortened Sail as necessary for the *Nautilus* to keep company — A little after day light we saw a sail to the North<sup>d</sup> — We hauled on a wind towards her cleared ship for Action — At 8 A. M. Shortened sail & spoke her — She was his Brittanic Majesty's Ship the *Amazon* who communicated to Commodore Preble the Intelligence of the capture of the U. S. frigate *Philadelphia* — He reported that the *Philadelphia* ran on the Shoals near Tripoli & in succeeding days was got off & towed into Tripoli — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 A. M. We bore up to the East<sup>d</sup> & made Sail — Made the Signal for the *Nautilus* to come within hail — We continued Steering to the East<sup>d</sup> till noon when we observed in 38.15 North — A Haze to the North prevents our seeing land to the north<sup>d</sup> — Latitude by Account & observation agrees We Judge the S. E. part of Sardinia to bear nearly North Ten or Twelve leagues — The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 17 Sick 11 Convalescents & 5 discharged from the Sick list.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta  
Translation

MALTA LA VALETTE

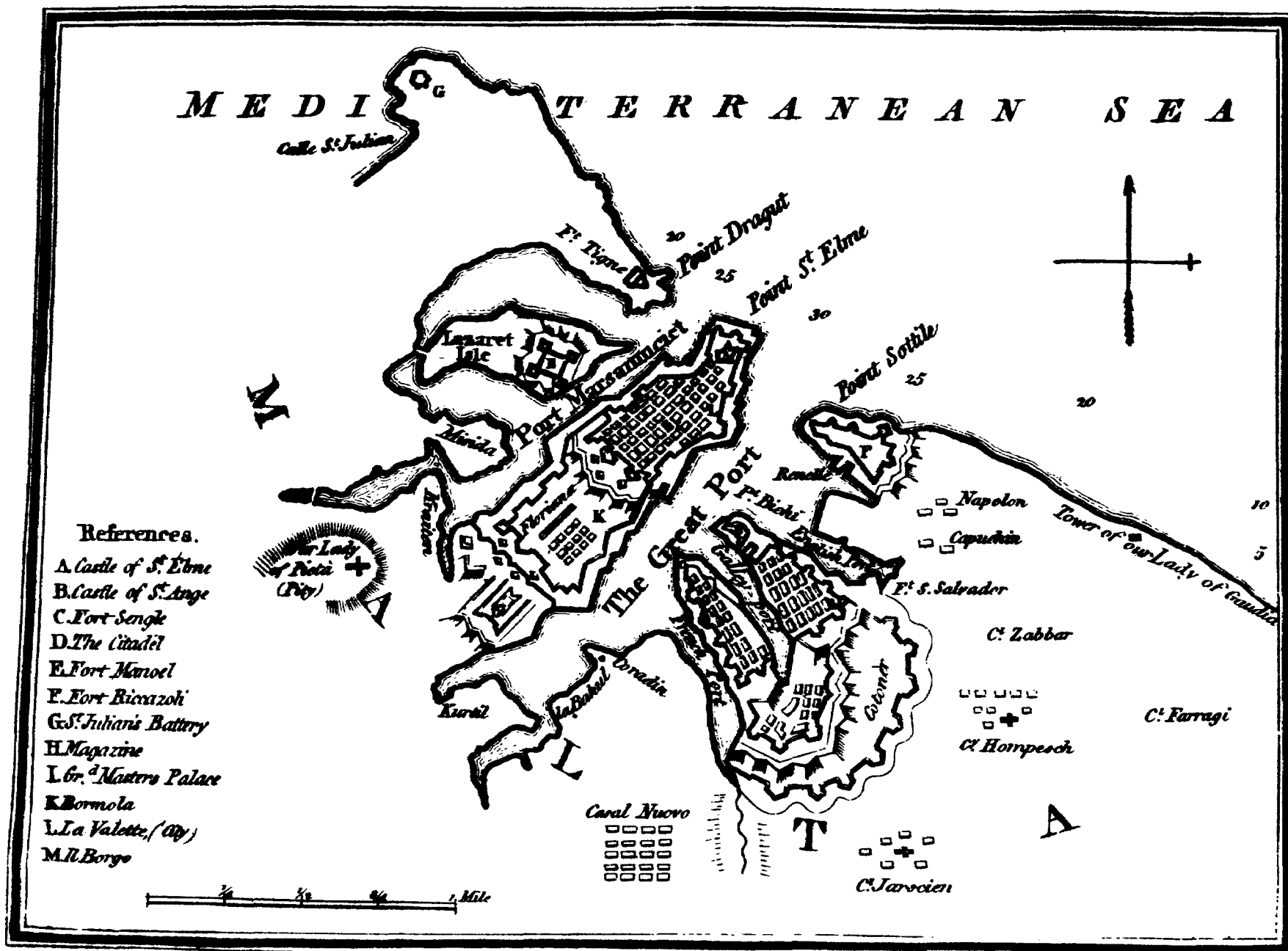
26<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I have the honor of transmitting to you several letters by L<sup>t</sup> Dent, one of which I received from Captain Bainbridge a few days since which will inform you particularly of the misfortune that has happened to him — I have not delayed answering his order for three hundred Spanish Dollars which will save his wants as well as those of his Officers — He has demanded several medicines which I have ordered to be prepared to be sent by the first opportunity that Offers for Tripoly I now give you what information I have in my power — The Bashaw has written to Malta to Conts Gatine Consul for Tripoly to negotiate for the sale of the Frigate *Philadelphia* because he has it not in his power to mann her properly.

The Schooner *Vixen* L<sup>t</sup> Smith left here six days ago for Gibraltar —

The news that I have been able to learn respecting Tripoly are that the Bashaw is fitting out a Schooner built at Tripoly by a Spanish Ship Builder. She will carry 16 Guns — There are three other small Vessels viz One Brig, One Polacre & one Xebec all of which will sail shortly. The Bashaw's brother was was Bey of Derne has fled He has been in Alexandria in Egypt dreading the loss of his head, as his brother the Bashaw of Tripoly had dispatched some Troops by land to seize him — This news was brought by a Vessel which arrived 4 days ago from Tripoly — Eight days since a Vessel arrived here loaded with pro-

# VALETTE.





vision for your Squadron but it is consigned to an English Merchant here M<sup>r</sup> Higgins who is now discharging the provision. This affair surprizes me much as Consul Gavino has not consigned them to me who am the National Consul at Malta wherefore I am obliged to request you will order M<sup>r</sup> Higgins to consign them to me that I may put them all together in the Store where are all the Sails, Cables, &c<sup>s</sup> of the *Philadelphia* and Schooner *Vixen*.

[LC. EPP, LB, May-Dec. 1803.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
at Sea off *Malta Harbour*  
26<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR On your arrival at Malta, you will gain what information you can respecting the affairs of Tripoli, Tunis, and Algiers — Take on board all the provisions you want from the stock on hand belonging to the United States, and sail immediately for Syracuse where you will receive orders for your government you are not to delay one moment of time at Malta but what may be absolutely necessary —

[Similar letter sent to Lieutenant John Smith commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

U. STATES BRIG *Argus*  
*Leghorn* 26 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I beg leave to acquaint you of my arrival here after a passage of nine days from Gibraltar, without any thing occuring worth notice with the ship and schooner under my Convoy.

The morning after our arrival we were visited by the health Officer, and by what I could learn from him our Quarentine would be but short, I likewise went on shore in order to get M<sup>r</sup> Appleton and Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dagen and Purviance, to make what interest they could for our being soon admitted to Prottigue, but the weather being very bad and a hard gale of wind from the westward, it Prevented my hearing from them for four days past, till this evening a boat from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dagen and Purviance came off, and informed me the time of my Quarentine was fixd at eight days,

I immediately sent M<sup>r</sup> Blake on shore to the health officer, to know the reason of our being obliged to perform a longer Quarintine than the *Syren*, she being from the same port and under the same Circumstances, they gave for answer that they did not know when the *Syren* arrived of the fever at Malaga, or she would have been subject to the same Quarentine,

The letters that I had in charge were sent on Shore but they would not receive them, I shall send them on board the ship that came under my Convoy, so that in four or five days they will be forwarded, there are a number of American ships in this port, but none bound to the westward under ten or fifteen days, and perhaps not more than two or three within twenty,

I have heard from Mersailles by an American ship from that port, and find there are no american Vessels there that will be ready for sea under ten or fifteen days, and then but one or two, —

As that is the principal port for commerce and so few Vessels there, and the season being so far advanced which makes it dangerous keeping the north shore, owing to the South west and west winds which blow almost the whole time,

I have determined to make the best of my way to Gibraltar without stoping at any port, unless I am forced in by contrary winds or some accident, and hope the steps I am about to take may meet your approbation,

The *Syren* is here and I believe she sails the first fair wind, the weather has been such that I have not been able to see Captain Stewart, but have been informed that he was ready for sea, —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 26 November 1803

(Moored in Leghorn Roads — ) a boat came off from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dagen & Purviance & informed us our Quarantine was Extended to 8 days sent a boat with an Officer to know the reason as the *Syren* under Similar Circumstances got Protique in 3 days they gave for Answer they had not heard of the fever at Malaga when the *Syren* Arrived At ½ past 3 swayed up lower yards & Top Gallant masts at Sundown the Center of the Island of Elba bore S W b S ½ S people Variously Employed —

[NDA photostat.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 26 November 1803

Fresh breezes from the N N W — We continue the chase to the N N E — We fired 2 Guns — Shortened Sail & Spoke her — She was an Imperial brig from Sousa[?] bound to Marseilles — We immediately bore up & gave chase to a strange sail in shore — We shewed her English colors — In answer the chase hoisted red At ½ past 2 P. M. cleared Ship for action & boarded the chase — An armed ship belonging to the bey of Tunis on a cruize — While we were Examining this vessel the *Nautilus* returned from chase — She reported to the Commodore that her chase was a Spanish man of war brig on a cruize — At ½ past 3 P. M. we bore up to the S E b S with fresh breezes from the North<sup>d</sup> with pleasant Weather — At 5 P. M. we took our departure from the middle of Maritimo bearing by compass north 7 leagues — The Middle of the Island Favognana N E ½ E — 9 Leagues. These two Small Islands are situated four or 5 leagues from the Western part of Sicily — Towards the Evening we double reefed the Topsails in order that the *Nautilus* might keep company — We had strong N N W breezes during the night — Towards the morning we passed a sail on the Starboard Quarter — At 7 A. M. We spoke an Hamburgh Ship bound to Pernso: By 8 A. M. we had run from our departure (Maritimo at 5 P. M.) 120 Miles S E b S by compass — At ¼ past 8 A. M. saw the Island of Gozo which is situated 3 or 4 leagues to the N W of Malta — Our distance ran from our departure perfectly agrees with the land-fall in the Morning which was S S E



by compass nearly 20 miles — By 10 A. M. we were abreast of the N. W. End of the Island of Gozo — We steered along the East Side of this Island with an offing of 4 Miles in order to proceed to Malta — From the N W extreme of the Island of Gozo to the harbor of Malta is nearly 26 miles — This distance we ran along shore with an offing of three or four miles Steering between S E b S & S S E by compass — At Noon the Harbor of Malta bore S S E nearly 4 or 5 Miles — down top gall<sup>t</sup> Yards — The Surgeons report to the Commodore the same as yesterday — [17 Sick & 11 Convalescents]

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 26 November 1803

[At Leghorn] These remarks include 36 hours

At Midnight the breeze veer'd to the Northw<sup>d</sup> still blowing a heavy gale, weather clear & cold. At 1 weigh'd the larboard anchor. at 2 being more moderate, the barge return'd with Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart. got top gall<sup>t</sup> masts on end & sway'd up lower yards, rec<sup>d</sup> by the barge 7 small boxes of money & 1 trunk; intended as presents to the Dey of Algiers. —

Geo. Gillingham a seaman came on board & entered, likewise a boy nam'd Francisco. — At 6 sighted the larboard anchor & lett it go again. — giving about 35 fathoms cable, sent up top gall<sup>t</sup> yards & hove up, the wind hauling west, made sail & beat out of the harbour or bay, with all sail set, left in the Roads the U. S. Brig *Argus* & several American vessels riding quarantine. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 AM took in top gall<sup>t</sup> sails &c. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 reef'd topsails & sent down top gall<sup>t</sup> yards, Hands employ'd stowing anchors &c. At Meridian Gorgina bore N W by W 6 leagues, Cattrera W. by S. Elba W S W. —

Latt: Obs: 43°10' N.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 27 November 1803

(Moored in Leghorn Roads — ) This day begins with light winds at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 AM, unmoored and proceeded to sea the U. S. Brig *Syren* unmoored also and proceeded after us, the wind hauling to the Westward with an Appearance of blowing hard at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 tacked and stood into Anchorage found we outsailed the *Syren* at 8 AM brought too and Moored with the Starboard Anchor S. W and Larboard d<sup>o</sup> N W, Leghorn bearing S E  $\frac{1}{2}$  S, Cape Nero S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E Island of Elba S<sup>e</sup> Center of Cabrera S S W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W, the Consuls boat and a boat with provisions came off on our Anchoring Arrived a french armed brig with a small Genoese Vessel in tow —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 27 November 1803

Arrived off Malta and sent in a boat which brought me a letter from Captain Bainbridge dated Tripoli advising me of the loss of the *Philadelphia*.

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday, 27 November 1803

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past noon sent L<sup>t</sup> Dent in the Jolly boat to Malta for letters and Intelligence; Lay off and on untill 4 P. M. when the Boat returned and brot me off letters from Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge confirming the loss of the *Philadelphia* and informing me of the following Particulars respecting that unfortunate affair Viz<sup>t</sup> The *Philadelphia* fell in with a Tripoline cruiser to the Eastward of Tripoly about 5 leagues on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, the Cruiser being to the S W in shore of the Frigate ran for Tripoly; the Frigate in chase keeping as near the coast as possible: At 11 A. M. she had approached the shore to 7 fathoms water and commenced firing at the Corsair At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 A. M. finding the shot did not reach, and considering it imprudent to venture any nearer the shore, hauled off and gave up the Pursuit — In beating off shore the Frigate ran on a rock about four or five miles from the Town, Threw over most of the Guns, cut away the Foremast, and three Anchors from the Bows to lighten her forward without effect. The Gun boats and Cruizers went from Tripoly and kept a constant fire on the Frigate without her being able to return it with effect as the ship lay over too much; And at 4 P. M. she surrendered to the Tripolines by striking her Colors. The whole of the Officers and crew 307 in number were made Prisoners — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 P. M. wore off Shore and stood to the Northward by the Wind under low sail bound to Syracuse in in Sicily; the wind blew hard all night: At 7 A. M. Cape Passari N N E 6 Leagues — Our run over from Malta N E b E 33 miles — At Noon Cape Passari S W b W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W distance 3 leagues — Lat<sup>s</sup> observed 36° 38' N°

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 27 November 1803

Strong breezes from the N N W — We continued running for the Harbor of Valeta till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 noon, when we were off shore abreast the Harbor of Valeta — The out Mole about 2 cables length — Lieut<sup>t</sup> Dent & a boats crew went on shore — The *Nautilus* was Ordered by the Commodore to keep close in with the Harbor in order to tow off the boat — We continued Standing off & on the Harbor of Valeta till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 P. M. at which time Lieut<sup>t</sup> Dent returned with dispatches for the Commodore which confirm the loss & capture of the U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia* — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 P. M we wore off shore & came to the Wind under close reefed top sails & reefed courses — At 5 P M we took our departure from the N. E point of Malta bearing S W b S  $\frac{1}{4}$  S nearly 10 Miles — The Town of Valeta W S W nearly nine miles — By 6 P. M. the wind had increased to a perfect gale — Handed the Topsails & launched top gall<sup>t</sup> Masts — It blew a Violent gale from the N W b N from 7 in the Evening [to] 3 A. M. We continued standing to the N E during the night under reefed courses & storm staysails till day light at which time it became more moderate — At 5 A M we set close reefed topsails — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 in the Morning we saw Cape Passari which is situated on the S E point of the Island of Sicily bearing N N E nearly 7 leagues — Our distance ran from our departure Valeta perfectly agrees with the land fall in the Morning — Our course corrected from our departure last night till we saw

Cape Passari this morning was N E b E distance 33 miles At 8 in the morning out one reef from the topsails and turned out the reefs of the courses — We split the foresail Bent another — By 11 the weather became moderate with a smooth sea — Swayed up Top Gall<sup>t</sup> mast. & up Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Yards — At Noon fresh breezes from the N N W We are about four leagues from a small town which is situated between Cape Passari & the Harbor of Saragosa or Syracuse — Cape Passari bears S W b W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W nearly 3 leagues —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Daniel Ludlow, Navy Agent, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP

Nov. 28. 1803

Your resignation of the appointment of Navy agent at New York is now accepted — In thus closing your official transactions with this department I beg leave to Offer my acknowledgements for your Services and to express my regret that Circumstances have induced you to resign your appointment

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Henry Rutgers, appointed Navy Agent, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1803 —

Reposing especial confidence in your integrity and zeal for the public interest I have appointed you navy agent to act for and in behalf of this Department —

As a compensation for all your services of every kind you will be allowed a commission of two p<sup>t</sup> cent on all sums of money paid and expended by you on the public account, a commission of 1 p<sup>t</sup> cent on all sums of money received by you for public property sold, and a commission of one half p<sup>t</sup> cent on all sums of money paid by you for the purposes of recruiting paying off a crew and the like Services

Instructions on the subject of accounts and the forms to be observed in keeping them will be sent you by the accountant of the Navy and you will from time to time receive particular instructions from this Department as Circumstances may arise to create them —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 6, 1802-1803.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, Hampton, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Nov<sup>r</sup> 28. 1803 —

When I had last the pleasure of seeing you at this place, you expressed to me your wish to build a gun-boat for the department. I shall be very glad if your avocations will now permit you to undertake it, and I request that you will inform me. If it is convenient, I will, on hearing from you, write you an official letter on the subject. —

I understand that the *New York* has on board the Model or Draught of a gun-boat on the construction of those at Naples. As it may probably afford you some information, I request that on the arrival of that Vessel in the Roads, you will go on board and examine it. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 28 November 1803

at 8 P. M. unmoored got under way and made sail at midnight  
Leghorn light house bore W b N 3 leagues

Latitude Observed  $43^{\circ} 23' N$ .

Longitude Observed  $9^{\circ} 53' W$ .

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 28 November 1803

Arrived and anchd. at Syracuse.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 28 November 1803

Moderate Breezes & pleasant weather — Winds Variable between N N E & E N E — We are now working to the North<sup>d</sup> along the East Side of Sicily between Cape Passari & Saragosa with an offing of 5 or 6 miles from the shore We sounded with this offing several times 60 fath<sup>s</sup> no bottom — At 3 P. M. joined company the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, Lieut<sup>l</sup> Decatur, who waited on Commodore Preble — The *Enterprize* parted company from the *Constitution* on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month with a convoy from Gibraltar to Saragosa — M<sup>r</sup> [Seth Cartee] the Sailing Master of the *Enterprize* came on board the *Constitution* in order to assist in piloting the ship into Saragosa — At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 3 P. M we passed an English convoy of sixteen sail from Saragosa bound to Malta. From 4 P. M. till 6 P. M. we had a favorable breeze from the West<sup>d</sup> We ran along the coast till the light house which makes the Starboard entrance to the Port or Harbor of Saragosa bore W N W. Six or Seven miles We then shortened sail by double reefing the Topsails & handing top Gall<sup>l</sup> sails At 8 in the Evening the harbor of Saragosa bore west by compass distance 5 miles — We continued working towards the Harbor till 10 P. M at which time it was two or three miles off — We then up courses & bro't to with the main Topsail to the mast: as the wind was off shore our fore reaching was to the N N E which was nearly parallel to the shore — We continued in this situation till day light when we tacked in shore & made sail for the harbor which bore W S W nearly nine or ten miles — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  pas 8 in the morning we hauled round the Outer point which makes the North Entrance — We pass round this outer North point about one cables length from the shore — Our sounding was from 8 to 5 fathoms — We worked into the Harbor under Easy sail — The Entrance is about four cables length wide — Our soundings were from 9 to 16 fathoms soft Bottom — At 10 in the Forenoon we came to with the small bower in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms sticky bottom in the port or harbor of Saragosa which is situated on the East Side of the Island of Sicily — The Entrance to this Harbor offers no danger — It is well fortified to the North with a strong fort — Our situation now is half a mile from the West Side of the Harbor and about 3 cables length from the Town which is to the N E — The Two extremes which make the outer entrance to this harbor bears S E  $\frac{1}{2}$  S — One half mile between those two bearing to the East<sup>d</sup> this Port is open to the Sea — It is land locked from every Wind except the four abovementioned points We found here the *Nautilus* & *Enterprize*

from whom we parted company last evening — At noon moderate breezes from the N E.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 29 November 1803

This 24 hours commence with moderate breezes and fine pleasant Weather Eastern<sup>1</sup> brig in sight appears to be standing for us. at ½ past 1 she hoisted english Colours at 2 Spoke her, she proved to be his britannic Majestys Brig *Childers* at 4 P M being a beam of the other brig Exchanged Signals & found her to be the *Syren* At 8 moderate and clear the *Syren* on our Weather Quarter at 10 saw the land and a strange sail under our lee bow at 12 Veered to the N, W, and spoke the *Syren* 5 strange sail in sight. find we easily outsail the *Syren* saw 2 strange sail on our lee Quarter at day light one of them hoist English Colours and fire a Gun they appear to be a 74 Gun Ship and frigate & in Chace of us at 7 hoisted our Colours and the *Syren* made Signals —

Latitude Observed 43° 29' N.

Longitude Observed 8° 19' W.

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 29 November 1803

[Syracuse] Landed and waited on the Governor who recieved me politely and offered me the use of Magazines Gratis to deposite any provisions and stores for the Squadron and expressed himself desirous that we should make this harbor our rendezvous as it would be the means of protecting the coast from the depredations of the Barbary Cruizers — returned on board in the Evening. At 8 A. M. Ordered several men punished for breach of trust and Drunkenness. At 10 A. M. Saluted the Garrison, which was returned by an Equal number of Guns — Was visited by the Nobility and Gentlemen of the Place with offers of their friendship and services. Surgeons report 18 Sick & 10 Con<sup>v<sup>se</sup>t</sup>

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 29 November 1803

Moderate Breezes & pleasant Weather — We continue at single Anchor at Saragosa [Syracuse] with the U. S. States Schooner *Enterprize* and *Nautilus* in company — On our anchoring here we found the Ship *Traveller* employed as a store ship from Gibraltar to this port — The cable which was condemned some time ago in Cadiz was coiled down under the small bower We roused up the small bower cable & bent the best end as a best bower — We made the necessary arrangements for bending a new fore & main top sail — Lieut<sup>1</sup> Sommers of the *Nautilus* waited on Commodore Preble — Towards the evening we ran out a kedge to the West<sup>4</sup> in order to steady the ship from her anchor — At 8 in the evening mustered the Starboard watch — At 9 P. M. the wind shifted from N N E to N W We had pleasant weather during the Night. The Ships company employed setting up the rigging fore & aft — Punished Mark Clark Seaman with three dozen for drunk-

eness, Neglect of duty & stealing rum from the ships stores — Punished John Smith, John C. Smith, John Shaw & Mathew Brophy for drunkenness & stealing rum from the ships stores — At 9 A. M. we saluted with 17 Guns — An Equal number was returned from the fort The carpenters and sail makers employed in their different departments — Several of the Officers had liberty on shore — We loosed the fore & main Topsails to dry as they are ordered to be unbent — The Ship is surrounded with bum boats but the duty of the Ship will not permit them alongside — They offer nothing for sale but fruit — The surgeons report is the same as Yesterday 18 Sick & 10 convalescents — At Noon moderate breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> — .

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 30 November 1803

[At Syracuse] Mr. [Purser James S.] Deblois died.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 30 November 1803

Moderate Breezes & clear Weather — We continue in Saragosa with the *Nautilus* & *Enterprize* in company Unbent the foresail — The Ships company employed overhauling the rigging — Reeved new reef Tackle The old ones being unserviceable — The Comodore ordered Vegetables for the ship's company — they are plenty in this port & very cheap — Towards the Evening the weather to the East<sup>d</sup> had the appearance of a gale — The Top Gall<sup>t</sup> yards were sent down — The weather however continued moderate & pleasant during the night — We this day supplied the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus* with 18 fathoms of cable Junk (22 Inch) supposed 18 C<sup>wt</sup> — At 8 in the morning departed this life M<sup>r</sup> James S Dublois Purser. — His burial took place this forenoon in one of the Ancient burial places a little out of the town — The funeral procession was composed of the officers belonging to the Ship — At 9 A. M. We had strong breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> — Veered away on the small bower to half a cable — By 11 A. M. it blew nearly a gale — Let go the best bower underfoot in order to have the ships decks convenient & cleared as much as possible of Lumber — The Comodore ordered a number of the spars to be landed — They are ordered under cover in a place of safety. — We rafted the spars but it blows too fresh to send them ashore — The ship's company this day had a large had a large portion of Vegetables served out Extra — At noon strong breezes from the N W b W. —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbour 1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1805 [1803?]

SIR The articles you have requested to be supplied the *Enterprize* are ready to be delivered to the proper Officers, as soon as they apply to receive them And I request you to have the *Enterprize* ready for Sea, as early as possible for a Cruize, —

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbour 1<sup>st</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR Your men on shore for the purpose of fitting your Rigging, were this Afternoon most of them drunk, — This must undoubtedly have happened in consequence of the negligence of the Officers in charge of them, I request you to make the necessary enquiry respecting this Neglect on their part, as I shall most certainly take notice of it, — One of your men is in Irons on board this ship. For impertinence to me, —

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 1 December 1803

Strong breezes & cloudy weather — The Ships company employed stowing the booms & cleaning between decks — By 3 the weather became more moderate — We sent a boat to tow the spars on shore, which were rafted in the forenoon In the forenoon we sent into the Tops the Topsails & bent the rigging & got All in readiness for bringing them to the yards — We did not bend them in consequence of the wind being fresh — We fitted new fore tacks, The old ones being unfit for winter service — Lieutenants Somers & Decatur waited on Commodore Preble — Commodore Preble waited on the Governor in order to make the necessary arrangements for landing the stores from the American Ship *Traveller* — M<sup>r</sup> Morris, Chaplain, is appointed purser in the room of M<sup>r</sup> Dublois deceased — M<sup>r</sup> Gadsden a Midshipman is sent to the Sick quarters at Saragosa — This afternoon arrived at this Port the *Egolize* an English Privateer from Gibraltar — Through the night fresh breezes & clear weather — At ½ past 7 A.M. weighed the Cadge Anchor — At 9 bent a new foresail — Most of the People employed getting Water Casks out of the hold to send ashore — At 10 in the forenoon we rafted 13 butts in order to send them ashore; but the North wind blew too strong to tow them — Towards noon we hoisted them in on deck — Part of the ships company employed in getting a number of stores to hand which are ordered to be landed at this place for safe keeping — The Commodore went on shore in order to make the necessary arrangements for landing the stores and provisions from the *Traveller* Store Ship — The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 17 Sick & 7 Convalescents — At noon strong breezes from the North<sup>d</sup> Veered away to half a Cable on the best bower in order to ride by the two bowers

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To Secretary of State from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

Duplicate. N<sup>o</sup> 3.

ALGIERS, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1803.

SIR, I had the honor of writing to you on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October from Gibraltar, by the U. States Ship *New York*, in which I informed you that I expected to sail in a few days for this place; but on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Commodore Preble sailed in the *Constitution* for Cadiz, to get a cable and sundry Articles of which he stood in need, and which could not be procured at Gibraltar. — He expected to return in a few days;

but contrary winds detained him until the 6<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> when he came back to Gibraltar, where he was detained 'till the 13<sup>th</sup> when we sailed, in company with the U. S. Schooner *Nautulus*, and the Brig *Argus*, which was to take a convoy to Leghorn, and return again to the Straits, which will be her station for the winter. —

On the 18<sup>th</sup> we entered the Bay of Algiers, when M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien came off, and as the wind was too light to permit of the Ship's getting to the anchoring birth, he remained on board all night. And the next day, about noon, I went on shore with him, and was received, on my landing, with the usual friendly salute of seven Guns. — The Dey being at his Country House, and not expected in the City 'till Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, I could not have an Audience 'till that time; but he sent to inform me that he should receive me with much pleasure. — On the 20<sup>th</sup> the Commodore came on shore, (the Ship having been saluted with 21 Guns on her anchoring) and returned on board in the afternoon, after having made arrangements for sundry articles of fresh provision &c &c which he might want, over and above the customary present which had been sent on board. — On the 21<sup>st</sup> he got everything he wished; and sailed, with the *Nautulus*, for Tripoli. —

I was much disappointed in not finding here the U. States Brig *Syren*, which left Gibraltar on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October for Leghorn, to bring over the Consular Present which M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart had provided at that place: And as the Dey had been informed of my having been at Gibraltar some time since, and was daily expecting me, with the Consular present, he would be highly disappointed at not receiving it with me, and might make some difficulty in receiving me, on that account, especially too, as all the annuities had not arrived, and had been so long promised. —

As he had been favourable impressed towards me, and appeared to be very friendly disposed towards us at present, I thought it would be highly impolitic to do anything which might give a different aspect to our Affairs; and therefore determined to make an arrangement for the present here, if those from Leghorn should not arrive in time. I found that the House of Bocris & Busnach were always provided with those articles which it was customary to give on such occasions; and upon a full communication with M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien and others, on the subject, it was strongly urged that our affairs would be placed upon a much better footing to take the Presents from them, and to use their influence therewith, with the Dey (which seems to be great) if it sh<sup>d</sup> be necessary to continue his patience for the Balance of the Annuities, and as the Articles from Leghorn would always sell here, if necessary, for their cost there. — I accordingly Agreed with them, that they should furnish the present, to the entire satisfaction of the Dey & Regency, for twenty thousand dollars; and that they should undertake fully to satisfy him for any deficiency in the annuities which were due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, at the rate of thirty thousand dollars per year, in Cash, for what might be wanting. — After some negotiation I effected this: And on Thursday Morning the Dey sent to inform me he was ready to receive me. I went to the Palace about 9 O'clock, with M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien and the Drogerman &c &c — The Dey received me with great apparent satisfaction, and had the President's letter interpreted to him, with which he seemed much pleased. He expressed strong friendship for our Nation, and paid me many compliments, saying he should depend upon me to hold the balance fairly between



him and my Country according to our Treaty — That he liked a Consul with a clean face, and that I might always be assured of his protection, and of everything his Country afforded. He also expressed his satisfaction with the conduct of my predecessor since he had been here. — The audience lasted about half an hour. — At eleven o'clock we returned to the Palace with the presents for the Dey, carried in form. — He examined them with much attention, seemed highly pleased, and expressed his happiness in being on good terms with the United States. —

In the afternoon I went to visit the heads of Departments at their several Houses, in the following order — The Prime Minister — The Aga, or General of the Turks. — The Hogia de Cavallor, or General of the Horse — and the Vickelhedge, or Minister of Marine. — To each of these a present was carried, as is customary. — They all appeared highly pleased, paid me many compliments and repeated, again and again, the pleasure they should take in shewing their friendship to the U. States, and their readiness to render me any service. —

The following day was spent in sending the presents to the inferior Officers; none of whom were visited by me in form, as it is not customary for Consuls to pay particular attention to any but the high Officers. —

On the 27<sup>th</sup> I went, with M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien, to the Minister of Marine, and informed him of our intention to change our Mediterranean Passports, and shewed him one of the new Passports; at the same time informing him, agreeably to my instructions, of the time which w<sup>d</sup> elapse before the new one sh<sup>d</sup> be alone in use; and in the mean time, that either the old or the new should be considered as sufficient; — but instead of nineteen months being allowed for the full exchange, I mentioned two years, (consisting of twelve lunar months each) in order to give ample time for the exchange to be made by all American Vessels. — This time was readily acceded to, and the business being fully explained, the minister expressed his full satisfaction, with assurances that it sh<sup>d</sup> be particularly observed. — As this is a business entirely in the marine Department, the communication was properly made here. — I wished to have made it in writing; but M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien and the other Consuls assured me it was never done. — This formal communication, in presence of the Drogerman, being all that is required, and that notes are made of it in the Department. —

On the 28<sup>th</sup> I sent, by the Drogerman, a formal message, announcing the Blockade of Tripoli, agreeably to the Official information thereof, given me by Commodore Preble.

The nine Cruizers which sailed from this Port on the 3<sup>d</sup> of October, on a cruize on the Coast of Naples & Sicily, returned into Port yesterday, bringing about 150 Captives whom they had taken from the land, and out of small coasting craft. — They brought no prizes in with them. — They consist of one frigate of 44 Guns, built here — another of the same force, taken by the former, some time since, from the Portuguese — the *Crescent*, built in the U. States — three Xebecks from 20 to 30 Guns — the Brig & two Schooners built in the U. States. —

The Biennial Present had been made by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, before my arrival, out of the 30,000 dollars in his hands. — This amounted to 16,000 doll<sup>s</sup>. 4000 more he says he has taken to his own account and for Consular Expences — and 10,000 is to be paid to the Jews on account of the Consular Present &<sup>c</sup> —

I paid to the Dey, at the time I gave him the Consular present, six thousand eight hundred dollars, for the Ransom of Capt<sup>n</sup> [Andrew] Morris & crew. — The Debt of fifteen thousand & seventy five dollars, due to the Jews, is to be paid when I pay them for the Consular present, which will be done as soon as they furnish their accounts.

M<sup>r</sup> OBrien yesterday received a letter from D<sup>r</sup> Davis, at Tunis, a copy of which is enclosed. — I shall write to D<sup>r</sup> Davis to take care of our Affairs at Tunis until I see him in the Spring, and in the mean time to keep me fully informed of every thing which relates to us in that quarter.

As I have been here so short a time, you will not, of course, expect I can go into any detail of our affairs from my own knowledge. — Every thing *appears* at present very favourable to us; and I think it justice to M<sup>r</sup> OBrien to say that he seems to have conducted our affairs with great adroitness, to keep the Dey in good humour, when we have been so tardy in our annuities; and must add that he appears to be very willing and able to give me full information on every point. — I must here express my astonishment to find, that even if the other Ship should arrive with the Timber &<sup>c</sup> we shall be so far from being in advance to the Regency, that there will be a very considerable sum due to make up the deficiency to the 5<sup>th</sup> of September last. — The first Ship which arrived brought a Cargo for the U. States amounting only to about 11,000 dollars — and the Second (The *Old Tom*, by which this letter goes) brought but 3000 dollars. — The Ship expected will not probably, from her size, have more than the last; in which case we shall still be in debt more than one year for the Annuities. — How this has happened I cannot tell; but it is certainly very unfortunate; and I fear very much for the Ship expected (The *Sally*, Capt<sup>n</sup> Archer) as Capt<sup>n</sup> Cornick of the *Old Tom*, now here, says she had put back to Norfolk, with the loss of her foremast, — was repaired, and expected to sail from thence the day after he came out; — and that she was so old and so bad a ship that no person in Norfolk would insure upon her. — Should we fall so much behind hand as I expect, and the Dey insist upon an immediate payment of the balance, I shall be drained of all my money, and have no resources for our business at Tripoli or Tunis, should any arrangement take place with the former; but I cannot help entertaining a hope, from my knowledge of Commodore Preble, and from some other circumstances, that we shall lower the haughty tone of that Regency. —

I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter from Commodore Preble, and his answer, on the subject of my going to Tripoli in the Spring. —

From the little I have had an opportunity of learning and observing here, I should not apprehend much difficulty in keeping fair with this Regency, provided we are *punctual* in complying with the stipulations in our Treaty, and proper measures are taken by the Consul here to keep on good terms with the leading men; but unless such punctuality is observed, and the Consul has the power or means to meet any sudden or unforeseen storm, I presume we shall always be in danger

of a Rupture, and the situation of a public Agent here very precarious and unpleasant. — I shall not fail to keep in view the several points mentioned in my instructions, and push them, as I may find fair & favourable opportunities.

The English Consul, M<sup>r</sup> Falcon, who was sent from hence last summer, by the Dey, left Gibraltar some time before I sailed from thence, to go to Lord Nelson, off Toulon, who, it was said, was ordered to see him restored to his Post; but they seem to laugh at the idea here of his being forced upon them.

At the close of the present month, I shall make up my accounts and forward them to you, when I hope to be able to give you a more minute detail of our affairs in this quarter.

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801–Dec. 1803.]

[2 December 1803]

Certificate given to Captain John Cornick, by Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

Copy of a Certificate give to Cap<sup>t</sup> John Cornick December second, eighteen hundred & three. —

Be it known to all whom it may concern, that this Second day of December 1803, personally appeared before me Tobias Lear, Consul General of the United S. of America at Algiers, John Cornick, Master of the American Ship *Old Tom*, now laying in the Harbour of Algiers, who declared, that, four of the crew belonging to said ship had left her in this place, and that no other Seamen could be obtained here to supply their place, and that the said ship is now navigated by eleven persons, including the Captain. —

Given under my hand and Seal of Office at Algiers this Second day of December 1803. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Monsieur Dubois Thainville, Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General of the French Republic, Algiers, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS 2<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803. —

CITIZEN COMMISSARY GENERAL,

I have received the letter which you did me the honor to write on the 9<sup>th</sup> fremaire, enclosing a certificate for Capt. Cornick of the American Ship *Old Tom*, and two letters, one for the Charge d'affairs of the French Republic at George Town, and one for the Commissary at Norfolk. —

The certificate has been delivered to Cap<sup>t</sup> Cornick, and the letters committed to his charge. —

As soon as the *Old Tom* shall have sailed, and some affairs dispatched by me, w<sup>h</sup> require my immediate attention, I shall have the honor to pay my personal respects to you. As a man of business, I am persuaded you will impute my not having paid my respects to you before, to the pressure of affairs on my first arrival, and not to a want of that respect and Esteem which I feel for you.

In the mean time I pray you, Citizen Commissary General to accept the assurances of high consideration and regard with which I have the honor to salute you.

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP<sup>t</sup>

Decem<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1803

I am honored with your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> — The rates of Insurance upon the cargo of the *William and Mary* are much too high — They are I presume founded upon the belief of our being in a state of Warfare with the Emperor of Morocco — This however is not the case Commodore Rodgers has just arrived in the *New York* with the intelligence that peace is made and that our ships will experience no molestation from the Cruisers of that power — In consequence of this information the high rates of insurance to the mediterranean must fall —

Insurance I have no doubt can be effected in Baltimore at much lower rates than these you have given me —

If you find that you cannot make the insurance upon the peace premiums at Norfolk you will be pleased to write to Col. Stricker and request him to insure the Cargo of the *William and Mary* in Baltimore

Agreeably to your letter of Requisition I have this day directed you a remittance of \$4,500 under the following appropriations

Provisions 4421.52

Contingent — 78.48

4500 —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803–1805.]

To Sir Thomas Trigge, Lieutenant Governor of Gibraltar, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS December 3<sup>d</sup> 1803. —

I take the liberty of informing your Excellency, that this morning the Dey sent in great haste for M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, my predecessor, and myself to the Palace. — When we went there we found him in a great rage, threatening to put to death some of the Captains of his Cruisers which had lately been out, for having taken a Vessel from Malta, which was under the protection of the British, and had Sir, Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball's passport, and carried her into Tunis, where she had been sold. — He said he had sent for us to give us an evidence of his justice towards the British — that, altho' he had sent the Consul out of the Country last summer, it was an act of mercy on his part, as he had so far violated their laws that he would not have been safe from the outrages of the people &c — that notwithstanding this, he considered himself bound by his Treaty with the King of England, whose friendship he most highly valued — and that he was very desirous of having a new Consul sent to renew & confirm his friendship &c — that i the (the Dey) should permit the former Consul to return he would not be safe from the violence of the Moors. — He requested M<sup>r</sup> OBrien & myself to write to your Excellency, or any other of the British Governors or Commanders who would be most likely to let his disposition towards the British Nation be known to the Government. — At the intercession of the Ministers &c — the Captains were saved, but were all dismissed from the Dey's service. — If any good should result from a communication of this disposition on the part of the Dey (let it proceed from what course it may) I shall feel peculiarly happy in having been the organ of it. — In

any event I shall be gratified in having so good an opportunity of expressing the sence which I have of the polite and friendly attention which M<sup>rs</sup> Lear & myself recd. from your Excellency & Lady Trigge while we were at Gibraltar, and to offer my best services if they can at any time be made useful to Your Excellency. —

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear is in good health and much pleased with the appearance of the Country. She tenders her best respects to Lady Trigge, to which I beg leave to join mine. —

NB. First by Ship *Old Tom*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Cornick

Second by Spanish Courier via Alicant

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 3 December 1803

Strong gales & cloudy weather — We continue at Anchor in Saragosa [Syracuse] — The Ships company employed as necessary — As M<sup>r</sup> Morris the late Chaplain is appointed Purser it is necessary that there should be a chaplain and the Commodore has accordingly ordered M<sup>r</sup> Peter Leonard to that duty —

[LC. EPP, *Log Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy

U. S. SCHOONER *Enterprise*  
*Syracuse harbour Dec<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR, The disagreeable task of stateing the extreme impropriety of M<sup>r</sup> Boyd a midshipman under my command is imposed on me —

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month, M<sup>r</sup> Boyd having permission to go on shore, went where he became inebriated, & while in this state maltreated several of the inhabitants; Lieu<sup>t</sup> Thorn (who was present) told him his conduct was extremely improper & ordered him on board; he replied to Lieut. [about two lines of MS mutilated] he would comply with, but continued his abuse to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Thorn — Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lawrence then took him by the arm for the purpose of carrying him to the boat when M<sup>r</sup> Boyd collered him & at the same time drew his his dirk, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lawrence disarmed him & again ordered him to the boat —

The conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Boyd was represented to me by M<sup>r</sup> Lawrence, M<sup>r</sup> Thorn, & one of the inhabitants who was treated ill, precisely as I have stated it to you, In consequence of which I arrested him, a copy of his arrest & charges I inclose you. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

To whom not indicated, presumably from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

[U. S. FRIGATE] *Constitution* 44  
*SYRACUSE December 4th 1803*

DEAR SIR, A second time you see. I have the pleasure of addressing you from Syracuse where we arrived after going off Malta & sending a Boat in to Port in order to ascertain the truth of the report respecting the *Philadelphia*, which alas is but too true. \* \* \*

10th December. *Vixen* Lt Smith arrived, having been out 19 days & prevented from getting to the westward of Sardinia, by the Westerly

Gales has been into Cagliari to wait a fair wind: at length weared with the length of the gale & supposing the Com<sup>re</sup> must have passed Eastward he bore up for Malta thence to this place. \* \* \*

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

To Midshipman Christopher Gadsden, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution Syracuse Harbor.*

*Decem<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR Agreeable to your request you are Permitted to return home for the recovery of your health. —

You will be charged with two Setts of dispatches for the Navy department which you will keep with you, and deliver yourself at the Navy Office or forward by Mail immediately on your arrival. You have also a packet for M<sup>r</sup> Yznardi which you will deliver to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to be forwarded to Cadiz by the first mail; and one for M<sup>r</sup> Gavino which you will also deliver to him — I wish you a speedy restoration of health and it will afford me pleasure to see you return to Service with Promotion.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*U. S. SHIP Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 4 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR On your arrival here, you will immediately prepare the *Vixen* for a cruise. Make your requisitions for such provisions as belong to the United States on M<sup>r</sup> George Marcellin; and let your purser purchase such as he cannot supply you with, and remain in port untill further orders.

[Similar letter sent to Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Midshipman Walter Boyd, U. S. Navy

*U. S. SCHOONER Enterprize*

*Syracuse Harbour Dec<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR It is with the utmost regret that I am under the necessity of addressing to you a letter on so disagreeable a subject, as my late misconduct on shore; confiding however to your mercy I hazard to make the request of obtaining your pardon. My superior officers whom I must confess I shamefully offended have granted me their forgiveness, and agreeably to the information of Captain Decatur, it rests entirely with you to extricate me from the evils arising from my folly. —

Give me leave Sir to assure you, that I will not only avoid to deserve your displeasure or that of my superiors in future but the sole aim of my conduct shall be to convince you of the most sincere gratitude. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803–1804.]

To Commanding Officer, of U. S. Frigate *New York*, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Dec<sup>r</sup> 5, 1803 —

The *New York* must be paid off without delay. Be pleased to send up your Purser immediately to receive the necessary monies. —

Same to Commanding Officer of the *John Adams*. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 5<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I had the honor of writing you on the 15<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> giving a Cypher, which would enable us to correspond without any danger of our private communications benefitting this Govern<sup>t</sup>, in case of detection. For fear that said Cypher may miscarry, I now send you another on the same plan, but alphabetically varied. Your letters which does not contain any private matter, had best be directed to the care of the British Consul, and those of a private nature, you had better get the Danish Consul at Malta, to enclose to his colleague in this place.

The greater part of our crew consists of English subjects, not naturalized in America; Suppose Lord Nelson was to claim them, and to enforce his demand, would it not be policy in the United States, to accede to such a measure? Interest, and Humanity, would (in my opinion) sanction an acquiescence.

This day, two Gallies returned from a cruise, and brought in 13 Sardinian, and 3 Sicilian persons. The Marine force of this Regency (as near as I can learn, being confined to the house, prevents giving accurate information,) consists of one Polacre Ship, 1 New Brig proper rigged 14 Guns, — 1 Schooner ready for launching, very tant Masts, 10 Guns. — 5 Gallies latteen Sails; 4 & 6 Guns 50 to 60 Men — 12 Gun Boats, two of which, are small, the others carry heavy Metal, all in port, and 1 Xebeck at Derne.

The unfortunate Frigate lies moored in the Harbour, with all her Guns. They took them up from off the rocks in the depth of 12 & 14 feet Water. I think it very practicable with six or Eight good Boats well manned, and determined Officers to destroy her, and their Cruisers, particularly if the thing was attempted without giving them much warning; for all their Gun Boats at present, are hauled up on Shore, and I am told, that there is only a four Gun Battery badly mounted, that points towards the Harbour, which could be easily silenced, after getting possession of the Ship. Powder and Shot should be brought in one of the Boats, to supply the Guns on board the Frigate. By chartering a Merchant Vessel, and sending her into the Harbour, with the men secreted and steering directly on board the Frigate, it might be effected without any or a trifling loss. It would not be possible to carry the Frigate out, owing to the difficulty of the Channel. I beg that you will not consider me too officious, in giving my ideas on a conjectural practicability.

The Harbour of Tripoly is fortified by nature; they have a number of Guns on their Battery, pointing to the Southw<sup>d</sup> which will prevent Frigates acting effectually on the Town. A blockade has, and ever will be found a wrong system to pursue, with this Regency; it is only hazarding a great risque (as I have fatally experienced) without the

least effect, except the Interest of a few Jewish Merchants. The Country abounds with plenty, and every superfluous supply can readily be got from Tunis by Land. The situation of their Harbour, and coast is such, that their small cruisers which are the most dangerous, can always go to Sea, and return into port in spite of the most vigilant cruisers stationed off here. The passage between Cape Bon and Sicily is an important place to guard; and our small Vessels to cruise on the coast of Italy, Spain, and Sardinia, would probably detect their Cruisers, which endangers our Trade and which in general should have convoy given it. This System I verily believe, to be the best to pursue; had it fortunately been the case, I should not now regret the loss of my services to my Country.

Whatever measures my Commodore you may pursue, patriotism to my Country, and sincere friendship to yourself, will cause me to offer my fervent prayers for their success. I know they will be actuated by the purest motives, and dictated by a comprehensive mind. Would to God! I was this moment under its influence.

I hope that you and Col. Lear, will feel yourselves justified to ask the demands of the Bashaw immediately, so that we may be able to form some opinion of the probability of our Government complying with them. France would be found a good mediator, but not to be negotiated thro' their Consul.

(Signed) W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE

[The original of this letter includes the cypher of Captain Bainbridge.]

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

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To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from  
Captain John Hall, U. S. Marine Corps

SYRACUSE 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR I now enclose you Cloathing Return for the Month of Nov<sup>r</sup> with the signatures of each Man, as also general return of Cloathing Issued since my arrival in the Mediterranean, in which you will see my want of Cloathing, there are none that I can hear of either at Gibraltar or Malta — I am sorry to inform you that the *Philadelphia* is now a Prize in Tripoli & the whole of her Crew made Prisoners, three hundred & seven in number the Officers are closely confined in the French Consuls House & the Men put to hard Labour, & their daily allowance is eight oz: of Bread & a little bad Oil —

Serg<sup>t</sup> Hill is now in Irons on board the Schooner *Nautalus* for Insolence to Lt Decator the Com<sup>d<sup>r</sup></sup> has promised to get him on board this Ship if possible, but fear he must undergo a Court Martial, I think he is treated ill, but cannot say positively untill I hear both sides of the question the other Detachments are well & in good order. I have the honor to be —

[MCA. LR, 1803.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 7 December 1803

[Syracuse] Moderate. Landed provisions from the Store Ship: The Magazines where we deposit the Provisions and Stores and the Arsenal where our Spars, boats &<sup>o</sup> are lodged are very convenient and supplied me by the Governor free of expence — A. M. commenced watering — a party discharging the store ship — The *Enterprize* and



*Nautilus* nearly ready for sea; the *Enterprize* has been new rigged since her arrival here and they have both been compleatly fitted for winter cruizing — Punished several men for getting drunk —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To the Hon. John Randolph, Jr., United States Congress, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Dec<sup>r</sup> 8. 1803 —

In answer to your inquiry of the 6<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> I have the honor to enclose you a statement shewing the number of Clerks employed in this department with their respective salaries. —

The hours of attendance at this office are from 9 till 3 O'clk, but I beg leave to state that when business requires it (which is frequently the case) the attendance is not confined to particular hours. —

[Enclosure]

Number of Clerks Employed in the Navy Department with their Respective Salaries  
Clerks employed in the Navy Department with their respective salaries. —

In the Secretary's office, 3 Clerks. —

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Chief Clerk — salary p <sup>r</sup> Annum..... | \$1, 800 |
| Two d <sup>o</sup> “ @ \$1,000 ea.....         | 2, 000   |
|  | <hr/>    |
|  | \$3, 800 |

In the Accountant's office — 9 Clerks. — viz<sup>t</sup>

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| 1 @     | \$1500 |
| 1 “     | 1200   |
| 1 “     | 1120   |
| 1 “     | 1115   |
| 2 @ 900 | 1800   |
| 2 @ 850 | 1700   |
| 1 @     | 600    |

†\$9,035

†In the above is included the 15 p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup> additional allowed by the Act of last Session making appropriations for the support of the Government for the year 1803. —

[NDA. Cong. LB, Vol. 1, 1798-1811.]

To George McIntosh, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup>

Decem. 8. 1803

I have received your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant —

The *Betsy Walk* deposited her cargo at Algiers and returned to Gibraltar October 17 — 1803 since which time we have no information concerning her —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Captain George Billups, commanding American Ship *Traveller*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S SHIP *Constitution*  
Decem<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, It is necessary that your ship should be discharged to day as I shall go to Sea tomorrow evening with the Squadron; and if you wish for Convoy you can then take the benefit of one. Your freight money is ready as soon as the Cargo is delivered.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 9 December 1803

[Syracuse] Wind W N W: Strong breezes. Supplied the English schooner *Magdalena* Tender to the ship *Madrass* Guard ship at Malta with a barrell of beef and a barrel of Pork — Ships company employed in preparing for sea, taking in water, discharging the store ship and stowing the provisions in the Magazine on shore; We have found it necessary to new Pickle every barrell of salted Provisions in order to preserve it. M<sup>r</sup> George Marcellin and M<sup>r</sup> Charles Morris I have appointed to remain at Syracuse in charge of the Provisions and Stores of the Squadron.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour* 10<sup>th</sup> December 1803

SIR I had the honor to write you from Algier's Bay, after landing Col. Lear and family, since which, no opportunity has occurred untill now. I left that Bay on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, to proceed off Tripoly, with the *Nautilus* in company; and on the 24<sup>th</sup> off the S W end of Sardinia, spoke an English Frigate from Malta, the Capt of which, informed me of the loss of the *Philadelphia* on the rocks off Tripoly, but was not able to give me the particulars of the distressing intilligence, which induced me to steer for Malta, to gain further information — On the 26<sup>th</sup> between the Island of Maritimo and Cape Bon, chased and boarded a Tunisine Xebeck of 18 Guns on a cruise, with the passport of George Davis. American Charge des affairs at Tunis, and permitted her to proceed — 27<sup>th</sup> arrived off the Harbour of Malta, and sent in a Boat with an Officer on Shore, who returned with letters from Captain Bainbridge dated at Tripoly, stating the particulars of the capture of the *Philadelphia* by the Tripolines, without a man on either side having been killed or wounded; with the mortifying circumstance that she was in the Harbour of Tripoly. — This affair distresses me beyond description, and very much deranges my plans of operation for the present. I fear our national character will sustain an injury with the Barbarians. — Would to God, that the Officers and crew of the *Philadelphia*, had one and all, determined to prefer death to slavery; it is possible such a determination might save them from either — Enclosed is Capt. Bainbridge's account of the business; with sundry other papers as p<sup>r</sup> list. I shall not hazard an opinion on the subject of the loss. — You can form as correct a one from Capt. Bainbridge's own letters of

the 1st and 6th Ulto, as it is possible for me to — Soon after the Boat returned from Malta, a heavy gale of Wind came on from the N. W. The sea was tremendous in the channel, and the ship laboured much:—I stood across to the Northward, under reefed courses and Storm Staysails, and fetched under the lee of Scicily; where I had smooth water; and on the 29th the gale subsided.

I fell in with the *Enterprize* L<sup>t</sup> Decatur, who informed me, that the store Ship *Traveller* was at Syracuse. I accordingly made sail for, and entered the port, the next morn<sup>g</sup>. I immediately waited on the Governor for permission to deposit our Provisions & Stores, which he not only readily granted, but assigned me the use of the Arsenal, with compleat covering for our Boats and Spars, and very excellent Magazines that will contain five thousand Barrels of provisions; and all these free of expence! — He considers himself under obligations to us, for making this port our rendezvous, as it will prevent the Tripolines from cruising on this part of the coast of Scicily. — This Harbour is one of the best in the Mideterranean, and the country will afford us fresh Meat, Vegetables, Fruit, Candles, and Rice, cheaper than they can be purchased in America. The Inhabitants are extremely friendly and civil, and our Sailors cannot desert. In fact, I think it by far the best place for the Squadron to rendezvous at. The almost constant heavy gales of Wind, and extreme bad weather since our arrival here, has prevented us from compleating our Stock of Water, and finishing landing the cargo of the Store Ship, untill to day. I have bent a new suit of sails — The *Enterprize* is new rigged, and the *Nautilus* in fine order. We sail tomorrow for the coast of Tripoly, and are well prepared for a Winter's Cruise. I shall remain off the coast, as long as it is possible for any of their cruisers to keep out; but I do not think it will be possible to cruise all Winter without hazarding too much; for should any accident happen to this ship, and any of the other Barbary Powers should break out upon us, the consequences may be dreadful to our commerce in these Seas. — On my arrival near Tripoly, I shall send a flag on shore, to know the present situation of the Captives, and learn the Bashaw's disposition and expectations, and to establish a necessary supply of Money for the comfort and health of the Officers & Crew, and by this means, I shall learn the present disposition of their Naval force. — I suspect the demands of the Bashaw, since he has the *Philadelphia* and Crew in possession, will be enormous; of course, Government will feel the necessity of sending out an additional force, to supply the loss of that ship. — One Ship never ought to cruise alone on the Coast of Tripoly, if it can be avoided. If two Ships are in company, and an accident of running on shore happens to one, the other can protect her whilst getting off — and the same protection would be wanted, in case of losing a Mast, by engaging the Batteries.

If it had not have been for the Capture of the *Philadelphia*, I have no doubt, but we should have had peace with Tripoly in the Spring; but I have now no hopes of such an event — If you send me another Frigate or two, and a Frigate to relieve the *Argus* at Gibraltar, so that I can have the services of that Brig, I will so compleatly Blockade Tripoly and annoy the Coast, as to lessen the Bashaw's demands, more than double the expence of the reinforcement, and perhaps oblige him to sue for peace.

I do not believe the *Philadelphia* will ever be of service to Tripoly; I shall hazard much to destroy her — it will undoubtedly cost us many lives, but it must be done. I am surprized she was not rendered useless, before her Colours were struck.

I am sorry to inform you, of the death of M<sup>r</sup> Deblois purser of this ship. he was sick for about three weeks, and died soon after our arrival here. The service has sustained the loss of an Officer of Merit in his station. I have appointed M<sup>r</sup> Noahdia[h] Morris (late Chaplain) as his successor, and M<sup>r</sup> P. Leonard (late Capt<sup>ns</sup> Clerk) I have appointed Chaplain, who will also continue to do the duty of a clerk — I hope the President will do me the honor and favour, to confirm the appointments — If he knew their merits as well as I do, he would not hesitate.

The Beef sent out in the Store Ship, and branded George Town, I Krouse & C<sup>o</sup> is miserably poor, and badly put up: — Indeed, nothing but absolute necessity will induce the people to eat it. Most of the Casks are the worst sort of fish Barrels, and very few of them full hooped; in consequence of which, the Pickle has leaked out, and the provisions spoiled. — Several bb<sup>ls</sup> have been condemned and thrown overboard, being too offensive to be retained in the ship. — I believe it will be for the Interest of Government, to ship all the Beef from Boston, or Connecticut. The Pork, Rice, Flour, Bread &c<sup>s</sup> is good, but the Casks are in very bad order. A quantity of Bread, and other Provisions and Stores, have arrived at Malta from Gibraltar, sent up by M<sup>r</sup> Gavino. — M<sup>r</sup> Pulis complains of their not having been consigned to him, but to an English Merch<sup>t</sup>. I shall settle the business, by taking the whole of them over here, as I return from my present cruise. As we have no consul or Agent here, and I do not chuse to trust our Provisions & Stores in the hands of Strangers, I have placed M<sup>r</sup> George Marcellin and M<sup>r</sup> Charles Morris, Midshipmen, in charge of the Public Stores untill I return. I take the precaution to leave two, in case of accidents.

M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>rs</sup>Donough a Midshipman belonging to the *Philadelphia*, that was left by her prize at Gibraltar, and afterwards joined this Ship, I have ordered to join the *Enterprize*. Notwithstanding we are well accomodated here for Magazines to deposit our Provisions & Stores, Yet, still, a ship that would Answer for a Store and Hospital Ship, would be much preferable, for it is uncertain how soon we may be disturbed by the French or English taking possession of this Country. I shall write you immediately on my return from this cruise, and hope to be able to give you more correct information respecting our affairs with Tripoly, than I can at present. If a Frigate comes out to reinforce the Squadron, will it not be well for her to stop at Algiers and take Col. Lear on board? as it will prevent the necessity of my sending a vessel after him in the Spring. M<sup>r</sup> Gadson whose health does not permit him to attend to duty, has requested leave to return to the United States, and I have charged him with my dispatches — I sent you a mem<sup>o</sup> of such Stores as it will be in our power to procure here, and such as it will be necessary to send out. — I shall take the earliest opportunity to survey the Islands of Pantelaria and Lampedosa and ascertain what advantages the Squadron may derive from those places. I have an opinion, that we can make one of them our general rendezvous in Summer, with more advantages than any other place, as they are situated so near the Coast of Barbary, and directly in the track of

Vessels to and from Tripoly. The Articles which I can purchase here upon terms that will make it more for the Interest of the United States, than to send them out, are Rice, Wood, Candles, Vinegar, Wine, Hats, Shoes, & Summer clothing. It will be necessary to send out Rum sufficient for the Squadron for about 4 Months in the Year, the other 8 months, Wine will be most serviceable; and Winter clothing, such as blue Jackes — Trowsers and Blankets only. The articles of provisions which cannot on any terms be procured here, are Salt Pork, Beef, Bread, Flour, Butter, Cheese, Molasses & Peas or Beans. In about 10 Weeks, we shall be entirely out of Molasses, Butter, Cheese, & Rum. It will also be necessary to send out two or three Frigate's Bower Anchors, and as many Stream with Oak Stuff for Stocks. — Thick or thin Duck cannot possibly be procured here; it will be necessary to send out some of that Article, and a few thick & thin Oak plank and boards. And if one or two lower yards for a large Frigate can be sent here, it will be well, as we have not one in the Mediterranean, and in case of an accident to one, it could not at present be replaced

## PRESENT SITUATION OF THE SQUADRON

- Constitution* } Getting under Weigh for a cruise off Tripoly;  
*Enterprize* }  
*Nautilus* — To convoy the Store Ship down, and cruise off C: Bon.  
*Vixen* — Gone to Gibraltar with Captain Bainbridges dispatches, to return here immediately.  
*Syren* — Went from Gibraltar to Leghorn for money & presents, to take to Algiers; and proceed off Tripoly, where I expect to fall in with her. —  
*Argus* — Gone from Gibraltar to Marceilles & Leghorn, with Convoy. — To return immediately to Gibraltar, to watch the motions of Morocco, and occasionally Cruise off Cape de Gatt, Cape Palos, and along the Coast of Spain.

*12th. December.* The weather has been such as to prevent me from Sailing. The *Vixen* Lt Smith has just arrived. She sailed from Malta the *19th* *Ult*<sup>o</sup> with dispatches for you from C[aptain] Bainbridge giving an account of the loss of the *Philadelphia* — Lt Smith states, that he has made use of every exertion in his power, to reach Gibraltar, but in vain; for after having buffeted the Seas for 22 days, experiencing nothing but constant Gales of Wind, and excessive bad weather, he has been compelled to return. He touched at Malta on his return, and brought me a letter from Captain Bainbridge, dated the *12th* *Ult*<sup>o</sup> which throws more light on the loss of his ship, and the situation of himself, his Officers and Crew. — Would to God, I could release them. It also enables me to enclose you a letter from a M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar a Merchant at Malta, (of whom, by the by, I know very little) He states the expectations of the Bashaw, to be ridiculously extravagant. I hope when the season admits of our keeping close to his Coast, with safety, I shall be able to make him feel the force and Weight of our shot so effectually, as to check the extravagance of his expectations. I shall take every proper means of endeavouring to make the situation of Capt. Bainbridge, his Officers and Crew, as comfortable as circumstances will possibly admit of. I hope to be able to second the views of the Bashaw's brother, who has lately gained a victory over the Bashaw's Troops near Derne — Government will determine whether

it will give him any other aid than that of our forces — I shall readily with them assist him against Tripoly

I hope soon to be able to give you more correct information relative to this part of the World, and the affairs of it, than I can at present.

PS. I have ordered L<sup>t</sup> Somers of the *Nautilus*, to sail immediately for Gibraltar, with these dispatches, to be forwarded by different conveyances from thence; as I am aware of the necessity of their reaching you, while Congress is in Session, or as early as possible. —

L<sup>t</sup> Smith, has lately lost an Anchor, and L<sup>t</sup> Somers another. It will be well to send out a few from about 8 to 9 C<sup>t</sup> with Iron Stocks, as we are obliged to pay a quarter of a Doll. p<sup>t</sup> pound here. — E: P

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 10<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803*

DEAR SIR, I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> respecting the Tripolitan subjects taken in the *Mishouda* — I have only to observe, that they were well treated while I had the command of them; and I have every reason to believe, they were, before I arrived at Gibraltar. They all declared to Hamet the Moorish Consul, that they had no cause of complaint.

You may inform the Minister, Mahomet Dghies, that on the settlement of a peace with the Emperor of Morocco, I voluntarily gave up to the Emperor, the Ship *Mishouda* in the same order she was taken, together with all the Guns, Military Stores, and Merchandise found on board her; and all the Moors, Algerines, and Tripolitan Subjects found on board her, were landed at Tanger, and set at full liberty, to sell their Merchandize and effects, and return to their respective countries. I hope when His Excellency the Bashaw, is made acquainted with this generous treatment of his subjects, and of our generosity in restoring the ship *Mishouda* to his friend the Emperor of Morocco, notwithstanding we could not but know she belonged to Tripoly, that he will show his magnanimity, by ordering yourself, Your Officers and Crew, to be treated in the most liberal manner

I beg you to present in behalf of my Government, my thanks to the Minister, for the Interest he has taken in your unfortunate situation.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 10 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803*

SIR You will proceed in company with this Ship on a Cruise off Tripoly, should we unavoidably Be seperated, approach the coast so as to reconnoitre the Harbour and situation of the *Philadelphia*, After which endeavour to fall in with me. If you should fail in this, you will cruise between Lampedosa and Cape Bon two or three weeks, if the weather should prove such, as to make it dangerous to the safety of the Vessel, and then Return to this port, Fill up your water, take in provisions get all ready for sea, and waite for orders,

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse harbor Dec<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR Before you recieve this you will have heard of the loss of the *Philadelphia* with all the distressing and mortifying circumstances.

I shall want your Services in the Spring and hope you will be relieved so as to Join me early in April. I have made an establishment in this place which I find well calculated for it.

Write me often, Send me all the News and newspapers; Tell me how Morrocco stands affected and what condition her cruizers are in: Direct your letters to me at Malta and keep a good look out on your Station.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbor Decem<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR I have recieved your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> by L<sup>t</sup> Dent and thank you for the Information it contains

You have done right in sending Cap<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge three hundred dollars for himself Officers and crew and if it had been three thousand I should be answerable for the supply. You have done right in sending the medicines he required.

I expect soon to be at Malta and will then Settle the business between you and M<sup>r</sup> Higgins by ordering all the Provisions and Stores to be shipped for this place

I shall sail from this place tomorrow for the Coast of Tripoli where I have now some vessels cruizing — You will percieve by the enclosed that Tripoli is at present and will continue to be in a state of blockade.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803–1804.]

To Secretary of State from Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

*CADIZ 10<sup>th</sup> December 1803.*

DEAR SIR. I had the honour of writing you on the 22<sup>d</sup> Octob<sup>r</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> whereof the inclosed are Copys.

I have now to inform you that the American Ship *Sally* Cap<sup>t</sup> John R. Archer loaded by Government with Naval stores for the Regency of Algiers, was lost on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> on the sands of Torre del a Higuerrilla within a 11. Leagues of the Barr of S<sup>t</sup> Lucar; the Vessel is entirely lost, and I am apprehensive that what has been saved of the Cargo will hardly pay the expences of it; I have duly acquainted this misfortune to —

Edward Preble Esq<sup>re</sup> Commodore of the U, S, Squadron

Richard OBrien

Tobias Lear

} Consuls at Algiers —

that they may acquaint the Dey of it, that he may not be under any apprehension missing the Naval stores, and as the Salvage will be so expensive in such a far distance & bad roads, I have determined to sell it on the spot at Public Auction, & whatever may be the Neat Proceeds for account of Government I shall duly inform you of it with proper Documents.

Inclosed I have the honour of remitting you Copy of a Letter received from Comm<sup>r</sup> Edw<sup>d</sup> Preble concerning the Blockade of Tripoli & of my answer to him.

The Sickness in Malaga continues with great force & inclosed is a note of its Situation on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant.

By all appearances this Country remains perfect neutral in the actual Contest between France & England; but as yet Government has not made it public, sundry Spanish Vessels carried to the Ports of England by Privateers are put in liberty, and the Privateers condemned in paying some part of the damages.

I have the honour to be with the most profound respect and veneration.

[Enclosure]

Malaga 6<sup>th</sup> December 1803 —

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| fallen Sick..... | 49 |
| Cured.....       | 79 |
| Died.....        | 52 |

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

To Hon. N. K. Moore, United States Congress, from Captain Alexander Murray,  
U. S. Navy

PHIL<sup>a</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 11 1803

DEAR SIR The very unpleasant situation of the officers of the navy now on the half pay establishment induces me to intrude upon such Members of Congress that I have the honor of an acquaintance with & hope by their influence with others (as my acquaintance is very confined among that honorable body) that they will make an effort to get our Rations annexed to our half pay, trusting that there will be found a majority of the house in favor of making such an extension, and I take the liberty of craving your Patronage in our favor —

It would be trespassing upon your time to urge many Arguments on this head, 'tis well known that our rank, & respectability while in service unavoidably urges us to keep up a certain state of expence that absorbs all our emoluments and nothing can be left for our families on our return to the private walks of life, many of us have large & expensive families & our half pay is found insufficient to pay our house rent few of us have independent fortunes and the pride and dignity of Office will not (but upon dire necessity) brooke the descent to menial occupations nor would it be to the credit of the U States that we should be found retailing bunches of Onions &c. from Drogers in forts where we had held high commands — It may be alleged that we are better paid than the Officers of the british navy but let it be remembered that they are mostly men of high birth & Fortune & they have many privileges that we have not —

We cannot extend our views to any schemes of life that will require time to mature—had we even capitals to do it, being ever liable to be called into service and which might happen at a time when our serious attention was the most required in short we should ever be in readiness for active service possibly we may now be considered as an useless appendage of expence to government the Temple of Janus



being about to close its doors, but a county like ours should ever be on its guard —

I have written to my old Friend M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Crery on this subject who with others I flatter myself will exert their influence in behalf of us  
[NDA. A. Murray's LB, 1799-1805.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution Frigate  
Syracuse Harbor Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR I have paid Cap<sup>t</sup> Billups one thousand dollars on account of his freight from Gibraltar to this place you will please to pay him the other part of his freight amounting to two thousand dollars and charge the same to the navy department

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To General William Allen from Midshipman William Henry Allen, U. S. Navy

On board U. S. FRIGATE *J. Adams*  
*Navy Yard City [of] Washington.*  
*December 12<sup>th</sup>. 1803\**

DEAR FATHER With Pleasure I Embrace the first moment which the hurry and Bustle of our Ship affords to Inform you of our arrival here (after a passage of 50 days from Tangeir not more agreeable than can be conceived, yesterday the President with all the heads of Departments payed us a visit with nearly all of Both Houses of Congress, the *Newyork* was dressed on the Occassion; the Yards were manned, Salutes fired, and every other mark of respect paid him by Both Ships, preperation for this has employed every moment since I wrote you those hasty Lines — \* \* \*

(\*“Of” inserted after “City” and date altered to “11th” in another hand.)

[Huntington Library Quarterly.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d’Affaires, Tunis, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 1.

ALGIERS *December 12<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR I have the honor to inform You that I arrived at this place on the 19<sup>th</sup> ultimo, in the U. States Frigate *Constitution*, Commodore Preble, and am now in the exercise of my functions as Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the U. States in this Regency. In order that You may see the relation in which I stand with respect to the Consuls of the U. States at Tunis & Tripoli, (when ever we may be at peace with the latter) I enclose an extract of my instructions from the Department of State, on that head. —

As M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart has not been recieved by the Bey of Tunis, and You remain charged with the affairs of the U. States in that Regency, I will thank You to furnish me, by the first oppertunity with a full statement of affairs there, and such observations thereon as will lead me to form an opinion of what we may expect from that quarter. At the same time You will be pleased to add such information relative to our Affairs with Tripoli, as You may have been able to obtain, and upon which any reliance can be placed. —

Our Government has thought proper to change our Mediterranean Passports, and has furnished me with one passport and a number of Tops for each Consul in these Regencies. I embrace this opportunity to forward a passport to You & sixty tops, and add a copy of the instructions given to me by the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State relative to them. I have given information to this Regency of the intention to change our passports, and instead of the term of 19 months for the full exchange of the new for the old, as mentioned in the instructions, I required two Years (consisting I presume, of 12 *lunar* months each) for that operation, which was readily acceded to. This will give more time for the full exchange, and if You obtain the same terms it will be desirable; and when notified to the Regency, You will be pleased to give information to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State, as directed in the instructions.—

I have also the honor to enclose a letter for You from Commodore Preble, notifying the blockade of Tripoli by the U. States Ships of war. —

Commodore Preble has put into my hands Your letter to Commodore Morris, dated, onboard the U States Frigate *Adams*, September 8<sup>th</sup> 1803, together with a letter from the latter to the former, stating, that as M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart had been appointed Consul for the Regency of Tunis, he had requested Messrs Degen & Purviance not to advance You the 2000 dollars for which he had given You credit with them. — How far this was proper or otherwise, I shall not now undertake to say; but presuming it must have placed You in an unpleasant situation, I shall forward to You the like sum of two thousand Spanish dollars, either by this opportunity, or by land, as I may find it most safe and expeditious, upon enquiry on the subject. — With respect to the 4,000 dollars for which you have become responsible on account of the claims for Tunisian property vended at Malta, I can only observe, that when I have the pleasure of meeting You next Spring, as I hope to do at Tunis, this matter will be considered and justice done in the case. —

M<sup>r</sup> OBrien has favoured me with Your letters to him of the 3<sup>d</sup> of July & 15<sup>th</sup> October, the former enclosing an extract of Your letter to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State, of the same date, and sundry documents relative to the redemption of Demoiselle Anna Porcile d' l' Ile di' S<sup>t</sup> Piere left in Your charge by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton. — With respect to the redemption of this Young woman, I do not hesitate in giving my opinion that she ought to be redeemed; and especially as you add there is no receipt or document of any kind left in Your hands to shew that the payment had been made for her by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton; or that there was any obligation to pay him for her liberation as You say, in Your letter to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State, "that if commodore Morris should acquiesce, You should feel yourself perfectly authorized to relinquish the further prosecution of the claim, fully satisfied that you have no longer reason to hope for the recovery of any part of the sum"

I trust you will not experience the evil, which you suggested as possible to arise to you, from our naval Commanders not giving full credence & respect to Your passports, as I informed Commodore Preble, that I should consider you as charged with the affairs of the U. States at Tunis untill we should have further advices from our Government, and he in consequence, wrote the enclosed letter. —

I have not been here long enough to form any correct judgement, from my own observations, of the situation in which we are likely to

stand with this Regency; but I have the satisfaction of finding Mr O'Brien most perfectly ready and able to communicate to me so much of his valuable stock of information respecting every thing here as will be very essentially useful to me in my public Agency as well as in my individual accommodation; and I am also pleased to add that he will remain here during the winter. —

We have satisfied the Biennial & Consular presents, and have received two cargoes of Timber from the U. States towards paying the two Annuities due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September — Another ship has been expected for some time; but we now almost despair of her arrival — Should she not come, we must endeavour to make an arrangement to pay the balance, which may be due in Cash. — The Dey & great Officers appear to be in good humour, at present, with the U. States; but in these Latitudes we have no right to calculate upon a long spell of favorable weather — I only wish I may be able to keep as good a helm in the squalls & Gales, as my predecessor appears to have done; but he is an experienced navigator in these Seas. —

I am happy to inform You that our differences with the Emperor of Morocco were satisfactorily adjusted early in October. — A concurrence of fortunate events put into our hands one of the Emperor's frigates, and about 160 of his subjects; and the junction of the outward and homeward bound squadrons at Gibraltar, in a critical moment, gave an opportunity of displaying a large force — effectually protecting our trade — and striking no small terror into the Inhabitants of the Coast. — The activity of the Squadron was equal to its unexpected appearance — Every Sea port in the Empire, from Mogadore to Tituan, had or more [sic] cruisers off, to prevent the entrance or departure of any Vessels. —

The Emperor came to Tangier with his Army. — Our Frigates were drawn up ready to destroy his Town, if he should determine on hostilities. — The impression was strong; and the Emperor not only disavowed, in the most positive manner, every thing which had been done on his part of a hostile nature; but offered anything we could ask — a very important point with us was to obtain a full and unequivocal ratification of our Treaty made with his Father in 1786. — This was at once complied with; and not a demand or intimation of a present from us, either in gross sum; or by way of Annuity. — We gave him up his ship & subjects as a gratuity. Thus was this business, which threatened serious evil to the commerce of the U. States in these seas, happily terminated in a few days. — Commodore Morris had returned home in the *Adams* before this event took place, and Rodgers who Commanded the homeward bound Squadron, behaved with patriotism and his usual activity. —

This event, I think, augers well with respect to the operations which may be carried on against Tripoli next season. If daring intrepidity, united with the full experien[c]e of a seaman, excellent judgement & proper prudence, can command success, I presume Commodore Preble will gain Laurels for himself & honor for his Country.

I have this moment received a most unpleasant piece of intelligence. My Drogherman informs me that the Minister of Marine has just directed him to tell me, that an Algerine arrived from Tunis, brings accounts that one of the American Frigates off Tripoli in chasing a Tripoline cruiser, going into Tripoli, had run on shore — that they

threw overboard twenty Guns in order to get her off; but without effect. — that the Tripoline Gun boats went out and took her in this situation, and afterwards got her off, and that the command of hir was given to a Rais, formally of Algiers called Genoa.

However painful this intelligence is to me, I cannot give it credit; for I know that no vessel has arrived in this port for 12 days past; and if the news came by land (as they say it did) from Tunis, that You could not have delayed a moment in forwarding to this place information of so important an event, should it have been known there; and besides David Bocri, the Jew, informs me that he Yesterday rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Tunis, which do not mention such an event.

It is *possible* notwithstanding, that it may be true; and if it should be so, I think it must be the *Philadelphia*, as the *Constitution* left this Bay on the 22<sup>d</sup> of November & could not have reached Tripoli soon enough for information of such an event to be received here. — I pretend to give no kind of credit to the tale, and assure them here, that even if it could be true, it would be attended with good effects in the end, as our Gov<sup>t</sup> would see the necessity of keeping a larger force in this sea, than may be necessary for immediate operations, to guard against accidents of this kind; and that if this ship should be lost, her place would be immediately supplied with two more. —

I have this day paid to David Bocri, the Jew, two thousand Spanish dollars, for which he is to place a like sum at Your disposal, on account of the U. States, in Tunis; and has given me the enclosed letter for his correspondent Seig<sup>r</sup> Soloman Azuly, at Tunis, which he says contains an order for a credit on him, in Your behalf for two thousand dollars; and that another letter to the same effect, will be forwarded by the land Courier in two or three days. —

Enclosed is a letter which I brought from the U. States for Anthony Nyssen Esq<sup>r</sup> Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the Batavian Republic at Tunis, which I beg the favour of you to deliver to that Gentleman with my best respects; also a letter from M<sup>r</sup> OBrien to You. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

To Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN Dec<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1803 —

D<sup>r</sup> SIR. On my return from Gibraltar in the United States Brig *Siren* I found your esteem'd favors of the 15<sup>th</sup> of July & 19 & 28<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> copys of which I forwarded to the Department of State immediately, & for which I return you my most sincere thanks. —

This ins<sup>nt</sup> I receiv'd your distressing acc<sup>t</sup> of the loss of the U<sup>d</sup> States Frigate the *Philadelphia* Cap<sup>tn</sup> Bainbridge & have taken the requisite steps to alleviate their sufferings, by furnishing them with an immediate supply, I have for that purpose wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Williams Higgins at Malta to send to you three thousand spanish dollars in cash, which you will please to distribute to the sufferers in the most economical manner, you & Cap<sup>tn</sup> Bainbridge can devise & to prevent miscarriage I have furnish'd you with a credit upon the house of Frederick Degen & C<sup>o</sup> of Naples should you find it more convenient to draw upon them for any part of the above Sum, or you may draw upon me at Leghorn taking care that the whole ammount may not exceed four thousand Spanish dollars. —

The rent of the Consular house is paid until May 1804 as will appear by Ciddi Mohammet ben Luna's receipt & Farfara's which I left at Tripoli, you will please to renew the lease on the best terms you can & appropriate the house for the use of the prisoners, & I request you to make their situation as comfortable as possible. — By a vessel which sails tomorrow for Algiers I will inform our Agents there of this unhappy event, & request M<sup>r</sup> Lear to furnish you with a more extensive credit than I have in my power at this moment, in the mean time I hope the small supply you receive from me will answer the present emergency. —

By the first opportunity I will write you more fully & in the mean time, I request you & Cap<sup>tn</sup> Bainbridge to give me every information in your power, relative to the Bashaw's sentiments on this change of position & what are his pretensions in consequence thereof. — I will write Cap<sup>tn</sup> Bainbridge by the next post to Naples & remain very respectfully. —

P. S. Tomorrow I will endeavor to engage two suits of apparel for the seamen, the Officers would do well to specify their wants as soon as possible; when the said cloaths are ready I make no doubt but some conveyance will offer for their removal to Tripoli. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, June 1801–Sept. 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 12th December 1803.

DEAR SIR I wrote you the 14th Ult<sup>o</sup> p<sup>r</sup> the Ship *Traveller* who went for Syracuse with provisions and a Bill of lading of said Cargo and a list of which went to Malta addressed to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Higgins in the absence of the Commander of any of our state Vessels, since when I have not heard from you. I now enclose four letters from Cadiz &c\* The Ship *Sally* Captain Archer with part of the stipulations for Algiers from the United States was totally lost off Rotta. A little of the Cargo will be saved. By a vessel arrived this day from Baltimore in 50 days. I find Captain Steritt was engaging men to come this way in the *Essex*. The only news we have here is, that a declaration of War may be every moment looked for from England against Spain and Portugal. At Malaga the disorder continues.

I do not find that any answer is come regarding the dispatches sent to England by the Commander afloat here on the subject of your affair regarding seamen; if it has, it is kept to themselves.

I have been told in confidence by a friend, and I hand it you in same manner, that an order is come out from King and Council and also sent to Governor Ball at Malta to take up and try Step<sup>n</sup> Decatur and young Bainbridge for an affair that took place some time ago I believe at Malta in a Duell where Decatur was Bainbridge's second, and his opponent was Killed on the Spot. [See 14 February 1803]. They represent the case, in a state which might go hard against them. Let this serve for your Governm<sup>t</sup> and take such steps as you may think prudent on the subject.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor, Dec<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1803*

SIR, You will sail on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and take under Convoy for Gibraltar the Store Ship *Traveller* George Billups master: Should you be separated & no prospect of falling in with the *Traveller*, proceed to Malta; gain what Information you can respecting our affairs at Tripoli; Take on board as much of the *Philadelphia's* & other public Stores as possible & return to this place. Put the *Vixen* in Order for a Cruise with Water, Provisions & Stores and wait for Orders.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Dec<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1803.*

SIR You will immediately Sail from this harbor for Gibraltar, On your Arrival there deliver the dispatches with which you are charged to John Gavino Esquire and return to this place without delay — Should you want provisions M<sup>r</sup> Gavino will supply you — Return by that rout which you shall deem best calculated according to Information you may receive to fall in with our enemies Cruizers — Enquire of Lieut<sup>t</sup> Hull and M<sup>r</sup> Gavino for letters for me and gain what information you can respecting our Barbary Affairs —

On your Arrival here fill up your Water Take in provisions, get ready for a Cruise and wait for Orders

N. B. The dispatches are of Importance to our Government and require exertions on your part to get them forward, which I am Confident you will make.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on  
board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 12 December 1803

Moderate Breezes & cloudy weather. We continue at anchor in Saragosa with the *Nautilus* and *Enterprize* in company. The ships company employed as necessary Three officers and a party of men are employed ashore stowing away the stores landed from the *Traveller* — Towards the Evening it was a dead calm Hove up and down in order to keep a clear anchor It remained calm all night with hazy cloudy Weather: At 7 in the morning the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* appeared without the harbor. As it was a dead calm, the Commodore ordered p<sup>r</sup> Signal the boats of the squadron to assist in towing her in: She anchored here at 9 A. M. Lieut<sup>t</sup> Smith waited on the Commodore; He reports that he sailed from Malta nearly three weeks ago in order to proceed to Gibraltar where he expected to Join the Commodore: In consequence of the strong Westerly winds he did not pass to the West<sup>d</sup> of the Island of Sardinia. The ships company have been employed this forenoon and [in] restowing the booms. We continued up and down all night and untill 11 A. M. at which time a light breeze sprang up from the S. W. We veered to one third of a cable. The Commo-

dore this forenoon ordered a boat to sound off the North Part of the Harbor. The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 12 Sick, 9 convalescents and three discharged from the Sick list. The ships company yesterday & this day have had salt provisions served out as fresh could not be got. At Noon light airs from the S. W. We are at Single Anchor with the *Nautilus*, *Enterprize* & *Vixen* in company

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARIE, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR By this conveyance you will receive two letters from me giving particular information of our Situation and also informed you of our want of money, I have this day received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs five hundred dollars, for which I have given him Bills on Leghorn at fifteen percent loss to the drawer. If we do not get money occasionally sent us from Malta or a Credit on which I can draw at Tunis, we shall be much nesseciated for means of subsistence.

In my former letters I mentioned that our Crew was kept employed; the mechanics at their respective Trades, the others at various work. We had on board a smart Gang of Carpenters, who are employed in working on a new Schooner. M<sup>r</sup> Godby [?] our head Carpenter (has not been ordered to work before this day) has received orders from the Bashaw to build a Gun Boat; if there is not a possitive order given to order Crew, and particularly to the Mechanics; Tripoli will receive great advantage from their labour and they cannot receive much worse treatment than they do, for they are only allowed bread scarcely sufficient for them to subsist on, and the *Interest* the Bashaw has in their lives will prevent him from starving them entirely. I do not conceive it policy in me to give the order, and was I to do it; it would not have the same weight as if come from you.

Should they persist for the fear of more severe treatment I think they should be considered as having aleinated themselves from the United States; if they prefered turning Mahomettans the choice was free.

There has already turned the following persons

John Wilson, a Swede, Quarter Master

Lewis Hacksener, a German, Ordinary Seaman

Thomas Prince, — — — Boy

Peter West — an American — Carpenters Crew

W<sup>th</sup> BAINBRIDGE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 13 December 1803

Moderate Breezes & cloudy weather. We continue at Anchor in Saragosa with the *Enterprize*, *Nautilus* and *Vixen* in company. The Ship's company employed in scraping down the topmasts working up Junk and stowing the Booms. Towards the evening the S W Wind died away nearly to a calm. We continued short at single Anchor during the night — At day light out boats and sent the large cutter watering — In the course of the forenoon she bro't two loads — 30

Gang Casks — It was a dead calm all the forenoon till 11 A. M. at which time a light breeze sprang up from the East<sup>d</sup>. The Signal was made for the *Nautilus* and *Enterprize* to unmoor — Towards noon the Signal was made for all captains who accordingly waited on the Commodore: The Ships company have been employed this forenoon in scraping between decks, relashing the Jeer Blocks, repairing the cat falls and foretopsail sheets. The *Nautilus* is ordered to hold herself in readiness in order to convoy the Commodore's dispatches from this Island (Sicily) to Gibraltar; I mentioned yesterday the Arrival of the U. S. Schooner *Vixen*: She was in Malta when the Intelligence of the loss of the *Philadelphia* was received in that Island. She immediately put to sea in order to proceed to Gibraltar at which place she expected to Join Commodore Preble: After being out 20 days being short of Provisions and not being one third of her passage down she bore up for Malta and from Malta here; For these last 30 days the prevailing wind has been from the West<sup>d</sup> and sometimes heavy gales from the North — And it is very probable that no Intelligence of the loss of the *Philadelphia* has yet arrived at Gibraltar. At Noon this day we had light airs from the East<sup>d</sup> — The Surgeons report to the Commodore is eleven Sick, ten convalescents and two discharged from the Sick list.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 14 December 1803

Moderate Breezes and cloudy Weather. We continue at Single Anchor with the *Nautilus*, *Vixen* & *Enterprize* in company — We are perfectly clear for Sea and are waiting for a wind. The Ships company employed working up Junk and restowing the Warranted Officers store rooms. By three P. M. the light airs from the East<sup>d</sup> had entirely died away and by 4 P. M. we had light airs from the S. W. The cutter was sent this Afternoon to sound off the South Side of the Harbor: We continue at Single anchor during the night with light airs and Variable from the West<sup>d</sup>. It was moderate and cloudy all the forenoon: The Ships company employed in cleaning ship; All the birth deck and every part below the Gun deck is scraped invariably every forenoon. This method of cleaning ship is recommended by the Surgeon during the winter Season: It is very Evident that the necessary duty of cleaning between decks can never be dispensed with over two or three days. But so frequent a repetition of scraping is very Injurious to the decks, Yet it is my opinion that frequent washing between decks is worse than scraping. The Innumerable inlets between decks which lead the water to every part of the ships frame may be considered (in my opinion) as a reason why all the Ships of our Navy have become rotten. At daylight the large cutter was sent on the watering service in order to complete our daily Expenditure — The Surgeons report to the Commodore is 12 Sick, 8 convalescents & 3 discharged from the Sick list. At 10 A. M. the cutter returned with 9 Gang Casks of Water — At noon light breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> and cloudy Weather.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]



To Hon. William Eustis, United States Congress, from Captain Alexander Murray,  
U. S. Navy

PHIL<sup>a</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR Through the medium of my friend Capt<sup>n</sup> Nicholson who hath just left this on his return to Boston I have taken the liberty of introducing myself to you, as a friend to the navy requesting your patronage to obtain for the Officers the price of their Rations in addition to their half pay —

I half written to my friends Mess<sup>rs</sup> Nicholson MacCreery & Moore, on this subject hoping by your united influence with other Members of Congress that you will befriend us so far as to bring about so necessary & desirable an acquisition 'tis well known to every liberal & generous mind that the rank we hold while in actual service unavoidably leads us to keep up a stile of expence that requires the whole of our pay to entitle us to proper notice while abroad and to support the respectability of the Navy, our acquaintance being or ought to be among the first class of society wherever we go as well as the necessary *Etiquette* on ship board and table expences generally —

What then is to become of our families in the intervals on the present half pay regulations? few of us have independent estates & the circle of our acquaintance in the private walks of life ought to be respectable, is it then consistant with the dignity of the U. States, thus flourishing in its Commerce & render'd in a measure secure by our little navy, that their officers should be compelled either to seclude themselves from the eyes of the world or fly to the *donnée* resort, of accepting of menial Commands in the private sea service when to be obtained & to expose themselves to the view of Foreign nations vending their wares where they had held high & distinguished commands, for my own part I never was ashamed of an honest occupation, but I should feel for the dignity of my Country upon such an occasion —

I will not trespass upon you with any further considerations flatering myself that you will readily suggest Ideas more forcible than any I can point in conjunction with my other friends above alluded to

P<sup>t</sup> I beg the favor of you to have the enclosed letter to my niece M<sup>rs</sup> Mason forwarded to her.

[NDA. A. Murray's LB, 1799-1805.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul  
General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 2

ALGIER'S December 15<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR M<sup>r</sup> OBrien has this moment received Your letters of the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> ultimo announcing the painful intelligence of the loss of the U. States Frigate *Philadelphia* and captivity of the crew at Tripoli. This confirmation of the report which I mentioned in my letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> having been received here, is distressing indeed; but we must lose no time in making the best arrangements we can for the support of our unfortunate fellow citizens in captivity, and for preventing a greater an extension of evil from this unhappy event. In order that the first object may be attained with all possible expedition, I hereby authorize You to obtain on the credit of the U. States in Tunis, if possible a sum not exceeding 10,000 dollars — and apply the same in the best manner You can to relieve the immediate wants of our un-

fortunate fellow Citizens. I shall, without delay, make arrangements on this subject, and forward the same to You — and, in the mean time shall dispatch letters, in various directions, to give the earliest information of this event to our Gov<sup>t</sup> —

This will go by the Vessel *S<sup>t</sup> Antisimo* which carries my dispatches of the 12<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>. She is under way, but the wind is so light that a boat will be sent off to her with the letter.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

To Secretary of State from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

N<sup>o</sup> 16.

LEGHORN 15<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1803.

SIR. The enclosed papers will inform you of the loss of the United States Frigate the *Philadelphia*, of the deplorable situation of the Officers & crew, & of the steps which I have taken to alleviate their present sufferings until provision is made for them by government. —

I have not a word to offer in extenuation of this fatal accident, it involves incalculable consequences & changes our position not only with Tripoli, but the whole of the Barbary States. —

How glorious it would have been to have perish'd with the Ship, but how apt are we all to prefer a precarious, nay an ignominious life of slavery to a glorious death which would transmit our names to posterity & have establish'd a national character which time could not efface; while humanity recoils at the idea of launching so many souls into eternity, every thing great glorious & patriotic dictates the measure, & our national honor & pride demanded the sacrifice. —

In compliance with your orders of the 16<sup>th</sup> of last July I have deliver'd cash & effects to M<sup>r</sup> Lear & to his order to the amount of 32,000 dollars which with the bills I accepted drawn by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton while he remain'd at Tunis, the credit I have forwarded for the relief of the crew of the *Philadelphia* & my own salary & expences amounts to a sum considerably greater than that deposited in my hands for public use, exclusive of the cost of two suits of cloathing which I am preparing for each of those unfortunate men, I therefore request you to forward me cash or a credit on London to the amount of ten thousand dollars to answer my engagements & for which I will hold myself accountable until final settlement. —

The provision necessary for the crew of the *Philadelphia* while in captivity will amount to about 2000 dollars p<sup>r</sup> month, if sent out in cash in any of our vessels of War, Malta is the most proper place for its deposit on account of its proximity to Tripoli, if a sum is to be negotiated for that purpose Leghorn is the only place in the mediterranean where it can be done to advantage, Exchange upon London is this day at 51<sup>q</sup> for one p<sup>r</sup> da 8/r or Leghorn current dollar. —

If Government concludes to redeem our fellow Citizens immediately & sue for Peace on the Bashaw's own terms, it will cost us three hundred thousand dollars at least, exclusive of Consular presents & an Annuity of ten or fifteen thousand dollars, & if a Frigate is not given gratuitously to Tunis we will have a War with that Regency the succeeding year to the conclusion of a Peace with Tripoli, & it is not very probable that Algiers will view those concessions with indifference, to carry on the War to any effect it will be necessary to keep constantly two or three Frigates besides the light vessels now in this sea & ten gunboats which may be built in this Port or in

Naples in about five months & will cost about fifty thousand dollars, therefore viewing our present situation in any point of view we have little to expect but difficulty & an enormous expence, it remains for government to determine which mode of procedure will be most conducive to our interests.

If coercive measures had been pursued on the commencement of the war with Tripoli we should not at this moment be reduced to our present humiliating situation, if an accomodation for cash should now be determined on, it wou'd be adviseable to send it on board the vessel that takes the negotiator to Tripoli, any sum in dollars may be procured in Leghorn for bills upon London provided sufficient time is given to procure it in, otherwise as in the purchase of Bullion in general advantage will be taken & its price will raise in proportion to the exigency of the demand. —

I have not heard of Comodore Prebble since he was on his passage to Algiers, on his hearing of the above melancholy event, the first idea that he will conceive as an Officer will undoubtedly be to proceed off Tripoli with the small vessels & endeavor to entirely destroy the remains of the Frigate if he finds their is any possibility of the Tripolitans heaving her off the bank, in order to prevent them from using her against us which would render them considerably more formidable & consequently render it necessary to keep a greater force upon their coast. —

I send copys of this communication & enclosures to different parts of the mediterranean in order to facilitate its speedy arrival, & I request you to acknowledge its receipt as soon as possible. —

With grief as poignant, as any of the sufferers can possibly feel for this most unfortunate event, I have the honor to continue very respectfully. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, June 1801–Sept. 1805.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 15 December 1803

Moderate Breezes from the West<sup>d</sup>. We continued at single Anchor in Saragosa with the *Vixen*, *Nautilus* and *Enterprize* in company. The Squadron is all ready and perfectly clear for Sea when an opportunity offers — All the afternoon the weather was gloomy and overcast with a continual succession of heavy clouds from the West<sup>d</sup> & by 4 P. M. the weather had the appearance of an approaching gale from the West<sup>d</sup>. The *Nautilus* Schooner Lieut<sup>t</sup> Smith sails this afternoon with the Commodore's dispatches for Gibraltar. M<sup>r</sup> Gadsden a Midshipman who is the bearer of the dispatches is to remain in Gibraltar in order to convey them to America by the first opportunity — Towards the Evening we bent the sheet cable and unstowed the Anchor — The cutter was sent after sand and holy stones — She returned in the evening with a quantity of each. Of the salt provisions recieved from the *Traveller* Store Ship we opened seven barrells this afternoon before we could find one barrell fit to serve out — These Provisions wered [sic] headed up and stowed at hand for surveying By 10 in the evening the Weather cleared away and the Wind Veered to the W S W. At ½ past 10 the Brig S<sup>t</sup> *Brieux* an English Privateer from Guernsey arrived here — We boarded her for Intelligence but recieved none — The latter part of the forenoon

we had moderate breezes from the S. W with hazy weather — The ships company employed scraping between decks and puddening the Anchors M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Donough a midshipman whom we recieved on board the *Constitution* from the Moorish Ship *Merboka* was this day turned over to the *Enterprize* — The Surgeon reports to the Commodore 9 sick 11 convalescents and 4 discharged from the sick list — At noon moderate breezes from the W. S. W. and Hazy Weather — The *Vixen* is ordered to hold herself in readiness as a Convoy from this Port to Gibraltar.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Midshipman (acting as Lieutenant) Daniel C. Heath, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>

Dec<sup>r</sup> 16, 1803 —

The Committee of claims to whom was referred the petition of David Valenzin, has called upon me for official information on the following points in relation to the imperial Polacre [*Paulina*] captured by order of Commodore Morris. As you were Prize-Master of the Polacre, it may be in your power to furnish the information required, which I request you will do. —

1<sup>st</sup> What disposition was ultimately made of the Polacre? —

2<sup>d</sup> For what purpose was Valenzin sent a Prisoner to this country?

3<sup>d</sup> In whose possession are his papers if any were taken from him at the Time of his capture? —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

(Copy)

ALGIERS, Dec<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1803.

DEAR SIR, We yesterday received from Tunis, the painful intelligence, of the captivity of yourself, officers & crew, and the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia*. — Unexpected and severe, as this blow is, we must not despond; but use our best endeavors to remedy the evil, as far as possible. I cannot tell you, what I feel for yourself, and others of my countrymen in captivity; but I can say, that you may depend upon every means in my power, to soften the rigor of your situation and give every comfort it will admit of; and that your liberation, will be one of the first objects of my exertion, the moment we can receive advices from our Government. In the mean time, I place full reliance upon that fortitude, which so eminently distinguishes our countrymen, to bear their hard fate, like men, who look forward to better days.

Mr. Davis, our Charge d'Affairs, at Tunis, has forwarded copies of his letters to you and to Mons. Beaussier, the Commissary-General, of the French Republic, at Tripoli, requesting his friendly assistance, to alleviate, as much as possible, the unfortunate situation of yourself and company. — I fully approve of this conduct of Mr. Davis, and have authorised him to procure money, for supplying such things as may be necessary, for relieving the wants and affording such comforts, as their situation will admit of, to our unfortunate fellow-citizens.

I am desirous to learn the particulars of this business — as we have only learned, that, on 30<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> in the afternoon, the *Philadelphia*,

chasing a Tripolitan Corsair, ran aground, about 2 mile from Tripoli that part of the cannon, &c. were thrown overboard, to get her off, but without effect — that in the night, eight Gun boats went out from Tripoli, and anchored near the frigate 'till day-light; when they began an engagement with her, which continued 'till 4 P. M. when the frigate was carried by boarding — and afterwards got off — We therefore, apprehend, that many lives have been lost on b<sup>d</sup> the frigate, before she was boarded.

If it can be any alleviation of your misfortune, to know, that every one here, takes a deep & feeling interest in your situation — you will enjoy that satisfaction in the highest degree; for no Citizen of the U. S. has had a better opportunity than yourself, of making favorable impressions here; and none could have done it more effectually. Mons. Thainville & his family, are sensibly afflicted with your misfortune. He tells me, he shall write to you, by this courier, and also, to Mons. Beassier, in behalf of our Countrymen.

I shall dispatch, immediately, to our Gov<sup>t</sup> copies of the communications from Mr. Davis, in various directions, so as to ensure as early a conveyance, as the season and circumstances will admit; and I flatter myself, that the acc<sup>ts</sup> must be on their way to the U. S. before this, from other quarters, where they have received earlier intelligence of the event, than we did.

Commodore Preble, left this Bay on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> and intended to go off Tripoli, before he proceeded to Syracuse; so that I presume, you must have heard of him. The U. S. sch<sup>r</sup> *Nautulus*, was in company with him.

I have been received here, by the Dey & Regency, with great cordiality, and they seem to be in good humour with the U. S.

Mr. O'Brien, my predecessor, will remain here, 'till next spring, on acc<sup>t</sup> of the situation of his lady — This is a pleasing circumstance to me, as I shall have an opportunity of profiting by his knowledge and experience in affairs here, as well as in other Regencies. I presume, he will write to you at this time.

Mrs. Lear, sympathises most sincerely, in the misfortune of yourself and our Countrymen, she sends her prayers, and best wishes for your & their health & deliverance. Assure yourself, My Dear Bainbridge, of everything, I can do for you and my Countrymen, in their misfortunes — Tell them, I shall not forget them. —

The channel, thro' which this letter goes to you, will point out a safe communication with me — and I shall expect to hear from you by every opportunity.

Adieu — may God bless you all — and have you in his holy keeping — prays

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801–Dec. 1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Purser Noadiah Morris, U. S. Navy, of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbor 16<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803

SIR, On broaching the beef and Pork which came from on board the Store Ship *Traveller* I find a great proportion of it stinking & unfit for men to eat. I have therefore to request that you will order a survey thereon — .

{LC. EPP. Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 16 December 1803

(Moor'd in Carthagena harbour) These 24 hours Commence with moderate Breezes and Clear pleasant Weather at ½ past 2 P M, brought to in the harbour of Carthagena and moored with the Starb<sup>d</sup> Anchor S W and the larb<sup>d</sup> Anchor N E the Consular boat came alongside and informed Pratique might be Obtained

Consuls boat Came alongside again at 10 AM. —

At meridian hoisted out the barge

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 16 December 1803

The *Nautilus* sailed with dispatches for Gibraltar to be forwarded from thence to the U. S. Navy Office.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 16 December 1803

Moderate Breezes and cloudy. We continue at Anchor in Saragosa with the *Vixen* and *Nautilus* in company: The Guernsey Privateer Brig which stood into the harbor in the Forenoon stood to Sea in the afternoon and towards the Evening she stood into the Harbor and anchored abreast of the *Constitution* — This strange Manœuv'ring we could not account for: The ships company was employed this afternoon making mats & puddening the anchors. By 5 In the Afternoon it was a dead calm and by 7 in the Evening we had a light breeze from the S W with light rain — By 11 the weather cleared up — After 11 P. M till day light light airs and Variable from the West<sup>d</sup> At 7 in the morning mustered at Quarters Punished Patrick Tool & W<sup>m</sup> Williams Seamen with 24 lashes each for drunkenness and neglect of duty — Punished John Russell seaman for neglect of duty and for leaving the boat without liberty with 24 lashes — Punished John Rowe Marine for being asleep on his post At day light we made the necessary arrangements for getting under weigh with a light breeze out of the Harbor but before we hove short it was a dead calm — We have been perfectly clear for sea these three weeks waiting an opportunity of going out of the harbor which cannot be attempted with prudence without a leading wind — The ships company have been employed this forenoon in scraping between decks, stowing the sheet and best bower anchors — From ½ past 7 till noon we had a dead calm — We continued up and down on the small bower all the forenoon with every thing in readiness for weighing should a leading breeze favor us — The Surgeon reports the same as Yesterday. At Noon a dead calm.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 3.

ALGIERS December 17<sup>th</sup> 1803. —

SIR, You will receive, herewith copies of my letters to You N<sup>o</sup> 1 & 2 dated the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> as the Vessel which carried the originals

has had a favourable wind since she left this, on the 15<sup>th</sup> I flatter myself they will reach Your hands in a few days. —

I fully approve of the step which You took in writing to Mons<sup>r</sup> Beaussier, Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> of the French Republic at Tripoli, in behalf of our unfortunate fellow citizens in captivity, and I have no doubt but he will do everything in his power to make their situation as comfortable as their unfortunate lot will permit — I shall do myself the honor of writing to him by this opportunity, confirming the wishes & sentiments expressed in Your letter to him on this subject

Mons<sup>r</sup> Thainville, the Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> of the French Republic here, feels deeply interested in the fate of Captain Bainbridge, as he considers himself under great obligations for his friendly aid in taking off himself and family, together with the other French citizens here, when Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge was at this place in the [*George*] *Washington*, at the time when they were ordered to quit the Regency in 48 hours. — He is also highly esteemed by the Great men here, on account of his Voyage (tho' a forced one) to Constantinople, with the Regalia from the Dey, particularly by the Minister of Marine, who went up and returned with him. I have therefore the satisfaction of believing that measures will be taken in various quarters, to make the situation of himself, his officers, & crew, as comfortable, as can be expected in a state of captivity, untill we know what measures our Gov<sup>t</sup> will pursue in this unfortunate affair. As this event took place the last of October, I trust that information of it is by this time far on it's way to the U. States through the channel of Commodore Preble, or some of our Consuls on the European Coast, who must have had intelligence of it before it reached this place, and who would not fail to forward it to our Gov<sup>t</sup> by the earliest and safest conveyances. — I shall, however, forward letters to Alicant by the Spanish courier, which arrived yesterday & sails again in a few days, and others to Oran, to be sent over to Gibraltar or Malaga without delay. —

We wait anxiously for further particulars of the capture — there is reason to apprehend that many lives were lost in the engagement from day light till 4 P. M. — As we can do nothing more in this business untill advices are received from our Government, than to endeavour to alleviate, as much as possible the bonds of captivity and slavery, with which our unfortunate countrymen are oppressed; and obtain every information in our power respecting the views & expectations of the Bashaw of Tripoli relative to the captives & the ship; I must beg You will not fail to keep me informed of every particular on this subject, so far as You may be able to obtain information of anything which can be useful. — As the harbour of Tripoli will not admit a Ship drawing the water of the *Philadelphia*, I presume the Bashaw will dispose of her to some other power — on this point You will be pleased to get what information You can; as well as what are his expectations on the score of redemption of the captives. — Information on the latter point must be obtained in an indirect manner, and without seeming to seek for it. —

\* \* \* \* \*

I expect David Bocri will furnish me with another letter to Seig<sup>r</sup> Azuly, relative to the two thousand dollars, with which he is to supply

You; and I shall also endeavour to make arrangements with him to have a part, at least, of the ten thousand dollars which You are authorized to procure in Tunis, by my letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> furnished by him, in case you should not have obtained it from some other quarter. For this purpose I shall keep this letter open to the last moment before the departure of the courier. —

18<sup>th</sup> of December.

I have this moment had a conversation with David Bocri, on the subject of furnishing the ten thousand dollars in Tunis. — He says they have no money there and that money must be sent for the purpose &c — so that I find, upon the whole, he is determined to throw obstacles in the way to obtain advantages which he ought not to have. — I therefore pray You will draw upon me for five thousand dollars; if you cannot obtain money by other means, and I will answer the dft at ten days sight; if longer it would be better. — I should have desired you at once to have drawn upon me for the whole; but have been disappointed in some money which has been expected here from Leghorn, but has not yet arrived. — Bocri says the two thousand dollars for which you was to have credit on Azuly, were sent on by land to Tunis two days ago.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 17 December 1803

Sailed on a cruise off Tripoli the *Enterprise* in company.

[LC, original.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 17 December 1803

[Syracuse] At day light hove short: At 7 in the morning we weighed and came to sail with light airs from the W. N. W. — We out boats and sent them ahead with the tow rope — We came out in company with the *Enterprise* — The *Vixen* Lieut<sup>t</sup> Smith we lef[t] at Anchor in Saragosa. She is ordered as a convoy to the *Traveller* Store Ship from Saragosa to Gibraltar

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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To Secretary of the Treasury from P. Muhlenberg, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia

Extract from a letter from the Collector of Philad<sup>a</sup> dated 19: Decem<sup>r</sup> 1803.

Permit me further to request your directions, with regard to American Vessels arming in this port (in part) & as the owners alledge, merely to defend themselves against the Brigands. The *Antelope* was built here by Contract and finished in a very short time — as she was not built for burthen, but expressly for the purpose of fast sailing it was conjectured, that the owners intended to sell her, in the West Indies. It appeared however, that she was chartered for a voyage to the West Indies and to return — On her clearing out, I found she had four Carriage Guns mounted, and that she had some Cutlasses and a few Muskets on board — with about ten rounds of Ammunition. —



I consulted the District Attorney on the occasion whose opinion I beg leave to enclose.

Honble. ALBERT GALLATIN.

[NA. SDA. Misc. L., Jan.-Dec. 1803.]

[Enclosure]

[1 December 1803]

Opinion of Hon. A. J. Dallas, concerning arming of American Vessels for Defence

There is no statute of the United States that prohibits an American Citizen from arming his Vessel, for self defence in a voyage exposed to hazard and it has been often done on voyages to the East Indies and to the Mediterrenean.

But generally considered, it is not regular for a Merchant Vessel to Arm in the time of Peace; and as the Government is responsible for the Conduct of its Citizens, the object of the Armament ought certainly to be satisfactorily ascertained to be a lawful one.

The Armament of the Vessel in question is considerable; but the voyage is, I beleive deemed hazardous by our Merchants. — As therefore the Charter party is conformable to usage; as M<sup>r</sup> Hollingsworth assures you that there is no intention to sell the Vessel abroad or to employ her in any offensive or illisit operations whatsoever I do not think it would be proper to detain her.

But in giving this opinion; I beg to be understood as assuming no responsibility, it is a case that merits the attention of the Government, in order to fix a general rule operating throughout the United States

(signed) A. J. DALLAS

*Philad<sup>a</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1: 1803.*

[NA. SDA. Misc. L., Jan.-Dec.1803.]

To Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
off *Malta* 19th December 1803

SIR I beg you to accept my best thanks, for your humane, generous, and polite attention to Captain Bainbridge, and his Officers, since they have been prisoners in Tripoly. Your noble exertions to lighten their captivity, does you infinite honor; and merits the approbation of all good Men. I shall represent your conduct to my Government, and am convinced, they will take proper notice of it; and reward you accordingly, by some public testimony of their approbation. — I wish exceedingly to see you. Come off to me if you can, when I appear with the Squadron before Tripoly. I will hoist a red flag at the Fore top Gallant Mast head, as a signal by which you may know this ship. — I wish to establish funds for the supply of Captain Bainbridge, and his Officers. And now assure you that, any advances necessary for their support and comfort, which you have in your power to make, shall be readily repaid by me, on account of my Government. I beg you to receive this short letter, as a token of my high respect for your character, and to believe me most Sincerely

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec.1803-April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

off Malta December 19th. 1803

DEAR SIR I am honored with your several favours of the 1<sup>st</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> with their enclosures. I feel most sensibly for the misfortune of yourself, your Officers, and Crew — Your situation is truly distressing, and affects your friends too powerfully to be described. Your misfortune, has occasioned your Country the loss of a Frigate, and for a time, of a valuable commander, Officers and Crew. I have not the smallest doubt, but that you have *all* done everything which you conceived could be done, to get the ship off. and extricate yourselves from the unhappy situation in which you were placed; and I most sincerely regret, that your exertions were not attended with success. The necessity of yielding to an Enemy of any description, must be painful indeed, but how extremely so, to a Nation who knows not how to respect the unfortunate. You may rest assured, that in *me* you have a *friend*, whose exertions shall *never* be wanting in endeavours to relieve you; and in the mean time, you may command such supplies of money, for the comfort of yourself, Officers and Crew, as you may require. I have only to request your requisition for such supplies, and certificate that your Officers and Crew, were obedient to Orders while on board, and that they still continue to be so, as far as their situation will admit of; and to make known to me, from time to time, for the information of the Navy Dep: any improper conduct on the part of any of them, in order that their pay may be checked

\* \* \* \* \*

God bless and preserve you! — May you have health, and live to enjoy the smiles of the fickle Goddess! I shall write you often, under Cover to the Danish Consul. Let me know if any other person at Tripoly can be of service to you, that I can by any means make your friend. — Consul OBrien, recommended to me a M<sup>r</sup> Bryan M<sup>o</sup>Donough at Tripoly, as a person who could be serviceable in any negotiation with the Bashaw. Perhaps it will be well to make him your friend. I suppose *Cash* will be necessary for this purpose. —

Conscious yourself of having done your duty, and the certificate of your Officers approbating your conduct, and exertions on the day the ship was lost, must afford you consolation amidst your misfortunes —

P. S. The *Mirboka* was valued by Col. Lear, Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers, and L<sup>t</sup> Chauncey at 10.000 Doll<sup>s</sup> & the Valuation sent home

E P

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To the Swedish Consul, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Off Malta 19th Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803.

SIR I understand that a Seaman by the name of John Willson, late belonging to the United States Ship *Philadelphia*, has, or intends to claim your protection as a Swede. I now inform you, that he is a naturalized citizen of the United States of America — that he has taken the Oath of Allegiance to that Government, and has volun-

tarily engaged his services for two years in our Navy. — And I now warn you not to take under your protection the said John Willson, or in any way whatever to claim or countenance him, as he will most certainly be considered as a deserter, in case we should make terms with the Bashaw, for the ransom of the Officers and Crew of the *Philadelphia*; and he should be missing. The moment I learn that he is actually protected by you, I shall make a representation to the President of the United States, and to our Minister at the Court of St James London, in order that your conduct may be complained of to the King your Master — I am told that the aforesaid Willson, has conducted himself improperly, by abusing his Officers in expectation of your protection. — I hope & trust Sir, that you are not so far lost to every sense of honor & humanity, as to support a scoundrel in the abuse of Gentlemen, merely because they are unfortunate.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
off Malta 19<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1803]

SIR Proceed to Malta land Mr Dent gain what information you can respecting our friends in Tripoly, and soon as Mr Dent has finished my business in the morning take him on board and Join me again, I shall remain off the Island to Night

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

[19 December 1803]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR Go on board the *Enterprise*, proceed to and land at Malta — Wait on the Governor, acquaint him with my object in coming off the Island — Bring off Mr. Higgins, Mr. Pulis, Mr. Farquhar and the Bashaw's Doctor — Enquire what Vessels are trading to Tripoly and if Clothing etc. can go safe — Bring off all the Letters for the U. S. unless an opportunity offers for Gibraltar soon — Return on board as early tomorrow as possible. —

U. S. S. *Constitution*

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. 1803

[NHF. Dent's LB.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 19 December 1803

at 4 AM, unmoored got up Top Gall<sup>y</sup> yards at 6 weighed and made sail out of Carthage harbour

[NDA photostat.]

[20 December 1803]

To the Commanders of the Ships of War of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Permit the bearer of this with his vessel to pass from Malta to Tripoli with dispatches from the Consul of his Danish Majesty at Malta to the Danish Consul at Tripoli — The Vessel is not to carry Cargo of any sort excepting stores for the Consul's family. The memorandum of stores will be made in an open letter. —

Given under my hand and Seal on board the *Constitution* off Malta this 20<sup>th</sup> day of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803.

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 20 December 1803

P. M. Light breezes and clear weather: Working in with the Island of Malta: At 3 passed over a bank off the Harbor of S<sup>t</sup> Pauls; Sounded from 10 to 17 fathoms hard bottom, could see the ground plain. At 4 P. M. the wind being light I sent L<sup>t</sup> Dent on board the *Enterprise* with Dispatches for Tripoly and ordered Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur to make sail for Malta and land him, and return tomorrow morning — Lay off and on under short sail all night.

A. M. At 10 Consul Pulis came off in a shore boat: Gave him official information of the Blockade of Tripoly to be communicated At 11 the *Enterprise* returned. L<sup>t</sup> Dent informed me that a vessel has lately arrived from Tripoly and bro't letters for me from Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge which have been sent to Syracuse. The Cruizers of the Bashaw were all in Port when that vessel left it 8 days since M<sup>r</sup> Higgins a merchant of Malta came off — I gave him Orders to purchase some necessaries for the officers of the *Philadelphia* and directed the consul to hire a small vessel to carry them with my dispatches to Tripoly and granted a passport for that purpose

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 20 December 1803

Curuising along the North Side of Malta and Standing off[f] and on the Harbour of Valeta Winds Variable from SSE to SW

we Run in with in two or three miles of the Harbour and wore off[f] Shore, at 10 in the forenoon Consul Pulis waited on Commodore Preble at 11 in the forenoon Joined company the *Enterprise*, Lieutenant Dent the Barer of the Commodors Dispatches

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, Havre de Grace, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>

Dec<sup>r</sup> 21. 1803 —

The President having determined to build two Gun-Boats, I have to request that you will undertake the superintendency of one, to be built at the Navy Yard at this place. We conceive that Gun-Boats can be employed with great effect, in the protection in times of war, of our Sea-Port Towns, and we are strongly fortified in this opinion by the observations of practical gentlemen. We have determined to build two by way of Experiment and as models — and having great confidence in your judgment, we shall not fetter you by any particular instructions as to model, dimensions, or the kind of Timber with which to build her. On these points we leave you to be guided entirely by your own judgment. We will only observe that she must be constructed to carry 1 long 32 pound cannon. We do not wish you to hasten the building of the Boat to her detriment — take time — have

the materials prepared in your own way and have the Boat made as perfect as possible. —

You will enter into Contracts for the Timber &c on the best terms in your power. M<sup>r</sup> Steele who is employed by the government as Master Carpenter of the Yard, will superintend the building under your directions. Money will be deposited with Cap<sup>t</sup> Thomas Tingey subject to your orders. You will exercise your discretion in drawing. Small advances may, if necessary, be made. Cap<sup>t</sup> Tingey will make payments to the Contractors and others upon your orders, and will, ultimately settle their accounts. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, Hampton, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Dec<sup>r</sup> 21, 1803 —

The President having determined to build two Gun-Boats, I have to request that you will undertake the superintendency of one to be built at the Navy Yard at Gosport, or at Portsmouth [Va.], or Norfolk, whichever may be found the most convenient. We conceive that Gun-Boats can be employed with great effect in the protection in times of war of our Sea-Port Towns, and we are strongly fortified in this opinion by the observations of practical gentlemen. We have determined to build two by way of Experiment and as Models, and having great confidence in your judgment, we shall not fetter you by any particular instructions as to Model, dimensions, or the kind of timber with which to build her. On these points we leave you to be guided entirely by your own judgment. We will only observe that she must be constructed to carry 1 long 32 p<sup>d</sup> Cannon. So soon as I receive a draft of the Model of the Naples Gun-Boat, I will send it to you that you may examine it. Useful ideas may possibly be gathered from it. It is for this purpose and not to control you in your opinion that I shall send it to you. We do not wish you to hasten the building of the Vessel to her detriment — take time — have the materials prepared in your own way, and have the Vessel made as perfect as possible. —

You will enter into contracts for the Timber &c and building on the best terms in your power and with such person or persons as you may judge the best qualified to perform their engagements with fidelity. Money will be deposited with D<sup>r</sup> Bedinger Esq<sup>r</sup> subject to your orders. You will exercise your discretion in drawing. Small advances may if necessary, be made. M<sup>r</sup> Bedinger will make payments to the Contractors and others upon your orders in their favour and will ultimately settle their accounts. —

You will let me hear from you frequently. — The enclosed are the dimensions of the Gun-Boats to be built at this place under the Superintendency of Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard O'Brien

ALGIERS 21st December 1803

ESTEEMED FRIEND On the 13th Ins<sup>t</sup> the report reached us of the loss of the *Philadelphia*, and that the crew were in bondage in Tripoly this great event was confirmed at Algiers on the 15<sup>th</sup> Instant — Consul Lear has wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Davis to aid our Country Men at Tripoly

in temporary supplies untill the will of our Government should further direct. —

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| 278 Mariners at 600\$ each is.....                       | 166. 800\$ |
| 29 Officers Captain included at }<br>4000\$ each is..... | 116. 000   |
| Supposed Ransom.....                                     | \$282. 800 |

That is if the Bashaw would admit they would be redeemed independent of a peace; if not, I suppose that peace would cost us one hundred thousand dollars, but those terms would be giving Algiers and Tunis a bounty to demand extra terms, and would convince Tripoly that we could not contend with them. It would be giving Tripoly a bounty to wrangle with the Swedes, Danes, Dutch, & Spaniards, and after they bowed to his caprice it would be our turn again. The result of course will be more Frigates in this sea. We should have some floating Batteries built to carry heavy cannon to enter the port of Tripoly to attack, fire on the Town, rake the Marine Sea Battery, and flank the Bashaws Palace or Castle. The same time the Frigates with all their heavy Guns mounted on the attack side, also we should have three or four thousand men to take possession of the Town [or Tower?] Battery when silenced by the floating Batteries, Frigates & Gun Boats, and should you be able to procure the Gun Boats of Naples with this mentioned force, I think Tripoly will be brought to American terms. I should suppose you would strictly Blockade Tripoly until you hear further on this tack from our Government. You will further observe how requisite it would be for Gov<sup>t</sup> to have built 4 or 6 Whale Boats on a large plan to have each a Brass 12 pounder to row and sail with great swiftness: they would with the Frigates and small corsairs destroy the Coasting trade of Tripoly, at times surprize their Gun Boats, cut out Corsairs, attack small ones take the Corsairs in tow, reconnoitre, gain [i]n[telli]gence, and be of the most essential service. They should be 50 feet Keel: they should have capital crews, and occasionally be slung over the quarters of the large Corsairs. Experience has now convinced us that separate corsairs should not be employed on the Coast of Barbary. Our Ships should be capitally and extra manned. Well barricaddad and all calculated for Bow & Stern chaces from the Main Batt<sup>y</sup>

At Algiers the Government of Portugal has offered for Peace and ransom of 380 captives to the amount of One Million, two hundred thousand dollars. Should this sum tempt the Dey, the Corsairs of this regency will have no obstruction to the Western Ocean, and the regency is at Peace with two many Nations for any of the smaller Ones to consider their Peace as durable. Some one will have to look out for squalls. In my opinion we have no time to lose in building the 74 Gun Ships, and 6 more large Frigates we should make a great National exertion, and Tripoly should get what it merits from the United States. You no doubt will have true soundings from Captain Bainbridge. Captain Stewart arrived here this day in 24 days from Leghorn. And also this day I have an addition to my family in the birth of a Son. this event will permit me shortly to set out from here on my return to the United States where I trust my information to the heads of Dep: will be in some respects favorable to your mission to this Sea. It is evident we must fight, or pay, or withdraw our affairs from this Sea, and with a small division at Gibraltar we give

our commerce in the Western Ocean security & is clear of Tributes and homage to Barbary. You will excuse the purport of this random letter I presume there is not an idea hinted at, but what you must have considered fully. One thing more, as the port of Tripoly has not sufficient depth of water for the *Philadelphia*, that is, should the Bashaw get her off and save the Ship, under this consideration I have no doubt but Tunis or Algiers will consider of purchasing said Ship. if so she should not be admitted to a pass or passage as either a Tunisian or Algerine property. God I trust will aid and assist you is the sincere wish of Sir

(Signed) RICH<sup>d</sup> OBRIEN

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS, Dec<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR, As I see a Brig off, which I suppose is the *Syren*, I prepare a few lines for you before I go on board; and am sorry to commence our correspondence by saying, that on the 15<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> we received the painful intelligence, from M<sup>r</sup> Davis, at Tunis, of the loss of the U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, and capture of her crew & by the Tripolines. — You must undoubtedly have known of this disastrous event long before this, and I feel anxious to hear what measures you intend pursuing in consequence. — I have authorized M<sup>r</sup> Davis to give to our unfortunate fellow Citizens all the relief that their situation will admit of, and have also written to Mons<sup>r</sup> Beausnier, the French Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> at Tripoli to do everything in his power, to alleviate their misfortunes, which I have no doubt will be done. I wrote to Capt Bainbridge at the same time, and forwarded letters to him & to the French Comm<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> from Mon<sup>s</sup> Thainville the French Chargé d'Affairs here, who feels deeply interested in the fate of Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge & from the services which he rendered him & his Nation when here in the [*George*] *Washington*. — I have had much conversation with the Jews & others here, who are acquainted with those officers, respecting the Ransom of our Countrymen; but it seems to be a general opinion that it cannot be done, without blending a peace with that transaction. Should this be the case, we must wait orders from home, before any steps can be taken in the business. — The Jews Estimate is five hundred thousand dollars for Ransom & a peace; but this is out of the question. —

The Swedish Consul tells me that when they made peace with Tripoli they redeemed about 150 captives, which, with the peace, amounted to 150,000 dollars, and this was thought extravagant. —

The Dey & Regency here appear at present in good humour with us; but this unfortunate event will have an effect on all our Barbary affairs. — If the Tripolines have got the *Philadelphia* off, they cannot use her in their port, and must sell her to some other power, and, in that case, I think the Dey will endeavour to get her. —

I am sorry to inform you that one of the Ships which has been expected here with the Annuities, was lost on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> on the Bar of S<sup>t</sup> Lucar, near Cadiz. M<sup>r</sup> Iznardi writes me that the Vessel is totally lost, but he hopes some of the cargo will be saved. — This is peculiarly unfortunate at this moment, especially as the two cargoes

received here will not pay one of the Annuities due here last Sept<sup>r</sup> — and we shall owe a balance of more than 30,000 doll<sup>r</sup> on that acc<sup>t</sup> — I was obliged to employ 20,000 doll<sup>s</sup> of the money I brought here in a Consular present, as the Dey had been long expecting me; more, perhaps, on account of the expected present, than on any other, and as he had been disappointed in the Annuities which had been so long promised, he might beleive we intended to deceive him on every tack, if the present did not accompany me. I am rejoiced that I did so, since we have heard of the fate of the *Philadelphia*, as he has now no fair pretext to be hard upon us, as he w<sup>d</sup> be disposed to take advantage of it, at this moment, if he had. — I have always been fully of opinion, in which I flatter myself you cordially join with me, that we sh<sup>d</sup> be *faithful & punctual* in all our *stipulations* with these people however unpalatable it may be; and we sh<sup>d</sup> then be able to repel any extra demand with a good face. —

The Cruizers of this Regency returned into port on the 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo, without any prizes. They sold one, a Maltise, at Tunis; but as she had a protection, the Dey ordered her to be restored, liberated the Crew, and broke some of his Captains.

The English are out of credit here, at present. M<sup>r</sup> Falcon has not make his appearance; but I think if Lord Nelson could come with his Ships, he w<sup>d</sup> have all he could ask. —

The Cruizers are strip'd & laid up for the winter. — They consist of 2 Ships of 44 Guns — 1 of 36 (the *Crescent*) 3 Xebecks from 20 to 30 Guns 2 Polacres of 20 — 1 Brig of 18 — 2 Schooners of 16 & 18 Guns, the three last American built. —

Capt<sup>n</sup> Stewart has had a long passage of 24 days from Leghorn, & some very bad weather. He takes in some water & fresh provisions here & will proceed to Syracuse. —

M<sup>r</sup><sup>s</sup> Lear enjoys good health, and unites with me in respects & best wishes for yourself and the Officers of your Ship. — I am anxious to hear from you & to know what measures you propose to pursue in the Spring. — The *Argus* left Leghorn with the *Syren*.

•        \*        \*        •        •        •        •  
[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 21 December 1803

[20 December, standing in for Port of Algiers] Midnight calm, untill 6. AM when a light breeze sprang up from the Nw<sup>d</sup> Algiers bearing W S W. wore to the S. W a ship standing out from the Port of Algiers. ½ past 7 brac'd about the yards & stood in for Algiers. At 11 M<sup>r</sup> T. Lear (American Consul) came on board & inform'd us that the frigate *Philadelphia* was captur'd by the Tripolians on the 20<sup>th</sup> [31] October. Meridian came too in 28 fathoms. At 1 AM the fort at Algiers saluted us with 21 guns, which we return'd with the same Number. At 2 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on shore with the barrells & boxes &c for the Dey. the lighthouse at Algiers bore East ½ past 4 the barge return'd with L<sup>t</sup> Stewart. hoisted in boats. At 5 sent down two Gall<sup>s</sup> yards. Midnight loos'd main top sail in order to ride clear of the Anchor —

(These remarks include 36 hours)

[NDA.]



To Daniel Bedinger, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup>

22<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803

We wish to send to the Mediterranean for the use of our Squadron

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 400 barrels of     | Beef          |
| 350 d <sup>o</sup> | Pork          |
| 120 d <sup>o</sup> | Flour         |
| 18,000 lbs         | Suet          |
| 120 000 lbs        | Bread         |
| 0000 lbs [sic]     | Butter        |
| 30,000 lbs         | Rice          |
| 400 bushels of     | Beans or Peas |
| 1300 Gallons       | Vinegar       |
| 1300 Gallons       | Melasses      |
| 8000 lbs of        | Cheese        |

If you have not a sufficiency of Beef and Pork on hand, let me know immediately and I will send you from this place as many barrels as will make up the Quantity required — all the other articles stated above you will purchase on the best terms in your power — the Bread you will engage immediately — it must be baked over twice and great care must be taken in making it and packing it for Shipment — make your requisition for the necessary monies on me —

You will engage a Vessel to sail about the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> — she must proceed to Gibraltar and if required by the Consul there thence to Malta — As the *Betsy Walk* has a mediterranean pass probably you can engage her on good terms — I have directed Captain Cassin to ship to you (the freight of which you will pay) 1½ tons assorted Cordage which is also to be sent for the use of the Squadron — Let me hear from you immediately on receiving this letter —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

Receipts to Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS December 22<sup>d</sup> 1803. —

Received from Captain Charles Stewart, of the U. States Brig *Syren*, the articles mentioned in the Invoice sent by James Leander Cathcart Esquire from Leghorn, in the said Brig *Syren*, to the underwritten in Algiers, on account & risque of the U. States of America, and for which Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart has given his receipt dated Leghorn November 22<sup>d</sup> 1803. —

(Signed) TOBIAS LEAR

Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the U. States at Algiers. —

Received also at the same time, from Captain Stewart two chests of Tea, sent by M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, as above mentioned, and not included in the Invoice before stated. —

(Signed) TOBIAS LEAR

Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> of the U. States at Algiers —

The above is a copy of Receipts given by T. Lear to Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart, for Articles brought from Leghorn Dec<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1803. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 22 December 1803

Commences with light airs from the N E<sup>d</sup> & hazy weather. At ½ past 3 handed main topsail. day light hoisted out the boats At 4 hoisted in the launch & barge L<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on shore in the cutter — Meridian hove up the Anchor & got under way. Lying bye under topsails in the bay of Algiers unbent the sheet cable & Stow'd the anchor —

(NB these remarks include 12 hours)

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Midshipman Henry P. Casey, U. S. Navy

U, S, FRIGATE *Constitution* December 23<sup>d</sup> 1803 —

SIR, I hope, I may take the liberty of addressing you in hopes of being released from the present disagreeable situation you have plased me in, which you would have had no occasion for, had it not been my middle watch, & not being perfectly asleep before all hands were called, It not being a rule in the other ships I have been attached to, to turn out when it was my middle watch, but I hope you will look over my present negligence to your orders, & depend in future of my strict Obedience I am, Sir,

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*. Friday, 23 December 1803

After day light till ½ past 8 A. M. we continued running to the South<sup>d</sup> — We then answered the *Enterprize* Signal for seeing land to the S. W. and a strange sail in the same quarter — We made all plain sail and gave chase — The Wind was at this time free, but in the act of setting studding sails the wind veered to the S. W. which bro't the chase dead to wind<sup>d</sup> — The chase continued steering towards us till 10 A. M. At which time she was bro't to by the *Enterprize* about two miles in sight from the *Constitution* We made signal to the *Enterprize* to bring the chase to the Commodore — The Wind from this time till noon was light & variable from the S. At ½ past 11 the chase came within hail — She was ketch rigged with Tripolitan Colors [*Mastico*, renamed *Intrepid*] — We sent a boat for the Captain or commanding officer and examined her under English Colors — She shewed about 20 men who seemed to confer together waiting the Issue — When we hauld down the English & hoisted American Colors the People on board the vessel appeared to be in the greatest confusion The Commodore gave orders for taking charge of the Vessell At Noon moderate breezes from the S E — The Town of Tripoli W S W nearly 9 miles — *Enterprize* in company

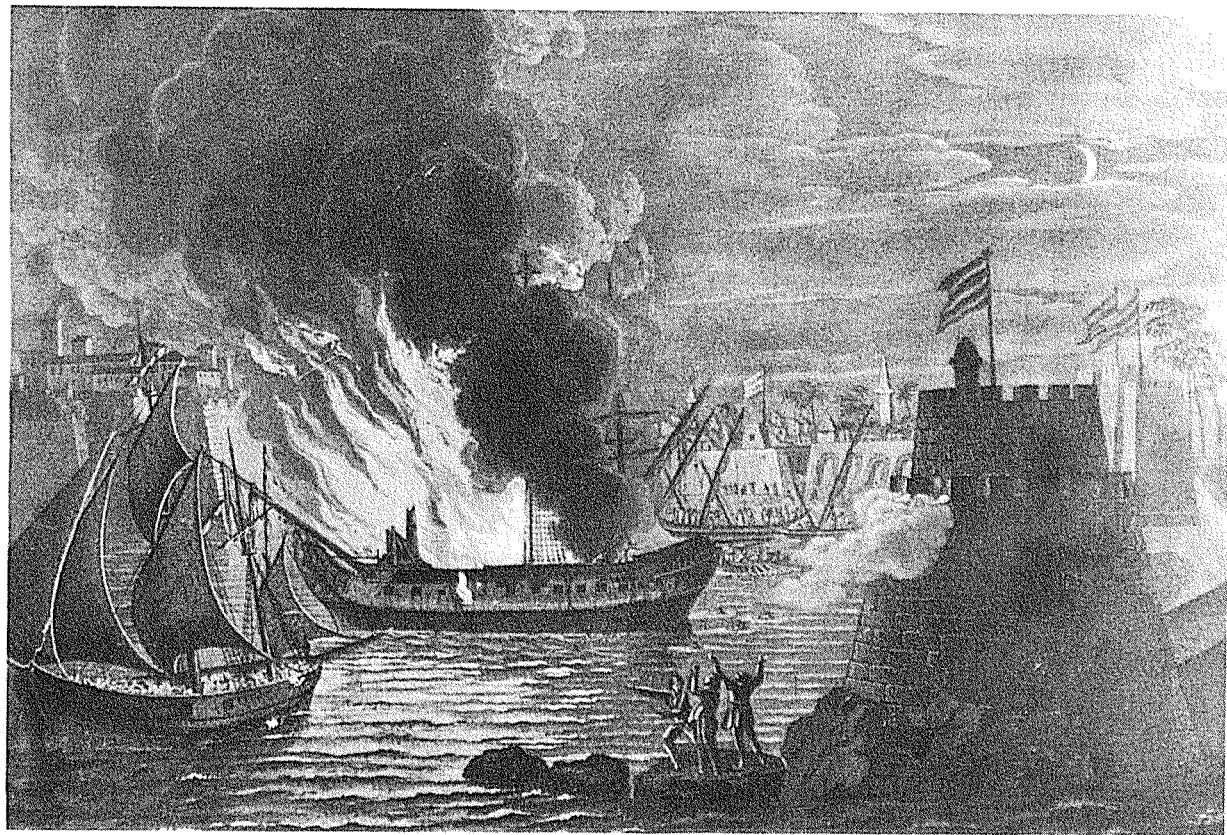
Latitude obs<sup>d</sup> 32° 58' North:

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

[23 December 1803]

To Midshipman Hethcote J. Reed, U. S. Navy, appointed Prize Master of Tripoline Prize to U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR You are hereby directed to take Charge as Prize Master of the Tripoline Galliot prize to the United States Ship *Constitution* under



THE BURNING OF THE U. S. FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA.



my command and proceed with her to Syracuse and wait my orders — reporting yourself to the Commanding officer of the United States Ship in that Port.

Given under my hand on board the U. S. Ship  
*Constitution* off Tripoli 23<sup>d</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1803.

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 23 December 1803

Captured the Turkish Ketch called *Mastico* with about 70 Tripolines on board.

[LC, original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S.  
Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding,  
Friday, 23 December 1803

Commences with fresh breezes & cloudy Lying bye off Algiers.  
At 2 PM L<sup>t</sup> Stewart return'd, hoisted in the cutter & made sail to the  
NE<sup>d</sup> At 5 cape Caxene bore West, cape Matifore S. by W, Algiers  
W S W

[NDA.]

[24 December 1803]

To the Hon. William Eustis, United States Congress, from Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Navy presents respects to Doctor Eustis and  
informs him that under the existing Law of 3<sup>d</sup> March 1801,

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| A Captain in the Navy on half pay receives annually              | --- \$600 |
| A Lieutenant   | --- 240   |
| A Surgeon  | --- 300   |
| A Sailing Master   | --- 240   |
| A Purser   | --- 240   |
| A Surgeon's Mate   | --- 180   |
| A Midshipman   | --- 114   |
| A Boats <sup>n</sup> , Gunner, S <sup>t</sup> Maker or Carpenter | --- 120   |

and that by allowing rations to the Officers of the Navy when they  
are on half pay, the additional compensation would be,

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| To A Captain  | --- \$584 |
| To a Lieutenant   | --- 219   |
| To a Surgeon  | --- 146   |
| To a Sailing Master   | --- 146   |
| To a Purser   | --- 146   |
| To a Surgeon's Mate   | --- 146   |
| To a Midshipman   | --- 73    |
| To a Boatswain, Gunner, S <sup>t</sup> Maker or Carp <sup>t</sup> | --- 146   |

SATURDAY Dec<sup>r</sup> 24: 1803 —

[NDA. Cong. LB, Vol. 1, 1798–1811.]

To Anthony Merry, British Minister to the United States, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1803.

SIR. I have received from the Collector at one of our Ports a copy of an American Ships Register, on which is endorsed as follows: "Every port in the Island of S<sup>t</sup> Domingo being in a state of blockade by His Britannic Majesty's Squadron, you are hereby warned off from that Island, and if seen or found within three leagues of the land after the date of this, you will be made a prize off. Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Bellerophon* off Cape Francois 26<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1803, (signed) John Loring" —, on the face of the document and through its contents is written the same notice in substance signed by the same Commander.

In case of a real blockade, and of a customary warning thereof to Neutral Vessels, it might justly be expected that more respect would be shewn to so solemn and so permanent an instrument as the Register of a Ship, than to select it for such a purpose, and particularly to deface it in such a manner. Other papers of the Ship, the clearance for example, which could not be safely destroyed with a view to surpress the intended proof might certainly be substituted with more propriety, and with sufficient effect: And there would be the greater reason in committing the notice to an occasional document, as the notice itself might be limited to the occasion: whereas if attached to a permanent document, it might subject the neutral Vessel indefinitely to interruptions, neither warrantable nor contemplated. But you will readily perceive Sir, that these remarks do not touch the primary object which demands attention. Here is another and still more extraordinary instance in which a blockade is pretended and declared by a few Ships against a whole Island, of vast extent and abounding with ports and places of commerce. Persuaded that so gross a violation of the rights of neutrality will sufficiently speak for itself, and make its own appeal to the justice, the honor and the friendly dispositions of your Government, I forbear to make any comment on it, farther than to refer to that contained in my letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> October last to M<sup>r</sup> Thornton, on a similar proceeding against our commerce with the Island of Martinique and Guadaloupe. I must request, however that in addition to the communications which you will doubtless make to your Government on this subject, you will take such other steps as will be most likely to remove without delay, a source of so much injury and irritation, not only in this last case, but in the one preceeding which is not known to have been discontinued.

I cannot dismiss this subject without calling your attention to a circumstance which is no inconsiderable aggravation of the principal wrong. The American Vessel is informed that if found, after the notice given, within three Leagues of any port of the Coast, it will subject her to the consequences of violating the blockade. If it were the intention to extend the Territorial Jurisdiction of the Island three leagues from the shore, it might be asked on what authority this distance is prescribed? it might be asked on what pretext any Territorial jurisdiction could be assumed by those who do not occupy a single foot of the Island? If it were intended that the mere appearance of the Vessel within the given distance should be taken for proof of her steering for a blockaded port, the question not only recurs as to the reality of the blockade, but it might be asked with what colours

such a proof could be drawn from a circumstance which might result either from the casualties of the weather and seas or from a Voyage to other Islands or places, for which such a course is known to be often most convenient, and even absolutely necessary. In making this communication to you Sir, which is done by an express charge from the President, I feel a perfect confidence that you will do justice equally to its importance and to its motives. Our two Nations have every reason to cultivate the good understanding which subsists between them, and the cordiality with which it continues to be promoted on the part of the United States has been too thoroughly manifested to be called into doubt. They have the best grounds therefore to expect and to claim in return every proof of justice and respect which is due to the example on their side, and to the interests on both sides: They look for those returns more particularly in the case of their maritime rights, because it is in the case of these that they have hitherto had most ground of complaint; because it is in the case of these that their sensibility is at this moment awakened; and because in the same case therefore a reciprocity of justice and of respect will contribute most to consolidate the friendly and beneficial relations to which the two Nations are respectively united.

[NA. SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 14, May 1802–May 1805.]

To Commanding Officer of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, from Sir  
Alexander John Ball, British Civil Commissioner, Malta

MALTA, 24<sup>th</sup> December 1803.

SIR, It having been notified to me by the Consul of the United States of America at this Island that the Port of Tripoli is at this time declared, by the Commodore Commanding in these Seas, to be in a state of blockade, I have to acquaint you that the sending supplies to that Port will be discouraged and hereafter prohibited as much as possible by this Government. —

As there is now in Tripoli about One thousand Bullocks which have lately been purchased for the use of the Inhabitants of this Island, I must therefore beg leave to request that you would be pleased to give such directions to the Ships and Vessels under your command as in your judgement may seem proper, in order that the Vessels, on which the said Bullocks may be embarked, may be permitted to proceed without molestation: — And I presume to hope from the friendship and good understanding subsisting between the United States and Great Britain that no difficulty can arise from your compliance with this request.

ALEX. JN<sup>o</sup> BALL

*His Britannic Majesty's Civil Commissioner for the  
affairs of Malta*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803–1804.]

To Secretary of State from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 5. (5<sup>th</sup> Copy)

ALGIERS December 24<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR The letters and papers which I have now the honor to enclose, will inform you of the unfortunate fate of the U. States Frigate *Philadelphia*, and the captivity of her crew by the Tripolitans, as well as of the steps which have thus far been taken in consequence of that disastrous event. — We have had no accounts since the

letters of D<sup>r</sup> Davis of the 16th & 17th of Nov<sup>r</sup> excepting, that the Danish Consul here, says he has received a letter from the Danish Consul at Tripoli, informing that the Frigate had not been got off; and that Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge & his people were well treated &<sup>c</sup> — I have taken all opportunities of endeavouring to learn, by every indirect manner, what might be the expectations of the Bashaw of Tripoli with respect to Ransom; and I find it is generally believed, that unless a peace is effected, with a Ransom, the latter will be high, if attainable. — The estimate is as follows. —

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Ransom of 307 persons @ 1000\$----- | 307, 000   |
| Peace-----                          | 100, 000   |
| Presents on the Occasion-----       | 43, 000    |
|                                     | <hr/>      |
|                                     | \$450, 000 |

But this is certainly too high, as the Bashaw has hitherto received but 5 or 600 dollars per man, from other powers when they have redeemed their subjects and made peace. — We must, however wait for information from Tripoli, to know what impression this event has made there, before we can form any just opinion on the subject. — And all I can do will be to obtain the best information in my power, to enable me, or any other person, to act in this business, when ever the orders of our Government may be received relative to it. — I have not heard from Commodore Preble since the News of this event; but am anxious to know what steps he means to pursue in consequence of it. —

As this event will have its effects on all these regencies, with respect to the U. States, as they may see the measures which will be taken in consequence of it; it remains with the Governm<sup>t</sup> to decide, whether they will send a force into this sea, not only equal to finishing the business with Tripoli; but to keep the other Regencies in awe; — or expend in Ransom and a peace nearly 500,000 dollars, with a certainty of having demands increase upon us from the other powers; — or withdraw our Trade entirely from the Mediterranean. — Should this last measure be determined upon, I must add, that it would be necessary to keep nearly, or quite as many Vessels to guard the Straits, and prevent Cruizers from going into the Atlantic, as to effect the first; — especially too, *as I am well informed that the Portuguese* are upon the point of concluding a peace with this Regency, which will open to their Cruizers the whole range of the Atlantic, from which they have kept them for so many years. — In addition to this Misfortune, I receiv<sup>d</sup> letters from the Consular House at Cadiz, dated Nov<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> informing me of the loss of the Ship *Sally*, on the Bar of S<sup>t</sup> Lucar, on the 20th of Nov<sup>r</sup> with a cargo of Timber &<sup>c</sup> on board, as a part of our Annuities due the 5th of Sept<sup>r</sup>. The Vessel was lost and it was uncertain whether any of the cargo would be saved or not. — This will render our settlement with the Regency more difficult than if she had arrived, as we shall have a much larger sum to pay in cash, even if they consent to receive it. — I wait to here further from Cadiz, if any part of the cargo has been saved, to make it worth while to ship it round here; before I press the settlement for cash; and especially as I have not all the Cash in hand (which would be a great object) and must depend upon the Jews for a part of it, with whom I wish to have as little to do as possible.



The U. States Brig *Syren* arrived here from Leghorn on the 20th inst; whin Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart delivered to me from M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, the amount of nineteen thousand, five hundred & ninety three dollars & 3 cents in articles which he had prepared for the Consular present, and Twelve thousand Doll<sup>s</sup> in cash. — The copies of these accounts, and of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart's communications, shall be forwarded to you by the next opportunity. — Capt. Stewart was obliged to remain one day in port to deliver the articles &c and the next sailed with a fair wind to join the Commodore. — He had a boisterous passage of 24 days from Leghorn and had not heard of the loss of the *Philadelphia* before he arrived here. — The broad cloths which he brought, as part of the consular present, had received considerable damage on board the Brig; the Bales having been wet with sea water in a gale of wind, which obliged him to open them on board.

On the 27th of Nov<sup>r</sup> I communicated to the Regency, the intention of our Government to change the Mediterranean Passport, and fixed the term of two years (of 12 *lunar* months each) for the full exchange; and in the mean time either the new or old passport should be respected. — I have sent D<sup>r</sup> Davis, at Tunis, sixty Tops and one new passport, with directions to make the like communications there. — The cruizers of this Regency are stript and laid up for the winter.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 26th. The Minister of the Marine sent for me this morning, and put into my hands the Inclosed Invoice of articles required by the Dey from the United States on their next Annuity. — I received it, and told him it should be forwarded; but gave him no assurances that it would be fully compli'd with — The non arrival of the Annuities due on the 5th of Sept<sup>r</sup> last which were almost entirely of Timber &c is one principal cause of this heavy Invoice of other Articles at this time; for, he observes that when Invoices are given for Timber, plank, and other articles, the production of the U. States, they are neither not sent forward; or it requires so many Vessels to bring them, that some are lost on the way; and that he may, therefore, as well give orders for articles more valuable and less bulky. — I felt, at this moment all the evils, and disadvantages of our want of punctuallity in fulfilling our Stipulations, and could not repel this exorbitant demand in the manner I should otherwise have done; and have, therefore, sent it as I received it; but, in the mean time, I shall seek opportunities to reduce it, and if some part of each of the high Articles sh<sup>d</sup> be sent, together with more plank and Timber, of a good quality, and a quantity of small spars for Top Mast, Top Gallant masts, and Steering sail booms — and stuff for the handles of rammers, Spunges & Laidles for cannon of different calibers, from 4 8 to 6 pounders, they w<sup>d</sup> be received. — Should part of the Cables & cordage be sent, it would perhaps be best to contract with some Merchant in the U. S, engaged in the Baltic trade, to deliver them here at a fixed price.

There is a Spanish Packet established between Allicant and this place, which passes once a month, and I believe, one from thence to Tunis also. — The time for passing by land, from this place to Tunis, in the Winter is 30 days — from thence to Tripoli 15 days. — Very few Vessels pass in the Winter Season. — In Summer the land conveyance is about 15 days to Tunis & ten from thence to Tripoli. —

Notwithstanding the unhappy loss of the *Philadelphia* & captivity of the crew, and the loss of the Annuity Ship, I do not despair of

seeing our affairs in a respectable situation in this Sea, if we act with Vigor and decision. —

Mons<sup>r</sup> Thainville, the charge d'affaires and commissary General of the French Republic here, takes a deep interest in the fate of Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge & our Unfortunate Countrymen. — He has just sent me a copy of a letter he has written to his Government on the Subject, expressive of his feelings. —

My best respects attend the President and I pray you to assure him, that my best exertions shall not be wanting to promote the honor and interest of our Country here, so far as it may be in my power.

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 6, Jan. 1801–Dec. 1803.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 24 December 1803

Moderate breezes and pleasant weather: Laying to with head off shore examining the chase: She is a Ketch rigged Vessel of about 60 or 70 Tons — Sailed from Tripoly last evening and the Captain says bound to Bengaza under Turkish Colors from thence to Constantinople she is armed with two cannon and some Muskets, Pistols &c<sup>a</sup> has on board a Turkish Master, Seven Greeks and four Turks, Sailors, a Turkish Officer, Two Tripoline Officers, Ten Tripoline soldiers as passengers and forty two negro men, women, and children which the master says was taken on board at Tripoly on account of the Bashaw and given in charge of the Tripoline officer to present to the Cap<sup>t</sup> Pacha at Constantinople: She had on board also two cannon in the hold and was to take on board other presents at Bengaza: her papers written in Arabic but no passport from any of the Consuls at Tripoly. The Turkish Officer alone had a Passport from the English Vice Consul specifying that he was to take Passage in a vessel with Turkish Colors but neither the name of Vessel or Master was mentioned in it. An Italian doctor who came on board at Malta and who was in Tripoly when the *Philadelphia* was captured personally knew the Tripoline Officers and assured me that one of them was a principal Officer of the Bashaw and that the other held high rank in his troops. And that the Tripoline soldiers belonged to the Gun boats were all of them engaged in the capture of the *Philadelphia*. He also informed me that the captain of the Vessel was on board one of the Gun boats that captured that ship: and that he was among the first that boarded her and was extremely active in taking the Officers out and carrying them to the Bashaw of Tripoli, as well as plundering them of their cloathing. Concieving it improper to let her pass under all these circumstances with officers, soldiers, Guns and other Property all belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoly and bound from one off his Ports to another of his Ports, I ordered all the crew and Passengers on board excepting the negroes and two Tripolines to cook for them & take care of them, and sent on board two Midshipmen and several sailo[r]s to conduct her to Syracuse for farther examination and have her papers translated — At 4 P. M. sent off the Prize under convoy of the *Enterprize*. Wind S. E. Stood in Towards Tripoly. At sun set we were about 7 Miles from the Town bearing S W b S. We then shortened sail and Stood to the S E untill midnight, then wore Ship to the S W. Wind from S S E to West, very variable untill 10 A. M. when the wind came from the N W b N. Steered W b S untill 11,

then wore ship and stood to the E N E, wind North and every indication of a gale: carried all Sail to endeavour to gain an offing. At Noon observed in Lat<sup>s</sup> 33° 22' Tripoli bearing S 47 W distance 38 Miles.

[This prize was the *Mastico*, renamed *Intrepid*.]

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 24 December 1803

Moderate Breezes with pleasant weather: We are laying to with our head off shore about 9 or 10 miles to the East<sup>d</sup> of Tripoli examining the chase which is Ketch rigged belonging to the bashaw of Tripoli & sailed from Tripoli this morning bound to Constantinople At 1 P. M. out large cutter — Sent M<sup>r</sup> Reed Masters Mate & M<sup>r</sup> Lewis Midshipman with seven seamen on board the chase with orders to proceed to Saragosa in the Island of Sicily — We recieved from the Vessell between 25 & 30 Prisoners & a number of Servants belonging to them — Three or four trunks were recieved from her — The Prisoners were put under the half deck under the charge of two centinels— The cloathes which were recieved were great coats and bedding which was laid down before them and every person was allowed to take his own — A small quantity of small arms was recieved such as Muskets, Pistols and Swords: The Vessel had a number of Black persons on board as a present from the Bashaw of Tripoli to the Grand Signior — Among the Prisoners were several Tripolitan Officers of Distinction whom the Commodore took to his own table — We continued the main Topsail to the mast with moderate breezes from the East<sup>d</sup> till 4 P. M. at which time we bore up to the S W & parted company with the Prize & the Sch<sup>r</sup> *Enterprize* who is ordered to convoy the Prize from this place to Saragosa — We continued steering to the S W till sun down at which time the Town of Tripoli bore S W b W nearly 7 miles — We shortened sail and came to the Wind N E b N till 1 A M. with moderate breezes from the S E. We then Tacked to the S W — from this time till day light we had moderate breezes & variable from the S E to W N W. We wore as necessary to get in shore and at 8 in the Morning a breeze sprung up from the N W — We made all plain sail in towards Tripoli, The Wind Veered to the North<sup>d</sup> & by 11 in the forenoon the weather to the North<sup>d</sup> became overcast with heavy clouds & had every appearance of a gale from that Quarter — We Judge ourselves at this time between 25 & 30 Miles from the Town of Tripoli We immediately tacked to the East<sup>d</sup> and came close on a wind to the E N E. At noon we had moderate breezes from the North with a swell setting from the N N E with heavy clouds to the North<sup>d</sup> we suppose the ship to be nearly 24 miles N E b N from the Town of Tripoli The Weather is overcast & we cannot see the land We are under all plain sail in order to obtain an offing — Latitude obs<sup>d</sup> 33° 22' North

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 25 December 1803

Moderate breezes & cloudy weather. We are between 20 & 30 Miles N N E of Tripoli with moderate breezes & variable from the North<sup>d</sup> — The weather has every appearance of strong breezes from

the North<sup>d</sup> A heavy gale from the N E or N N E would make our situation very disagreeable as it would expose us to an enemys coast — The angular position of which to the North<sup>d</sup> & West<sup>d</sup> makes it necessary to avoid that part; by standing to the East<sup>d</sup> we could only lay the coast along and of course afford no drift or lee way — The Horrors of ship wreck added to irretrievable Slavery make the coast very dangerous in the winter — The wind was variable all the afternoon — We tacked as necessary to take every advantage in order to obtain on offing — Towards the Evening the weather became squally with light showers of rain We double reefed the Topsails & sent down top Gall<sup>t</sup> Yards — At 6 in the evening we tacked to the East<sup>d</sup> on which tack we continued during the night in the first part of which we had frequent squalls & rain — We up Mainsail & clewed up the Topsails three times in the Middle watch & set them immediately after the squalls were over — At 8 A M we had a heavy squall from N<sup>d</sup> b E. After it was over we tacked to the North<sup>d</sup> — We got up the Fore runners & tackles & set up the belly stay in order to ease the bowsprit — Sent down the studding sail booms fore & aft & the fore & mizen top gall<sup>t</sup> masts; rigged in the Jibb boom & reset the fore runners — We had frequent Squalls all the forenoon We handed the close reefed topsails two or three time in the course of the forenoon — The Sun did not make its appearance untill about ten minutes before noon — We had an observation between the squalls which agrees very nearly with our dead reckoning 67 miles to the North<sup>d</sup> of Tripoli — We have been under a press of sail the greatest part of these 24 hours & hemmed in as as we are on an enemys coast it was necessary to carry thro' all when the squalls were favorable — This we did two or three times till we found the mast to be in danger from the heavy pitching of the ship — During the squalls we clued up the Topsails — At noon strong gales from the N E b E — We are under close reefed topsails & storm stay sails & a reefed main sail — Latitude obs<sup>d</sup> 34° 7' N°

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

[26 December 1803]

To the Hon. William Eustis, United States Congress, from Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Navy informs Doct<sup>r</sup> Eustis, in addition to his note of Saturday last, that by allowing full rations to all the Officers of the Navy when they are on half pay, the annual additional Expence to the Government would be about 18000 Doll<sup>s</sup>, but if the allowance of full rations should be confined to such sea officers as altho' on furlough shall not have permission to leave the Country, & whose professions do not supply them with the means of supporting themselves on shore, the annual additional Expence would then be \$9,928 as nearly as it can be estimated. Captains, Lieutenants and Midshipmen are Officers of the description alluded to. It is manifest that Officers of these grades are incapable of professional exertions on shore. When officers are furloughed with permission to go to Sea on their own private Affairs, half pay without rations is as much as they ought or I believe do expect. Doctor Eustis will herewith receive a rough draft of a section which comprizes the ideas of the Secretary. —

MONDAY 26 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803.

[Enclosure]

Rough draft comprising ideas of Secretary of the Navy regarding pay and rations of officers on furlough

That every Captain, Lieutenant and Midshipman who may not be under, but may be subject to, orders for actual service, shall during war at present subsisting between the United States and the Bashaw of Tripoli be entitled to receive their respective rations in addition to the half pay prescribed by the Act providing for the Naval Peace Establishment: Provided that if any Captain Lieutenant or Midshipman shall apply to the Secretary of the Navy for a furlough for the purpose of prosecuting any voyage whatever in a Merchant Vessel or any other private business and shall accordingly obtain a furlough for any such private purpose no such officer shall be entitled to receive any rations as aforesaid. —

[NDA. Cong. LB, Vol. 1, 1798-1811.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

December 26<sup>th</sup> 1803.

SIR I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October last. The President's sentiments concerning the event communicated in the latter, and respecting yourself as having had a principal Agency in bringing it about have been expressed in his Message to Congress of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> which will doubtless have been forwarded to you from the Department of the Navy; and I have the pleasure to add that the terms of the peace, and the honorable manner in which it was restored, have equally impressed the Public mind in your favour.

The letter from the Emperor to the President came to hand and by this conveyance an Answer is transmitted to the care of M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. This will not be the sole expression of our sense of the reconciliation as the Gun Carriages formerly written for by M<sup>r</sup> Simpson, will probably arrive, and be presented about the same time. They left the Chesapeake towards the close of last Month in the Schooner *Citizen* bound to Gibraltar, but ordered to touch at L'Orient, to land the ratification of the treaty with France respecting Louisiana —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS December 26<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR, A few days ago I was favoured with a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Perry, informing me of the loss of the Ship *Sally*, Cap<sup>t</sup> R. Archer, near the Bar of S<sup>t</sup> Lucas, chartered by the American Government with naval stores, for the Regency of Algiers. — This Ship we have been long expecting; and the loss of her is unfortunate for us at this time, as our Annuity was due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup> last, and has been anxiously looked for here. — I am in hopes that all, or a part of the cargo, may have been saved. — Should there have been as much saved, as to make it worth while to send a vessel with it here, I wish it may be done, on account of the U. States, as it will be an advantage to them at this time. —

You have undoubtedly, before this, heard of the loss of the U. States Frigate *Philadelphia*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge off Tripoli, and the Cap<sup>t</sup> & Crew being Captured by the Tripolines. We received the account here on the 15<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup>. That on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October the *Philadelphia*, chasing a Tripoline near the land, about two miles from Tripoli, ran on shore, and could not be got off; — that the Gun boats came out from Tripoli & engaged her from daylight till 4 P.M. when the Ship keeling so as not to be able to bring her Guns to bear upon the Boats, was carried by boarding, & the people made Captives. — We have heard nothing since from that quarter.

The affairs of the U. States are, at present, very well in this Regency. — With the tender of my best services, and assurances of high Respect & Esteem,

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 26 December 1803

A[t] sundown the town of Adera bore N E by E, at 6 tacked ship tacked again at 8, 9, & 10 OClock as per log saw a Sail on the Weather bow fired a Gun and brought her too at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 10 tacked and spoke a Spanish Schooner from Almeria bound to Algaziras at 9 fired a Musquit and brought too the Brig *New Century* of Boston 3 days from Cadiz bound to Alicant at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 fired a Gun and brought to a Schooner she proved to be the *John* 36 days from Marblehead bound to Alicant Employed Occasion?

[Latitude Observed 36°10' (?) N.

(Continued at sea until anchoring off Tangerole, 2 January 1804.)

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 26 December 1803

A heavy gale of wind from the N. E. in danger of being lost on the coast of Tripoli.

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 26 December 1803

Strong Gales and very heavy Squalls of wind and rain — Under close reefed topsails, reefed courses and Storm Stay Sails — Standing to the Northward by the wind which is variable from the N N E to NEbE: About Midnight the Gale abated and the sea began to fall: When the Gale first came on I ordered down top Gallant Yards and all the studding sail booms on deck, and Jibb boom in, in order to ease the Masts and Bowsprit: Set up a stout belly stay and two good runners on the Fore mast to ease the bowsprit and save the mast in case the Bowsprit should give way: At day light saw the *Enterprize* and Prize in the E N E: Rigged out the Jibb boom & let reefs out of the Topsails. At 7 A M. spoke the *Enterprize*: Ordered her to tow the Prize which she had parted from in the Gale: Atnoon observed in Latitude 34°53' North — The ship has made more distance to the Northward by Observation than the log will give her which I

suppose to be owing to a strong current which generally setts to the N. W. along the Coast of Tripoly during a N E Gale.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from John Randolph, Jr., Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, House of Representatives

8th Congress.

1st Session.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 10, 1804

27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 1803.

SIR: The Committee of Ways and Means have instructed me to request that you will cause to be laid before them such information, in the possession of the Department of the Navy, as may enable them to carry the enclosed resolution into effect.\*

I beg you to accept the assurance of my high respect.

JOHN RANDOLPH, Jr.

ROBERT SMITH Esq.,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

\*Resolved, That provision ought to be made, by law, to indemnify the captors of such armed vessels, belonging to the Emperor of Morocco, as have been captured and surrendered to the said Power, for the prize money to which they are entitled, and that a bill be brought in for that purpose by the Committee of Ways and Means.

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff., Vol. 1.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 27 December 1803

Moderate breezes from the NE and pleasant weather — Standing to the Northward on a Wind. At 1 P. M. sounded in 28 fathoms, sandy bottom. At ½ past 1 saw the Island of Lampidosa bearing NNE The Weather clear and Pleasant: Sent up Top Gall<sup>s</sup> Masts and yards At 5 P. M. Calm, Lampidosa NE ½ North 6 leagues — *Enterprize* in sight bearing SE b E. It continued calm untill 2 A. M. when a light breeze came from the Westward — Steered for the Island and saw it at day light bearing E N E. The *Enterprize* and Convoy in sight At 8 A. M. Lampidosa the west end bluff bore N ½ W 6 miles and Limosa a small Island N W ½ W: ran down the South side of the Island, discovered a vessel at Anchor in the harbor, sent an armed boat to examine her: At this time we were about two miles from the harbor, Our soundings from 8 leagues to the S S W. to within three miles from the shore varied from 26 to 30 fathoms and within one mile we had 10 fathoms sand and shells. At ½ past 10 A. M the boat returned and the Officer reported that the Vessel he was sent to examine to be English from Malta and the only one in. The Harbor is on the S W side of the Island: It is small but capable of holding in safe anchorage with any wind about 8 or 10 Vessels of about 12 or 15 feet draft of Water: this Island has only 15 or 20 inhabitants who are herdsmen, farmers and fishermen — This is an excellent summer station for Vessels of war cruising for Tripolines or Tunisians as their corsairs often stop and harbor to plunder provisions — bore away to the Eastward. Wind W b S. Lat<sup>ge</sup> observed 35°25' North — The South part bore N W b W 6 or 7 miles dist<sup>t</sup>

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Secretary of State from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis  
 Duplicate TUNIS December 28<sup>th</sup> 1803.

SIR, My unpleasant communication of the 17<sup>th</sup> ultimo, (which was forwarded via Marseilles, Leghorn, and Malaga) announcing the loss of the U. States Frigate *Philadelphia* — I trust has been rec<sup>d</sup> — This unfortunate event, has given not only the Bashaw; but all Barbary, an influence over us, which no other possible circumstance could have produced; the little National consequence, we possessed with this Regency, is already materially effected by our recent misfortune. — On the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, I was called to Bardo, by the Sapatapa, who demanded an answer to the Bey's letter, directed to Commodore Morris — (a Copy of which I have the honor to enclose You) I informed him that no reply was yet received, and that it was not time to expect one — He observed, that his Master would wait no longer, as he was resolved to know whether we were in a state of peace or War — I told him that no doubt could, or ought to exist in the breast of His Excellency, of our good will & friendship towards him — "We should be better satisfied to hear that, from Your Government, accompanied with such proofs as we expect" — I answered, that on such a question, I was not authorized even to have an opinion — "Good words cost You nothing; however, we expect that no longer delay will be made by the Commodore; or does he intend to wait for more Corsairs, in order to decide the war commenced by Your *Embrolione*? — it would be a different game from that You have played with Tripoly — and the loss of one frigate with us, could only be repaired by a Regalia of three" — Then turning to one of his Agents, he contemptuously observed in Arabic — "The Americans are now like the ground — *El Mericken kef el trap*" — To these observations no reply was made — he concluded his audience by requesting my medical assistance, for a Chronic complaint, under which he has laboured many years.

The affairs of Spain, will be arranged, as His Excellency the Bey, may think proper to dictate — The U. States, will be their Successor in difficulties; and Denmark, must follow us — Such is the order of the day.

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[NA. SDA. CL, Tunis, Vol. 2, Part 2, 1803-1806.]

To Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
 off Malta 28<sup>th</sup> December 1803

SIR I have detained a Vessel under Turk's Colours from Tripoly bound to Bengaza. I met with her off the Harbour of Tripoly, a few days ago. She has on board, Officers & Soldiers of the Bashaw of Tripoly; and all the property on board is Tripoline.

I wish much to have her papers translated. You will oblige me, and render a service to our Government, by procuring a proper person to translate the papers found on board. Some of them are in the Turkish, and others in the Arabic language. I am very desirous to have you engage a person as soon as possible for this purpose; and I wish you to accompany him to Syracuse as I shall want your assistance in this business very much.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]



Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 28 December 1803

Joined company the *Enterprise* and her Convoy, we Took her Convoy in Tow, the *Enterprise* parted company, for the Harbour of Malta, which bore SE, nine or ten miles at 9 A M we filld and made all plain sail to the NE, in order to make Cape passari, situated near the SE extreme of the Island of Sicily.

Latitu<sup>d</sup> ob<sup>d</sup> 36. 15 N<sup>o</sup>

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 28 December 1803

At 2 anchor'd in the harbour of Syragosa in 6 fathoms the castle at the entrance bearing S E  $\frac{1}{2}$  S Mount Etna N  $\frac{1}{2}$  W, unbent top gall<sup>t</sup> sail & moor'd, stream N N E, Larboard bower S S W. At sunset sent down top gall<sup>t</sup> yards, hoisted in barge & run the gig up astern.

(NB these remarks contain 36 hours)

[NDA.]

To Commanding Officer of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, from Richard Farquhar, Malta

MALTA Dec<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1803

SIR According to your desire I calld on the Consul of His Excellency Sidi Ahmet Caramallis, (late Bashaw of Tripoli) to inform him that you wished to see him he writes you by this oppertunity

My little Vessel arrived from Tripoli a few days ago the news his Cap<sup>tn</sup> brings is that Some of the *Philadelphias* Crew has turnd Turks to the number of Eight, and that one of them who is a Sweed by birth has got the Command of a little Schooner latly built in Tripoli & that M<sup>r</sup> Lisle has taken the Command of the *Philadelphia* who has all her Guns on Board now, & that those Slaves who Intended to make their Escape has declined attempting it untill you land Some men near Tripoli as there is about Two Hundred of them & with the three Hundred Americans there those five Hundred men will be of great Service if you wish my Vessel to go upon any Business to Tripoli I will Send hir or if I can be of any Service in Sending the Officers of the *Philadelphia* any more money wine or Cloathing &<sup>t</sup> Please Command me

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta

MALTA the 29 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803

DEAR SIR Capt. Smith having been good enough to say he would take a letter I avail myself of the oppertunity to inform you that the different articles you ordered me to purchase for Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge and his Officers have been these four or five days in perfect readiness but as yet M<sup>r</sup> Pulis has freighted no Vessel I do not know the reason, as he keeps aloof from any enquiry on my part, he is no doubt piqued at my being employed —

I congratulate you on the Prize I learn you have made full of fine women and great men, they may serve as an offset against the Captives in Tripoly —

We have no news stirring, Sir Richard Beckerton has arrived in a leaky Condition from the fleet off Toulon which had met with dreadful Weather, he brings the King's speech which breathes nothing but a Continuance of the war

Capt<sup>n</sup> Smith tells me we shall shortly have the pleasure of seeing you on this port, the sooner the more gratifying to me, as I wish to have frequent opportunities of convincing you of the respect with which I remain

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 29 December 1803

Moderate Breezes and clear pleasant weather. we are Running a cross the Channel Between Sicily and Malta withe Tripolitan prise in Tow that we capturd on the 23 of this month we continu<sup>d</sup> Running for Cape passari which we made at Sundown Bearing EbN½N.

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 29 December 1803

(Harbor of Syragosa) At 1 P. M discover'd a large ship of the harbour (wearing a broad pendant) suppos'd to be the U. S. Frigate *Constitution*. At 2 sent lower yards & top mast rigging on deck, gunners & fore castle men prep<sup>d</sup> to strip the lower masts. At 4 the above ship anchor'd here, she prov'd to be the *Constitution* Commodore Preble with a small Tripoline vessel (a Ketch) prize to her, crew employ'd on necessary duty. Carpenters employ'd about the Partners of the M. Mast & pumps. — wind N N E. —

[NDA.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 30 December 1803

At 3 spoke the English Sloop of war *Bittern* from Malta. At 5 P. M. anchored in Syracuse Harbor in five fathoms water: Our Prize anchored at the same time. The Brig *Syren* here at anchor arrived last evening from Algiers. Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart reported to me his Proceedings since he left Gibraltar. Recieved letters by him from Leghorn and Algiers —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 30 December 1803

This Day Commences with moderate Breezes and clear W<sup>t</sup> Standing in for Syragse It Bearing NNW Dist 7 miles at 3 PM Spoke the English Ship *Vitron* on a Cruse —

At ½ past 5 Come too with Small Bower in five fathoms water Run a kedge out to the South East and hove up the Small Bower and Shifted our Birth 1 Cables length to the SE let go the Small Bower veared out 40 fathoms of Cable Let go the Best Bower under foot

Cast off[f] the Prize She Came too to the N<sup>rd</sup> of us about 2 Cables length Dist Saw the Us Brig *Siren* Laying here Capt Charles Steward  
[NA. ND original.]

To John Beekman, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPAR<sup>t</sup>

Decem<sup>r</sup> 31, 1803

You will consider yourself hereby appointed navy agent for the Port of New York — and also Superintendant of the navy yard at that place — your duties as navy agent are not susceptible of enumeration — you will however receive as occasions arise instructions from this Department whose operations you will aid in conformity to such instructions — Your duties as Superintendant may be more particularly defined — they consist in receiving taking care of and issuing under the directions of this Department all the property of whatever description belonging to the Department at New York — Distinct accounts must be kept of all the Timber scantling plank &c distinct accounts must be also kept of all the stores of whatever description monthly returns of which must be made to this Department — you will receive the timber stores &c by inventory of Daniel Ludlow Esq<sup>r</sup> late agent upon receiving them you will be held accountable for them —

As Navy agent you will be allowed for your Compensation —

2 P<sup>t</sup>C<sup>t</sup> on all sums of money paid and expended by you on public account

1 P<sup>t</sup>C<sup>t</sup> on all sums of money received on all public property sold by you

$\frac{1}{2}$  P<sup>t</sup> Cent on all sums of money paid for the purpose of recruiting paying off a crew and the like Services —

As Superintendant you will be allowed an annual compensation of 1,200 Dollars — To aid you in the discharge of your public duties, you will be allowed a clerk at a Salary not exceeding 600 Dollars P<sup>t</sup> annum and a Porter at a monthly allowance not exceeding 30 Dollars both to be appointed by yourself. I shall be happy to hear from you by the return of the mail. —

[Similar letters sent to Daniel Bedinger, Norfolk, Va., 31 December 1803; George Harrison, Philadelphia, Pa., 3 January 1804; Woodbury Langdon, Portsmouth, N. H., 4 January 1804.]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803–1805.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 31 December 1803

Moderate Breezes from the North<sup>d</sup> — We are lying moored in Saragosa — Unbent sails —

We this afternoon sent all the Tripolitan Prisoners on board the Prize to perform Quarantine.

A. M. Employed washing cloaths & scrubbing Hammocks — Received fresh Provisions & vegetables for the ships company. Anchored here the *Enterprize* Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decatur who waited on the Commodore. Cleared Hawse by warping the ship round

At Noon Moderate Breezes from the North<sup>d</sup> The Surgeon reports fourteen sick, Nine convalescents & two discharged.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

[1804?]

## Dimensions of a Nine Pounder

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Dimensions for 9 Pounders —  | 6 feet 1 Inch in length —       |
| Diameter at the Breach Ring —  | 15 Inches $2\frac{1}{2}$ tenths |
| Diameter before the Trunnion,  | 11 Inches $7\frac{1}{2}$ tenths |
| Length of the Cannon from the<br>back part of the breach ring<br>to the centre of the trun-<br>nions | $30-\frac{5}{16}$               |
| From the Breech ring to the<br>extremity of the Breech ball  | $8-\frac{5}{16}$                |
| Diameter of the Trunnions  | $4-3\frac{1}{2}/10$             |

These being the exact dimensions, proper allowance must be made for the Gun to work with ease —

[Peabody Museum, J. Fox Papers.]

[1804?]

## Fortifications on the Sea-Board at Tripoli

|   |    |      |
|---|----|------|
| Fort English  | 7  | guns |
| “ American*   | 7  | “    |
| Bashaw's castle   | 10 | “    |
| Battery between the castle & mole head                  | 14 | “    |
| Mole head Battery                                       | 19 | “    |
| Fort Way  | 11 | “    |
| Two small Batteries between Fort Way & Malta Battery    | 9  | “    |
| Malta Battery   | 9  | “    |
| Half Moon “   | 12 | “    |
| West Diamond “  | 9  | “    |
| Battery with Arched embrasures                          | 3  | “    |
| Western Battery without the City ** — called fort Vixen | 5  | “    |

Guns 115 — P.

\*So called from having been built by American Prisoners.

\*\* “ from having fired the first shot at the brig *Vixen*, and having been built in consequence of her having distressed the town from that quarter — Was silenced by the gun boats Aug. 7. 1804 —

P. When Commodore Dale's Squadron arrived before Tripoli the enemy had only guns enough mounted to fire a salute, and those on bad carriages — Government were advised of this situation — Why they did not profit of it is a question to be solved — If one frigate could make the impression which we see Commodore Preble has done with one hundred and fifteen guns opposed to him, what might not Commodore Dale's squadron have done with three frigates against blank walls!

[H.E.Huntington L&AG. EA 260.]

[1804]

[NOTE: In the Edward Preble Collection, Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress there are many volumes of signals. There are four volumes of signals for 1804, but in most instances the sets of signals do not indicate by whom prepared or used, and only a few have been dated.]

[January 1804?]

## Rules for government of U. S. Ships of War entering Algiers

OBSERVATIONS for the Commander of an American Ship of War coming to the Port of Algiers

1<sup>st</sup> On a Ship of war of the U. States coming in sight of Algiers, the Consul must obtain the Dey's permission to go off to her; without which no Consul can go off. Said Vessel is to hoist her pendant & Ensign and fire a Gun to Leeward and then hoist the American Jack at the Fore top Gallant Mast head. — She is not to approach nearer Algiers than 5 or 6 miles, untill the Algerine Boat, with the Consular flag, is coming off. —

2<sup>d</sup> If there be no contagious disorder in Algiers, the Boat, with the Consul, will go along side; but if any contagious disorder prevails, she will drop astern and confer at a distance.

3<sup>d</sup> The Consul will have a detail of affairs, or news ready written, to give to the Commander; and the Commander will also give, in writing, all requisite information to the Consul. — By this means nothing will be forgotten.

4<sup>th</sup> The Ship should take care to anchor before that, by light winds, calms, or currents, she would be set within cannon shot of the Algerine Batteries; But must *never* anchor until visited by the Consul, and is informed by him of the state of affairs between the U. States and the Regency. —

5<sup>th</sup> Should the business of the Ship require her anchoring; the best place will be to the S E by S of the Light house on the Marine, a little to the east of the second Castle on the Southern shore: which is the second Battery from the Cape North of the Metafour River Curayuh —

OBSERVE That to the North of Cape Metafour (the eastern Cape forming the Bay of Algiers) there is a reef of Rocks, laying two miles from the land. — When the wind is fresh from N. W. North, N. E. or East the sea breaks over this reef: — It should have a good birth coming in and going out of Algiers Bay.

All within Cape Metafour and Cape Coxines (the western Cape forming the Bay of Algiers) the current sets to the *Westward*; and outside this line it sets to the *eastward*, at the rate of three miles per hour. —

When you anchor in the Bay of Algiers, be *always* ready for *action*; and *always* ready for getting *under way*. — Here are always sudden Gales; and I may add, you are never secure in your affairs. —

The whole crew of the Algerine boat which comes off with the Consul should not be permitted to go on board the Ship. — By their enquiries false news is often circulated, and representations made prejudicial to your national affairs. — *Communicate nothing to the people who come on board; but treat them with civility and attentions.*

When the ship anchors, she is saluted with 21 Guns, which she must return. If she anchors, and is not saluted, it indicates that your nation has a point to settle. — If the Ship salutes *under Sail*, it will not be answered by Algiers; because it is not *usansa*, or *custom*. —

The Consul will inform the Commander when it is proper for him to land. And when he does land, he will be saluted with Seven Guns, which the Ship *must* return

After the Commander has landed, and has seen the General of Marine & Admiral, he then proceeds to the Consular house; and if

requisite, visits the Dey at his Palace. — The Consul must first obtain permission on this point through his Drogerman. —

The oars are always taken out of the Ships boat by the Algerines, when they land. — This is to prevent Slaves from making an escape with the boat. — When the boat is ready to return, the oars will be delivered up. —

The next day after the Ship anchors, it is customary for the Regency to send a present to the Ship of Bullocks, Sheep, Poultry, &c on receiving which, the Ship fires three Guns, and the Consul pays for it 15 or 20 dollars. —

If the Commander, when on shore, should be visited by the different *Consuls*, the Consul, with him, returns the visit; or if by necessity, or accident, he does not return the visits, the Consul makes an excuse. —

Any Captives, or Turks, or Moors, or Jews, of Algiers, who should illegally get on board the Ship, the Commander must report them to the Consul, and he will endeavour to obtain pardon for them. At all events they must be given up.

Twenty minutes before sun set, the Marine Gate of the City is shut. This excludes all intercourse between the City and the Marine; which is the only place, at which Boats are allowed to land. — Care should be taken that all persons who ought to be on board the Ship in the night, should pass the Gate before this time. —

When the Ship is ready to depart the Consul gives the intimation thereof to the Dey, through the Drogerman. — It is customary for the Dey (if he be in the City) to see the Commander before his Departure. — On this visit he will say, — “Has Your Highness any Commands? I am destined for Sea”. —

When the Commander enters his boat, to Depart from Algiers, he is saluted with *Seven Guns, which the Ship must return.* —

*OBSERVE*, that Christian Friday is Turks Sunday. —

*OBSERVE*, only the Ports of Algiers, Bona, & Oran, are public ports. The others should never be entered but by necessity, as the Inhabitants are *very savage*, and often commit outrages & arrests on Officers and Crews of Boats.

When the Consul goes off to a Ship his national flag is display<sup>d</sup> in the fore part of the Boat, to denote the he (the Consul) is on board the boat. — N. B. The flag is not display'd until the Boat passes the pier head of the Marine; and on returning it is taken down at the same place. —

When an Embargo is laid on the Vessels in the Port of Algiers. on account of the fitting out of their Cruizers, it does not effect the Ships of war, of other Nations which may come into the Bay.

Unless the U. States Vessels of War have some very particular business, I would not recommend their Anchoring. — They had better lay off & on two or three days, to avoid the danger of Gales & bad weather in the Winter Season, as well as the Caprice of the Government. —

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SLOOP *Syren*  
*Syracuse Harbour Jan<sup>y</sup> 1st 1804*

SIR, I have the honor to inform you of my departure with the Convoy N<sup>o</sup> 2. from Gibraltar, on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> October pursuant to your orders of the 18<sup>th</sup>[?] of that month. Our progress was much retarded by contrary winds, untill the 31st, when we had light airs from the Southward and Westward. On that day, we made Cape de Gatt, and passed the British Convoy under the *Termagant*. Nothing of any importance occurred, untill the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, when the *Termagant* came up with us, and requested permission to examine the papers of the Brig *Fame* from Batavia, alledging they had received information of her having Dutch Property on board, I brought the Fleet to, and granted them permission after examining them myself, and finding they were perfectly clear.

On the 9th, we were up with Marceilles, but it blowing a Strong Gale from the Westward, and the weather very thick, we dare not make the land, untill the next day, when I dismissed the Vessels bound there. The 12<sup>th</sup> we arrived at Leghorn, and landed M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart at the Lazaretto. The 17th I obtained Prattique, and landed to expedite the business. On the 25<sup>th</sup> the money and other articles were ready, but I was prevented bringing them on board, untill the 26th in consequence of a severe Gale of Wind from the Westward. The 27th we sailed, and kept company with the United States' Brig *Argus*, untill the 29th at Midnight, a severe Gale of Wind came on, with a tremendous Sea, that hove the *Syren*, on her Beam Ends, and filled her waist full of Water. We got her before the Wind, Knocked out some of the Ports, and freed her Decks. The Jolly Boat was stove to Atoms, & lost. Nothing but Strong Gales from the Westward, with heavy Squalls (that prevented our carrying any Sail, but Storm Stay sails) prevailed from the 2nd of December to the 12th; during which time, we were driven considerably to the Eastward, and all my Officers Sick, but two young & inexperienced Midshipmen: On the 21st we arrived at Algiers, and delivered the Articles to M<sup>r</sup> Lear, Consul General. Next day we sailed. The 26<sup>th</sup> we made Cape Bon, without having seen any Vessels on our passage. Not having provisions to prosecute your orders farther, we bore up for this place where we arrived on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> Your orders of the 4<sup>th</sup> December I immediately commenced the necessary repairs &c that the Brig requires. She leaks very much in her upper Works, which has damaged some of the provisions, and other Articles. I am, therefore, under the necessity of caulking — Her rigging we take this opportunity of overhauling, and also to shift her Main Mast further Aft, which it requires, and feel confident it will much improve her sailing. I left at Leghorn Robert T. Spence Midshipman, whose mind had been for some time deranged — he is a son of M<sup>r</sup> Spence Purser of the *Philadelphia*.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Foreign Consuls, Lisbon, Portugal, from William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, Portugal

Copy

CONSULATE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA

*Lisbon 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1804*

SIR I have the honor to inform you that Edward Preble Esquire Commander of the American Naval Squadron in the Mediterranean Seas, has advised me, that in consequence of the War actually existing between the United States and the Bey & Regency of Tripoli he has given orders for a detachment of said Squadron to Blockade the Port of Tripoli & when invested, that all Vessels attempting to enter or depart from said place, will be treated according to the Law of Nations established in such cases —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient  
Humble Servant

WILLIAM JARVIS

|                         |                  |        |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------|
| JAMES GAMBIER           | Eng <sup>h</sup> | Consul |
| JACOB DOHRMAN           | Dutch            | "      |
| JOHN AYRES              | Danish           | "      |
| [space] KANTZOU         | Swedish          | "      |
| [space] DEBATCHIOSKEY   | Russian          | "      |
| BARON DE STOQUI SAIR[?] | Imperial         | "      |
| [space] SCRUVIER        | French           | "      |
| [space]                 | Spanish          | "      |
| [space]                 | Neapolitan       | "      |

[NA. SDA. CL, Lisbon, Vol. 2, Jan. 1803–Dec. 1805.]

To Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, French Minister of Exterior Relations, from Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France

Copy

PARIS 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1804

SIR, I have just rec<sup>d</sup> the afflictive information that an American Ship of 44 Guns having been stranded in the Harbour of Tripoly, has been compelled to surrender to the Gun Boats of the Dey by which she was surrounded. This circumstance puts in the power of those Barbarians 307 American Seamen and 26 Officers, the ship having been fully manned. The War between Tripoly and the United States was commenced by the Dey in direct breach of a solemn Treaty and without the smallest pretence of ill faith or aggression on the part of the United States. I cannot but hope sir that the humanity of the First Consul will feel an interest in an event which affects so nearly the happiness of so many Men; and that this circumstance connected with the subsisting harmony between France and the United States will induce him to interpose his good Offices with the Dey of Tripoly for procuring them immediate relief. The First Consul has known how to diminish the dread of the great power which France has acquired under his wise administration by embracing every occasion by rendering that power subservient to the interests of humanity. In soliciting his mediation for the establishment of Peace between the United States and Tripoly, and releasing from Slavery the unhappy Men I have mentioned. I afford him a new means of extending to a distant World that species of Glory, which is I am satisfied dearest to his heart.



Nor sir, will he want a direct cause for this interference founded on the interest of France and Italy, which are deeply engaged in the uninterrupted Commerce of the United States during a War in which their view is arrested.

Should the First Consul sir, think this an object worthy his attention, we are content to place our Treaty on the old foundation on receiving back our Citizens to which we are the more entitled, as in all captures made by us upon Tripoly, we have returned immediately the men found on board their Vessels.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. Ship *Constitution*

*Syracuse January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1805 [1804?]*

SIR I have received your note requesting the loan of the launch, you should have her if I could admit of her being employed as a watering boat for the squadron excepting in cases of great urgency & necessity, — a shore boat that will carry 20 Gang Casks with 4 Men attached to her can be hired for 9/. pr day I prefer your taking this method, and will send my Pilot to engage a boat and send her along side of the *Enterprise* this Afternoon or early tommorrow morning which will be in time, —

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F. H. Getchell.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, of 18 guns, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 2 January 1804

At Anchor off Tangerole Employed turning to windward under all drawing sails making short stretches off to 35 and in to 7 fathoms Water at 7 P. M. Came to with the Larboard bower Anchor in 18 fathoms Water off Tangerole the Eastermost land E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S and Westermost land W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N good bottom —

At midnight light breezes & fine Weather

At daylight sent an Officer on s[h]ore in the Jolly boat to see if Water Could be obtained boat returned at 7 AM —

At 8 hoisted out the Launch and Barge and sent them on Shore Watering Emp<sup>d</sup> Watering & otherwise Occasionally

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 3 January 1804

At Anchor off Tangerole At 4 P, M, carried the Kedge anchor out and sighted the larboard Anchor it being Clear let it go again —

At 5 hoisted in the barge At 9 the Jolly boat and launch returned run Up the Jolly boat and hoisted in the launch

At 6 A, M, moderate breezes and Cloudy Weather Wind N E Weighed anchor and made all sail for the Westward Several sail in Sight At 8 Marbelia bore N N W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W Gibraltar W S W — At meridian Europa point W b S  $\frac{1}{2}$  S Variously Emp<sup>d</sup>

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 3 January 1804

We continue at anchor in Saragosar [Syracuse], with the *Syren* and *Enterprize* in company

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your several favours of the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov; 05<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December, but that of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, which had your first C——r has not come to hand. I understand that which you have given me in yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> and shall make use occasionally of it. I wrote you the 19th and 20th of last Month, and ordered M<sup>r</sup> Pulis to hire a vessel and send over for the purpose of carrying my letters, and some articles which I supposed you might most want; and which I directed M<sup>r</sup> Higgins to purchase for yourself and Officers. I regret to find that M<sup>r</sup> Pulis has not yet sent a Vessel agreeable to my orders. To prevent any further disappointments I shall go to Malta tomorrow to see my letters &c<sup>s</sup> shipped to you. I thank you for the information your letters contain and shall profit by it. Col Lear has lodged U M [10?] thousand dollars in Tunis for you to draw for, Your Bills on George Davis Esq<sup>r</sup> charge des Affaires of the United States at that place will be duly honored, and your Bills on Mr. Pulis at Malta will also meet prompt payment as I have made arrangements with him for that purpose, of course, it will not be necessary for you to draw any more Bills on Leghorn or elsewhere at a loss. I shall contrive to supply you fully with every thing necessary. Write me what clothing will be proper to send to the Officers & Men, and who I can send it to with safety and it shall be forwarded immediately. Also what provisions & Stores &c<sup>s</sup> you wish to have sent you. I shall endeavour to take the most effectual means for your release and am convinced Col Lear will do the same. Our representations have long since gone forward to our Government and we shall, no doubt, have answers to them by the *Congress, Essex & Boston* by the last of March or early in April — I lament most sincerely the situation of yourself & Officers, a situation which makes you and your friends unhappy, and deprives your Country of your services. I have not the smallest doubt Government will take the most ready means of procuring your liberty —

I was off Tripoly the 23rd Ult<sup>o</sup>. and in sight of the town I captured a Vessel which left the Harbour in the Night. She was under Turk's Colours and the Captain says belongs to the Captain Pacha and was bound to Bengaza. The papers will be translated in a day or two, and if the Captain tells truth, I shall release her together with a Turkish Officer and all the Crew which the Captain claims, amounting in all to twelve. The remainder consisting of two Officers of rank belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoly the son of one of the Officers twelve Tripoline Soldiers and 42 Black Boys & Girls belonging to Tripoly, and intended to be sold or given away I shall keep as prisoners; — This, the Turkish Officer agreeas to be just, and acknowledges he had no right to be transporting our enemy's Officers, Soldiers, & property in time of War I hope to be able to exchange this cargo for

some of you unfortunates M<sup>r</sup> Pulis is well acquainted with the Tripoline Officers and thinks them a valuable prize. A gale of wind drove me from off Tripoly or I should have sent a Boat on Shore. I shall soon be off there again — I have already given you my sentiments respecting the loss of the Ship, and shall say no more on that subject untill I see you, I regret most sincerely the loss of your assistance and services in the Squadron, and of your society. Be assured of my sincere and unalterable friendship. Adieu for the present — write me everything interesting — I write to your officers and crew and to the Bashaw. These letters you will take the direction of, and have them delivered or not, as you may think best.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

SIR. I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your esteemed favours of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> — accompanied by several communication from you to Commodore Morris, and from M<sup>r</sup> Niss<sup>s</sup> to you; the whole containing many useful hints, and much valuable information; for which please to accept my thanks. I approve your proposed plans of operations against Tripoly, as they exactly coincide with mine. —

I had hopes of bringing that Regency to reasonable terms in the spring, and effecting a solid peace; but the loss of the *Philadelphia*, has marred that prospect, and will probably protract the desirable event to a longer period. —

However, I shall make them feel the effect of my remaining force, and hope, soon to reduce the Bashaw's present demands, to something reasonable.

I am told he demands for Peace and ransom, three Millions of Dollars, this is a pretty good asking price. I presume our Government will never accede to any thing extravagant, as we shall by that means, hazard a War with all the Barbary powers, by stimulating their avarice. —

I have just returned from a Cruise off Tripoli, where on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December I captured a Vessel with the Bashaw's presents to the Grand Seignior, accompanied by several Tripoline Officers of distinction. I trust this Capture will give us considerable advantages in negotiating a Peace. —

I wish to procure two or three Gun Boats, and two Mortar Boats with Guns, and 10 Inch Mortars compleat. Can you procure them for me?

Where — When and on what terms? Write me as soon as possible. I also want one or two good Bombardiers, & will make their pay handsome, if they understand their business. They can instruct our young Officers in that branch of Gunnery, endeavour to procure one for me from Toulon; if you cannot short of that; A quantity of Shot & Shells for the Artillery will be wanted. I have made this port the rendezvous of the Squadron, & shall be glad to hear from you often. It is probable one of the Squadron will go down to Gibraltar about the first of May, I shall if so, readily accomodate you. —

P. S. The *Philadelphia* ran on the rocks about 4½ Miles from Tripoly, and was captured together with every officers and man belonging to her, by the Tropoline Gun boats —

Pray inform me who M<sup>r</sup> J. Barnes is, he has written to me from Leghorn, but I know nothing more of him. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801-1805.]

[4 January 1804]

To the Warrant and Petty Officers, Seamen and Marines late of the U. S. Frigate  
*Philadelphia*, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Altho' the fortune of War has made you prisoners to the Bashaw of Tripoly, it has not made you his Slaves — Whether you will be Slaves or Not, depends on yourselves, Your determination not to work will be proper, and if the Bashaw should attempt compulsion by punishing you for a refusal, I shall retaliate on his Subjects which I now have, and which may hereafter come into my possession. If you conduct properly, you will in due time be redeemed and restored to your friends, and entitled to receive full pay from the time of your capture to your arrival in the United States. In the mean time every proper means will be taken for clothing and keeping you as comfortable as circumstances will admit of, but should any of you voluntarily engage your services to the Enemy, and afterwards fall into the hands of your justly incensed Country Men you will undoubtedly suffer death agreeable to the laws of the United States in such cases made and provided. You ought not to let the threats of those, into whose hands you have unfortunately fallen, intimidate you, but obstinately persist in your rights of being treated as prisoners and not as Slaves. I shall write to the Bashaw immediately and acquaint him that all those Americans who suffer themselves to be compelled to work for him, will be considered as having alienated themselves from the United States, and of course our Governm<sup>t</sup> will not consider itself under any obligations to ransom them. Behave like Americans be firm and do not despair the time of your liberation is not far distant

I am with Sentiments of regard & Consideration

Your friend

(Signed) EDW<sup>d</sup> PREBLE

January 4<sup>th</sup> 1804

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[4 January 1804]

To the Prime Minister of the Bashaw of Tripoli from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Edward Preble Esq<sup>t</sup> Commander in chief of the United States Squadron stationed in the Mediterranean Sea, unto Siddi Mohamened D'Guise, Prime Minister to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly in Barbary. —

#### HEALTH

It has pleased the almighty disposer of all sublunary events, to place in your power as prisoners of war, the officers & crew of the frigate *Philadelphia*, late belonging to the United States, but *humanity* & *justice*, as well as the general usage of Nations, forbid your treating

them as *Slaves*: and should you so treat them after the receipt of this, you will be exercising your power against your interest; as I presume the United States will only make provision for the ransom of their Citizens who are considered as prisoners of war, and not for those whom you treat as Slaves, by compelling them to work for you against their inclination. It is their duty to resist such compulsion by refusing to work; and all those of our Citizens, who voluntarily engage in Your Service, should they ever fall into our hands, will (by the laws of our Country) be considered as Traitors, and punished with death. I therefore request that the unfortunate American prisoners may not either be inticed or compelled to labour as Slaves, but that they be treated with humanity.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ultimo in sight of Tripoly, I captured a Vessel under Turkish Colours, bound to Bengaza, with two Tripoline Officers, several tripoline Soldiers, and a number of Black men & women; amounting in all to about Sixty on board; and brought her to this place. She is now performing quarantine, and as soon as she is admitted to prattique, I shall release the Vessel, together with all the people claimed by the Captain; consisting of an officer of the Captain Pacha, four Turks, and seven Greeks and will give the Captain a passport and every assistance to prosecute his voyage to Constantinople, whither he say's he is bound, after he should have been at Bengaza; but the Tripoline Officers, Soldiers & Black people I shall detain as prisoners, and send them to America, unless you think proper according to the custom of other Nations, and as humanity dictates, to enter into a negotiation for an exchange of prisoners. In the mean time you may rest assured that your people are, and shall continue to be, well treated as prisoners of War, and not as Slaves. I have not allowed a single article of cloathing, or anything else, to be taken from them; and each one of them now has all the money which they had when they came into my possession. I pray you to make known all these matters to His Excellency the Bashaw, and to write me an answer to Malta. I also want to know what the demand will be for the ransom of such of the officers & crew as are considered and treated as prisoners of war.

Accept my thanks for your kind attention to Captain Bainbridge & his Officers, and be assured I shall when opportunity offers, give you proofs of my satisfaction. Wishing you health I have signed this with my hand on board the United States Ship *Constitution*, in the Harbour of Syracuse, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 1804.

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol 7, Part 1, Jan. 1804–Nov. 1805.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

N<sup>o</sup> 139

GIBRALTAR 4<sup>th</sup> January 1804

SIR I have not been honord with any of yours since my last under 29<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 138 p<sup>r</sup> the schooner *Mary* Cap<sup>n</sup> Sinclair —

Two days ago arrived from Cyracuse the *Nautilus* Lieu<sup>t</sup> Somers who brought me duplicate dispatches from Comodor Prible to be forwarded Consul Isnardi for the Hon<sup>e</sup> Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy which went by Post —

I am Extreemly mortified to find by Comodor Pribles Letter to me that the ship *Philadelphia* Cap<sup>n</sup> Baimbridge has been lost off Tripoly,

& that the Officers & Crew are Prisoners at that Gov<sup>t</sup>, this is a most unpleasant event, and for particulars referr to said Comodors dispatches to the Hon<sup>e</sup> Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy p<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Gadsen a Midshipman in the service — bearer thereof, who was sent down in the *Nautilus* with them and I got him a Passage on board the above mentiond Schooner *Mary* bound to George Town S. C. & is the only American Vessel in Port; the Wind is now coming round to the East & they will sail immediately. —

Yesterday arrived the Brig *Argo* Cap<sup>n</sup> Hull who is under 3 days Quarantine having Waterd at Frangirola near Malaga. The accounts of Publick health from that City announce its intire Reestablishment—

The Portuguese admiral is gone to Anchor at Alguesiras, account the apprehensions of Warr, and the rest of the Squadron is now getting under way for Lisbon. —

I have not yet had an oppertunity of passing Consul Simpsons Bills on you for \$1000

|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| 1000 | } \$2550 [sic] — |
| 555  |                  |

[SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. II, April 1796–Nov. 1804.]

To Commanding Officer of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean

MALTA Jan<sup>y</sup> 4, 1804

SIR In consequence of the information that I have rec<sup>d</sup> from the freinds of His Excellency Cidi Ahmet Caramanlli late Bashaw of Tripoli, I am obliged to send the Bearer Expressly for an *answer*, to know if I can give them true Inteligence with regard to your Cooperating & assisting His Excellency Cidi Ahmet Caramanlli late Bashaw of Tripoli if I can give them those good news they will comence war in favor of His Excellency & the United States and I have purchased some necessary articles for War in Barbary —

In the name of Cidi Ahmet Caramanlli the first Born of the Dominion of Tripoli & late Bashaw I ask the Loan of Two Thousand Dollars on purpose to purchase some more articles of War & to collect Some of his Freinds to go with me to bring him to Derna with your assistance then we will take Bengaz & Tripoli. I have inclosed a copy of Comodor Morris's Letter to me a Copy of which I also sent to Derna with M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar

I am Sir

your Humble Ser<sup>t</sup>

SALVATORE BUFUTTIL

To the Commander in Chief of the

United States Ships of War in the Mediterranean,

[LC. EPP, Vol. 8, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 4 January 1804

At 6 AM. Europa point bore N E. at 10 brought too in the bay of Gibraltar with the Starboard Anchor in the S W. and moored with the larboard Anchor in the N E, in 12 fathoms Water found here the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize* who inform<sup>d</sup> that the U. S. Frigate *Phila-*

*delphia* had been lost off Tripoli and all the crew made prisoners  
People Variouslly Employed —

[NDA photostat.]

[5 January 1804]

Marine Force of Algiers

|  |                   |                            |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|
| An Algerine built Frigate, copper bot-<br>tomed..... | 44 Guns           | 12 & 9 Pound <sup>rs</sup> |
| A Portuguese do..... do --<br>captured.....          | 44 do..           | do —                       |
| An American built do. -- A present.<br>coppered..... | 34 do..           | 9 & 6 do                   |
| A Xebek, Algerine built, copper bot-<br>tomed.....   | 34 D <sup>o</sup> | D <sup>o</sup>             |
| — ditto.....   | 30 do....         | do —                       |
| — ditto.....   | 26 do....         | do —                       |
| — ditto.....   | 20 do..           | 8 & 6 do                   |
| A Polacre Greek built.....                           | 26 do..           | 9 & 6 do                   |
| — do .....   | 18 do....         | 8 pounds                   |
| A Brig Philadelphia built.....                       | 22 do..           | 4.6 & 9 do                 |
| A Schooner U. States built.....                      | 18 do....         | 6 pounds                   |
| A ditto — ditto.....                                 | 14 do....         | 4 ditto —                  |

There is a frigate building at the Marine to carry 48 Guns — Viz.  
18 Pounds on her Main Battery & 12 Pounds on her quarter deck  
& fore castle. —

Each cruizer carries ten men to a Gun, and one Turk soldier to a  
Gun. — N. B. These Turk Soldier[s] are the leaders of the men in  
boarding. —

There are two Merchant Coasting Vessels, mounting 4 Guns  
each. — 2 Guard Row Gallies for the Port. —

50 Gun & Mortar boats — carrying 18 & 24 Pounds

At Oran & Bona there are two armed Galliot[s] at each, with latteen  
Sails and Sweeps. —

150 Sail of lateen sail Coasters, from 25 to 30 Tons. —

3 Harbour Pontoons at Algiers

8 Harbour boats exclusive of the Barge of the Gen<sup>l</sup> of Marine

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner  
*Enterprize*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Jany 5<sup>th</sup> 1803 [1804?]*

SIR One of the ships of the squadron, is each day to take the Guard  
for 24 hours commencing at 8 OClock in the morning, a Signal for  
the ship that is to have the Guard will be made by the senior Officer,  
and the Guard ship is to hoist an American Jack at the mizen Top  
gallant mast head, but if a Brig or Schooner, at the Fore, which is to  
be kept flying untill the Guard is shifted by signal Guard is to be  
rowed by a boat of the guard ship for the 24 hours, and it is to speak  
every Vessel that enters the Harbour by day or night, before she  
approaches near the squadron, and report to the commanding officer  
in port, every morning at 9 OClock, agreeable to the following form  
for the information of the Commodore

[HS of Pa. Mrs. F.H. Getchell.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Jan<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR You will prepare the *Syren* for a cruize as soon as possible with six weeks full allowance of Provisions Stores &<sup>cs</sup> and will wait in this port my farther Orders. — One of the ships of the Squadron is each day to take the Guard for 24 hours commencing at 8 O'clock in the morning, A Signal for the ship that has the Guard will be made by the Senior Officer in Port and the Guard ship is to hoist an American Jack at the mizen top gall<sup>t</sup> Mast head, but if a brig or Schooner at the fore which is to be kept flying untill the Guard is shifted by Signal: A Guard is to be rowed by a boat of the Guard Ship for the 24 hours and is to speak every vessell that enters the Harbor by day or night before she approaches near the squadron, and report to the Commanding officer in Port every morning at 9 O'clock agreeable to the following form for the information of the Commodore [see below]

You will keep a good look out on the Tripoline Prize and take care the Prisoners do not make their escape

[FORM]

"REPORT OF GUARD ROWED BY THE U. S. SHIP [SPACE]"

Commander Syracuse [space] 1804

| Vessels<br>Name | Masters<br>Name | Owners<br>Name | Ship<br>Brig<br>or Sloop<br>& <sup>c</sup> | Number of |      |      | Where<br>bound | how<br>long<br>out | from<br>whence | lad-<br>ing | to<br>whom<br>con-<br>signed | Intelli-<br>gence |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|-----------|------|------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
|                 |                 |                |  | Men       | guns | tons |                |                    |                |             |                              |                   |
|                 |                 |                |  |           |      |      |                |                    |                |             |                              |                   |

[Similar letter to Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., 5 January 1804.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Thursday, 5 January 1804

Moored in Gibraltar Bay. These 24 hours begins with Squally Weather and Variable winds and very heavy Squalls Hoisted the Yellow flag sent the Jolly Boat on shore for fresh Provisions

[NDA photostat.]

To Lieutenant John Cassin, U. S. Navy, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> —  
*Jan<sup>y</sup> 6. 1804. —*

Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers has been authorized to employ M<sup>r</sup> Peter Gardner and such other of the Ship Carpenters at the Yard as he may deem useful and necessary in the building of the Gun-Boat directed to be built at this place. —

I wish the further repairs of the *Boston* to be discontinued as soon as it can be done with propriety, and without leaving the ship liable to injury from discontinuing her repairs. Be pleased to attend to this subject. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802–1805.]



To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, Hampton, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 6. 1804 —

Understanding that it will be more agreeable and convenient to you that the Gun-Boat which you have been requested to superintend, should be built at Hampton, than at either of the places heretofore prescribed, and as it will make no sort of difference to the public, I consent to her being built at Hampton. The monies instead of passing thro' the hands of M<sup>r</sup> Bedinger as has been arranged, will be remitted to you, and you will be held accountable to this depm<sup>t</sup> for their expenditure. You will perceive by my letter to you of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>, that I have left it entirely to yourself to determine upon the Mechanics and other persons to be employed under your direction in the building of the Boat. Employ whoever you may think best qualified. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To General William Irvine, appointed Naval Storekeeper, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 6. 1804

You will consider yourself hereby appointed Store Keeper to this Department at Philadelphia — Your duties as Storekeeper consist in receiving taking care of and issuing under the directions of the navy agent at Philadelphia — all the stores belonging to the Department at Philadelphia — The Superintend<sup>t</sup> has the Custody of the timber, plank scantling &<sup>c</sup> as you will have room in the public arsenal for the stores you will receive them by inventory of George Harrison Esq<sup>r</sup> and have them deposited there — The Secretary at War will write to you on the subject authorizing the Deposit — On receiving the stores you will be charged with them on the books of the Accountant of the Navy and you will be held accountable for them.

You will receive from the accountant of the navy the requisite forms & instructions you are to make to him monthly returns of the stores on hand which must comprehend all the issues you may have made and all the articles received by you — As a Compensation for your Services as Storekeeper you will be allowed the sum of 600 Dollars P<sup>r</sup> annum payable Quarter yearly by the agent at Phil<sup>a</sup>

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

Syracuse Harbor Jan<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR Business calls me to Malta and during my absence you are to progress as fast as possible in Equipping the *Constitution* for a cruize of at least four months with water, provisions &<sup>ca</sup> and every thing necessary for that time, The ships rigging is to be completely overhauled and repaired where it is worth repairing and where it is not it must be replaced with new; The Ship and Gun Carriages to be scraped and painted inside and outside and a set of hanging shot lockers to be made for the Guns of both decks: The boats to be repaired and painted: Top Gall<sup>s</sup> sails and royals altered or new ones made to fish the new Top Gall<sup>s</sup> Masts: Hammock cloths tarred and a light touch of tar

on all the rigging which requires it. The boats excepting the guard boat (which is to be moored as usual) to be hoisted in every night at sunset and not any Officer to Sleep out of the Ship or have permission to be on shore after 9 O'clock on any pretence whatever during my absence — .

One of the ships of the Squadron is each day to take the Guard for 24 hours commencing at 8 o'clock in the morning. A Signal will be made by the Senior Officer in Port and the Guard Ship is to hoist an American Jack at the Mizzen top gall<sup>1</sup> mast head but if a brig or Schooner at the fore, which is to be kept flying untill the Guard is shifted by Signal. A Guard is to be rowed by a boat of the Guard ship for the 24 hours and is to speak every vessell that enters the harbor by day or night before she approaches near the Squadron and report to the commanding officer in Port every morning at 9 O'clock agreeable to the following form for the Information of the Commodore \* \* \*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Midshipman Hethcote J. Reed, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

Jan<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR You will not permit any boat excepting one belonging to the squadron for the purpose of bringing you supplies to come alongside of the Prize under your charge nor allow your boat to be put out or any of the Prisoners or any person belonging to her to go on shore or leave her untill you have my orders or the Orders of the Commanding Officer in Port for so doing.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Syracuse* Jan<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR M<sup>r</sup> Nathan Baker Purser of the Brig *Syren* under your command has represented to me by letter under date of the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst: that [space] Carter Pursers Steward has conducted improperly as Steward and basely as a man by maliciously spreading reports to endeavour to injure his reputation. M<sup>r</sup> Baker's character is I concieve too well established to be blemised by the malice and wickedness of the said Carter. I cannot therefore give the smallest degree of credit to his insinuations and you are hereby directed immediately to dismiss the said Carter from the employment of Steward and place him on the list of ordinary seamen.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 7 January 1804

[Moored in Syracuse Harbor.] Moderate breezes & cloudy weather. The ships company employed in refitting the rigging. The carpenters employed in making a new fore top gall<sup>1</sup> Mast and altering the main one. The armorers have been employed these three days in making preventure wash plates for the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*. We had

moderate breezes through A. M. The large cutter was sent on the watering service — We recieved in the course of the day 30 Gang Casks. The ships company employed in refitting the rigging and rigging the ship — recieved fresh mutton & vegetables from the ship's company. The surgeon reports to the Commodore the same as yesterday The Tripolitan Prize which was brought in here was ordered under quarantine for 13 — days. We supply her every day with water & provisions. At Noon moderate breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> — .

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Degen, Purviance & Co., Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour January 9<sup>th</sup> 1804*

GENTLEMEN It is my intention to procure by purchase or Charter two or three Mortar Boats, and three or four Gun Boats with Guns and 10 Inch Mortars compleat to act against Tripoly early in the Spring, I shall also want a good Bombardier or two to whom I shall be willing to give good wages to make it an object for them to engage in our service. I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart respecting this business but presume you can render me more service than he can, and it is uncertain if my letter will reach him. I wish you to enquire at Leghorn, and write to Naples and let me know if they can all be procured at either place and on what terms. I think you might contract with the Neapolitan Government for them. The largest size Gun & Mortar Boats will be best, as I wish the Gun Boats to carry a long 24 or 32 pounder each 300 Shells and 500 shot suitable will be wanted. Pray write me as soon as possible, and desire your friend at Naples to write and give me all the information possible on this subject. Let me know if they can be procured how soon, and on what terms?

Can I procure about 50 Men of different Nations to mix with ours to assist in manning our Armament against Tripoly? If you give me encouragement I will send one of our cruisers to Naples or Leghorn as you may think best with an Officer to compleat the business, and convoy the Boats to this place.

Your attention to this, will render an acceptable service to our Government

P. S. Name to me a proper correspondent in Naples, one whom I can confide in, and who has influence with the Gov<sup>t</sup>

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy. from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 9<sup>th</sup> January 1804

SIR, I have had the honor of writing you eight or ten letters since our unfortunate captivity, and have anxiously expected to hear from you, — as yet have not received that satisfaction; altho' several of my letters particularly pointed out the want we were in for an established credit; and the almost naked situation of our Crew.

Having already particularized the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia*, I forbear the painful repetition: suffice it to say that impatient the time will pass until I can publicly justify my conduct in the catastrophe, and I hope that no premature censures will be formed.

Being uncertain whether my communications have come to hand, makes me forbear particulars on this place.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

*Gibraltar Bay 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804. —*

SIR, I have been honoured with your Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> ultimo by Captain Somers, who informed me of the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia*, which circumstance my long passage from Leghorn prevented my being made acquainted with before

I wrote you from Leghorn informing you of my arrival at that place, and my determination to leave there for Gibraltar as soon as possible, and after experiencing several hard Gales of wind in the Gulf of Lyons, and off Minorca and strong westerly winds from thence to Cape Pallos, I found the Masts and Bow Sprit to complain, Owing to the Rigging becoming Slack, in consequence of which I thought proper to run into Carthegena to secure them — After remaining there three days and having wouled the Masts, secured the Bow Sprit and set the Rigging up, I sailed and beat down as far as Tangerole, the wind being ahead and my water nearly Expended I came to an Anchor and filled some of my Water Casks, on my arrival at Gibraltar, after being from there nearly Sixty days, without Communication at any Port, they obliged me to perform three days quarentine —

I am very sorry it is not in my power to give you the least information respecting the Emperor of Morocco or the state of his Cruizers, owing to my long absence from hence and not having hear'd from M<sup>r</sup> Simpson since my arrival. — As soon as I can possibly fill my Water and get Provisions on board I shall run over to Tangier, and should all be well, from thence to Cadiz, where most likely I shall remain ten or twelve days as I find the Weather very bad in this Bay and not very safe lying at Anchor. — I find the *Argus* to be an excellent Sea Boat, and I believe when in trim will Sail very fast by the Wind, but have not as yet had an oppertunity of Sailing with anything except the *Syren*, and I believe Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart will be candid enough to acknowledge she beats her. —

I have been informed by Captain Somers that men were shipping for one of the Frigates, if so she may be soon expected on this station, so that I hope I shall be able to join you as soon or sooner than the time mentioned in your Letter. — I shall endeavour to keep as good a look out on this station as the very bad weather we have, will allow me, and write you every oppertunity, and hope soon to have it my power to send you some news Papers. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1806.]

To Lieutenant John Cassin, U. S. Navy, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>

*Jan<sup>y</sup> 10. 1804. —*

Herewith you will receive "directions respecting the employing and paying workmen, laborers &c<sup>s</sup> at the Navy Yard at this place" which you will observe and cause to be observed by the Officers and others under your command. —

[Enclosure]

Directions respecting the employing & paying Workmen, Laborers &c at the Navy Yard Washington. —

All the workmen, laborers &c employed in the yard or in repairing the Ships &c are to be employed under the direction and controul of the Superintendent of the Yard, and to be paid for their services such compensation as may have been agreed on with him; — the amount of daily wages to be ascertained in the following manner viz<sup>t</sup>

It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Yard, daily and every day at morning, noon and Evening to muster every person employed, carefully noting in a Musterroll prepared for the purpose each and every person that may appear to be attending to their duty or employment, and their particular occupation and the object of employment; as well as such as may appear to be absent with the cause of absence (if understood). — Having a due regard in making the said Musters to the convenience of the persons employed and the Interest of the Public, attending for the purpose, whenever circumstances may render it necessary, at the Shops or places of employment: And to deliver daily one copy of the Musterroll so made out to the Superintendent, retaining another copy in his possession. —

And it will also be the duty of the said Clerk at the end of every month to make out separate payrolls for the respective objects of employment headed in the manner herein after directed, varying the description so as to designate each separate object of employment viz<sup>t</sup>

“Payroll for the Ship-Carpenters, Caulkers, Laborers &c. employed in repairing the frigate *United States* in the month of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1803.” —

Including in the said respective payrolls every person employed in that particular object, designating their respective occupations, and stating the number of days work actually performed, ascertained from the Musterrolls made out as herein before directed; which payrolls he will then submit to the inspection of the Superintendent, whose duty it will be to compare the same with the Musterrolls in his possession; and if it shall appear to him that the time of employment is therein correctly stated, he will certify it to be so, and insert opposite to the name of each person the daily wages at which they are respectively to be paid, and then to hand the payrolls so certified and inserted to the Purser of the Yard, with directions to extend the amount due to each person, and pay the same, taking their receipts on the payrolls. —

[A few general rules in relation to the Navy Yard at Washington were later issued 22 May 1805.]

\* \* \* \* \*

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Midshipman (acting as Lieutenant) James T. Leonard, U. S. Navy, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 10. 1804. —

The Government wishes to send dispatches to Europe by a provision Vessel which will sail from Norfolk in the course of the present

Month, and you have been selected to convey them. — Be pleased to repair to this place immediately on the receipt of this Letter. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To the Auditor of the Treasury from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

January 10<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. It appearing that William Eaton Esq<sup>r</sup> late Consul of the United States at Tunis did on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1802, in his official capacity, enter into an instrument of writing acknowledging to have received from Sidi Haggi Junis Ben Junis, a Tunisian Merchant, the sum of thirty four thousand Spanish milled dollars, as a loan for the use of his public agency; and Richard V. Morris Esq<sup>r</sup> having on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March last caused to be paid to Junis the sum of twenty two thousand dollars on account of the said instrument, M<sup>r</sup> Morris is to be credited with the amount last mentioned, which is to be debited to M<sup>r</sup> Eaton.

M<sup>r</sup> Morris is likewise to receive credit for two thousand dollars advanced by his letter of credit for the same sum, dated on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March last, in favor of George Davis Esq<sup>r</sup> acting as American Consul at Tunis, upon Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dagen, Purviance & C<sup>o</sup> of Leghorn. With the last mentioned sum M<sup>r</sup> Davis is to be charged. The instrument signed by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton as above stated, Junis receipts thereon, and another instrument executed by the former and dated on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March last, wherein he acknowledges the sum of twenty two thousand dollars to have been paid as above mentioned to Junis, and also M<sup>r</sup> Davis' receipt for the credit of two thousand dollars are enclosed as vouchers to the transactions hereby authorized.

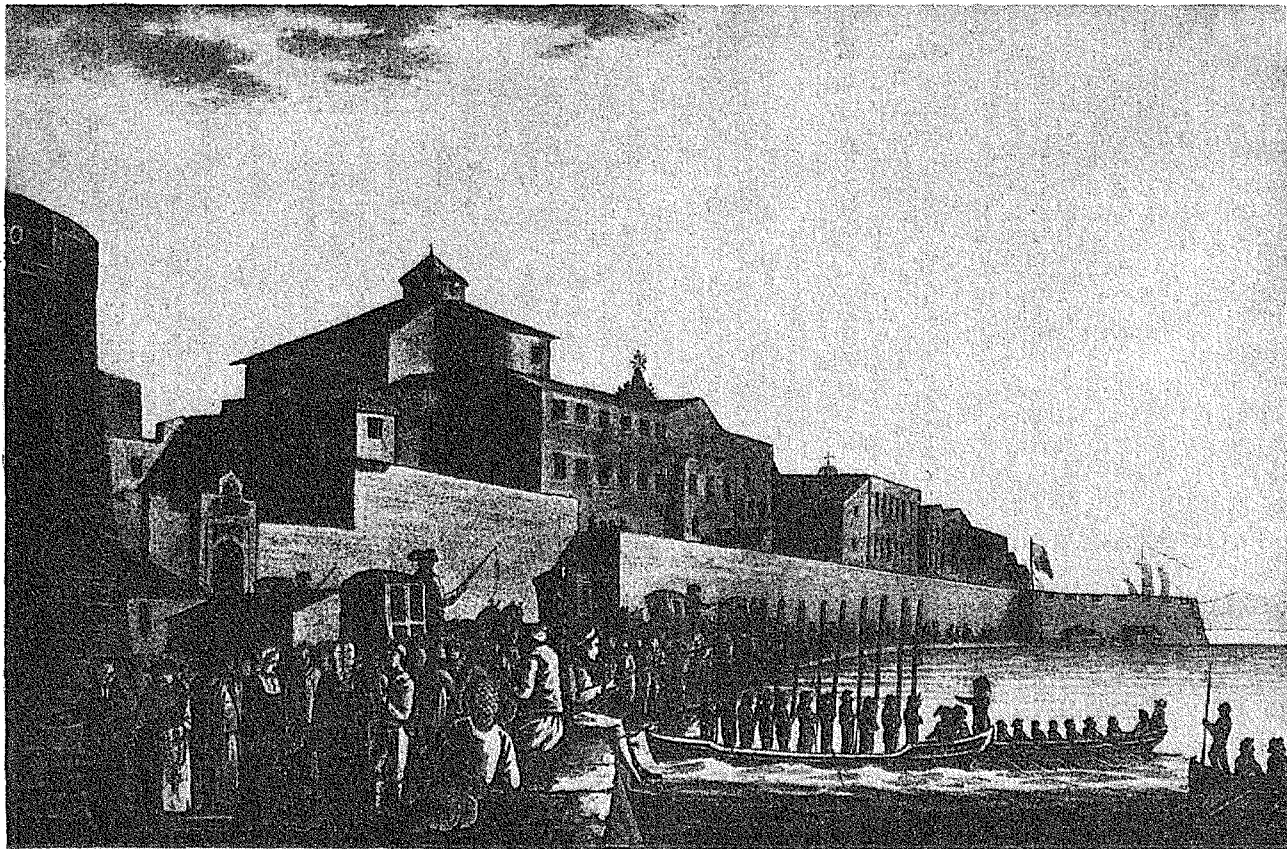
[NA. SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 14, May 1802-May 1805.]

Presumably from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

SYRACUSE HARBOR, Jan<sup>y</sup> 10th, 1804.

DEAR SIR, \* \* \* On the 17th December we sailed from this Port with our tender the *Enterprize*, & next day arrived off Malta. The Consul came on board bringing with him & an Italian gentleman who had been surgeon to the Bashaw of Tripoly. \* \* \* We stood for Tripoly — our ship completely prepar'd for the boisterous gales of this season. — & in two days captured a small Ketch under the Ottoman colors — \* \* \*

Twenty four hours after we had sent off the Prize under convoy of the *Enterprize*, the wind set in to the Northward & we began to beat off the coast under a Press of sail — the Gale increased, the sea ran high & the *Constitution*, with Top g. masts & yards on deck, under courses & close reef'd Topsails clawed off the coast to the great dissatisfaction of our Prisoners — who were in hopes that we might be driven on their inhospitable shore & have added to their treasures — & Slaves. — The Italian Surgeon gives us much information he knows the Prisoners personally. — He says that it was 4 hours after the ship struck the ground, before the gunboats came out to attack her, that for several hours they continued firing without one shot hitting the *Philadelphia* — that she struck her colors & the enemy were afraid then to come along side until Capt B. & officers left the



THE LANDING-PLACE AT SYRACUSE.





ship & landed when they boarded her finding every man on board drunk, & laying about the decks like dead men. The moment the officers landed they were stripped to the buff. Thus (if this information be true & we have no reason to doubt it) one of our Finest Frigates was deserted, without even making a defence to be expected from an American cockboat: \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Narrative.

On the 13th January 1804 the Commodore shifted his Pendant on board the *Vixen* & sailed for Malta with M<sup>r</sup> Izard & Wadsworth Midshipmen & M<sup>r</sup> Morris Purser — we arrived at Malta on the next day & took up our Lodgings on shore. I now for the first time in two years enjoyed a few Days of uncontrolled Liberty, for the Com<sup>d</sup> did not Trouble us excepting to inform us when we were to dine.  
\* \* \*

In ten days the Com<sup>d</sup> having finished his business we reluctantly Departed for Syracuse but for him all places are alike busied with his Summer operations against Tripoli he feels no pleasure in anything which does not forward his Favorite plans. — \* \* \*

In April the Com<sup>d</sup> was again off Tripoli & sent in proposals of Peace our Terms were refused notwithstanding the menace of a bombardment at the end of Two Months. This he would not believe.

The next port made was Tunis. The Bey threatens us with war if we left the Bay without acceding to his demands: — he sent the Com<sup>d</sup>'s letter back unopened by the Charge de Affairs M<sup>r</sup> Davis: immediately all hands were called to weigh anchor & we stood to sea. The next day we returned to know the event, — but M<sup>r</sup> Bey was in a very good humor & gave six weeks for the Com<sup>d</sup> to determine whether he would accede to his demands or not. The answer was you may declare war as soon as you please. I am already determined not to grant you anything. Nay said the Bey be not rash — I shall not make war until six weeks expires. — Just when you please was the answer & we sail'd for Malta & from there to Syracuse.

The Following Prizes have been made by the Squadron under our present Com<sup>d</sup>

23 December 1803 A Ketch from Tripoli bound to Bengazi & Constantinople, taken in sight of Tripoli with several Tripolines of Consequence & 45 Blacks on board — likewise a Consul of the Grand Seignior: returning from Tripoli. The vessel belonged to the Isle of Candia.

A En[g]lish Merchant Brig from Malta taken off Tripoli by the *Nautilus*.

A Maltese ship from Tripoli bound to Malta by the *Siren*.

An English Brig of 16 guns from Tripoli bound to Malta by the *Siren*. The *Transfer* of 16 sixes was sold at Malta at the Conclusion of the Peace between France & England. Is a complete Man of War Brig & is Taken in to the Service of the United States, renamed the *Scourge*. John H Dent Lt Commander, Henry Wadsworth 1st Lieutenant, Ralph Izard 2d — Charles Morris Sailing Master, Thomas Marshall Surgeon all promoted from the *Constitution*. M<sup>r</sup> Green Purser, from the *Nautilus* — M<sup>r</sup> Davis & Rowe Mid<sup>n</sup> from the *Constitution*.

Several other vessels have been sent in & afterwards released. The Port of Tripoli has been constantly Blockaded since 1804 commenced. \* \* \*

Two Spanish Ketches by the *Argus* and *Scourge* in May, coming out of Tripoli.

[H.W.L.Dana Col.]

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To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

U. S. BRIG *Syren* Jan<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR Herewith I send you farther charges instituted against M<sup>r</sup> Baker by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Maxwell & Doct<sup>r</sup> Marshall

If Sir those things exhibited against M<sup>r</sup> Baker are true, they are of such a nature that will oblige me to withdraw my confidence and renders him consequently unfit for the service. You will be pleased to institute such enquiry into M<sup>r</sup> Bakers conduct as you think proper that its character may wear its proper colour, for without it there will ever be dissensions among them.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 10 January 1804

Moderate Breezes & cloudy weather we continue at Anchor in Saragosa with the *Syren* and *Enterprize* in company. The Ships company employed refitting the rigging. Towards the Evening we made the *Enterprize* signal to unmoor — We had moderate breezes from the N N W through the night.

At 4 A. M. Commodore Preble shifted the broad pendant from the *Constitution* to the *Enterprize* leaving Lieu<sup>t</sup> Dent as Commanding Officer. The *Enterprize* weighed at Day light and stood out to sea with the Commodore on board in order to proceed to Malta

We recieved in the course of this day 42 Gang Casks of Water — The ships company employed refitting the rigging & cleaning ship. We received one barrell of Tar from the *Constitution's* stores on shore. The Brig *Syren* hoisted a Jack as a signal for the Guard. At Noon moderate breezes from the North<sup>d</sup>

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 10 January 1804

[Syracuse] Moderate breezes from the N<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> & pleas<sup>t</sup> At 5 rec<sup>d</sup> a quantity of mutton for ships Company, & some oakum, spikes &c Hand employ'd in fitting ship for sea. At 6 the Commodore hoisted his flag on board the Schooner *Enterprize*, weigh'd & stood out of the harbour, same time 2 carpenters came from the Schooner, to assist in cutting the sweep ports At 8 completed watering, having on board 52 casks each 115 gall<sup>s</sup> At ½ past 3 the *Enterprize* hove in sight. & came in the harbour, brought with her a Polackey ship & come too an anchor At ¼ past 5 the Commodore hoisted his flag on board the Frigate, *Constitution*. Anchor'd here the U. S. Schooner *Vixen*. 6 caulkers at work this day. —

[NDA.]

To Charles Pinckney, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour 11<sup>th</sup> January 1804*

SIR, Yesterday I rec<sup>d</sup> your favor dated the 18<sup>th</sup> November last in which you mentioned some deserters from the French Marine supposed to be on board this Ship, in which I can only observe that I was in Cadiz about the 1st of November last, and wanting a few men to complete my complement, I ordered my Officers to recruit some Americans: they accordingly recruited some and a few more who declared themselves Italians & Maltese I find now on examination that there are but three among the whole who speak the French Language, and they deny having ever belonged to the French Marine, but whenever I go to any port where there is a French Consul or Commissary I will permit him to interrogate them, and if they prove to be French Citizens I will readily deliver up or discharge them as he may think most proper and I beg you to assure Gen<sup>l</sup> Beurnonville that I shall give particular orders to all the commanders in my Squadron not to engage Citizens of France on any pretence whatever, and that I truly reciprocate his, and your own feelings as it respects your wishes for a good understanding between the two Governm<sup>ts</sup>

(Signed) EDW<sup>d</sup> PREBLE

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[11 January 1804]

To Midshipman William Burrows, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

SIR I have appointed you acting Sailing Master of the United States Schooner *Vixen* during the Indisposition of M<sup>r</sup> Butler who goes on shore for the recovery of his health

You will therefore repair on board Said Schooner and take upon you the duty of Sailing Master and hold that employment untill farther Orders for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Jan<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1803 [1804]*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*

U. S. SCH<sup>r</sup> *Enterpriz* SYRACUSE HARBOUR  
*Jan<sup>y</sup>. 11<sup>th</sup> 1803 [1804] —*

SIR The situation of the United States schooner *Enterprize* under my command induces me to request a survey — “Her situation in my opinion is such as will make her cruising during the winter months (unless repaired) hazardous” — Be assured sir my motives for requesting this survey arrises from what I conceive to be my duty & a wish to benefit the service

[LC. EPP, Vol. 5, 1802–1803.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenants Charles Stewart, John Smith, John H. Dent, and Carpenter Thomas Moore, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Enterprise*  
Syracuse Harbor. Jan<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR Pursuant to your warrant of this date we have taken a careful and strict survey of the United States Schooner *Enterprise* commanded by Lieut<sup>t</sup> Stephen Decatur Jun<sup>r</sup>, and are of opinion from her defective state that she is rendered incapable of cruizing during the present season without undergoing considerable repairs; The Extent of her defects will be better discovered when she is placed in a situation for repairs.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbor Jan<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR You are to preside at a court of Enquiry to be assembled on board the U. S. Brig *Syren* under your command on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> at 9 O'clock A. M. for the investigation of the Official Conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Nathan Baker Purser of said Brig since leaving the United States; The Members of the Court are to be yourself, L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>s</sup> S Decatur of the *Enterprise* and L<sup>t</sup> T. Robinson of the *Constitution*. M<sup>r</sup> Lewis, Mid<sup>o</sup> will act as Judge Advocate. I now enclose you a letter from Joseph J [or I.] Maxwell and S. R. Marshall containing charges against M<sup>r</sup> Baker and a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Baker respecting the conduct of his Stewart; you will summon the members of the Court in due form and furnish M<sup>r</sup> Baker with a copy of the charges bro't against him and will also summon such witnesses as may be required; In the mean time you will give him an order of arrest and suspension from duty untill after the investigation; and report to me in writing a clear statement of facts to enable me to Judge of the Propriety of assembling a Court Martial.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 11 January 1804

[Syracuse] The wind proving contrary and meeting with the *Vixen* a few leagues from this Port with dispatches for me I returned and Anchored — The *Vixen* also anchored: Shifted my Pendant to the *Constitution* — recieved Sundry Stores by the *Vixen* which were left at Malta by the *Philadelphia* — rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Captain Bainbridge.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 11 January 1804

Moderate Breezes & clear weather. We continue at anchor in Saragosa with the *Syren* in company The Ships company employed in refitting the rigging. The Carpenters employed in repairing the bowsprit — As the Bowsprit has been under repair these two days, it may be necessary to mention its defects and how they were occasioned. As it is a made spar two of the scarfs meet under the gam-

monning, the Ends of which were rotten. No accurate calculation of its defects could be made without taking off one of the fishes which are secured to the spindle; A piece was cut out nearly 7 feet in length and about 8 Inches wide & between 6 & 7 Inches thick.

Towards Evening the *Enterprize* re-anchored in shore of the *Constitution*. On the Commodore's coming on board the broad pendant was shifted from the *Enterprize* to the *Constitution*. His return was in consequence of his falling in with the United States Schooner *Vixen* Lieut<sup>t</sup> Smith with Dispatches for him.

At 7 P. M. anchored here the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* L<sup>t</sup> Smith who sailed from here nearly three weeks ago as a convoy to the *Traveller* store ship. L<sup>t</sup> Smith waited on the Commodore A. M. at Day light we recieved from the *Vixen* the following stores said to have been left at Malta by the U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Vixen*, 12 January 1804

Sailed in the *Vixen* for Malta on business for the squadron.

[LC, original.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 12 January 1804

[Syracuse] *Siren*, *Vixen* & *Enterprize* in company: Ordered M<sup>r</sup> Butler master of the *Vixen* on shore to Sick Quarters and M<sup>r</sup> Burrows midshipman of this Ship to supply his Place as Acting Master. At 7 A. M. made the *Vixen* Signal to prepare to sail: At 9 A. M. I embarked on board of her and Sailed for Malta. Wind N E. by 10 A. M. the Wind died away, the clouds thickened and every indication of a gale from the Southward: returned into Port and anchored — Rejoined the *Constitution* — This being the Birth day of the King of Naples I ordered a Royal Salute fired in honor of the day as a Compliment to the Government.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren*, of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 12 January 1804

[Syracuse] At 9 the Commodore hoisted his flag on board the *Vixen* made sail & stood out of the harbour, rec<sup>d</sup> a quantity of mutton & Veget<sup>s</sup> for the crew. At 11 the *Vixen* return'd into harbour having sprung her fore top mast crosstrees. At ½ past 11 the Commodore hoisted his flag on board his own ship the *Constitution*. At Meridian the Commodore fired a salute of 21 guns in Commemoration of the day of nativity of the King of Naples — this day sent on shore several coils of Rope 2 hawsers 1 topmast stay, signal halyards & a quantity of blocks &c. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Major General W. A. Villetts, Commander-in-Chief of the British Garrison, Malta

MALTA January 13<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, There being a certain number of Bullocks at Tripoli purchased for the use of the British Garrison under my command in this Island a considerable time I believe before the blockade of that port was declared, I have to request you will be pleased to permit the two Vessels on board of which they are embarked to pass without hindrance or molestation to this Island. The Vessels being the property of, and navigated by Maltese subjects of His Britannic Majesty and the Bullocks also British property beyond all question, I flatter myself that I am perfectly justified in making this request, and that you will be pleased to comply with the same.

(Signed) W: A: Villetts

*La Vergine del Carmine* — Capt<sup>o</sup> PIETRO GAMEN  
*Il Santissimo Crocifisso* — Cap<sup>o</sup> NICHOL DE CANDIA

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Midshipman Jacquelin B. Harvie, U. S. Navy, Richmond, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 13. 1804. —

I have received your letter of the 8th. —

Mr Thompson, Chaplain in the Navy, is employed by government at this place to instruct our Young Officers in the Theory of navigation, preparatory to their entering into actual service. You will repair to Washington as soon as you can with convenience and report yourself at this office when further directions will be given you. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802–1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 13 January 1804

Moored in Gibraltar Bay AM, the United States Schooner *Nautilus* Sailed on a Cruise

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 13 January 1804

Moderate Breezes & cloudy weather. We continue at Anchor in Saragosa, The *Syren*, *Vixen* & *Enterprize* in company. Ships company employed in refitting the rigging. Recieved from shore 12 & ½ Pounds line for seizing stuff & two Pounds Marline. We shortened in 7 fathoms on the small bower in order to swing clear of the N W buoy.

At day light the Commodore rehoisted his Pendant on board the *Vixen* & stood out to sea in order to proceed to Malta.

The *Constitution* has had the Port Guard these 24 hours & was relieved by the *Syren* at 8 this morning. At 9 A. M. answered the *Syrens* Signal for a Court of Enquiry — The ships company employed in watering ship & refitting the rigging. At noon we had completed our water having recieved 28 Gang Casks. We recieved fresh Mutton & Vegetables for the ships company. We also recieved 6 hides of leather from the shore — Surgeons report 18 Sick & 5 Conv<sup>alesc</sup>

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To Joseph Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
*Gibraltar Bay 14<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804*

SIR, I have the honour to inform you of my arrival in this Bay from Leghorn, after a very long and disagreeable passage, and hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you at Cadiz, as I am now making every preparation for Sea, and shall sail the first fair Wind for that Port. —

I have been informed since my arrival here that an American Vessel had arrived at Cadiz, with despatches from the United States to the Court of Spain, & that some difficulty had arisen respecting the giving up of Louisiana to the Americans. — Should you be in possession of the particulars I will thank you to write me by return of Post, as I shall be anxious to hear from you before I leave Gibraltar. — If you or your friends have any Commands from this to Cadiz, I beg you will command me — when I arrive off Cadiz, I shall hoist an American Jack, at the fore, for a Pilot, and a white flag with a red Cross at the Main as a distinguishing flag. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803–1806.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 14 January 1804

SIR, No doubt before this reaches you but what you will hear of the unfortunate loss of the United States Frigate *Phildelphia*, under my command, on Rocks off Tripoli: presuming that Commodore Preble or Consul O'Brien has communicated the particulars of that accident makes me forbear detailing them: My feelings on that event can better be conceived than described.

By late letters from M<sup>r</sup> Davis, charge of Affairs at Tunis, I received information of your being at Algiers in your functionary authority, in consequence of which I take the liberty of stating the situation of our captivity.

The Officers, with a few servants to tend on them, are, and have been, closely confined to the late American Consular House. The remainder of the Crew are confined at nights in prison, and made to work in the day; five of them have turned Mahometants, and probably many more will do the same. We have been much necessitated for a Credit; which difficulty M<sup>r</sup> Davis's last letter has removed by authorising the drawing of Bills on Tunis; but that will be attended with a loss of 25 p<sup>c</sup> cent, which can only be prevented by having money sent to us.

I have been anxiously expecting to hear from Commodore Preble, and am at a loss to account for his silence, particularly as I stated our wants, and informed him of the mode of communicating with this place. I was greatly in hopes that you would have Visited Malta in the *Constitution*, and would have felt yourself at liberty to enquire the demands of the Bashaw of this Regency. — I consider the earlier that question is put, the sooner it will effect a negotiation; as their demands, either for our ransom or peace, no doubt will at first be exceedingly exorbitant, and the system of these Barbarian

powers have always been to demand more than they will finally take, and that kind of treating procrastinates negotiation; therefore, an Overture being made this Winter to recieve their first demands, probably would be attended in the summer with their ultimatum; and if the question is postponed until the summer, their ultimatum, owing to the proceeding Autumn & Winter, may be prolonged a twelve month.

I shall briefly give you my ideas on the situation of the United States with this Regency, and trust that you will do me the justice to believe they are not influenced by my unfortunate captivity.

Nature has strongly guarded the Harbour of Tripoli by Rocks & Shoals; — the Town is too well fortified for our shipping, by an attack, to make an impression on it; — the coast is so situated as to make the most vigilant blockade prove inadequate to prevent their Cruisers going in and out of port; — the Country abounds with such a plenty of provision that they are not in the least depending on importation for subsistence: and the loss of their small Mercantile trade can only effect a few Jews, by whom it is carried on, and whose interest the Bashaw totally disregards; and the trade of those Jews by the closest blockade can be but little injured whilst Tunis is at peace; as the Island of Zirbe in the Regency of Tunis, adjacent to the boundary of Tripoli, would always be a port for the reception of goods destined to this place, — which could be readily conveyed in small boats along the shore, or brought on Camels, for a small expense; as these animals are numerous here, land carriage is exceedingly cheap.

The Bashaw will never be forced to terms, without he considers his own safety endangered; and he is only Vulnerable to the United States one way; that is by eight or ten thousand men landing near his Town, which in my Opinion would soon become an easy conquest. This measure or money, are the alternatives. Where is your predecessor, could he not visit Tripoli? His understanding the language and custom of the country would be of great service in negotiating.

The Consuls, except the Danish, have not shewn a disposition to be on friendly terms with us; — you are placed amongst a more *Christian* sett

Please to present my best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear — I hope she finds herself agreeably situated; altho' Barbary may not afford all the conveniencies of America, those little embarrassments are greatly over-balanced by having you with her, — a happiness that M<sup>rs</sup> B. seldom experiences.

I flatter myself to hear frequently from you, — your correspondence will always give me much pleasure.

I think you will find the Vickle Hadge Minister of Marines at Algiers, who I carried to Constantinople, a man of principle, — my compliments to him.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 14 January 1804

Wind from the Eastward. At 10 P. M. arrived and anchored in Malta Harbor — Sent an Officer to the Governor and one to the Admiral — At 11 saluted the Garrison with 15 Guns which was returned — Waited on the Governor Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball, the Admiral Sir



Richard Bickerton, Major General Villette and Gen<sup>l</sup> Oakes and was politely recieved —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 14 January 1804

Moderate breezes & cloudy weather. We continue at anchor in Saragosa. The *Syren* & *Enterprize* in company. Ships company employed in refitting the rigging. The carpenters employed in fishing the Bowsprit. Commodore Preble has gone to Malta on service. Lieut<sup>t</sup> Steward commander of the *Syren* is the Commanding Officer here at present. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Dent is the commanding officer of the *Constitution*. We had moderate breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> during the night. A. M. Employed in gammoning down the bowsprit and refitting the rigging. At noon winds from the South<sup>d</sup> The Surgeon reports 32 Sick, 4 convalescent & 1 discharged from the Sick list to which 15 have been added these last 24 hours. —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Vixen*, 14 January 1804

Arrived at Malta saluted the garrison which was returned. Was recd. with politness by the Navy and Army.

[LC, original.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

N<sup>o</sup> 141

GIBRALTAR 15<sup>th</sup> January 1804

SIR My lasts which I had the honour of adressing you were N<sup>o</sup> 139 & 140 under dates 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> to which please be referrd. —

I this day recieved by Post from Ja<sup>s</sup> L. Cathcart Esq<sup>r</sup> of Leghorn the inclosed dispatch. My friends at Malta tell me Cap<sup>t</sup> Baimbridge & his unfortunate Officers are treated with Humanity by the Tripolins—

On the 12<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> was brought into this Port for Examination by the English frigate *Phebe*, J. R. Capel Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander, the ship *American Hero*, Andrew Marsters, Master belonging to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Gray Jun<sup>r</sup> of Salem in the U. S. loaded with sugar Coffe, Pepper & fish from said Port of Salem bound to Marseilles on pretence of being French property; Cap<sup>t</sup> Marsters was interogated in the Vice Admiralty Court in my Presence on the 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> when ship and Cargo appeard to be the property of said M<sup>r</sup> Gray, & was released yesterday, had been stopd near Barcelona on the 2<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> & brought here for the aforesaid purpose, she is now proceeding on her Voyage.—

Yesterday arrived a Vessel from England who had saild with a Convoy of upwards of 40 Sail for this place and had been dispersed by a Gale of wind in the Bay of Biscay, says there was many Troop ships with them.—

The *Nautilus* proceeded two days ago for Syracuse, and the *Argo* is here ready to go on a Cruise in the Gutt &c<sup>a</sup> —

The inclosed from Consul Simpson of Tanger just come to hand

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796–1804.]

[About 15 January 1804]

To Citizen Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires & Commissary General, Tripoli,  
from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs

Copy of the Instructions sent to Citizen Beaussier in Tripoli, from the French  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

PARIS 25<sup>th</sup> Nivose

I have rec<sup>d</sup> Citizen your Dispatches of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Brumaire N<sup>os</sup> 8 & 10. The details they contain, regards the loss the Americans have sustained off Tripoli by the *Philadelphia* Frigate. This I had been already informed of by M<sup>r</sup> Livingston their Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, who wrote me to claim the good offices of the First Consul in favor of his Country men, whom this accident had delivered into the power of Tripolines.

The First Consul touched with the most lively commiseration for their misfortune, has authorised me to request you will put all in train to alleviate their situation, and to obtain their deliverance.

You will at same time make known to the Pacha, that the War between the Regency and the United States, has more than once excited the solicitude of the First Consul; and being truly attached to the People and Government of America, he desires that a solid and advantageous peace to both parties, may speedily put an end to the War that at present divides them.

The First Consul expects from the friendship and harmony which subsist between the French and the Regency, from the sentiments which the Pacha has always express'd, and from the conduct always used towards him, that the means prescribed you to make use of, will not be fruitless.

I expect myself from your intelligence & Zeal every necessary step will be taken to ensure the success of this negotiation, and the exact result of which, you will please make known to me.

This letter will be sent you by the Commodore of the American forces before Tripoli, to whom M<sup>r</sup> Livingston engages to forward it with his Dispatches —

I have the honor to salute you

(Signed) Ch: MAU TALLEYRAND

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

To Sir Alexander John Ball, British Civil Commissioner for the Islands of Malta and Gozo, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA 16<sup>th</sup> January 1804

SIR, I am honored with your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> acknowledging the receipt of a Declaration of the Blockade of Tripoli by the Commodore Commanding the United States Squadron in these Seas, and requesting permission to bring from that port, One thousand Bullocks, purchased previous to your having been notified of the Blockade, for the supply of the Inhabitants of this Island —

Knowing how much it is the wish of the United States to cement more strongly the present Friendship and good understanding with Great Britain, I have no hesitation in complying with your request — I shall therefore give Orders to the Captains & Commanders of the Ships, and Vessels of War under my command, not to molest any British Vessel, sent by you from Malta to Tripoli in Ballast, or, returning from thence to Malta, with Bullocks — until after the 1<sup>st</sup>

day of March next; presuming by that time, you will have effected the Transportation of the provisions in question — I wish it was in my power consistently to extend the time beyond this limitation —

To His Excellency Sir ALEXANDER BALL  
*H. B. Majesties Civil Commissioner  
 for the Islands of Malta & Gozo — &c &c &c —*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To the Captains and Commanders of the U. S. Ships of War in the Mediterranean,  
 from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA Jan<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1804

The British Vessel bearing this Passport You are to permit to pass from Malta to Tripoly in Ballast and from Tripoly to Malta with a Cargo of Bullocks untill after the first day of March next, and to render her any assistance she may stand in need of.

(L S)

Given under my hand  
 and Seal on board the  
 U. S. Schooner *Vixen* at  
 Malta the 16 day of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804  
 Signed, EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Major General W. A. Villetts, Commander-in-Chief of British Garrison, Malta,  
 from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA January the 16<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> directed to the Officer commanding the Ships of the United States of America off Tripoly, requesting that two Vessels now in that Port on board of which a number of Bullocks are embarked for the use of the Garrison on this Island, and which were purchased previous to my declaration of the Blockade of that Port having been made known to you, may be permitted to pass unmolested. I now enclose you passports for those Vessels, and

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Brian McDonogh, British Consul, Tripoli, presumably from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA Jan<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1804 —

SIR I have desired M<sup>r</sup> Higgins to send to your care sundry letters & bundles of news papers, & clothing for Capt. Bainbridge & his officers. They are to be shipped in a vessel sent to Tripoly by Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball, you will oblige me by directing the delivery of them. I beg leave to ask your kind attention to those unfortunate Prisoners & be assured I shall not want gratitude in making you such acknowledgements as may be most acceptable when opportunity offers. I wish much for a correspondence with you, & you will do me a favor by endeavouring to learn what the demand of the Bashaw will be for the ransom of the officers & crew & make me acquainted therewith — M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien our late Consul at Algiers was so good as to give me your address & to recommend it to me to interest you in our affairs —

I captured a vessel in sight of Tripoly the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. under Turks colors, bound to Bengaza with two Tripoline Officers one of which has his son with him — several Tripoline soldiers & 42 black men & women were also on board. I shall release the vessel as soon as her quarantine is over together with all the people which the Turkish Captain claims, viz — one officer of the Capt: Pacha, three Turks & seven Greeks — The remainder amounting to about 60 being Tripolines & Tripoline property I shall send to America, unless the Bashaw thinks proper to exchange them — I wish you would sound him on this subject. I shall make you a satisfactory acknowledgement if you can effect an exchange —

I hope to hear from you soon & beg [MS mutilated]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

MALTA January 16<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR I came here for the purpose of forwarding letters and supplies of stores to you. You will readily conceive my intention in writing to the Warrant Officers, & Petty Officers & Crew of the *Philadelphia*, and to the Bashaw's Minister respecting them. I did not think it necessary to say anything to the Commissioned Officers, nor do I suppose that it is to any of the Warrant excepting some of the Mechanics. If you think that either of the letters will have a tendency to make the situation of the Officers and Crew more uncomfortable, you may use your own discretion respecting the delivery, but I suspect they will not have a bad effect. Let me know precisely how you are all treated, what distinction they make, and what they allow you. Did they plunder your Watches — and take the money and other articles from your Pockets? I want to know particulars. Has any of your Officers lost a Gold Watch with three or four hands one of which is broken? Tell L<sup>t</sup> Porter I found his Sword & Belt in bad hands, and shall take care of it for him. Write me if you know anything of the Vessel or people which I captured off Tripoly the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. I believe from circumstances that not only the Tripoline Soldiers but the Turkish captain of this Vessel was active in boarding the *Philadelphia* and plundering the Officers. Give me all the information you can respecting the situation of the T. P. Perhaps in *May* or *June* you may see the Squadron off the Port or perhaps hear of us sooner. Keep up a good heart and for God's sake do not despair. Your situation is bad indeed but I hope ere long, it will be better. Rest assured my dear friend that every exertion of mine shall be made to lighten your captivity and to release you. I have sent you a suit of cloths to the care of the English Consul. The other articles are sent to the care of the Danish Consul. You must write to me by the return of this vessel which has my passport, and let me know what to send you. I regret that you have not sooner rec<sup>d</sup> the articles which I now send you. they have been put up and ordered over more than a month but owing to the neglect of M<sup>r</sup> Pulis, they have remained here. Write to M<sup>r</sup> Higgins for any thing you may want, and he will send it you. If I am not here to do it myself — He will be the person with whom in future I shall entrust my letters &c<sup>a</sup> to be sent to you. — I have written to the British Consul and desired him to render you assistance. Sir

Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball assures me that he will write to the same effect. You will receive by this conveyance many letters & news papers from your friends

Adieu for the present —

With esteem & respect Dear Sir

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

P. S. As the Vessel which brings you this is English, you had better send all the letters excepting particular ones to the English Consul to forward to this place EP. —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Sir Alexander John Ball, British Civil Commissioner, Malta and Gozo

MALTA, 17<sup>th</sup> January 1804

SIR, I am honored with your Letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> instant in answer to mine of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> by which you are pleased to accede to my request of being permitted to bring from Tripoli One thousand Bullocks which had been purchased for the supply of this Island previous to the notification being received of your having declared that port in a state of Blockade.

I beg, Sir, to express my high sense of the terms in which this permission is conveyed, and to add that I am well persuaded of its being no less the wish of Great Britain than of the United States that the present friendship and good understanding may long continue to subsist between the two Governments.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.–Feb. 1804.]

[17 January 1804]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, French Minister of Exterior Relations

Copy

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has the honor to transmit to M<sup>r</sup> Livingston the letter he addresses to the French Commissary at Tripoly in Barbary [15 January]. He sends it him in secret to the end that he may give it due attention. He desires that this measure dictated by the First Consul towards the United States may have all the effect which they can hope for, and that it may contribute to the advantage of those Americans retained in Tripoly

I have the honor to renew to M<sup>r</sup> Livingston the assurance of esteem. —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[17 January 1804]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, French Minister of Exterior Relations

SIR, The moment the First Consul returned, I laid before him the letter you did me the honor to write me dated the 11<sup>th</sup> instant. He was much hurt at the loss the United States have experienced in the roads of Tripoly. He has not examined whether (according to your Excellency's remark) it particularly regards the States he Governs that Peace should reign between the Regencies of Africa and the United

States: but although himself is engaged in a War that the ambition and disloyalty of our enemies has rendered inevitable and necessary, that which the United States have to support has more than once excited his solicitude. His greatest pleasure would be, to be able to effect or preserve the blessings of Peace in all civilized parts of the World. He holds a sincere attachment to the people & Government of America, depending on a just return on their part. In short, his natural feelings excite compassion for the misfortune of your Country Men, whom destiny and not want of Courage has deprived of their liberty, but not of honor.

With these sentiments Sir, he has requested me to order the Commissary General of the Republic of Tripoly to put all in order, to alleviate the situation of the American Prisoners and even obtain their deliverance; at the same time he will make known to the Bashaw the ardent desire of the First Consul that a Peace solid and advantageous to both parties may shortly put an end to the War which divides them. May these means be attended with full success! The reason to hope they may not be fruitless, is the good understanding and friendship existing between the French Government and the Pacha Dey of Tripoly, and the disposition and sentiments on which the First Consul has ever prided himself. As I suppose your Excellency intends writing to the Commander of the Forces off Tripoly, I shall have the honor of addressing the Instructions for the French Commissary to him, to be forwarded

I beg your Excellency to accept my best Consideration

(Signed) Ch: MAU TALLEYRAND

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France

PARIS 17th January 1804.

SIR, Upon receiving advice of the Misfortune that had happened to the *Philadelphia*, and a desire to render every possible aid to my unfortunate fellow Citizens that were captured in her, induced me to make immediate application to the first Consul for his aid in procuring their relief; and his mediation in bringing about a Peace. He rec<sup>d</sup> my application in the most friendly manner, as will appear by his answer to my note [2 January], which with the note are enclosed for your perusal. The Minister has written on the subject in the strongest terms to the French Commissary at Tripoly. recommending that he may use every endeavour to procure the release of the prisoners and every effort to bring about a Peace that he declares to the Pacha the interest the First Consul takes in the restoration of Harmony between the two Nations. The regard he has for the United States, and his hope that the friendship the Pacha professes for him, will induce him to offer terms of accomodation. Thinking the subject sufficiently important to merit your immediate attention. I have directed M<sup>r</sup> Appleton to send a dispatch Vessel with it immediately to you. You will see the instructions safely delivered to the French Commissary at Tripoly. You have probably some powers and instructions from the Government on the subject of Peace, if the Pacha should be disposed for it, or if you have not, M<sup>r</sup> Lear certainly will have Ample powers for the redemption of the prisoners, and the con-

clusion of a Treaty. It will be proper therefore for you as soon as possible, to send a copy of this letter with the enclosures to M<sup>r</sup> Lear, who will act thereon, as his prudence may suggest. The business being out of my department and being wholly uninformed as to the wishes of our Gov<sup>t</sup> all I can do is to procure for you the aid and support of this Court in whatever M<sup>r</sup> Lear and you may concert and I doubt not that the Consul's recommendation will have much weight. I shall feel myself extremely happy if with that aid you can effectuate anything for our brave but unfortunate fellow Citizens. I hope that you will be so obliging as to give me the earliest and fullest information relative to your operations, as it may contribute to advance the objects you have in view, as well as enable me to communicate earlier intelligence to our Government that you may have the means of doing

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Vixen*

*Malta Harbour January 17th 1804.*

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that I came here in the *Vixen* the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant from Syracuse, where I left the *Constitution* making some necessary repairs on the Bowsprit and overhauling and refitting Rigging &c<sup>s</sup>. The Bowsprit rec<sup>d</sup> some damage in a heavy Gale of Wind off Tripoly last month, but I shall make it do with what repairs our Carpenters can give it. I think it will be well to send out a Spare Bowsprit, and the necessary wood for a lower Mast as neither can be procured here and in the event of losing either I should be obliged to leave this station and go to Toulon to replace it, which would to me be a grievous and mortifying circumstance. The co[s]t of Tripoly is extremely dangerous at this season of the year but I could not avoid paying it a visit, and on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ulto I captured a vessel in sight of Tripoly which left that port in the Night bound to Bengaza. She was under Turkish colours, and Navigated by Turks and Greeks, but had on board two Tripoline Officers of distinction, a son of one of the Officers a number of Tripoline Soldiers, and 42 Black Men and Women Slaves belonging to the Bashaw and his Subjects, and a small sum of about 1000 dollars in money, Tripoline property. My object in coming over here was to attend to the Translation of the papers, to look out for some good Boats for light cruisers and to forward some necessary supplies to our unfortunate Country Men.

If I find on the translation of the papers that the Vessel is Turkish property I shall release her together with all the people claimed by the Captain Viz. An Officer of the Captain Pacha three Turks and seven Greeks the remainder amounting to about Sixty Tripolines and Slaves belonging to the Bashaw and his Subjects I shall keep as Prisoners I have written to the Bashaw proposing an exchange, and hope this Capture will enable me to release some of our Country Men, or at any rate it will afford us considerable advantage in any negotiation for a ransom or peace. I have had indirect proposals from the Bashaw for a peace. He is willing to restore the Frigate *Philadelphia* if we will give him a Schooner and and he will give up our Officers and Men for five hundred Doll. each. I believe that, on these terms he would make peace but he demands an annual

stipend for keeping it, such as the Sweeds and Danes pay him amounting to [space] doll: p<sup>t</sup> Annum payable in [space] This we never ought to accede to, as it would stimulate the avarice of the other Barbary Powers and probably induce them to make War upon us. I am taking measures to procure two Mortar Boats, and three or four Gun Boats, and hope as soon as the season becomes favorable to make War upon Tripoly in a way that will lessen the Bashaw's demands. He seems already to be convinced that he has something to dread, or he would not propose accepting One hundred and fifty Thousand Doll: for what not long since he expected to receive Three Millions. I shall return to Syracuse in three or four days, and shall forward three setts of Dispatches by diff<sup>t</sup> conveyances detailing all the transactions of the Squadron since the 14<sup>th</sup> December, the day on which the *Nautilus* sailed from Syracuse for Gibraltar with my dispatches up to that date, by her I forwarded three setts of Dispatches and one set by the *Traveller* Store Ship, with all the particulars of the loss of the *Philadelphia* and other occurrences. I gave one set in charge of M<sup>r</sup> Gadson who was directed to proceed to the United States with them by the first Vessel from Gibraltar, one set directed to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to forward to Cadiz to M<sup>r</sup> Yznardy, to forward by the first Vessel from that Port, and two setts to M<sup>r</sup> Gavino who was to forward them by different conveyances. Of course it is hardly possible but some of them must have reached you. I shall however briefly state that in chace of a Tripoline she [*Philadelphia*] ran on the rocks off Tripoly the 1st November; that most of her Guns were thrown over board; her Fore Mast cut away, and other measures adopted for lightening her to endeavour to get her off but without effect, and that after an attack of about 4 hours by the Gun Boats, she surrendered, and all the Officers and Crew amounting to 307 Men were made prisoners.

The Civil and Military Government of this Island have represented to me by letters that a number of Bullocks were purchased by them at Tripoly, and paid for previous to my declaring it in a state of Blockade, and requesting permission to bring their property out of that Country, in consequence of which I have allowed them until the last of February to bring them away stipulating however that the Vessels should bring no other property away, and that they should proceed to Tripoly in Ballast I hope you will approve of this indulgence, as the season of the year is such, that it is not prudent to keep so near the Coast as to enable us closely to Blockade it. After February has expired I shall be able to cruise near the Coast, and no farther indulgence shall be granted to any Nation. The peculiar situation of this property I hope will justify my acceding to the request

The *Nautilus* has not yet returned from Gibraltar. The *Syren* returned to Syracuse the week before last from Algiers where she carried the Money &c<sup>t</sup> from Leghorn. She has refitted her Rigging and to improve her sailing her Main Mast has been removed farther aft. I shall send her immediately on a cruise off Cape Bon, and to look into Tunis occasionally to receive any interesting intelligence D<sup>r</sup> Davis may have to communicate. The *Enterprize* returned to Syracuse the 29th Ult<sup>o</sup> from a cruise off Tripoly since which L<sup>t</sup> Decatur has requested a survey on her, stating that her hull is in too weak and decayed a state to proceed to Sea in the Winter season I accordingly ordered a survey by L<sup>t</sup> Commandant Smith L<sup>t</sup> Command<sup>t</sup> Steward,



L<sup>t</sup> Dent, and two Carpenters who reported her rotten, and not sea worthy for winter cruising of course she must lay by until the month of April, this leaves me only the *Syren* and two Schooners as the *Argus* has returned to Gibraltar after having convoyed Vessels to Leghorn, and she must remain at Gib<sup>t</sup> until relieved, which I hope will be soon as she is the best Vessel in our service for cruising in these seas. She sails wonderfully fast, has been tried with the *Syren*, and sails more than a third faster and will certainly outsail the *Vixen* as much.

We are much in want of an agent both here and at Syracuse. Our Consul M<sup>r</sup> Pulis does not speak a word of English he speaks Maltese, and Italian, but still he may answer for Consul but for an Agent to procure Articles wanted for the Squadron, negotiate Bills, &c<sup>a</sup> he will not do. We can have no communication but by a Linguist. he is very inattentive to our concerns. I beg leave to recommend William Higgins Esq<sup>r</sup> a Merchant in this place of respectability and influence, attentive and attached to our Interests and concerns, for an Agent here; and George Dyson Esq<sup>r</sup> a Merch<sup>t</sup> at Syracuse for our Agent there. He is a Gentleman of respectability is very attentive, and is the only person in the place proper for the appointment. I am under the necessity of employing those two Gentlemen until I can know the pleasure of the President I hope you will please to recommend them, for I assure you we cannot have better Agents. I am induced to recommend them from patriotic motives only.

The Bashaw of Tripoly's brother who is his declared Enemy is now at Alexandria, and has all the Arabs & a number of Mamelukes at his command, and wishes to march to the siege of Tripoly, but is destitute of Money, Powder, or Field Artillery. His consul has been with me this morning for assistance. He wants 50 Barrels of Powder Six Brass 4 & 6 Pounders and Eighty or Ninety thousand Dollars. This he thinks with our assistance by sea would put him in possession of Tripoly; and I am very certain that it would in less than two months. He offers perpetual Peace as soon as he is in possession of the Government, to give us hostages & if we chuse, allow us to hold the principal Fort at the entrance of the Harbour, or in fact to allow us to make our own terms to release our Country Men, and all Christian Slaves in the regency I wish earlier notice had been taken of this man and his views. In fact I am astonished that the first or second Squadron did not oblige the Bashaw of Tripoly to sign any treaty they pleased. I have less force than either with ten times the force to contend with. The Tripolines by May will have 19 Gun Boats and unless we have Boats to fight them in their own way we shall not be likely to succeed. If you will allow me to expend One hundred Thousand Dollars in such additional Naval force as I think proper, I will take Tripoly or perish in the attempt. I am confident that it may easily be destroyed or taken in the summer with Gun & Mortar Boats protected by our Cruisers.

N. B. I cannot but observe that the Officers of the Civil & Military dep<sup>t</sup> of this place have been extremely attentive to me, and have given every assurance of being friendly disposed towards the United States. Admiral Bickerton called on me this morning to assure me that the conduct of Captains Gore and Sutton in giving protection to our deserters met his disapprobation and that he had no doubt but Lord Neilson would order them to be delivered up. That in future no such

thing would happen promissing me at the same time, every assistance that their ports offered.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Vixen*  
Malta Harbor, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, I was honored with your esteem'd favor by the *Siren*, and most sincerely deplore the loss of the *Philadelphia* and its attendant consequences — it was to me an unexpected & mortifying circumstance, but we must make the best of it —

I have not yet, had it in my power to send a boat on shore at Tripoli on account of the severe weather I met with near that Coast. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> December in sight of Tripoli, I captured a Vessel [the *Mastico*, renamed the *Intrepid*] under Turkish Colours from that Port only a few hours out, bound to Bengaza: she had on board two Tripoline Officers of Distinction, a number of Tripoline Soldiers, 30 Young black Women, and 12 black Boys, some belonging to the Bashaw, and some to Tripoline Merchants, and some of the Officers side arms &c<sup>a</sup> captured in the *Philadelphia*

The prize is now in Syracuse where I have established my head quarters: I came here yesterday in the *Vixen* to have the papers of the prize translated, and to forward some necessary supplies to Captain Bainbridge his Officers and Crew —

I hope this capture will enable me to effect the release of some of our Countrymen as I have proposed an Exchange — I shall write you as soon as I know the result of my proposition to the Bashaw. & shall by the next opportunity send you copies of my letters.

It will not do to be too anxious for the ransom of our friends, as the Bashaws demands will undoubtedly be too exorbitant to meet the Concurrence of our Government —

I am taking measures to lessen his pretentions as soon as the weather becomes favorable to our Operations and hope to convince him, that it will be for his interest to make peace on reasonable terms — It would be imprudent in me at present to make known to you by letter my plans, I shall e're long send a Vessel to Algiers. you will then have all the information I can give you —

Make my best respects to M<sup>r</sup> Lear. and believe me with sentiments of Esteem, and the highest respect Dear Sir,

P. S. Make my respectfull regards to M<sup>r</sup> Obrien and tell him I received his letter by the *Siren*, and shall write him by the Vessel, I intend sending to Algiers

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

MALTA 17th January 1804

SIR I enclose you a letter for Col Lear which I beg you to forward as soon as possible; this is the first opportunity I have had of writing you since my arrival in these Seas. I came here yesterday in the Schooner *Vixen* from Syracuse (where I have established my head

quarters and general rendezvous) for the purpose of sending some necessaries to Tripoly for the comfort of our unfortunate Countrymen; and to get some Arabic Papers translated which I found on board a Vessel that I captured in sight of Tripoly the 23rd Ultó. The Vessel alluded to, was from Tripoly bound to Bengaza under Turk's colours, and had on board two Tripoline Officers of distinction, the son of one of the Officers, a number of Tripoline Soldiers, 30 Black Women and 12 Black Men, which were intended to be sent to Constantinople from Bengaza for sale. If the Vessel proves to be Turkish property, I shall release her, together with all the people which the Captain claims; Viz an Officer of the Captain Pacha, 3 Turkish Sailors & Seven Greeks; the others he acknowledges are Tripolines does not claim them. The whole number of Tripolines on board, is between 60 & 70 and I trust this capture will release some of our Countrymen, or afford us a considerable advantage in any negotiation with the Bashaw. As you are acquainted with all the circumstances of the loss of the *Philadelphia*, and are well able to judge of the consequences, I am making preparations for the commencement of a vigorous campaign in the Spring.

It will afford me pleasure to hear from you often and to co-operate with you in every measure for the good of our Country, and be assured I shall lose no opportunity of giving you all the information in my power. I shall ere long, send a Vessel to Tunis, and shall write you more particularly respecting my views. The uncertainty of a letter reaching you excepting by one of our own Vessels forbids an unrestrained communication. Write me under cover to M<sup>r</sup> William Higgins of this place Merch<sup>t</sup> or to the Consul M<sup>r</sup> Pulis. A few days since I rec<sup>d</sup> a packet from you directed to Comm<sup>r</sup> Morris enclosing a letter from the Bey of Tunis, some letters respecting M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart and papers respecting the prize captured by the *Enterprise*, the whole of which I shall forward to the U S immediately.

JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>. The translation of the papers of the Vessel I captured off Tripoly is finished, and I find that one of the Officers on board is a choush of the Bashaw's who was ordered to present 20 of the Negroes on board to the Captain Pacha on his arrival at Constantinople from Bengaza where he was going to take on board two hundred firkins of Butter, and some other property.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

[17 January 1804]

Concerning the Polacre *Paulina*

The declaration of Daniel Charles Heath, acting lieutenant in the navy of the United States, and late prize-master on board the polacre *Paulina*, captured by Lieutenant Commandant Sterrett, under the order of Commodore Morris, of the American squadron in the Mediterranean, taken on oath before the Committee of Claims, on the 31st January, A. D. 1804, viz

That the deponent was on board the *Enterprise* at the time of the capture of the said polacre *Paulina*, which took place off the island of Malta; that the prize was carried into the port of Vallette by Lieutenant Lawrence, who afterwards returned on board the *Enterprise*, and the charge of the polacre was committed to the deponent, as prize-master, on or about the 19th January, A. D. 1803. That on

the 29th of the same month, David Valenzin, and several other persons captured on board the polacre, were put on board the *Enterprise*, and sent to Tunis, as the deponent was informed; that the deponent received orders from Lieutenant Commandant Sterrett, approved by Commodore Morris, then at Tunis, to deliver to the Bey of Tunis, or his order, the greater part of the cargo of the polacre, as particularized in the said order. The residue of the cargo, which was said to belong to David Valenzin, the deponent sold by the order of Commodore Morris. The sales were completed by the 9th June, 1803; the gross amount of which being \$2,665 70 reduced to American currency, may be seen by the accounts of Joseph Pulis, Esq., American consul at Malta, and Mr. William Higgins, who had the management of the sales of said cargo, and whose accounts of the sales are now before the Committee of Claims; and the nett proceeds, after deducting some charges and expenses, amount to two thousand one hundred and forty-four dollars and eleven cents. From which sum the deponent paid to Commodore Morris (as per receipt) five doubloons, and the balance, estimated at two thousand and sixty-four dollars and eleven cents, was by the deponent deposited, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Navy, in the bank of discount and deposite in this city, on the 17th December, 1803; that as the deponent was leaving this city, he left his papers relative to the disposal of the cargo of the polacre *Paulina* with Mr. Goldsborough, clerk in the Navy Department.

The raisins, figs, and cheese, which Mr. Pulis had the management of the sale of, were in a perished and perishing state.

The part of the cargo that Mr. Higgins had the management of the sale of, which was perished and in a perishing state, is particularized in a certificate given by Mr. George Pierce and Mr. Lure, which the committee have an opportunity of seeing.

The deponent further saith that the proportion of Valenzin's property in a perished and perishing condition was but small, not exceeding, perhaps, four hundred dollars in value.

DANIEL C. HEATH.

Sworn before me,

JOHN C. SMITH, *Chairman*.

[For further details regarding this capture attention is invited to pp. 292-296, American State Papers, Claims.]

[Am. State Papers, Claims.]

To Hon. John C. Smith, United States Congress, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 17, 1804 —

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> —

I concur in opinion with the Committee of claims that some temporary provision ought to be made by government for David Valenzin; but I have not the power, consistently, to make any provision for him. —

[NDA. Cong. LB, 1798-1811.]

[17 January 1804]

To Charles Pinckney, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 21<sup>st</sup> 1804

SIR, I have the honor to inclose the report of the Committee of claims to the House of Representatives and an Act of Congress respecting David Valenzin, a principal owner of the cargo of the Polacre *Paulina*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Radich, captured in January 1803 by Cap<sup>t</sup> Sterritt of the United States schooner *Enterprise* which has been a subject of complaint by the Imperial Minister at Madrid. They are transmitted to you together with the inclosed documents from Commodore Morris with a view to explain the particulars of the capture and subsequent proceedings in relation to the pretended prize. These are certainly marked with irregularities, which doubtless proceeded more from mistaken conceptions of duty than from a disposition to oppress the captured. In the mean time, it is hardly susceptible of a question that Valenzin was a subject of Tripoli and as such his property liable to condemnation. It is understood that no actual blockade of Tripoli existed at the time of capture, and therefore that the vessel was not forfeitable but entitled to freight. That the capture was lawful and justifiable is not doubted, but what is to be regretted is the misapprehension which induced the captors to expect an adjudication at Malta or Gibraltar and finally to send the papers and owner of part of the cargo to the United States without the property. You may therefore signify to the Imperial Minister that the United States having a particular interest in respecting and seeing respected the neutral flag cannot but disapprove of whatever has happened in derogation of its rights in this particular instance; that their Courts of justice being distinguished for a liberal regard to the rights of foreigners it is to be expected that the Imperial subjects will receive adequate compensation for the wrongs committed, on making a proper application accompanied with the necessary proofs; but that if any peculiar circumstances should render the judicial remedy less applicable or extensive than may satisfy the claims of ample justice, the Legislature will doubtless listen to their complaint with the same favorable disposition by which they were led to pass the Act in Valenzin's case.

\* \* \* \* \*

JAMES MADISON

[NA. SDA. Dip. Cor., Inst. to Min., Vol. 6, Oct. 1801–May 1808.]

[17 January 1804]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy

Copy

Washington April 10. 1804 —

SIR, The Imperial Polacre *Paulina* was captured by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Sterett. The particular circumstances relative to the capture and detention of that Vessel, are as follows — on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 1803, he captured and brought into the Harbour of Malta the Imperial Polacre *Paulina*, Lucca Radish Master; she was bound from Malta to the Port of Tripoli laden with merchandize the property of Tripolitans, and having the Subjects of the Bashaw of Tripoli on board, one of

which was the principal of the Charter Party and Claimant of the principal part of the Cargo. Lucca Radish, Master of said Polacre took this cargo on board at Malta well knowing the situation of Tripoli with the United States. The Master of the Vessel that brought this Cargo from Smyrna refused to proceed to Tripoli and others were solicited to take it on board; none would venture but Lucca Radish. M<sup>r</sup> Pulis was ordered to obtain the oath of a Master of a Merchant Vessel there who had refused to take the Cargo on board "that he had refused to take it on board because it was to be carried to a blockaded port". I solicited Sir Alexander Ball Governor of Malta to direct a Trial on the said Polacre. He assured me it was not in his power; the only alternative was to endeavour to have the Validity of Capture investigated at Gibraltar and for that purpose carried the papers first discovered, with Lucca Radish and the Boatswain, to answer the necessary Interrogatories, and that he might be satisfied no illegal advantages were intended to be taken of him. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent then Governor of Gibraltar did not think proper to let the Court of Admiralty take Cognizance of the Affair. I was then compelled to send the papers with the Tripolitans to America; it was also my intention to have sent Lucca Radish to the United States if he would not consent to relinquish all claims to freight and demurrage which I was induced to believe he was not entitled to. This offer made by M<sup>r</sup> Sterett to him and the Imperial Consul at Gibraltar at my request and in my presence. I sent Lieu<sup>t</sup> Sterett with the papers and vouchers found on board of her and at the same time, I sent by Cap<sup>t</sup> Barron my correspondence with Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball and the Imperial Consul at Malta on the subject of the Capture. My principal object in sending M<sup>r</sup> Sterett to the United States was that a full and perfect report might be made to the Secretary of the Navy relative to the capture and detention of that vessel. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July hearing that Lucca Radish was at Malta, I wrote M<sup>r</sup> Pulis a letter specifying the particular Terms upon which he would be justified in giving Lucca Radish the possession of the Polacre; of which letter the enclosed is a Copy. Those terms were complied with and Lucca Radish took possession of that vessel. I know of no irregularities that may have taken place in relation to that vessel, and consequently can say nothing on that subject. I do not recollect any other offers having been made to Radish concerning that vessel except those already stated. —

R<sup>d</sup> V. MORRIS —

[NA. SDA. Misc. L., Jan.-July 1804.]

[Enclosure]

[17 January 1804]

To Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta, from Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *New York*

Malta Harbour 1<sup>st</sup> July 1803

SIR, I have to request that you will acquaint Lucca Radish master of the Imperial Polacre *Paulina* that I have instructed you to offer to put him in immediate possession of said Polacre provided he will conjointly with you have the Polacre Valued and he Radish leave a security for the payment of the said sum she may be valued at, should she be condemned in America by a regular Court established for the

purpose of taking cognizance of vessels circumstanced as she is — if he should refuse to acquiesce to this proposition you will please to inform him that in order to avoid a waste of property by decay and otherwise to which Vessels are exposed by so long laying up as to gain intelligence from the United States you are authorised to sell the Polacre *Paulina* at Public Sale and hold the amount of her proceeds until a decision takes place and if favorable to Lucca Radish, you will be instructed to remit the money to him or his Order, you will please to make the representation immediately and request an answer —

Signed. R V. MORRIS

TO JOSEPH PAULIS ESQ  
U S. Consul, Malta

[NA. SDA. Misc. L., Jan.-July 1804.]

[17 January 1804]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy

Hon. ROBERT SMITH.

On the 15th January, 1803, Lieutenant Sterrett received the enclosed orders to cruise. On the 17th he boarded and brought in for trial the imperial polacre brig, bound from Malta to Tripoli, laden with merchandise, the property of Tripolines, and having on board the subjects of the Bashaw of Tripoli, one of whom was the principal of the charter-party and claimant of the principal part of the cargo. Lucca Radishjz, the master of the said brig, took this cargo in at the port of Malta, well knowing the relative situation of Tripoli with the United States. The master of the vessel that brought this cargo from Smyrna refused to proceed to Tripoli, and others were solicited to take it on board. None would venture but Lucca Radishjz. Mr. Pulis was ordered to take the oath of a master of a merchant ship to that effect. I solicited Sir Alexander Ball to grant a trial on the said polacre. He assured me that it was not in his power. My only alternative was to endeavor to have the validity of the capture investigated at Gibraltar; and for that purpose carried the papers first discovered, with Lucca Radishjz, the master, and the boatswain, to answer the necessary interrogations, and that he might be satisfied that there were no illegal advantages taken of him. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, then the Governor of Gibraltar, did not think proper to let the court of admiralty take cognizance of the affair. I was then compelled to send the papers, with the Tripolines, to America. It was also my intention to have sent Lucca Radishjz to the United States, if he would not consent to relinquish all claims to freight and demurrage, which I was induced to believe he was not entitled to. This offer Mr. Sterrett made him, at my request. He absconded from the United States' ship *Chesapeake*, and refused the offer made to him and the imperial consul at Gibraltar. My correspondence with Sir Alexander Ball was perfectly satisfactory respecting the distance the polacre was taken from the land. Mr. Heath was prize-master, and can give every information of the pretended insult made to the imperial flag, and the treatment of the crew. The petitioner, David Valenzin, is the person alluded to as being the principal in the charter-party, and a subject of the Bashaw of Tripoli. Both can be proved by papers

which were discovered on board the vessel detained by Lieutenant Sterrett, and were put in his possession when he left the Mediterranean, in the *Chesapeake* frigate, for America. The contract of the charter-party was in the name of Lucca Radishjz, the master of the imperial brig, on the one part, and David Valenzin on the other part, as principal owner of the cargo. As a proof that David Valenzin is a subject of Tripoli, a regular attested certificate from the British consul to that effect was discovered among the secreted papers; and, as a further proof, Mr. Cathcart knew him in Tripoli as a broker, and his father as a merchant in the city of Tripoli, and always considered him a Tripoline. His servant has also declared him a Tripoline, as well as himself.

RICHARD V. MORRIS.

[Am. State Papers, Claims.]

To George Harrison, Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 18. 1804

I am desirous of engaging a ship carpenter and constructor to superintend the repairs of the public ships at this place and perform such other duties in the line of his profession as may be required of him — I have therefore to request that you will make enquiry and ascertain whether a suitable person can be procured in Philadelphia or not — We require a man who unites science with practical information in his profession to such an one we will allow a salary of 2000 D<sup>r</sup> p<sup>a</sup> annum — Should you succeed in finding a Gentleman of the requisite qualifications disposed to accept the appointment you will let me know it and you may assure him of the probability of his being appointed —

There is no station in the gift of this Department of more importance nor any which requires a greater extent of Science than the one we are about to fill — It becomes us therefore to have the most unequivocal assurances of fitness in all respects for the appointment before we confer it —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 18<sup>th</sup> January 1804

SIR, I have had the honor to address you several times since the unfortunate loss of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia*, and twice sent you *Ciphers* to enable us to communicate without danger from detection; it is near three months since the distressing event, and as yet have not had the pleasure of hearing from you, altho' anxiously expecting it. I feel confident that you must have good reasons for not communicating, for I cannot think that my unfortunate situation has changed that regard which you professed; but situated as I am you may naturally suppose the great desire I must have to hear from the Commodore whom I had the honor of serving under, and who is the proper Representative of my Country for me to address.

It is unnecessary for me to make a repetition of the late unfortunate event, — suffice it to say that every day is an age until I can justify my conduct before a Court Martial, where I do not in the least dread the strictest examination.



The day after you appeared off here on the 23 ult<sup>o</sup>, a Russian Vessel with Turkish soldiers arrived from Smyrna; and a few days after a Tripolitan Cruiser from Derne, with considerable money; and many valuable presents for the Bashaw. About ten days since a Polacre rigged ship of twelve guns went out a Cruising.

[See paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of a letter to Tobias Lear dated 14 January 1804]

\* \* \* \* \*

In my former letters I mentioned, when you appeared off here, by hoisting a White Flag and firing a gun to call attention, and if a White Flag in answer was hoisted by the Bashaw, you may send a boat on shore with safety.

We have been much necessitated for a Credit, — which difficulty is removed by M<sup>r</sup> Davis's, charge of Affairs, letters, by authorising my drawing on him, but the exchange is 25 p<sup>r</sup> cent against us on Tunis, which is the only place we can get money for: this great loss can only be prevented by having money sent us from Malta.

In one of my letters I suggested the idea of destroying the Frigate (which lies in the harbour); — I think it very practicable by sending a few boats prepared with combustable to burn her; the Gun-boats are hauled up, and was a Vessel only to make the Town of Tripoli about sun-set so as to prevent her being seen from the shore, and then stand in for the Town, her boats might get into the harbour unnoticed; no person, or very few, ever stays on board the Frigate; and the Gun-boats could not be launched before the service would be performed. If it is attempted, it should be done this Winter, and the first night that the vessel comes off, to take them unawares, for it could not be effected when they were prepared; — the wind in the night is generally off the land.

I hope soon to see you off here to ask the demands of the Bashaw, for the sooner that question is put, I concieve the better. If Consul O'Brien could be prevailed on to come here to assist you in negotiating, he would be very serviceable by speaking the language and knowing the Customs of the Country.

Pray inform me what advance I am to make to the Officers. — Five of the Crew have turned Turks, and two have died — our number is at present three hundred.

I beg the favor of your sending us American News papers when opportunity offers.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA January 18<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 12th Ult<sup>o</sup> at Syracuse Via Palermo the cargo of the *Traveller* was delivered agreeable to Bill of Lading and I hope ere this you have received my Dispatches by the *Nautilus* and *Traveller*. I thank you for the information your letter contains, and shall profit by it.

My reception here by the Navy Department as well as the Civil and Military is rather more flattering than at Gibraltar although I cannot but highly esteem your Governor Sir Thomas Trigg and Others and beg you to make my respects to him, General Barnett and Col. Tyres — Col: Lear and family were well a short time since. I am pleased to hear the *Essex* is soon to be out, and expect the *Con-*

gress & Boston will very soon follow. I find your friend M<sup>r</sup> Higgins the man I should wish for an Agent here. I have employed him as such, and you will govern yourself accordingly notwithstanding any thing I may have written you heretofore. However you will consign all the Stores that may arrive for the Squadron under my command to Syracuse to George Dyson Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant whom I have appointed Agent for the Squadron of the U S in these Seas Your correspondence will at all times afford me pleasure The *Nautilus* sailed from Syracuse for Gibraltar the 14<sup>th</sup> Ulto with my Dispatches, and the particulars of the loss of the *Philadelphia* &c<sup>a</sup> — I am momentarily expecting her return.

P. S. You will please attend to forward the letters which accompany this, as they are of importance. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ulto off Tripoly I captured a Vessel with some of the Bashaw's Principal Officers, a number of Soldiers, 30 Young Women &c<sup>a</sup> in all upwards of sixty persons.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To William Kirkpatrick, U. S. Consul, Malaga, Spain, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
Gibraltar Bay 18<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804

SIR, I have the pleasure to congratulate you on your return to your house in Town, and the restoration of health at Malaga, and am happy to learn that your family has escaped the dreadful calamity that has so long threatened that place. —

You no doubt have heard of the Capture of the Frigate *Philadelphia* by the Tripolians, and all the mortifying and unpleasant circumstances attending it. —

I have no news to send you, as there has not been any late arrivals, either from England or America. — I have however seen the arrival of Cap<sup>t</sup> Rodgers at Washington in a Baltimore Paper, but not one word has yet made its appearance about Commodore Morris. —

The *Nautilus* Captain Somers sailed last Evening for Syracuse, but has nothing new for the Commodore. —

The *Argus* is now ready for Sea, and will sail in two or three days for Tangier, and from thence to Cadiz, where I intend to remain eight or ten days, in the course of which time, I am in hopes the communication from this to Malaga will be open, as I intend paying you a Visit on my return from Cadiz. — Should you have any Commands from Cadiz to your place, you will please write me, and rest assured they shall be attended to. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803–1804.]

[18 January 1804]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Charles Pinckney, U. S.  
Minister to Madrid, Spain

(Copy) (Duplicate)

“DEAR SIR, “[I]n pursuance of what I wrote you, I spoke to the “French Ambassador here, and the English & Danish Ministers, “to write to their Consuls or Agents at Tripoly to use their best “endeavours to have our unfortunate Countrymen’s situation allevi-

"ated as much as possible. and to get them the best treatment in their  
 "power. I am hopeful their influence will do much to soften their  
 "sufferings. I mentioned to the French & English Ambassador &  
 "Minister to authorize their Consuls to aid the exertions I knew you  
 "would make to have them furnished with money for clothes and  
 "necessaries, and I w<sup>d</sup> reimburse their expenditures here as far as two  
 "or three Thousand dollars. That I had no authority to say any-  
 "thing on the question of Ransom, as I do not know the course our  
 "Gov<sup>t</sup> means to pursue on this subject, but that this expenditure was  
 "solely to render their situation a little more comfortable, and in aid  
 "of your exertions. That I was not authorized even to do this, as  
 "the Barbary affairs were more particularly committed to you &  
 "Commodore Preble's management; but in the case of so many of our  
 "brave Countrymen suffering as they are in the public service, I was  
 "sure our Gov<sup>t</sup> w<sup>d</sup> approve what I had done. Please let me hear from  
 "you, and when you write Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge mention what I have  
 "done, and please do the same to the Secretary of State. \* \* \* \*

"January 18<sup>th</sup> 1804

"In MADRID." —

"I have not the pleasure to know Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge, or yourself  
 "personally; but I beg you to assure him, and be convinced yourself,  
 "that anything I can do here to serve him and his fellow sufferers,  
 "will be done, and that you & they may command me in anything  
 "which may appear useful in this, or any other business.

"I beg sometime to hear from you through our Consul at Alicant,  
 "on our Barbary Affairs." —

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 7, Part 1, Jan. 1804–Nov. 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, com-  
 manding, Wednesday, 18 January 1804

This day begins with moderate and light airs from the Eastward at  
 10 AM got the Top Gallant Yards across and bent the sails at 11  
 unmoored Weighed and stood out of the bay [of Gibraltar] —

[En route to Tangier] Lowered the Jolly boat down to board an  
 American bound in lay by for the boat, the Vessel proved to be the  
 Brig *American Eagle* from boston bound to Trieste made sail to the  
 Westward —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, com-  
 manding, Thursday, 19 January 1804

These 24 hours Commence with moderate Breezes and Clear at 2  
 P M Europa point bore E  $\frac{1}{2}$  N 3 leagues at 4 brought too in Tangier  
 bay the town bearing W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N dist<sup>g</sup> 5 miles moored, the Starboard  
 Anchor N, E, and larboard Anchor S. E, in 14 f<sup>m</sup> Sandy bottom  
 found here the british frigate *Dianna* sent the Jolly boat with an  
 Officer on Shore at 6 the boat returned —

[NDA photostat.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA January 20<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR I have rec<sup>d</sup> further proposals indirectly from the Bashaw He appears to be willing to give me as many of our Officers & Men as I have Tripolines in exchange. For the remainder I suspect he is willing to take 400 dollars for each, and make Peace without any considerations or annual Stipend or Tribute, and give us the Frigate for a Schooner. These terms will be thought favorable by the United States. I shall send a vessel to Col: Lear to consult him, and in the mean time take the necessary steps for lessening the Bashaw's expectations. You may rely with confidence that no exertions on my part shall be wanting to retrieve our National Naval character which has suffered considerably in this part of the World.

I dare not make an unrestrained communication of the objects which I have immediately in view for fear of a miscarriage of my letters.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 20 January 1804

[Moored in Tangier Bay] These 24 hours Commence with light airs from the Westward and Cloudy Weather at Meridian unmoored weighed and made sail

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 20 January 1804

[Malta] The *Vixen* taking on board the stores left by the *Philadelphia*, Stores sent up from Gibraltar and Stores purchased for the use of the Squadron — Dined with General Oakes the Commander in chief of the army, the principal part of the field and Staff of the Army, and the Captains of the Navy were present Our Consul has not yet presented me with the translation of some of the Prizes papers altho' he promised them some days Since —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Daniel Carmick, U. S. Marine Corps, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV DEP

21 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804

SIR You will proceed immediately in the brig *Superior*, with the detachment of Marines under your command, to New Orleans — on your arrival there you will report yourself to the officer commanding the army at that place, under whose orders you are to act —

The Contractor for the army in that quarter will supply your detachment with rations — agreeably to the enclosed copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to the commanding officer — M<sup>r</sup> Alline will leave this in a few days for Fort Pitt — from whence he will proceed with money for the use of the detachment, to New Orleans — He will act as Pay Master of the detachment — & receive from this Department particular instructions relative to the supplies that may be required by the detachment.

[NDA. Misc. LB, 1802-3-4.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 21 January 1804

[Malta] Received the Translation of some of the prizes papers which clearly prove the property on board to be Tripoline: Conversed with the Governor and Admiral respecting the Deserters detained by Cap<sup>ts</sup> Gore & Sutton: The Admiral disapproved the Conduct of the Captain and promised to make a representation to Lord Nelson; who, he had assured me he had no doubt, would order the men returned and that no conduct of the same nature should again take place — I likewise recieved indirect proposals for a peace with Tripoly — .

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 21 January 1804

Moderate Breezes & clear weather. At Anchor in Saragosa Employed rattling & tarring down the rigging. Towards evening the weather became overcast and had the appearance of a gale from the south<sup>d</sup>; cleared hawse & bitted a range of the sheet cable. At 7 in the evening the weather cleared up. Employed cleaning ship. departed this life John Sloan Seaman: his body was put into a boat, carried out to sea & committed to the deep — Towards noon the weather cleared away The Ships company employed scraping the studding sail booms & fleeting the back stays — Surgeons report Thirty sick, 13 conv<sup>es</sup>ts & 1 dead. At Noon calm The *Constitution* at 8 A. M. hoisted a Jack as a signal for the guard.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To William Higgins, appointed U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA Jan<sup>y</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1804

SIR I do hereby appoint you agent for the Squadron of the United States in the Mediterranean under my Command, Authorizing you to recieve the supplies forwarded from the U. S. for the use of Said Squadron, To purchase such as may be wanted, and to issue the same and to transact all such business as is generally transacted by Agents. You will at all times supply the Ships & Vessells of the Squadron with such articles as they may want on the requisitions of their respective Commanders taking duplicate receipts for the same: From the representations I have made to the Navy department I have no doubt but the President of the U. S. Will confirm you as naval Agent for this Place.

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

W<sup>m</sup> HIGGINS Esq<sup>r</sup>

Hereby appointed Naval agent  
of the U. S. at Malta.

[Similar appointment sent to George Dyson of Syracuse, 27 January 1804.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

[22 January 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from the Agent of Hamet Caramanli,  
lawful Bashaw of Tripoli

May it PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

your Excellency will be Pleased to excuse me for Pointing out the impossibility of reducing Tripoli next Summer, unless you send for the Bashaw of Derna by landing him there or at Bengaza where he will be joined by his friends and ready to Cooperate with Your Excellency when ever news arive from America, Should he remain three or four months where he is untill the answer arive and then to send for him it will take three Months more, then there would only be a few weeks of good wether for reducing Tripoli

but should your Excellency be Pleased to take my advice to send one of your Vessels for him *now* and land him Either at Derna or Bengaza he would then be ready to Cooperate with your Excellency when ever the news arives from America, in that case I will go with some of his freinds in the Vessel who will furnish the money untill the answer arive, as delay may be dissagreable and unfortunate to America and to my Prince also

SALVATORE BUSUTTI

*Console di Sidi Ahmet Caramalli*

given at MALTA

*Jany. 22<sup>d</sup> 1804*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Sunday, 22 January 1804

These 24 hours Commence with Moderate Breezes at Meridian unmoored weighed and made all sail to the Westward at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 set studding sails on the larb<sup>d</sup> side forward alow and aloft at 4 Europa point bore E  $\frac{1}{4}$  N dist<sup>e</sup> 6 leagues Cabritta point E  $\frac{3}{4}$  N 2 leagues town of Terriffa E b N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N dist<sup>e</sup> about 4 miles Cape Spartel W S W 3 Leagues 2 Sail in sight one of the two sail fired a shot over us backed the main Top sail and lay too for her at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 spoke his Britannic Majestys frigate *Maidstone* Sounded Constantly during the night at 6 Cadiz light house bore N E b N at 10 sent the Jolly boat to a fishing boat for a pilot she returned with one Mustered the people Variously Employed

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 22 January 1804

at anchor in Saragosa *Syren* and *Enterprize* in Company, the ships Company Employ<sup>d</sup> overhawling the Rigging and cleansing ship We had pleasant weather through the night. at 9 in the morning the *Syren* hoisted the Signal for the port guard. the Ships Company Employ<sup>d</sup> as necessary, and Restowing the spare Bower anchor. the Trepoletian prize continues in Quarantine Shee is dayly supply<sup>d</sup> with water and provission from the *Constitution*,

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA Jan<sup>y</sup> 23, 1804

DEAR SIR You will receive a present supply of money from here through The British Consul B M<sup>c</sup>Donogh Esq<sup>r</sup> forwarded by M<sup>r</sup> Higgins

Any letters for me you will direct to the care of William Higgins Esq<sup>r</sup> whom I have appointed Agent at this port for the Squadron of the U S in these seas, & I am confident that he will pay you every attention. The clothing and other stores which ought to have been with you six weeks since, were detained by M<sup>r</sup> Pulis and for what reason I know not.

Your drafts on M<sup>r</sup> Higgins will be duly honored, keep up your spirits and despair not, recollect there's a sweet little cherub that sits up aloft.

May the Almighty disposer of all events aid me in my plans and operations for the good of my Country and may you be liberated by them is the hope of your friend who esteems you

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn  
Copy

LEGHORN 23<sup>rd</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804.

SIR, On receipt of M<sup>r</sup> Nissen's letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Novem<sup>r</sup> 1803, informing me of the loss of the United States Frigate the *Philadelphia* under your command, I immediately forwarded a credit to M<sup>r</sup> Nissen for \$4000 with orders to draw upon M<sup>r</sup> Frederick Degen of Naples or myself for the ammount, provided M<sup>r</sup> William Higgins of Malta did not forward to him three thousand dollars in cash he having receiv'd my orders to that effect. —

In six weeks will be finish'd & ready to embark, wearing apparel for the crew as p<sup>r</sup> the enclosed invoice & for the Officers I shall send such articles as will serve their present necessitys, which they can have made in Tripoli to their own liking much better than I can suit them by making them here, should Comodore Preble be upon your coast I request you to inform him that it will be necessary for one of the small vessels to come to Leghorn for the above cloathing as nothing is permitted to be embark'd from this place for Malta except in vessels of War, from Malta, the[y] can be sent to Tripoli under a neutral flag or landed under the sanction of a Flag of truce which ever the Comodore may conceive most expedient. —

The cash for which I have forwarded a credit you will (in conjunction with M<sup>r</sup> Nissen) please to have distributed to the Officers & crew from time to time until government makes provision for them, as I have no orders whatever on that subject & forward these supplies of my own accord from motives of humanity not doubting but the[y] will be of infinite service to the Unfortunate sufferers, who may depend that I will do every thing in my power to alleviate their sufferings consistant with the honor of our nation & dignity of our flag. —

The deplorable event of losing the *Philadelphia* & captivity of her Officers & crew involves incalculable consequences and changes our position not only with Tripoli but the whole of the Barbary States; it is reported here that a treaty has been enter'd into between the United States & the Regency of Tripoli in consequence of the former

promising to pay the latter the sum of 450,000 dollars, & a considerable annuity, which I presume is false, as none of our Officers in this sea has power delegated to them to such extent, & it is not very probable that they would commit themselves by making unauthorized agreements which they must be sensible would involve such national consequences, that government would never ratify them; what ever may be the intentions of government the idea that the United States will ever conclude a peace with Tripoli upon dishonorable terms ought to be treated with contempt, this is the only means to induce the Bashaw to moderate his terms & to prevent the other Regencys from breaking with us; I have been eleven years in captivity myself & yet I solemnly declare that before I would see my Country obliged to accede to all the impositions which will be the consequence of concluding a precipitate peace with Tripoli that I would suffer to undergo as long a captivity again & would glory in my chains. —

It is likewise reported that the Moors have got the Frigate off the bank & are fitting her out for sea, if true (which I doubt very much) I think there is a probability that Comodore Prebble will give a good acc<sup>t</sup> of her if he should be so fortunate as to encounter her out of gunshot of the Fortifications. —

Their has been so many reports circulated by the Jews of Barbary & others relative to your misfortune; manifestly calculated to lessen our importance as a nation & sully our maritime reputation, that I conceive it necessary to contradict them in the most pointed manner; as soon as I am inform'd of the particulars, which I request you to communicate to me as soon as possible; with the number of kill'd & wounded on both sides & such other minutia as will tend to counteract the malice of our enemies. —

I likewise request you to give me every information in your power relative to the Bashaw's sentiments on this change of position, & what are his pretensions in consequence thereof, & whether you suppose the prisoners can be redeem'd independant of entering into Treaty with him. —

Enclosed is a letter from our friend M<sup>r</sup> Anthony Dugan which I believe encloses letters from home, I request you & your Officers to make use of my services without reserve & to believe that while I lament your unfortunate situation that I would take a singular pleasure in alleviating your sufferings and making them as supportable as possible. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

MALTA January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1804.

SIR, If the Vessel bound to Tripoly by which you have shipped the clothing has not yet sailed, you will please to ship one thousand Dollars for account of the U S addressed to Captain Bainbridge for the use of himself Officers and Crew, under such cover as you may deem most proper for its safe arrival notifying him that it was shipped by my orders, and requesting duplicate receipts for the same.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]



Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 23 January 1804

These 24 hours Commence with moderate Breezes and Clear W<sup>t</sup> all sail set by the wind at 2 P, M, fired a Gun and hoisted a Sig<sup>l</sup> for a pilot standing in for Cadiz bay at 3 Shoaled to 9 fathoms Tacked Ship a pilot boat came off and gave directions for entering the bay at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 brought too abreast the town of Cadiz in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms the Starboard anchor in the S. W and moored with the larboard anchor in the NE, the Northernmost of the Porgues rocks at the entrance of the bay bearing NW $\frac{1}{2}$ N the Pratique boat came alongside and ordered the Yellow flag to be hoisted, discharged the pilot at 8 AM, hoisted out the Barge Armourer employ<sup>d</sup> with his forge loosed sails to dry —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 23 January 1804

Moderate breezes & clear weather At anchor at Saragosa — *Syren* & *Enterprize* in company — Working up Junk — Cleaning ship & fleeting the back stays — The carpenter & four of his crew on shore repairing the small cutter & painting the hammock cloaths —

A. M. light airs from the West<sup>d</sup>. Ships company employed restowing the sheet anchor & refitting the ridge ropes — We recieved the cutter from shore which was sent to be repaired 30 days ago. The Boat was repaired by the Ships carpenter The Surgeon reports 26 sick, 8 conv<sup>ales</sup> & 1 discharged At Noon light airs from the South<sup>d</sup> — .

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEPAR<sup>t</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804

The *Betsy Walk* has a cargo of provisions on board for the use of our Squadron — M<sup>r</sup> Bedinger will send you copy of the Charter Party invoice and bill of lading — By the Charter Party you will percieve she is to proceed to Syracuse or malta as may be advised by you — Your communications with Commodore Preble will enable you to act with sound Judgement upon this point —

I have written to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Hull to convoy the *Betsy Walk* to her place of destination — As I have informed him I have given him this order under the impression that it will not interfere with any Service assigned to him by Commodore Preble of Greater or equal importance — Should he be of opinion however that his orders from Commodore Preble are of more consequence — than that of the Squadron being certain of a supply of provisions he will advise with you and convoy the *Betsy Walk* or not as may be determined upon Such Consultation.

As this may be a subject of great importance I have no doubt that you will bestow due attention to it — You and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Hull will be enabled to act more understandingly upon it than I can possible do at this distance — I have therefore committed it to your discretion.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803–1805.]

To Captain Miles Reddick, of the American ship *Betsy Walk*, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPARTMENT *January 24<sup>th</sup> 1804*

As soon as you are prepared for Sea you will weigh anchor and proceed to Gibraltar where you will apply to John Gavino Esq. the American Consul for further orders respecting the disposition of the public property committed to your Charge —

I enclose letters for Commodore Preble, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Hull Commander of the *Argus* and M<sup>r</sup> Gavino all which you will be pleased to deliver

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>

*Jan<sup>y</sup> 24, 1804 —*

The provision ship *Betsy Walk* is to touch at Gibraltar and thence proceed to Syracuse or Malta as may be directed by M<sup>r</sup> Gavino. You will convoy her to her place of destination. —

This order I give you under the impression that it is of great consequence that the squadron be certain of a supply of provisions, and that it will not interfere with any service assigned to you by Commodore Preble of greater or equal importance. Should I err in these impressions you will advise with M<sup>r</sup> Gavino and afford convoy or not as you may determine upon such consultation. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup> —

*Jan<sup>y</sup> 24. 1804 —*

(By the *Woodrop Sims* from Norfolk — V<sup>s</sup> — )

I have received your letters of 23<sup>d</sup> October 1803 from Cadiz Bay, and 9 November 1803 from Gibraltar Bay. —

By this time, I presume the Provision-ship *William and Mary* from Norfolk, has reached her destination. among other Articles she took out butter, cheese, Molasses & Candles. —

By another Provision Vessel the *Betsy Walk*, this letter will be conveyed to you — She has on board, beef, pork, flour, suet, bread, butter, rice, pease, vinegar, Molasses, cheese, cordage, and canvas of N<sup>os</sup> 1. 2 & 3 — probably about 1,200 yards of N<sup>os</sup> 1 & 3, and about 2,200 yards of N<sup>o</sup> 2, which is all that we can conveniently send by this opportunity. I have also ordered some twine not exceeding 500 lbs which will be sent if the Agent can procure it in time. —

I am rather surprized that you should have made a requisition for Slop-Clothing. All the pursers of your Squadron have been supplied with sums of money for the purchase of slop clothing, & I cannot conceive to what they could have applied the sums advanced to them for that purpose. However, by the *John Adams*, we shall send you an additional Supply of bread, beef, pork &c & we will also send some Slop-Clothing. —

The *John Adams* as a transport ship armed en flute, will sail from this country so as to arrive at Syracuse about the last of April next. I will endeavour to provide an active intelligent Commander for her. We shall send by her, Men for the *Enterprize*, & if we can procure

them, we shall also send by her 20 good able Seamen for the *Constitution*. When the Crew of the *Enterprise* shall know that they are shortly to be relieved, it is hoped they will be satisfied even if they have to remain on board a short time longer than they entered for. —

I have ordered Lieu<sup>t</sup> Hull, (presuming that he is at or near Gibraltar) to convoy the *Betsy Walk* to her place of destination. This order I have given him (and so stated it to him) under the impression that it will [not] interfere with any service which you may have assigned to him of greater or equal importance, and should he think that the remaining in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar in the execution of your orders, will be of greater or equal importance to the squadron being certain of a supply of Provisions, he is directed to advise with M<sup>r</sup> Gavino and convoy the *Betsy Walk* or not as may be determined upon such consultation. —

I enclose seven Mediterranean passes which you will distribute among the Vessels of your squadron, giving to each Commander, one. I hope they will answer the purpose contemplated by you. —

The report which you have made of your officers, affords me great satisfaction. It appears that the conduct of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Livingston has presented an exception to that general correct demeanour observed by his Brother Officers. I regret his appointment. It is our duty to rid the service of such Officers; the course you intend to pursue towards him is therefore correct and proper. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps,  
from First Lieutenant John Johnson, U. S. Marine Corps

U. S. BRIG *Argus*  
Cadiz 24<sup>th</sup> Jany 1804

DEAR SIR

\* \* \* \* \*

Wee have No News hear but what you have heard before now, M<sup>r</sup> Gavino a few days ago told Me that 100 & 40 of the Crew of the *Phila*<sup>a</sup> had petitioned, Lord Nelson, to Claim them as British Subjects, his Answer was, if he done any thing in the Business, it would be to have the Rascels all hung — wee have Just heard from Tripoly — the Officers are well treated but Closely Confined to the House — the Men are at hard labour, — the Commodore & all the Squadren exopt us in, is now off Tripoly

[MCA. LR, 1804.]

[24 January 1804]

Clothing for U. S. Prisoners in Tripoli

Invoice of Wearing apparel a making for the American prisoners at Tripoli in Barbary which are to be finish'd in six weeks from the date hereof. —

|                                   |          |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Hats.....                         | 300      | } Those Articles for<br>the Seamen. |
| Shoes.....                        | 600 pair |                                     |
| Cloth Jackets & trowsers.....     | 300 —    |                                     |
| Russia duck d <sup>o</sup> .....  | 300 —    |                                     |
| Shirts.....                       | 600 —    |                                     |
| Handkerchiefs if to be procured.. | 300 —    |                                     |

A Credit for 4000 dollars has already been forwarded for the use of the Officers & crew, to be distributed at the discretion of M<sup>r</sup> Nissen & Cap<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge and Wearing apparel to the ammount of one thousand dollars for the use of the Officers will be purchased & sent by the vessel that takes the seamens cloathing to Tripoli. —

JAMES LEA<sup>r</sup> CATHCART

LEGHORN Jan<sup>ry</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1804. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Brig *Vixen*, 24 January 1804

sailed for Syracuse and arrived new day. [Rejoined U. S. Frigate *Constitution*.]

[LC, original.]

[25 January 1804]

To Levett Harris, U. S. Consul General, St. Petersburg, Russia, from the Grand Chancellor of the Empire of Russia

(Translation of the Original in French)

SIR I made known to the Emperor the note you addressed to me under date of the 20. of this month, by which you solicit our intercession near the Ottoman Port in behalf of the Crew of one of the Ships of War of the United States of America that have been made prisoners by the Pirates of Tripoli.

It is with great pleasure I announce to you that His Imperial Majesty, guided by the most favorable dispositions for your Government, has given me orders to direct his Minister at Constantinople to make the strongest representations to the Turkish Court, in order that a Firman be dispatched to the Bey of Tripoli to liberate not only the Crew, but the Vessel itself.

These orders Sir will be expedited to Constantinople by the first Courier, and I have not a doubt that the representations which will in consequence be made by our Minister M<sup>r</sup> d'Italinsky, will have their full effect.

It is extremely agreeable to me to add to this information the most positive assurance, that the Emperor peculiarly gratified in according this mark of his interest for the United States, will not be less so, on all occasions wherein He may be able to give them new proofs of it, and of which, it is His Majestys desire that you expressly acquaint your Government.

Signed S. ALEXANDER

Count de Worontzoff [or Woronzow]

S. PETERSBURG 25. Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1804

[See letter under 7 February 1804.]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 25 January 1804

Moored in Cadiz Bay. This day begins with a Severe gale from the Westward with heavy rain an American Brig got on Shore on entering the bay sent the barge and Jolly boat to her assistance the boats returned on her geting off hoisted in the barge and run the Jolly boat up —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 25 January 1804

Light breezes from the S E and pleasant weather. At 2 P. M. spoke the English Ship *Industry* from Zant bound to Liverpool with an American Ship and English Brig in Company from the same Port bound to London. At 5 P. M. out all sweeps to pull round Cape Passari — At 9 P. M. doubled the Cape and stood to the Northward for Syracuse — At 11 A. M. anchored in that Harbor and rejoined the *Constitution* — The *Syren*, *Vixen* & *Enterprize* in Company.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 25 January 1804

Moderate Breezes & clear weather — At anchor at Saragosa — *Syren* & *Enterprize* in company — Painting ship & pointing the straps of the leading blocks — Recieved fresh mutton & Vegetables for the ships company — Moderate breezes from the west<sup>d</sup> during the night.

At 11 A. M. the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* returned from Malta — Commodore Preble rejoined the *Constitution* —

Painting Ship and completing the rigging — The cutter watering — Recieved 14 casks of Water. At Noon winds from the West<sup>d</sup> — .

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 25 January 1804

[Syracuse] At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past Meridian the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* anchor'd here from Malta with the Commodore on board. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Meri: the Commodore hoisted his broad Pendant on board the *Constitution*. At 5 rec<sup>d</sup> 1 cask of water, ends with light airs from the westward & clear weather —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

AMERICAN CONSULAR HOUSE

Tunis January 26<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favour, of the 12<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1803. under cover, from Consul Lear, at Algiers — and agreeable to Your order, have officially communicated to the Government of Tunis, as well as to the Consuls of Neutral Powers resident here, the Blockade of Tripoly, by the U. States Ships of war under Your command.

I presume, that my communications since the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1803, to the address of Commodore R<sup>d</sup> V Morris, have necessarily been received; and consequently that You are fully acquainted with the subjects, on which I have waited a reply, with much impatience — to wit, the return of the Tunisian property, captured on board an Imperial [*Paulina*], if still in our possession — and an answer, to the letter which I forwarded from His Excellency the Bey of Tunis, who is particularly tenacious, of that attention, which he imagines due him

from all Christian Governments, and who daily becomes more impatient for a reply. — I have the honor to enclose You a Copy of the original, which was forwarded on the 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> to the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degan and Purviance & C<sup>o</sup> Leghorn.

It is more than six weeks, since I have received any advice from Tripoly — My last from Capt. Bainbridge, mentioned that he & Officers, had been taken from the Consular house & confined for one day with the men; he receives from me all the assistance, which my limited means admit of — Our Men must suffer for want of Cloathing — perhaps, from the Squadron under Your command a Sufficient quantity might be spared for our fellow Sufferers at Tripoly, — As I shall be compell'd to pay an extravagant price for any thing of the kind purchased here.

I beg to learn, what port, may be considered Your General Rendezvous, in order that I may know where to address You; should any pressing necessity, require Your immediate attention —

GEORGE DAVIS [Surgeon, U. S. Navy]

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

*Cadiz Bay January 26<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR I have the honor to inform you that I arrived at Gibralter on the 4<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> from Leghorn, where I had been ordered by Commodore Preble, for the purpose of Convoying an American Ship and Schooner, and to return with such Vessels, as were at that port ready for sea, and wished the benefit of Convoy down,

After performing a short Quarantine at Gibralter, and taking on board what provisions, Water, and other stores, was Necessary I sailed on the 18<sup>th</sup> for Tangier, where I arrived after a passage of four hours, and am happy to inform you, that every thing remains peaceable at that place, and that nothing has happened worth Notice, since Commodore Preble left this Station,

The Emperors ships are all dismantled, and laid up at Sallee, and Larash, and no attempt has been made, to Equip any of them for sea, in the absence of the Squadron.

I remained one night in Tangier, and sailed with an intent to go direct to Cadiz, but the wind Shifting sudden to the Westward, and the Weather being very bad, was obliged to return to Gibralter, and wait a fair wind, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> the wind being from the Eastward, got under way and run through the Straight, and Arrived here the following Evening, where I shall remain eight or ten days, and return back into the Straights, calling at Tangier in my Way,

I shall endeavour to Keep as good a look out on this station, as the very bad Weather, and hard gales of wind, I experience here will allow me, and Keep you advised of all my Proceedings,

[NDA. Officers LB, 1802-1805.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTER 26<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, This moment is arrived a Victualler from Norfolk with a Cargo of Provisions for the Squadron to be discharged here or for-

warded to Malta, and consigned there at my option — the Captain is to wait four days for my orders — the Cargo is insured to this place and Malta at 9 p<sup>r</sup> Cent, to return 4 if the Voyage ends here, and 2 if the Ship Sails and continues with convoy from Gibralter. — As I do not apprehend any danger, will order her to proceed, Yet I wish you had been here, the Gun Carriages for the Emperor were shipt when the Accounts of War got to America, and they are to come forward, and the Vessel is to touch at L'Orient, with dispatches, so that I have my apprehensions about them. — I have no Letters by her for you, we have dirty weather and not time for more. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

U. S. BRIG *Siren* HARBOUR OF SYRACUSE

*Jan<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR Last night I received the accompanying communication from M<sup>r</sup> Baker; as one of the Charges contained in it, is of the most dangerous Nature and in direct Violation of the internal rules and regulations, for the safety and government of the Brig which I have the honor to Command, I cannot in justice to the Service and respect to my feelings, pass unnoticed such Contempt of my orders, that has placed the lives of my Officers and Crew for one moment in jeopardy

You will perceive by the accompanying regulations that the 36<sup>th</sup> Article has been violated and the 6<sup>th</sup> Article addressed to (the Master particularly) has also been treated with Contempt and Neglect —

[See documents dated 27 January 1804.]

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

[27 January 1804]

To the Bey of Tunis from President Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson President of the United States of America  
To the Most Illustrious, and most  
magnificent Prince, the Bey of Tunis.

GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND

I received in due time your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, repeating the request of a Frigate of 36 Guns with which on a former occasion I had informed you that circumstances did not permit us to comply. I am under the necessity of stating, that these circumstances continue, and that our Naval force being only proportioned to our exigencies, we cannot with Prudence lessen it, by parting with any portion of it. I should regret much a misconception of our Motives on this occasion. We set a just value on your friendship, as we do on that of all other Nations with which we have intercourse; and as we presume those Nations do on ours. These mutual friendships, and the interests arising out of them, are equivalents the one for the other, and authorize equal expectations, equal claims, and rights on both sides. Of our disposition towards yourself in particular, we have not been wanting in Proofs, in addition to the faithful fulfilment of our Treaty: nor shall we on proper occasions fail to continue reasonable manifestations of them according to the rules we observe in our intercourse with Nations

Such being our regard for you, it is with peculiar concern I learn from your letter of September 14 that M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, whom I had chosen to succeed the place of M<sup>r</sup> Eaton near you, and chosen from a confidence in his integrity, experience, and good dispositions, has so conducted himself as to incur your displeasure. In doing this, be assured, he has gone against the letter and spirit of his instructions, which were, that his deportment should be such, as to make [merit?] my esteem and respect for your character, both personal and Public and to cultivate your friendship by all the attentions and services he could render. So soon as he went out of this line, he was out of the line of his duty, and his acts are disclaimed as in opposition to his orders. On his return to the United States, he will be made sensible how far in this he departed from the intentions of his employers. The consideration that the bands of Peace between Nations ought not to be burst asunder by the hasty and unauthorised acts of a Public Agent was worthy of your wisdom and Justice; and the acquiescence in the transaction of our affairs by M<sup>r</sup> Davis until an Agent could be sent with formal authorities manifested a desire of maintaining a good understanding, which being reciprocal is auspicious to our Peace. In selecting another character to take the place of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, I shall take care to fix on one who, I hope will better fulfil the duties of respect and esteem for you; and who, in so doing only, will be the faithful representative and organ of my earnest desire that the Peace and friendship so happily subsisting between our countries may be firm and permanent, and I pray God, Great and good Friend that he may have you under his holy keeping.

Done at the City of Washington in the  
United States of America, this twenty seventh day of  
January, One thousand Eight hundred and four

(Signed) TH: JEFFERSON  
*By the President*  
JAMES MADISON  
*Sec<sup>y</sup> of State*

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, from Purser Nathan Baker, U. S. Navy

On board SLOOP OF WAR *Siren*

*Syracuse Jan<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1804 —*

SIR Delicacy has hitherto prevented me from making known to you the following circumstances, conceiving however that I ought no longer to observe any delicacy towards the parties concerned in this unjustifiable conduct, I now proceed to relate to you as follows Viz<sup>t</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> On our passage from Leghorn to Algiers, on or about the first of December at Midnight — the Spirit room was opened by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Maxwell & M<sup>r</sup> Harrison, & some rum pumped out of a Puncheon — I lay awake in my Cot, during the whole of this transaction. — Thinking it probable that the parties concerned, would mention to me the next morning, the quantity they had taken out, I waited untill the ensuing evening — but as neither of them said any thing on the subject — I then asked M<sup>r</sup> Maxwell how much had been taken out — he appear'd somewhat surprised, observing that he thought M<sup>r</sup> Harrison had given me an account thereof — to which M<sup>r</sup> H —



replied he had not, M<sup>r</sup> Maxwell then acknowledged they had taken out a Quart —

2<sup>d</sup><sup>y</sup> In pursuance of your directions, soon after we left Leghorn, I presented the Shipping Articles to W<sup>m</sup> Kelly, a Seaman taken on board at Gibraltar, for his Signature — which after reading to him, and informing him that I was directed to furnish him with such Cloaths as he wanted, he was about to sign — when M<sup>r</sup> Harrison they laying in his Birth observed to Kelly, that he was a damned fool if he signed the Articles without receiving the same Advance in Cash, that had been paid to the Men in Philad<sup>a</sup> upon hearing this observation from the Sailing-Master, Kelly put down the pen, & said he would not sign the Articles.

3<sup>d</sup><sup>y</sup> Whilst the Brig was at anchor off New Castle & I was on shore — M<sup>r</sup> Maxwell found a Key on board which suited the Lock on my Store Room, & opened the same, being informed of this by the Steward — I mentioned it to M<sup>r</sup> Maxwell as soon as I went on board, before Lieu<sup>t</sup> Caldwell & other Officers — observing that I should not have taken such a liberty with him — I do not relate this as a thing of much consequence, but the slight acquaintance then existing between M<sup>r</sup> M — & myself did not sanction such a liberty —

I shall produce the Testimony of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Howard, to establish the foregoing charges, which I now communicate from a sense of duty —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

[27 January 1804]

Court of Enquiry into Conduct of Purser Nathan Baker, U. S. Navy

Statement of evidence appearing to the Court of enquiry held on board the *Syren* Brig on the Official conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Baker Purser of the said Brig. —

The FIRST charge ag<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Baker is that he had ordered a quart of rum to be stopped from the daily allowance of the crew, & that this had continued 20 days. —

M<sup>r</sup> CALDWELL states that he knew nothing of an order being given to the Purser's Stew<sup>d</sup> to stop one quart of rum from the daily allowance of the crew untill lately; that then Carter (the P<sup>r</sup> St<sup>d</sup>) was called into the cabin, in consequence of a report to that effect from several of the Officers, & said he had stopped one qu<sup>t</sup> of rum for twenty days by the order of M<sup>r</sup> Baker, which M<sup>r</sup> Baker acknowledged.

QUES. Do you know whether the measures were too great, so as to cause a stoppage of the daily allowance? ANS. I do know that the gill measure was too great, or bore an over proportion to the other measures on board.

M<sup>r</sup> CALDWELL further stated that there had been frequently a deficiency in serving out grog without the cause being known — & that Carter had stopped a quart & said M<sup>r</sup> Baker enquired whether that would be sufficient, to which Carter replied it would.

CHARLES B. CARTER states that he had overdrawn a ½ pint of rum for three or four days on account of two men leaving the ship That some time after this M<sup>r</sup> Baker ordered him to stop a qu<sup>t</sup> a day from the allowance & continue it untill further orders. He did so, untill the people complained to M<sup>r</sup> Harrison of their grog being too weak, & then he drew the full allowance, but with M<sup>r</sup> Baker's knowledge; and that it was three weeks during which this stoppage continued.

QUES. Did you know of any inaccuracies in the measures? ANS. The gill & half-pint overrun the gallon, or did'nt correspond with it. after drawing the full allowance by the Gallon measure, I was often obliged to get more rum out, to make up the deficiency of grog caused by this difference in the measures.

QUES. Did M<sup>r</sup> Baker state to you that this inaccuracy in the measures was his reason for ordering the stoppage of one quart per day? ANS. He did not. —

QUES. Have you had any dispute with M<sup>r</sup> Baker since you have sailed with him? ANS. I have. —

QUES. What time was it when you discovered the inaccuracies in the measures? ANS. It was after the stoppage of a quart per day had ceased — I tried the measures with each other, & found that the gill  $\frac{1}{2}$  p<sup>t</sup> did'nt correspond with the gallon, but all the other measures did.

QUES. When was it that M<sup>r</sup> Baker gave you the order to stop the qu<sup>t</sup>? ANS. Two or three days after leaving the Capes of the Delaware, or the 3<sup>d</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> HARRISON states that the Cap<sup>s</sup> of the Fore castle complained to him that their grog was too weak; and that he had heard M<sup>r</sup> Baker acknowledge that he had ordered a qu<sup>t</sup> to be stopped from the daily allowance. —

JAMES KELSO (Stew<sup>th</sup> Mate) says, that a quart p<sup>t</sup> day had been stopped for a fortnight or longer, and that Carter said it was by M<sup>r</sup> Baker's order & in consequence of too much being drawn before.

QUES. Do you remember that it was necessary to get more rum up in consequence of the grog not holding out? ANS. Yes; I remember it happened twice that we had to get more rum up; but I don't know for what cause. —

CH<sup>s</sup> STEWART *Presd<sup>t</sup> Court.*  
W. LEWIS *J<sup>th</sup> Adv<sup>ts</sup>*

SECOND charge against M<sup>r</sup> Baker; Viz. That he had charged the Ward room mess with 60 lb. beef illegally. —

LIEU<sup>t</sup> HOWARD Says that a mess book was kept in the W<sup>d</sup> Room of the provision drawn from the ship; that at one time there was a charge of 60 lb of beef, which it appeared to him could not have possibly been used. Some time afterwards in an altercation among the Officers of their mess, M<sup>r</sup> Baker said a barrel of beef had been opened for the use of the ward-room, & that 50 or 60 lb were missing out of it, & that he conceived it was hard he should loose it; urging this as a reason for his charging the ward room mess with the above meat.

QUES. At what time did this altercation take place? ANS. I don't remember certainly — but about the last of Sep<sup>r</sup> or beginning of Octob. I believe.

QUES. How much do you think your mess was overcharged? ANS. I think it was overcharged about 40 or 50 lb. —

QUES. By whom was this charge made? ANS. M<sup>r</sup> Baker made the charge & sent for the Ship's stew<sup>d</sup> to prove the propriety of it at the time of the altercation aforesaid.

QUES. Did your mess draw your provision regularly, & in what quantities generally? ANS. We drew our provision as we wanted it; and this charge of 60 lb was an extra charge independent of the regular charges ag<sup>t</sup> the mess.

QUES. Is this the A/C. (N<sup>o</sup> 1) alluded to? ANS. I believe it is, to the best of my remembrance.

QUES. Who drew provision for your mess, & by what authority was it drawn? ANS. It was drawn by the Boy, generally by the verbal order of some one of the mess. —

CHARLES B. CARTER was asked whether there was not a Barrel of Beef kept open for the use of the W<sup>d</sup> Room, from which beef was taken without its being weighed or any notice taken thereof. ANS. I know nothing of a Bar<sup>l</sup> of beef opened for that purpose or used in that way; but I know of six pieces which were brought to the harness Tub at one time for the use of the Ward-room, & which weighed about 50 or 60 lb to the best of my knowledge. These pieces were not used by the Ward-room, but served out to the crew.

QUES. Did you not weigh the remains of a barrel of beef by M<sup>r</sup> Baker's direction, from which you had never used?

ANS. I did, but am not certain as to the weight.

QUES. Did you not hear M<sup>r</sup> Baker say he would deduct 50 lb from what he had charged? ANS. I did. —

JAMES KELSO says that he knew nothing of a barrel of beef kept open for the use of the W<sup>d</sup> room: but he knew of five pieces brought to the harness Tub at one time, for the use of the ward-room, with a mark on them.

QUES. Do you know whether they were used by the W<sup>d</sup> Room? ANS. They were; I kept the key of the harness Tub, & they were used sooner or later by the Ward-Room. —

JN<sup>o</sup> REEDY said he knew of a bar<sup>l</sup> of beef ordered to be kept for the use of the W<sup>d</sup>-Room by M<sup>r</sup> Carter, before the arrival at Gibraltar; That to the best of his knowledge 30 or 40 lbs were used out of it, & that the remainder was served out to the Crew by the order of the Ship's Stew<sup>d</sup>.

QUES. Were these 30 or 40 lb drawn at different times or together? ANS. They were drawn at different times.

QUES. Do you know of five or six peices taken out of this barrell & sent to the harness Tub at one time? ANS. I do, five or six peices were taken out by the order of M<sup>r</sup> Carter & sent to the harness Tub.

QUES. What time elapsed between opening this B.l. & serving it out to the ships crew? ANS. I don't know certainly but I suppose about a week or a fortnight. —

M<sup>r</sup> HARRISON says that a b.ll. of beef was reserved for the use of the Ward-room, but not being better than the other beef in the ship, it was afterwards served out in common.

QUES. How much was used out of it, before it was served out? ANS. I can't say certainly, but I suppose about ten or twelve pounds.

M<sup>r</sup> MAXWELL states that M<sup>r</sup> Baker presented an A/c. to the mess wherein was a charge of 60 lb of beef. At the same time M<sup>r</sup> B. acknowledged he didn't think the mess could have used so much; but as the b.ll was opened for their use as he understood, and there being a deficiency of 60 lb or more, he thought he ought not to loose it. After some altercation M<sup>r</sup> B. agreed that 10 lb should be inserted instead of 60 lb. — M<sup>r</sup> Maxwell further said he knew nothing of a b.ll of beef reserved for the use of the W<sup>d</sup>-Room untill that night.

DOC<sup>t</sup> MARSHALL Said that some time in Octob. he was appointed to settle the mess A/C. a statement of which was furnished by M<sup>r</sup> Baker, in which was a charge of 60 lb. & several others at very short dates interveeing. Upon refering to the Mess, they all exclaimed against the exorbitancy of this charge of 60 lb. M<sup>r</sup> Baker himself

acknowledged that they could not have used as much, but that a considerable quantity had been lost out of a bar<sup>l</sup> which he understood was opened for the mess, he thought they ought to bear the loss, as he could'nt afford it himself. —

CHS. STEWART *Pred<sup>t</sup> Court*  
W. LEWIS *J<sup>d</sup> & Adv<sup>t</sup>*

A statement of facts arising out of the evidence produced to the Court of enquiry on the Official conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Baker, Purser of the *Syren* Brig. —

It appears, as to the first charge, viz. That a quart of rum per day had been stopped from the allowance of the crew for a considerable time, by the order of M<sup>r</sup> Baker; that the fact is, some rum had been stopped with the knowledge of M<sup>r</sup> Baker, in order to make up for an inaccuracy in the measures, too much rum having been previously served out; but that no particular order had been given to stop any specific quantity; the thing being left in a great measure to the discretion of the steward: And it does not appear that M<sup>r</sup> Baker's object was to defraud the crew, or benefit himself; for by the returns of provisions, the Rum has fallen short a considerable quantity — 150 or 160 gallons. —

As to the 2<sup>d</sup> charge viz. That M<sup>r</sup> Baker had charged the Ward-room mess with 60 lb beef illegally: it is the fact that a Barrel of beef had been opened for the use of the Ward-room, from which five or six pieces, weighing 60 or 70 lb, were taken & used for the Ward-room Mess; and afterwards, when this beef was found to be of no better quality than that used by the crew in common, the remainder was served out by the ship's Steward; and therefore it appears that the charge of 60 lbs in M<sup>r</sup> Baker's A/C. is correct.

CH<sup>s</sup>. STEWART *Presd<sup>t</sup> Court.*  
W. LEWIS *J<sup>d</sup> & Adv<sup>t</sup>*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.—Feb. 1804.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution* SYRACUSE HARBOR

*Jan<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR, From the Statement of facts arising from the examination of the evidence produced at the Court of Enquiry respecting the official conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Nathan Baker Purser of the U. S. Brig *Syren*, I conceive that the charges brot against him by L<sup>t</sup> Maxwell and Doctor Marshall to be without the least foundation and that they must have originated from motives by no means honorable to those gentlemen: It is to be regretted that the time and attention of a number of respectable officers of the Squadron Should at any time be taken up for the purpose of investigating charges bro't against any gentleman from motives of private pique: The conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Baker I conceive has been very proper and that he has not intended to defraud either the Government of the United States, or the officers or crew of the *Syren*, but that he has paid a laudable attention to his duty. You will therefore take off the arrest and direct him to return to the duties of his office.

You are to direct this Order to be read on the Quarter deck publickly.

EDW<sup>d</sup> PREBLE

To CHARLES STEWART Esq<sup>r</sup>  
*President of a Court of Enquiry*  
*Instituted for the purpose of investigating*  
*the conduct of M<sup>r</sup> BAKER*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

[27 January 1804]

Receipts for Turkish Yataghan

RECEIVED March 29, 1803 of W<sup>m</sup> Eaton Esq<sup>r</sup> a Turkish Attagan, or Sword, mounted in Gold, and set with valuable Jewels; for which I hold myself accountable to the government of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and for which I have signed duplicate receipts of this tenor and date. —

Signed R<sup>d</sup> V. MORRIS. —

27 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804 — Rec<sup>d</sup> the above Attagan from the office of the Secretary of the Navy of the United States, to be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State. —

Signed — JACOB WAGNER —  
*Ch Clk Dep<sup>t</sup> State.* —

[NDA. Barbary Powers LB, 1803–1808.]

To Secretary of State from George W. Erving, U. S. Consul, London, England  
 N<sup>o</sup> 28

AMERICAN CONSULATE  
 London — January 27<sup>th</sup> 1804. —

SIR. I have had the honor to receive your circular letter of October 1<sup>st</sup> with the remarks of the Comptroller of the Treasury respecting the sales of American registered Vessels to which proper attention shall be paid. —

By my letter of Nov<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> (N<sup>o</sup> 27) — I transmitted the Documents required by yours of April 4<sup>th</sup> and referred to in this last Circular. — I have found the Powers vested in the Consuls by the late Acts and Instructions extremely useful in preventing various irregularities both in the Transfers of Vessels, and the treatment of Seamen, to render their effect more complete by insuring the deposit of the Ships Papers and preventing the possibility of any British Vessel using American Papers, forged or otherwise obtained. I have thought it expedient to apply for a regulation to be made by this Government prohibiting the Entry or Clearance of any Vessel claiming to be American without permission previously obtained from this Office; — I inclose my letter to M<sup>r</sup> Munroe upon this Subject; the application has been delayed by unavoidable Circumstances there can be no doubt however but that the Accommodation will be readily conceded. —

Tho a great deal has been done to purify the ownership of American Vessels perhaps something is yet necessary to accomplish this desirable Object and which Congress may hereafter see fit to regulate; there is the best reason to believe that many Vessels under our Flag are partly owned by Merchants in this City; I would suggest also whether during the time of European War it might not be desirable to establish some Mode of verifying the character of the Cargoes of American Vessels, whether the Sea letter ought not to be delivered

up on the termination of the *single* Voyage for which it is granted, or a suitable endorsement made to prevent the possibility of its being misapplied in the manner suggested in a former letter, whether the Bills of Lading ought not in all Cases to be sworn to by the Shipper before the Consul or Collector and made distinctly to express the account for which the Vessel is freighted.

I am aware of the delicacy of this subject & the Objections which must arise in favor of the carrying-Trade to such regulations, 'tho I cannot conceive that the fair carrying trade woud in fact be injured; but inasmuch as it might be injured the substantial capital Trade of our Country woud be strengthened. It has been strongly urged against the establishment of the principle in the law of Nations that "Neutral Bottoms make free Cargoes" the great encouragement which such a rule would offer to the carrying trade at the expence of the Capital Trade of the United States; the Objection may be supposed to have more force as it comes principally from a quarter where interest woud seem to lead to an extension of y<sup>e</sup> carrying trade — If then it was desirable to sacrifice a principle of Public Law for the support of which some have thought the honor of every independent Nation to be pledged, for the purpose of encouraging the Capital Trade of our Country, it is to be hoped that no substantial Objections can be made to such regulations as are calculated only to repress the dishonest and irregular practices of the Carrying Trade; Perhaps the only evil of regulations calculated to define the Bona fide property on board American Vessels, would be, the admission which they would seem to make of the Right of Belligerents to seize Enemies property on board Neutral Vessels. —

I have been prompted to these remarks at this moment by a Transaction which has lately fallen under my Observation and which I took some pains to investigate. — The Owner of an American Vessel lying in this port left a Power of Attorney with a London Merchant enabling him to freight, charter, or sell her: The Merchant freighted her with Goods for the Coast of South America, and put a Supercargo on board who assumed the Character of an American Citizen, & who was to appear to be the owner of the Cargo; the Supercargo had served an apprenticeship in Boston, but it happened to my knowledge was not a Citizen of the United States; they applied however for a Certificate which I refused of course; he probably obtained a Document of some sort, for the Merchant was satisfied that he would answer his purpose as an American; as I also knew that the Young Man had neither Property or Credit sufficient to procure this Cargo I questioned the Merchant upon this Subject, who candidly confessed that the Cargo belonged to himself and friends.

I was disposed therefore to retain the Ships Papers 'till I had compelled them to name in the Bills of lading the true account for which the Property was shipped: Upon more mature consideration however seeing that I had no specific Authority, I doubted of my controul over the subject, and how far my view of it might coincide with that of Government; therefore concluded by only insisting that the Supercargo shoud not be named an "American Citizen" in any Bill of lading signed by the Master; this point was conceded and the Ship Proceeded on her Voyage. —

I have entered into this detail to shew the nature of the Trade which may be carried on from hence to which I mean to apply the

observations respecting the Verification of Cargoes which I have taken the liberty to submit — And have the honor to be

P S. The *Ganges* and *Cyrus* American Vessels purchased in this Port by William Moore of Nantucket on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1802 — and which sailed from this to Dunkirk have been taken engaged in the Whale Fishery under French Colours by a British Letter of Marque. — G W E

[NA. SDA. CL, London, Vol. 9, Jan. 1804–July 1812.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 27 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR I wrote you the 4<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> p<sup>r</sup> the *Nautilus* which now confirms & refers thereto; I paid the Dock Yard for the anchor supplied her \$179:69 —

Yesterday arrived in 44 days from Norfolk the ship *Will<sup>m</sup> & Mary* Era<sup>t</sup> H. Tipling Com<sup>r</sup> with a Cargo of Provisions for your squadron p<sup>a</sup> note at foot. I wanted Cap<sup>t</sup> Triply to proceed to Syracuse w<sup>ch</sup> he will not do, the Ship being Insured for this Place & Malta, as is said Cargo; The Hon<sup>e</sup> Sec<sup>r</sup> of the Navy requests my unloading same here, or Direct the Master to proceed to Malta as more Convenient for the Squadron, the freight is to be paid in America. wherefor I have orderd his going to Malta & Consign the stores to such Com<sup>r</sup> of our State Vessels as may be there & in default to Consul Pulie who will forward you this, & may give him your Directions on the Subject —

I now inclose you a Letter from the Navy Dep<sup>t</sup> with several others & send M<sup>r</sup> Pulie severals for Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge

Cap<sup>n</sup> Hull has been at Tangier with the *Argus*, went to Cruise & I believe is now at Cadiz

as to News we have none, as such Conclude truly —

I send M<sup>r</sup> Pulie by the bearer large fills of News Papers w<sup>ch</sup> came Directed for Cap<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge, also some for his Bro<sup>r</sup> had I got any would have sent them you —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.–Feb. 1804.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 5.

ALGIERS, Jan<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, I had yesterday the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> of December with its enclosures; for which I am much obliged to you. I shall make no comments, at present on the conduct of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart — it must speak for itself. —

The enclosed were prepared to go by the Spanish Brig *Two Friends*, which sailed from hence for Tunis, on the 20<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> But as she went off unexpectedly, when I was in the country with M<sup>r</sup>s Lear, I had not time to forward them. M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, who happened to be in Town, wrote to you by that opp<sup>y</sup> and at my request, put on board her a Box containing two thousand doll<sup>rs</sup> for the use of our unfortunate Countrymen at Tripoli, as mentioned in my letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> He also informed you of the then situation of Affairs here, with respect to the appearance of the British fleet. — This fleet left the coast on the 18<sup>th</sup> and has not again appeared. From the nature of the communication between the Dey & Lord Nelson, (tenacious on both sides) we expected

something serious. We are left in the field of conjecture as to the cause of their departure, without enforcing their points. The heroic character of the Commander forbids the idea of fear: and whether the fleet was called away by information from Toulon (as another Ship joined them on the evening of their departure) or from some other cause, we have yet to learn. —

I think the measures you have taken to supply the wants of our unfortunate Countrymen at Tripoli, are proper. I will endeavour to make some arrangement for your drawing on Leghorn in future. In the mean time you must negotiate in the best manner you can, for the sum mentioned in my former letter. —

I write this letter to take its chance by any conveyance which may offer, and shall write you again more fully. In the mean time, I will thank you for all the information you can obtain on our Affairs at Tripoli as well as Tunis. .

N. B. Delivered, with enclosures to M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier to be sent by the land Courier, under cover to his Correspondent. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Captain Thomas Hopkins, commanding American Brig *Edward*, Naples, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S: FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Jan<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR, I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> from Palermo. Accept my thanks for your polite attention. The Packet from My Brother came safe to hand

There are not any Tripolines out at present, and I shall keep a good look to prevent them from sailing. I shall write you again if the smallest danger is to be apprehended, and will in that case, send a Vessel to convoy you, and the other Americans to the Westw<sup>d</sup>.

Let me know how many American Vessels are at Naples, and where they are bound

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 27 January 1804

Moderate Breezes & cloudy. At Anchor in Saragosa *Syren Enterprise* & *Vixen* in company — Pointing the leading blocks & ring bolts of the Gun Carriages and reeving the running rigging. At 2 P. M anchored here the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus* L<sup>t</sup> Somers who sailed hence 30 days ago with the Commodores dispatches for Gibraltar. Large cutter landing stores from the *Vixen* — Moderate Breezes through the night. From 8 A M. till noon Pointing ship and Pointing leading blocks &c\* — Large cutter bringing off Provisions to the Schooner *Vixen*.

Surgeons report 20 sick, 4 convalescent & 3 discharged At Noon winds W b N. —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 27 January 1804

*Nautilus* arrived from Gibraltar

[LC, original.]



To Secretary of the Treasury from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
January 28<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. I request you to be pleased to cause twelve hundred and eighty dollars out of the appropriations for Barbary negotiations to be remitted to the Purveyor to enable him to pay a draft for the like sum which I have authorized Ebenezer Stevens Esq<sup>t</sup> of New York to draw upon him in payment of additional freight of the Ship *Anna Maria* formerly employed as a transport to Tunis.

[NA. SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 14, May 1802–May 1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 28 January 1804

[Syracuse] Wind W N W,. The Quarantine was taken off the Prize; this day I recieved information from the Master of an English Vessel who is now our Pilot that he was in Tripoly when the *Philadelphia* ran on the rocks near that place, And that the Prize now in our possession ketch rigged named the *Mastico* [renamed *Intrepid*] and commanded by Mustapha Rais was then at Anchor in that Port under Turkish Colors and that as soon as the *Philadelphia* Grounded the said Mustapha Rais took on board upwards of One hundred Tripolines armed with muskets, sabres &c<sup>ts</sup> slipped his cables, hauled down the Turkish and Hoisted Tripoline Colors, and proceeded to the Attack of the *Philadelphia*, And that as soon as the *Philadelphia* surrendered the said Mustapha Rais with his men boarded the Frigate, plundered the Officers and Men, made them prisoners and conducted the Officers to the Bashaw of Tripoly: In Consideration of which I have concluded to make prize of the Vessel and prisoners of all on board excepting the Choux of the Captain Pacha whom I intend to liberate with a letter to the Cap<sup>t</sup> Pacha with an account of this transaction.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 28 January 1804

at anchor in Saragosa, Syren, *Vixen Enterprize* and *Nautilus* in Company, \* \* \* the prize we captured off[f] Tripoly her Quarantine was yesterday Taken off. we Reced nine of the prisoners on board the *Constitution*. Shee was under Quarantine 29 days

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday, 29 January 1804

[Syracuse] Light breezes and pleasant weather — Painting &c<sup>ts</sup> — Took all the white prisoners 26 in number on board from the prize and ordered her Equipped for a Cruize.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

[30 January 1804]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Paris  
[Translation]

PARIS, 10 *Pluviose*, Year XII

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

to Mr. Livingston, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

SIR, A declaration by Commodore Preble, commander of the naval forces of the United States in the Mediterranean, announced last December to the constituted authorities of Marseilles that he had blockaded the Port of Tripoli and the adjacent coast and that neutral vessels which should attempt to enter Tripoli or which should be encountered off the neighboring coast, would be halted by the squadron by his orders and taken to a port to be adjudicated.

Although recognizing the privileges and practices of which two belligerent powers can avail themselves, practices according to which a neutral vessel is excluded from a port actually blockaded, I cannot refrain from observing that Commodore Preble appears to have, in this instance, stretched the application of these rights in a manner which tends to injure neutral commerce without being justified by the rules generally adopted in the maritime neutrality conventions.

In order to determine what constitutes a blockaded port, that designation should apply only to a port that is attacked by a number of vessels proportional to the force of the place, and which are near enough that there is an obvious danger that the port will be entered.

It is on this principle that the various conventions, which define what is meant by the blockade of a place are based.

Therefore, it was not sufficient for the American Commodore to make a single frigate cruise off Tripoli, in order to authorize him to declare that port and the adjacent coast under blockade. It must also be mentioned that the coast of a country has never been included in the blockade of a place. This extension of the law would be nothing but a violation of the rights of neutrals and an attack on their commerce. The British have set the example. No nation has been disposed to imitate it, nor has been interested in doing so, and perhaps the United States is more interested than any other power in not adopting a system contrary to the rights and commerce of neutrals.

Convinced that Commodore Preble cannot have been authorized to ignore principles which have become, in this matter, the basis of international law and universally accepted usage, I ask you, Sir, to request him, in the name of your government, not to interpret orders, which he may have received, with a freedom which is as injurious as it is unusual and to declare a port blockaded only when all the indispensable conditions are fulfilled under which neutral nations have no right to protest against such a declaration.

[Franklin Delano Roosevelt Col.]

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To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN *Janr* 30<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR I was honor'd with your esteem'd favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> this day at Meridian, & as the post departs for Naples this evening must postpone answering you as fully as I could wish until next week. — I

am happy that I have anticipated your desires relative to the gun-boats & send you a plan of one drawn after my own directions & calculated to keep the sea as the bow gun which may be either a brass 32 pounder or an Iron 24 is fix'd in such a manner as to be eas'd down on the keelson & hatches are made to lock over tight which will keep the vessel perfectly dry & secure in bad weather, in the wake of the after rowlock is to be fix'd a short cannonade either a 36 or a 42 pounder on a slide so constructed as to be pointed right-aft or at either side as circumstances might require.

We have not yet agreed upon the rig of a boat calculated to carry a mortar & a bow gun, but if you only desire to have a Mortar & the after gun the boat can be built of the same dimensions as the gunboat with about five inches more depth of hold, which will increase her resistance sufficiently and the price will be nearly the same, plans of both shall be forwarded to you by next post & full answers given to all your requests. — Enclosed is a Copy of a letter which I wrote to Cap<sup>tn</sup> Bainbridge as likewise a list of cloathing which will be ready to ship at the time therein mentioned, if you could possibly permit one of the small vessels to come for them about that period I will not detain her one day & you will render the captives a great service. —

I have not time to add any thing more at present & continue very respectfully.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

[30 January 1804]

Concerning the Building and Equipping of a Gunboat in the Mediterranean  
[Translation]

A Gun boat according to the enclosed plan built of part oak & part Elm bound round & sheath'd with pine of this country, with sails Oars Anchors Cables & every other necessary compleat except Ammunition Artillery & its utensils can be built for the Sum of one thousand eight hundred Florentine Sequins and launch'd ready for sea in the space of two months; & four boats of the same dimensions can be built & equip'd for sea in four months and a half from the day the contract is sign'd. —

N. B. One thousand eight hundred Sequins is equal  
to Spanish dollars at par at £6½ ----- \$3776  $\frac{3}{100}$

The scale of the enclosed plan is in french feet each foot being 12¼ english Inches. —

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART

LEGHORN *Janr<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1804.* —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN *Janr<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1804* —

SIR I have by this conveyance in part answer'd your esteem'd favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> & by the next post will give you such information as I can collect on the subject of your enquiries — If you can permit one of the small vessels to come for the Cloathing herein mentioned for the prisoners at Tripoli I will not detain her one day & you will render those Unfortunate men a very singular service —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbor Jan<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1804*

One of the Ships of the Squadron is to take the Guard for 24 Hours commencing at 8 O'clock in the morning A Signal for the ship which has the Guard will be made by the Senior Officer in Port and the Guard Ship is to hoist an American Jack at the Mizzen top gall<sup>l</sup> mast head but if a Brig or Schooner at the fore which is to be kept flying untill the Guard is shifted by signal. A Guard to be rowed by a boat of the guard ship for the 24 hours and is to speak every Vessell that enters the Harbor by Day or night before she approaches near the Squadron and report to the commanding officer in Port every morning at 9 O'clock Agreeable to the following form for the Information of the Commodore. —

• • • • •  
[LC. EPP, Order Book, 1803-1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 30 January 1804

[Syracuse] Painting Ship &<sup>e</sup> &<sup>e</sup> — Landed all the Black Slaves 43 in number from the Prize and placed them in a house on shore under the care of the Agent M<sup>r</sup> Dyson; Sent two men from this ship to cook for and attend them — Seven Greek Christians taken in the prize Voluntarily entered into our service as Ordinary Seamen — Surgeons report 13 Sick 4 Convalescent —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 30 January 1804

at 7 in the morning we sent the large cutter to assist landing the Black prisoners, from the prize we rec<sup>d</sup> on Saturday last from the prize, the 26 white prisoners that Belong to the prize, the 43 Blacks was landed at Saragosa this morning, among the whites is four gentlemen officers, who says they belong to the grand Seignior, four small Boys, servants to the Seigniors officers, Seven greeicians, who appear to have Been slaves to the Bashaw of Tripoly, those greeicians are not confin'd. the Remainding Eleven are Trioplans, they are under charge of two Centinals, the officer Messes in the gunroom,

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 30 January 1804

Moderate breezes & clear weather. At Anchor at Saragosa *Syren*, *Enterprise*, *Vixen* & *Nautilus* in company. Painting the ship & blacking the bends. Towards Evening fresh breezes from the north<sup>d</sup>. The N N W wind continued fresh during the night. At 7 A. M. sent the large cutter to assist in landing the black prisoners from the Prize We recieved on Saturday last from the Prize 26 white prisoners belonging to her. Forty three blacks were landed at Saragosa this morning. Ships company painting ship, gun carriages & masts. Surgeons report

is 13 sick, 4 convalescent & one discharged. At Noon strong breezes from the N N W.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
*Cadiz Bay 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804*

SIR, Since I had the honour of writing you on the 26<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> I have received Letters from Jn<sup>o</sup> Gavino Esquire, informing me of the arrival of a ship at Gibralter from Norfolk laden with Provisions and Stores for the use of the United States Squadron in the Mideteranian, and that he had determined to Order her immediately to Malta, as he considered the risque of going up without Convoy so trifling that it would be improper to detain the Ship at Gibralter such a length of time, as it must take for me to get Letters from him, and arrive there to take her under Convoy. —

I think M<sup>r</sup> Gavino has determined very wisely, and have no doubt but the Ship will arrive safe. —

I shall leave this place in three or four days for Tangier and Gibralter, and if the weather is such that I can with safety keep at Sea, shall run to the East<sup>d</sup> as far as Cape DeGatt, and Cape Pallos, where most likely I shall Cruize for some time. —

I shall write every oppertunity, and keep you advised of all my proceedings. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1804.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*  
*Cadiz Bay 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804*

SIR, I have been honored with your Letter of the 26 Ins<sup>t</sup> and agree with you, that it is unfortunate that I happened to be absent from Gibralter when the Store Ship arrived, however as the risk in going up the Straights, at this Season of the year is so trifling, I am happy that you ordered the ship to proceed to Malta, and have no doubt she will arrive there safe. —

I shall leave this place in three or four days, and hope soon to be in Gibralter, should any Letters be sent to your care, I beg you will not forward them, as I shall leave this before they can possibly come to hand. — I have nothing new to send you, as there has not been any arrivals, either from America or England, since I have been here — The Schooner Sails in all this Week, with dispatches for America, — I have wrote the Secretary, informing him of the arrival of the Store Ship, and that she had sailed for Malta. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1804.]

To Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Jan<sup>y</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1804*

SIR You will prepare the *Syren* for a Cruize and be ready to sail tomorrow evening, or as soon as the Signal is made.

Proceed with all possible dispatch for the Coast of Tripoly; The Ketch *Intrepid* under the Command of L<sup>t</sup> Decatur with Seventy Volunteers from the Squadron is ordered to accompany you, to endeavor to effect the destruction of the Frigate *Philadelphia* by burning her in the Harbor of Tripoly.

Previous to your approaching so near the Coast that the *Syren* can be discovered from the Shore, you are to disguise her by changing the Color of your paint, sending Top Gall<sup>s</sup> masts on deck, rigging in flying Jibb boom, Housing guns, Shutting in Ports, raising quarter cloths &c to give the appearance of a Merchant Vessel

I concieve the Object in view can be best effected in the night; You will therefore keep at a distance from Tripoly untill the Evening, but not so far but that you can reach the Harbor by Midnight: The *Intrepid* being rigged in a manner peculiar to the Mediterranean probably will not be suspected by the enemy, of course it will be most adviseable to send her ahead in order that she may stand into the Harbor, and board the frigate

I have no doubt but L<sup>t</sup> Decatur with the Officers and men under his command will be able to take possession of, and destroy her: As soon as the *Intrepid* has entered the Harbor, you will stand in and anchor in such a position as you, in your Judgment, may think best calculated to afford her assistance in the execution of the main object, cover her retreat or destroy any of the Enemies Cruizers that may be in the Harbor by sending your boats for that purpose

It will be most proper for you to enter the harbor with a Westerly Wind as it will ensure you a safe retreat. The destruction of the Frigate is of National importance, and I rely with confidence on your Valor Judgment & Enterprize in contributing all the means in your power to effect it. Whatever may be your success you will return if possible directly to this place

May the Almighty take you under his protection and prosper you in this Enterprize.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ketch *Intrepid*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbor Jan<sup>y</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1804*

SIR You are hereby ordered to take command of the Prize Ketch which I have named the *Intrepid* and prepare her with all possible dispatch for a cruize of Thirty days with full allowance of Water, Provision &c for Seventy five men. I shall send you five Midshipmen from the *Constitution* and you will take Seventy men including Officers from the *Enterprize* if that number can be found ready to volunteer their Services for boarding and burning the *Philadelphia* in the Harbor of Tripoly, If not, report to me and I will furnish you with men to compleat your compliment. It is expected you will be ready to sail tomorrow evening or some hours sooner if the Signal is made for that purpose.

It is my Orders that you proceed to Tripoly in company with the *Syren* L<sup>t</sup> Stewart, Enter that Harbor in the night Board the Frigate *Philadelphia*, burn her and make your retreat good with the *Intrepid* if possible, unless you can make her the means of destroying the

Enemy's vessels in the Harbor by converting her into a fire ship for that purpose and retreating in your Boats and those of the *Syren*. You must take fixed ammunition and apparatus for the Frigates 18 Pounders and if you can, without risking too much you may endeavor to make them the Instruments of distruction to the shipping and Bashaw's Castle. You will provide all the necessary Combustibles for burning and destroying ships. The destruction of the *Philadelphia* is an object of great importance; And I rely with confidence on your Intrepidity & Enterprize to effect it. L<sup>t</sup> Stewart will support you with the boats of the *Syren* and cover your retreat with that vessel be sure and set fire in the Gun room births, Cockpit Store rooms forward and Births on the Birth deck.

After the Ship is well on fire, point two of the 18 P<sup>rs</sup> shotted down the Main Hatch and blow her bottom out — I enclose you a memorandum of the Articles, Arms, Ammunition, fire works &<sup>c</sup> necessary and which you are to take with you — Return to this Place as soon as Possible, and report to me your proceedings. On boarding the Frigate it is probable you will meet with Resistance, it will be well in order to prevent alarm to carry all by the Sword, May God prosper and Succeed you in this enterprize.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Lieutenants Thomas Robinson, Jr., Samuel Elbert and Midshipman William Lewis, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

Jan<sup>y</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1804 *Syracuse Harbor*

GENTLEMEN You will take an exact account of all the arms, money & papers in possession of the Officers Passengers & Crew of the Ketch Prize [*Mastico*] from Tripoly captured by the *Constitution* & *Enterprize*.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenants Charles Stewart, John Smith and Richard Somers, U. S. Navy

SYRACUSE 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804.

SIR, According to your order we repaired to the Prize [*Mastico*] and after inspecting into & examining her Hull & materials, we conceive her to be worth, Eighteen Hundred Dollars

CH<sup>s</sup> STEWART  
JOHN SMITH  
RICH<sup>d</sup> SOMERS

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.–Feb. 1804.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour* 31 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804

(re<sup>d</sup> 15 March 1804)

DEAR SIR, Since my last letter to you I have discovered that the prize [the *Mastico*, renamed the *Intrepid*] I took off Tripoly the 23rd Ulto under Turkish Colours, was in that port when the *Philadelphia* ran on the rocks; and that the Captain who pretends to be a Turk,

took on board upwards of an hundred Tripolines armed with Swords and Muskets — slipped his Cables — hauled down the Turk's, and hoisted Tripoline colours, and went out to the attack; and as soon as the Frigate surrendered, boarded her, — plundered the Officers and Men, and conducted them as prisoners to the Bashaw. In consequence of this conduct I have detained him and his crew, and shall make prize of the vessel. The Captain and Crew having acted hostile towards our Flag, under enemies colours, I cannot release either the Vessel or them, as I have no doubt but should they meet an American Merch<sup>t</sup> Vessel they would without hesitation capture her. If a Tripoline, he is a prize; if a Turk, a pirate

I find on translation of the papers that 23 of the Negroes belonged to the Bashaw of Tripoly, which he intended as presents to the Captain Pacha, and other Officers; and 20 of them belonged to the Officers and Merchants of Tripoly, which were for sale. I have among the Tripoline prisoners a choux of the Bashaw's and a Col. of his Troops, besides a number of Tripoline Soldiers.

The prize is equipped as a cruiser. She sails tomorrow with 70 Volunteers from the Squadron on board, under the command of Captain Decatur whose orders are, to burn the *Philadelphia* in the Harbour of Tripoly. The *Syren* Brig goes with him to assist with her Boats, and cover the retreat. I hope they will succeed; it is of National importance that they should.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Cap<sup>t</sup> B[ainbridge] as late as the 18<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> he complains of not having received one from me, notwithstanding I have written several. From Malta last week I forwarded Clothing, Stores & Money to a considerable amount, to the care of the English and Danish Consuls. The Bashaw has received my proposals for an exchange of Prisoners ere this, but I have no answer. While I was at Malta I received proposals from the Bashaw of Tripoly's Agent for a peace, which he says he is authorised by the Bashaw to negotiate. The Bashaw finds we are making considerable preparations for the next Summer, and has become alarmed. His Agent proposed a truce for 10 years. I told him that would not do. I had several conversations with him and assured him we never would consent to pay a cent for Peace or Tribute. He then proposed that we should give the Bashaw 500 Dollars for each of the *Philadelphia's* Officers and Crew — a Schooner in exchange for the Frigate, and make peace without Money or Tribute and that they would exchange 60 Americans, for the sixty Tripolines in my possession. This would be gaining Peace on more reasonable terms than is expected by our Government

Say    300 American Captives  
       60 Tripolines deduct'd

leaves 240 at 500 Doll<sup>s</sup> each ----- \$120, 000

and we should gain something by exchanging one of the worst schooners for the Frigate. If you could prevail on M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien to come here with Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith as he speaks the language of Barbary, he could be of infinite service in any negotiation. I should be glad to see you both here, and wish I had a larger vessel to send for your accommodation; but if you cannot leave Algiers at present, what sum will you authorise me to pay for the ransom of the Officers and Crew of the



*Philadelphia*, if the Bashaw will make peace without Money — Without any annual Tribute — or any Consular present — except a small present at the reception of the first Consul that is appointed? I am anxious to know your opinion, as I expect further proposals from the Bashaw in three weeks.

I have written to Naples and Leghorn for Gun & Mortar Boats, and hope to succeed in procuring them. I enclose you a copy of the last letter I rec<sup>d</sup> from Captain Bainbridge. I differ in opinion with him respecting a Blockade. I think it will have a good effect. I go out on a cruise tomorrow and intend to touch at Tunis. I have nothing new in this quarter. Make my best respects to M<sup>r</sup> Lear, and believe me with real esteem and respect Dear Sir,

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Jan<sup>y</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1804.*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR Since my last letter to you I have discovered that the Prize [*Mastico*, renamed *Intrepid*] I took off Tripoly the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> under Turkish colors was in that Port when the *Philadelphia* ran on the rocks, & that the Captain who pretends to be a Turk, took on board upwards of an hundred Tripolines, slipped his Cables, & went out to attack her, hauled down the Turkish, & hoisted Tripoline colors, and as soon as the Frigate surrendered he boarded, plundered the Officers & conducted them to the Bashaw in triumph, in consequence of which I have detained him & his crew & shall make prize of the vessel, as the Cap<sup>tn</sup> has acted in a hostile manner towards our Flag: should I release him & his vessel and an American of inferior force fall in his way, I have a right to believe that he wou<sup>d</sup> not hesitate to capture her: if a Tripoline he is a prize, if a Turk a Pirate. I find on translation of some of the papers that 23 of the negro men & women belong to the Bashaw, and 20 to the officers & merchants of Tripoly. I have also a Tripoline Chaux, another Officer with the rank of Colonel, & a number of Tripoline soldiers as prisoners. —

I enclose you a duplicate of my letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> I must have gun & mortar boats: & it is my determination to go to Naples with the ship if I cannot procure them without. I have no doubt but you will do all in your power to assist me. I wish you would go to Naples, & endeavour to procure them for me.

I want two or three Mortar boats & four large gun boats: there are some fine mortar boats at Palermo perhaps you can procure an order for them. My prize is ketch or bombard rigged & is already equipp<sup>d</sup> as a cruiser: she sails tomorrow with 70 volunteers from the squadron on an expedition. the *Syren* brig goes with her; I hope they may be successful & cannot doubt but they will.

The *Nautilus* & *Vixen* sail on a cruise in a day or two, & the *Constitution* in a very few days. —

The *Nautilus* returned from Gibraltar five days since: nothing new from that quarter, I am anxious to hear from you soon respecting the gunboats.

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801-1805.]

To Richard O'Brien, U. S. ex-Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804*

DEAR SIR, I write you in great haste. Your favor by the *Syren* came safe, for which, accept my thanks. I believe the Bashaw has a disposition to make Peace with the United States. For particulars I refer you to Col: Lear. Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge thinks with me, that if you would afford your services to your Country, by coming up here, and remaining a few weeks with me, to assist at any negotiation that may be entered into with Tripoly: Your knowledge of the Language and people with whom we have to negotiate, would give us advantages which we cannot otherwise have. I wish you to converse with Col: Lear on this subject. You may rely on my endeavors to make your situation on board this ship as pleasant as possible.

Make my respects to M<sup>rs</sup> OBrien, and accept my best wishes for your health & happiness.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 31 January 1804

Moored in Saragosa. the Tripolean prize was got underway by the officers of the *Enterprize* and towed into the Mole in order to Repair.

[NA. ND original.]

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To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard Farquhar, Malta  
 MALTA Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1804

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

The Bearer is the Master of a Vessel whom you spoke to in Malta for a Pilot, he is not only well acquainted with the Coast of Tripoli Bengaza & Meauserate &<sup>ca</sup>, but a very active steady man and should you want any more men than he has taken with him now, he would be a very proper person to send over hear for more, as this is the time to get them, for when the Spring of the year comes in the Vessels begins to fit out for their respective Voyages

As he has got 25 men he hopes your Excellency will permit him to have Uniforms, he has advanced Cash for the men he takes with him

There is a Vessel arrived hear from Tripoli, the News by hir is much the same as formerly viz that Provisions is still high and by the different Accounts which I have had the People is murmuring much against the Bashaw they seem all to agree that when your Vessels appear off Tripoli with his Brother on Board they will Murder the present Bashaw

there is also a Vessel arrived a few days ago from Alexandria with news from the Bashaw of Derna saying that he is preparing to retake Derna again, his Consul hear has wrote to him by a ship which sails to morrow for Alexandria he is in hopes you have determined to send him to Alexandria, in one of your Vessels either to bring the Bashaw to Derna or Bengaza as His Excellency is in daylee Expectation of some American Vessel arriving in Alexandria, I understand your Consul hear has got also a Letter from the Bashaw of Derna —

the Bearer has taken his Brother with him & hopes your Excellency will permit him to be in the same Vessel with his Brother

the *Argo* English Frigate arrived here yesterday from England & brought one of the Beys of the Momalucks in Egypt and takes him up to Alexandria.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Gordon, U. S. Navy

FRIGATE *Constitution*  
SYRACUSE HARBOUR 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804 —

SIR, As I have heard it suggested that the Prize [*Intrepid*], is going on a secret expedition against the Tripoleens, I should wish you to consider me as a volunteer —

As it is my determination to let no opportunity escape wherein I can render my Country any service on so important an occasion, I should esteem it as a particular favour, to meet your consideration on this Subject —

CHA<sup>s</sup> GORDON

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To James Watson, former Navy Agent, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPAR<sup>t</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

Your favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>y</sup> has been received it contains the first information which has reached me of the suit instituted against you by M<sup>r</sup> W. E. Sheffield —

The Department is ready and has always been ready to settle the accounts of Jackson and Sheffield — & they ought to call on the Department for a Settlement — If in your official capacity as navy agent you consented under the authority of the Department, to pay them for the draft and model of the ship *Adams* you are not personally responsible for the fulfilment of the engagement an action cannot be sustained against you and I presume your counsel will so advise you —

The accounts of Jackson & Sheffield for building the ship *Adams* is yet unsettled and from the documents in our possession it appears that they are considerably in debt to the Department — it would therefore be highly improper in me to authorize any payment of money to them at present —

The enclosed letter to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> E. Sheffield and left open for your perusal I will thank you to seal and deliver

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Mrs. Ralph Izard, Sr., South Bay, Charleston, S. C., from Midshipman Ralph Izard, Jr., U. S. Navy

SYRACUSE 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1803 [1804]

This evening, my Dear Mother, I sail for Tripoli on board of a prize (we took on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>) in company with the Brig *Syren* Capt. Stewart, for the purpose of burning the Frigate *Philadelphia* which is now in the possession of the Tripolitans. Lieut. Decatur commands the prize. — We are certain of success, not only in accomplishing that project, but are in hopes to be able to cut out of Tripoli several of their cruizers. Our prize when we took her was bound to Constantinople with presents for the great folks in those parts from the Bashaw of Tripoli, consisting of 50 black Slaves & money appropriated for the purpose of purchasing merchandize — I was then in

the *Constitution*. The Tripolitans we have in close custody, I believe their number amounts to 12. Besides these we have the Grand Segniors ambassador for Tripoli, who was on his return home. After a short cruize off Tripoli we returned here, & the Commodore wishing to make some regulations for the better accommodation of Capt Bainbridge & his officers thought proper to go to Malta. I had the honor of accompanying him thither — We remained ten days during which time we lived on shore: I wrote you a very short letter from thence for which I must beg leave to excuse myself not knowing of any opportunity untill the moment the Commodores dispatches were to be sent on board of an English Frigate bound to Gibraltar. My friend Christopher by this time must have arrived in America — I shall expect him out here next summer a Lieutenant on board of one of the Frigates I understand are coming out here —

Before this day week I am in hopes we shall have the happiness of seeing the *Philadelphia* in flames— We shall astonish the Bashaws weak mind with the noise of shot falling about his ears Perhaps some shot “more lucky than the rest may reach his heart” & free our countrymen from Slavery It is this idea which keeps us all alive here for upon my word nothing can be more detestable than this Syracuse — I have not put my foot on shore here for six weeks & have been a greater part of the time within a stones throw of the place. Malta is a charming place comparatively speaking — There one has some mode of enjoyment — Masquerades Balls Governors Gardens, Parades, fine Ships, & folks to whom you may converse, all which one loses at Syracuse — Is there no hope of a Spanish War? Who would not be a Soldier in these times in Louisiana? At all events there, there is some chance for distinguishing one’s self — here we have to go in their very houses before we can make them fight. And the thought of who it is we fight. A parcel of poor wretches without a single spark of honor & in conquering them no honor is to be derived

Does not my Brother the Capt regret having hauled himself up in ordinary? I see his arrival in New York announced in one of the Papers — I presume from that he has been paying you a visit with his *cara sposa*.

What a mountain they have made of a mouse I allude to what I see in the Newspapers concerning our “terrible” affair with the Emperor of Morocco. Capt Rodgers acquired vast applause for burning a Tripolitan ship of 22 Guns — Our Commodores name I am glad to see is mentioned with some *éclat*. Remember me most affectionately to my Dear Father. Tomorrow is his birthday. Oh! May he see many happy returns of it! Tell him my Dear Mother that I still am

his very affec<sup>te</sup> Son

RA: IZARD jun<sup>r</sup>

Tell Tom Caroline & Georgy I have not quite forgot them as they shall see some 18 or 20 months hence when I shall again see them

Prisoners on board U. S. frigate *Constitution*

*Constitution* daily report of Prisoners Febr<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1804

| Names    | Quality | By whom Conf <sup>d</sup> | when                 | how      | Crime       |
|----------|---------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| J. Cross | Seaman  | Lieut <sup>t</sup> Dent   | Janr <sup>y</sup> 25 | in irons | Drunkenness |

Prisoners of War

| Names        |                | Names           |                           |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Affvishous   | On the GunDeck | Mustapha Hassan | Centrys charge Birth Deck |
| Osmanlagger  |                | Mustapha        |                           |
| Ossinadder   |                | Masarese        |                           |
| Mustapha     |                | Salaseres       |                           |
| Mahomet Alle |                | Mahomet         |                           |
| Mahomet      |                | Hamet           |                           |
| Ibvahim      |                | Hamet           |                           |
| Alle         |                | Ibvahim         |                           |
|              |                | Mustapha        |                           |
|              |                | Selim           |                           |
|              |                | Koma            |                           |

JOHN BURCHARD M. A.

[Maine HS. NDA photostat.]

To Stephen Cathalan, Jr., U. S. Commercial Agent, Marseilles, France, from  
James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

(Copy)

LEGHORN 3<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

D<sup>r</sup> SIR Since I wrote you last, I have received orders to ascertain where can be procured on the most advantageous terms four Gunboats each mounting a 24 pounder & four Bombards with each a Mortar from ten to Eighteen inches, compleatly equipped & calculated to keep the sea in any weather & two Bombardiers perfect masters of their profession, who are Capable to instruct our young officers in gunnery & Marine Fortification in all its different Branches; If any Such can be engaged a liberal Salary will be given. — I therefore request you to inform me whether Such boats as above described can be procured at Marseilles or Toulon ready built; if not, can they be built there, if they Can, on what terms, & in what time can they be got ready for Sea; if the boats can not be procured, can four brass Cannon 24 pounders & four brass Mortars of the above Calibre with the necessary bombs, balls & ammunition & one or two Bombardiers of the above description, if procurable please to inform me the probable prices of the first & the expectations of the latter.

To quiet any unfavorable apprehensions of the french government, it is only necessary to observe that those boats are to form a part of the United States Squadron Stationed in the Mediterranean & will navigate under the American Flag & be Commanded by national Officers —

By giving me a speedy answer you will render the United States a service & Confer an obligation upon, D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

N B. If Mortars & Cannons can not be purchased pray can they be borrowed or can they be got on any terms —

you will please not to direct my Letters to the Care of any person, I am known at the Post office & the Letters will be brought to my house; —

List of the Ships & Vessells of War which compose the United States Squadron Stationed in the Mediterranean.

|                                    |         |                |   |                          |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Constitution</i> .....          | 44..... |                | Edward Preble Esq <sup>r</sup> .....            | Commanderin<br>Chief.    |
| Brig <i>Argus</i> .....            | 18, 36  | pounders,      | Isaac Hull Esq <sup>r</sup> .....               | Lieutenant<br>Commandant |
| Brig <i>Syren</i> .....            | 18, 32  | d <sup>o</sup> | Ch <sup>s</sup> Stewart Esq <sup>r</sup> .....  | d <sup>o</sup>           |
| Schooner <i>Vixen</i> .....        | 16, 24  | d <sup>o</sup> | John Smith Esq <sup>r</sup> .....               | d <sup>o</sup>           |
| Schooner <i>Nautilus</i> ..        | 16, 9   | d <sup>o</sup> | Rich <sup>d</sup> Somers Esq <sup>r</sup> ..... | d <sup>o</sup>           |
| d <sup>o</sup> <i>Enterprise</i> . | 16, 24  | d <sup>o</sup> | Stephen Decatur Esq <sup>r</sup> .....          | d <sup>o</sup>           |

Another Frigate is expected to replace the *Philadelphia* & probably one of our small Frigates of 28 Guns will accompany her, the Crews of all our Vessels of War are now engaged for two years. —

[NA. SDA. Disp., France, Vol. 9, 1803-1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U: S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 1804*

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that, since my last letter from Malta, I have discovered that the Vessel [*Mastico*, renamed *Intrepid*] which I capt<sup>d</sup> off Tripoly the 23rd December last, was at Anchor in the Harbour when the *Philadelphia* ran on the rocks. That as soon as the Frigate took the ground, the Captain took on board upwards of one hundred Tripolines, hauled down the Turkish, and hoisted Tripoline Colours; Slipped his cables, and went out to the attack; and as soon as the Frigate surrendered, the Captain and Men proceeded on board the *Philadelphia*; plundered the Officers; made prisoners of, and conducted them on shore to the Bashaw of Tripoly. As I have clear proof of their having acted thus hostilely towards our Flag the moment they have an opportunity, I have a right to believe, they would not hesitate to do it again, if I should release the Vessel and crew, and they should fall in with an American Vessel of inferior force. I have, therefore, detained her for adjudication; and as she is not a proper Vessel to cross the Atlantic at this season of the year, I shall forward all the papers necessary for her condemnation. She has been valued at 1800 dollars, and as there cannot be the smallest doubt of her being a lawful prize, I have fitted her out as a cruiser, with 4 Guns & 70 Volunteers from the Squadron, among whom, are 10 Officers under the Command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur. She sailed last evening for Tripoly; the object is, to destroy the *Philadelphia*. She sailed in company with the *Syren* Brig Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart, who has orders to assist her with Boats in effecting the main object, and cover a retreat. I enclose you copies of their orders. I am confident of their success if the weather proves favourable. The prize being Ketch or Bombard rigged, and neither of our Brigs ever having been off Tripoly, they will not probably create suspicion; particularly as the Brig will be disguised before she approaches the coast, to give her the appearance of a Merch<sup>t</sup> Vessel. Our Frigates and Schooners are so well known, that they create alarm the moment they are seen.

The *Nautilus* and *Vixen* sail tomorrow morning on a cruise; they are to proceed to Tunis Bay, and communicate with M<sup>r</sup> Davis. The *Vixen* then goes to Algiers, and the *Nautilus* off Tripoly.

I have given this ship's rigging a thorough overhaul, painted the Hull, and shall immediately proceed to Sea.

I wrote to Naples some time since, to hire or purchase, three or four Gun & Mortar Boats, prepared with Guns and Mortars. If I succeed in procuring them, I can attach them to the different Vessels as their Boats, and I think work with effect on Tripoly, as soon as the Spring opens. I mentioned in my last letter that the Bashaw's Agent at Malta had consented to make peace with us, on the following terms Viz. No pecuniary consideration for Peace or Tribute. No consular present, except a small one with the Consul that may be first appointed. A schooner in exchange for the Frigate; and 500 doll<sup>s</sup> for the ransom of each of her Officers and Crew, after exchanging as many Americans for Tripolines, as we have Tripolines to give them —

|        |     |  |
|--------|-----|--|
| Say    | 300 | American Captives  |
| Deduct | 60  | Tripoline prisoners to be exchanged                      |
| leaves | 240 | Americans to ransom at \$500 p <sup>r</sup> . \$120, 000 |

He afterwards concluded, that the Bashaw would take One hundred thousand doll<sup>s</sup> for ransom, we giving up the Tripoline Prisoners, and make peace as above. I have written to Col Lear on the subject for his advice what to do, if the Bashaw lessens his demand as I suspect he will, should the *Philadelphia* be destroyed. If it was not for the situation of our unfortunate Country Men, I should be sorry to have peace with the Bashaw, until we could oblige him to beg for it as a favour, and sign any treaty that might be dictated to him. I am anxiously wishing for the favourable season to arrive, when we can keep constantly near Tripoly; closely blockade their ports, and annoy their Coast, to prevent the possibility of their Vessels cruising, destroy their commerce, and distress their City — We ought to have a Brig & Schooner to cruise between Cape Bon and the West end of Sicily. A Brig or Schooner off Cape Mazuratt to the south of Tripoly a Brig on the coast of Calabria; two Frigates with one Schooner and some Gun and Mortar Boats before Tripoly; and a Brig or Schooner to cruise from Derne to Bengaza. With such a force so disposed, or with Troops, Tripoly would soon be brought to any terms we might please to dictate. Gun and Mortar Boats are for the Summer service most essential.

I shall write you by every opportunity; and I now enclose you sundry papers for your information.

I sent to Captain Bainbridge One thousand doll<sup>s</sup> from Malta last Week, and a quantity of clothing for his Officers &c<sup>a</sup>. I conceive it my duty to attend to their Wants, and shall most certainly do so. Captain B — complains of not having rec<sup>d</sup> letters from me, I have written a number, and it has been altogether the fault of M<sup>r</sup> Pulis, that they have not been forwarded, together with a supply of necessaries left with him for that purpose — Whilst I was at Malta I detected M<sup>r</sup> Pulis in a transaction of a very unpleasant Nature: he had received a large number of letters from America for the Officers of the Squadron; and some from the Officers of the Squadron for their friends in the Mediterranean, America and London he kept these

letters on hand a long time; by accident I discovered that he had a large number in his possession and requested a sight of them; he at first hesitated, but as I persisted in my right of seeing them, he produced four large packages directed to the care of M<sup>r</sup> Gavino at Gibraltar to be forwarded to the U S, which he said were letters from himself and others to their friends in America. I knew that several of them were for the Navy dep<sup>t</sup> and an English Man of War to sail immediately for Gibraltar, I insisted on his opening the packages and giving me all the letters from the Officers of the Squadron. he did not chuse to do it, which increased my suspicions that all was not right, and I opened one of the Packages in presence of him and four of my Officers in which I discovered the letters that had come out for the Officers of the Squadron for some time past and all the letters that had been for the Officers at Tripoly kept by M<sup>r</sup> Pulis and that he was actually sending them back to America. All the other packages were in the same situation, and neither of them contained a single letter from him — M<sup>r</sup> Pulis was formerly Consul to the Bashaw of Tripoly, has no respectability attached to his character — cannot speak a word of English, and is by no means a proper representative for the U S to have in the Island of Malta — I wrote you from Malta that I had employed M<sup>r</sup> William Higgins as an Agent for the Squadron; he has every qualification to make a respectable Consul, and I wish for the good of the Service, that the change may take place; be assured I have no other Motive

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 1804.*

SIR, The *Vixen* and *Nautilus* Captains Smith & Somers are ordered to touch at Tunis for information, and to receive any communications you may have to make. The *Vixen* proceeds to Algiers, and shall take your dispatches for the West, and call at Tunis on her return. The *Nautilus* is ordered to cruise Eastward, and it is probable will fall in with me soon. I shall be glad to hear from you by her. It will not be long before I shall call at Tunis and hope then to establish some mode of frequent communication. I am making preparations for annoying the Tripolines in a way they have not been accustomed to as soon as the Spring opens. I enclose you extracts from C — Bainbridge's letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> — I have made a prize of the Vessel I captured off Tripoly, as she was under Tripoline Colours at the Capture of the *Philadelphia* with more than 100 Tripolines on board, and one of the first Vessels that sent her Boats to Board that unfortunate Ship; and the Captain of her one of the most active men in taking the prisoners, plundering them, & conducting them on shore to the Bashaw of Tripoly —

I refer you to Captain Smith for further information, and am with esteem & respect

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]



To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1804.*

SIR You will Sail tomorrow morning in Company with the *Vixen* for Tunis Bay, after having had communication with the shore, if you recieve information that can be depended on of any Tripoline Cruisers having gone to the West<sup>d</sup> you may take that rout most likely to fall in with them according to the Information you may recieve but if you do not hear of any such cruisers having passed to the westward you will proceed to the Coast of Tripoly and off Cape Massurat, Cruize there ten or twelve days and return to this Port — take on board as much provisions and water as you conveniently can and proceed to the Blockade of Tripoly.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1804*

SIR, You will sail tomorrow morning for Tunis, deliver the letters with which you are charged for Geo: Davis Esquire and proceed by the shortest rout to Algiers and deliver the dispatches for Col<sup>o</sup> Lear; If you should while at Tunis or Algiers, receive information to be depended on, of any Tripolitan Cruisers having passed to the Westward, You will take that route which will, in your opinion, be most likely to fall in with them according to the Information you have recieved, Cruize ten or twelve days and return to Algiers, take on board Col<sup>o</sup> Lear and R<sup>d</sup> OBrien Esquire or either of them or their dispatches and return to this place; Take in as much provisions and water as you can conveniently stow and proceed to the Blockade of Tripoly. You will however while at Algiers comply with Col<sup>o</sup> Lear's request in any thing essential for the Good of the Service — You are to capture all Tripoline or other Vessels on which Tripoline property is laden which you may happen to fall in with. You are not to suffer the vessels of any nation to enter or to have commerce with Tripoly, but have a right to treat as an Enemy whoever may endeavor to enter that place or carry any thing to it whilst blockaded by us. You are to respect the rights of Nations with whom we are at Peace and not to capture Vessels within the Jurisdictional limits or under the protection of such nations — You are at all times (as far as may be in your power) to Succour Aid, Relieve, and Free any American Vessel which you may happen to see attacked by the Enemy or in their possession

The Officers of the *Vixen* may recieve payments of money from time to time, but no advance beyond what may be due them — Should you want money for the necessary contingent expences of the *Vixen*, you are to draw on the Secretary of the Navy when it can be done and when it cannot you may draw on me, expressing in either case the purpose for which you draw your Bills.

You will keep me regularly informed from time to time of all your proceedings —

P. S. There are two Maltese Vessels who have my passports untill the first of March Next: They are to Proceed to Tripoly in ballast

and from thence to Malta with *Bullocks only* for the British Garrison there —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 3 February 1804

The *Syren* and *Intrepid* sailed for Tripoli to burn the *Philadelphia*.

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 3 February 1804

[Syracuse] Taking on board water and provisions; Setting up rigging &c<sup>a</sup> At 5 P. M. Sailed the *Syren* L<sup>t</sup> Stewart and the Prize *Intrepid* with L<sup>t</sup> Decatur with 64 Volunteers from the *Enterprize* and Six Midshipmen and two Pilots from this Ship bound for the Coast of Tripoly to endeavor to burn the Frigate late the *Philadelphia* — From information which I have recieved from Tripoly that ship is now in the Harbor with all her Guns mounted: but that she has no ammunition on board and only a Guard of about 30 Men.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 3 February 1804

at anchor in Saragosa *Syren* *Vixen* *Nautilus* and *Enterprize* in Company, the ships company Employ<sup>d</sup> setting up the Rigging and watering ship, Towards the Evening Sailed the *Syren* and the prize, the prize was Comm<sup>d</sup> by Captain decatur, and had on board 90 of the *Enterprize* Men and Officers, Six of the *Constitution* officers was also on board her, they stood out to the Southw<sup>d</sup> and are bound on some Secrete Expuditen

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 3 February 1804

Moderate breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> At Anchor at Saragosa, *Syren*, *Vixen*, *Nautilus* & *Enterprize* in company — Setting up the rigging and watering ship. Towards evening sailed the *Syren* and the Prize. The prize was commanded by Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur and had on board 70 of the *Enterprizes* men and Officers. Six Officers from the *Constitution* were also on board her. They stood out to the South<sup>d</sup> and are bound on some Secret Expedition. We recieved 28 Gang Casks of water. Moderate breezes through the night. Recieved some Old rigging which had been landed out of the prize. A. M. Employed fitting rigging & securing the Guns.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 3 February 1804

On Expedition to burn the *Philadelphia*. —

Commences with moderate breezes & pleasant weath<sup>r</sup> At 1 P. M. Hethcott Reed a midshipman & Lewis Jourvass a pilot came on board from the *Constitution* —

At 5 got under way & stood out to sea the (Ketch) *Intrepid* in company. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 Syracuse light house bore NW. The Southermost part of the harbour S. by E At 9 took the *Intrepid* in tow a strange sail in sight on the Lee bow. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 beat to quarters, charged the guns. At 10 beat the retreat & set top gall<sup>t</sup> sails At 11 back'd the main topsail & sent a number of 6 lb cartridges, 1 lb d<sup>o</sup> a quantity of wads & a package of brimstone. — Midnight haul'd up square main sail & handed top gall<sup>t</sup> sails, fresh breezes & clear, bent main stay sail & set square main sail. At 3 set stay sails & flying jib. At 9 all hands were muster'd when the intention of the Expedition was made known to the crew, with which they were pleas'd to express their satisfaction by 3 hearty cheers. At 10 beat to quarters and exercis'd the great guns & small arms. at 11 beat the retreat & hous'd the guns. Ends with fine breezes & pleasant weather —

Latt: Obs: 35°40' N —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

Feb<sup>y</sup> 4. 1804.

Your favor of the 12<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> enclosing your circular notification of the blockade of the Port of Tripoli, I have received. —

Sensible, as you must be, that it is the interest as well as the disposition of the United States to maintain the rights of neutral nations, you will, I trust, cautiously avoid whatever may appear to you to be incompatible with those rights. It is, however, deemed necessary and I am charged by the President to state to you what, in his opinion, characterizes a blockade. I have therefore to inform you that the trade of a neutral nation in articles, not contraband, cannot be rightfully obstructed to any port not actually blockaded by a force so disposed before it as to create an evident danger of entering it. Whenever therefore you shall have thus formed a blockade of the port of Tripoli, you will have a right to prevent any vessel from entering it and to capture for adjudication any vessel that shall attempt to enter the same with a knowledge of the existence of the blockade. You will, however, not take as prize any vessel attempting to enter the Port of Tripoli without such knowledge; but in every case of an attempt to enter without a previous knowledge of the existence of the blockade, you will give the commanding Officer of such vessel notice of such blockade and forewarn him from entering. And if after such a notification such vessel should again attempt to enter the same Port, you will be justifiable in sending her into port for adjudication.

You will, Sir, hence perceive that you are to consider your circular communication to the Neutral Powers, not as an evidence that every person attempting to enter had previous knowledge of the blockade, but merely as a friendly notification to them of the blockade in order that they might make the necessary arrangements for the discontinuance of all commerce with such blockaded Port. —

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 4 February 1804

[Syracuse] Bent our Sails: At 10 A. M. the *Nautilus* & *Vixen* weighed and sailed for Tunis Bay where they are to separate after having Communicated with our Agent there: The *Vixen* is then to proceed to Algiers with dispatches for Consul Lear and the *Nautilus* on a cruize off Tripoly — Wind S. W. Moderate.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 4 February 1804

moored in Saragosa. A M. at 9 made the *Nautilus* and *Vixen* Signal to weigh at 10 Sailed the *Nautilus* and *Vixen*.

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 4 February 1804

At 8 inclining to calm *Intrepid* cast off the tow rope. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 took in royals & back'd main top sail, hoisted out the cutter & sent her on board the *Intrepid* —

At 11 boat return'd, hoisted her in & fill'd away. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 set after main sail. At 4 AM wore to the w<sup>d</sup>. 8 took the *Intrepid* in tow & boarded main tack. All hands employ'd getting every thing in readiness for the expedition —

Latt: Obs: 35° 14' N.

[NDA.]

[5 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard Farquhar, Malta

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

In consequence of the different Acco<sup>ts</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> from Tripoli, and the Promises your Excellency made to assist the Bashaw of Derna to recover his Kingdom of Tripoli, I have advanced money on Acc<sup>t</sup> of the Bashaw and so confident I am of his recovering Tripoli, with the assistance of the Americans that I will advance him more and share in the Danger also

when your Excellency left this you told me that you would Either come hear in two or three weeks or send an Officer to arrange every thing with regard to assisting the now Bashaw, by sending his Consul & freinds to Alexandria. then he would soon take Derna & Bengazi, this would not only asttonish his Brother the Bashaw of Tripoli but would be of great advantage to Your Excellency in fresh Provisions &c and every thing would be ready for atack on [or attacking] Tripoli when you rec<sup>d</sup> a little more Assistance but many People is of oppinion that with the Vessels you have now & the Bashaw to land at same time that they would give up the Place Emeadetly

if your Excellency should think the Bombard I send with this will be of any service in going for the Bashaw with one of your Vessels I will send hir at my expence

the *Argo* Frigate sail'd yesterday for Alexandria with one of the Manelucks Beys of Egypt which she brought from England a few days

ago the Bashaw of Derna & his Consul is well Acquainted with this Bey & many of the Principal Turks in Egypt

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 5 February 1804

[Moored in Cadiz Bay since 23 January 1804] This day begins with moderate breezes from the Northward & eastward and Clear Weather at 8 AM, bent top Gall<sup>t</sup> sails crossed T. Gall<sup>t</sup> yards and unmoored Ship at 9 hove short on the starboard anchor the pilot came on board & beat out of the bay at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 disch<sup>d</sup> the pilot at Meridian the light house bore E. S. E. distance about one League Set studding sails fore and aft —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 6 February 1804

at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 hoisted the Ensign to his Britannic Majestys frigate *Medusa* made and took in sail as Necessary at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 Cape Spartel bore S S W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 AM employed beating into Tangier Bay at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 brought to with the bower anchor in 12 fathoms The town of Tangier bearing W B N \* \* \* the Captain and a passenger went on Shore

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 6 February 1804

Commences with fresh gales from the N<sup>e</sup> W<sup>e</sup> with rain At 1 handed top sails. haul'd down fore top mast stay sail & double reef'd after main sail, set them & rounded too. made signal for the *Intrepid* to heave too. at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 hous'd top gall<sup>t</sup> masts. At 3 set fore top mast stay sail. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 bore away for the *Intrepid*. At 8 the *Intrepid* brought too —

Midnight made signal for the *Intrepid* to wear. same time wore to the N<sup>e</sup> & E<sup>e</sup> At 4 made signal for the *Intrepid* to wear again same time wore to the N<sup>e</sup> & W<sup>e</sup>  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 haul'd down main stay sail At 11 hoisted out the cutter & sent her on board the *Intrepid*.  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 11 the cutter return'd with Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur — Meridian wore to the N<sup>e</sup> & E<sup>e</sup> set the topsails close reef'd & shook the reefs out of the main sail & set main stay sail. Hands employ'd making preparations for the intended expedition.

Latt: Obs: 32° 22' N.

[NDA.]

To Hon. Joseph H. Nicholson, United States Congress, from Secretary of the Navy  
8th Congress

1st Session

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 17, 1804.

Navy Department, February 7, 1804.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 4th instant. The arrangements contemplated at the navy yard at this place are —

1st. To discontinue the services of certain officers and men who have been found to be superfluous.

2d. Instead of entering a certain portion of men for each ship, and as the peace establishment law directs, attaching them permanently to such ship, to enter the men for the general service of the yard, and to assign to them one ship, as a place of eating, sleeping, &c.

The officers proposed to be discontinued may retire on half pay, like other officers of the navy not in actual service.

The accompanying copy of a letter from Captain Cassin to me, exhibits a detailed view of the grounds upon which the proposed arrangements are founded.

Statement B exhibits a view of the officers and men at present employed at the yard and on board of the ships in ordinary; also a view of the officers and men proposed to be discontinued, and of those proposed to be retained.

Statement C is an estimate of the saving which the adoption of the contemplated arrangements would produce.

I have the honor to be, sir, respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT SMITH.

Honorable JOSEPH NICHOLSON.

#### A.

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant John Cassin, U. S. Navy

JANUARY 23, 1804.

SIR: Since I have had the honor of being entrusted with the charge of the ships in ordinary, many objections to the system prescribed by the act of Congress, providing for a naval peace establishment, in relation to the officering and manning the vessels in ordinary, have occurred to me. To provide a remedy, and suggest it for your consideration, I have reflected much on the subject, and have advised with gentlemen of the first practical information. The result I now beg leave, respectfully, to submit:

By the act of March 3, 1801, it is provided that there shall be permanently attached to each frigate laid up in ordinary, one sailing-master, one boatswain, one gunner, one carpenter, one cook, one sergeant, or corporal of marines, and eight marines; and to the large frigates, twelve, and to the small frigates, ten seamen. The sailing-master of each ship to have the general care and superintendence of the ship, and generally to execute such duties of a purser as may be necessary.

Agreeably to the provisions of this law, and the instructions which you have, from time to time, honored me with, the ships placed under my care have heretofore been officered and manned. My objections to the present system, are, 1st. The officers and men being dispersed in small squadrons on board of a number of ships, cannot be collected with that facility or despatch which is desirable.

2d. There being a squadron of men on board of each ship, there must necessarily be a fire kept on board each ship to cook at, and in proportion to the number of fires is our danger of suffering from them.

3d. The officers cannot be sufficiently employed, and our experience has demonstrated that even good officers will degenerate if not actively employed. It will be perceived, in the sequel, that there are other

objections to the present system. They are, however, subordinate to the three principal objections above recited, and proceed from them.

With respect to the first objection, it is obviously desirable that our force should be concentrated as much as possible. If all were drawn from one point, it could be applied at a moment's warning. For many days together the services of the men are required for one common object; every day, therefore, when their services are so required, we unavoidably lose time in collecting them.

2dly. It is manifestly true that, under the present system, we are exposed to great and constant danger from fire, and a considerable proportion of the time of the men is unavoidably employed in cleaning up dirt made by themselves on board of their respective vessels, and dirt is a powerful auxiliary in rotting a ship.

3dly. As our officers are not sufficiently employed, they will not avoid setting an evil example of idleness and inactivity. While at sea, sailing-masters, boatswains, gunners, and carpenters, have all important duties to discharge, and they would have important duties in a vessel in ordinary, if all the rigging, sails, cables, guns, spars, &c. were kept on board.

But, under the present system, every article belonging to these departments is taken from on board the vessels, and deposited on shore, and neither of these officers have a single article under their charge, excepting the master, who, under my superintending control, has the general charge of the ship; our experience having evinced the inexpediency of requiring masters to perform the duties of pursers, the provision which has been substituted will, I have no doubt, be found a very salutary one.

Having suggested these defects in the present system, it becomes me also to suggest a remedy, which I do, with great deference, by proposing—

1st. That the establishment of officers and men at the navy yard shall consist of only the following:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Master of the yard,                               | 2 Gunners, one sail-maker,      |
| 1 Head carpenter and constructor,<br>with his crew, | 1 Ship-keeper to each ship, and |
| 1 Purser,   | 100 Seamen, and three guards of |
| 1 Clerk, to keep the account of the<br>stores,      | marines,                        |
| 1 Clerk of the yard,                                | Plumber, blacksmith, and crew,  |
| 2 Boatswains,                                       | Block-maker and crew,           |
|   | Cooper and crew.                |

We have at present:

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 10 Sailingmasters,                             | 1 Clerk of the yard,           |
| 1 Carpenter, head and crew,                    | Plumber, blacksmith, and crew, |
| 11 Boatswains,                                 | Block-maker and crew,          |
| 11 Gunners,                                    | Cooper and crew,               |
| 11 Carpenters, one sail-maker,                 | 130 Seamen,                    |
| 1 Clerk, to keep the account of the<br>stores, | 11 Guards of marines,          |
| 1 Purser.                                      |                                |

2d. That all the men have their cooking done, diet and sleep, on board of one ship, or in a house to be built for the purpose. This arrangement would not only diminish the expense, as appears by paper A, and increase the security of the public property, but would enable me to discharge the duties assigned to me with increased facility and despatch.

Under the proposed arrangement, it would be the duty of the master of the yard to attend to laying down the buoys, marking out the channel, to be in readiness with the proper pilots to go on board of ships of the United States, at the mouth of the branch, and to bring them up to their moorings, and take them from thence to sea; to be vigilant in despatching boats necessarily provided for the relief of such vessels coming into port, and for the discharge of stores, &c. having them carefully conveyed to the warehouses appropriated to the same. To visit the ships in ordinary at least once a day, in order that they should be kept clean and sweet, and properly ventilated to prevent decay, and in case of delinquency to report thereof. When any ship of ships should be ordered for sea, to attend particularly to the distribution of officers and men, as may be found necessary to facilitate the execution of such order. To state from under his hand a proportion of rigging, ground tackle, and stores, for the boatswains, that the superintendent may warrant the store-keeper in the issue thereof. He is to specify the size, length, and quantity, of each required, in order to frame indentures for the boatswains of each ship to sign previous to leaving port. When it becomes necessary for the crews in ordinary to perform duty in the yard, to regulate the distribution of officers and men for the better performance thereof; to attend to the moorings of the ships in proper season; to see the cables well secured from ice or other injury; their boats carefully collected and placed under cover, when no longer necessary to be exposed to the weather; to attend in person on board of ships removing from their moorings to dock, &c. It is also necessary that he should pay great care and attention to the ships' spars received at the navy yard, and suggest such measures as will prevent their decay. It is further necessary that he should visit the warehouses frequently, and examine the stores of each ship, placing them in a state of forwardness, as far as the state of ordinary will admit.

The boatswains and gunners would be placed under the immediate eye of the master of the yard, and should have the particular charge and direction of crews employed in their respective departments.

The three guards of marines would be placed, one on board the headmost and one on board the sternmost ships, to prevent boats coming inside of the moorings at night, &c. and one guard in the yard to prevent desertion and to guard the public property there.

The duties of the other officers have already been prescribed to them by you, and are well known to themselves.

Thus, sir, I have taken the liberty of suggesting to you the aforementioned arrangement, which, in my opinion, would effectually remove all the obstacles at present opposed to the security of the public property committed to my care, and to the due and prompt execution of any orders with which you may honor me, as superintendent of the yard.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient humble servant,

JOHN CASSIN,  
*Superintendent Navy Yard.*

Honorable ROBERT SMITH,  
Secretary of the Navy.



At present we consume annually about one hundred and thirty cords of wood, and one thousand bushels of coal. Under the proposed arrangement forty cords of wood and two hundred and fifty bushels of coal would be sufficient, and the proposed arrangement contemplates our dispensing with the service of

- 9 Sailing masters,
- 9 Boatswains,
- 9 Gunners,
- 11 Carpenters,
- 30 Seamen,
- 8 Guards of marines;

All of which, it will be found, diminish the expenses of the yard from twenty to thirty thousand dollars per annum. If the sailing masters, boatswains, gunners, and carpenters, proposed to be dispensed with, were furloughed and put on half pay, in that case the saving to the public would be upwards of twenty thousand dollars a year.

B.

*View of the officers and men at present employed at the navy yard, and on board the ships in ordinary, at Washington; also a view of the officers and men proposed to be discontinued, and of those proposed to be retained.*

| Officers and men at present employed.         | Officers and men proposed to be discontinued. | Officers and men proposed to be retained. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Navy agent, .....                           | .....   | 1 Captain of the navy,*                   |
| 1 Superintendent, .....                       | .....   | 1 Superintendent,                         |
| 1 Surgeon, .....                              | .....   | 1 Surgeon,                                |
| 1 Surgeon's mate, .....                       | .....   | 1 Surgeon's mate                          |
| 10 Sailing masters, .....                     | 9 Sailing masters, .....                      | 1 Sailing master,                         |
| 1 Head carpenter, .....                       | .....   | 1 Head carpenter,                         |
| 1 Purser, .....                               | .....   | 1 Purser,                                 |
| 1 Clerk to keep the accounts of stores, ..... | .....   | 1 Clerk to keep the accounts of stores,   |
| 1 Clerk of the yard, .....                    | .....   | 1 Clerk of the yard,                      |
| 11 Boatswains, .....                          | 9 Boatswains, .....                           | 2 Boatswains,                             |
| 11 Gunners, .....                             | 9 Gunners, .....                              | 2 Gunners,                                |
| 11 Carpenters, .....                          | 11 Carpenters, .....                          | .....                                     |
| 1 Sailmaker and crew, .....                   | .....   | 1 Sailmaker and crew,                     |
| 1 Plumber and crew, .....                     | .....   | 1 Plumber and crew,                       |
| 1 Blockmaker and crew, .....                  | .....   | 1 Blockmaker and crew,                    |
| 1 Cooper and crew, .....                      | .....   | 1 Cooper and crew,                        |
| 130 Seamen, .....                             | 30 Seamen, .....                              | 100 Seamen,†                              |
| 11 Guards of marines, .....                   | 8 Guards of marines. ....                     | 3 Guards of marines.                      |

\* 1 Captain of the navy, proposed to be attached to the establishment, would have the general superintendence of the navy yard, and perform the duties of navy agent.

† In no state of things shall we require more than one hundred seamen at the yard.

## C.

*Estimate of the annual expense of keeping in actual service the officers and men proposed in statement B to be discontinued, which exhibits the annual saving that would be produced by adopting the arrangements contemplated.*

| PAY   |                   |               |               |
|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 9 Sailing masters   | at \$40 per month | \$4, 320. 00  |               |
| 9 Boatswains,   | at 20 do.         | 2, 160. 00    |               |
| 9 Gunners,  | at 20 do.         | 2, 160. 00    |               |
| 11 Carpenters,  | at 20 do.         | 2, 640. 00    |               |
|   |                   | \$11, 280. 00 |               |
| Deduct the amount of the half pay of the above officers, which they would receive when not in actual service,-- |                   | 5, 640. 00    |               |
|   |                   | \$5, 640. 00  |               |
| 30 Seamen   | at \$12 per month | 4, 320. 00    | \$9, 960. 00  |
| PROVISIONS.   |                   |               |               |
| 38,690 rations, at 20 cents,  |                   |               | 7, 738. 00    |
| GUARDS OF MARINES.  |                   |               |               |
| 8 Guards of marines,  |                   |               | 12, 705. 28   |
| In the articles of wood, coal, candles, &c. we should save about  |                   |               | 1, 000. 00    |
|   |                   |               | \$31, 403. 28 |

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff., Vol. 1.]

To Midshipman John B. Nicholson, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Feb<sup>y</sup> 7. 1804 —

Dispatches will be delivered to you by the Secretary of the Treasury, which you will carry to New York and there deliver to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Leonard of the Navy, if it should be agreeable to him to proceed with them thence to France. If it should not be agreeable to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Leonard to carry the dispatches to France, you are to proceed with them to France yourself, under such instructions as you may receive from the Secretary of the Treasury. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Midshipman (acting as Lieutenant) James T. Leonard, U. S. Navy, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>  
Feb<sup>y</sup> 7. 1804. —

This letter will be delivered to you by M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> B. Nicholson who will also deliver to you dispatches from the Secretary of the Treasury, which you are to carry to France, if it should not interfere with your private engagements, but should it interfere with your private engagements, M<sup>r</sup> Nicholson himself will carry the dispatches to France. —

In the event of your going to France with the dispatches, you will conform yourself to such instructions as you may receive from the Secretary of the Treasury. While on this duty, you will be allowed full pay and rations from this dep<sup>t</sup> and you will be allowed at the Treasury dep<sup>t</sup> your reasonable expences, of which the Secretary of the Treasury will give you more particular information. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Levett Harris, U. S. Consul General,  
St. Petersburg, Russia

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg 26 Jan<sup>y</sup> — 7 February 1804*

SIR, The unfortunate news of the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia* reached this about two weeks since, being however without information from any of my Colleagues on the subject, I was induced for some time to encourage doubts of its truth; but it is with deep regret I have to add, that the intelligence received by the two last mails is such, as to leave my error too manifest.

As soon as this fatal information was intitled to credence, I delayed not a moment to address an official note to the Grand Chancellor of this Empire, soliciting the influence of His Imperial Majesty with the Turkish Government in behalf of the Officers and Crew, who by this disaster fell a prey to the merciless barbarians of Tripolie — You must be convinced of the importance of an intercession so ascendant as that of a Monarch of Russia, Who, from the eminent position He has taken the present War, has added weight to the power and Consequence which He maintains throughout Europe. I have the most cordial satisfaction Sir, in felicitating you and my Country on the magnanimous part which His Imperial Majesty has deigned on this occasion so promptly to take, and I delay not a moment to transmit the inclosed Copy of the Chancellors letter that you, and all attached to the Squadron under your Command, may share in the general gratification it is calculated to produce. —

If no effective measures have been employed, on your receipt of this, in behalf of our Suffering fellow Citizens, you will be too sensible of the powerful influence of the Court of S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg at Constantinople, to delay improving the value of its interposition: It will in that case perhaps, conduct you to a Correspondence with M<sup>r</sup> d'Italinsky Russian Ambassador there, the result whereof, I cannot doubt, will be as satisfactory as the event to which it may lead, must be fortunate and consolatory.

LEVETT HARRIS.

duplicate to the care of the U. S Consul Gibraltar

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy,  
on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 7 February 1804

Fresh Breezes & cloudy. Winds North<sup>d</sup> At Anchor at Saragosa, *Enterprize* in company — Ships company employed as necessary — Cleared hawse — Condemned by survey ten barrells of beef marked as follows "George Town, J. Knouse, D Madeira". It was stinking and rotten and thrown Overboard into the sea; The Beef was recieved from the *Traveller* an American store ship, and had been repickled three times in expectation of bringing it to —

At 8 P. M. appeared in the offing the U. S. Schooners *Vixen* and *Nautilus*; They had no colours hoisted The *Bittern* weighed and stood out to sea — Made the *Vixen* & *Nautilus* Signals to hoist their colors. After the Signal was obeyed the *Bittern* Stood in and reanchored as did the *Vixen* and *Nautilus*. Strong breezes throughout the night At 2 A. M. the weather became Squally. Bitted a range on the sheet

cable. At 7 A. M. made the *Vixen* and *Nautilus* Signal to prepare to sail, and signal for all captains. L<sup>ts</sup> Somers & Smith waited on the Commodore At 10 A. M. the *Nautilus* sailed as did the *Bittern* — Strong breezes all the forenoon. Recieved from shore a Quantity of new rigging Surgeons report 19 sick, 2 conv<sup>es</sup> & one discharged Noon strong breezes from the Northward.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

[8 February 1804]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

(LS)

By Edward Preble Esquire Commander  
in chief of the United States  
Squadron stationed in the  
Mediterranean.

To Lieutenant John, H. Dent hereby appointed Lieutenant Commandant of the U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*

BY VIRTUE of the Power and Authority to me Given, I do hereby Constitute and appoint you Lieutenant Commandant of the United States Schooner *Enterprize*; Willing and requiring you forthwith to go on board and take upon you the charge and Command of Lieutenant Commandant in her accordingly; Strictly charging and Commanding all the Officers and Company belonging to the said Schooner, to behave themselves jointly and severally in their respective Employments with all due respect and Obedience unto you their said Lieutenant Commandant: And you likewise to observe and execute the General printed instructions, And Such Orders and directions as you shall from time to time recieve from me, or any other your Superior Officer for the United States Service: hereof nor you nor any of you may fail as you will answer the Contrary at your peril. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

Given under my hand and  
Seal this 8<sup>th</sup> day of Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804  
and 28<sup>th</sup> Year of the  
Independance of the  
United States of America  
(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To John Broadbent, Messina, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour February 8<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR, M<sup>r</sup> Dyson has mentioned to me that on application you would afford me your assistance in procuring a few Gun and Mortar Boats. I am in want of four of the former, and two or three of the latter, all of the largest size. The Gun Boats to carry a long 24 or 32 Pounder, and the Mortar Boats a ten inch Mortar each — I wish the Boats to be in compleat order with Guns and Mortars and shall want shot and shells, suitable for the same You will lay me under a great obligation by writing to some of your friends at Naples who have influence with the Court to endeavour to obtain an order that my wants may be supplied— It is said that there are some good Mortar Boats at

Palermo, and I believe you have some at Messina. I beg your early attention to this business and hope soon to have the pleasure of personally acknowledging the favour.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 8 February 1804

[Moored in Tangier Bay] At 6 P. M unmoored at 7 Weighed and made sail for Gibraltar light airs and calm through the night at midnight Cabreta point bore [space] Europa Point bore [space]

At 6 AM, brought too with the starboard anchor in the S E, and moored with the Larboard in the N W, S<sup>t</sup> Roque N b E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E Devils Tower S E  $\frac{1}{2}$  S, people employ'd as Necessary —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 8 February 1804

Fresh breezes from the W<sup>d</sup> with a heavy swell from the N E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Meridian made the land bearing S W by S — At 1 P. M took in main sail close reef'd the topsails & haul'd up fore sail. At 2 sent L<sup>t</sup> Decatur on board the *Intrepid* & directed him to proceed ahead.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 proportioned our sails to keep about 5 miles astern. At 5 made the town of Tripoli bearing S E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E bore up for it (at 8 sounded in 13 fathoms water. At [space] came too in 7 fathoms, with the larboard bower, the E. point of the land bearing S S W supposed to be about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile off. It being dark & hazy could desern no object by which we might know the precise place. Got the boats out sounded a considerable distance astern & got 6, 7 & 8 fathoms, hard bottom, also in shore got 6, 7, 5 & 4 fathoms hard bottom (Cutter being very much injur'd hoisted her up astern) At 10 saw a light bearing W by N not far dist<sup>t</sup> suppos'd to be the *Intrepid*. At 11 it bore N W by W. answr'd it by a light on the starboard bow, Got in the boats the wind hauling to the N<sup>d</sup> & increasing, also the sea, the brig rolling gunnels under — brought too the takes on the cable (parted them) drawing bolts & hooks, bro<sup>t</sup> the messenger & purchases, after heaving at it 5 hours (men 3 times knocked down from the barrs & several much injur'd) a bank heaving in sight to the N E, wind & sea increasing & day light approaching which would discover us to the enemy, we cut the cable; set close reef'd topsails, reef'd fore sail set fore top mast stay sail & main stay sail reef'd & stood off N by E. hous'd the guns shipp'd the ports, clearing decks & secur'd the boats. At 6 AM the gale increasing considerably took in fore top sail & fore top mast stay sail. Tripoli bearing S by W 5 leagues. at 7 spoke the *Intrepid*.

Meridian heavy gales & thick hazy weather

Latt: Obs: 33°20' N.

[NDA.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>

Feb<sup>y</sup> 9. 1804. —

Since my letter to you on the subject of conveying the *Betsy Walk* (now called the *Woodrop Sims*) I have rec<sup>d</sup> information that she has

an Algerine protection against all the Barbary powers. As she has such a protection it may be unnecessary to afford her convoy — the subject however is still committed to the discretion of yourself and M<sup>r</sup> Gavino. —

[Similar letter to John Gavino, Gibraltar, 9 February 1804.]

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent,  
Malta

MALTA the 9 febr<sup>y</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR A Cargo of Stores for the Squadron under your Command has arrived in this Port and as it is addressed by Charter to M<sup>r</sup> Pulis of course I cannot take upon myself to give any directions concerning it — The Vessel is obliged to go no further than this place and of course the Captain will demand an extraordinary freight for carrying the Cargo to your place — You would do well to give immediate directions concerning it and furnish me with orders to take the same under my direction, either (if you choose it to be sent to Syracuse), to make a fresh agreement with Captain Tipling or if he is too exorbitant in his demands affre[il]ght some other Vessel for the purpose of sending it over to you —

I have had some letters put into my hands for Captain Bainbridge and his Officers, I expect to be able to forward them in the course of a day or two. — As yet I have no news from Tripoly.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 9 February 1804

Moored in Gibraltar Bay These 24 hours Commence with hard gales from the Eastward Arrived here the American Ship *Independance* of Baltimore from Leghorn bound to Baltimore Came too Abreast of us but blowing to heavy her anchors could not bring her up she made sail out of the bay for the Strait 107<sup>lb</sup> of damaged bread hove overboard At 6 AM, sent the end of the stream Cable on board an english merchant ship whose anchors could not hold her she not being in a condition to make sail for want of hands Arrived here an English convoy bound to Malta under convoy of the *Sophy* Sloop of War Employed as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 10<sup>th</sup> febr<sup>y</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR I have to inform you that this day arrived a Danish Brig, the Commander of which has declared that he was boarded the 12<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> between Sardenia & the Coast of Italy by a Tripolin Cruiser, she was a three mast Polacra with 8 Guns, about 60 Men, had black Top sides, & 90 Tonn burthen, sayd had taken nothing but mentiond the misfortune happend the *Philad*\* \* \*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

N<sup>o</sup> 144

GIBRALTAR 10<sup>th</sup> february 1804

SIR I have not been honord with any of yours since my last N<sup>o</sup> 143 dated 2<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> continued to the 4<sup>th</sup> —

I have now to inform you that I this day received a Letter from W<sup>m</sup> H. Thone Commander of the Scho<sup>r</sup> *Citizen* with the Gun Carriages dated L'Orient 6<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> wherein he tells me was not permitted to Sail untill the departure of the French Squadron, which he supposed would be the first fair wind, her has not yet appeared here. —

This day arrived a Danish Brig the Comm<sup>r</sup> of which declares he was boarded the 12<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> between Sicily & the coast of Italy by a Tripoline Cruiser, she was a Polacra with 3 Masts, 8 Guns, about 60 Men & 90 Tunns burthen, had black Top sides, sayd had taken nothing, and informed him of the misfortune happend the *Philadelphia*. I have Communicated this to Comodor Prible, Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull Commander of the Brig *Argus* now in the Bay, and the Consuls along the Coast. —

at Malaga Publick health is restored

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796-1804.]

To Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 10<sup>th</sup> February 1804.

SIR, I wrote you the 26th. Ult<sup>o</sup> by the Victualing Ship called *Port Mary* for the Squadron which I forwarded you. The enclosed being of consequence please forward it to Commodore Preble as soon as possible. A Tripoline Cruiser Polacre Ship of 8 Guns 60 Men and about 90 Tons with 3 Masts visited the 12th Ult<sup>o</sup> a Danish Brig between Sardinia and the Coast of Italy

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Syracuse, from Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul,  
Malta

MALTA 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR. I moreover add you these few lines, in order to have the honour of informing you, that two days past, has arrived at this place, a Vessel from Alexandria in Egypt, with whom I have had the pleasure of receiving a letter from the Basha of Tripoly's Brother, who at present resides at that place. —

And who writes to me in the following Manner. —

That he would be eternally kept at the disposal of the United States of America, if they would protect and help him (as Commodore Morris had promised him, he would write to our Government about it) And that having such protection, he is sure would enjoy of the Command of the Regence of Tripoly. —

I beg you to honour me with an Answer concerning this affair, that I may Answer to the Dey of Alexandria respecting the same. — \* \* \*

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>ry</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1804 —

SIR You will proceed to Messina with the *Enterprize*, deliver the Letters with which you are charged, Examine the Gun and Mortar boats there, and endeavour to know if any of the largest size are for Sale, Enquire what Guns or Mortars can be procured, what Vessels suitable for Gun Boats or light Cruizers are for Sale or Charter, and

at what rate. You will stay only two days at Messina and return directly to this place. You may take under Convoy any American Vessels bound to the Westward and from hence I will give them protection as far as Algiers. —

L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> J. H. DENT

U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*

[NHF. Dent's LB.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

Gibraltar Bay 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

SIR, As the Ship that brings this is under way, I have but a moment to inform you, that I arrived here two days since from Cadiz, and Tangier, and have the pleasure to acquaint you, that all is peaceable on this Station, The Emperors Ships are all dismantled, and no attempt has been made to equip any of them for Sea since you left this. —

I am now taking on board Provisions & Water, and shall in a few days run up as far as Cape de Gatt, and call at Malaga, as soon as the Communication is open with that part of Spain — The Schooner with Gun Carriages, is hourly expected here, should she arrive, before I leave this, I shall run over to Tangier with her, and attend to their delivery

It is unfortunate, that I happened to be absent from this, when the Store Ship arrived, as so good an opportunity seldom offers for sending Letters to Malta. —

I have no news to send you, but have collected a few Papers at Cadiz, and this place, and hope you will receive them. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 10 February 1804

[Syracuse] Fresh Gales from N N W & cloudy — *Vixen* & *Enterprize* in Company At sundown moderate & pleasant after blowing a hard Gale for these 4 days past. Got up lower Yards and top Gallant Masts: I recieved letters from Palermo announcing the arrival there of five Merchant Vessels from the United States, and letters from Messina with a request that I would send a Vessel to convoy the American Ship *Port Mary* laden with a very Valuable cargo to the Westward clear of Danger. Ordered the *Enterprize* to prepare to sail under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Dent whom I have appointed L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>dt</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Decatur being absent on an expedition to the Coast of Tripoly — Lent the *Enterprize* a Lieut<sup>t</sup> Midshipman, Surgeons Mate and Thirty Men. —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Richard Harrison, Auditor of the Treasury, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Feb<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. I return the documents enclosed in your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ult. in relation to M<sup>r</sup> Eatons accounts. On a view of the contingent expences as now specified and explained it seems proper that they



be admitted as far as the items of which they consist are comprised within the rules established by my letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> July last; and the following may also be admitted, viz: Customary presents at public feasts, expences of horses & carriages, repairs of the house & appurtenances, hire of boats, portorage, postage, sums paid to Couriers, and small presents to Messengers coming on public business.

On the reference of the demand on account of the *Gloria* to the Navy Department it was rejected under the idea that no such addition could be made to the Naval establishment without an express legal sanction, but from the nature of the service for which she was destined she may be looked upon as retained for giving and receiving intelligence. Under this impression her hire may be settled at a reasonable rate for the period she may have been actually employed in such service. The last charge of 10,131-78/100 Dollars under date of August 1802, is under all circumstances of the case not admissible under any proper exercise of the discretion vested in the Executive.

As the Bey of Tunis has admitted the receipt of the Military and Naval Stores due to him in consideration of the peace, it may be omitted to charge M<sup>r</sup> Eaton with them.

[NA. SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 14, May 1802-May 1805.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS Feb<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR I had the pleasure of writing to you on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, under cover to D<sup>r</sup> Davis, our Charge d'Affairs at Tunis, and forwarded a copy on the 2<sup>d</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> through the same channel. I also wrote to Citizen Beaussier, the Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> of the French Republic, at the same time, and enclosed a letter for you from M<sup>r</sup> Thainville the French Agent here. Immediately on hearing of your misfortune I authorized D<sup>r</sup> Davis to give every necessary supply to yourself & our unfortunate fellow Citizens, with you, and to enable him to do so, I placed a credit of ten thousand dollars in his hands. Since that I have rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from D<sup>r</sup> Davis of the 27<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> acknowledging the receipt of my letter &c. and enclosing a copy of his to you on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> —

I sent to our Gov<sup>t</sup> the account of your misfortune, as soon as it came to my knowledge, and of the steps which I had taken in consequence, and have the pleasure to know that my letters have gone from Alicant to the U. S. by good & safe opportunities. —

I yesterday rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Charles Pinkney, our Minister at Madrid, in which he informs me, that upon hearing of your misfortune, he had applied to the French & British Ministers at Madrid to write to the Agents of their respective nations, at Tripoli, to use their best endeavours that the unfortunate situation of yourself & fellow Citizens might be rendered as comfortable as possible in Captivity, and authorized them to use 3 or 4000 dollars, if necessary, to supply your immediate wants, and look to him for reimbursement; adding that he did this without any special authority from our Gov<sup>t</sup> knowing that our affairs with Barbary were committed to the care of Commodore Preble & myself; but he was led to do it from motives of humanity, lest I might not have had timely notice of your misfortune, or any accident sh<sup>d</sup> retard supplies from this quarter. — He requests

me to assure you & the others of our fellow Citizens in Captivity of his sincere commiseration, & earnest desire to render you every service in his power. —

At the same time I received a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, dated at Leghorn Dec<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> informing me that he had authorized M<sup>r</sup> Nyssen, the Danish Consul at Tripoli, to furnish 3 or 4000 dollars for your use, and that he sh<sup>d</sup> purchase two suits for each man from his private funds. The style of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart's letter to me was arrogant & dictatorial, and carrying with it an idea that he was the person empowered to do these things. He tells M<sup>r</sup> Nyssen that as he has no more cash, he shall write to our Agents at Algiers to furnish him further, & expects that I shall do it. — Had M<sup>r</sup> C any reason to believe me ignorant of my powers & duties, or negligent in attending to them, he might well have written in this manner. — M<sup>r</sup> C should consider that he is now but a private Citizen; & further, he should remember, that his conduct has given disgust (whether right or wrong) to the Barbary powers; and therefore it could do no good to our affairs for him to assume an agency in them. — Had humanity alone dictated this measure I am sure no one would have given him more credit than myself; but I see in it more of a wish to appear consequential & arrogate to himself a power which he possesses not, than anything else. I am however, sincerely happy that there are so many sources of supplies for our unfortunate Countrymen. —

I hope, my dear Bainbridge, you will not think hardly of me for speaking thus of a man, who has taken measures for the relief of those of our Countrymen who are in misfortune. God forbid I should do any thing but thank him for the act; but I confess, the *manner* in which he has done it, as it relates to me, has wound my feelings; for I trust that yourself & those with you will have no cause to accuse me of inattention to your wants.

Affairs between the British & this Regency have assumed a very serious aspect. — In April last the Dey sent M<sup>r</sup> Falcon, the British Consul out of this Regency, with marks of high indignity; and soon after his Cruizers to a number of Vessels having the passports of General Ball & others, condemned & sold vessels & cargoes, and kept the crew in slavery. — This business was dormant here 'till the 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo, when 8 British Ships of the line, with Lord Nelson, in the *Victory*, appeared off the Harbour. Cap<sup>t</sup> Keets came to anchor in the *Superb* of 74 Guns, with M<sup>r</sup> Falcon on board. The letters of Lord Nelson to the Dey, insisting upon his receiving M<sup>r</sup> F. again as Consul, making an apology for sending him out of the Country, in the *manner* he did, and giving up the Crews of those Vessels bearing British passports, & making indemnification for the Vessels & Cargoes, were received by him with great indignity. Cap<sup>t</sup> Keets had an interview with the Dey on the 16<sup>th</sup> in which he urged those points with high Language, such as the Dey never heard before. The Dey retorted and much altercation ensued. The Dey absolutely refused to receive M<sup>r</sup> Falcon again, or to yield any one point. — The next day the Ships stood into the Bay. Cap<sup>t</sup> Keets came on shore again; but the Dey refused to see him, saying he had given him his answer yesterday. Every preparation was made for defence. An immediate attack was expected; but the Ships tacked & stood out of the Bay again. The next day they were 5 or 6 Leagues to the N.E. (excepting the *Superb*, which stood on & off in the Bay; but had no communication with

the shore) calm or light airs all day. On the 19<sup>th</sup> the Ship disappeared, and have not been seen since. The heroic character of Lord Nelson forbids the idea of fear, on the part of the British, with such a force; and there can be no doubt but he was called off on other business which could not be delayed; particularly as another Ship joined him on the morning of his departure. — Thus stands the business & we are in anxious expectation of the issue. —

This appearance of the British fleet has caused some commotion here, and much irritation against the Jews, who are supposed to have been the cause of the dispute with the British. Busnah, the Jew, was attacked by a Turk in the Street & slightly wounded. The whole paternity are in fear & trembling, and frequent robberies which happen in the neighbourhood of the City, causes no small degree of alarm: — Indeed there seems to be a discontent prevailing which threatens serious consequences. —

I have not received any letters from the U. States since my arrival here; nor heard a word from Commodore Preble since he left this Bay on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup>. By a letter which I received yesterday from M<sup>r</sup> Gavino, he informs me that a Vessel arrived from Baltimore which brings accounts of Cap<sup>t</sup> Sterretts recruiting men for the *Essex*, which may be daily expected in this Sea. —

I feel anxious to hear from you & know the situation of yourself, your Officers & men, and many other important points in which you will be able to give me information. —

M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien is still here, his wife has lately presented him with a fine Boy, and I presume they will hardly depart untill the season is more favourable. — They send their best regards to you. —

M<sup>rs</sup> Lear desires me to tell you how much she thinks of yourself & our other fellow citizens in captivity, and how anxiously she wishes your deliverance.

Remember me to those about you. I need not say you must bear your misfortune like men; for I know you will do it; and with my best wishes you may be assured that everything will be done for you in the power of,

TOBIAS LEAR

N.B. Enclosed to G. Davis Esq<sup>r</sup> in N<sup>o</sup> 6.

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

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To Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1803 [1804]*

SIR, I understand that a store ship for the squadron under my Command has arrived at Malta. I must confess I am not a little surprized that you should neglect to inform me of this event — Several Vessels arrived here yesterday from Malta by which I received the information. I have sent Captain Smith to take the sole direction of the Cargo of the Store Ship, and any letters that she has for the Officers of my Squadron — A pilot brought over as many Seamen as I shall want.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Feb<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1804. *Syracuse Harbor*

SIR M<sup>r</sup> Butler Master of the *Vixen* has reported to me that he has so far recovered his health as to be able to attend to his duty; You will therefore send M<sup>r</sup> Burrows on board this Ship, and Recieve M<sup>r</sup> Butler.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Stephen Cathalan, Jr.,  
U. S. Commerical Agent, Marseilles, France

MARSEILLES 13<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

SIR I have the honor to beg your reference to the inclosed Copy of a Letter I have received yesterday from J. Lea<sup>r</sup> Cathcart who was our Consul at Tripoly, now in Leghorn.

His demands Could not be executed here or at Toulon unless this Government should grant us the permission to purchase, build or fit out such vessels & export the ammunition desired, which is forbidden by the existing laws of France — It is also doubtfull, whether this Government would consent Such an armament be made in the Ports of France by a power in war against tripoly.

I Should have wrote already to the Prefect Maritim at Toulon on that Subject, but he could do nothing — without orders from the Minister of Marine — This being an object of dylomacy, which, if obtained, must be kept Secret, I cannot apply to any to treat this matter with this Minister or that of foreign Relations than to you, Sir, to do it properly & Efficaciously; — If they Should have Such Vessells not to be employed in this war against England, they might wish to Sell them and give orders at Toulon in Conformity or let us build them at Toulon, La Seyne or Marseilles after their own Models; & I hope they could be built & Ready two months after such permission granted Should have reached me.

Unfortunately we have too many Americans in Captivity at Tripoly, when the Sweeds threatened the Bey of Tripoly of a Bombardment, his Repply was that the first attempt to execute it, would be the signal to put to death the Sweedish Captives in his power! Is it not to be apprehended such a threatening for the american Captives by the U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia* —

On your answer which I will transmit to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart I will be ready to execute your orders and any I may Receive for the United States Service — You may write direct to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart at Leghorn on that subject Begging you to advise the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State at Washington of what occurs —

P. S. I have Strongly Recommended the American Officers & Crew of the *Philadelphia* to my friend M<sup>r</sup> Beaussier the french Commissary at Tripoli —

[NA. SDA. Disp., France, Vol. 9, 1803-1805.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U: S SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1804*

DEAR SIR I have received your esteemed favour of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and have sent Captain Smith to regulate the business respecting the Store-Ship. I hope he will be able to prevail on the Master to come here with the Cargo. If that cannot be done I have directed him to apply to you to engage a Vessel, and Ship it to this place — The removal from Vessel to Vessel will injure the provisions; of course it is best to give him a reasonable consideration for bringing it over The *Vixen* will convoy her — I send you a thousand dollars to replace the money sent to C — Bainbridge It will not be long before I shall call at Malta when I will make a deposit of money with you.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Feb<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR You will sail for Malta and on your arrival there take charge of the Cargo of the Store ship lately arrived from the United States with provisions and Stores for the Squadron under my command; and of all letters for me or the Officers of the squadron; I have no doubt but the Cap<sup>t</sup> of the Ship will consent to discharge the Cargo here for a reasonable consideration as the Distance is so short; If he Consents you will convoy him: but if he cannot be prevailed upon, you will deliver the charge of the Cargo to W<sup>m</sup> Higgins Esq<sup>t</sup> and direct him to store it and return immediately to this place.

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 13 February 1804

Strong breezes from the W, S. W — At anchor in Saragosa *Vixen* in company — I neglected to mention that at 5 P. M. yesterday we made the *Vixen* Signal, N<sup>o</sup> 611 and at 9 this Morning the signal N<sup>o</sup> 598 Ships company employed this afternoon as necessary. At Sundown the weather became moderate and continued so during the night At 7 A. M. made the *Vixen* Signal N<sup>o</sup> 878 — She immediately weighed and stood to sea. We received from Malta twenty new recruits who entered for the *Constitution* — Employed working up Junk and surveying the Warrant officers store rooms — Surgeons report 10 Sick, 10 conv<sup>es</sup>t and one discharged from the sick list —

At Noon light airs from the East<sup>d</sup>.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 14 February 1804

These 24 hours Commence with moderate breezes and Clear Pleasant Weather at 1 P, M, weighed and stood out of the bay [of Gibraltar] bound to the Eastward having the American Ship *Actress* of New

York under Convoy at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 made all sail at 4 Europa point bore W b N 4 leagues dist<sup>e</sup> Made and took in sail as necessary to keep Company with the *Actress* Merchantman 4 strange sail in sight the *Actress* Considerably astern —

Latitude Observed  $36^{\circ}35'$  N.

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 14 February 1804

Moderate Breezes and cloudy. At Anchor at Saragosa — Surveying the Warrant Officers store rooms and working up Junk: Towards evening the weather became Overcast and had the appearance of a Gale from the South<sup>d</sup> between 9 & 10 in the Evening we had light rain: the Weather continued moderate throughout the night: A M Employed in surveying the warrant officers store rooms, clearing Hawse and in clearing between decks. At 10 the ship was alarmed by the cry of fire occasioned by the ships corporal in fumigating one of the Officers Cabins in the Gun room. Punished James Wallace Ships Corporal with 36 lashes for attempting to fumigate any part of the ship without regular orders for neglect of duty, and for suffering the rope Yarns to blaze. Surgeons report 11 sick 8 convalescent and one discharged. At Noon calm with a swell setting in from the East<sup>d</sup>.

[LC. EPP Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Presumably to Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 15<sup>th</sup> February 1804

DEAR SIR Your much esteemed favors have this day come to hand, to which I have replied fully by this conveyance. In my former letters I have suggested the idea of destroying the Frigate; since then having had the liberty of walking out, and having seen the situation she is anchored in, I do conceive that it could be easily effected. She lays about three quarters of a mile from the shore. By not showing the vessels off here before the attempt is made, there is not the least doubt of success. Let the boats be well prepared with combustibles to set her on fire, the only thing to be attempted. At present all the gun boats are hauled up.

The most important part to guard against the Tripolitan Cruisers is in my opinion between Cape Bon and Sicily. Should the Tripolitans demand be too great I would recommend an attack by land about night. A thousand troops would do. Frigates will not answer. I presume that the Frigate *Philadelphia* will be offered to Tunis or Algiers. This if possible should be prevented.

My grateful wishes attend you in your undertakings.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 16<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, I am this day hon<sup>d</sup> with your much esteemed letters of the 19 & 20th December 4<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January last, be assured they afford me unfeigned happiness; as three months and a half had expired without the pleasure of hearing from you, and was at a loss

to account for so long a silence, for I would not permit myself to entertain the opinion that you could forget me in my unfortunate situation. Your warm commiseration, and strong assurance of your exertions to relieve our distresses, and effect our release from bondage, are entitled to warmer thanks than I can express. Suffice it to say, that they are deeply registered in my heart, and the remembrance of them, will only end with my life. I shall endeavour to follow your friendly advice in keeping up my spirits, and bear my misfortune with fortitude but being obliged to surrender without the least chance of resistance, will ever be a painful reflection to me. I feel conscious of having done my duty in the unhappy dilemma. Situated as we were, had the Enemy attempted to have boarded us, we should have had a chance of convincing our Country that opportunity and not courage was wanting, but alas! for us, they made no such an attempt, but pursued a Plan in which they risked nothing, and was certain must prove effectual, the Ship Careening in such a manner as made every Gun become useless. Our situation was like a man tied to a stake attacked by another with arms. Believe me my Commodore, it cannot even be justly conceived but by the unfortunate who experienced it. God forbid that any of my Brother Officers should be placed in a similar situation

Your letter to Siddi Mahomet D'ghies Minister of Foreign Affairs, I have delivered. The one addressed for the Warrant Officers & Crew I have judged proper (by the latitude you gave me) not immediately to deliver it, and upon further reflection may withhold it altogether; if I should, I shall give my reasons for so doing —

Your letter for the Swedish Consul I shall retain as John Willson (the greatest Villain I ever knew) has turned *Renegado*. Accept of my thanks for the attention you paid to my situation, and for the stile in which you addressed him.

In answer to your questions respecting the manner we are treated, and if they robbed us of our Watches &c\* I shall briefly reply. That myself and all others lost everything except what was on our Backs, and part of that tore off. Our Pockets picked, Watches and Money taken, even to Pocket handkerchiefs & Gloves. To answer our immediate necessity, we have purchased some of our own cloths — As for the treatment we have received, there is no change since my report to you, except about eight days ago, myself and Officers received permission to walk out, Six or Eight at a time, with the Drogoman who attends on us. this indulgence gave us an opportunity of breathing fresh air, which we had not done for three Months and nine days. We are supported entirely at our own expence, and live in the House that M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart occupied. Our situation now is rendered tolerably comfortable. The Crew are confined in a separate Prison a part of which are daily employed at various work; they are allowed Bread and Oil, but no meat. I have given them Beef once a week, being as often as our finances would admit of and have been able to buy clothing to the amount of about five hundred dollars which has afforded them a change. Enclosed you will receive a list of Cloths that they will stand in need of the next autumn & Winter, if it should be our hard fate to continue here. Since our captivity two have died, and seven turned Renegadoes so that our complement now stands 298.

From the very great attention of M<sup>r</sup> Davis Charge des affaires at Tunis, our situation has been much ameliorated, he has twice sent us

Bills to the amount of Nine hundred Dollars, and I have drawn on him for One thousand Dollars; but my Bills on Tunis are attended with a loss upwards of 27 p<sup>t</sup> Ct, which cannot be avoided but by having money sent to us —

I have received a very friendly letter from Col: Lear, dated Algiers 16th December

Respecting the Vessel you captured off Tripoly, I can only say it was reported here, that she was a Vessel belonging to the Cap<sup>t</sup> Pacha. The Turkish Officer I believe to be the Man who was passenger in the Frigate [*George*] *Washington* under my command from Constantinople to Malta. As to the Cargo I should suppose it to be a *Bon Prize*. Had you fortunately been off here two days after you made that capture you would have had a chance of a valuable prize from Derne It appears in this climate that fortune attends the *u[n]righteous*.

Our letters from America are all received with the Articles that you ordered M<sup>r</sup> Higgins to send us. also One thousand dollars in Cash. The necessary receipts I shall send to M<sup>r</sup> Higgins. I gratefully thank you for sending me the suit of Clothes. When you appear off here, there is no doubt but you may safely communicate with the shore.

Words are too light to express my feelings, if ever opportunity offers actions shall convince you how much I estimate all your attention. May success attend the Squadron under your command and Glory and honor be the reward You meet from your Country! is my sincere wish —

M<sup>r</sup> Higgins omitted sending us an invoice of the articles which will be necessary to make the proper charges. Your letter to M<sup>r</sup> Nissen, does honor to your command, he is one of the best of Men.

I thank you in behalf of the Officers and Crew, in sending to our Government the valuation of the *Mirboka*. I hope it will be allowed to compensate in some measure our loss. Mine has exceeded two thousand Doll<sup>s</sup>

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

16th FEBRUARY 1804.

DEAR SIR, \* \* \* In my former letters I have suggested the idea of *destroying the Frigate*, since then *having had the liberty of walking out and have seen the situation she was anchored in*, do conceive that *it would be easily effected*. *She lays about three quarters of a mile, from the shore*; By not showing the *Vessels off here*, before the attempt was made, there is not the least doubt of success. *Let the Boats be well prepared with combustibles to set her on fire* the only thing to be attempted at present as *all the Gun Boats are hauled up*

The most important Part to guard against the Tripolitan Cruisers is in my opinion *between Cape Bon & Sicily* Should the Tripolitan's demand be too great *I would recommend an attack by land*. About *Eight thousand Troops* would do. *Frigates* will not answer. I presume that the *Frigate Philadelphia* will be offered to *Tunis or Algiers*. this if possible should be prevented.

My grateful wishes attend you, and your transactions

[Italics indicate translation of coded message.]

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]



To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Nautilus*

Off Tripoli 16<sup>th</sup> February 1804

SIR I have thought proper to send into Syracuse an English Brig called the *Nominato Crucifisso* commanded by Fortunato Barbaro from Malta bound to Jerba in Tripoli, for your examination, although having your passport to sail in Ballast & return with a Cargo of Bullocks — She has Six Turkish Men or Tripolitans & two women, and a Cargo consisting of Bales Merchandize, Wines Spars, new made sails, hemp & linen &c &c

The Captain informed me he sailed in Company from Malta with a Brig and under Convoy of an English Cutter for Tripoli — The papers of the Brig are committed to the Care of M<sup>r</sup> Cox whom I send prize master

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy

U S SCHOONER *Nautilus*

Malta Harbour March 7<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR The Brig *Nominato Crucifisso*, Fortunata Barbara Master that I captured off Tripoly, was steering S. W. two points free from the Wind, and direct for the Harbour of Tripoly, which was at the time of Capture about four or five leagues distant; and the land a little to the Eastward of it in sight. with a cargo consisting of Hemp, Wine, Scantling, and several bales of Merchandize. six Tripolines, and two Women. A number of letters were secured under the Transom all with directions for Tripoly. Amongst her papers was an agreement between the Owner and the Captain for him to sail for Jerba, Tripoly, or Bengaza, to be gauranteed by your passport which I found on board for to sail in Ballast for Tripoly, and return with Bullocks, she having on board the within mentioned Cargo, & steering for Tripoly was a violation of your passport. I sent her in for your examination.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

Concerning the captured Brig *St. Crusifisso*

I do hereby Certify, that the Brig *St Crucifiso* Fortunata Barbara late master was met with the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of Feb<sup>r</sup> last under English Colors by the U. S. Schooner of War the *Nautilus* under command of L<sup>t</sup> Somers as the said Brig was endeavoring to enter Tripoly in Barbary with a cargo of various kinds of supplies for the inhabitants, the said Fortunata] Barbara knowing the aforesaid Port of Tripoly was then under a State of Blockade by the U. S. Squadron under my command, in consequence of which she has been detained; and is now ordered to the U. S for adjudication. I therefore require the commanders of all the ships & Vessels & all the other Powers in Amity with the U. S. of America to let the said Brig pass free & unmolested and to give her all the assistance that may be required by

M<sup>r</sup> Edward N Cox an officer in the Navy of the U. S. who is ordered to navigate her to Philadelphia

Given &<sup>ca</sup> on board the U. S. Ship  
*Constitution* Syracuse harbor  
23<sup>d</sup> day of April 1804.

Signed E: PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

[16 February 1804]

Concerning the captured Brig *St. Crusifisso*

SIR John Baptiste Russo, and Vincent Barbara natives of Malta as proprietors of the Brigantino Vessel called the *Santissimo Crocefisso*, take the liberty to lay before you the titles of their aforesaid property and other valuable documents in order that their conduct may be justified, as far as regard their late departure from Malta, till the moment that the said Brigantino was stopped by the Ships of the United States, flatering themselves that Your Justice and Equity, (after knowing the true destination intirely different, and by no mean intended to violate the Law of the Blockade of Tripoli) you will be pleased to order the restitution of the said Brigantino Vessel to the above mentioned proprietors

The title of property is uncontradictory prouved by the contract of sale made on the 2<sup>d</sup> of January 1804 by the Public Notary Baldassare Mamo contracted by Vincenzo Aquilina to the said Russo and Barbara on paying the price of 2330 Maltese Sardis, and with the Licence of the President of the Court and the payment of that price — that therefore no doubt will remain of not being the said Vessel or Maltese Property

To this title the affraightement made by the same Public Notary the 31<sup>st</sup> of the said month of January for going to Gerba as her immediate destination is to be observed; for, the Freighter M<sup>r</sup> Gaetano Schembri was bound in it to fournisch the said Vessel with an American Pass, which precaution shows clearly in what decree the said Proprietors intended to respect the American Power, and absolutly intended to navigate in those seas with the approbation of the said Power. This circumstance demonstrated by authentic papers shows Likewise that the said Proprietors did not intend to violate the Bloakade of Tripoli

All the papers regarding the expetition or clearances received from the Public offices at Malta do perfectly answer to prouve the immediate destination for Gerba; for, the licence received from the Customs for shipping from the Larravetto [?] Seven Bales [?] of Linnen, and 12 of hemp do specify that these goods were to be carried to Gerba; the paper received from the Health office for taching on Board the said Vessel seven [word illegible] including two Women, to be landed also at Gerba, And finnally the paper from the Gran Visconte's Office shows that the Government of Malta sent on Board the said Vessel a Sicilian to be landed also at Gerba for his bannishment; After such uncontradictory documents, it will evidently appear that the immediate destination of the said Vessel, was for Gerba, and if the Said Vessel was found cruising thouwards Tripoli it was in consequence of the contrary wind which was then blowing from the West and forced them to keep by that part to avail themselves of the first breese to go to Gerba, which disposition must be known and approved by every Pilot.

Being every reason wanted to suppose a false intention in the navigation of the said Vessel, and her destination authenticated with so many Public and Powe[r]full documents and having not the said proprietors and Master any particular interest to go into Tripoli with such a great danger, The said proprietors hope therefore that after having shown their manifeste innocence and founded upon Your Justice Equity and goodness, that the said Vessel will be restored to them as they Beg and protest themselves your most Humble and Obed<sup>t</sup> Servants.

GI<sup>o</sup> BATTÀ RUSSO

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 19<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1804*

SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that the U. S. Brig *Syren* L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> Stewart, and Ketch *Intrepid* of 4 Guns L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> Decatur arrived here last evening from a cruise. They left this port the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst with my orders to proceed to Tripoly, and burn the Frigate, late the U. S. frigate *Philadelphia* at anchor in that Harbour.

I was well informed that her situation was such as to render it impossible to bring her out, and her destruction being absolutely necessary to favor my intended operations against that city I determined the attempt should be made —

I enclose you copies of my orders [31 January 1804] on this occasion, which have been executed in the most gallant and Officer like manner by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> Decatur, assisted by the brave Officers & crew of the little Ketch *Intrepid* under his command. Their conduct in the performance of the dangerous service assigned them, cannot be sufficiently estimated — It is beyond all praise — Had Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur delayed one half hour for the Boats of the *Syren* to have joined him, he would have failed in the main object, as a gale commenced immediately after the Frigate was on fire, and it was with difficulty the Ketch was got out of the Harbour. The *Syren* owing to the lightness of the Breeze in the evening was obliged to Anchor at a considerable distance from the City which prevented her Boats from rendering such assistance as they might have done had they entered the Harbour earlier. L<sup>t</sup> Stewart took the best position without the Harbour to cover the retreat of the *Intrepid* that the lightness of the wind would admit of. His conduct thro' the expedition has been judicious and highly meritorious. But few of the Officers of the Squadron could be gratified by sharing in the danger & honor of the Enterprize. In justice to them I beg leave to observe that they all offered to volunteer their services on the occasion and I am confident whenever an opportunity offers to distinguish themselves, that they will do honor to the Service.

I enclose you Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> Stewart & Decatur's official communication, with the names of the Officers on board the Ketch

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr.,  
U. S. Navy

ON BOARD THE KETCH *Intrepid*  
at Sea February 17th, 1804

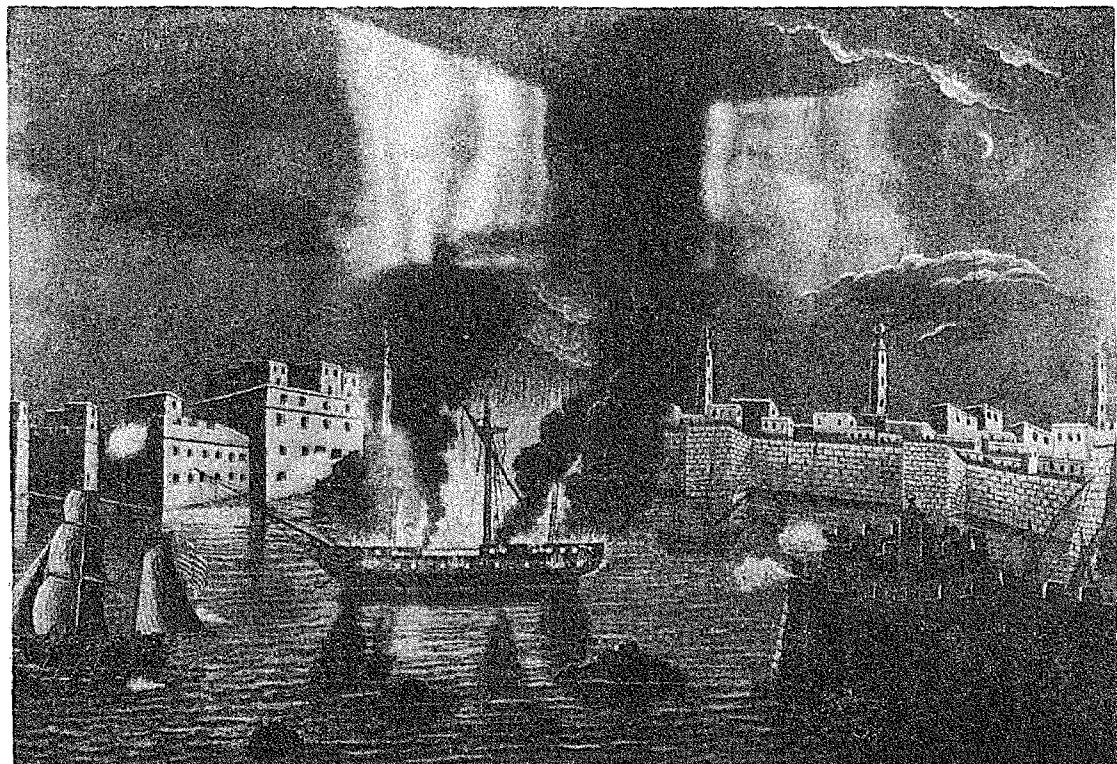
SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that in pursuance of your orders of the 1st Ins<sup>t</sup> to proceed with this Ketch off the Harbour of Tripoly there to endeavour to effect the destruction of the United States late Frigate *Philadelphia*. I arrived there in company with the U S Brig *Syren* L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Stewart on the 7th, but owing to the Badness of the weather was unable to effect any thing untill last evening when we had a light breeze from N. E. At 7 O'clock I entered the harbour with the *Intrepid* the *Syren* having gained her station without the Harbour, in a situation to support us in our retreat at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 laid her a long side the *Philadelphia*, boarded, and after a short contest carried her. I immediately fired her in the Store Rooms, Gun Room Cockpit & Birth Deck and remained on board until the flames had issued from the Spar Deck hatch ways & Ports, and before I got from alongside the fire had communicated to the rigging and tops. Previous to our boarding, they had got their Tompions out, and hailed several times but not a Gun fired —

The noise occasioned by boarding and contending for possession (altho' no fire arms were used) gave a general alarm on shore, and on board their cruisers which lay about a cable and a half's length from us, and many boats filled with men lay round, but from whom we rec<sup>d</sup> no annoyance. They commenced a fire on us from all their Batteries on shore, but with no other effect than one shot passing thro' our Top Gall<sup>y</sup> Sail.

The Frigate was moored within half Gun shot of the Bashaw's Castle, and of their principal Battery; two of their Cruisers lay within two cables length on the starboard quarter and their Gun Boats within half Gun shot on the starboard bow she had all her Guns mounted and loaded which as they became hot went off as she lay with her Broadside to the town, I have no doubt but some damage has been done by them. Before I got out of the harbour, her cables had burnt off, and she drifted in under the Castle where she was consumed. I can form no judgment as to the number of Men that were on board of her; there were about 20 killed — A large boat full got off, and many leapt into the Sea. We have made one prisoner, and I fear from the number of bad wounds he has rec<sup>d</sup> will not recover, altho' every assistance & comfort has been given him —

I boarded with sixty men & Officers, leaving a guard on board the Ketch for her defence; and it is with the greatest pleasure I inform you, I had not a man killed in this affair, and but one slightly wounded — Every support that could be given I rec<sup>d</sup> from my Officers, and as each of their conduct was highly meritorious, I beg leave to enclose you a list of their names. — permit me also, Sir, to speak of the brave fellows I have the honor to command, whose coolness and intrepidity was such, as I trust will ever characterise the American Tars.

It would be injustice in me, were I to pass over the important services rendered by M<sup>r</sup> Salvador the Pilot, on whose good conduct



*BURNING of the FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA in the HARBOUR of TRIPOLI, 16th Feb. 1804.  
by a Gunboat, one of Commodore's command, by Lord Cochrane.*



the success of the *Enterprize* in the greatest degree depended. he gave me entire satisfaction.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
With great respect  
Your Mo. ob Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) STEPHEN DECATUR

Commodore EDW<sup>d</sup> PREBLE  
*Commanding the U S Squadron in the Mediterranean*

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

BRIG *Syren*, SYRACUSE HARBOUR  
*February 19th 1804.*

SIR, I have the honor to enclose for your information the principal occurrences and observations during our late expedition in company with the Ketch *Intrepid* L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Decatur to effect the destruction of the Frigate *Philadelphia* in the harbour of Tripoly; and on the happy termination of that enterprize I heartily congratulate you. I only have to lament that a junction had not been formed with the *Intrepid* by the Boats of the *Syren*, under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Caldwell, as I make no doubt they would have been able to carry and destroy one or both of the cruisers laying near the Frigate — You will observe by my notes, that the Boats were dispatched in due season to meet the *Intrepid* agreeable to our Arrangements, but circumstances rendering it advisable for Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Decatur to enter upon the enterprize much earlier than was intended, the junction with the Boats was consequently defeated until after the ship was on fire, and the ketch retreating out of the harbour.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[Enclosure]

[16 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

U S BRIG *Syren*  
*Syracuse Harbour 19<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804*

SIR, Pursuant to your orders of the 31st January 1804 we sailed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February in company with the *Intrepid* L<sup>t</sup> Commandant Decatur, and arrived off Tripoly the 8th Ins<sup>t</sup> having employed ourselves in the intermediate time, in preparing every thing for executing the intended object — at 9 P M we Anchored in 6 fms. Water near the Rocks, got out the boats and prepared them for co-operating with the *Intrepid* at 11 we observed the *Intrepid* by her light standing off shore a very heavy sea from the North, and a strong wind hauling to that quarter obliged us to get our Boats in immediately, and get under weigh, at 4 A M finding it impossible to weigh our Anchor having had the Men several times knocked down by the Capstan Bars and several much injured. daylight approaching to expose our designs to the Enemy we cut and got an offing of 10 Miles,

when the gale and sea having encreased so much that we could scarcely show any sail, which continued until the 11<sup>th</sup>. It then abated, and I sent for Lieu<sup>t</sup> Commandant Decatur, and we fixed on the following plan for the next attempt Viz. he to proceed in the *Intrepid* about 5 miles ahead of the Brig, and anchor at night abreast of the Eastern Rocks that form the Harbour until the *Syren* got into that station or her Boats had joined him — After Midnight he to proceed in the *Intrepid* to the Ship, the Boats to keep at a considerable distance astern of him, until he effected a lodgment in the Frigate, they were then to board the *Intrepid*, and reinforce him, or proceed on such other service, as he might direct.

We were driven so far to the Eastward by the gale that we did not regain our Station off Tripoly until the 15<sup>th</sup> when considering the possibility there was of the Tripolitans having some suspicions of our intentions, I reinforced L<sup>t</sup> Decatur with an Officer and Nine Volunteers from the *Syren*. The necessary arrangement of his Men not leaving more than 50 to support him in boarding. We stood into 8 fathoms Water that night, but could not determine our position not having seen the town, We were therefore obliged to stand off again, on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM the *Intrepid* stood in for the Harbour, and when she had got her distance we tacked and stood after her, with a light breeze from the N<sup>e</sup> & Westward, at dark we hoisted out the Boats and prepared them. at 8:30 P. M the wind left us, and a light air from the land succeeded, we anchored with our stream in 20 fms, water the town of Tripoly bearing S W about 3 Miles distant. We immediately dispatched the Boats with 30 Men and Officers under the command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Caldwell who was ordered to proceed to the Eastern Rocks where he would find the *Intrepid*, and to place himself under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Decatur. At ½ past 10 the Frigate *Philadelphia* was in a blaze fore and Aft, when the Batteries commenced a fire on the *Intrepid* as she retreated. at 11 the Frigate's tops fell, and several of her Guns going off, the shot made a considerable rattling in the town; shortly after her cables parted and she drifted under the Castle at 1 AM the *Intrepid* & Boats joined us, at 6 the light could still be seen from the Deck, we being about 40 Miles distant from her.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

To Mrs. Ralph Izard, Sr., from Midshipman Ralph Izard, Jr., U. S. Navy

20<sup>th</sup> FEB<sup>y</sup> 1804 SYRACUSE HARBOUR

*U. S. Constitution*

MY DEAR MOTHER Yesterday morning I arrived from Tripoli whither we had been in the Ketch we took in December last & to which the Comm<sup>r</sup> gave the name of *Intrepid*. We are astonishing the folks in these parts & we do as we please with the Syracusans. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> we left this place for Tripoli & arrived off there in a few days but the weather obliged us to keep off untill the 7<sup>th</sup> at night when we anchored close under the Batteries & sent a boat ahead to find if it was possible to enter the Harbour. The pilot who was in the boat declar'd that if we attempted to go in we would never come out again for the breakers were tremendously high owing to the late gale. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we again anchored a little to the Eastward of Tripoli, but it being very dark when we made the land we by that



means missed the Port. On the 16<sup>th</sup> we hoisted English colors & at sunset stood in to the Harbour & the English Consul on shore there hoisted his colors supposing us to be English. At 10 o'clock P M we came with in hail of the *Philadelphia*, & the Pilot told the men on board of her that we were from Malta & had been in a gale of wind & had lost our anchors. They gave us a hawser to make fast to her by & we then hauld up along side of her & 50 of our men & officers boarded her instantly. They Tripolitans on board of her were dreadfully alarmed when they found who we were. Poor fellows! About 20 of them were cut to pieces & the rest jumped overboard. We set fire to her & in less than 15 minutes from the time we first boarded her the flames were bursting out of her ports. It is astonishing that not one of our men was the least hurt. But it is a miracle that our little vessel escaped the flames, lying within two feet of them & to leeward also! Our men were in high spirits & I never saw a [(finer?) Ms mutilated] set of fellows. We have taken one poor creature who I am affraid will not recover. I think the Bashaw will soon be humbled. The Commodore has new schemes in his head. The *Nautilus* yesterday sent in a prize. She is a Brig. The Commodore when he was at Malta gave six passports to Gov. Ball for six vessels to go to Tripoli for bullocks for the garrison. The Vessels were to go in ballast, & return with bullocks. This Brig had one of these passports & has also a valuable cargo on board, besides several Turks. I expect to go to Naples shortly & afterwards we shall have hot work off Tripoli. I received your letters Yesterday of the 28<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Oct; They are very old. I also received a letter from each of my Sisters of the same date. Mount Etna looks very cold this morn<sup>g</sup>. The wind is N. & when that is the case it is very cold here owing to the snows on the Mountains. —

The Brig *Syren* (I forgot it before) accompanied us to Tripoli but when we fired the ship she was at least 5 miles off.

Adieu my dear Mother, your fears concerning the plague at Malta are unfound[ed]. The place is perfectly healthy —  
from Your ever affec<sup>t</sup> Son

RA: IZARD JUN<sup>r</sup>

[NDA Area 4.]

[16 February 1804]

Affidavit of Surgeon's Mate Lewis Heerman, U. S. Navy

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, }  
City of Philadelphia. }

On this twenty-sixth day of April, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-eight, before me, William Milnor, an Alderman of the city of Philadelphia, and ex officio, a Justice of the Peace, of the State of Pennsylvania, duly appointed and sworn, personally appeared Doctor Lewis Heermann, a Surgeon in the Navy of the United States, who deposeth upon oath, That, having been chosen in common with his brother officers, by the late Commodore Stephen Decatur, then a Lieutenant Commandant, to accompany him on an expedition which had the destruction of the late United States' frigate *Philadelphia* for its object, then in possession of the enemy of the United States, and lying in the harbor of Tripoli, on the coast of Africa, he, the deponent, departed, under the command of the said Stephen Decatur, from Syracuse, in Sicily, on the third day of February, eighteen hundred

and four, in his official capacity as surgeon in the late ketch [*Mastico*], (taken a prize by the said Decatur, of the enemy,) and yclep'd the *Intrepid*, for this especial occasion, by the late Commodore Edward Preble, then commanding the Mediterranean squadron; also, that the United States' brig *Syren*, Lieutenant Commandant Charles Stewart, sailed in company, for purposes connected with the expedition. Deponent further declareth, that, in the pursuit of the above object, great uncertainty and continued hardships were experienced by the officers and crew of the *Intrepid*, as arising from an accidental supply of putrid provisions, the frail construction and small size of the vessel, with the occurrence of a severe gale, which, in disappointing early success, laid the foundation of apprehensions for eventual failure; the discovery by the enemy of an armed force having being anchored near the port, being rendered more than probable. That, at or before mid-day, on the sixteenth of February, the town of Tripoli hove in sight; that, on the evening of the same day, under an unpromising aspect of the weather, a council of officers, held on board the ketch, came to the conclusion of anticipating the hour previously appointed (by Captains Stewart and Decatur, conjointly,) for entering the harbor. With a full understanding on their part, that the aid of the *Syren's* boats was necessarily forfeited by this new arrangement, and the safety of retreat out of the harbor placed exclusively at the risk of the officers and men who formed the complement of the *Intrepid* — a bold measure — the responsibility of which they justly appreciated, but, under existing circumstances, was considered a lesser evil than that which would have arisen from procrastination. That, by stratagem, and not without difficulty, the ketch was laid along side of the frigate, at or about ten o'clock. That, under an irresistible impetus, the assailants boarded and carried her; while Midshipman Thomas O. Anderson, with a crew detached from the brig *Syren* on the day before, took his assigned station in a boat, for the purpose of despatching those of the enemy who might flee from the carnage of the boarders, as also to give notice of and attack any of the enemy's force that might approach the ship. That deponent, according to prior arrangement, was placed simultaneously in command of the *Intrepid*, with orders suitable to the occasion; that "look-outs" were stationed by him, to observe any movement in the harbor, and guard against surprise. That the same precautionary vigilance adopted on board the frigate, formed one of the fundamental measures of security, as was proved in the instance of one of the "look-outs," (believed to have been stationed on the starboard bow of the *Philadelphia*,) reporting in quick succession the approach of enemy's boats, and their retreat, with an interval of time just sufficient to execute the order which grew out of it — "of killing all prisoners," and draw from the ketch part of a supply of ammunition, small arms, and pikes, for the defence of the ship. That, after the hasty retreat of the boats, attributable to the sudden illumination of the gun-deck at this juncture, by the lighted candles of the boarders, combustibles were handed on board, a part of which had been received on board the ketch at Syracuse, (where some had been prepared, and others purchased,) and a part from the brig *Syren*, after leaving port. That the systematic arrangement of the plan, embracing every contingency incident to the boarding, capturing, and firing the ship having been formed with consummate skill and foresight, the execution of these objects, with the greatest regularity, consumed

a smaller space of time than could possibly be imagined. That the boarding officers and crew, literally chased from below deck, were pursued by the flames to the ketch, and herself, from the unavoidable difficulty of getting from along side, was well nigh enveloped. That, to obviate this calamity, various and well directed efforts were made without effect; until at last, her boats being got ahead, and her rigging, &c., cleared, she was successfully towed out of the influence of the current of air, that, with great violence, rushed from every side towards the flames, which, issuing from the hatchways, and seizing the rigging from below to two of the mast heads, then standing, played also most furiously from every gun-port and scupper hole, athwart the ketch. That, in the momentary confusion that preceded this escape, the frigate's boat, which had been captured along side, and the crew killed, by Mr. T. O. Anderson's party, at the commencement of the action, got adrift, and the enemy's flag of the frigate being also lost, left no trophy in possession save one Tripolitan, who, towards the close of operations, was made prisoner by deponent. That the whooping and screaming of the enemy, on being boarded and defeated, drew an almost instantaneous and continued fire of small arms from two xebecs lying near; and that, after throwing a rocket by Captain Decatur, which was done immediately upon possession being had of the ship, a brisk cannonade commenced, and was kept up from the castle and other batteries.

That, by means of towing, (exclusively by one or both of her boats,) sweeps inboard, and sails set, the ketch made good her retreat, and had arrived at the rocks forming the outermost boundary of the harbor, when she was met by the *Syren's* boats, who, in being so much nearer at hand than had been calculated on, surprised the nautical officers of the *Intrepid* quite as much as had the inquiry of the Captain of the *Philadelphia* before boarding her, "respecting the vessel astern," meaning the brig *Syren*; and proving that, notwithstanding her great distance in the offing, during daylight, she had been noticed. That, ere this time, the frigate's gun's had commenced discharging, and those of the enemy now slackened their fire; that now also the breeze freshened, and shortly after increased considerably; but being fair, made good weather of it. That, sometime after midnight, the ketch joined company with the *Syren*, then under way, and at a distance in the offing; and that the two vessels reached Syracuse on or about the nineteenth of the same month. Deponent also states, that, after the perusal of documents accompanying a report bearing the number 201, of the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives made at the present session, being the first of the twentieth Congress, he feels himself bound likewise to declare, under oath, that in frequent converse and common parlance with the officers of the brig *Syren*, on the incidents of the expedition, he never heard any pretensions advanced by them, or either of them, to any agency or cooperation whatever in the consummation of the enterprise within the harbor; and, moreover, that nothing did ever transpire, in his intercourse with the officers of that vessel, or those of any other vessel in the squadron, which could have led to an anticipation of the painful necessity to defend, at this date, the entire and undivided credit, acquired nearly one-fourth of a century ago, by the officers and crew of the late ketch *Intrepid*, and consecrated no less by official records

than the concurrent testimony of a multitude of gallant officers, now no more.

LEWIS HEERMANN, M. D.,  
*Surgeon United States Navy.*

Sworn and subscribed before me, this twenty-sixth day of April, eighteen hundred and twenty-eight.

WILLIAM MILNOR,  
*Alderman, and, ex officio, Justice of the Peace.*

[NR&L. Wa<sup>d</sup> D 451, 14347.]

[16 February 1804]

Affidavit of Midshipman Edmund P. Kennedy, U. S. Navy

VIRGINIA, BOROUGH OF NORFOLK, to wit:

On this tenth day of March, in the year 1828, before me, Walter F. Jones, a Notary Public in and for the borough of Norfolk, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Edmund P. Kennedy, a Master Commandant in the Navy of the United States, who made oath that, during the years 1803-'4, he served, in the capacity of gunner's mate, on board the United States' brig of war *Syren*, then under command of Lieutenant Charles Stewart, and one of the squadron in the Mediterranean sea, sailing under the orders of Commodore Preble. That, some considerable time after the capture of the frigate *Philadelphia*, by the Tripolitan gun boats, an expedition was planned and fitted out to destroy that vessel, then lying nearly equipped in the harbor of Tripoli. That the brig *Syren*, and the Ketch *Intrepid*, sailed for that purpose from the harbor of Syracuse; the day after the departure of these vessels, the crew of the *Syren* were called aft, and a letter was read, addressed to them by Commodore Preble; as well as affiant remembers, this letter states the importance of the destruction of the *Philadelphia*, and set forth, as an inducement to the crew, the large amount of prize money which would be awarded to the vessels composing the expedition. Volunteers were called to fill up the complement of the *Intrepid*, and for the general purposes of the expedition. The whole crew volunteered, and it became necessary to make a selection among the officers and men. The two vessels proceeded to Tripoli, and it was concerted, that, upon a certain signal, to be given from the *Syren*, the *Intrepid*, accompanied by two boats, manned and armed from the *Syren*, should proceed into the harbor, for the accomplishment of their object. The night of the destruction of the *Philadelphia*, the *Syren* anchored off the mouth of the harbor, her two boats manned and armed alongside. The *Intrepid* was in shore, and the signal being made, the two boats left the *Syren*, and proceeded to join the *Intrepid*. The signal, however, was not answered; and affiant understood Lieut. Decatur to have said, that he was, at the time, so near the batteries, that any exhibition of lights might have caused the discovery of his vessel; and a light and favorable breeze springing up at the moment, he preferred running in without the aid of the boats, to encountering a delay and exposure which might have defeated the object of the expedition. Affiant was in one of the boats which put off from the *Syren*; the night was very dark, and the *Intrepid* having exhibited no light to indicate her position, the boats lost their way among the rocks, and were falling in uncertainty, until the *Intrepid* was seen standing

out of the harbor, when they joined her. The crew of the *Syren* were at quarters nearly the whole night. Affiant further states, that all the combustibles and materials to be used in burning the *Philadelphia* were prepared on board the *Syren*.

Jura attestor: EDMUND P. KENNEDY.  
WALTER F. JONES,  
Notary Public.

[NR&L. Wa<sup>d</sup> D 451, 14347.]

[16 February 1804]

Certificate of Salvadore Catalano, Pilot

NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1825.

The subscriber certifies, that he was attached to the American squadron in the Mediterranean, as pilot on board of the frigate *Constitution*, commanded by Commodore Preble; that he was sent in the ketch *Intrepid*, to pilot her into the harbor of Tripoli, for the purpose of destroying the frigate *Philadelphia*, then in possession of the Tripolitans; that owing to his perfect acquaintance with the harbor of Tripoli, and his personal knowledge of the people and their language, the ketch was permitted to come alongside of the *Philadelphia*; that he is, and always was, of opinion, that in the state of the wind at the time, and his knowledge of the current and the soundings of the harbor, that the ship might have been brought out with safety, had not orders been preemptorily given to destroy her; that he gave this opinion to Commodore Decatur, on board the *Philadelphia*, at the moment of her capture, who was only prevented by his orders from making the attempt; that all the nautical men with whom he has conversed on the subject, and to whom he has explained the grounds of his opinion, have acknowledged the correctness of his statements.

SALVADORE CATALANO.

[NR&L. Wa<sup>d</sup> D 451, 14347.]

[16 February 1804]

Presumably to the Danish Consul, Marseilles, France, from Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli

Extract of a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> C. Nissen Consul of his Danish Majesty at tripoly, Dated 29. february 1804

The Americans have Just now burnt Their Frigate in This Port. on The 16<sup>th</sup> curr<sup>t</sup> at Sun Set, they Saw two Vessells masked so as they could not be recognized, the one was an american Frigate the other a fire Ship, the latter with people on board Speaking Arabick. She entered the Harbour at 9½ at night, She was taken for a merchant Vessell and was helped to come near The formerly american Frigate, they set her on fire and Sailed out directly

The Bashaw Saw the whole business with his own Eyes, — The fire ship was beyond reach before they could give orders — The Frigate was totally burnt —

The American Officers Prisonners of war here have been put under a strong guard since this Event, it is not permitted to write Them, &c<sup>t</sup> —

great preparations of defence have been made here, against The attacks we are threatened with by the Americans, in the interim the

Vikil of the Bashaw at Maltha S<sup>a</sup> gaetano Schembri, or il conte Gallina is arrived here, they Say he is Charged by The American Commodore to make Conciliating proposals. We Shall See —

A true Copy received by the danish Consul at Marseilles Via Genoa,  
Marseilles 28<sup>th</sup> March 1804

STEPHEN CATHALAN JUN<sup>r</sup>

[NA. SDA. CL, Marseilles, Vol. 2, March 1803–Nov. 1827.]

[16 February 1804]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>r</sup> [18] 1804*

DEAR SIR I have the pleasure to announce to you the pleasing intelligence of the Capture and destruction of the Tripolitan Frigate of 40 Guns, late the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* by the U. S. Ketch *Intrepid* of 4 Guns and 70 Men commanded by Captain Decatur of the *Enterprise* who volunteered his services on the occasion. It is to be regretted that she was so situated that it was impossible to have brought her out.

On the 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> the Brig *Syren* Capt Stewart and Ketch *Intrepid* of 4 Guns, fitted for the purpose, and Commanded by Capt. Decatur with 70 Volunteers from the Squadron sailed for Tripoly with orders to burn the Frigate in that Harbour. They this day returned having executed my orders much to my satisfaction. On the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup> Decatur entered the Harbour of Tripoly with the Ketch, laid her alongside the Frigate and in a Gallant and Officer like manner, boarded and carried her against all opposition: After gaining complete possession he proceeded to fire her with success, and left her in a blaze, in which she continued until she was totally consumed: He had none killed & only one wounded. The Tripolitans lost between 20 & 30 Men killed on the Decks: One large Boatload made their escape: some Men ran below & perished in the flames, but the greatest part jumped overboard: She was moored close to the Batteries with all her Guns loaded, and two of their Corsairs full of Men lay within half Musquet shot of her

A fire was kept up on the Ketch by the Batteries, Bashaws' Castle. and Corsairs: Not a musquet or Pistol was fired by our Men: Every thing was settled by the sword.

The *Syren* anchored without the Harbour to cover the retreat of the Ketch, and sent her Boats to assist but unfortunately they did not arrive in Season, as the Business was accomplished and the Ketch on her way out before the Boats met her: Had they got in sooner it is probable some of the Tripolitan Corsairs would have shared the fate of the Frigate —

[SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. II, April 1796–Nov. 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

Concerning the destruction of the Frigate *Philadelphia*

Statement of the Circumstances attending the destruction of the Frigate *Philadelphia* with the names of the Officers and the number of Men employed on the occasion as laid before the President by the Secretary of the Navy, November 13 — 1804. —

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1804 Commodore Preble lying with his Squadron in the Harbour of Syracuse, gave orders to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Charles Stewart, commanding the Brig *Siren* of 16 Guns, and to Lieutenant Stephen Decatur j<sup>r</sup> commanding the Ketch *Intrepid* of 4 Guns & 75 Men, to proceed to Tripoli and to destroy the Frigate *Philadelphia* of 44 Guns, then lying in the harbour of Tripoli. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur had orders to enter the Harbour in the night, board and set fire to the *Philadelphia* and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart was ordered to take the best possible position without the Harbour to cover the retreat. —

Under these orders they proceeded immediately to the Coast of Tripoli but owing to the very heavy gales of wind that usually prevail there in the winter Season, the Enterprize could not be undertaken until the 16<sup>th</sup> February when Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart having taken the best possible position to effect the object of his Instructions, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur at 7 O'clock in the night, entered the Harbour of Tripoli, boarded and took possession of the *Philadelphia*. This Frigate at the time she was boarded had all her Guns mounted and charged, and was lying within half Gun shot of the Bashaw's Castle and of his principal Battery — Two Tripolitan Cruisers were lying within two Cable's length on the starboard quarter and several Gun Boats within half Gun Shot on the Starboard bow — and all the Batteries on shore were opened upon the Assailants. About 20 Men of the *Philadelphia* were killed, a large Boat full got off, many leapt into the water, and one Man was made prisoner. After having gained possession of the Frigate, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur set fire to the Store-rooms, gun-room, Cock-pit & birth deck, and with a firmness highly honorable to him, his Officers and Men, they remained on Board until the flames had issued from the Ports of the gun Deck and the Hatchways of the Spar Deck, and they continued in the ketch along side the Frigate until the fire had communicated to her Rigging and Tops. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur did not lose a Man and had but one slightly wounded. —

The following is a list of the Officers, & the number of Men employed in the destruction of the *Philadelphia*. —

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Lieut Stephen Decatur j <sup>r</sup>        |                |
| Ja <sup>s</sup> Lawrence                    | } Lieutenants. |
| Joseph Bainbridge                           |                |
| Jonathan Thorn                              |                |
| Louis Heerman Surgeon. —                    |                |
| Ralph Izard                                 | } Midshipmen.  |
| John Rowe                                   |                |
| Charles Morris                              |                |
| Alex <sup>t</sup> Laws                      |                |
| John Davis                                  |                |
| Th <sup>s</sup> Macdonough                  |                |
| Tho <sup>s</sup> O. Anderson                |                |
| M <sup>r</sup> Salvadore [Catalano] — Pilot |                |

62 Men. —

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur has stated that all his Officers and men behaved with the greatest coolness and intrepidity, and Commodore Preble has informed me that Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart's conduct was judicious and meritorious.

ROB<sup>t</sup> SMITH —  
Secretary of the Navy.

[Note: Men who took part in the destruction of the *Philadelphia*.

William Wiley, boatswain  
 William Hook, gunner  
 George Crawford, quartermaster  
 George Brown, quartermaster  
 John Newman, quartermaster  
 Paul Frazier, quartermaster  
 James Metcalf, boatswain's mate  
 Nicholas Brown, boatswain's mate  
 Edward Kellen, master's mate  
 Samuel Endicott, quarter gunner  
 James Wilson, quarter gunner  
 John Ford, quarter gunner  
 Richard DoYLES, quarter gunner  
 Joseph Boyd, ship's steward  
 Edward Burk, seaman  
 Peter Munell, seaman  
 Richard Ormond, seaman  
 Samuel Jackson, seaman  
 James Pasgrove, seaman  
 Joseph Goodwin, seaman  
 John Boyles, seaman  
 Augustus C. Fleur, seaman  
 Charles Berryman, seaman  
 Daniel Frazier, seaman  
 William Graham, seaman  
 Reuben James, seaman  
 Robert Love, seaman  
 John Williams, seaman  
 Joseph Fairfield, seaman  
 George Fudge, seaman

James Robinson, seaman  
 Matthew Yeates, seaman  
 William Duckett, seaman  
 Andrew Espey, seaman  
 William Tumbo, seaman  
 Thomas James, seaman  
 Joseph Numond, seaman  
 George Murray, seaman  
 Robert McKnight, seaman  
 William Dixon, seaman  
 Henry Davenport, seaman  
 Joseph Parker, seaman  
 Dennis O'Brian, ordinary seaman  
 Jacob Kurgen, ordinary seaman  
 John Burtson, ordinary seaman  
 William Rodgers, ordinary seaman  
 Charles Robinson, ordinary seaman  
 William Trippet, ordinary seaman  
 John Joseph, ordinary seaman  
 Michael Williams, ordinary seaman

#### Marines

Solomon Wren, sergeant  
 Duncan Mansfield, corporal  
 Noble James, private  
 John Quin, private  
 Isaac Camfield, private  
 Reuben O'Brian, private  
 William Pepper, private  
 John Wolsfrandorf, private]

[NDA. Cong. LB, 1798-1811.]

[16 February 1804]

Extract from letter to Susan Decatur, widow of Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr.,  
 from Hon. Littleton W. Tazewell

NORFOLK, Sept. 7th, 1826.

MY DEAR MRS. DECATUR: In reply to your letter of the 22d ult. (which, owing, I presume, to some accident, has just been received,) I will state to you, that during the lifetime of your late husband, I had many conversations with him, upon the subject of his claim upon the Government of the U. S. for the capture and destruction of the frigate *Philadelphia*. The first of these conversations took place, I think, in 1806, soon after he established himself in this place. In this, his object was to consult me professionally as to the validity of his claim, and as to the proper course to be adopted to obtain the payment of the amount, should I think the claim just. I then investigated the subject very maturely, and gave him a long written opinion upon it, in which I stated the reasons that induced me to consider it, not only a fair claim upon this Government, but one which it was his duty to prefer, as the guardian and protector of the officers and people who were associated with him in this daring and honorable enterprise.

Of one thing I am very certain, that during the whole course of his life, Commodore Decatur was firmly and fully persuaded, that he, his officers and crew, had a just claim upon the U. S. for the value of the frigate *Philadelphia*, which they had captured and burnt by the express order of their commanding officer.

I am, very respectfully and sincerely yours

LITT'N W. TAZEWELL.



[16 February 1804]

To Susan Decatur, widow of Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., from Surgeon John Ridgely, U. S. Navy

Annapolis, Nov. 10, 1826.

MADAM: Your letter of the 2d inst. has just been received, and I hasten to reply to it. I have a distinct — an indelible recollection of the leading events of our imprisonment. The Pacha and his court did not attempt to conceal their exultation on the capture of the frigate *Philadelphia*. It was a jubilee in Tripoli. So extravagant were his calculations, that he would not listen to any proposal of peace and ransom, for a less sum than one million of dollars. In this condition of affairs, it would have been impolitic to have opened a negotiation. It would have been regarded as an evidence of fear and imbecility. This tone of confidence and triumph continued until the daring enterprise, led on by your gallant and lamented husband, illuminated his castle with the blaze of his trophy. The sensation produced by the achievement was indescribable — consternation and dismay were depicted on every face. But the best evidence of its impression, was the frequent conferences of the Pacha with the Consuls, his undisguised desire to make peace, and his proposition to that effect, on terms much more moderate — I think \$200,000. The terror inspired by the recapture and conflagration, (increased by the attack of the gun-boats, on the 3rd of August, 1804,) was felt during the war, and its influence was acknowledged when the treaty of peace was signed.

It may not be known to you, Madam, that I was appointed to the Consulship of Tripoli after the war, and obtained this and other information from one of the European Consuls, with whom the Pacha often conferred during our captivity, and to whom he confided his difficulties and danger.

Description can convey but an inadequate idea of the horrors of our imprisonment. We were confined in a dungeon in the centre of the castle, into which no air or light could find access, but through a small iron grate in the terrace or ceiling. To privation of pure air, wholesome food, &c. was added the annoyance of noxious reptiles. The desperation of the officers may be inferred from two attempts to escape — one by undermining, and the other by passing over the walls of the castle. An account of these enterprises and their failure, may be found in the biography of Com. Porter, published some years since, (1815, I think,) in the *Analectic Magazine* and *Naval Chronicle*.

When any communication, between the squadron and the castle was announced, joy and gladness were diffused through our gloomy cells, and reiterated disappointment could not dispel the cherished hope that the happy hour of emancipation had arrived. Even at this distant period, the heart sickens at the recollection of "hope long deferred."

That a generous legislature may grant this just claim, is the confident belief of one who knew and appreciated the high-minded and chivalric officer on whose services it is founded.

I am, Madam, with sentiments of the highest respect and consideration, your obedient servant,

JOHN RIDGLEY.

[16 February 1804]

To Susan Decatur, widow of Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., from Captain John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

Washington, November 15, 1827.

DEAR MADAM: I have received your letter of the 8th instant; and in reply, have to state, that I had always supposed the plan by which the frigate *Philadelphia* was destroyed, was projected by your husband, and that I never heard the slightest intimation to the contrary.

With great respect and regard, I am, dear Madam, your obedient servant,

JOHN RODGERS.

Mrs. SUSAN DECATUR.

[NR&L. Wa<sup>d</sup> D 451, 14347.]

[16 February 1804]

To Susan Decatur, widow of Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., from Lieutenant Jacob Jones, U. S. Navy

Washington, Dec. 8, 1825.

DEAR MADAM: In reply to your note of yesterday, I have the pleasure to say, that I know nothing which could have rendered it impracticable to the captors to have taken the *Philadelphia* out of the harbor of Tripoli. *The water was sufficient, and I believe the wind was favorable*; consequently, nothing but the want of skill in the pilot who was with them, was likely to have prevented such a result, if it had been attempted. The brig *Syren*, which lay off the harbor, would have been sufficient to have protected her the moment that she had cleared the port.

Mrs. DECATUR.

[NR&L. Wa<sup>d</sup> D 451, 14347.]

[16 February 1804]

To Susan Decatur, widow of Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

Bordentown, (N. J.) Dec. 12, 1826.

MY DEAR MRS. DECATUR: The re-assembling of the honorable Congress of the United States, renders it necessary to delay no longer answering your esteemed favor of June last, in which you request me to state such information, relative to the burning of the *Philadelphia*, in the harbor of Tripoli, as I may possess, in aid of your claim on our country, for the success of that gallant enterprise, so ably and honorably performed by your late husband. I regret that my limited abilities disqualify me from portraying, in those glowing colors of which that act is susceptible, the gallantry and perseverance with which it was performed by my late friend.

You state that your late husband had given you to understand that the project of burning that frigate at her moorings, thereby to remove a serious impediment to the future operations of the squadron against Tripoli, originated with him. This understanding was perfectly correct; it did originate with your late husband, and he first volunteered himself to carry it into effect, and asked the permission of Commodore Preble, off Tripoli, (on first discovering the frigate was lost to the squadron,) to effect it with the schooner *Enterprise*, then

under his command. The commander-in-chief thought it too hazardous to be effected in that way, but promised your late husband that the object should be carried into effect on a proper occasion, and that he should be the executive officer when it was done. It was accordingly effected in the ketch *Intrepid*, by your husband and 70 volunteers from the schooner he commanded, at great hazard, not only of life or liberty, but that of reputation, and in the season most perilous in approaching that coast. The recollection of the difficulties and dangers he had to encounter in that expedition, of which I was an eye-witness, excites more and more my admiration of his gallantry and enterprise — and although the result shed a lustre throughout Europe, over the American character, and excited an unparalleled emulation in the squadron, *in our country alone is where it has never been duly estimated, or properly understood.*

Courage, and great force alone, could not have effected it. It was necessary not only to put the smallest possible force to the hazard, but its success depended upon a very small force being used. The genius and mental resources of the executive officer, could alone compensate for the want of force and numbers. To these demands your late husband was found fully adequate — and hence the brilliant result. The frigate was completely destroyed, in the midst of the enemy, and his retreat effected without the loss of a man.

Accept, my dear Madam, the assurance of my highest respect and esteem.

CHAS. STEWART.  
[Captain, U. S. Navy]

Mrs. SUSAN DECATUR.  
[NR&L. Wa<sup>d</sup> D 451, 14347.]

[16 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>  
22 May 1804. —

Commodore ED<sup>d</sup> PREBLE.  
*Mediterranean.*

Your several Dispatches have been received. Your whole conduct has afforded us the highest satisfaction. Justly are you entitled to our warmest Thanks. We congratulate you on the glorious Enterprize achieved by Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur. As a testimonial of our high sense of the brilliancy of this Enterprize, we send The Hero a Captain's Commission. Knowing that you will feel great pleasure in presenting it to him I herewith send it to you for that purpose.

R<sup>t</sup> SMITH.

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

[16 February 1804]

To Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>  
22<sup>d</sup> May, 1804 —

STEPHEN DECATUR j<sup>t</sup> esq<sup>t</sup>  
*Captain in the Navy of the United States.*

Care of Comm<sup>r</sup><sup>e</sup> ED<sup>d</sup> PREBLE.  
*Mediterranean.*

By Dispatches from Commodore Preble it has been announced to us that the destruction of the late frigate *Philadelphia* has been effected while lying in the Harbour of Tripoli under circumstances of extra-

ordinary peril to the parties that achieved it. I find, Sir, that you had the Command of this Expedition. The achievement of this brilliant Enterprize reflects the highest honor on all the Officers and men concerned. You have acquitted yourself in a manner which justifies the high Confidence we have reposed in your valour and your Skill. The President has desired me to convey to you his Thanks for your gallant Conduct on this occasion, and he likewise requests that you will in his name thank each Individual of your gallant Band for their honorable and valorous Support rendered the more honorable from its having been volunteered. —

As a Testimonial of the President's high opinion of your gallant Conduct in this Instance, he sends to you the enclosed Commission. —

R<sup>t</sup> SMITH.

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

[16 February 1804]

Concerning the burning of former U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*

RESOLUTION expressive of the sense of Congress of the gallant conduct of Captain Stephen Decatur, the officers and crew, of the United States ketch *Intrepid*, in attacking, in the harbor of Tripoli, and destroying, a Tripolitan frigate of forty-four guns.

*Resolved, &c.*, That the President of the United States be requested to present, in the name of Congress, to Captain Stephen Decatur, a sword, and to each of the officers and crew of the United States ketch *Intrepid*, two months' pay, as a testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of the gallantry, good conduct and services of Captain Decatur, the officers and crew, of the said ketch, in attacking, in the harbor of Tripoli, and destroying, a Tripolitan frigate of forty-four guns.

APPROVED, November 27, 1804.

[Navy Register 1798.]

[16 February 1804]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 19 February 1804

*Syren* and *Intrepid* arrived having executed my orders.

[LC, original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Syren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 16 February 1804

Commences with fresh breezes, clear & pleas<sup>t</sup> weather, the *Intrepid* in Co: At ½ past 2 made the land on our lee bow, haul'd up the main sail took 1 reef in the topsails & bent the stream cable At ½ past 3 back'd the main topsail for the *Intrepid* to come up At 4 lower'd down the cutter & sent 9 men on board the *Intrepid* with cuttlasses, pistoles, musquets &c &c. At ½ past 4 the boat return'd hoisted her up & made sail for the land. At ½ past 5 mountain Togura (6 or 8 miles to the E<sup>q</sup> of Tripoli) bore S. S. W. town of Tripoli S. W. — At 6 tack'd to the NW. At ½ past 7 boarded main tack At ½ p<sup>t</sup> 9 TK<sup>d</sup> to the S. W. set stay sails & jib At 10 call<sup>d</sup> all hands to quarters & run out the guns, hauld down stay sails & jib & haul'd up square main sail, brail'd up after main sail. At ½ past 10 spoke the *Intrepid*.

At 11 back'd the main topsail sounded & got no bottom — Midnight moderate & clear lost sight of the *Intrepid*, haul'd up the fore sail & back'd main top sail, sounded in 35 fathoms & fill'd away. At 1 sounded in 14. 12 & 9 fathoms (from 1 to 4 standing off & on the shore, shewing lights for the *Intrepid* (which were answer'd) At 1 call'd all hands to quarters, run in the guns & secur'd them, shipp'd the ports, wore & stood off shore, made sail, the *Intrepid* on our lee bow. At 8 the high land near Tripoli bore S. W by W 7 leagues At 11 the *Intrepid* TK<sup>d</sup> to the S<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup> —

Meridian wore to the S<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> handed square main sail, reef'd the fore sail & set after main sail moderate breezes & pleas<sup>d</sup> the *Intrepid* bearing S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E 8 miles dis<sup>t</sup>

Latt: Obs: 33° 21' N.

[NDA.]

[16 February 1804]

[Note: Attention is invited to an article entitled "Finding the Frigate *Philadelphia*" by Charles Wellington Furlong, published in Harpers Magazine, June–November 1903, Vol. CXI, No. DCLXI, p. 50.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent,  
Malta

MALTA the 16 Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1804<sup>s</sup>

DEAR SIR: I have been honored with your Letter under the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> which I assure you I received with a good deal of satisfaction, it eased me of considerable uneasiness, as I hardly knew how to act respecting the Cargo, of Provisions on board the *William & Mary*. — The Consul to whom it came addressed and who was as fully informed of your wishes as I was, had given Capt<sup>n</sup> Tipling instructions to unload and had directed him to draw along side the Wharf for that purpose — I conceived it my Duty to put him in mind that I thought such a measure precipitate — and ill-advised, and wrote him as p<sup>r</sup> enclosed Copy, he chose to reply in terms not altogether civil which you will perceive by the translation of his Letter also herewith, — I shall make no Comment on his Conduct in this bussiness, you will see it in its proper light, it certainly does not tell much in his Commendation as a Public officer who talks so much about his "indispensible duty" —

I have agreed with Cap<sup>t</sup> Tipling to carry the Provisions to you for 480 Dollars which I think a fair bargain and full as little as I could have sent it over to you by Vessels belonging to this Place, independant of the expense of transhipment and the injury of removal from one Ship to another; — The freight is made payable here as the Captain wishes to return home with a ballast of Salt, which he has directed me to provide:

I have received the 1,000 Dollars you have been good enough to remit me to replace a similar Sum I sent Cap<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge, — As yet I have received no intelligence whatever from Tripoli, but am looking daily for the return of the Vessel that went over; —

There is a Vessel in the harbour with 47 Hogsheads of Gin on board which the Proprietor offers at 5 Sh<sup>s</sup>/10<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup> Gallon. I send you a Sample of it, and if you choose will make the purchase for the use of the Squadron. — The holder has promised to wait a week for your answer; if I receive none, I shall of course conclude that you do not want it, you will find the quality I believe pretty good, and I think the bargain not a bad one —

I have sent over by the *William & Mary*, 7 Kegs of White Paint, (prepared) by M<sup>r</sup> Dyson's order also 3 butts of Rum, by order of Mr Robinson, Purser of the Schooner *Enterprize* and expecting that you will not lose sight of your promise of paying us a Visit Soon, I remain

The Proprietor of the Gin has sent to let me know that he cannot wait your answer, I send you the sample however for as much as it may be remaining if you should choose to purchase

[LC. EPP, Vol. 9, Jan.-Feb. 1804.]

[16 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Purser Keith Spence, U. S. Navy,  
and Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

Duplicate

TRIPOLY in BARBARY Feb<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1804

Indent of Slop Cloathing wanted for the immediate use of the U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia* prisoners in this place exclusive of those wanted for next fall and winter as p<sup>r</sup> Indent before sent

280 Duck frocks or Shirts

280 pair Duck Trowsers

280 pair shoes

Signed, KEITH SPENCE *Purser*

Signed, W<sup>m</sup> BAINBRIDGE —

N. B. The shoes are added in this duplicate, ommitted in the first, not knowing that they were wanted —

Indent Slop Cloathing wanted for the Crew of the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* prisoners at Tripoly. —

300 Seamens blue Cloth Jackets

600 Pairs blue Cloth Trowsers

300 Pairs Shoes (generally large Size)

600 Shirts

300 Wool Hats

280 Blankets, three point or about that size,

TRIPOLY 16<sup>th</sup> February 1804.

(Signed) KEITH SPENCE *Purser*

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, Hampton, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP.

February 17<sup>th</sup> 1804

We are desirous of building a number of Gun-boats, but we cannot progress in the business for want of an approved Model. As has been already intimated to you, the two Gun-boats building under your and Captain Rodgers's superintendence, are intended as models. — We are now waiting to see them finished before we order any. —

This will suggest to you the propriety of employing as many laborers as can be employed usefully in building the one under your direction. — It will be agreeable to me to have her finished as early as may be practicable, tho' I do not wish you to hurry the business to the injury of the Vessel. —

With respect to her armament you may either have it fixed where you are, or have the Gun-boat brought to this place first and fix her armament here. — We have 32 pound Cannon both at Norfolk and at this place

The Gun-boat must be brought here as soon as she is finished. — The Gig which you have lately been attending to must be brought to this place at the same time. —

Can you furnish me with an estimate of the probable cost of the Gun-boat? If you can, I will thank you to attend to it as early as may be convenient. —

M<sup>r</sup> Bedinger has directions to deliver to you one 32 pound Cannon, should you call on him for it. —

R<sup>t</sup> SMITH.

[NDA. Off. Comg. Gunboats, 1803-1808.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY 17th February 1804.

DEAR SIR, We are still close confined, and are not permitted to send letters. I scroll this to inform you that a *bold attempt* is in contemplation, I believe for the Harbour of Syracuse, expecting to take you unguarded. to effect their purpose, they would disregard the loss of their people.

I have already informed you that they intend to disguise their Crew in Christian dresses.

My Cypher runs thus

*bflchrgaepumk / <sup>c</sup> / digsonvzyrw*

\* \* \* Your letter not explaining clearly led me into a mistake to write you some days since by the [space] of the 15<sup>th</sup> December, which must have gone down with the Vessel — This is by the [space] of the 5<sup>th</sup> December, which continue — *dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February* —

Our cruisers should examine every description of Vessels under Frigates, and not trust to any Colours or dress of the Crews and should not consider themselves secured from attack at Anchor. Most may happen when least expected.

[Italics indicate translation of coded message.]

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns. Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 17 February 1804

(Burning of the Frigate *Philad<sup>a</sup>*) Commences with fine breezes & pleas<sup>t</sup> weather the *Intrepid* in co: at ½ past 1 set jib & main top mast stay sail. ½ past 2 haul'd them down. At 4 made the town of Tripoli at ½ past 5 it bore S W by S ½ S English castle S. S. W. 12 miles dist<sup>t</sup> At ½ past 6 back'd main top sail & hoisted out barge & launch.

At 7 turn'd the reefs out of the topsails & sounded in 38 fathoms, small irregular stones, small shells & red & white coral. the Town of Tripoli bearing S. S. W. 9 miles At ½ past 7 sounded in 33 fathoms, set jib & after main sail. 8 sounded in 26 fathoms, fine yellowish coral, small shells & gravel. Tripoli bore S. S. W. 5 miles dist<sup>t</sup> —

At ½ past 8 sounded in 20 fathoms, haul'd up the fore sail, down jib, brail'd up after main sail. At 9 came too with the stream anchor in 22 fathoms, small yellow coral & fine sand. Tripoli bearing S. W. by S 1 mile distant inclin<sup>t</sup> to calm, sent off to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur reinforcements in the boats, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Caldwell & Jn<sup>o</sup> Dorsey mid<sup>s</sup> with 20 men

(in the launch) M<sup>r</sup> Brooke & M<sup>r</sup> Budd with 8 men (in the Barge) At ½ past 10 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur made the signal for a reinforcement of Officers & men in boats; answer'd it; about ten minutes after which the Frigate *Philadelphia* in the harbour of Tripoli burst into a flame fore & aft, the castle & Batteries then commenc<sup>d</sup> the fire on the *Intrepid*, all around the frigate & in every direction — Midnight gentle breezes & pleas<sup>u</sup>re weat<sup>h</sup>. Weigh'd & stood to the N<sup>e</sup> & E<sup>e</sup> under easy sail. At ½ past midnight the launch & barge return'd & were welcom'd with repeated cheers (hoisted in boats) At 1 AM spoke the *Intrepid* & took her tow, when Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur came on board got top gall<sup>ies</sup> masts on end & made sail. Town of Tripoli bearing S S W dist<sup>ant</sup> 2 leagues At 4 hous'd the guns & shipp'd the ports At 9 haul'd down main top mast stay sail & brail'd up after main sail. stiff gales from the S S E. At ½ past 9 set main top mast stay sail At 10 run out the jib boom bent the standing jib & set it. at ½ past 11 double reef'd after main sail & set it. —

NB About midnight the frigate burnt her cables & drifted ashore she was then burnt down to the waters edge. —

Latt: Obs: 34°25' N.

[NDA.]

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To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY 18<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, A Vessel from Malta arrived here on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> which brought your Dispatches; and the Articles sent, for which, accept my grateful thanks.

About 10 days ago we obtained permission to take the fresh air by walking in the Town and Gardens 4 or 5 in number at a time; but since the burning of the Frigate, our house has been surrounded with Guards, and what will be the result, I cannot yet say. Let what will come, believe us to be Americans possessed of Fortitude

P S: Keep it a secret that you receive any letters from me, thro' M<sup>r</sup> Nissen; and even better to not let it be known of your receiving any from me. — Place not too much confidence in the Neapolitan Doctor you have on board. Forbid all Officers writing any movements of the Squadron, particularly *Midshipmen*. We are closely watched, but I will weather a few W: B: —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

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To whom not indicated, presumably from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI february 18<sup>th</sup> 1804

“You have doubtless long ere this heard of the loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia* — The particulars of that most unfortunate event which has terminated in our becoming Prisoners of War, or rather Slaves to the Bashaw of this Regency, are briefly these — On the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> October last cruising a few leagues to the Eastward of this town, We discovered a Tripolitan Armed Ship, standing to the Westward, to which We gave chase. She kept close in with the land, and continued running for the town, while we kept up firing upon her as our guns could be brought to bear. Finding, however, all our efforts, either to compel her to run on shore, or to cut her off from the



town ineffectual, We gave up the pursuit and was standing off from the land, when we suddenly run upon a reef of Rocks, with only twelve feet of water — All the guns, except, a few to defend us against the attacks of the Enemy's gun Boats were thrown overboard, the Anchors cast away from the Bows, and the fore mast cut away, in order to lighten the Ship; but every thing was unavailing — Finding all our exertions ineffectual, convinced that no expedient had been left unattempted that could have a possible tendency to save the Ship — After having sustained the fire of the Enemy's Gun Boats for upwards of four hours, and Our Ship so much careened over as to render the firing of our guns impracticable, cruel necessity left no alternative but the melancholy one, of hauling down our Colours; and the Flag of the United States was struck to the Tripolines —

The treatment we received from these Savages was such as raised our utmost indignation — Nothing was sacred or escaped their prying search, all our chests, trunks, with every article of cloathing, and all our books were carried off — Our swords were snatched from us, our pockets searched and emptied; some of us had our boots pulled off, to examine if something was not concealed there, and some had their very coats pulled off their backs, which the barbarians exultingly put upon themselves, and as if the rewards of some signal Exploit; seemed to triumph in acquiring what fortune alone had obtained them —

Immediately on being landed, we were all conducted, amidst the shouts and acclamations of the rabble Multitude to the Palace and there ushered into the presence of the mighty Bashaw who seated in state with his Council about him, and surrounded with Guards, awaited our coming — He asked a variety of questions principally concerning our Ship and Squadron; and after having us all paraded before him, and taken a full survey of each of us, at which a gracious smile appeared upon his countenance, expressive of his inward satisfaction at his good fortune which by rendering us miserable had so kindly befriended him, we were led by a Guard to the house assigned for our Prison.

Here we were left to our own reflections till the 15<sup>th</sup> November — On that day, the Bashaw, for reasons best known to himself, thought proper to remove us, and ordered that We should be conducted to the Castle — The change indeed was rather an unpleasant one — From a large commodious house to what they call a Castle, which in fact, was a most loathsome prison — We were there crammed into the same place with all our Ship's Company — How well capable of containing such a number you may judge when I inform you that the room was about 80 feet by 25 — How comfortably when you learn that the only place to admit the fresh air was by a small aperture in the cieling grated over, without any floor or a single Article of furniture, so that when fatigued standing up, we were obliged to lay down on the filthy ground — In the Evening the Bashaw's *natural* goodness reappeared and, banishing all passion from his mind, we were by his orders reconducted to our former abode —

Two nights since the Boats of one of Our Frigates came within the harbour, and burnt our ship — It was a most sublime sight, and very gratifying to us; we have not as yet heard the particulars — In consequence of this however, the Bashaw has redoubled his vigilance of us, and 'tis said that we are again to be carried to the Castle

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 18 February 1804

Moderate breezes from the Westward At Anchor at Saragosa — Surveying Warrant officers stores & working up Junk. Towards evening the Wind shifted to the S E. and had the appearance of a gale from the East<sup>l</sup>. Cleared Hawse and down top Gall<sup>l</sup> Yards. At 8 P. M. the wind had increased nearly to a Gale — Anchored here the U. S. Schooners *Vixen* and *Enterprize* with convoys: The *Vixen* from Malta with the *William & Mary* Store Ship; The *Enterprize* from Messina with the ship *Port Mary* The *Spider* an English man of war brig anchored here — Towards midnight the wind shifted to E N E and continued so till day light with strong breezes A M. Cleaning ship Washing cloaths. Surgeons report 9 sick and 9 convalescent — Noon fresh breezes from the E N E with a swell setting into the Harbor —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Robert Montgomery, U. S. Consul, Alicante, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS Feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable favor of the 19<sup>th</sup> ultimo, with its enclosures, and to thank you for the communications which it contained.

I take the liberty of enclosing two letters for the Secretary of State of the U. States, which may go by the same conveyance (one being a copy of a preceding letter) a letter for the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Ch<sup>s</sup> Pinkney, one for M<sup>r</sup> Kirkpatrick, & one for M<sup>r</sup> Gavino. The Courier passing from this to Alicant, will, I am afraid, give you much trouble in conveying letters to the U.S. and other places; but I know you will readily take that trouble, knowing it the only certain channel of communication that we have. —

I presume that the appearance of the British fleet off here on the 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> ultimo, has been announced in your quarter, and that after much altercation with the Dey, in which neither yiel[d]ed, it went off[f] without affecting anything — The Heroic Character of Lord Nelso[n], who commanded the fleet, forbids the idea of fear on the part of the British, and it is presumed th<sup>t</sup> he was called from hence by indispensable circumstances. We wait the issue of this business with some anxiety. —

I have heard nothing from Tripoli further than the general account of the loss of the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* & Captivity of the Crew — I have made provision for the comfortable support of our unfortunate Countrymen, and await the orders of Government for further proceedings. —

The departure of the Courier a day sooner than I had expected, prevents me from adding more than the assurances of the most perfect respect & esteem

By the Spanish Courier Via Alicant

Duplicate by the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* Lt Comd<sup>t</sup> Smith — March 17<sup>th</sup>

P. S. I enclose the two letters for the Sec<sup>y</sup> of State under one cover. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 7.

ALGIERS Feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR, It was not untill the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, that I had the pleasure of receiving your acceptable favour of the 15<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> with its enclosures; for which I am much obliged to you; my a/c as sketched in your letter, is just, M<sup>r</sup> Mountford forgot to pay for making the money bags, which you will be so kind as to do. Commodore Preble did not pay me the 20 dollars you mention, it was forgotten undoubtedly; but as I shall have some accounts with him I will mention it. My good little wife & myself often talk of your kind & hospitable attentions. Your excellent Sister will be remembered by us with gratitude as long as we live — Fanny wrote to her some time ago, but had no opp<sup>y</sup> of sending the letter, it is now enclosed, — when a direct opportunity offers for Gibraltar she will write more fully.

We arrived here after a pleasant passage of five days. I have been received by the Dey with much cordiality, and our Affairs *appear* to be well here; but we are in an unsteady latitude. We find the Country exceedingly pleasant, and as yet have no cause to complain. I found Captain Cornick here to whom I gave a proper lecture — As he determined not to touch at Gibraltar, I did not write by him. — The loss of the annuity Ship near Cadiz is unfortunate but we must do without her. —

The unfortunate loss of the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* & the Captivity of poor Bainbridge & his Crew at Tripoli, you are undoubtedly informed of before this, it happened on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, and it was not untill the 15<sup>th</sup> December that I knew it here. I then took measures for supplying all the wants and making the situation of my unfortunate Countrymen as comfortable as could be in that state. It is an unlucky affair; but in the end, it will, I think be attended with good effects. — It will disconcert the plans of the Commodore, from whom I have not heard since he left this Bay on the 22<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> but he will receive further aid. (See British Affairs in letter to Capt. Bainbridge Feb<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1804)

I pray you to present my affectionate regards to your good Sister & Brother Thomas, in which my wife joins me, & sends her best love to you. Our best respects await Sir Tho<sup>s</sup> Trigg & his amiable Lady — I respect the Veteran, and his attentions are not forgotten. To Col<sup>o</sup> Fyers his Lady & family & our other acquaintances in Gibraltar we wish to be remembered with respects & regards.

1<sup>st</sup> by Spanish Courier via Alicant. — 2<sup>d</sup> by U.S. Schooner [*Vixen*] Lt. Comdt Smith via Alicant March 17<sup>th</sup> 1804 —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN 19<sup>th</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 1804.

SIR. I had the honor to answer yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> on the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>y</sup> & enclosed you a plan of a gunboat, the price thereof, & the time it would take to build four on that construction, I now send you a plan of a boat calculated to carry a 10 inch mortar a brass long 24 pounder & a short forty two, with which I am certain you will find many faults & join with me in giving the preference to the former, both for its utility & price, the latter is better calculated for inland navigation where a current or regular tide might facilitate its operations, but I

can't think it is a proper vessel to be on a barbarous coast which inevitably at some periods becomes a lee shore. —

In my opinion the best rig for a vessel carrying a mortar is a Ketch, such as the are now used in the British Navy which are vessels of burthen & resistance & calculated to keep the sea in any weather, to build such vessels here, would cost as much as it would in the United States, & the timber would not be so good, nor the work so well done, & for a boat to carry a mortar & a gun aft, I prefer the rig of the boat the plan of which I have already sent you.—

For the enclosed plan I could devise no other rig but what is delineated as the vessel must inevitably carry two masts, & when the mortar is play'd the foremast must be taken out & two stay sails fitted from the mainmast head to enable the boat to hold her wind until taken in tow by the vessel that would have her foremast on board: for that reason I prefer a sliding gunter sail forward, to a schooners, the mast being shorter & lighter, less incumber'd with rigging, & consequently easier taken in & out, but upon the whole this plan is very inconvenient; however it can do no harm to submit it to your inspection & probably your superior judgement & experience will enable you to point out some improvement which will remove the difficulty: it ought likewise to be consider'd that in action, should any of the larger boats be sunk we would lose a Gun & a mortar, exclusive of the difference in the price of the boat; the former being valued at dollars 3776 32/100 & the latter 5978 94/100 so that you may have built nine of the smaller boats for a very little more than what five of the larger would cost. —

I found here four mortars the smallest was eleven inch french measurement & weigh'd 1455 Lbs of Leghorn the other three were 12 inch & weigh'd 2720 lbs each, I should have purchased the smallest at a risk but the[y] being in possession of a Jew, immediately on his being informed that I wanted them he broke them all up, & sold them for old brass, altho the person whom I employ'd to buy them offer'd to give him a better price than he possibly could get else where; I presume he was affraid that if the Bashaw of Tripoli should be inform'd that we had purchased arms from Jews that he would make it a pretext for levying contributions on his fraternity at Tripoli; I have heard of none others for sale in Leghorn, if I do I will inform you as soon as possible, I wrote to the Founder at Florence on the subject, who answer'd me, that first permission must be obtain'd from the Tuscan government & that it would take him a year to make four ten inch mortars; & that he would settle the price when I forwarded him the design, as for balls bomb shells & ammunition, I presume the[y] can be procured by applying to this government, as the governor of Leghorn when I applied to him to know whether any impediment would be placed in the way of our building & fitting out gunboats answer'd none whatever; but on the contrary that every facility would be given us for giving the preference to the Port of Leghorn & that I might begin the work when ever I thought proper. —

I have wrote to France & Genoa for information on the above subjects as well as to be inform'd whether two capable men can be procured, here I have found none that I would recommend, when I am answer'd you shall be inform'd of the result. —

Should you determine to Commission me to have those boats built & fitted out here; it will be necessary for you to inform me where

I am to procure cash, for I have none in my possession belonging to the United States, if the Navy Agents here have any in theirs, your bills upon them would be the best way to re-imburse me, if not, upon London, bills upon the United States are not all ways negociable & never without considerable loss. —

Should you think proper to make any alterations, or additions to the plans please to specify them, that a proper contract may be enter'd into — with the builder, in order to prevent future altercation & to enable me to have them built exactly as you would wish them. —

If you think proper that I should apply to this government for shells ammunition &c please to send me your orders & specify the quantity & quality you would wish to procure. —

I have not heard from Colonel Lear since we parted pray how was he receiv'd at Algiers, & how did the presents which I forwarded by the *Siren* please the Dey & Regency. — Requesting your answer as speedily as you determine on the measures which are to be pursued, I continue very respectfully. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

DEAR SIR. I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your highly esteem'd favour of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>y</sup> together with a Copy of your letter to Cap<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge, Invoice of clothing, plan, & estimate of the cost of a gun boat; for all which, please to accept my thanks.

I have applied to the Neapolitan Govern<sup>t</sup> for gun & mortar boats, & wait an answer before I can determine on building any, they have a great number of very fine boats at Palermo & Messina. It is not in my power to send a vessel to Leghorn at present. —

The *Vixen* I have sent to Algiers, the *Enterprize* is at Messina undergoing a thorough repair. The *Argus* is ordered to cruise between Cape de gat, and Cape Martin on the coast of Spain, so that I have only the *Nautilus* Schooner, & *Syren* brig on the Tripoline station; of course no vessel to send for the clothing. I have as much provided, as will be wanted for the prisoners at present, & will send a vessel to you as soon as possible. If you could Obtain permission to send it to Naples, I intend to go there with this Ship, for the purpose of making some arrangements with the King, & wish you could meet me. It is my intention to be at Naples by the 30<sup>th</sup> of next month, but shall not remain more than five or six days. What think you of a cruise for a few weeks? I am in want of a volunteer who possesses your knowledge of the Nation we are at war with. My Cabin & table is at your Service, if you incline to favour me with your company; & I will engage to show you sport before the summer is out. —

The *Philadelphia* Frigate was got off the rocks without damage; all her guns were taken out to float her close into the Bashaw's castle, where she was moored, her guns were then put on board, & the ship & her batteries got in fine order: her guns were kept loaded, tompions out, & a strong guard constantly on board. I determined from the moment I heard of her capture, to destroy her, to prevent the consequences of her remaining in their possession: this has been effected. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> I sent Cap<sup>n</sup> Decatur in a small ketch or bombard of about 60 tons & 4 guns, with 70 volunteers from the squadron to

Tripoli, with orders to burn the Frigate, as she was so situated, that she could not be brought out. Cap<sup>tn</sup> Stewart in the *Syren* brig, was order'd to support him with boats, & cover a retreat with the brig, by anchoring off the harbour. On the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Cap<sup>tn</sup> Decatur enter'd the harbour of Tripoli, was hailed from the Frigate; he answered from Malta, & the rigg of the vessel, deceived the Tripolitans, however they were soon undeceived. Captain D — laid the ketch a long side & in a gallant & officer like manner with his brave handful of men, boarded against all opposition; & after a conflict of a few minutes; carried her by the sword, without firing a musket or pistol: then set her on fire in every part, & she was totally consumed with all her materials: we did not lose a man, & only one was wounded: between 20 & 30 Tripolines were killed; one large boat load made their escape; many leapt into the sea & it is supposed a number hid themselves below, & perished in the flames, we made but one prisoner. The conduct of Cap<sup>tn</sup> Decatur, & the Officers & crew under his command, deserve the highest commendation: two of their largest Corsairs, lay within half musket shot of the Frigate, the crews of which, for some time, stood appalled at the intrepidity & daring of our men, but after a while, they commenced firing on the ketch, & the batteries & the Bashaw's castle did the same. —

This day the *Nautilus* sent a Maltese brig taken near Tripoly, in violation of the blockade, with 8 Tripoline merch<sup>ts</sup> & a considerable cargo of goods; hemp, plank, &<sup>ca</sup> &<sup>ca</sup> on board, she is a good prize. —

Your attention to Cap<sup>tn</sup> Bainbridge, & the officers, & crew who are captives with him, does you infinite honor. —

P. S. I approve your plan for a gun boat, & wait in expectation, of receiving the letter you intended to write by the post, following your last. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801-1805.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Argus*, Gibraltar, from  
Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>, 1804.*

Sir,

\* \* \* \* \*

You will immediately on receipt of this sail on a cruise off Cape de Gatt and as high up as Cape Martin, as it is possible some of their cruisers may slip down. I would have you keep a good look out, and board every suspicious Vessel and examine below decks every one you board — Write me by way of Malta to the care of William Higgins Esquire Naval Agent for the U S, and send me all the News papers you can meet with. I am in great want of you with the *Argus* in this quarter, and I hope you will soon be relieved by some Vessel from America.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR, I regret that the 100 Gun Carriages have been sent to the Emperor of Morocco. We ought not to give those Barbarians the means of Defence or Annoyance.

I am taking measures for bringing the Bashaw of Tripoly to terms which I dare not mention for fear my letters should miscarry. The destruction of the Frigate will be a great disappointment to him, and deprive him of resources from the sale of her which he is much in want of. My heart is fixed on obliging him to sue for Peace and I hope yet to make him consent to sign a treaty as favorable as ours with Morocco without a cent for Peace or Tribute. I had rather spend my life in the Mediterranean than we should ever consent to either. I hope before the end of next summer to make him give me the Officers & Crew of the late frigate *Philadelphia* without a ransom.

I made Lieu<sup>t</sup> Dent a Lieu<sup>t</sup> Commandant to command the *Enterprize*, and since Decatur's return have ordered him to join this ship again, but shall employ him in a light Vessel soon. I wish you would confirm him in the appointment.

I have an excellent set of Officers who dare do anything I order them to do. Pray don't neglect Decatur.

I never have heard of the arrival of my dispatches by the *New York* and *John Adams*. I forwarded a large packet by each.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

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To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR, By letter from the Navy dep<sup>t</sup> of November 8<sup>th</sup> 1803 I am commanded by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secretary of the Navy, to assure you, that the President of the United States, has approved of your conduct in capturing the *Mirboka* and re-capturing her prize; and to convey to you his thanks for the vigilance and foresight exercised by you in the whole conduct of that business; and for the rapid movements which you subsequently made to arrest the mischief intended us. I am also charged to communicate to you the thanks of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secretary. I obey these commands with pleasure & satisfaction, sensible that you merit and deserve them.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

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To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy  
*Constitution, SYRACUSE HARBOUR,*  
*Feb<sup>ry</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR You will immediately join this Ship and return all the men lent from her to the *Enterprize*. —

[NHF. Dent's LB.]

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[19 February 1804]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Sec<sup>ry</sup> of the Navy to me on my conduct at my first arrival in the Mediterranean [As] my friend I know it will gratify you [I] therefore sent it.

Y<sup>rs</sup> W<sup>th</sup> Esteem

E P.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR, I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your letter of the 18th November & 12th december approbating my conduct, and conveying to me the thanks of the President of the U.S. and your own — I accept them with gratitude and pleasure, sensible how much I am hon<sup>d</sup> thereby. To know that my services are approved of by my Country is the highest reward I can ever receive, and to continue to deserve its approbation shall be my constant aim

I have conveyed to Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge the thanks of the President.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour February 19<sup>th</sup> 1804*

Sir, I had the honor to write you the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> at which time all the Vessels of the Squadron were at sea, excepting the *Enterprize*, whose Officers and Crew were gone in the prize which I captured the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. on an expedition to endeavour to destroy the *Philadelphia* in the Harbour of Tripoly. The *Syren* went to protect and assist.

7th — The *Vixen* and *Nautilus* returned, and reported the Wind West, and weather so boisterous in the channel between Sicily and Malta, that they could not with safety keep at sea. The 8th it moderated, and the *Nautilus* sailed on a cruise off Cape Mazuratt to the Eastward of Tripoly. The Wind continues Westerly — 10<sup>th</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Messina requesting me to send a Vessel to convoy the American trade from thence to the Westward. The *Vixen* is destined for Tunis & Algiers, and only waits a favorable Wind. I appointed L<sup>t</sup> Dent to the command of the *Enterprize* — Supplied him with Officers & Men from this ship to make his complement 60. and ordered him to Messina to protect the trade to this port. From hence the *Vixen* will convoy it, as far to the Westward as Algiers. It can then proceed with safety.

12<sup>th</sup> I rec<sup>d</sup> about 20 Maltese Sailors & Pilots from the Island of Malta, which by permission of the Governor, I ordered to be shipped there. Those Men I shall want to distribute among our Sailors in Latteen Boats as they are accustomed to them & shall want a number in the Spring. By the Vessel that brought over the Men, I rec<sup>d</sup> intelligence of the arrival of a Store Ship at Malta. I immediately sent the *Vixen* to convoy her to this place, where I have Magazines provided for the reception of her Cargo.

18th. The *Vixen* arrived with the Store Ship *William & Mary* Captain Tipling from Norfolk. she has a cargo we shall soon be in want of, as the Beef and Pork rec<sup>d</sup> by the *Traveller* has proved so bad, that a very great proportion of it we have been obliged to throw into the Sea. It is not necessary to send out Vinegar or Rice in future, as they can be purchased here much lower than in America. I am not yet acquainted with the quality of the present Cargo, as she has not commenced discharging — In the evening the *Enterprize* arrived with a convoy from Messina

19th — At 10 AM the *Syren* and Ketch *Intrepid* arrived from the coast of Tripoly, after having executed my orders highly to my satis-



faction, by effecting the complete destruction of the Frigate late the *Philadelphia* in the Harbour of Tripoly on the night of the 16th Inst by burning her with all her Materials. The Frigate was moored in a situation from whence she could not be brought out. Of course it became an object of the first importance to destroy her. It has been effected by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur and the Officers and Crew under his command in the most gallant manner. His conduct and that of his brave Officers and Crew is above all praise. I regret that the Boats of the *Syren* did not arrive in the Harbour of Tripoly before Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur had effected the burning of the Frigate, as it is probable the corsairs near her would have shared the fate of the Frigate, if they had.

I enclose you Lieuts Stewart & Decatur's official communications respecting this affair [16 February 1804].

P S. A prize to the *Nautilus* has this moment arrived captured to the Eastward of Tripoly. She is a Brig from Malta under English Colours bound to Tripoly, loaded with Hemp, Spars, ready made Sails, Bale Goods, & Building Stone and has Nine Tripolines on board —

E: P —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbour February 19<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR Lieutenant Decatur is an Officer of too much Value to be neglected. The important service he has rendered in destroying an Enemy's frigate of 40 Guns, and the gallant manner in which he performed it, in a small vessel of only 60 Tons and 4 Guns, under the Enemy's Batteries, surrounded by their corsairs and armed Boats, the crews of which, stood appalled at his intrepidity and daring, would in any Navy in Europe insure him instantaneous promotion to the rank of post Captain. I wish as a stimulus, it could be done in this instance; it would eventually be of real service to our Navy. I beg most earnestly to recommend him to the President, that he may be rewarded according to his merit.

By the Store Ship, I shall have the honor to write you again in a few days. With the highest respect

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
SYRACUSE HARBOUR  
February 19<sup>th</sup> 1804.

DEAR SIR, I am anxious to hear from you since the destruction of the *Philadelphia*. That business was handsomely accomplished by Captain Decatur, without the loss of a man.

There has been foul play with my letters at Malta. otherwise you would have had no reason to complain of my not writing. M<sup>r</sup> P[ulvis] — at Malta has been detected in sending the letters from America directed to you and your Officers out of their proper channel, where you never would have rec<sup>d</sup> them, if I had not made the dis-

covery; and I suppose mine have shared the same fate. In fact he enclosed them under cover, and directed them all to the United States

I have procured a supply of clothing for the seamen which I shall send you by the first opportunity. I wish you to direct your letters to me by the way of Malta to the care of William Higgins Esquire. Adieu!

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbor Feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

DEAR SIR I wrote you the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> that I had sent L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> Stewart in the Brig *Syren*, and L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> Decatur in the Ketch *Intrepid* to Tripoly to burn the *Philadelphia* as I un[der]stood it was not possible, from her situation, to bring her out.

I now have the Pleasure to Inform you that both those vessels returned here this day, after having executed my orders highly to my satisfaction; L<sup>t</sup> Decatur entered the Harbor of Tripoly in the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> with the Ketch, and in the most gallant manner, laid the frigate along side, boarded and carried her, notwithstanding the resistance of a large number of armed Tripolines prepared to recieve him: after having gained compleat possession, he proceeded to fire her with success; She was soon in a Blaze from her Birth Deck to her Tops, and is totally destroyed with all her materials: during the Operation the Batteries and Bashaw's Castle kept up a constant fire: The Frigate had all her guns, 40, mounted and loaded, and was in good Order. —

Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur did not lose a man and had but one wounded: The Tripolines had between twenty and thirty killed: Not a musket or Pistol was fired on our side, every thing by the sword and tomawhawk. We made one prisoner It is presumed some Tripolines perished in the flames, and many drowned: I am preparing for another Expedition to their Coast; this is not the season for Action, but you know I do not like to be Idle —

I enclose you a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Davis: As you will have all the Papers alluded to in it, you can best judge of the Answer proper to send the Bey of Tunis. I concieve it will be well to write him:

I beg you to make my best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Lear

P. S. I expect soon to bring the Bashaw of Tripoly to reason, and shall feel anxious for your arrival or advice in case of negotiation: If you cannot leave the Regency at present, and can prevail on M<sup>r</sup> Obrien to come here, his knowledge of the Barbarians and their language, will enable him to render me essential service. A Prize brig sent in by the *Nautilus* has this moment arrived, she was taken to the Eastward of Tripoly last Thursday under English Colors from Malta bound to Tripoly with Hemp Spars ready made, Sails and Bale Goods, has Eight Tripoline men, and two women on board as Passengers.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Sunday, 19 February 1804

These 24 hours Commence with strong breezes from the Northward and Clear Weather Employed beating into the bay of Alicant the

Ship *Actress* in Sight. At 6 P, M, Cape S<sup>t</sup> Paul bore W b N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 brought too, with the Starboard Anchor in 9 fathoms good holding ground the Ship *Actress* Arrived, at 7 AM obtained Pratique, by sending a boat with a Lieutenant on Shore the American Consul came off with him, latter part pleasant Weather people Variously Employed

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Sunday, 19 February 1804

[Syracuse] Wind N N E to E N E — Moderate and cloudy. At 10 A. M. the *Syren* & Ketch *Intrepid* appeared in the Offing; they sailed the 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> for the Coast of Tripoly with orders to Burn the frigate *Philadelphia*. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart and L<sup>t</sup> Decatur came on board and informed me that my Orders were executed; On the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Decatur entered the harbor of Tripoly with the Ketch and in the most gallant manner laid her alongside the Frigate, boarded and carried her against all opposition, killed about 20 or 30 Tripolines and drove the rest overboard, excepting one boats crew which escaped on shore and made one prisoner He then set fire to her and left her She was soon in a complete Blaze from her birth deck to her tops and was totally consumed In effecting the destruction of the frigate we had none killed and only one man wounded with a Sabre, on the head, Altho she had all her Guns mounted and loaded and a great number of men to defend her, and two Tripoline Corsairs full of men lay within half musket shot. —

The names of the Officers on board the Ketch *Intrepid* who effected this Important business are,

|                                  |                                      |                         |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| L <sup>t</sup> Comm <sup>d</sup> | Stephen Decatur Jun <sup>r</sup>     |                         |
|                                  | James Lawrence                       |                         |
| Lieut <sup>ns</sup>              | { Joseph Bainbridge &                |                         |
|                                  | { Jonathan Thorn                     |                         |
| Surgeon                          | Lewis Herman                         |                         |
|                                  | { Ralp[h] Izard.....                 | Belonging to the        |
|                                  |                                      | [ <i>Constitution</i> ] |
|                                  | { John Rowe.....                     | "                       |
|                                  | { Thomas M <sup>d</sup> Donough..... | [ <i>Enterprize</i> ]   |
| Midshipmen.                      | { Charles Morris.....                | [ <i>Constitution</i> ] |
|                                  | { Alexander Laws.....                | "                       |
|                                  | { John Davis &.....                  | "                       |
|                                  | { Thomas Oakley Anderson.....        | [ <i>Siren</i> ]        |
| Pilot                            | Salvadore Catalano                   |                         |

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 19 February 1804

Moderate Breezes from the E N E with a swell setting into the Harbor — Ship's company employ'd in cleaning ship, working up Junk, and watering ship — Employ'd a small shore boat to assist in watering — The large Cutter being on shore under the Carpenter's repair — Reciev'd Carpenters stores nineteen plank. Moderate breezes from the Eastward during the night. At 9 A M made the

the *Vixen* signal N<sup>o</sup> 589. At 10 appeared in the offing the U S Brig *Syren* and the *Intrepid* — Made the *Syren*'s signal N<sup>o</sup> 227 — The *Intrepid* is the prize lately taken from the Tripolitans, commissioned, and named by the Commodore — The Wind being light we sent boats out to assist in towing them in I mentiond that the *Syren* & *Intrepid* had sail'd on the third of this month on a secret expedition — At ½ past 10 they pass'd through our squadron (*Constitution*, *Vixen*, and *Enterprize*) in triumph, receiving three cheers from each as the[y] pass'd — Lieu<sup>t</sup> Steward of the *Syren* & Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur of the *Intrepid* waited on the Commodore, and informed him, that agreeably to his orders they had proceeded to the Harbour of Tripoli, and Burned, and totally destroyed the late U States Frigate *Philadelphia* and that the plan on which they acted was so well arranged that they had not one man either killed or wounded — Above 20 of the Tripolitans were killed, and one made prisoner — The rest escaped by jumping overboard after the ship was afire — Surgeon's report, Twelve Sick, and seven convalescent —

Noon light airs from the Eastward

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 19 February 1804

Moored in Saragosa. A M. at 10 appeared in the offing the united States Brig *Syren* and the *intrepid*/is the late Tripoletion prize/was Commissioned by the Commodore and now calld the *intriped*/the wind being light we sent boats out to assist Towing in

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 19 February 1804

Commences with fresh breezes & clear, the *Intrepid* in tow. At ½ past Merid<sup>n</sup> took in top gall<sup>t</sup> sails, stay sails & flying jib — At ½ past 1 set top gall<sup>t</sup> sails At 2 set top gall<sup>t</sup> & middle stay sails & flying jib made the S. W. end of Scicily. ½ past 3 set royals, larboard fore & main top gall<sup>t</sup> steering sails. At ½ past 4 set larboard lower steering sails. At ½ past 5 took in steering sails & royals: 6 lower'd down the boat & sent her on board the *Intrepid* with Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur: At ½ past 6 the boat return'd with M<sup>r</sup> Anderson & the remainder of the men. At 8 cape Passaro bore N N E 3 miles dis<sup>t</sup> — At ½ past 8 discover'd we were drifting towards cape Passarro, call'd all hands & mann'd sweeps, set royals, flying jib, main top gall<sup>t</sup> & royal stay sails, after m<sup>e</sup> sail At 10 pass'd cape Passaro. —

Midnight moderate breezes & pleas<sup>y</sup>. At ½ past 6 hoisted out the boats & took the brig in tow & haul'd up fore sail At 7 set royals. At ½ past 7 set fore sail, top mast & top gall<sup>t</sup> steering sails, dropt the boats astern. At 9 made the town of Syracuse, the Commodore lying in the harbour. at ½ past 9 the Commodore made a signal (if we had succeeded) which we answer'd, Immediately after Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on board the Commodore. run out the guns & secur'd them At 10 mann'd the sweeps to sweep in the harbour. — At Meridian pass'd the Commodore (who had the yards & rigging mann'd) & cheer'd us. we then pass'd the *Nautilus* & *Vixen* who went through the same motions, which was Answer'd by us.

Came too in 4 fathoms water. Light house bearing S. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. the large church E by S. taking in sail we sprung the fore top gall' yard. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 moor'd ship starboard bower S by E stream N by E. A brig *Polacre* rigg'd, off the harbour under American colours. At 3 said brig came to an anchor prov'd to be a Tripolian prize to the Schooner *Nautilus*. Survey'd & condemn'd a quantity of beef.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 hoisted in the barge. hands employ'd on various duties. —

(NB those remarks include 36 hours.)

[NDA.]

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To Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tripoli, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

(Copy)

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 20<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

SIR I have the honor to address you on the change of our treatment which we have experienced since the burning of the Frigate, and presuming that it is owing to that circumstance, I take the liberty of mentioning, that it was an occurrence which His Excellency ou[gh]t naturally to have expected from the fate of War. To have made the attempt required no information further than what the Commodore must have got, by seeing her when he was off here in December last: the probability of such a thing, must have been obvious to every one, from the distance she laid from the shore. Having stated to you that it required no information to the Commodore and the natural expectation of such an event, I trust His Excellency, will see that it was not owing to any information from myself and Officers, who were confined until eight days before it happened; in which period not a letter was wrote, or could have reached the Commodore and had we every liberty of the Town, it would be impossible for us to give any information respecting its strength &c. more than what the Commodore must already be in possession of from Consul Cathcart, and various channels. The numerous Guard we are surrounded with, is entirely unnecessary. The Walls of the City are sufficient barriers to our making the attempt of getting away, and you Sir, have a much stronger bind on us, than all the Guards that can be placed. *Our Parole of Honor*, that no Officer dare to break if kept on the part of the Government to whom it is given. Preventing our sending letters to our friends, is a restraint to us, without the least benefit to his Excellency, as it is entirely out of our Power to give any information; and could we, prudence would forbid it. And you may be assured that the Commodore or his Officers will never write to us any thing which requires secrecy for fear of the letters being detected: as a proof of this, the Commodore mentioned to me in his last letter that he would not be off here before May or June, therefore from correspondence no injury can arise to Tripoly. The letters to and from our Families & friends will be the only consolation we can receive in our captivity. Having had proofs of the humanity of your heart, I feel confident that through your Interest of this indulgence, we shall not be deprived — Myself and Officers are fully sensible of your friendly disposition towards us.

Permit me to remark that no change of treatment to us, can prevent the Commodore's acting in every Warlike manner, so long as our respective Countries are at War, His Excellency will find the Americans true friends in time of Peace but active Enemies in War.

I pray the same God that Guards and protects us both to give you health —

WM. BAINBRIDGE

SIDI MUHAMMED DGHIES

*Minister of Foreign Affairs to*

*His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly*

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. FRIGATE *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbor Feb<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

SIR You will proceed immediately to Messina with the *Enterprize* under your command, and give her such repairs as are absolutely necessary to make her a safe Vessel. M<sup>r</sup> Broadbent will be the Proper person for you to apply to for assistance; You will hire a vessel sufficient to recieve the Stores, Officers and Crew of the *Enterprize* while repairing: Apply to M<sup>r</sup> B. to employ proper persons and pay the Bills. It is expected that not a moment of time will be lost, as in the latter part of March I shall sail with the Squadron on an Important expedition, where I shall want your services. You are not to expend any money in Ornamenting the Schooner *Enterprize* — I expect One thousand dollars will pay the expences necessary

Signed, EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To John Broadbent, Messina, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1804*

DEAR SIR, I have ordered Captain Decatur to proceed to Messina with the Schooner *Enterprize* to give her some repairs. I have directed him to apply to you, to employ proper persons, and to pay the Bills, for the re-imbusement of which I will send you the Dollars, or you may draw on me here: I wish the repairs which Capt. Decatur directs to be made, may be finished in the shortest possible time. He will inform you of his late expedition to Tripoly and the success of it

JOHN BROADBENT Esquire

Merchant Messina

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul,  
Tripoli

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY *February 20<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

SIR Give me leave Sir to present You my thanks for the very polite letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> December, wherewith You have been pleased to honour me

If i have been so happy, to have been able to render Captain Bainbridge and his Officers some few services, since their captivity, i am fully persuaded not to have done more than was my duty, and my feeble exertion to alleviate their situation certainly does not merit the distinguished praise You give it.

Be assured Sir that whatever can be in my power for ameliorating the situation of the American Prisonners of War, shall never be

wanted, unfortunately however i am afraid that Captain Bainbridge and his Officers will for the future be deprived of my assistance, and i of the pleasure of shewing them politeness.

Since the attack of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst: in the evening, when the late Frigate of the U: S: *Philadelphia* was set on fire and totally consumed; the American Officers Prisonners of war here, have been closely confined in their house, having a strong garde, who does not permit any body to see them nor to send them any letters, neither are they permitted to send any letters. In the house they live however in their usual way, and my Cook is permitted as hitherto to purchase and bring them their Provisions, but severely prohibited from receiving any paper.

It is said that the Bashaw has ordered a lodging at his Castle to be prepared for the American Prisonners of War.

It depends upon the Bashaw, if i am to have the honour of seeing You Sir, when You come off with the Squadron; in consequence of his express and positif demand by making it an Article of our Treaty of Peace, i have been oblidged to renounce to be charged with the affairs of any Nation but my own. It was not difficult to see the reasons of this demand of the Bashaw, but they are too many to be detailed here.

I beg You however Sir to be assured, that whatever consistent with my Character, may depend upon me for doing any service to the United States or their Prisonners of War here, shall willingly and with the greatest pleasure be executed, i shall thereby find an opportunity to shew You my profound Respect wherewith i have the honour to remain

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

Presumably to Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy

U S BRIG *Siren*

February 26 [20] 1804

SIR On my arrival in this Harbour yesterday, I was honored with a Letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Bearing date 17 October 1803; Tendering a Saill[i]ng Masters Berth. My absence from America, having entered on Board the *Siren*, as Masters Mate, Prevented my acknowledging the Receipt of the Letter, — or my acceptance of the appointment — I have now the honor of Presenting you, with my acceptance of the appointment, and wait your Further orders,

SAMU<sup>l</sup> B BROOKE

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb-April 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 20 February 1804

Light breezes from the Eastward; *Syren*, *Vixen*, *Enterprise* and *Intrepid* in Company — Ordered L<sup>t</sup> Dent to join the Ship with the men lent the *Enterprise* & Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur to resume to Command of the *Enterprise* and the Officers and Crew of the *Intrepid* to join their respective Ships — Store Ship discharging — .

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 20 February 1804

Moderate Breezes from the Eastward. At Anchor in Saragosa, *Syren*, *Vixen*, *Enterprise* and *Intrepid* in company. On the late expedition to Tripoly the Commodore sent the following Officers from the *Constitution*, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Reid & Izard Masters Mates and Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rowe, Laws, Morris and Davis Midshipmen. L<sup>t</sup> Dent of the *Constitution* in the absence of L<sup>t</sup> Decatur was appointed to the command of the *Enterprise* — He took with him from the *Constitution* Lieut<sup>t</sup> Elbert M<sup>t</sup> Macellin Midshipmen and thirty three Seamen and proceeded to Messina from whence he bro't an American convoy — On the Arrival of the *Intrepid* yesterday L<sup>t</sup> Dent with his officers & men rejoined the *Constitution* Towards Evening we had fresh breezes from the Northward which continued through the night. A. M. ships company employed cleaning Hammocks and Ship. At 6 strong breezes from the Northw<sup>d</sup> — Sent a party of men to assist in discharging the *William and Mary* Store Ship. Surgeons report 11 sick & 7 convalescent — At Noon strong Gales from the Westward. —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 20 February 1804

These 24 hours Commence with Moderate Breezes and pleasant Weather — at 1 P. M, fired a Salute of 16 Guns which was returned with the same number from the Saluting battery on Shore at 8 AM Moored Ship [in Alicante Bay]. —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 20 February 1804

[Syracuse Harbor] At 6 AM hoisted out the barge At 4 P. M. the schooner *Vixen* hove up & stood out of the harbour, same time anchor'd here a British arm'd Schooner At ½ past 5 the *Vixen* return'd & Came too. At 6 the British Frigate *Anson* anchor'd here. At 7 hoisted in the barge. Carpenter & crew employ'd painting ship. —

Sent on board the *Enterprise* the 2 brass 6 Pounders & every thing belonging thereto as we receiv'd from her. ends with light airs from the W S W & fine weather. —

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Abraham Gibbs, U. S. Consul, Palermo

PELERMO 21 feb<sup>ry</sup> 1804,

DEAR SIR I am honored with your kind favor 13 Ins<sup>t</sup> — & return you my best thanks for your obliging promise to let me know, whether it would be permitted for any individual to ransom your Gent<sup>l</sup> Officers in Tripoli.

Here are several Gun Boats & Mortars, but the Commanding Officer or rather the Vice King has no authority to sell or lend them; it would therefore be necessary to make application to General Acton at Naples & I have no doubt but that your demand would be granted upon giving Security that they are to serve against the Common Enemy Tripoli;—

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]



Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 21 February 1804

Fresh breezes from the N. W: & cloudy — Arrived the Brig *S<sup>t</sup> Crucifixo*, fortuna barbara Master, prize to the *Nautilus*: This Vessel belonged to Malta and had my passport to go to Tripoly in Ballast, but in Violation of that passport and the Blockade she was met with to the Eastward of that place in sight of the fire made by the burning of the Frigate in that Harbor on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> standing towards the Town with 8 Tripoline Passengers and a number of Bales of Goods belonging to them, besides a quantity of Plank, Scantling, and building stone — Took 4 of the principal Tripoline Passengers on board the *Constitution* for safe keeping and shall carry the Vessel to Malta for the Purpose of investigating more clearly the property of the Vessel &<sup>o</sup>

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 21 February 1804

Moored in Saragosa. Towards the Evening anch<sup>d</sup> her[e] a Malta brig prize to the united States Schooner *Nautilus* also His B. T. Magestys Ship *Anson* and a man of war Schooner, \* \* \* We recid from the malta brig prise to the *Nautilus* four Tripolanti prisoners

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

BARBARIE TRIPOLI 22<sup>d</sup> February 1804

DEAR SIR By this conveyance you will receive letters from me of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> that of the 18<sup>th</sup> informed you that we were surrounded with Gaurds since the burning of the Frigate. — On the 20<sup>th</sup> I addressed the Minister of foreign Affairs for this Regency on the change of treatment to us; enclosed you will receive a copy of my letter to him on the subject; last evening he very politely called on me and strongly assured me that nothing unpleasent would take place and renewed his friendly offers of serving us with the humanity due to Prisoners of War; indeed his conduct has been towards us in the most liberal way that we could have expected.

I yesterday received a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart at Leghorn which was handed to me by this Government after they had read it M<sup>r</sup> C — has in my opinion been very officious in making purchases of Cloathing to the Amount of 5200 dollars amongst which is 1000 doll<sup>s</sup> for the Officers who are supplied for the present with every necessary that it is prudent to have in our Situation: In my letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> I have enclosed you a list of Articles which will be wanted the next Autumn and Winter for the Seamen & Marines. I do myself the honor of enclosing you my answer to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart's letter from which you will perceave that it may not be improper to give him a *caution*. In confidence I hope that you will not sail together for the Port of liberty for I really believe him to be a *bad Pilot* altho he possesses the most consumate assurance which you no doubt will find out on acquaintance

The Minister I presume will reply to your letter by this conveyance.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco

TANGIER 22<sup>d</sup> Feby 1804.

DEAR SIR The want of interesting matter to impart has been the cause of my not addressing you before now, — better that than the reverse in this part of the World. — All the Emperours Vessels remain in Winter Quarters, and the *Meshouda* in same state at Larach. — I had flattered myself my troubles with that Vessel were over — but the Tripoline Captain and two of his Countrymen who embarked as Passengers at Tunis have represented to His Majesty that they lost in money and Merchandize on board of that Ship to the amount of \$1440%.

A special Messenger was sent by the Minister with an Official Representation to me on the subject, and by Command requiring me to obtain satisfaction to those people. —

I answered the Letter fully stating the reasons for my believing the claim unfounded, and I have not hitherto heard any more on the matter. — Agreeably to your wish I solicited the release of Arraez Omar of Tetuan from his dismal confinement and obtained it. — The old man has repeatedly expressed his great thankfulness, both to you and me; — he pretends to regret the mentioned Tripolines should have informed the Emperour that he had a tooth beat out on board the *Meshouda*, for he declares from gratitude he never would have mentioned the circumstance himself. —

As I was also called upon to satisfy Omar for this injury, it became my duty to make some enquiry into the matter and I find he accuses a M<sup>r</sup> Bellet as the person who gave him the blow, which I have mentioned to the Secretary of State. —

Omar goes farther and says that in the presence of Captain Smith and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cox, he gave up what money he had on board the *Meshouda*, which has not been returned to him. —

This charge against an Officer appears of too serious a nature to be mentioned to Government, untill those Gentlemen who have been named as Witnesses to the fact can be heard on the subject. — As the satisfaction Justice requires should be made to Omar, if his representation be true, is not pressed upon me; I had thought of deferring any enquiry untill I should have met Captain Smith; but as its uncertain when that may happen, I have to request you will hear from that Gentleman what he knows on subject of Omar having delivered a certain sum of money as he has represented: — should that be found to be the case, then it will remain with him who recieved it to shew when it was returned to Omar. — It has proved matter of regret the *New York* did not remain here a sufficient time to admit of a more formal delivery of that ill fated Ship, than took place. — I have not heard from Government since the arrival of that Ship and the *John Adams* Frigate at Washington, but I have the highest satisfaction in congratulating you and myself on the proofs we have already seen of The Presidents approbation of the conditions on which the reconciliation with this Country was effected. —

You will have heard the Gun Carriages for the Emperor have been sent out and that they have met another stoppage at L'Orient, however that I hope will be but momentary. —

It is still my intention to visit the Ports of this Country as far as Mogadore in April next, as I conceive at all but particularly at the

latter I shall find necessary to make additions or alterations in the Instructions to my Agents; the propriety of which can best be determined when on the spot. — I trust you may find it consistent with other Services to allow either a Frigate or one of the Brigs to visit Mogadore beginning of May, for the reasons were explained between us; and I will solicit a passage back to this Port in her from the Captain, as the heats will then have become too much to render a land Journey pleasant. —

The Emperour is at Morocco and most probably will remain there some Months. —

I am now at the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> the Schooner *Citizen* has at last reached this Port with one hundred Gun Carriages for His Imperial Majesty, which are this day begun to be put on shore, with Captain Hulls assistance. —

M<sup>r</sup> Simpson desires me to convey you her best regards and I beg you will be assured I am with sentiments of great Respect

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Brig *Siren*

SYRACUSE HARBOR 22<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

SIR Herewith I transmit you Names of the Officers attached to the *Siren* under my Command, who Neglected their Duty and left the deck on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> when all the rest were armed and at Quarters, the Brig then riding at Single anchor about one mile from the Batteries of the Enemy, for the purpose of Carrying into effect your Orders of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ut<sup>o</sup>. I beg leave to observe that Mr. Anderson was afterwards sent in the Ketch *Intrepid* Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Decatur with the reinforcement from the *Siren*, and Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decatur reported to me (no doubt to you likewise) that his Conduct was officer like and highly meritorious — Also M<sup>r</sup> Dorsey was with Lieu<sup>t</sup> Caldwell who has reported his Conduct while in the Boat as deserving of praise

M<sup>r</sup> T. O. Anderson

J. S. Dorsey

C. F. DeKrafft

W<sup>m</sup> R. Nicholson

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 22 February 1804

Moderate breezes and cloudy weather: At Anchor at Saragosa: *Syren*, *Vixen*, *Enterprise* and *Intrepid* in company — White washing between decks, making wads and working up Junk — Rigged out the flying-Jib-boom and bent the sail — Towards evening Commodore Craycraft of the *Anson* waited on Commodore Preble. An officer and party of men are employed in assisting to discharge the *W<sup>m</sup> & Mary* Store Ship — Sailed The *Anson* with a convoy — Moderate Breezes from the Westward during the night —

A M Ships Company scrubbing bags, Making wads and cleaning between decks: At 9 loosed sails to dry At 11 the weather became overcast: Furled Sails — In the course of the forenoon made the *Vixen* the following signals N<sup>o</sup>s 1127, 995 & 1126. Sent an officer and party of men to assist in getting the *Port Mary* under weigh —

Carpenters planking up the ship's gang ways, between the main mast and fore rigging, which were originally constructed for guns but were covered only with canvass — A Midshipman and three or four men remain on board the *Intrepid* which is not now in commission —

Surgeons report 17 sick & 3 convalescent —

Noon fresh breezes from the N E with light rain.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To William Higgins, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804*

DEAR SIR The Store Ship arrived safe, and brought me your letter she sails for your place the moment the wind is favourable under convoy of the *Syren* Captain Stewart

I wrote you the 19th, that we succeeded in burning the *Philadelphia* in the Harbour of Tripoly on the night of the 16th inst.

The *Nautilus* has met with a Maltese Brig off Tripoly [16 February] with my passport to proceed to that place in Ballast She has on board in direct violation of that passport and of the Blockade a cargo of Tripoline property, and eight Tripoline Passengers, of course she is a good prize. I shall however bring her over to Malta, investigate the business, and deposit the cargo with you; and endeavour that the Master shall be punished for the abuse of the passport I left with Gov<sup>t</sup> Ball You will consider yourself as prize Agent in all cases

I expect to be at Malta in a day or two.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

N<sup>o</sup> 145

GIBRALTAR 23<sup>d</sup> feb<sup>y</sup> 1804

SIR I had the honor of addressing you the 10<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 144, advising my receiving a Letter from the Commander of the Schooner *Citizen* informing me of his being detain'd at L'Orient, also of the report of a Tripolin Cruiser being at Sea, which Occasion'd the *Argus* Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull to go to examine Cape de Gatt & Cape Pallas. —

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you of the arrival here of the Schooner *Citizen* on the 21<sup>st</sup> Instant with the Gun Carriages, when M<sup>r</sup> Thorn deliver'd me the Original of your favour of 2<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last Continued to 4<sup>th</sup> d<sup>y</sup>, when Agreeable to Consul Simpsons desire I directed their proceeding for Tangeir the Winds being fair, which they accordingly did yesterday, taking with them your Dispatches for said Gentleman, those for Consul Lear, Comodor Prible &c<sup>a</sup> will forward by first opportunity —

M<sup>r</sup> Thorn told me two french 74 Gun Ships & frigate had gone from L'Orient to Rochford, & a Division of Gun Briggs for Brest, That the Gen<sup>l</sup> tauk there was that the Army Collecting at Brest would make an attempt for Ireland —

Three days ago arrived the British first rate ship *R<sup>t</sup> Sovereign* of 120 Guns Commanded by Cap<sup>n</sup> Malcome in Eight days from off Ushant to reinforce Lord Nelsons fleet, the Cap<sup>n</sup> told us when he left Lord Cornwallis fleet it consisted of 25 Sail the Line of which 11 three Deckers cruising off Brest

Cap<sup>n</sup> Hull in the *Argus* just returned in 36 hours from Alicante, could get no accounts of the Tripolin in question, but brings information of Comodor Prible having Captured one with about 60 Men, which he carried to Syracuse, where he was preparing to return off Tripoly, he further adds that he learned of the Commander of the American Schooner *Equality*, who arrived from Leghorn that the French had Embargoed all Vessels there, amongst which was the American Ships *Piomongo*, & *Alexander Hodgson*, and ordered 200,000 Rations to be got ready in 24 hours, and Impressed 2000 Genoese Sailors for the ships of Warr, it was supposed they intended to Visit the Island of Sicily or Sardina

Cap<sup>n</sup> Hull with the *Argus* intends going in the Morning for Tanger, as they have no Boats there for Landing Goods, to assist with his and Men, if necessary, to unload the Carriages,

Two Imperial Briggs of warr of 8 Guns each have arrived from the adriatick to Cruise in those seas for the protection of their Trade with the Emperour of Morrocco &c<sup>a</sup> —

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796-1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 23 February 1804

These 24 hours Commence with fresh gales and clear Weather at 4 P. M, got down T. G yards and bent the sails at 6 Weighed anchor and proceeded out of the bay of Allicant for Gibralter having the Vessels bound down under Convoy Set and took in sail frequently as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Thursday, 23 February 1804

Moderate breezes from the N E. with a swell setting into the Harbor. At 1 P. M. Sailed the U. S. Schooner *Vixen* with the *Port Mary* under convoy for Gibraltar.

The *Constitutions* draft abaft 22 feet 9 Inches — forward 21 feet 2 Inches — difference 19 Inches. We recieved the Kedge Anchor lent the *Vixen* about two months ago — Towards Evening the weather became overcast and had the appearance of a gale from the East<sup>d</sup> Swayed up the lower Yards in readiness for unslinging By 8 in the Evening the weather cleared away —

About 3 weeks ago a small vessel arrived here from the Eastward. She had Seventy or Eighty persons on board supposed to belong to Tripoly. Through fear of the American cruizers her People left their own vessel and went on board an English Brig which sailed this Evening. The Commodore ordered the *Enterprize* to bring her back. The *Enterprize* arrived this morning with the [English] Brig in company and the Commodore went on board her to examine her — Employed making Wads, cleaning ship and scraping the Topmasts. Noon light airs from the East<sup>d</sup> — Surgeons report 15 sick and 5 convalescent.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Franklin Wharton, U. S. Marine Corps, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 24, 1804

You will immediately Commence recruiting and as soon as you obtain 50 men you will send them to this place together with the Detachment now under your command by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Gale — You are not restricted as to Country but must recruit no man less than 5 feet 6 inches —

You will report to me from time to time your progress in Recruiting and I confidently rely on your making every Exertion to complete this business as soon as possible —

M<sup>r</sup> Harrison the agent will on your requisition furnish the necessary monies and cloathing —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803–1805.]

To Sir Alexander John Ball, British Civil Commissioner, Malta and Gozo, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour Feb<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

SIR, As it is probable you may hear various accounts of the capture and destruction of the Tripolitan Frigate late the United States Frigate *Philadelphia* in the Harbour of Tripoly, I beg leave to mention the transactions relative to that affair. On the 3rd inst I sent the Ketch *Intrepid* of 4 Guns, with 11 Officers, and 59 Seamen and Marines, under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Decatur, to Tripoly with orders to burn the Frigate. The *Syren* Brig accompanied her to anchor off the Harbour, send in her Boats to assist, and cover the retreat of the Ketch. The weather was unfavourable until the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> when they arrived, the Brig took her position, and the Ketch entered the Harbour — Was hailed from the Batteries and Frigate — Answered from Malta and the rig of the Vessel deceived the enemy until she was alongside the Frigate; they were then fatally undeceived. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Decatur boarded with his Men, and carried her after a short conflict in which upwards of 20 Tripolines were killed on the Decks — One large Boat load made their escape, some ran below & probably perished in the flames; and many jumped overboard. As soon as complete possession was gained, she was set on fire, and totally destroyed. All her Guns were mounted and loaded; and two of their Corsairs lay within half Musket shot of her. As soon as she was in flames, the Batteries, Bashaw's Castle and Corsairs commenced firing on the Ketch. One Cannon shot passed through her Top Gall<sup>t</sup> sail was all the damage she received. We did not lose a man, and had only one wounded.

The same Night to the Eastward of Tripoly, in sight of the burning of the Frigate, the United States Schooner *Nautilus* fell in with a Merchant Brig from Malta, named the *Crocifisso*, Fortunata Barbara Master, bearing one of the passports which I left with you; but the Master in direct violation of that passport, and of the Blockade, had taken on board Hemp, Linens, Plank, Building Stone &c<sup>t</sup> and 8 Tripoline Passengers in consequence of which, she was detained and sent to this port. The captain says he was bound to Gerbi, but his being met with in sight of Tripoly to the Eastward of the Town, and standing for that Harbour, with Tripoline passengers on board,

and having a passport from Malta to Tripoly, forbids a belief of his assertion — I suppose he thought to smuggle in our Enemies & their property with impunity. I am confident this transaction is without your sanction, and without your knowledge. The Captain deserves to suffer, and I certainly shall make prize of his Vessel and Cargo. I have however sent her to Malta that the business may be investigated more thoroughly, in order to convince you of the propriety of my conduct. Captain Stewart of the *Syren* convoys her over, and will have the honor to deliver you this letter.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[24 February 1804]

To Midshipman Thomas Brown, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

SIR You will proceed on board the United States Brig *Syren* and place yourself under the Command of Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart.

FEB<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1804

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy,  
commanding, Friday, 24 February 1804

At 7 P, M, the rock of Gibraltar bore W b N  $\frac{1}{4}$  N. Estepona N W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W passed a Swedish Ship bound to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> at 10 brought too in the bay of Gibraltar with the larboard Anchor in the S E and moored with the Starboard in the N W, Apes hill bore S W b S S<sup>t</sup> Roque N b E  $\frac{1}{4}$  E —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Friday, 24 February 1804

Moderate breezes from the Eastward. At Anchor at Saragosa: *Syren Enterprize* and *Intrepid* in company Watering ship, Making wads and cleaning ship for Sea. Towards evening the Commodore recieved Intelligence of a small cruizer being in the channel of Malta — Made the *Enterprize* signal for a Cap<sup>t</sup> Lieut<sup>t</sup> Decatur waited on the Commodore — By this time the Easterly wind had died away nearly to a calm — The *Enterprize* Weighed and swept out of the Harbor — The Weather moderate during the night Sent three officers and a party of men to assist discharging the *William & Mary* Store ship — At 9 A. M. loosed sails to dry — Set up the Topmast and top Gall<sup>r</sup> rigging. The *Intrepid's* launch employed watering the *Constitution*.

At 11 A. M. the weather became Overcast. Furl'd Sails Recieved a 12 pound Caronade from the *Syren* which we fired twice to see how far it carried a shot. [it upset both times.]

Surgeons report 11 sick & 8 convalescent —

Noon fresh breezes from the West<sup>d</sup> —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

[25 February 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

DEAR SIR We are surrounded with Guards, and I am only able to smuggle this small note to advise you that the Bashaw intends shortly

to send his cruisers out. He has a Brig and schooner amongst them and is making cloths in the European mode for the Crews, and I presume that they will disguise under English Colours expecting by such means to evade the examination of our Cruisers

I am afraid the Italian sent will not be of service If OBrien could be persuaded to come, I have no doubt but he would Negotiate to the best advantage. Success attend you Prays —

TRIPOLY 25th Feb<sup>r</sup> 1804

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 25 February 1804

[Anchored in Bay of Gibraltar] At 5 Weighed Anchor and made sail for Tangier bay under Close reefed Topsails at 9 came too in Tangier bay in 10 fathoms and moored Ship the Town of Tangier bearing W N W found here the Schooner *Citizen* of Georgestown with gun Carriages a present from the United States to the Emperor of Morocco sent 10 men to assist in discharging her —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 25 February 1804

Moderate breezes from the West<sup>d</sup>, *Syren* & *Intrepid* in company — Ships company setting up top gall<sup>t</sup> rigging and working up Junk — The *Intrepid's* launch watering the *Constitution* — Toward Evening fresh breezes from the Westward — Cleared Hawse — By 8 P. M. the weather became Moderate — Mustered a quarter Watch as an anchor watch — At 3 A. M. the Guard boat reported an armed brig standing into the Harbor — Cleared Ship for action except the lanterns and boarded his Brittannic Majesty's brig *Spider* From day light till 9 A. M. Employed cleaning ship and scrubbing cloathes: from this time till Noon fresh breezes from the N W. In the course of the forenoon we made the following signals to the *Syren*, 1127, 1126, 1197, 1196 —

Surgeons report 15 sick & 8 convalescent — Noon strong Gales from the N W b W — Down top Gall<sup>t</sup> Yards and launched top Gall<sup>t</sup> Masts — This morning made the necessary arrangements for unmooring ship, but the strong winds from the W have prevented us from doing it —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr.,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Enterprize*

Malta February 26<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, I arrived here last evening. My reason for making this port was, the wind blowing hard from the Westward I could not carry a sufficiency of Sail to hold my own. I have seen a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to M<sup>r</sup> Pulis informing him that a Danish Vessel was boarded by a Tripolitan Cruiser between the Islands of Sicily & Sardinia on the 12<sup>th</sup> of last Month. the Wind is still West and blows heavy but let the wind be as it may I will sail this evening

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]



To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant John Smith, U. S. Navy,  
commanding U. S. Schooner *Vixen*,

MALTA Feb<sup>y</sup> 26th 1804

SIR, Favoured with an opportunity by the *Reynard*, I am sorry to inform you, that on the Night of the 24th off Goza I was run on Board by the *Port Mary*, the ship under my charge, & received some damage in the loss of my Main Boom, Boat Davids & some damage to the Stern, the Boat was compleatly lost & the Main Boom broke short about one third, which makes it impossible to Fish it, & conceiving it a sacrifice to cut the *Philadelphia's* Main Yard for the purpose, I have obtained a Spar suitable from the Publick Stores. I arrived at this place with the Ship at 4 O'clock in the morning after the accident, which was effected by his running on board me while laying too, he being under full sail & in the act, of veering. The Boom will be compleat this evening at 4 the other dammages, I shall repair at sea; without any expence. The day after leaving Syracuse, the Winds were very light & round the Compass, since which it has blown heavy from W. N. W. & continues so to do still which detains both Cap<sup>t</sup> Decatur & myself — He arrived yesterday afternoon. The Ship has sustained no other loss than her Jibb Boom & Cat Head.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 26 February 1804

Strong Gales from the North<sup>d</sup>. At Anchor at Saragosa — The *Syren* and *Intrepid* in company. — Making Wads & cleaning ship Towards Evening the weather became more moderate which continued through the night till day light — At 7 A. M. the weather became over cast with strong breezes from the W S W.

At 9 the wind Veered to the N W — Spliced the stream cable and the old Junk together — Veered away and unmoored ship — In purchasing the small bower we parted the Messenger — After splicing it we hove short and bro't to with an additional purchase to the Jeer capstern. — Shortened in to the Mooring service: from this time till noon Employed scrubbing and washing cables — In the course of the forenoon made the following Signals to the *Syren* N<sup>o</sup> 611 & 1000 —

Surgeons report 13 sick, 5 convalescent & 7 discharged

Noon strong breezes from the N. W. —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Hon. John C. Smith, United States Congress, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

February 27<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> inclosing M<sup>r</sup> Eaton's petition with sundry documents respecting the subject of it. The inclosed copies of two letters from this Department to the Auditor of the Treasury, and of those to which they are answers will manifest the course which the three items of his claim now in question have heretofore taken in the Executive Offices. It will also appear from them that the two first items (viz, the demurrage of the *Anna Maria*, and the charge made for the Ship *Gloria*) have been

referred to the Auditor for his decision, and that the last item, viz, a sum of money alledged to have been extorted from M<sup>r</sup> Eaton by the Minister of the Bey of Tunis, was rejected as, under all the circumstances of the case, not admissible under any proper exercise of the discretion vested in the Executive. This determination was guided by the consideration that the claim was rather for an indemnity for a loss sustained in his private & mercantile concerns, represented as brought upon him by the course of his public Agency, than for compensation for services rendered or reimbursement of money paid in the exercise of his office; and on this account as well as the absence, from the nature of the case, of full and formal proof of the fact of extortion, it was thought to be better adapted for the interposition of the Legislature, whose power of dispensing relief in peculiar cases, like the present, is less circumscribed than that of the Executive.

With respect to the claim for the *Anna Maria*, it will be sufficient to observe, that it has been unreservedly referred to the Auditor for his decision upon the merits, with a communication of the documents deemed necessary for its elucidation, and that on this account it might be considered premature or irregular for me to anticipate his decision. Permit me therefore to suggest that on a communication with him the Committee may obtain such information as may enable them to form a just opinion respecting it, should it be requisite to bring it into their deliberation, circumstanced as it is at present. It will be observed that the Auditor has been instructed to consider the *Gloria* as a Vessel retained for giving and receiving intelligence; and accordingly to settle her hire at a reasonable rate for the period she may have been actually employed in such service. Should however the footing on which this part of his claim has been placed be deemed by M<sup>r</sup> Eaton narrower than he conceives substantial justice to demand, it will remain with Congress to provide such more extensive relief as they may judge equitable; it being my opinion for reasons analogous to some of those stated above in relation to the indemnity claimed for the extortion by the Beys Minister, that Congress are alone competent for such a mode of relief, and this opinion is more strongly confirmed by the negative decision made upon the claim at the Navy Department, where it was presented for settlement in the shape of an incident to the Naval establishment.

[NA. SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 14, May 1802-May 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN Feb<sup>y</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR I had the honor to forward to you at Syracuse via Naples a plan of a gunboat on the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> & on the 19<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>ut</sup> a plan of a gun & mortar boat by the same conveyance, which I hope you will receive in due season, as likewise lists of two suits of cloathing which I have prepared for three hundred men which will be ready to ship whenever you can make it convenient to send one of the small vessels for them & you may depend she shall not be detain'd more than twenty four hours at most. —

Enclosed is a copy of my correspondence with our Consul at Marseilles, it seems that so many obstacles are to be removed before any thing can be done in France, that Leghorn is by far the most eligible place for building those boats unless you can purchase them at Naples

ready built; it is to be lamented that we have no treaties with the Italian States bordering on the Mediterranean they being all at war with the Barbary States, as stipulations might be made of vast advantage to us in the event of a war with any of them. It is reported here that Sterrett has got the command of the *Essex* & is to carry the ratification of the Treaty & Convention relative to Louisiana to France & then to join you; remember I don't vouch for the truth of this report, but I hope it may be true for he is such a man as you want. —

On the 26<sup>th</sup> December the date of the departure of the last arrival from America, the loss of the *Philadelphia* was not known at Baltimore, the three Frigates which sail'd from Gibraltar in October were safe at Washington, Abraham Venable is appointed Governor of Louisiana & that is all the news I have in my power to inform you at this moment, let me hear from you when opportunity serves & believe me to be very respectfully

P<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup> I don't know how true M<sup>r</sup> Cathalan's observation may be relative to the Bashaw's menacing the Swedish Captives, neither do I know how he would treat our prisoners in case you should Bombard the town, these are points to be determined by government, but I will never cease to lament that energetic measures had not been pursued before they had any of our Citizens in their power. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, Portugal, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTER 27<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1804

SIR The 11<sup>th</sup> Inst. I communicated to you the Acc<sup>t</sup> received of a Tripolin Cruiser being at sea, in consequence Captain Hull in the State Brig *Argus* went along the Coast of Spain as far as Alicante, but could not get any tidings of him, he returned two days ago & brings an Acc<sup>t</sup> of Commodore Preble having captured one of 60 Men & taken her to Syracuse

[NA. SDA. CL, Lisbon, Vol. 2, Jan. 1803-Dec. 1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 27 February 1804

Moored in Tangier Bay These 24 hours Commence with moderate and light airs from the Eastward rec<sup>d</sup> on board two Bullocks, some poultry Eggs and Vegetables as a present from the Emperor of Morocco Killed one of the Bullocks and served fresh beef to the Crew —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 27 February 1804

Strong Gales and cloudy weather: At single Anchor at Saragosa; *Syren* & *Intrepid* in company — Cleaning ship and scrubbing cables — Towards Evening the weather became squally with light showers and continued so till midnight when it became moderate At ½ past 12 Midnight the *Syren* weighed & proceeded to sea in order to convoy the *William & Mary* store ship from this port to Malta: The Store ship in proceeding to sea fell on board a Grecian Ship In

the act of clearing the two ships a seaman belonging to the store ship fell overboard — He saved himself by swimming to the Grecian ship A boat was sent for him, but the Greeks would not deliver him up on account of some damage done the ship — Application was made to Commodore Preble who adjusted the business to the satisfaction of both parties. At 7 A. M. swayed up top Gallant Masts & up top gall<sup>ies</sup> Yards — Slung the lower Yards & shortened in to a Stay Peak & stowed the sheet anchor — Surgeons report 13 sick & 6 Conv<sup>es</sup> At Noon moderate breezes from the Northward No opportunity these three days to get the ships draught of Water — No alteration has been made in the ships trim since the 23<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 27 February 1804

At 1 the British arm'd brig *Spider* anchor'd here At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 beat to quarters & exercis'd the men. At 4 beat the retreat At 10 sent 10 men on board the ship *William & Mary* (provision ship from America) to assist in getting her under way. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 bro<sup>t</sup> too on the star-board cable & made signal for the above ship to get under way — Midnight fresh breezes & pleas<sup>es</sup> At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past Midn<sup>t</sup> weigh'd & stood off & on for the store ship. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 the light house bore N W by N 3 leagues dis<sup>t</sup> At 4 cape Morade point bore N N E 4 leagues dis<sup>t</sup> At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 discover'd a sail ahead 1 league dist: At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 set fore sail & after main sail. At 7 sway'd up top gall<sup>ies</sup> masts. At 9 cape Passaro bore N E dis<sup>t</sup> 8 miles. at 10 single reef'd after main sail. At 11 turn'd 2 reefs out of the topsails, set jib & square main s<sup>l</sup> Came in boat from the above ship 2 men, left on board the store ship (belonging to the *Siren*) M<sup>r</sup> Anderson & 5 men. Meridian moderate & pleas<sup>es</sup> the Castle on Cape Passarro bore N E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E.

Latt: Obs: 36° 34' N.

[NDA.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco  
N<sup>o</sup> 73 Triplicate

TANGIER 28<sup>th</sup> February 1804.—

SIR I have had the honour to receive original and duplicate of the Letter you wrote me the 31<sup>st</sup> October last year with postscripts of 4<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> — The former was delivered me 22<sup>d</sup> this Month by M<sup>r</sup> William Thom, together with Charter party of the Schooner *Citizen* and Bill of lading for One hundred Gun Carriages by that Vessel, destined as a Present from the United States to His Imperial Majesty Muley Soliman. — The several Letters I trust you will have received from me subsequent to that of the 5<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup>, will have advised the accommodation of the differences had arisen with this Country on such a footing as left me no room to hesitate at the immediate delivery of these Gun Carriages. —

In consequence I lost no time in dispatching an Express for Morocco with advice to the Emperour of their arrival, which will no doubt be highly satisfactory to him: at receipt of the answer I will have the honour of transmitting to you translation thereof, together with copy of the Letter I wrote His Majesty on the occasion. — Captain Hull in the *Argus* is here to give assistance in landing the Cargo of the

*Citizen* and if Weather permits it will be all on shore tomorrow. — I must beg leave to express my regret at those Carriages not having been sent all of the natures the Emperour expressed a wish to have; — The twelve pounders can be but of little use to him, as the Batteries thro'out his Empire are almost all mounted with Guns of 24 & 18. I must also mention the whole yet landed being for Sea Service and the circumstance of but one handspike sent for each Carriage. — To remedy the latter mistake in the person who was encharged with Shipment of the Stores, I have written M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to endeavour to procure a hundred more of the suitable sizes, which I shall deliver into the Kings Stores so soon as I get them, to prevent any unpleasant remarks on a matter of so trifling a value. — Carriages for Sea Service having been sent in place of those suitable for Land Batteries I fear may not be so easily got over; however as happily they have none other of same make for Land Service in the Country, I may be able to keep them satisfied with what they have got. —

By N<sup>o</sup> 71 you will have seen the unpleasant busyness agitated respecting losses pretended to have been sustained by Passengers on board the *Meshouda*. — I sent back the Messenger came to me, on the fourth of January and urged every argument I thought would have weight against the claims set up, since when I have not heard any farther on the subject. —

Arraez Omar of Tetuan has referred me to Capt<sup>n</sup> Smith & Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cox as evidences to part of his loss. — As it appears highly necessary to come at the truth of the facts alledged by these people, I have requested of Commodore Preble to hear what the former of these Gentlemen knows respecting Omars story, on receiving his answer I shall conceive it my duty to lay the whole of the information I shall then be possessed of, before you. — If it be found the people have lost their property, it will remain for the Wisdom of Government to find a means of redress and if on the contrary (as I much wish) the allegations prove to be false, I am satisfied the Emperour will punish those within his power. — A very small present for His Majesty has at last arrived from Holland by the way of Lisbon — as it consists only in twelve Cases, two Casks and a Bale there can be but little hopes of its proving equal to expectation. — The Consul is encharged with the Negotiation and waits His Majestys Commands for going to Morocco immediately or not; — in the mean time he has desired permission of our [the Emperor's] Governour (at present at Tetuan) to send his Family to Europe, to which no answer has been returned, and I have reason to beleive it will not be granted. —

When the Emperour went to Morocco he appointed Sidy Muhammed Selawy Bashaw of the Province of Beni Hassan with residence at Salle, encharged also with the Government of that Town. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, Jan. 1803–Oct. 1810.]

[28 February 1804]

To M. Wallen, from Charles G. de König, Swedish Chargé d'Affaires,  
Constantinople

Copy

M<sup>r</sup> Monroe Envoy Extraord<sup>y</sup> and Minister Plenip<sup>y</sup> from the United States of America to the Court of England, on being informed of the misfortune by which the American frigate called the *Phila-*

*delphia*, commanded by Captain Bembridge and employed in the Mediterranean against the Bey of Tripoli, fell into the hands of the enemy of the aforesaid Commonwealth, addressed himself to me as representative of His Majesty at the Ottoman Porte, requesting that His Majesty's Legation at Constantinople might employ its good offices with the Turkish Ministry and engage the same to use the influence of the Porte with the Bey of Tripoli in favor of the unfortunate prisoners, so as to procure them their liberty or if this was out of its reach, at least recommend them to be treated with humanity, untill they by a thorough settlement of affairs between the two respective governments, may be set at liberty.

Thoroughly persuaded of the sentiments which His Majesty the King of Sweden bears to the United States as well as of his sincere wishes for their prosperity and for an uninterrupted friendly intercourse between the two Nations, I think it my duty to authorize you, Sir, to seize the earliest opportunity to take such steps with the Porte as you shall think the most efficacious in order to procure a result favorable for the prisoners.

Besides this step it will likewise be necessary, to send an order to His Majesty's Consul at Tripoli, to give every aid and assistance, in his power (without committing himself or the interest of his Principals) to the unfortunate prisoners; and likewise not to omit any means by which he might obtain their liberty, or a humane treatment during their captivity.

London the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1804.

(Signed) CHARLES GUST. DE KONIG.

M. WALLEN

having the management of the  
Affairs of Sweden during the absence of  
His Majesty's Charge des Aff<sup>rs</sup> at the  
Ottoman Porte —

[NA. SDA. Disp., Gt. Britain, Vol. 12, 1803-1807.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 28 February 1804

Syracuse — Light breezes & rain from the Eastward. Ordered the Ketch *Intrepid* and Prize brig *S<sup>t</sup> Crucifiso* hauled in shore near the Mole entrance, sails unbent, and a midshipman left in charge of Each — Weighed our best bower anchor; unbent the old cable and bent a new one — Ordered the Old one cut up for Junk.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 28 February 1804

Moderate breezes from the Eastward, At single Anchor in Saragosa — This Afternoon the *Intrepid* was warped in close to the shore; her sails unbent and landed: She had a Midshipman and three men from the *Constitution* on board of her who are to remain in her untill the Commodore returns to this place — We landed and sent to the castle [for safe keeping] thirteen of the Tripolitans which were taken in the *Intrepid* — Three which we recieved from the Brig and Six of the *Intrepids* prisoners remain on board the *Constitution* — Towards evening it became calm, Hove up and down in order to keep a clear

anchor — We continued short with every thing in readiness for getting under way, should a wind offer thro' the night — At 9 A. M. a breeze sprung up from the S. W. which is a head wind for Malta — Weighed the best bower which the old Junk was bent to and let go the small bower which we unbent & bent to the best bower Cable — Surgeons report 13 sick 6 convalescent. Ships company employed shifting and scrubbing cables. —

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Stren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 28 February 1804

At ½ past 9 saw a schooner to leeward, call'd all hands to quarters & bore down upon her, she prov'd to be the *Enterprize* on a cruize. At ½ past 2 brail'd up the after main sail At 4 tack'd to the S<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> Day light sway'd up top gall' masts. 3 sail in sight. Entrance of Malta bearing S W by W. At 7 set square main sail top gall' sails & flying jib At 11 handed top gall' sails & haul'd up main sail. Meridian squally. At 1 four Malta boats, assisted ours in towing the Brig. At 2 came too with the stream anchor, light winds & variable At 3 hove up & warp'd in the harbour. At 4 the American Consul & L<sup>t</sup> Smith Commander of the *Vixen* came on board. At ½ past 5 came too with the starb<sup>d</sup> cable in 14 fathoms 4 Malta boats employ'd carrying anchors out &c. At 7 secur'd ship, with stern fasts on shore, found here the *Vixen* & american ship *Port Mary* Provision ship. Midnight light airs from the S<sup>d</sup> & fine weather. —

NB (Those remarks include 36 hours)

[NDA.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 29 February 1804

[Syracuse] Moderate breezes from the S. W. & cloudy weather: At single anchor The *Nautilus* arrived off Tripoly, left there two days since — reported that several Vessels were in that Port and that no part of the hull of the late Frigate *Philadelphia* was Visible.

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 29 February 1804

anch<sup>d</sup> here [Sarasossa] the united States Schooner *Nautilus*, which has Returnd from cruising off[f] Tripoly, Lieutenant Summors waited on the Commodore, we sent a boat for brooms and sand/

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 1 March 1804

[In Tangier Bay] at 4 AM, sent M<sup>r</sup> Stewart Midshipman and Mathew Pease & Livingston Barns seamen on board the Schooner *Citizen* to assist in Ballasting and geting her to Gibraltar she being distressed for want of hands at daylight unmoored weighed anchor and made Sail shewed Colours to the Commodore of an English Convoy bound to the Eastward, through the Straight

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 1 March 1804

Strong gales from S. W. — At single Anchor in Syracuse. *Nautilus* in company — At 7 P. M. the Store ship *W<sup>m</sup> & Mary* returned and anchored here — She sailed three days since under convoy of the *Syren* for Malta; The Master reports the *Syren* into that Port, but the Gale was so strong from the S W that he could not gain it in the *W<sup>m</sup> & Mary* — Midnight rain — Morning fair weather & calm —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 1 March 1804

at 7 in the Evening anchored here [Sarasgossa] the *William and Mary*, Store Ship, that sailed from here three days ago under Covy of the *Syren*, for Malta

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 1 March 1804

[Malta] At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 the *Viren* weigh'd & put to sea. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 unmoor'd & brought too on the Starboard cable. At 3 hove up & stood out of the harbour under topsails.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 boarded fore tack At 4 the South end of Malta bore W by S. 5 miles dist<sup>l</sup> Left at Malta on liberty six of the Officers. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 saw a sail bearing N E standing to the N<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> made sail & gave chase,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 spoke the chase, (the *Trustee* bound to hamburg).

At 1 came too with the starboard anchor in 13 fathoms, handed all sail. At 2 moor'd ship with stern fasts on shore. Hands employ'd splicing cables making matts &c. ends with light airs. At 4 the Officers that were left on shore came on board. —

[NDA.]

To Secretary of State from James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco N<sup>o</sup> 74. TANGIER 2<sup>d</sup> March 1804.—

SIR I have now to advise that all the Stores shipt on the Schooner *Citizen* for His Imperial Majesty have been landed in safety, but one Truck, which thro' the negligence of the Moor Boatmen was lost overboard. — As this was no fault of the Master of the Schooner, I gave him Certificates of the entire Delivery. — The Rice was found of so very bad a quality it could not be offered His Majesty, for this reason I left it on board & desired M<sup>r</sup> Gavino to receive it for Issue to the Squadron. —

I am sorry for this disappointment, but happily I did not mention in my Letter to His Majesty that the Rice was come. —

With this I enclose duplicate of N<sup>o</sup> 73 forwarded by way of Gibraltar, to which I beg your reference for farther particulars respecting the Cargo of the Schooner *Citizen*. —

M<sup>r</sup> Thom has paid every attention at unloading that Vessel and as he tells me he will take the earliest opportunity for returning to the United States, he will be the bearer of this Letter. — As I have lost all hopes of being able to recover any more of the Men belonged to the *Oswego* or Schooner *Betsey* stranded on the South Coast, I take



this opportunity of handing you the Accounts of disbursements for Redemption and other incidental Charges paid for those whom we have fortunately got out of the hands of the Arabs. —

The Amount of disbursements for those of the *Oswego* is \$1783 7/12  
and for those of the Schooner *Betsey* 149 6/12

making in all One thousand nine hundred thirty three dollars and eight Cents; which sum has been provided for out of the Bill drawn under date 8<sup>th</sup> October 1800 for Two thousand dollars or Account of this Service. —

I have also the honour of handing herewith a Report on arrivals and departures of American Vessels at the Ports of this Empire during last year, which I am sorry to say you will observe is not so Interesting as the former year was. —

The interruption our Trade to this Country met with in September, has no doubt been some cause of the very great differences, but at all times (I still think) we shall only see occasional Speculations take place, as for the reasons mentioned a regular Commercial intercourse between the Countries cannot be hoped for on a grand scale. —

As the Port of Mogadore will undoubtedly continue to enjoy the chief part of whatever Trade may be carried on by the Citizens of the United States in this Country, I have considered that it may be well to visit that Port myself, when I can be best able to judge of the Regulations most proper to be established for the Masters & Merchants arriving there. —

However I shall not take any decisive resolution on the matter, untill I be honoured with the sentiments of Government on subject of the late accommodation with this Country, which must be the rule of my future actions. —

The Portuguese are now about taking off the Quantity of Wheat granted them from Darel Beyda, but the Spaniards are still denied the supplies of Grain they have so long and so earnestly solicited. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, Jan. 1803–Oct. 1810.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 2 March 1804

These 24 hours Commence with heavy gales and Squally a high and heavy sea forced the Jolly boat from her Tackles and lashings got her a longside and hoisted her on deck lost all her oars and she Sustained some damage at 3 P, M, bore away before the wind and Stood out of the Gut to the Westward Spoke the Ship *Mercury* of New York from Cette, last from Gibraltar, bound to Liverpool forced to Slip his cables owing to the Voilence of the gale offered her assistance by giving her a hawser, Water, & Provisions which he declined accepting replying that he would put into Lisbon,

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 2 March 1804

sailed for Malta and arrived next day.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 2 March 1804

at daylight a light breezes sprung up from the NE, we weighd and came to sail, at 7, we Brought to without the Harbour for the *nautilus* and *William and Mary* Store Ship to Joine company, at 8 we filld and Set Top gallant Studdingsails and Steerd for Cape Passari \* \* \* we left at Saragosa the *int[r]epid* which [is] to Remain there till the Commodore Returns, at noon the *Nautilus* NE with the *William and Mary* in Tow,

[NA. ND original.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

*Algeciras Bay, 3<sup>d</sup> March 1804*

SIR, After I had put my Letter to you of the 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> on board the Convoy for Malta, a Vessel arrived here from the Eastward, which brought information, of his having been boarded off[f] Sardenia, by a Tripolitan Cruizer, carrying 8 Guns, and Sixty or Seventy Men, I made all the dispatch I could, and sailed on the 13<sup>th</sup> to the Eastward, with a Ship belonging to New York, under Convoy, bound to Allicant. —

We had a fair wind as far as Cape de Gatt, where we took the wind from the Eastward, and beat from there to the Bay of Allicant, passing near Cape Pallos —

On my arrival at Allicant, I found there American Vessels bound down, and as I could not gain the least information there, of any Cruizers having been seen on that station, and fearing that something might arrive at Gibralter, which would make it necessary for me to be there, I thought it best to return, with the Ships bound down, taking a good look off Cape Pallos, & Cape de Gatt in my way. — I arrived at Gibralter on the 24<sup>th</sup> in the morn<sup>g</sup> and found that the Schooner [*Citizen*] with the Gun Carriages had been there, and sailed for Tangier in distress for want of men, his Mate having been pressed, and one or two of his Seamen Sick — on gaining this information from M<sup>r</sup> Gavino, and finding that there were not any Vessels in the Bay bound to the Eastward, I sailed the same Evening for Tangier, to assist the Captain of the Schooner, in delivering his Cargo. — After remaining in Tangier four days, and finding that I could be of no further use to the Schooner, I sailed for this Bay, leaving a Midshipman and two men to assist the Captain in Ballast<sup>g</sup> his Vessel, and to come over with him. —

The Moors are very much pleased with the Gun Carriages, and are remarkably attentive to our flag at present, the Governor made us a present of two Bullocks, a few Fowls, Bread &c and suffered us to take away, what Stock we pleased. —

You will not be at a loss, to know the reason of my anchoring on this side, as you will know the inconvenience of being much at Gibralter, tho' I have escaped so far, without any thing happening worth notice. —

I have the disagreeable task to inform you, that I have been obliged to arrest Lieutenant Livingston for the enclosed charges, brought against him by Lieutenant Blake, and wish you to give me Orders concerning him, he wishes very much to go to America, but I shall detain him until I hear from you — I have likewise four or five men

that have been sick ever since they left America, and likely to remain so — Should you think proper to send them home, or discharge them I shall be thankfull. — I have not as yet been able to learn, whether any of the Frigates, have began to fit out for this Station, and fear, that I shall not leave this Station, so soon as you expected. — I am now watering and shall in a few days run to the Eastward, as far as Cape de Gatt and Cruize there for a short time. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803–1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1804

DEAR SIR, When I was at Gibraltar, M<sup>r</sup> Gavino the American Consul sent on board the Frigate *Philadelphia* four seamen without my permission on the authority of having heard me express that I was short of complement. Those people willingly came on board in a Merchant Vessel's boat. The following day as the ship was tripping her Anchors and all boats in, they came and requested to be put on Shore. I did not think proper to detain my ship to gratify their whim, which was in contradiction to their conduct of the day before, and kept them on board the Frigate until I received your orders, or their will to enter. Our haste in meeting in the Bay of Gibraltar made me omit mentioning it to you. One of them entered before the loss of the Frigate; — the other three did not but were made to do duty, and our being short of complement of which the[y] supplied a part I presume entitles them to Wages notwithstanding they had not signed Articles. I request you to inform me whether I am to consider them as part of the *Philadelphia's* Crew, in order for [word illegible] my Government for the advances of clothes.

Enclosed you will receive a list of Clothing wanted immediately for the crew of the late United States Frigate *Philadelphia* — I am not able to point out in what manner for you to send them I presume when you appear off here, and have communication with the shore, that permission will be granted to land them —

[Note: Triplicate copy of this letter was dated 16 February 1804.]

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1804.

DEAR SIR, I wrote you the 27th January last p<sup>r</sup> the Victualler *William & Mary*, under cover to Consul Pulis, as the Captain would not go to Syracuse on acc<sup>t</sup> of his Insurance, and the 10th Ult<sup>o</sup>. advising you of the information given by a Danish Brig regarding a Tripoline cruiser (as he called himself) being off Sardinia. A 3 Mast Polacre, 8 Guns, about 90 Tons and 60 Men, and had black top sides. Since when have heard no more of her. Captain Hull went immediately along the coast of Spain as far as Alicante, and returned without being able to get any acc<sup>t</sup> of him.

\* \* \* \* \*

This goes under cover to Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Ball, and contains letters rec<sup>d</sup> for you p<sup>r</sup> the *Citizen*, Those for other Gentlemen of the Squadron, and for Tripoli, I send M<sup>r</sup> Higgins.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*. Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 3 March 1804

Moored in Algeciras Bay These 24 hours Commence with moderate Breezes from the Southward a Boat from the Portuguese Admiral came alongside the Officer of which informed of the loss of his Britannic Majestys brig *Weazell* Caberetta point in the gale got T. G masts on end loosed sails to dry and cleansed the Ship fore and aft, sent the barge to Gibraltar which returned having obtained Pratique and brough[t] information that the United States Schooner *Vixen* had had Captured a Tripolitan Vessel —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden. U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Saturday, 3 March 1804

Moderate breezes from the N E Steering to the S W with an offing of 6 or 7 Miles from Cape Passari We have now on board 82 leaguers 55 Butts and 67 Gang Casks — Twenty of the Butts and Twenty of the Gang Casks are Empty — By 4 P. M it became calm — At 5 we answered the *Nautilus* signal N<sup>o</sup> 819 and immediately sent a boat to her for her Intelligence — At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 the boat returned — The Commodore recieved Intelligence of a small cruizer being in shore. The *Nautilus* was ordered to part company [in chase to the Westward] and we took her convoy the *William and Mary* store ship under charge — At sun down Cape Passari bore N E b N  $\frac{1}{2}$  N nearly six Miles; the low land to the Westward of Cape Passari N N W 4 or 5 miles —

The wind continued light and Variable till 8 P. M. at which time we took our departure from Cape Passari for Malta. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 a breese sprung up from the E S E — Hoisted a light as a signal for the *William & Mary* to follow —

At 10 P. M. a sail passed ahead — fired a Gun to bring her to, and spoke her, a Swedish Brig bound from Trieste bound to Gottenburgh continued under easy sail all night

At 6 A. M. made the Island of Malta bearing from S S W to S W. — Stood in for the Harbor of Valetta till 8 when we tacked off shore as the wind was at this time unfavorable for going into Port — At 9 tacked in towards the land — Unstowed the two bowers At 10 A. M. came by the light house and anchored in the harbor of Valetta — Furled sails and ran a Kedge out to the West, S, West in order to moor ship Moored in the direction of the Harbor half a cable each way — Our depth of water 9 fath<sup>s</sup> soft muddy bottom —

The Harbor of Valetta consists of three channells forming as many points of solid rock rising a considerable height above the sea and having excellent harbors within them capable of holding large Fleets — The situation is naturally strong and no labor has been spared to render its fortifications impregnable — Surgeons report 13 sick 7 convalescent and one discharged.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 3 March 1804

Light breezes from the N E. Steering to the S. W — At 5 P. M. abreast of Cape Passari; the *Nautilus* was boarded by a boat from the

shore and immediately made the signal for having intelligence of importance to communicate, on which I sent a boat which brought me information that a small cruizer under Red Colors was on the Coast: Sent the *Nautilus* in pursuit of her — At 8 P. M. fired a shot to bring to a Brig which proved to be a Dane from Trieste for Gottenburgh. At 6 A. M. saw Malta: At 10 A. M. anchored in the harbor of Valetta in that Island. The store ship had previously entered — Surgeons report 13 sick, 7 convalescent — *Syren* at Anchor here —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 3 March 1804

Commence with light airs from the S<sup>d</sup> & E<sup>d</sup> At 9 the store ship came too here. At ½ past 10 the *Constitution* (Commodore Preble) came too in the harbour [Malta]. At 11 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on board the Commodore, ½ past 11 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart return'd — At meridian M<sup>r</sup> Anderson & the men (that went on board the store ship) return'd sent the 2 men on board of her belonging to her. Rec<sup>d</sup> an anchor from shore (for a larboard bower) weighing 1500 lb unmoor'd & hove short on the starboard cable. hoisted the anchor on board & stow'd it on the gunnel — Fresh breezes & rainy weather wind S. S. E. — (Those remarks include 12 hours.) —

[NDA.]

To General Brune, French Ambassador to Constantinople, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
HARBOUR OF SYRACUSE

4th March 1804

CITIZEN GENERAL I have the honor of enclosing a letter addressed to you, which I found on board the prize Martingana called the *Mastico*, as likewise a declaration of the Blockade of Tripoly, which I beg you to present to the Captain Pacha.

I wish him to understand that our object in Blockading that port, is to distress an Enemy who has made War on the commerce of the United States of America without any cause except those founded on avarice and injustice, and that this measure, is of the first importance in compelling them to a peace that may be consistant with the honor and dignity of our Country.

The Bearer of this, is an Officer of the Captain Pacha who was passenger in the said prize called the *Mastico* as it is possible that his Government may attach blame to him from the circumstance of his being in the Vessel I feel it a duty incumbent on me to declare that from enquiry and observation his conduct as an Officer, and Gentleman, reflects great honor on his Nation

Submitting the most proper method of making these communications to your better judgment

Au General BRUNE

*Ambassadeur de la Republique*  
*Francaise* — A'CONSTANTINOPLE

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To General Brune, French Ambassador to Constantinople, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Harbour of Syracuse 4th March 1804*

CITIZEN GENERAL Presuming on the good faith & friendship existing between the French Republic and the United States of America, and owing to our having no Ambassador or Consul at the Porte, I venture to ask your mediation in an affair which, if misrepresented, might bring us into collision with a power whom we are, and still wish to continue in Peace and friendship with. — reposing the fullest confidence in your well wishes for us, I beg leave to submit to you, the following statement of facts, earnestly hoping, that you will avail yourself of the earliest opportunity to make them known to the Captain Pacha, or the proper Department at Constantinople and to impress on their minds the truth of this our complaint and the attendant consequences of such a flagrant violation of the laws of Nations and Humanity.

On the 29th of October last the United States Frigate *Philadelphia*, then cruising alone off the Harbour of Tripoly ran on the rocks near that place. the consequences of this misfortune were, that she was attacked by Gun Boats, and other Vessels, then laying in the Harbour, and the Frigate careening so much, as to render her Guns useless she was obliged to surrender. Among the Vessels which acted in a hostile manner towards our Flag on this occasion, was the Martingana called *Mastico* commanded by Mustapha Rais of Candia who was in the Harbour of Tripoly under Turkish Colours which on this occasion he does not scruple to haul down, and hoist the Tripoline flag. He then proceeded to the attack, and was actually the person who first boarded the *Philadelphia* plundered and abused the Officers, and afterwards conducted them as prisoners to the Bashaw's Castle. Thus was the Crew of one of our Frigates made prisoners by the assistance of a Vessel belonging (as is said) to the Captain Pacha, in which case she certainly ought to have been sailing under a friendly flag. Surely such an infringement when truly represented to the Government at Constantinople, will meet their prompt consideration, and that they will readily subscribe to a punishment tantamount to the aggression I can have no doubt.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> December last as I was cruising off Tripoly I fell in with the aforesaid Martingana commanded by the said Mustapha Rais. The crew consisted of 7 Greeks, and 3 Cretans (Turkish subjects.) There was also on board as passenger a Choux of the Captain Pacha (who is now on his way home to Constantinople) and between 50 and 60 Tripolines and Slaves belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoly and his subjects. She was from Tripoly bound to Bengaza, and from thence to Constantinople. I sent her into port for further examination and just at the moment I was about discharging the Vessel Captain and Crew, I was informed of these important circumstances, which left me no alternative, but to make prize of her, as the Captain and the three Cretans, stand convicted of Piracy in the fullest extent of the word, and as such I am constrained to treat them, until I am advised by the Captain Pacha, whether or not this Captain Mustapha was sailing under Turkish Colours, and with his orders. If this is really the case, the Captain Pacha will doubtless decree that Mustapha Rais, and his associates have merited death, But I have a strong suspicion,

that this Vessel and Captain was commissioned by the Bashaw of Tripoly, and shall wait the Captain Pacha's advice on this subject with impatience

I enclose you the deposition of the Choux of the Captain Pacha, who was passenger in the Vessel; as also the depositions of several of the Crew, which prove the facts beyond doubt. After this brief statement Citizen General I beg leave to assure you, that the interest you may take in this affair, will not only insure my gratitude but that of my Country —

Accept my cordial wishes for your health and happiness, and believe me to be,

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[4 March 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard Farquhar, Malta

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

The Bashaw of Dernas Consul calld on me this morning to know if I had rec<sup>d</sup> any answer to the Letters he Sent to Your Excellency

I have had some conversation with the Capt<sup>n</sup> of a Vessel which brought the last letters from the Bashaw of Derna he also informed me what the Bashaw Said to him, but I Suppose your Excellency rec<sup>d</sup> the Letter from your Consul also all the Particulars. I calld on a Capt<sup>n</sup> Nicola who has been many years in the Service of the Bashaw of Tripoli and who latly came from there, and being now displeased with the Bashaw is willing to Serve your Excellency. he is also of opinion that this is the time to Cooperate with the Bashaw of Derna

MALTA 4<sup>th</sup> March 1804

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart,  
U. S. Navy

*Syren* off MALTA 4<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR, I met with this Polacre Ship about 6 Leagues to the Northward of Goza she having Guns and a Number of Turks on board, I thought proper to detain and send her for your investigation. They report themselves four days from Tunis bound to Zante The person who came on board as Captain of her could not tell how many persons there were on board neither could he shew me any papers or passports for them from our Consul at Tunis He reported (but in a very prevaricating manner) that there was a Tripoline Corsair sailed the same day he left Tunis.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 4 March 1804

Moored in Valetto in the Island of Malta, winds from ESE to WNW. on our anchoring here we found the united States Brig *Syren*, we was Employ<sup>d</sup> all the afternoon, in clear<sup>d</sup> and cleaning up the decks, at 3 P M. Lieutenant Steward of the *Syren* waited on the Commodore. Towards the Evening the *Syren* saild on a Cruise off Tripoly. \* \* \* at nine in the morning anchored here the united States Schooner *Nautilus*. Lieutenant Summors, who waited on the

Commodore, and Reports that he could gain no intelligence of the Crurises he was ordered to look out for.

[NA. ND original.]

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Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 4 March 1804

Fresh breezes from the E S E. On anchoring here found the U. S. Brig *Syren*. Employed all the afternoon clearing decks & cleansing ship. At 3 P. M. L<sup>t</sup> Stewart of the *Syren* waited on the Commodore — Towards evening the *Syren* sailed on a cruise off Tripoly — By 7 P. M. the wind had shifted from E S E to N N W which continued thro' the night with strong breezes — The ships company were mustered at watch and employed washing and scrubbing cloaths. At 9 A M anchored here the U. S. Schooner *Nautilus* — Lieut<sup>t</sup> Somers waited on the Commodore and reported he could gain no Intelligence of the cruiser he was sent to look for — Cleaning ship Surgeon's report 13 sick, 4 convalescent and three discharged — Among the sick are three cases of the Venerial L<sup>t</sup> Elbert, M<sup>r</sup> Wadsworth & One Seaman The others are affected with coughs, Fevers and declines M<sup>r</sup> Pulis the American Consul waited on the Commodore. Noon moderate breezes from the N N W.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

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Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Syren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 4 March 1804

Commences with fresh breezes & rainy weather. At ½ past 2 hove up & made sail out of the harbour [Malta].

Lat: Obs: 36° 25' N.

[NDA.]

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To James Monroe, U. S. Minister to London, England, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

March 5<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR,

\* \* \* \* \*

It appears by letters from Commodore Preble to the Navy Department that he had proclaimed the port of Tripoli to be in a state of blockade, on the grounds and in the form of British proclamations, used in cases where no effective blockade had taken place. That this measure may not be cited against the principle of blockades maintained by the United States, it is proper you should know that no instruction was given to the American Commander to that effect, and that the instructions since transmitted him will set and keep him right on that subject.

From a letter lately received by this Department from M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis our Consul at Lisbon, it appears that he has fallen into an error on another subject which might tend to mislead the British Government in their estimate of our principles and policy with respect to their claim of seamen serving in vessels of the United States. In a spirit of liberality he signified to a British Naval Commander at Lisbon that in order to prevent a resort to impressment by British Commanders, he was willing, on proper application to deliver seamen from american vessels, who should appear to be British subjects. You too well



know the principles maintained by the United States on this subject to be at a loss in repelling any inference that may be drawn from this circumstance, or from any others, in favor of a claim which can be reconciled neither with our national rights, nor the honor of our flag.

\* \* \* \* \*

JAMES MADISON

[NA. SDA. Dip. Cor., Inst. to Min., Vol. 6, Oct. 1801-May 1808.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

*Algeciras Bay 5<sup>th</sup> March 1804*

SIR, I have the honour to inform you, that I arrived at Gibraltar, from Cadiz and Tangier, on the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> a Swedish Vessel arrived from the Eastward, the Cap<sup>t</sup> of which brought information of his having been boarded off Sardenia, by a tripolitan Cruiser, carrying 8 Guns, and Sixty or Seventy men. — I lost no time in getting a discription of the Vessel, and preparing the *Argus* for Sea, and sailed on the 14<sup>th</sup> in pursuit of her, with the ship *Actress* of New York, under my Convoy, bound to Allicant — We had a fair wind as far as Cape de Gatt, where we took the Wind from the East<sup>d</sup>, and beat from there to the Bay of Allicant, passing near Cape Pallos,

On my arrival at Allicant, I found three American Vessels bound to the Westward, and as I could not gain, the least information, of any Cruizers having been seen on that station, and fearing that something might arrive at Gibraltar, that would make it necessary for me to be there, I thought it adviseable to return, with the Ships bound down, taking a good look off Cape Pallos and Cape de Gatt in my way,

I arrived at Gibraltar, on the 24<sup>th</sup> in the Morning, and found that the Schooner *Citizen*, had been there, with the Gun Carriages, and sailed for Tangier, in distress for want of men, his mate having been pressed, and one or two of his Seamen Sick, on gaining this information from M<sup>r</sup> Gavino and finding that there was not any Vessels in the Bay, bound to the Eastward, I sailed the same Evening for Tangier, to assist the Captain of the Schooner in delivering his Cargo. — After remaining in Tangier four days, and finding that I could be of no further use there, the Gun Carriages being nearly delivered, I sailed for this Bay, leaving a Midshipman and two men, to assist in Ballasting the Schooner, and to come over with her to Gibraltar. — The morning I left Tangier, came on a most violent Gale of wind, which obliged me to run through the Straight, and lay by until the following morning, when the wind became more moderate — I beat up, and Anchored here in the Afternoon. — I have been this moment informed, by the health Boat, that his Britanic Majestys Brig *Weazle*, was lost in the Gale, on Caberitta Point, and that several Vessels had drove from their Anchors at Gibraltar, and was obliged to go to sea — Amongst the Number two Americans, but I have not as yet been able to learn their names. — It is my intention to fill up my water at this place, and then run over to Gibraltar, and take on board a supply of Provisions, and if no application is made for Convoy, I shall again take a look off Cape de Gatt, and Cape Pallos, and hope, should any of the Enemy's Cruizers venture on this station, to be fortunate enough to fall in with them. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 5<sup>th</sup> March 1804

DEAR SIR, With this you will receive three letters from me of the following dates 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of February and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. I do myself the honor of enclosing you a note I wrote on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> to Sidi Muhammed Dghies, Minister of foreign Affairs to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly and his answer. In the latter you will perceive his question on *Massacre of Prisoners*. I have noticed it in my Note to him of this day, but you will be able to reply to it.

On the first of March we were taken from the Quarters which we had occupied, and placed in an Apartment where we are shut up, from all communication with any person. Of course our situation is not as comfortable as it has been.

Myself and Officers send many letters for America by this conveyance to Malta. Trusting to hear from you as Often as you deem proper.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Bashaw of Tripoli

Translation

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY  
5 March 1804

SIR, I replied to the letter which Commodore Preble did me the honor to write on the 4<sup>th</sup> January last and which reached me the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. The Commodore speaks much of humanity in his letter, he is however far from the practice of it, since three of the Guards of the Frigate have been found dead on the shore between Tripoly and Mesurat covered with wounds. How long has it been since Nations massacred their Prisoners?

All that I have done to soften your situation requires no thanks. It was with much pain that I prevailed at last on the Prince to permit you to go and walk in the Town & Country. I might certainly have continued to procure you other privileges.

In the actual state of things, and above all on account of the Anger of His Excellency the Bashaw who has rendered himself inaccessible. You must know Captain that I cannot undertake to charge myself with another Negotiation.

You may communicate this information to Commodore Preble if you think proper, and send me the letter which I will have conveyed to him. You can do the same with those letters which Yourself and Officers wish to send to your families as you have requested by the Letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> which you wrote me.

(Signed) SIDI MUHAMMED DGHIES  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs to His  
Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly  
in Barbary*

PS. I forgot to tell you in reply to your billet of the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> that M<sup>r</sup> Schambri Ambassador sent by the Commodore is closely engaged with His Excellency the Bashaw in the Negotiation with which he is charged —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Sidi Mohamed D'ghies, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bashaw of Tripoli,  
from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

(Copy)

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 5th March 1804

SIR, I had the honor last evening to receive your letter of that ins<sup>t</sup> in consequence of the permission contained in it, I now send you letters for the Families and Friends of myself & Officers which we shall be much obliged to you to forward to Malta.

With your consent I have enclosed to the Commodore a translation of your letter to me, who no doubt will be able to explain clearly to you that the death of the men you allude to, does not merit the appellation of *Massacre*, but was occasioned by a necessary consequence in making their escape. You may be assured, Sir, that it is an incontrovertable fact, that the Americans always treat their Prisoners with the greatest humanity and give quarters the moment opposition ceases.

I take this opportunity of again assuring you that myself and Officers are sensible of your interposition in procuring the Privileges which were granted us.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from letter to Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant David Porter, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY PRISON March 5th 1804

“DEAR WADSWORTH, Since the burning of the Frigate we have been removed & close confined in an apartment of the castle, but the Minister granted us permission to write our Friends and he has promised to forward our letters after he has perused them. With respect to the capture of the Frigate I shall only observe that we were in pursuit of one of their cruisers, after giving over chace & in the act of hauling off shore going about 8 knots we grounded on a reef of rocks laying about 3 miles from shore. Her bows were in 12 feet water & her lee gun deck ports on a level with waters' edge: every exertion was made to get her off & every seamanlike expedient tried to but without effect — at first all was hove aback & all the guns run aft: then Most of the guns hove overboard, all the water started in the hold & pumped out: the Anchors cut from the bows, & as a last effort the Foremast was cut away to lighten her forward but without effect. — The enemies gun boats in the mean time took their station on our starboard Quarter & commenced a well directed fire at our masts and rigging, they lay in such a situation that not one of our guns could be brought to bear on them not withstanding we cut away part of our stern.

Finding all endeavors to defend the ship useless Capt Bainbridge very coolly & prudently call'd a council of his officers who were unanimously of opinion that to save the lives of the Brave crew there was no alternative but to haul the colors down & with tears in his eyes did that truly brave man submit to the painful necessity: — previous to hauling the colors down we did everything in our power to disable the ship.

“Rest satisfied that no exertions were wanting to get her off nor could courage avail anything — *their* getting her off was more the effects of fortune than any exertions on their part — 48 hours after the unfortunate event a fresh N W gale arose which rais'd the waters on this coast with a heavy swell which hove her off the reef. After we struck our colors finding they did not come to take possession of the ship Capt B sent me in the Barge to tell the enemy they might

take possession as we should make no further resistance, this probably has given rise to the story you mention. When an investigation takes place I feel confident the American character will suffer nothing from this accident. Present my best respects to my old shipmates & your Brother Officers and accept assurances of high respect & esteem from your unfortunate but affectionate Friend, D. PORTER.

[H. W. L. Dana Col.]

To Sir John Acton, Prime Minister of State, The Two Sicilies, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN March 5<sup>th</sup> [\*] 1804

His Excellency

Sir JOHN ACTON &c &c &c

*Naples*

SIR The commander in chief of the United States Squadron stationed in the Mediterranean, having established his head quarters at Syracuse in Sicily, finding it absolutely necessary to join to his squadron four Gun & four Mortar Boats, and being informed that at Palermo and Messina there are some belonging to His Sicilian Majesty exactly calculated for the service on which he intends to employ them, has requested me under date of the 31st January to proceed to Naples to request permission from the Government to purchase the said Boats which are not at present in actual service; or if more agreeable, he promises either to have others built in their place, or to return them in at least as good condition as he receives them, should the Government of Naples not think proper to alienate them entirely.

Deeming it inexpedient to make so long a journey before I was informed of the probability of success, I have taken the liberty to address Your Excellency on the subject being encouraged thereto by the very polite reception the Officers of the American Squadron have always received from you at Naples, and the consideration that His Sicilian Majesty being engaged in a War with all the Barbary States by our Squadron frequenting his Coasts & Harbours, and destroying the Cruisers of any one of those states, is in reality promoting the Welfare of his subjects, by giving security to their persons and property, and lessening the risk of navigating under the Neapolitan flag.

I have requested John Matthiew Esq<sup>r</sup> our Consul at Naples to present this to Your Excellency, and to await your answer, which by your influence I have reason to believe will be in the affirmative. M<sup>r</sup> Matthiew will be directed to procure the necessary order for their delivery to Edward Preble Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander in chief of the U S Squadron stationed in the Mediterranean when he finds it convenient to call or send for them, and to forward it to him at Syracuse.

If we should be so happy as to succeed in this our request the Government of the United States will take a singular pleasure in acknowledging the favor, and Commodore Preble or myself will proceed to Naples in order to enter into any contract with that Government on the part of the United States of America that the circumstance may require.

(Signed) JAMES LEANDER CATHCART

*Consul General and Agent for the U S  
of America near the Regency of Tunis  
pro tempore at Leghorn* —

[\*One copy of this letter is dated 2 March 1804.]

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires,  
Tunis

CONSULAR HOUSE TUNIS

March 5<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR,

\* \* \* \* \*

On or about the 17th Ulto. anchored in the road of Gouletta a corsair of Barbary, said to be an Algerine, it was but a few days since, that she was discovered to be a Tripolitan, who came here for supplies. On its being made known, she was immediately ordered away by the Veckil — contrary winds, and want of Provisions have detained her. I have advized the *Enterprise* getting under weigh in order to avoid her detention on the part of the Government (agreeable to Treaty) as I have this moment received an order to appear at the Palace, and suspect this to be one of the objects. His Excellency has been pointedly peevish of late, and apprehend that my morning visit, will renew the history of his complaints.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 5 March 1804

[Malta] At 2 P. M. Governor Sir Alex<sup>t</sup> Ball, General Villetts, General Oaks Cap<sup>t</sup> Schomberg of the Navy & several other Officers both Civil, Naval and Military came on board to pay a complimentary visit on my arrival and welcome us to the Island — Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart of the *Syren* sent a Prussian Brig into this Port for examination: She was from Tunis with Turkish Passengers bound to Candia. I ordered the Prize Master and men to leave her immediately and gave her up to the Master to pursue his Voyage, as I concieved no just cause for detention — *Nautilus* recaulking and getting ready for sea. —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 5 March 1804

Moderate Breezes and clear weather. Moored in the upper harbour of Valeta, the *nautilus* in company at 2 in the afternoon, Governour Ball with Several officers of distinction waited on the Commodore at 7 in the Evening anchored her[e] a Prusian Ship Sent in for adjudication by the united States Brig *Syren* \* \* \* on our anchoring here the governour and the Commanding officer of the port Verry obligingly offered Every assistance

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 5 March 1804

Commences with fresh breezes & hazy several sail in sight. At 1 P. M turn'd a reef out of the topsails & sent up top gall<sup>t</sup> yards, in chace of a ship close in shore, under russian colours. at 2 spoke the chace. sent the cutter on board for the Cap<sup>t</sup> & papers. on examination concluded to send her into port. sent on board to take charge of her M<sup>t</sup> Dorsey & Nicholson. at ½ past 2 sent them & the Cap<sup>t</sup> with 8 of our men on board of her, fill'd away with the prize in comp<sup>t</sup> for Malta. It bearing S. S. W 4 leagues dis<sup>t</sup> ½ past

3 handed top gall<sup>t</sup> sails & main sail.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 took in fore sail. At 6 the E. end of Malta bore S by E. At 7 hove too & order'd the ship to make the best of her way into Malta. At 8 bore away to the S<sup>e</sup> & E<sup>e</sup> set top gall<sup>t</sup> sails & fore sail. Midnight light airs from the N E. the S. cape of Malta bearing N W by W 2 leagues dist<sup>t</sup>

At 1 took in top gall<sup>t</sup> sails. At 5 set after main sail & top gall<sup>t</sup> sails, stay sails, flying jib & square main s<sup>t</sup> Meridian East cape of Goza bore N E by E — hands employ'd making matts &c. &c.

Latt Obs: 37° 5' N.

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Broadbent, U. S. Navy Agent, Messina

MESSINA 6<sup>th</sup> March 1804.

DEAR SIR, I am infinitely obliged to thee for the pleasing intelligence of the gallant action of Captain Decatur at Tripoly and as I am convinced that it will give great pleasure to the Inhabitants of this Island, I shall take the liberty of giving a translation of it in the Gazette of this City. I shall also send a copy of it to General Acton, confident that it will meet with thy approbation. Atchievements of this nature cannot be too well known; it will have a good effect on the Court of Naples, and may give courage to this Government. A Neapolitan Squadron of 2 Frigates and 2 Cutters arrived yesterday from Naples, and it is said they are to be joined by another Frigate refitting in this port, but what the object of this expedition is, I know not.

Numerous reports have been spread about the sailing of the French Fleet from Toulon, but I have reason to believe that none of them are true.

Lord Neilson with his squadron was seen off Minorco eleven days ago.

By the hands of L<sup>t</sup> Com<sup>t</sup> J: H: Dent, I had the honor of receiving thy letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>: and waited immediately upon His Excellency the Governor Guillechini to see if I could procure the Gun Boats &c<sup>a</sup> but he had no authority to dispose of them without previous orders from the Court of Naples either by sale or otherwise.

He the Governor as well as the Marquis Ospley [?] Minister of the Marine to whom I also spoke on the subject, promised to do every thing in their Power to assist any of the ships of the Squadron under thy command which may come into this Port for the purpose of refitting and be assured, that I shall at all times be happy to render thy Officers such services or attentions as they may stand in need of to the utmost of my abilities

As soon as I receive Gen<sup>l</sup> Acton's answer to my request for Gun Boats &c<sup>a</sup> I shall do myself the honor of acquainting thee therewith at Syracuse. Should I not, in the mean time have the pleasure of welcoming thee at Messina

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Thomas Robinson, Jr., U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution March 6<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR I have appointed L<sup>t</sup> Dent a L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> You will therefore Observe such ceremony and respect towards him as is observed towards

the L<sup>ts</sup> Commandants of the Squadron, and enjoin it on the Officers and Crew to do the same —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Sailing Master Samuel B. Brooke, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*, MALTA March 6<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR I have recieved your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> with your acceptance of the appointment of Sailing Master to which Station the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secretary of the Navy has appointed you by letters dated the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1803. You will remain on board the *Syren* as a Supernumerary Master until a Vacancy Offers, and be assured I shall take the Earliest opportunity to place you in a situation Agreeable to your rank —

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 6 March 1804

Three Tunisian Corvettes arrived [Malta].

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 6 March 1804

[Malta] Moderate breezes from the N. N W. Rain, Thunder & lightening — At 3 P. M. it cleared up, but soon commenced raining again and continued Stormy through the Night. At 9 A. M. arrived here three ships of war of Tunis of 32, 24 & 18 Guns to repair and Equip for a cruize — It is reported that the Bey of Tunis intends to declare war against the United States — Surgeons repor[t] 13 sick, 6 convalescent

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from log book of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 6 March 1804

at anchor in Valeta in the Island Malta. the *Nautilus* in company \* \* \* at nin[e] in the morning anchored here the ships of war belong to Tunis, one of them a 32, a 16, and a 12 Ship

[NA. ND original.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Syren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 6 March 1804

Moderate breezes & fine weather, hands employ'd setting up top masts & top gall<sup>ies</sup> rigging. At 5 discover'd a sail ahead, gave chase, At 4 took in royals & steering sails, wind hauling to the Westw<sup>d</sup> At 6 she hoisted the barbary flagg at her main. At ½ past 6 we pass'd about 2 miles to leeward of her under English Colours. At 7 tack'd & stood after her. At 8 hail'd her, she answer'd Tunisian bound to Malta, requested to send our boat on board, which she refused, concluded, then to dog her untill day light. At 11 close reef'd & wore to the W<sup>d</sup> in a heavy squall from the N<sup>d</sup> lost sight of her & handed fore top sail —

Midnight Set fore topsail. the weather squally with heavy showers of rain. At 2 took in courses. At 4 moderate wore to the N<sup>d</sup> the chase still out of sight At 5 turn'd 1 reef out of the topsails & dis-

cover'd the above sail on our lee bow close in with goza made sail in chace At 9 she went into Malta At 10 we shorten'd sail  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 came too with the starboard anchor in the outer cove in 13 fathoms, found the ship we chac'd laying at anchor in the harbour, also the Frigate *Constitution* & Schooner *Nautilus* Meridian the Officers & men return'd on board from the ship we had sent in after she had been releas'd got the Launch out to water.

(Those remarks include 36 hours)

[NDA.]

Acceptance of resignation of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William W. Burrows,  
U. S. Marine Corps, from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP<sup>t</sup>

March 7, 1804

WILLIAM W. BURROWS

*Charleston S. C*

Your resignation of the appointment of L<sup>t</sup> Col. Commandant of the Marine Corps tendered in your letter of the 23 ult<sup>o</sup> is accepted but as there is a large balance to your debit on the books of this Department it is Expected that you will without delay repair to this place for the purpose of settling this balance —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To the Captain Pacha, Constantinople, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Malta Harbour March 7th. 1804.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The United States of America's Frigate *Philadelphia* having unfortunately struck on the rocks off Tripoly in Barbary, the 31st of October last was attacked by Armed Vessels and Boats, and from the situation of the Ship, was obliged to surrender. Among the Armed Vessels which made prize of the Frigate and prisoners of the Crew, was the Martingana called *Mastico* commanded by Mustapha Rais of Candia which Vessel it is said, belonged to your Excellency. She was in the port of Tripoly under Turkish Colours, when the accident happened, but immediately hauled them down, and hoisted the Tripoline flag, took on board a number of Tripolines armed with Muskets and sabres, and went out to the attack; Anchored near the Frigate, and as soon as she surrendered Mustapha Rais with his men, boarded the Frigate, made her a prize, and took the Captain & Officers &c<sup>s</sup> as Prisoners Plundered and abused them, and conducted them to the Bashaw of Tripoly. Thus by the Piratical interference of the Vessel of a friendly Nation, was the crew of one of our Frigates made prisoners of. A true representation of that transaction will be made to you, by the English and French Ambassadors residing at your Court; and I hope and expect from the friendship & respect which the Government of the United States of America have for the Grand Seignior, and the Ottoman Nation that it will please him to grant us that Justice for which he is so renowned by ordering the Bashaw to surrender up to me, the Officers and Crew of the Frigate, and by punishing in an exemplary manner those of his subjects who were concerned in this flagrant violation of the law of Nations. The U. S. are in peace and friendship with the Ottoman Porte, and wish ever to remain so. The friendly interference of the Grand Seignior,



will insure the lasting gratitude of my Country. I cannot but be astonished that the Bashaw of Tripoly could have permitted such a piratical transaction in his Port with impunity.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To the Captain Pacha, Constantinople, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S. SHIP *Constitution*  
Harbour of Malta 7th of March 1804.

His Excellency  
the Captain Pacha  
at Constantinople

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

The bearer of this Hafiz Chouix of Constantinople was in Tripoly in Barbary at the time the United States of America's Frigate *Philadelphia* was captured by the Tripolines, but he was not concerned in the piratical transaction of which Mustapha Rais and his associates were guilty on that occasion, and which will be represented to you by their Excellencies, the English & French Ministers or Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Hafiz Chouix was a passenger on board the Vessel commanded by the said Mustapha Rais when captured by our ships, and has conducted in a manner honorable to himself, and his Nation. I have treated him well and have sent him home by the first good conveyance and hope you will receive him favorably, as he is a very deserving, and good Mussulman.

I beg leave to refer you to him for information respecting the conduct of Mustapha Rais and his associates.

The United States of America, respect & honor the Grand Seignior, and the Ottoman Nation, and wish to be in peace and friendship with them for ever.

May God preserve your life and health!

(Signed) EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Harbour of Malta 7th March 1804.

SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that I have this day rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Mess<sup>rs</sup> James Mackenzie & A Glennie of London, by whom I have been advised that they had hon<sup>d</sup> Six of my Bills dated at Gibraltar the 27th of September last amounting to Four thousand Pounds Sterling, and drawn in favor of Laurent Roberts. You will easily judge of my surprise, when I inform you, that I have never written to them, nor drawn on them for one cent. The liberal supply of Money which came out in the Squadron has precluded the necessity of such a measure. I enclose you a copy of their letter to me, and my answer thereto, I have written M<sup>r</sup> Gavino at Gibraltar, in hopes that he may be able to fathom this villanous transaction. However I cannot believe, but it must have originated with some person in London who was acquainted that I was authorized to draw on the House of Mackenzie and Glennie previous to my arrival in the Mediterranean, as I had your letter of credit on board for some time after those Bills are said to be drawn.

I am directed by my instructions from you, to draw on the House of McKenzie & Glennie; and should I have occasion to draw, it will be on that firm, for I never (previous to the receipt of the enclosed extraordinary information) heard of the firm of James Mackenzie and A Glennie.

I have never heard the name of Laurent Roberts nor do I know the firm of a House, or a Merchant in Gib<sup>r</sup> excepting M<sup>r</sup> Gavino

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup> —

March 8. 1804. —

You will repair to this place to take Command of the Frigate *John Adams*, now fitting out for the Mediterranean. —

I do not wish you to come on immediately if not convenient to you, but as early as you conveniently can. Let me know by return mail when I may expect you.

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802–1805.]

To Sir Alexander John Ball, British Civil Commissioner, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Malta Harbour March 8th 1804.*

SIR, I have the honor to enclose for your information a communication from Captain Somers of the United States Schooner *Nautilus*, relative to the Capture & detention of the Brig *S F. Crucifisso* Fortunata Barbara Master met with on the Coast of Tripoly, with a Cargo of Plank, Scantling, bale Goods, and having a number of Tripoline passengers on board, she was cleared from Malta for Bengaza, had English Colours, but as there cannot be a doubt from the situation she was found in, and an examination of her papers, but she was bound directly for Tripoly, in violation of the Blockade, I have every reason to believe the capture & detention to be perfectly legal.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Nautilus*

*Malta harbor 8<sup>th</sup> March 1804*

SIR In consequence of the immediate Orders received from you to proceed to Sea and your verbal Orders that you would not have any thing to do with the Brig [*St. Crucifisso*] I captured off Tripoli, cannot make any arrange respecting her at present having applied to you agreeable to my Orders received from the Secretary of the Navy of the United States with me are as follows. — “With respect to the disposition of Prisoners — & on all other subjects not herein expressly provided for, you are to take your directions from the Commanding Officer on the Station” —

The Man I now have on board, I send to you agreeable to orders from M<sup>r</sup> Robertson, and your saying you know him to be a Tunisian

RICH<sup>d</sup> SOMERS

P. S. I send you agreeable your request the Paper the Governor wishes to see

You advise me to send the papers respecting the prize to my Agent in Syracuse — I have no Agent in Syracuse nor have I now time to do any thing further in the business — as my orders are to proceed immediately to Sea; But on my return shall pay every attention the importance of the case may require.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* MALTA March 9 1804

SIR You will immediately proceed to the Blockade of Tripoly in Company with the *Syren* and cruize untill I join you with this Ship or untill farther Orders from me; You are not to separate from the *Syren* or leave the station to which you are Ordered if it can be possibly avoided —

L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>r</sup> SOMERS —  
U. S. Sch<sup>r</sup> *Nautilus*

[Similar letter to Lieutenant Charles Stewart of U. S. Brig *Siren*, 9 March 1804.]

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

To Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

Copy

AMERICAN CONSULAR HOUSE

TUNIS March 9<sup>th</sup> 1804

Rec<sup>d</sup> April 9<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, By the enclosed, you will learn, that the U. States Schooner *Enterprise*, has made us a visit — in quest of a Tripolitan Corsair, (Polacre mounting 12, six & eight pounders) which she found here; as also the particulars of the destruction of the late United States Frigate *Philadelphia*, in the harbour of Tripoli — It has made much noise in Tunis, and is the only occasion, on which I have heard our Countrymen spoken of with due respect.

I received no communications of any kind by the *Enterprise*; but learn from the Commander, that the *Vixen*, had sailed for Algiers; and may daily expect the pleasure of seeing Yourself and M<sup>r</sup> O'Brien here. —

The uncertainty that this will find you at Algiers, does not permit me to make any remarks on the late event. The Tripolitan, will be dismantled in this port; at least orders have this day been given by the Veakil to that effect —

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 7, Part 1, Jan. 1804-Nov. 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta

MALTA 9<sup>th</sup> March 1804.

SIR I have to inform you that An American Seaman was left at this place, on Account of a Disease, and sent to the Maltese Hospital, By Commodore Morris's Orders; where he has remained from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1802. till this present day. —

I have to request you will be pleased to inform and Direct me, how I am to proceed respecting the same. —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 9 March 1804

Commences with light winds from the S E by E. At 4 hove short, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart went along side the Commodore  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 returnd weigh'd & stood out of the harbour [Malta]. At 8 set jib & main sail & tack'd to the S<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup> beating off & on the harbour. At 9 wore & stood to the N W. bound on a cruize in Co: with the *Nautilus*. \* \* \* At 10 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Summers came on board.

[NDA.]

To Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP<sup>t</sup>

March 10. 1804.

By the enclosed copy of a Precept, you will find that a Court of Enquiry is called to investigate your conduct and to state an opinion thereof. You will also perceive that your attendance here is required by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next. —

[See "Naval Documents related to the United States Wars with the Barbary Powers." Volume II, pp. 526 to 531.]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-5.]

[10 March 1804]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

WHEREAS the President of the United States did send a squadron of ships of war to the Mediterranean and did give the command thereof to Richard V. Morris a Captain in the Navy of the United States, with orders and instructions to subdue, seize, and make prize of all vessels, Goods, and effects belonging to the Bashaw of Tripoli or to his subjects, and to exert such other efforts as should be judged most proper for annoying the enemy & for protecting the Commerce and Seamen of the United States, and whereas Richard V. Morris was specially instructed to proceed with the Squadron under his command and lay off against Tripoli and closely and vigorously blockade that Port, all which will by our several instructions hereto annexed, more fully appear. — And whereas a close and vigorous blockade of the Port of Tripoli hath not been made and all practicable means have not been used to annoy the Enemy — concerning the cause of which disobedience and neglect we think it necessary that inquiry should be made in order that we may have a faithful report made to us of the causes thereof for our better information. The President of the United States has therefore charged me to call a Court of Inquiry for the purposes aforesaid and you are hereby accordingly ordered to proceed to this place to act as a Member of the said court, and being the Senior Officer called, you will be the President thereof. Notifications are also transmitted to Cap<sup>t</sup> Hugh G. Campbell and L<sup>t</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Cassin, with orders to appear at this place on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April next as members of the Court, and the Court is hereby directed and empowered to summon such persons as may be necessary to give information touching the said matters and is moreover authorized, empowered, and required strictly to examine into the matter before

mentioned, and to report a statement thereof as it shall appear to them together with their opinion thereon. All which you are to transmit to me to be laid before the President of the U. States for his consideration, and for so doing this shall be to you and to our other said Officers and all others concerned, a sufficient warrant. —

Given under my Hand, and  
Seal of the Department of the  
Navy, this tenth day of March  
1804. —

R<sup>t</sup> SMITH.  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802–1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 10 March 1804

[Malta] Wind S E b E. & Moderate — I this day liberated a man (captured in the Brig *S<sup>t</sup> F Crucifixo* by the *Nautilus*) who proved himself to be a Tunisian and restored him all the property he claimed. I also set at Liberty Hafis, Choux of the Captain Pacha, and charged him with dispatches for the English & french Ambassadors, and the Captain Pacha at Constantinople explanatory of the Piratical transactions of the Cap<sup>t</sup> & crew of the Martingano *Mastico* in the capture of the *Philadelphia*: and after his liberation I had the deposition of himself and seven Greek mariners taken before the Public Secretary to the Kings Civil Commissioner for the Islands of Malta and Gozo — I ordered the Arms and property of every kind belonging to Hafis, Choux, to be delivered to him and supplied him with provisions and stores for his Voyage and 25 Doll<sup>s</sup> in Cash for his Current expences —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Harbour of Malta 11th of March 1804. —*

SIR, I had the honor to forward you two setts of Dispatches by the way of Gibraltar, under date the 3rd and 19th Ult<sup>o</sup> by different vessels, and now forward you Triplicates of the same. I experienced many inconveniences from having so many Prisoners on board, as their want of attention to cleanliness was injurious to the health of my Crew; and they occupied more room, than I could spare. Having no Prison-Ship, I applied to the Neapolitan Government, and obtained permission to Land them at Syracuse, and deposit them in their Castles which permission, I have availed myself of. I have however kept on board Eight of the Principal Officers, who are of too much consequence to be trusted out of our sight. I expect to recover Cap<sup>n</sup> B — for the principal one.

The *Vixen* is gone to Tunis and Algiers, with my letters to the Consuls, and is to return immediately. The *Enterprize* sailed on a Cruise off Cape Bon, and was to return to Messina to get a thorough repair, which can be done cheap at that place, and in about a month. The *Syren* and *Nautilus* is off Tripoly, and I shall sail this day to join them.

I expect to obtain Gun and Mortar Boats from Naples *on loan* from the King; but shall not want them before the last of May, as

they cannot navigate these seas with safety before that time, previous to which, it will be necessary for me to go to Naples in this ship, to Officer, Mann, and Convoy them to the Coast of Tripoly, but shall delay no time, and my rout to, and from there, will be the best cruising ground to fall in with Enemy's Cruisers, if they should have any out. —

There are now in this Port, three Tunissian Frigates from 24 to 32 Guns; and one of 32 Guns, and a number of Xebecs, Polacres, and other War Vessels at Tunis, fitting in all possible haste for sea; the object is hinted to be the American Commerce I verily believe that it is the intention of Tunis to make War against us. My whole Squadron consisting only of two Brigs and three Schooners, is quite inadequate to carry on the Blockade of Tripoly, & watch the coast of Morocco & Tunis; not only so, but it will be dangerous for our small Vessels to separate for the protection of our Trade, as the Tunisians may be too strong for any force that I can detach at present. It will be politic, and for our Interest to send out a sufficient force at Once to quell these Barbarians. If I had two Frigates more here, and the Brig *Argus*, I would engage to have Peace with Tripoly on our own terms before July and to keep the Tunissians in full check. I wish you would send me out Eight 32 pound Carronades for the Upper Deck of the *Constitution*; they will be much wanted in case of a War with Tunis and Algiers, which we ought to be prepared for. I also want six 12 pound carronades for our Boats, the Carriages Worms, Rammers, Spunges, & Shot &c\* should be complete for all the Carronades, as they cannot be procured here unless at an enormous price. I expect to spend a large quantity of Powder in Fire Ships, and Infernals to blow up the Bashaw's Works, of course it will be well to send me 100 Barrels of Powder by the first Vessel of War that comes out.

If I had a vessel to spare, I would send to Alexandria to bring down the Bashaw of Tripoly's Brother, and put him in possession of Derne and Bengaza immediately, from thence he could march to Tripoly, and with our assistance take it; as all the Arabs of the Country are in his favour. I am in hopes the arrival of some additional force to our little Squadron will enable me to do this before the season is so far advanced as to dry up the Springs, and prevent the march of Troops from Egypt to Bengaza & Tripoly.

Our Commerce in the Mediterranean is immensely valuable, and daily increasing; and should the War continue between the European Powers, we may engross nearly the whole business by keeping up a respectable force, to protect our Vessels. I hope we never shall consent to pay Tripoly for Peace or Tribute; and should Tunis make War that we never shall have Peace with them but on the same terms. If we are now too economical with our Naval force, it will only lead to greater expences in future. I only want the means to bring them to a proper sence of their situation, and it shall be done; but if a sufficient force is not sent out immediately the consequences may be serious, as it regards our Commerce.

One of the Tunissian Cruisers which arrived here a few days since, was met at Sea by the *Syren* Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart and refused either to send a Boat on board, or to allow him to send one to them; or to exhibit any passports. The force was so nearly equal, that Captain Stewart did not think proper to attempt to enforce the right of being satisfied, as she hailed from Tunis. Had I met with her I certainly should not

have suffered her to pass without asserting the right our Treaty gives us, of examining Passports, as Tripoline Vessels often visit Tunis, and wear similar Colours to the Tunissian Vessels. You may rely with confidence that I shall do all in my power to protect our Commerce, and punish those who infringe on our rights. I hope I shall not be accused of a want of Prudence in the measures I adopt.

When I was last at Syracuse, I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from a M<sup>r</sup> Barnes, dated at Leghorn, who subscribes himself Consul of the United States for Sicily. I find from enquiry that he was appointed about two years since, but I believe has not been in Sicily a resident in the Island. We have a wretched Vice Consul in each of the ports of that Island, who cannot speak a word of English, and who have no respectability attached to them. I am told they have purchased their Offices at Naples, at from 270 to 500 Dollars each; they are of no service, and disgrace the uniform of our Navy by wearing it. Indeed they dress in the most ridiculous manner, and are the laughing stocks of their own Country Men as well as Foreigners. We certainly ought to have a respectable representative at Naples, a Man of *influence* by which means we should at all times have every facility in procuring whatever we may want for our operations against the Barbary Powers.

Would it not be for the Interest of our Country [to] have a Minister Plenipotentiary or an Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte? Such a character might influence the Grand Signior to guarantee our treaties with the Barbary powers, and they would then never dare to infringe them.

The Brig [*St. Crucifisso*] captured off Tripoly by the *Nautilus*, the Gov<sup>t</sup> of this Island acknowledges to be a fair prize, and will lay no claim on her. It will not be prudent to send her home at this season of the Year, as she is a very dull sailer, and I cannot at present spare men, as soon as I conveniently can, I shall send her to the United States.

I have just rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Captain Bainbridge he acknowledges the receipt of six letters from me, and a quantity of clothing, stores, and one thousand doll<sup>s</sup> for the Officers, and Crew. They are closely confined since the burning of the Frigate, but I have allowed the Tripoline Prisoners I have, to write to Tripoly, and when the Bashaw is informed of the manner in which I treat them, he will undoubtedly conduct more favorably towards Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge, his Officers and Crew.

The Barbary Powers are daily increasing their Naval force, and will soon become powerful, if not seasonably checked. Let me once more enforce the necessity of an addition to our Squadron of two or three frigates. If you send three be assured we shall eventually be gainers by it, as it will give us a consequence with the Barbary States which we want. If no additional force arrives before the Middle of May, I shall take Derne and Bengaza, to deprive the Tripoline Corsairs of a rendezvous there, and the Bashaw of the revenues of that Beylic; but I shall be obliged to destroy the Towns, unless the Bashaw's brother contrives to march from Alexandria in Season to receive the possession of them from us, I shall then commence my operations against Tripoly, as soon as Gun and Mortar Boats can be brought to the Station.

I have sent three men home in the Store Ship *William & Mary*

unfit for service, one of them was left in the Hospital here by the *Philadelphia*, and the other two, belonged to this ship. They are furnished with proper Tickets.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[11 March 1804]

Passport of Hafis Shaux or Hafiz Chouix

MALTA,

Whereas Hafis Shaux a subject of the Grand Signior takes passage from this Island for Constantinople,

These are to require the Captains and Commanders of the Ships and Vessels of war of the U. S. of America to let the said Hafis Shaux pass free and Unmolested and to give him all the assistance he may Stand in Need of —

(L S)

Given under my hand & Seal on  
board the U. S. Ship *Constitution*  
in the Harbor of Malta the 11<sup>th</sup> day of  
March 1804,

SIGNED EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Sunday, 11 March 1804

Strong Gales from the S E — At anchor in Valetta Ships company employed as necessary — By 2 P. M. it began to rain which continued all the Afternoon Deserted from the *Constitution* John Scolchfigge & John Parodini seaman both Maltese who were recieved about a month ago. During our stay here a boat with two midshipmen and four men has been employed as a guard boat throughout the night, a precaution which is necessary as we are not more than a cables length from the shore Strong Breezes during the night — Towards daylight the wind shifted from SE to WSW — At day light made the necessary arrangements for unmooring while doing which the wind shifted from the W S W to N E. which is nearly into the Harbor and prevents our going to sea this day — We this day sent to sick Quarters to the Hospital at Malta Robert Kenny, Noah Morse, Joseph Ballard, & William Smith seamen and Francis Hopkins and Enos Webster Marines Sent also on board the American store ship *W<sup>m</sup> & Mary* Michael Ryan and John Bolton Seamen invalidated from the *Constitution* — With the two last was sent a quantity of Provisions for Victualling them to America — All this forenoon the weather has been cloudy and overcast with a swell setting into the Harbor — Winds N. E.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803–1804.]

To Nicholas C. Nissen, Danish Consul, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

March 12th 1804

DEAR SIR, I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your highly esteemed favour of the 20th Ult<sup>o</sup>. for which please to accept my thanks. I hope when I appear off Tripoly the Bashaw will permit you to come on board, as I wish



personally to pay my respects, and you are well aware that you must visit us to enable me to do it, until we are on more friendly terms with the Bashaw than at present. I cannot conceive why he should deprive Cap<sup>n</sup> B—— and his Officers of any privileges they enjoyed previous to the burning of the Frigate — She was set on fire by my orders. Capt. B—— and his Officers ought not to suffer for an act, of which they could have had no sort of previous knowledge or foresight. It is certainly unjust in the Bashaw to treat them with more rigour on account of that affair. I however hope when he finds how well I treat his people who are my prisoners that he will relax and allow them more liberty. I enclose you a letter for Captain B—— which you will please to forward to him. If it is necessary the Minister should read it, I have no objection to his breaking the Seal.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*

12th March 1804.

DEAR SIR, I have received your several favours of February & March and cannot conceive why the Bashaw should have changed his Conduct by removing you to the Castle, and depriving you of the privileges you enjoyed previous to our burning the Frigate. She was burned by my orders, and without the previous knowledge of any person in Tripoly. I had a right to burn her, but if I had not, the Bashaw would be unjust to punish you for an Act of Mine of which you could have no knowledge or foresight.

The Minister says I am wanting in the practice of humanity before he again makes the assertion, let him enquire of his Country Men Prisoners with me. I have given them full liberty to write without restraint or examination of their letters; and when I appear off Tripoly if he chooses he may send one of his Officers on board to accompany one of the Consuls and learn from the mouths of the Prisoners how they have constantly been treated. After such an enquiry he will not have reason to accuse me of a want of humanity.—

I regret that any lives were lost in destroying the Frigate, the Men who were killed in taking possession of her, had a right to expect their fate from the opposition they made, and the alarm they endeavoured to create. Our People were few in number, and had everything to apprehend from an attack by their Cruisers and armed boats. The Officer who conducted the expedition has not reported to me any act of Massacre or inhumanity — People who handle dangerous weapons in War, must expect wounds and Death, but I shall never countenance or encourage wanton acts of Cruelty —

I have not yet been hon<sup>d</sup> with answer which the Minister Mentioned to have been made to my letter of the 4th January.

M<sup>r</sup> Schambri whom the Minister styles (in his letter to you) my Ambassador, has no more authority from me than I have knowledge of him, and I assure you I never spoke to, or saw him since I was created.

When the Bashaw chooses to propose a Negotiation I will attend to it, if consistent with the honor and dignity of the United States.

I very soon expect M<sup>r</sup> OBrien here from Algiers on business. All the clothing for your sailors are made, and on board this ship.

*We will take very good care of our friends, and Enemies both at Sea and in Port. I shall be glad to see them well provided for.*

PS: The night the ship was burned, I capt<sup>d</sup> a Malta Vessel to the Eastw<sup>d</sup> of Tripoly loaded with Plank, Scantling, Nails, Hemp, Flax and bales of ready made clothing and Linen, with 8 Tripolines on board bound for Tripoly she is so fair a prize, that Gov<sup>t</sup> Ball will not claim her —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

MARCH 12th 1804

DEAR SIR, The prize I captured off Tripoly the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December was the Martingana or Ketch which assisted in making prize of the *Philadelphia* — She was under Turkish Colours when you had the misfortune to run on the rocks, but as soon as that event took place, he hauled them down and hoisted Tripoline Colours, took on board as many Tripolines armed, as her Decks would hold, slipped her Cables, and went out to the attack, Anchored as near as they dared to, and as soon as you struck your Colours, her boats were manned, and they boarded you. Mustapha Rais who commanded her, was the most active in making Prisoners of yourself and Officers, and conducting you to the Bashaw. He was also extremely active in plundering the property of the Officers. The Turkish Officer who was passenger on board, and also with you in the [*George*] *Washington* is gone to Constantinople. I released him as he had no concern in the business: I have his<sup>d</sup> deposition and that of seven others who were captured in her, which makes prize of the Vessel and Cargo, and Pirates of the Captain and four other Cretans who were concerned in the infamous transaction. I have written a full account of the whole business to the Ottoman Porte, and to the English and French Ambassadors at that Court. I presume that the Grand Seignior will demand of the Bashaw of Tripoly the release of you all, as you were captured Piratically by the assistance of a Vessel which was a few moments before bearing the Ottoman Colours and that he will also demand of the Bashaw satisfaction for permitting this Piratical transaction with impunity.

P S. All the depositions were taken before the Government at Malta

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 13 March 1804

Light airs and Variable from the W. At Anchor in Valetta. At 3 A. M. furled sails & set up top Gall<sup>t</sup> Rigging — Towards evening the Weather became cloudy and overcast and had the appearance of a Gale from the East. At 9 A. M. the wind shifted from W S W to E N E By midnight we had strong breezes and rain — The E N E wind continued to encrease till 4 A. M. at which time it blew a violent gale — Down top Gall<sup>t</sup> Yards and launched Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Masts — A little after day light we heard several guns of distress — The Commodore immediately ordered two boats in readiness with Hawsers and Kedges As the light appeared we saw the signal of distress flying on board the *Bellmore* an English transport ship which had parted

her cables and drove on a shoal a little within the N E Extreme of the harbor Her situation was very dangerous as she was exposed to a heavy surf — The Commodore sent the two boats to her assistance with Hawser and Kedges — At 9 A M the boats returned after heaving the ship off and Mooring her in safety — A Kedge belonging to the *Constitution* W<sup>t</sup> 1100 pounds, One 8 Inch & One 6 Inch Hawser were left for the safety of the ship assisted — All the forenoon heavy Gales from the N E b E with constant rain — Our situation is very snug as we are moored in the upper harbor — Surgeons report 4 sick, 5 conv<sup>sc</sup> —

Noon strong N E b E Gales & rain

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Malta Harbour March 14<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR, A heavy Gale of wind from the E N E has detained me here since my last; the moment it subsides, and changes I shall put to sea.

Yesterday a Boat from the Tunissian Admiral came alongside with three Officers, and in a haughty imperious tone, demanded that I should turn all our Prisoners up for his inspection to enable him to judge if there were any Tunissians among them I replied to him that I had released the only one of his nation that had fallen into my hands among the Tripolines; this was not satisfactory, and as I did not think the request or the manner in which it was made very decent or proper on their part, I refused to gratify them or degrade ourselves by a compliance, they then moved off but observed that it would not be long before they should have plenty of us. It is possible they may tell truth, but I suspect they will pay dear for their bargain I have been told from good authority here, that it is the intention of the Bey of Tunis to declare War against us as soon as the Spring opens, if we do not give him a Frigate completely equipped. This I am confident our Government never will do. of course we must look out for War. The Tunissians have more Naval force than I can watch with sufficient attention to prevent them from injuring our Commerce, and at the same time carry on the Siege of Tripoly. I beg you to pardon my solicitation that additional force may be sent out with all possible expedition I feel extremely desirous of serving my Country — Give me the means and I will do it, by rendering the purchase of Peace or payment of Tribute totally unnecessary in this Eastern World. In the mean time every thing shall be done that our little Squadron is competent to, and I hope more than can be reasonably expected from it.

I have to observe that the Provisions sent out in the *William & Mary* Store Ship are very excellent. The Beef & Pork is branded Connecticut, and the whole has been delivered in good order.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Captain James Barron, U. S. Navy, Hampton, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>

*March 15, 1804 —*

You will repair to this place — leave your present residence so as to arrive here on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next. —

This order is given under the persuasion that your testimony is material to be given before a Court of Enquiry instituted for the investigation of the official conduct of Captain Morris — and to save time.

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr.,  
U. S. Navy

U S. SCHOONER *Enterprise* off PALERMO

March 15<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR, I arrived at Tunis on the 3rd ins<sup>t</sup> and found there one of the Bashaw of Tripoly's Corsairs of 12 Guns and a great many Men. I was informed by M<sup>r</sup> Davis, she would be ready for Sea in two or three days, the wind blowing heavy from the Northw<sup>d</sup> and Westward I remained here three days. On the fourth I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Davis, mentioning that the captain of the Corsair had reported it was his intention as soon as he was ready to go out, and wait for me, and on my coming out to board me. To strengthen him in his intention, I circulated a report that we were short handed, and what few we had were sickly — On the 6th I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Davis mentioning that he was summoned to the castle, together with the Bashaw of Tripoly's Consul, he mentioned also that he had strong suspicions that the Tripolitans had requested my detention in port. I of course got under weigh immediately, and cruised off Cape Bon until the 13<sup>th</sup> when supposing it possible he might have slipped out unobserved, I run into the roads to ascertain where I found him hauled into the Mole with all his yards upon deck I was informed he hauled in, and stript the day after my departure, since which period, the whole of his Crew had deserted him. There can be no doubt but he is bound direct for Tripoly, as he had taken on board a very Valuable Cargo. of dry Goods belonging to the Bashaw. I left him discharging his Cargo again. I touched here for the purpose of giving you this information and replenishing our Wood, which is entirely out. I reported at Tunis my intention was to remain off the Bay until relieved by another Vessel — We have had easterly winds for ten days past, and blowing very heavy. 'tis now almost calm, and I doubt much weather, I shall get in to day after procuring Wood, I shall make my appearance off Tunis again, from whence I shall repair to Messina. I enclose you a number of letters from M<sup>r</sup> Davis.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[15 March 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard Farquhar, Malta

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

I last night rec<sup>d</sup> the Inventory of the Feluga The *Bronte*, She has 4 four Pounders &<sup>e</sup> &<sup>e</sup> She cost M<sup>r</sup> Noble more than £500 but I beleve will Sell for £400 he wants an Answer to day

I rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from the English Consul at Tripoli there is no other news than of the Bashaw being displeas'd and that his Consul M<sup>r</sup> Schembrie will Sail from there for Malta in a few days I understand part of his Brigs Cargo is Oil therefore hope he will be taken, there is a Maltese coming Passenger who has lived in the English Consuls House many Months who will inform me all the News of Tripoli and



CAPTAIN STEPHEN DECATUR, JR., U. S. NAVY.

when they expect any Vessels I think there will be one or Two in Bengaze the begining of Aprill

March 15<sup>th</sup> 1804 MALTA

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Thursday, 15 March 1804

Fresh Gales from the N E. H. B. M. Ships *Agin-court* Captain Briggs and *Argo* Cap<sup>t</sup> Hallowell anchored here from Egypt at 10 P. M the wind shifted from the N E to N W, which continued through the night In the morning clear weather, A Sailor swam from the ship last evening I have been ready for sea several days and wait for an opportunity to leave the Harbor. At Noon light breezes from the N b W — A Tunisian boat came alongside, & in an insolent manner the Officer demanded that we should muster our prisoners that they might know if any Tunisians were among them; this I did not comply with — I sent M<sup>r</sup> Lewis Midshipman on board H B M's ship *Agin-court* by permission of Cap<sup>t</sup> Briggs who was so obliging as to recieve him passenger for Gibraltar. M<sup>r</sup> Lewis is charged with three sets of dispatches from me for the Navy department of the United States and with a great number of letters from the officers prisoners at Tripoly; I have been constantly engaged since my arrival here in preparing the dispatches alluded to and others for different parts of Europe and in taking the Depositions of the chouix and others captured in the Martingano *Mastico*, and have forwarded a particular account of that capture and all the necessary documents to the English and French Ambassadors and the Captain Pacha at Constantinople —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Stephen Cathalan, Jr., U. S. Commercial Agent, Marseilles, France, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

Copy.

TRIPOLY BARBARY 16<sup>th</sup> March 1804

DEAR SIR Your friendly letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> of January last this moment came to hand: your commiseration for our misfortune, and Kind offer of Services claims my warmest thanks. — In the unavoidable loss of the Frigate *Philadelphia*, under my command, I feel confident, on investigation, that my conduct on that unhappy event, as well as those I had the honor of commanding, will appear satisfactory to our Governm<sup>t</sup>

The friendly interposition mentioned in the latter part of your letter I sincerely hope will take place — I have not the least doubt of the advantage to be derived from it. —

Since the burning of the Frigate in this harbour, which you no doubt will hear of before this reaches you, we have been Kept closely Confined.

As the walls of a prison afford no interesting matter for a letter, you will excuse the brevity of this, with my sincere assurance that I estimate your friendly attention, and Shall at all times be happy to hear from you, and equally regret with you that circumstances prevented my cultivating your acquaintance when I was at Marseilles in the Frigate *Essex*, on which I had flattered myself much pleasure; and should our destiny be for your Port after leaving this, it would

afford me great satisfaction to repeat my assurances under your roof — .

[NA. SDA. CL, Marseilles, Vol. 2, March 1803–Nov. 1827.]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Thomas Appleton,  
U. S. Consul, Leghorn

LEGHORN 16<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR It is with singular satisfaction that I can now announce to you the total destruction of the ship *Philadelphia*, in the Port of Tripoli. — this intelligence was yesterday received here by the Danish Consul, from the Consul of the same nation at Tripoli in date of the 29<sup>th</sup> of february. — the following is the translation of his letter. — “on the 16<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> was discovered from the town, two Vessels, but both so disguised, as to prevent our discerning of what Nation they were — the smallest having the Appearance of a Merchant Vessel, entered boldly the Port at half past Nine in the evening, and having taken designedly some turks on board, they requested in the language of the country, of those in the frigate to suffer them to anchor a long side; which was immediately granted, and even assisted in bringing her to moorings. this was no sooner effected, than an hundred well armed Americans leaped on board, cutting down every one who opposed them, while the more prudent, took their flight by leaping into the sea and gaining the Shore. — almost instantaneously the Ship was in a blaze, and the Small Vessels again out of the port, before any orders could be given by the Bey, although he saw the burning of his frigate from the windows of his palace Nothing I am told can be compared to his unavailing anger; but in order to spend his rage on some object, he has order’d an additional portion of labor to the fore-mast men of the *Philadelphia*, and the Officers so closely guarded, that even communication by writing is interdicted them. — were it not for his hopes of a heavy ransom, they would most assuredly experience some more distressing marks of his disappointment. — The Danish Consul adds in his letter, that the Bey’s Charge d’affaires at Malta had very lately returned to Tripoli, and “it is said” with proposals of accomodation from Com<sup>o</sup> Preble”. — if this were even true, the grounds on which they would have negociated at that time, are since changed by the burning of the frigate, and will increase the demands of the Bey in the same proportion as he estimates her loss. — indeed, I am told that he bitterly swears that for less than a million of dollars, he will not hearken to any overtures of peace. — on the 6<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> a Neapolitan squadron of five frigates sailed on a cruize against all the barbaresque powers. —

[NA. SDA. Disp., France, Vol. 9, 1803–1805.]

To William Jarvis, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, Portugal, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul  
General, Algiers

ALGIERIS March 16<sup>th</sup> 1804

DEAR SIR

\* \* \* \* \*

The U. States Schooner *Vixen*, Cap<sup>t</sup> Smith, arrived here yesterday, from the Commodore at Syracuse, who gives me the pleasing intelligence of the frigate *Philadelphia* which had been captured by the Tripolines, got off[f] the shoal & equip’d in their Harbour, being burnt





there by the stratagem & enterprize of the Americans without the loss of a man. — He also adds that there are strong appearances of the Bashaw of Tripoli making peace with us upon proper terms. Should he not do this, every arrangement is made to give him warm work in the ensuing summer. —

Our Affairs here *appear* to stand well at present. We have no special difficulty before us; but nothing is certain in these latitudes. The Bey of Tunis is not very well satisfied with the U. States; but he has no just grounds of difference; and while we have a force in this Sea he will hardly break out upon us. —

Of the British we have heard nothing since their fleet left this Coast on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>r</sup> except<sup>d</sup> that M<sup>r</sup> Falcon, their former Consul here, sailed from Gibraltar for England in Febr. —

I shall be happy to hear from you whenever You can make it convenient to write, and you may always assure yourself of my best services, if they can be made useful to you.

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 7, Part 1, Jan. 1804–Nov. 1805.]

Presumably to Nancy Doane, from Midshipman Henry Wadsworth, U. S. Navy

SYRACUSE March 17th 1804

Constitution 44

[Written to Cousin Nancy]

\* \* \* \* \*

I have been so long in the Mediterranean that I have acquired an habitual hatred of the Bashaw our enemy, & I feel as much interested in punishing him as if he had personally insulted me. We are almost certain of Peace in a few months, but whether it will be done without cannonading him (I mean his Capital-Tripoli) I do not know: The officers all wish the latter. — The Bashaw is a shrewd fellow, but he has an equal in our commander: He has many of my friends in captivity —. By the bye I cannot help letting you know that I was appointed one of the Expedition to burn the *Philadelphia* but at the time they left the port I was so unwell as to be confined to my bed & have but just recovered so as to be able to return to duty.

\* \* \* \* \*

The *Argus* is universally allowed to be the finest vessel floating in the Mediterranean. The envy & jealousy of the British officers is excited by our fine Ships & handsome manoeuvring: we meet on shore but to fight — & insult each other. The Politeness of the American officers will always induce them to give the preference to such as *do not* claim it but we wage eternal war with those who arrogate superiority. —

\* \* \* \* \*

[a Postscript] direct to the care of J. Gavino American Consul at Gibraltar & write by any vessel bound up the streights & for. they all touch there.

[Copied by S. Picking, from H. W. L. Dana Col.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy

Syren off TRIPOLY 17<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that I captured the Brig *Transfer* under the Batteries of Tripoly. She left the Harbour this morning at 7 o'clock where she had been for 19 days past, and not

having your pass, I conceive the violation of the Blockade of the place sufficient grounds for detaining and sending her in for your examination. You will perceive by her papers that she is commissioned for 14 Guns, but has only 10 Mounted. They have in the Hold Horses and Oil.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

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[17 March 1804]

To Richard O'Brien, George Dyson, U. S. Navy Agent, Syracuse, and Captain Mills Reddick, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

GENTLEMEN You will oblige me by going on board the Brig *Transfer* [*Scourge*] captured by the United States Brig *Syren* L<sup>t</sup> Stewart, for a violation of the Blockade of Tripoly; and after taking a careful survey of her Hull, Cables, Anchors, Rigging, Sails & Boats &c<sup>s</sup> and Military-Stores, report to me from under your hands, what in your opinion is her real value

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

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[17 March 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard O'Brien, George Dyson, U. S. Navy Agent, Syracuse, and Captain Mills Reddick

SYRACUSE 16th April 1804

SIR In compliance with your request of this day, we the under-written have been on board of the Brig *Transfer*, and after taking a careful survey of her Hull, Masts, Sails, Rigging, Anchors, Cables, Guns, Boats, and Military Stores, and all her present apparel, we are jointly and separately of opinion that the said Brig *Transfer* as she now stands is worth five thousand Spanish Dollars.

(Signed) RICHARD OBRIEN  
GEORGE DYSON  
MILLS REDDICK

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

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[17 March 1804]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

The following was endorsed on the back of the Valuation of the Brig *Transfer* prize to the *Syren & Nautilus* —

I certify to the Honb<sup>le</sup> Secretary of the Navy of the United States that the within mentioned Brig *Transfer* was captured by the U. S. Brig *Syren* and Schooner *Nautilus* off the Port of Tripoly for a violation of the Blockade of that Port by the U. S. Squadron under my command, and that an Officer concerned in the capture with all her papers have been sent to the U. S. to obtain her condemnation and that as there can be no doubt of her being a lawful Prize agreeable to the law of Nations I have taken her into the Service of the U. S. and Promise in behalf of the said U. S. to be accountable to the Captors for the within mentioned sum of five thousand Dollars at which she has together with her guns and appurtenances &c<sup>s</sup> &c<sup>s</sup> been valued, as soon as she is legally condemned in the Court of Admiralty of the

United States — And should she be lost in the service of the U. S. previous to the determination of the Court of Admiralty the U. S. to be accountable for the aforesaid Valuation whether she is condemned or not, The money to be paid at the Navy department

Signed, E: PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803–June 1805.]

To Frederick Degen & Co., U. S. Agents, Naples, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harb<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> March 1804*

GENTLEMEN I have this moment arrived in Port from Sea, and shall sail again tomorrow for the Coast of Tripoly. I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your much esteemed favour of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>: and thank you for the information it contains respecting the procuration of Gun & Mortar Boats; & I should immediately write to Gen<sup>l</sup> Acton, and at the same time authorize you to act for me, but I expect to be at Naples in two or three weeks, and shall postpone any application until then; when I stand in need of, and claim your friendly and obliging offers of assistance.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 17 March 1804

Sailed from Malta and arrived at Syracuse the same day.

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 17 March 1804

Light airs from the N N E. At 5 P. M. a breeze from N W. We ran out 400 fathoms of Hawser to the N W point at the entrance of the Port — Weighed and made sail, 4 Boats ahead towing — Our Hawser caught a rock at the bottom which obliged us to cut away 80 fathoms to prevent the ship from running on shore — directed a shore boat to recover it and deposit it with the Navy Agent — At 10 P. M. we were clear of the Harbor — Steered N E b E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E for Cape Passari Light breezes from the Westward and pleasant all night — punished several men for breach of regulations. At Noon Cape Passari bore N E b E 30 Miles —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 17 March 1804

at 10 saw a sail ahead off the harbour of Tripoli, set all sail & gave chase — Meridian Tripoli bore S by W. 4 leagues. —

Latt Obs. 33°5' N.

[NDA.]

[18 March 1804] .

To James Simpson, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco, from the Emperor of Morocco

[Translation]

THANKS BE TO THE ONLY GOD.

Imperial  
Seal*To the American Consul Simpson. —*

We have received your Letter and have understood its Contents. — The Carriages which you have received from your Nation for Our use, is a fresh proof of your diligence and of the Friendship of your Nation towards Us, which We will at all times bear in mind.

Written on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of Dulkada the Blessed, 1218 — (Corresponding with the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1804)

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[NA. SDA. CL, Tangier, Vol. 2, Jan. 1803–Oct. 1810.]

To Robert R. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
*Syracuse Harbour 18<sup>th</sup> March 1804*

SIR, I arrived here last evening from a Cruise and was hon<sup>d</sup> with your Dispatches of the 17<sup>th</sup> January, and under the same cover a letter for the French Commissary in Tripoly which I shall attend to and deliver the first opportunity. This Ship is now receiving on board Provisions and Water, and will sail again tomorrow for the Enemy's Coast. The generous and friendly interference of the first Consul [Napoleon Bonaparte] for the purpose of endeavouring to liberate our unfortunate Citizens in Tripoly and restore Peace between the United States and that Regency is truly characteristic of that great Man, and an additional proof of the close alliance of humanity, with intrepidity

By the enclosed Duplicate of a letter to yr: Excell<sup>y</sup> under date the 19<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>: you will be informed of the particulars of the taking and burning of the Tripoline Frigate late the *Philadelphia*. I determined from the moment I heard she was in possession of the Enemy to destroy her, and it has been done. This will seriously effect the Bashaw who is poor as it has deprived him of the resources which the sale of her to Algiers or Tunis would have afforded, and at the same time; those Powers are deprived of an important addition of strength to their Navy. The Bashaw is extremely angry since the loss of the ship, and has removed our Citizens within the Walls of his Castle, and does not allow either of the Consuls or Commissaries to see or speak to them, but I have a sufficient number of Tripoline Prisoners of distinction in my possession to insure their safety. I treat my Prisoners with the utmost kindness and attention, and have allowed them to write and make what communication they please to the Bashaw without examining their letters, conscious that they cannot say anything but what must lend to our advantage. The Bashaw's first expectation for the ransom of our people and a Peace, is said to have been three Millions of Doll<sup>rs</sup>! he has however fallen considerably, as not long since he offered thro' his Agent at Malta to make a truce for five years without Money. I observed to him that my Government never would consent to a truce, it must be a solid Peace on the

same terms for that we never would purchase Peace, or pay him Tribute and I have no doubt but we shall be able to dictate our own terms before the last of July. I am preparing to attack his Coasts on every part of it, and have applied to the Neapolitan Gov<sup>t</sup> for the *loan* or *hire* of a few Gun & Mortar Boats, which if I obtain, I will oblige the Bashaw to sue for Peace as a favour in three days after I reach his Coast —

I wish you could prevail on the French Govern<sup>t</sup> to influence the Neapolitan to loan or hire us what Gun & Mortar Boats we stand in need of, we paying for such as might be lost, and making good all damages, and to furnish us with Amunition. The King of Naples is at War with all the Barbary States, of course it will be for his Interest to comply, as it will enable us to destroy all the Bashaw's Towns on the Sea Coast, and all his Cruisers, of course it will be a long time before the Tripolines can again depredate on the Coast of Sicily. Perhaps the desire of the First Consul that Peace may be established will have the effect, but it will be well to take the precaution to have the Gun Boats &c<sup>t</sup> at command in case it should not. I have sent a vessel to Algiers for Col: Lear, and expect him very soon, when I shall deliver him the papers you desire me to. He has full powers to make peace, but not to pay Money for it: he is only authorized to give a consular present of Ten thousand doll<sup>s</sup> and that is more than we ever ought to consent to give them. I had rather spend my life in these seas than ever purchase Peace, or pay tribute to the Barbary States, and I believe it is the intention of our Govern<sup>t</sup> never to consent to either. I have taken two Prizes and seventy Tripoline Prisoners; and have written to the Bashaw proposing an exchange of Prisoners. An answer has [not] yet come to hand. I am at present in great haste but shall in future take every opportunity to write you, and keep you informed of my proceedings. I have had frequent opportunities of writing to America since I have been on this station.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Thomas Appleton, U. S. Consul, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour March 18<sup>th</sup> 1804*

SIR I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your much esteemed favour of the 6<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> accompanied by the dispatches from Our Minister at Paris enclosing letters from the French Consul's Minister of Foreign Affairs to the French Commissary General at Tripoly which I shall attend to the delivery of. I arrived here last night to take in provisions and water, and sail again for the Coast of Tripoly tomorrow.

Some time since, I forwarded you an account of the burning of the *Philadelphia* in the Harbour of Tripoly, since which, no occurrence of note, — except that I have rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Captain Bainbridge, who in consequence of our destroying the Frigate, has with his Officers been closely confined within the Bashaw's Castle; but I have a sufficient number of Tripoline Prisoners of distinction, to guarantee their safety, and tolerable good treatment.

The interference of the First Consul will undoubtedly have considerable influence with the Bashaw of Tripoly but I have no doubt, even without that influence, that I shall be able to effect a release of our Country Men, & a Peace, on terms honorable to the United

States, by *beating* the Barbarians into a proper sence of their situation I am in great haste at present, but shall in future keep up an unreserved correspondence with you, when opportunity offers. Please forward the enclosed to Paris —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Degen, Purviance & Co., U. S. Agents, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour March 18<sup>th</sup> 1804*

GENTLEMEN. I have this moment arrived here, and shall sail again tomorrow for the coast of Tripoly. I am hon<sup>d</sup> with your esteemed favour of the 30<sup>th</sup> January, and thank you for the information it contains. I shall, agreeable to your recommendation apply to Fred<sup>s</sup> Degen & C<sup>e</sup> at Naples for their assistance in any negotiation at that place, but shall postpone fixing on any plan for procuring Gun & Mortar Boats until I go to Naples myself, which I intend shall be in two or three weeks — Another prize has increased our number of Prisoners — News Papers & Letters will always be acceptable — Please to forward the encl<sup>d</sup> I am in great haste, and have the honor to be

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To John Broadbent, U. S. Navy Agent, Messina, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour March 18<sup>th</sup> 1804*

DEAR SIR, I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 6th instant — accept my thanks for the information it contains, and for your endeavours to serve me in the procuration of Gun Boats &c<sup>t</sup>. I think the most ready way to accomplish my wishes will be to visit Naples myself, which I have determined to do in about two or three weeks. You have done well in publishing the account of Decatur's affair at Tripoly I hope the Neapolitans will profit by the example shown them. Should you receive any answer from General Acton you will oblige me by forwarding it to M<sup>r</sup> Dyson who will send it to me. I arrived last night and sail for the Coast of Tripoly again tomorrow

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Joseph Barnes, U. S. Consul, Sicily, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbour 18<sup>th</sup> March 1804.*

SIR, I returned to this Port last evening from Sea, and was hon<sup>d</sup> with your letter of the 6th Ulto. Yours by the *Syren*, I had previously rec<sup>d</sup> but did not think proper to answer, as I was not informed of your Official situation; the Government of the United States never having notified me, that a Consul had been appointed for Sicily; neither had I ever heard your name mentioned, until I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter.

I shall in future keep a regular correspondence with you when in port, & shall be glad of every sort of Political information which you may deem it necessary to communicate.

All letters for me, you will please address under Cover, to George Dyson Esq<sup>r</sup> Naval Agent for the United States Squadron at this place,

as he *alone* will know where to send them to me. I have a regular correspondence with M<sup>r</sup> John Broadbent at Messina M<sup>r</sup> A Gibbs Palermio, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Fred<sup>d</sup> Degen & C<sup>o</sup> at Naples, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Degen Purviance & C<sup>o</sup> Leghorn and William Higgins Esq<sup>t</sup> at Malta, who are Naval Agents for the Squadron, and to whom I am indebted for much information and assistance.

The dispatches from Paris forwarded to M<sup>r</sup> Appleton by M<sup>r</sup> Livingston our Minister, I have rec<sup>d</sup> this day, and shall pay them proper attention. The interference of the First Consul, will undoubtedly have weight with the Bashaw of Tripoly in any negotiation but I suspect we must depend on our own exertions to bring him to such terms as we choose to dictate. I have no doubt of compelling the Barbarian by force to restore me the Officers and Crew of the *Philadelphia*, and to make Peace without any pecuniary consideration or a cent for tribute. I sail for the coast of Tripoly tomorrow morning and am in great haste

J BARNES Esq<sup>t</sup>

*Consul from the U S. for Sicily*

Memo<sup>a</sup> Care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> G & E Noble — Naples

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

*Syracuse Harbor March 18<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

D<sup>r</sup> SIR. I arrived here last evening for provisions & water. I have not yet receiv'd your plan of a Mortar boat, & it is not probable I shall very soon as I sail again tomorrow for the coast of Tripoli: I am informed from Naples that I shall be able to procure the necessary boats from the Neapolitan Government, of course shall not build any, but am much obliged to you for your prompt offer to undertake the business, I have receiv'd letters from Algiers which inform me that M<sup>r</sup> OBrien late our Consul at that place is coming up, fully empower'd by Col<sup>l</sup> Lear to join with me in a negociation for peace, I expect him to join the ship off Tripoly in a few days: the Bashaw is anxious for Peace & I think will make it on our own terms; if he does not, I will beat him into a disposition for it; before the next summer is gone. As M<sup>r</sup> OBrien is sent up by Col<sup>l</sup> Lear, and understands the language of the country & disposition of the Barbarians, it will preclude the necessity of your putting yourself to the least inconvenience to join us. —

I have letters from Tripoly Capt<sup>n</sup> B: writes me that they are kept closer than before the burning of the Frigate but are well treated. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801–1805.]

[18 March 1804]

To President Thomas Jefferson from Richard Farquhar, Malta

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

I have the Honor to inform your Excellency that theer is every appearance of bringing the Bashaw of Tripoli to moderate terms this Summer

but should the United States think of sending three or four Frigates and three small Brigs or Schooner with six feild Peaces and Artillery men & Tripoli can be taken with the Assistance by Land of His

Excellency Side Hamet Caromanli, Brother to the Present Bashaw of Tripoli, who is now marching towards Derna to Cooperate with Commodore Preble who has Promised him Assistance &c<sup>s</sup>.

As Side Hamet Caromanli, has Promised to repay all the Money &c<sup>s</sup> advanced to him or on his Account and to remain at Peace forever with America, and to put them in Possession of one of the Principal Forts in Tripoli untill the Expences is repaid but this is of less consequence to America than the Effect it will have with the other Barbary States. and if Tripoli is taken in this manner, I am convinced America will be at Peace with those States for many years, for Should the Present Bashaw make Peace with his Brother or America separately, he will then be more revenged with the other, for I can Prove to your Excellency that I prevented him from making Peace with his Brother who had not knowledge to see, that he would only make Peace with him untill he did so with America, & afterwards he would go to war with them seperatly, but I am happy to think I was the Cause of him commencing Hostilitys with his Brother untill America had made Peace, and also to prevent him from Poisoning his Brother which he had in contemplation by offering his Docter (who is now in Syracusa and in the Service of America by my recomendation) a reward of ten Thousand Dollars to go to Derna to Poison his Brother! he has Murderd another Brother [Hassan] some years ago and in the Presance of their Mother — therefore it is better for America to be at the first expence to make a lasting Peace with all the Barbary States for they only go to war with those who are afraid of them, and should a patched up Peace be made with him, he says & will make war against Denmark or Sweeden and in rotation with the United States again, therefore this is the time to make a long Peace with them all. I have inclosed one of the Official Letters to me when I was in Tripoli for the attention I paid to the American Officer there, by a Letter I rec<sup>d</sup> the other day from the English Consul that the Bashaw will write to Sir A. Ball about my assisting the Americans with Plans of Tripoli and Pilots one of which was in my Employ as a Cap<sup>n</sup> of a Small Vessel who had been in Tripoli often and who Piloted in the Vessel which Burned the *Philadelphia* and also my having procured thirty Seamen & has been at Expence & troble with Pleasure and I will be at more which I hope will prove advantageous to America *in a few weeks* I could wish to hold a Situation under the American Governm[en]t which would prevent the English Government from Profsejcuting me hear, which I am afraid they will when ever the Letter arrives from the Bashaw which I think will come with his Consul who is expected hear soon from Tripoli

MALTA 18<sup>th</sup> March 1804

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, June 1801–Sept. 1805.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Stren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 18 March 1804

Fresh breezes & pleas<sup>t</sup> ½ past 12 took in royals, steering sails, top gall<sup>s</sup> sails & single reef'd the topsails, At 1 P. M. close under the batteries of Tripoli, spoke & sent the boat on board the chace for the Cap<sup>t</sup> & Papers. She prov'd to be the Malta brig *Transfer* of 10 guns (belonging to Count Golena of Malta) 6 hours from Tripoli, bound to Malta On Examination thought Proper to send her into Syracuse for



the Comm<sup>rs</sup> examination, Sent in her as Prize Master L<sup>t</sup> Maxwell two midshipmen & eleven men to assist in taking her in, Brought on board the Cap<sup>t</sup> first Officer & 18 men, likewise detain'd a boat & four men that came from shore and was going on board said Brig, At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 order'd the Brig to proceed for Syracuse — Lieu<sup>t</sup> Summers return'd on board the *Nautilus*, Double reef'd topsails boarded fore & main tacks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 turn'd one reef out of the topsails & set the jib. At 5 TK<sup>d</sup> to the N. E. At 6 Tripoli bore S E  $\frac{1}{2}$  E 3 leagues the forts fired several shot at the *Nautilus* but without effect \* \* \*  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 dismiss'd the shore boat, the Town of Tripoli bear<sup>d</sup> S E by S  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. 9 miles dis<sup>t</sup> discov<sup>d</sup> 2 small sail to the S. W Call'd all hands & made sail, stood to the N<sup>d</sup> — Made a signal to the *Nautilus* to give chace At 10 let out all reefs TK<sup>d</sup> & stood in for the land in chace, Till 12 standing off & on about 4 miles to the W<sup>d</sup> of Tripoli firing several shot at the boats close in under the land — Meridian Tripoli bearing S E by S 9 miles Dis<sup>t</sup>

Latt: Obs: 33°00' N.

[NDA.]

[19 March 1804]

Concerning return of *Meshouda* and *Mirboha* to Emperor of Morocco

AN ACT for the relief of the captors of the Moorish armed ships  
*Meshouda* and *Mirboha*

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That the sum of eight thousand five hundred and ninety-four dollars and fifty cents, being one moiety of of the value of the armed ship *Meshouda*, captured by the frigate *John Adams*, commanded by Captain John Rodgers, and restored to the emperor of Morocco, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated to defray the expense of prize money due to the captors; and that the further sum of seven hundred and thirty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents be, and the same hereby is, appropriated for defraying the expenses incurred for the said ship, whilst in possession of the captors.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the further sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, for defraying the expense of prize money due to the officers and crew of the frigate *Philadelphia*, commanded by Captain William Bainbridge, being one moiety of the value of the armed ship *Mirboha*, captured by the aforesaid frigate *Philadelphia*, and likewise restored to the emperor of Morocco.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the aforesaid several sums shall be divided amongst the captors, respectively, in the proportion already established by law, for the distribution of prize money, and shall be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, March 19, 1804.

[Navy Register 1798.]

To Robert B. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP Constitution

Syracuse Harb<sup>r</sup> 19th March 1804.

SIR, I have this moment received intelligence from a gentleman just arrived from Tunis that the Bey of that Regency is equipping

his whole Naval force with the utmost expedition, and it is whispered that the object is the American Commerce: from various circumstances I believe there is much truth in the conjecture. Three of their Frigates from 24 to 32 Guns are now fitting out at Malta, One Frigate of 32 Guns, and a number of smaller Vessels are getting ready at Tunis. I have written home by two favourable opportunities requesting an addition to my Squadron, as we have only one Brig of 16 Guns and three Schooners of 14 each besides this ship in these Seas, and one Brig at Gibraltar. This force is unequal to Blockade Tripoly, and protect our trade against the Tunissians. I have long since stated to our Government the necessity of sending out two or three more Frigates. If they arrive soon, it will most undoubtedly check the Tunissians and keep them in peace; if not, our Commerce may suffer in some degree, as it is impossible for me to guard all parts of the Mediterranean with so small a Squadron. I shall, however, do all in my power to make them repent their want of good faith; and shall visit Tunis bay immediately with as many of the Squadron as can be collected off Tripoly, to endeavour to learn what the intentions of the Bey are, and shall write you the moment I can come at the truth. The Bey is very much dissatisfied that the United States will not give him a Frigate which he has demanded of them; and this is to be his pretext for War. These people must not be humoured but beaten. I was at Malta not long since, and was then told by good authority that we might expect War with Tunis very soon.

N: B Copies of the above have been sent to M<sup>r</sup> Appleton, Leghorn Mess<sup>rs</sup> Fred<sup>d</sup> Degen & C<sup>o</sup> Naples, M<sup>r</sup> Broadbent Messina. M<sup>r</sup> Gibbs Palermo. M<sup>r</sup> Gavino Gibraltar & Cap<sup>n</sup> Hull of the *Argus* —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Brian McDonogh, British Consul, Tripoli

TRIPOLI 19th March 1804.

SIR, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16 January, and in reply, I beg leave to assure you, that nothing has been, or shall be wanting on my part, to render every assistance in my power, for the relief and comfort of the Officers and Crew of the late *Philadelphia* Frigate, as far as my public situation in this Kingdom can permit.

You was good enough to say, that you wished for a correspondence with me; I have to assure you, that it affords me infinite pleasure in having it in my power to comply with your request, particularly for many motives when a personal interview takes place, I shall explain.

I have not been able to make much enquiries respecting the demands the Bashaw may expect from the U: S. as time & circumstances has been so much altered of late, that since the destroying of the Frigate, and the slaughtering of all the Tripolines who were on board, any urgent solicitations on my part, might at this moment be construed (by people who I know their ideas) in a different light from what it was intended for, and perhaps render abortive my future proceedings at another period more f<sup>o</sup>l<sup>y</sup>

I have therefore thought it prudent, to remain at present silent, until the Anger of the Bashaw is over; and when I see a f<sup>o</sup>l<sup>y</sup> moment,

you may rest assured no exertions in my power shall be wanting to promote the interest of the United States with this Government and convey to you the result of my interviews.

[L.C. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr., U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*,  
from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constitution*  
at Anchor Harbour Syracuse  
19<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR Having received information that there is an expedition preparing at Tripoly for the declared purpose of burning or destroying some of our cruizers While lying at Anchor, I think it proper to apprise you of the Circumstance, that in case of an attempt you may give them that kind of reception that shall leave them nothing to boast, —

It has likewise become necessary from well grounded reasons to caution you against the TUNISIANS, be particularly on your guard — their movements and conduct appears — *hostile*, towards our country, But it is necessary that these suspicions should in the present state of Affairs, be confined to your own Bosom, —

N B, The Tripolitans have dressed themselves in English clothing, and it is probable you will meet them under false colours, —

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

To John S. M. Matthiew, U. S. Consul, Naples, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

Copy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Syracuse Harbor 19<sup>th</sup> March 1804.

SIR. I have this moment receiv'd intelligence from a gentleman just arrived from Tunis, that the Bey of that Regency is equipping his whole naval force with the utmost expedition & it is whisper'd that his object is the American commerce, from various circumstances, I believe their is much truth in the conjecture. Three of their Frigates from 24 to 32 Guns & a number of smaller vessels are getting ready at Tunis, I have written home by two favorable opportunitys requesting an addition to my Squadron, as we have only one brig of 16 guns & three schooners of 14 each besides this ship in these seas & one brig at Gibraltar. — This force is unequal to blockade Tripoli & protect our trade against the Tunisians. I have long since stated to our government the necessity of sending out two or three more frigates. —

If they arrive soon, it will most undoubtedly check the Tunisians & keep them in Peace, if not our Commerce may suffer in some degree as it is impossible for me to guard all parts of the Mediterranean with so small a Squadron, I shall however do all in my power to make them repent their want of good faith & shall visit Tunis bay immediately with as many of the Squadron as can be collected off Tripoli to endeavor to learn what the intentions of the Bey are, & shall write you the moment I can come at the truth. The Bey is very much dis-satisfied that the United States will not give him a Frigate which he has demanded of them as a present & this is to be his pretext for war. —

These people must not be humour'd but beatten, I was at Malta not long since & was then told by good authority that we might expect war with Tunis very soon. —

[NA. SDA. CL, Tripoli, Vol. 2, 1801-1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 19 March 1804

[Moored in Algeiras Bay since 3 March 1804] A[t] 6 AM, unmoored at 8 Weighed Anchor and Stood over for Gibraltar at 20 Minutes past 8 moored in Gibraltar Bay Cabrita Bearing S. W Europa S b E. S<sup>t</sup> Roque — N N E —

Employed as Necessary

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 19 March 1804

Wind S S E — Moderate and pleasant — Ordered 5 Months provisions Stores &<sup>c</sup> to be taken on board and our stock of water filled: All hands busily employed in taking in and stowing the provisions stores, water Wood &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup>. Recieved a letter from M<sup>t</sup> Livingston our minister at Paris enclosing a letter from the first Consul Buonaparte to his Commissary General at Tripoly directed to my charge to be conveyed to him. This letter instructs the French Commissary to endeavor to effect the release of the American prisoners captured in the *Philadelphia*, and to influence the Bashaw to make peace with the United States immediately — I wrote to our minister at Paris and to several of Our Consuls in Europe and left letters for each of the Commanders of the Vessels of the Squadron. —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Monday, 19 March 1804

P. M. Moderate breezes from the E S E. At Single Anchor in Saragosa. Rec<sup>d</sup> 201 bbls bread 91 bbls beef & 78 bbls Pork also 78 gang casks of water — Towards evening cleared ship for action & loaded all the guns with Cannister and Grape Shot — This precaution is taken in consequence of some intelligence from Tripoly recieved since the burning of the *Philadelphia* — At 8 P. M. armed a boat & stationed her without the Harbor as a Guard boat. A. M. Employed relieving and stowing away provisions wood & water. In the course of the day we recieved 304 bbls bread, 15 small casks, 17 boxes cheese 7 tierces rice, 17 boxes candles, 4 bbls beans, 22 bags of peas 16 bbls Vinegar, 12 bbls flour & a quantity of wood supposed to be 5 Coards. Rec'd also 8 Butts & 33 gang casks of water The Butts are some of those sent on shore for safe keeping Surgeons report 7 sick & 7 convalescent. Noon light breezes from East<sup>d</sup>

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

#### President Thomas Jefferson's Message to Congress

8th Congress

1st Session.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, MARCH 20, 1804.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I communicate to Congress a letter received from Captain Bainbridge [dated 1 November 1803], commander of the *Philadelphia*

frigate, informing us of the wreck of that vessel on the coast of Tripoli, and that himself, his officers, and men, had fallen into the hands of the Tripolitans. This accident renders it expedient to increase our force, and enlarge our expenses in the Mediterranean, beyond what the last appropriation for the naval service contemplated. I recommend, therefore, to the consideration of Congress, such an addition to that appropriation, as they may think the exigency requires.

TH: JEFFERSON.

MARCH 20, 1804.

[Am. State Papers. Nav. Aff., Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant George W. Reed,  
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SCHOONER *Nautilus*

At Sea: March. 20<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR Agreeably to your order I submit to you an account of the situation of the *Nautilus* from the time I took charge of the deck on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> untill the time of her being run foul of by the U S Brig *Syren*.

At 4 A M the *Syren* was three quaters of a Mile a head on our weather bow we then having our starboard tacks on board with the Wind at E S E. At about 20 Minutes after 4. I discovered the *Syren* bearing away I supposed with the intention of wearing yet did not alter my course untill I could determine what she intended doing, by this time she was on our lee bow three cables length distant with her yards square. I then ordered the quater master to keep his luff which he did bringing her nearly on our lee beam intending to shoot across her stern and wear after her that we might pass to leeward of her. Observing his bracing up on the larboard tack and finding we could not weather and had not room to wear, I ordered the helm to be put alee & at the same time hailed the brig and told her to put her helm a weather, but received no answer I then hailed her again and received no answer when she run her Jibb boom just fore head of our main Mast and we sustained the damage which has occasioned the subject of this letter.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, from the below-mentioned officers

20th MARCH 1804.

SIR. After examining the damages sustained this morning from the *Syren's* running on board of us we are of opinion that it is not safe to continue at sea The damages are, four of her stantions carried away, which prevents our setting up the rigging with sufficient security to the Mast in bad weather, and at the same time prevents the use of two of the guns The Plank Heare is split twelve or fourteen feet, and opened so much, that it is impossible to secure it at Sea against bad weather —

|          |                 |                       |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| (Signed) | JAMES B DECATUR | Lieu <sup>t</sup>     |
|          | EDWARD N COX    | Master                |
|          | JOHN FELT       | Carpenter of          |
|          |                 | the <i>Syren</i>      |
|          | ROBERT FELL     | d <sup>o</sup> of the |
|          |                 | <i>Nautilus</i> .     |

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 20 March 1804

Wind S S W, and clear weather — Preparing for Sea. Took on board a Tripoline Prisoner who was taken at the burning of the *Philadelphia* — He was badly wounded, but has nearly recovered —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKraft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 20 March 1804

Light airs & pleas<sup>t</sup> At [space] the *Nautilus* under our lee, At 5 unbent the jib, fore sail & main top sail, & bro<sup>t</sup> new ones too the yards, the Town of Tripoli bearing S. S. E. 3 leagues. At 8 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Summers went on board the *Nautilus*, the cutter return'd run her up — Midnight gentle breezes & clear, At 4 wore to the N W & owing to the lightness of the wind & the *Nautilus* not wearing at the same time we did, but continuing her way athwart our hawse, our jib boom entangled in her main rigging which carried it away with our Spritsail yard likewise much injur'd the *Nautilus* in her rigging & Bulwarks, At ½ past 6 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on board the *Nautilus*, soon after she bore away & made signal for us to follow her motions. At ½ past 7 back'd the main topsail & sent the Carpenter on board the *Nautilus* to assist in repairing her, At 8 Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart return'd, 10 sent the Prisoners of the *Transfer* on board the *Nautilus*. ½ past 11 L<sup>t</sup> Summers came on board, rec<sup>d</sup> from the *Nautilus* 1 binnacle compass — Meridian light airs & pleas<sup>t</sup> Carpenters employ'd fishing jib boom & spritsail yard —

Latt: Obs: 33°19' N.

[NDA.]

[21 March 1804]

To Captain Daniel Carmick, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP

Jan<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1804

You will proceed immediately in the Brig *Superior* with the Detachment of marines under your command, to New Orleans On your arrival there you will report yourself to the officer commanding the Army at that place under whose orders you are to act —

The contractor for the Army in that quarter will supply Your detachment with rations agreeably to the enclosed copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to the commanding officer — M<sup>r</sup> Alline will leave this in a few days for Fort Pitt from whence he will proceed with money for the use of the detachment to New Orleans — He will act as pay master of the Detachment and receive from this Department particular instructions relative to the supplies that may be required by the Detachment —

(Note, This letter was written 21<sup>st</sup> March altho dated 21. Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804)

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To Lieutenant John Cassin, U. S. Navy, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., from  
Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>

March 21. 1804—

The Frigates *President* and *Congress* must be prepared for Sea with all practicable dispatch. —

On this occasion we require the exertions of your most strenuous efforts. —

Let me know in season every thing that you may require in the execution of this order. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, (or other officers in his absence),  
New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT—

March 21. 1804—

L<sup>t</sup> ISAAC CHAUNCEY, or in his absence

L<sup>t</sup> CH<sup>s</sup> LUDLOW, or in his absence

Mids<sup>s</sup> SLOSS H. GRENELL.—

New York—

Open rendezvous immediately and use your most strenuous exertions to enter 120 able seamen and 100 ordinary seamen — Able Seamen to be allowed \$10 p<sup>r</sup> month — Ordinary Seamen \$8. — to be entered to serve 2 years — to receive 2 months' advance upon giving responsible security — Call Midshipmen Grenell and Creighton to your aid, & report to me daily the progress you may be making.

Blank Shipping papers are enclosed. — The Navy Agent will furnish you with monies, and render you every other assistance in his power. —

Should any difficulties arise in the execution of these orders, call on the Agent and receive his instructions. —

The occasion imperatively demands your every exertion — Let not one moment be lost. —

P. S. The men are to serve on board the Frigate *President*, *Congress*, or *John Adams*, as may be directed by me on their arrival here. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Lieutenant George Cox, U. S. Navy, (or others in his absence), Philadelphia, Pa.,  
from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT.

March 21. 1804—

L<sup>t</sup> GEORGE COX, or in his absence

L<sup>t</sup> DAN<sup>l</sup> C. HEATH, or in his absence

L<sup>t</sup> J. M. GARDNER —

Phil<sup>a</sup>

SIR, Open Rendezvous immediately, and use your most strenuous exertions to enter 100 Able Seamen — 100 Ordinary Seamen — & 30 Boys.

[For the remainder of these instructions see letter to Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, of 21 March 1804.]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Lieutenant Samuel Evans, U. S. Navy, or in his absence Midshipman John B. Nicholson, U. S. Navy, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT —

March 21, 1804

Sir, Open Rendezvous immediately and use your most strenuous exertions to enter 100 Able Seamen, 50 Ordinary Seamen, & 30 Boys.

[For the remainder of these instructions see letter to Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, of 21 March 1804.]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 21 March 1804

Moored in Gibraltar Bay AM, at 9 loosed sails to dry at 10 the wind increasing furled Sails and veered the long Service of both Cables in the hawse Arrived the Ship *Woodrop Sims* 30 days from Norfolk with Stores for the Squadron, latter part blowing heavy launched Top Gall<sup>t</sup> masts —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 21 March 1804

Sailed for Tripoly. Carried over letters from the French Minister to the French Consul sent to me by Mr. Levington.

[LC, original.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Wednesday, 21 March 1804

Moderate breezes from the S. E. At single Anchor in Saragosa — Ships company employed as necessary At 4 P. M. fresh breezes from S b W. We ran a Kedge out to windward in order to Weigh & proceed to sea — The S b W wind continuing fresh we brought home the Kedge — We were in the act of running out the stream anchor when the weather became squally. Stoppered over all and bitted the cable — Towards evening the weather became moderate and the wind shifted to S b E — On the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> deserted from the *Constitution* Hendrick Johnson Seam<sup>s</sup> Moderate breezes from the Southward during the night — At day light a breeze sprang up from the S, W, b W, — Weighed & stood out to Sea — Ships draft abaft 23 feet 2 Inches forward 21 ft 4 Ins: diff<sup>s</sup> 22 In When we sailed from Boston the ship drew 6 In: abaft & 13 In: forward more than she does at present — We have now on board 83 Leaguers 72 butts & 40 Gang Casks of Water making in all 37450 Gall<sup>s</sup> or 145 Tons. Moderate breezes from the S b E all the forenoon —

Ships company employed working Ship to windward between Saragosa & Cape Passari

Stowed the two bowers and unbent the sheet cable

At Noon we bro't to a Brig 7 miles S S W under English colors taken by the U. S. brig *Syren* and ordered to Saragosa for adjudication—

Noon Moderate Breezes from the S S E.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]



Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 21 March 1804

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Summers return'd on board the *Nautilus* & made sail for Syracuse the boat return'd run her up & fill'd away & stood to the S<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>d</sup>

At ½ past 5 AM descried a sail on our lee bow, made all sail & gave chase —

Latt Obs 33°36' N.

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Charles Stewart,  
U. S. Navy

*Siren* at Sea 1 Oclock P. M

22nd March 1804.

SIR I have the honor to inform you, that I this moment captured the Polacre Ship under the Russian flag called the *Madonna di Catapoliani* laden with Bullocks, Sheep and Horses. She left Tripoly last night, and is bound for Malta.

They have violated the Blockade by carrying to our Enemy. Troops, Arms, Goods &c<sup>t</sup> The Pilot of this Ship informs me that they came from Smyrna about the 6th Nov<sup>r</sup> having cleared out for Gerbi, for the purpose of deceiving our Cruisers should they meet with any off Tripoly as they knew it was blockaded by our Squadron, and arrived at Tripoly the 26th December, where they delivered their Troops and Cargo.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

[16 February–22 March 1804]

Memorial to Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Gaetano Andrea Schembri, Valletta

To his Excellency EDWARD PREBLE Esq<sup>r</sup> commander in Chief of the Ships of the United States of America cruising in the Mediterranean.

The humble Memorial of Gaetano  
Andrea Schembry of the City of  
Valette Merchant. —

SHEWETH

That your Memorialist is deeply interested partly as proprietor & partly as Freighter of three Ships named the *Transfer* [captured 17 March], the *SS<sup>mo</sup> Crocifisso* and the *Madonna di Catapoliani* lately seized [on 16 February and 22 March respectively] by the Cruisers under your Command on a charge of having violated the Blockade of Tripoli

That for many years prior to the Blockade established by your Excellencys orders, before the Port of Tripoli your Memorialist carried on a considerable commerce with that City, & was so far in the confidence & esteem of the Bashaw as to be appointed his Consul at Malta, yet notwithstanding his principal support was derived from this Branch of his trade he determined from the time he became acquainted with your intentions to conform in the strictest manner to his duty as Neutral & abstain from all intercourse with the Block-

aded Port unless so far as he might be authorised thereto by your Excellencys express permission. —

That having in the early part of February last observed your Excellency in conversation and intercourse with M<sup>r</sup> Wilkie his Majestys Commissary for the Fleet at Malta, & with whom your Memorialist was intimately acquainted, it occurred to your Memorialist that an offer to sound the inclination of the Bashaw towards an accommodation with the United States might not be unexceptable to your Excellency, that your Memorialist communicated his Ideas upon the subject to M<sup>r</sup> Wilkie & having been assured by him of your Excellencys approbation embarked on board a Vessel of his own named the *Transfer* bearing his Britannic Majestys Letter of Marque, & which was going under your excellencys Licence to be loaded with Bullocks for Malta. —

That your Memorialist left Malta on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> but being forced back by contrary winds was obliged to remain in the harbour of the Valette till the 17<sup>th</sup> when he again sailed for Tripoli & arrived there on the 21<sup>st</sup> —

That from the moment of his arrival there he gave up most part of his time and attention to discovering the sentiments of the Bashaw, and endeavouring by a faithfull representation of the power & preparations of the United States to induce him to wave those pretentions to tribute upon which he had formerly insisted & at last succeeded so far as to prevail upon him to treat with your Excellency upon the sole conditions of Ransoming such Americans as were at that time prisoners in his possession, at which time the Bashaw also furnished your Memorialist with a set of Signals to facilitate any communication which your Excellency might be inclined to open with him. —

That your Memorialist in the mean time caused one Vessel to be laden with such Cattle as he was able to procure & conceiving this a favorable opportunity of obtaining payment of a large sum then due to him from the Bashaw shipped several Butts of Oil, & Iron on board the *Transfer*, which had been delivered to him in discharge of the account, the Bashaw not being able agreeably to the wish & request of your Memorialist to furnish him with Bullocks

That in so withdrawing his property your Memorialist was so little apprehensive of incurring your Excellencys displeasure that the *Transfer* sailed from Tripoli in open day when some of your Cruizers were actually in sight, & with orders to lie off till such time as your Memorialist having finished some private affairs should be able to follow her. —

It was therefore with extreme surprize & sorrow that your Memorialist saw from the shore the seizure of his Ship, & that he has since been informed of the Capture of two other Vessels of which one laden solely with Cattle was seized for not having compleated her Voyage by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, & the other was taken on her Voyage outward, for having on board certain Tripoline passengers, and also some few Articles of Commerce chiefly Boards & paving Stones, which were nevertheless to have been landed at Gerba, a port in the dominions of Tunis, prior to the Vessel proceeding to Tripoli for Cattle. —

Under these Circumstances your Memorialist humbly hopes from your Excellency's Justice & humanity the restitution of the ship *Transfer*, & such part of the Cargoes of all the three Vessels as belonged particularly to him. — In the case of the Bark bound to Gerba

your Memorialist submits that no Licence was necessary, & no offence could of course be committed, that the delay of the Vessel laden with Cattle was in part owing to causes which he could not controul, & partly to his Zeal in executing your Excellency's commission, & with respect to the Oil shipped in the *Transfer*, he trusts that a reasonable distinction will be made between a common Mercantile transaction, & the only means which your Memorialist had for obtaining possession of & bringing away his Property.

GAETANO ANDREA SCHEMBRY

[LC. EPP, Vol. 7, 1803.]

[16 February—22 March 1804.]

To Gaetano Andrea Schembri, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constitution*

Malta 19<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1804.

TO GAETANO ANDREA SCHEMBRI,

SIR, — Some time since I received Your Memorial setting forth the "deep Interest" you had in three Vessels Viz<sup>t</sup> The *Transfer*, *Crucifiso* & the *Madona di Catapoliana*, captured by the U. S. Squadron blockading the Port of Tripoly.

This Memorial Sir, I consider nothing more or less than an appeal to my humanity — However grateful to my feelings as an Individual to realize the wishes of the unfortunate, I cannot violate the important trust placed in my hands by an act of pusillanimity —

The three Vessels as above named were captured not only in the act of violating the laws of Blockade, but in a most flagrant violation of a passport given by myself to his Excellency Governor Ball for the purpose of bringing from Tripoly a number of Bullocks contracted for, previous to the blockade — These Passports particularly specified that the vessels bearing them should go to Tripoly in Ballast and return laden with nothing but Bullocks, but to my astonishment & distress learned that an instrument given in the fullest confidence and from the most honorable motives was, by you, prostituted to the most infamous purposes —

The *Transfer* sailed from Malta for Tripoly with a Passport as above alluded to; but was laden with military stores — The weather favorable, she eluded the vigilance of our cruizers & arrived safe, and delivered her cargo to the Bashaw, and was captured coming out laden with Oil, Bar Iron &c &c

The S<sup>ma</sup> *Crucifiso* sailed from Malta with my passport, but laden with Planks, Nails, building stone, Flax, Hemp, and bale Goods, and was captured to the Eastward of Tripoly standing directly in for the Town: She had eight Tripolitan Passengers on board, who acknowledge that they were bound directly into Tripoly: Independant of which, there was found secreted under under the Transom Cieling a large number of letters directed to different persons in Tripoly: and neither letter, Bill of Lading or Invoice for Gerba, where you pretend she was bound

The *Madona de Catapoliana* knowing of the Blockade of Tripoly, Sailed from Smyrna laden with Naval & Military Stores for account of the Bashaw of Tripoly. Favored by the weather she arrived in that Port and delivered her cargo & sailed from thence laden laden with live stock directed to the Tripoline Consul at Malta, and was

captured by Our Squadron — In all respects these vessels have been conducted in direct violation of the Blockade and my particular Passport I have adverted very briefly as to the circumstances under which they were taken, & I have now only to make a few general remarks on the motives by which you have been governed.

You have prefaced your appeal with circumstances which only exist in Idea. You arrogate to yourself the possession of the "confidence and esteem of the Bashaw of Tripoly": and the "particular acquaintance of M<sup>r</sup> Wilkie His Majesty's Commissary for the Fleet at Malta" — This you seem to suppose a sufficient reason why you should (unasked) interfere in the Affairs of the U. S. of America — Insolent Medlar! — Have you sagacity enough to calculate the pernicious consequence of your Duplicity? Do you know, that your ill timed officiousness served only to raise the sordid expectations of a Barbarian?—No — You do not exactly comprehend the extent of the mischief you have done — but this you well know, that the motives of this fraud against the U. S. were to secure the money you had then due in that regency and to make as much more as you could by the Violation of the faith reposed in you by his Excellency Gov<sup>t</sup> Ball.

I only regret that an investigation must be deferred until laid before my Gov<sup>t</sup>: this I shall make a point of doing the moment I arrive in the U. S. & I have no doubt but they will demand of the English Gov<sup>t</sup> an enquiry into your conduct, and have still less doubt but they will award a punishment tantamount to your iniquitous proceedings —

In conclusion I have to observe that all your vessels shall be subject to trial by the Admiralty Courts of my Country — In addition to which I would advise you to be cautious in again interfering in the affairs of those who will not fail to detect your duplicity & want of common Honour & honesty.

I am not uninformed of your late attempt to supply our Enemy with powder while he was not only Blockaded, but actually besieged —

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, LB, April -Nov. 1804.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

*Gibraltar Bay 22<sup>d</sup> March 1804*

SIR, I have been honoured with your Letters of the 24<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> by the *Woodrop Simms*, which Vessel arrived here last evening — I have since consulted M<sup>r</sup> Gavino on the subject of giving her Convoy, and have determined, as every thing is perfectly tranquil on this Station, and the *Argus* ready for Sea, to sail immediately for Syracuse, with the Ship under Convoy, and shall make every exertion, to return to my station, as soon as possible. —

[NDA. Isaac Hull LB, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1804

DEAR SIR, Although I had nothing new, I wrote you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant under cover to Governor Ball with sundry enclosed p<sup>r</sup> an English convoy. And the 17<sup>th</sup> by the American Ship *Alfred* who went for Malta. This goes by the Ship *Woodrop Sims* Captain

Miles Reddick who arrived yesterday from Norfolk, with a Cargo of provisions for the use of your Squadron, and have directed her to proceed to Syracuse to M<sup>r</sup> George Dyson, to whom I now enclose Bill of Lading and Invoice. She goes convoyed by the *Argus* Captain Hull. As nothing new occurs here yet I think it should be proper some state Vessel was on this station as two Imperial Brigs of War are in these seas to protect their trade against the Emperor of Morocco. He will avail himself of this pretext to fit out his Cruisers, and after play a trick upon such Nation as may be unguarded.

I now come to own rec<sup>d</sup> of your favor dated Feb<sup>r</sup> 1804, with the few lines of 5<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> accompanying Dispatches for the Navy dep: which shall be forwarded by first conveyance. It has given me the greatest satisfaction to find the success which attended the brave and spirited attempt of Captain Decatur in taking and destroying the late *Philadelphia* frigate, your account of which, I have published in the Chronicle of this place and hope such brave feats will follow from your Squadron to convince the Tripolitans of their error, and make other states look about. I have given Capt. Hull ten News papers for you, and wishing you all happiness

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Secretary of State from John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar

N<sup>o</sup> 147

GIBRALTAR 22<sup>d</sup> March 1804

SIR Without any of your favours I have now the honor of handing you Duplicate of my few lines N<sup>o</sup> 146 Via Cadiz also of M<sup>r</sup> William Higgins Letter to me dated Malta 25<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> and the Paragraph from Consul Pulics Letter regarding the Destroying of the *Philadelphia* frigate. I have now the great satisfaction of handing you Copy of a Letter to me from Comodor Prible with the very pleasing and interesting account of the Capturing and distroying of said Vessel in Tripoly, the Gallant and brave manner in which it was accomplishd by Cap<sup>t</sup> Decature does him and others Employd on that hazardouse service much honour. I have got the Commodores Letter publishd in the Chronicle of this Place.

The Schooner *Citizen* who brought the Gun Carriages had her Mate John Morrison Impressd at Sea on her way here from Lorient by the British frigate *Amphion* Captain Sutton on account of his having been Born in Scotland, who also threatend to take out a Seaman, being a Native of Ireland, however the latter went on board the U. S. Brig *Argus* & Enterd having his Protection as a Citizen. The schooner *Citizen* being in distress for want of a Mate &c<sup>a</sup> and being bound to New York with a Cargo, I put on board of her Federick Lewis a Native Citizen Mariner in distress who the Comander shipd and alowed him \$18 p<sup>t</sup> Month Wagers, but was not qualified to be a Mate, in consideration of which, and that he might proceed on his Voyage, I requested of Arch<sup>d</sup> Karr Commander of the American Ship *Baltimore* then in this Port, to alow John J. Blake one of his ships Comp<sup>t</sup> who offerd to go Volunteer on board the *Citizen* as Mate, which he granted on my making a formal request to the purpose that he might be severd of responsabilitys, which I did to relieve the *Citizen*, and of which hope you will approve —

[NA. SDA. CL, Gibraltar, Vol. 2, 1796-1804.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 22 March 1804

Moored in Gibraltar Bay loosed Sails and got the T. G. masts on end fired a Gun & made the Sig<sup>l</sup> for the *Woodrop Sims* to Weigh sent 8 men to Assist her got her under way the wind hauling to the Eastward Obligated her to Anchor again furled Sails employed Stowing away Provisions —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 22 March 1804

At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 haul'd up courses, took in Royals, steering sails, & stay sails & fired a bow gun at the chase. At 11 came up with her, found her to be a Russian ship bound from Tripoli to Malta. L<sup>t</sup> Caldwell & M<sup>r</sup> Brown went on board of her, the boat return'd with the Cap<sup>t</sup> of the Prize, who inform'd us that the boat which he had in tow in the Evening, had proceeded to Malta with the Tripolian Consul — Midnight gentle breezes & pleas<sup>t</sup> At 4 the Russian Cap<sup>t</sup> went on board his ship. At 5 his pilot came on bo<sup>d</sup> of us with 6 men to remain on board of us. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 concluded to send her into Syracuse M<sup>r</sup> Brown & M<sup>r</sup> Anderson went on board of her as Prize Masters with 10 men to assist in taking her into Port At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 set top gall<sup>t</sup> sails, & stay sails, jib & square main sail — Meridian light airs & fine weather crew emp<sup>d</sup> on various duties —

Latt: Obs: 33°50'N.

The name of the above Mentioned prize is *Madona de Catapoliagne* as mentioned in the remarks of April 1. 1804

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

ALGIERS March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1804.

DEAR SIR, I had the honor to receive by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>t</sup> Smith of the United States Schooner *Vixen*, your several favours of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of February, with their enclosures.

The burning of the *Philadelphia*, is a circumstance which does honor to the head which planned, and the bold enterprize which executed it. I think it must be productive of good effects to our affairs in this Sea.

The *Vixen* arrived in this Bay on the 15<sup>th</sup> instant. Upon the fullest consideration I can give the subject, I am persuaded it would not be for the interest of our Country that I should leave this Regency at present, even if I could obtain the Dey's permission, which might be somewhat doubtful, as we are indebted to him on account of our annuities; and the present critical state of our affairs here, with respect to the British, might lead them to construe my departure into an act of relinquishment, or at least of fear of the storm which may happen if the British should come here in force. I have therefore, agreeably to your request, desired M<sup>r</sup> OBrien my predecessor, to go up in the *Vixen*, to aid in any negotiation that may take place with the Bashaw of Tripoli, should he be seriously inclined to make peace on admissable terms. His knowledge of the language, Manners, and Politicks of these Regencies, must be highly useful to you. Such

is the aid you will most want, and which can be much better supplied by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien, than by me. As he had been making arrangements to leave this place with his family for Alicante in a short time, he takes them up with him, in order to proceed from that quarter to the U. S. whenever an opportunity may offer; or when his services can be dispensed with.

In order to give M<sup>r</sup> OBrien time to prepare for his departure (which would require some days) Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> Smith with my approbation, left this on the 16th instant, to look over on the coast of Spain, and has returned here this day. He must be detained until the 25<sup>th</sup> instant, as the Mahometan feast of Biram commenced yesterday, and will not finish 'till tomorrow night during which time it is not practicable to get these people to do that kind of work which is necessary for embarking a family. This will I hope, excuse Lieu<sup>t</sup> Commandant Smith from any blame on account of unnecessary delay; and I believe the services which M<sup>r</sup> OBrien can render, will fully compensate for the loss of a few days.

In your letter of the 31st of January, you mention that the Agent of the Bashaw of Tripoly at Malta, had proposed that we should give the Bashaw 500 Dollars for each of the *Philadelphia's* Officers and Crew. — A schooner in exchange for the Frigate, and make peace without Money or Tribute; and that they would exchange 60 Americans for the sixty Tripolines in your possession. If these terms could be insured, I think there should be no hesitation in accepting them; for they are much better than our Government had calculated upon (putting the loss of the *Philadelphia* out of the question). In order that you may see the views of the Government when we left the U S I enclose a copy of a letter on that subject from the Secretary of State to M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart dated April 9th 1803 and which I was authorised to go to, if Peace should not be previously made.

You wish to know what sum I will authorize you to pay for the ransom of the Officers and Crew of the *Philadelphia*, if the Bashaw will make peace without Money — without any Annual Tribute, or Consular present, excepting a small present on the reception of the first Consul that is appointed. As I have no special authority on this subject, I can only say, that I should not hesitate to take upon myself in behalf of the United States to pay at the rate of six hundred dollars for each (exclusive of what might be exchanged) upon the ratification of the other parts relating to peace &c<sup>t</sup>. And should you consider my sanction necessary I do hereby authorize you to act in this business to any extent that I might go myself.

I have the honor to enclose copies of my letters to George Davis Esq<sup>r</sup> our Charge d'Affairs at Tunis, by which you will see the steps I have taken to supply the wants of our unfortunate fellow Citizens in Tripoli; also copies of my letters to C. Bainbridge. From Dr Davis I have not had a line since the 27 December. I shall write to him by this opportunity, and M<sup>r</sup> OBrien will be able (if the *Vixen* touches there) to give you full information on our affairs in Tunis. As it is probable that new instructions respecting that power will be soon received from our Government in consequence of the refusal of M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart, and the Bey's subsequent letter to the President, I have hitherto avoided taking any steps in the business.

To M<sup>r</sup> OBrien I must refer you for a full detail of our affairs here, he is able to give you this to the greatest extent. I shall therefore only

say that we *appear* to stand well here at present. I yesterday made out the Consular passports and other documents for the Cruisers of this Regency; a list of which, is enclosed, and also ten copies of the Consular passport and Prize certificate, which will afford one for each of your Squadron to assist them in their examination if they should meet with any of these cruisers at Sea. It is thought however, that they will not send out more than two or three, if any before these affairs are settled with the British

The News papers which you was so good as to send me by the *Vixen* gave the latest intelligence we have had from the U. S. I am in daily expectation of hearing what measures the Government has taken in consequence of the loss of the *Philadelphia*. I wrote to the Secretary of State on this event, that, in my opinion, it would have such an effect on our affairs in these Regencies that the Govern<sup>mt</sup> must determine either to follow her loss by a force sufficient to reduce Tripoli to terms at once, or become tributary to all the Regencies to any extent they might think proper to demand — or withdraw our commerce entirely from this Sea, which would be attended with as great an expence in keeping Ships of War to guard the Straits as to effect the first point.

M<sup>r</sup> Lear sends you by Cap<sup>n</sup> OBrien a sword Belt, which she has had embroidered here for you, and of which she begs your accep<sup>t</sup> with her best wishes for your health, happiness, and prosperity There are no clasps or Buckles to it, as they could not be so well done here, as they may be elsewhere.

To tell you my dear Sir, what I think of your conduct since you have been in this Sea, would appear too much like flattery. I hope and trust you will find our Country ready to pay the tribute due to your talents, your patriotism, and your activity. Ardent as I know you would be to gather laurels in your profession, yet, I am equally certain that the love of your Country would never permit you to sacrifice her peace and interest, when they can be preserved with honor & propriety

To the Officers of your Ship and Squadron, I beg leave to present my best respects & regards, in which I am joined by M<sup>r</sup> Lear

P. S. March 25<sup>th</sup> I am happy to inform you that we have this morning settled up all our Accounts with this Regency paying in Cash the balance due to this time.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

#### U. S. Passports and Certificates issued to Algerine Cruisers

List of Passports, Prize Certificates & Tops of Passports given to the Algerine Cruisers March 23<sup>d</sup> 1804. —

1 Passport

2 Prize Certificates

1 Old Top of Mediterranean Passport

1 New ditto of ditto

N<sup>o</sup> 1. A coper bottom frigate of 46 Guns Rais Hamida Algerine

N<sup>o</sup> 2. Ditto Frigate, Copper bottom, forty four Carriage Guns, Rais Hamet Ally, Algerine, Comd<sup>r</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 3. ditto Frigate, Copper bottom thirty four Carriage Guns — Rais Hamet Ally, Algerine Comd<sup>r</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 4. ditto Xebeck Thirty four Carriage Guns, Hassan Rais, Levantino Commander



N<sup>o</sup> 5. ditto, Xebeck — Thirty carriage Guns, Mamet Rais Levantino Comd<sup>r</sup> —

N<sup>o</sup> 6. ditto Xebeck — Twenty six Carriage Guns, Mustapha Rais, Levantino — Comd<sup>r</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 7. Polacre Twenty two Carriage Guns, Mustapha Rais, Levantino — Comd<sup>r</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 8. Brig, Copper bottom, twenty two Carriage Guns, Hassan Rais, Levantino, Comd<sup>r</sup> —

N<sup>o</sup> 9. Ditto Xebeck, Twenty Carriage Guns, Rais Hamidan — Algerine, Comd<sup>r</sup> —

N<sup>o</sup> 10. Ditto Polacre 18 Carriage Guns, Hassan Rais Levantino — Comd<sup>r</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 11. ditto Schooner, Eighteen Carriage Guns, Bechie Rais — Algerine — Comd<sup>r</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 12. ditto Schooner, Sixteen Carriage Guns, Sali Rais — Levantino — Comd<sup>r</sup>

There are two Merchant Polacres of the Regency w<sup>h</sup> have Consular Passports to be renewed for coasting or trading — no tops — no Prize Passports — to be dated 23<sup>d</sup> March 1804. —

A Frigate of 48 Guns building, which will be launched in about one year from this. —

A Galiott belonging to the Bay of Oran {No Passports

One ditto to the Bay of Constantine {from the Consul's

60 Gun & Mortar Boats

30 ditto ditto building

About 150 Sail of Latteen Sail Coasters from 25 to 30 tons each — carrying from 11 to 14 men

2 Guard Gallies with Sweeps to tend the Port

10 or 15 Vessel's of different nations out on trading voyages, with the Deys Passports, which in general belong to the Deys Jew Subjects. —

N. B. The Cruizers of Algiers carry 10 men to a Gun —  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Crew's Turks,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Colores or Sons of Turks; and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Moors. —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 23 March 1804

These 24 hours Commence with moderate Breezes from the Eastw<sup>d</sup> got the *Woodrop Sims* under way at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 P, M, unmoored and at 9 Weighed and proceeded out of the bay [of Gibraltar] having the Ship under Convoy brought the people on board from her Livingston Barns & Mathew Pease (excepted) who were ordered to remain on board of her, at 8 AM, light airs set the Royals Staysails and Starb<sup>d</sup> Studdingsails at 9 took them in again At Meridian Europa point bore W  $\frac{1}{4}$  N distance about 6 or 7 Leagues Convoy in Company and a strange sail in Sight —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 23 March 1804

Light breezes of Variable Wind, shifting all round the Compass, and thick foggy weather; At Sunset no land in sight, suppose Cape

Passari bore N b W, distance 10 leagues. Mustered all hands at Quarters; For several nights past, the dews have been so heavy as to drench our sails and wet our decks as if we had experienced a constant rain; these dews are hurtful to the health of the people if they fall asleep, I have accordingly Ordered the Officers of the Watch to keep them up and constantly in motion — At Noon foggy. — We have steered between the S b W and W b S. these 24 hours, — True Course S S W  $\frac{1}{2}$  S; Tripoly bears S S W distant 130 Miles. The S E point of Malta N  $\frac{1}{4}$  W distant 50. Miles

Latitude Observed 35° No:

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Joseph Thomas, Malta

VALETTA, MALTA

24<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR, In a letter which I received from my friend M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>d</sup>Donough (the British pro Consul at Tripoli) since you sailed from this Port, is the following passage.

"The Bashaw is preparing fast to meet the hostile preparations of the Americans — which He understands is carried on with vigour at Syracuse — I wish much to "see the American Commodore, & I have no doubt of His arranging matters "amicably with this Government" —

Thinking this extract from the Consul's letter might be of some service, I have taken the earliest opportunity of transmitting it to you. I shall be happy if on this or any other occasion I can render you any service.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

(Copy)

ALGERS March 24. 1804

DEAR SIR, A few days ago I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> by L<sup>t</sup> Comd<sup>r</sup> Smith, of the United States Schooner *Vixen*, which was sent here by the Commodore. I assure you it would have been most grateful to my feelings, had it so happened that I had been at Malta, when your misfortune took place, and could have afforded you and my unfortunate fellow Citizens relief. — Communications have undoubtedly taken place, ere this, between Commodore Preble and the Bashaw on the Subject of ransom &c. — and I flatter myself you have found the means of relieving your present wants from various sources. — My letters to You, copies of which are enclosed, will shew that measures to that effect have been taken in several quarters, with an alacrity which does much credit to our Countrymen & honor to humanity. The friendly attentions and services of the Danis[h] Consul shall be made known to our Government, and I have no doubt will be gratefully acknowledged. Be pleased to tender him my best respects & warmest thanks. — The Commodore writes me that he has sent supplies of Stores and money. — and I now enclose the Copy of a letter from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Ch<sup>r</sup> Pinkney, our Minister at Madrid, which I rec<sup>d</sup> Yesterday by the *Vixen*, which has been over to Alicant — and the original from Patrick Joyes & Sons, Bankers, that if it should be necessary you can make use of it. — I also rec<sup>d</sup> a duplicate, at the same time, from M<sup>r</sup> Kirkpatrick in Malaga of his letter of

the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> — enclosing one for You which is forwarded herewith.

My Predecessor, Cap<sup>t</sup> OBrien, goes with his family up in the *Vixen*, as it affords him a good opportunity of leaving this place, and he will be essentially useful to Commodore Preble if any negotiation should take place with the Bashaw.

I can only say, my dear Sir, that there is a feeling interest taken in the situation of yourself and unfortunate companions, and that you may depend that you will not be left a moment longer in the situation you now are, than you can be relieved with propriety. — More I cannot say at present. My best respects & regards attend your fellow sufferers to whom I beg to be cordially remembered. —

M<sup>r</sup> Lear unites with me in every wish for your speedy deliverance.

[NA. SDA. CL, Algiers, Vol. 7, Part 1, Jan. 1804–Nov. 1805.]

To George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

N<sup>o</sup> 8 Copy

ALGIER, March 24<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, I cannot forbear expressing the surprize I felt in not having received a line from You since Your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, and especially when our Affairs at Tunis & Tripoli are in a situation to make me feel anxious to hear from those quarters as often as possible. — The other Consuls here have received letters lately from Tunis, and through them I learn that the Spanish Brig, which sailed from hence for Tunis on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup>, on board of which was put two thousand dollars for You, to be applied to relieve the wants of our unfortunate Countrymen in Tripoli, had arrived. I cannot persuade myself but You must have written, and that Your letters have miscarri'd. Lest mine should have met a similar fate, I enclose copies of my three last, Viz. N<sup>os</sup> 5. 6. & 7. —

The U. S Schooner *Vixen*, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Comd<sup>t</sup> Smith, arrived here on the 15<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> from the Commodore. She has since been over on the Coast of Spain, & sails again tomorrow to join the Commodore. In her goes Cap<sup>t</sup> OBrien, my predecessor, with his family. Should the Schooner touch at Tunis this will be handed you by Captain OBrien, to whom You will be so good as to make a full communication of our affairs with that Regency; and I trust that his general knowledge of the whole of our business with these Regencies, and of them, will enable you and him to ascertain the ultimate views and expectations of the Bey of Tunis with respect to the U. States.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> from Commodore Preble a copy of your letter to him of the 26<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> with its enclosures. If the sum of four thousand dollars demanded on account of property vended at Malta, would be the means of preserving peace with that Regency, and doing away the discontents which appear to prevail, I should have no hesitation in paying it immediately; but if it will not have that effect, nor answer any good purpose to our Country, it would not be worth while to pay it; unless Your responsibility therefor makes it necessary. — On this subject of the four thousand dollars You and Cap<sup>t</sup> OBrien will decide. —

I can only say on our affairs here that we yet appear to stand well. — To Cap<sup>t</sup> OBrien I must refer You for particulars. —

P. S. Should the Bey of Tunis be inclined to settle all matters with the United States on admissable terms, it will be necessary

that the *precise* amount of everything should be known, that he may expect from them

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb-April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires,  
Tunis

CONSULAR HOUSE TUNIS

March 24<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR, I have the honor to inform you that the Tripolitan *Polacre* laying at this Port, has been dismantled by order of the Veckel. The greater part of her Officers and Men have already left this for Tripoli by land, and that their intention is to send her for the nearest port in Tripoli, under some foreign flag as a Merch<sup>t</sup> Vessel.

A passport was yesterday demanded by the Commercial Agent for a Vessel (as he says) bound for Constantinople, but to touch at some port in Tripoli. — *It has been refused.* I have no doubt but it was for the Enemy's Corsair, and that she will shortly make the attempt, probably shaping her course for Jerba.

A Spanish Courier from Tangiers (last from Algiers) sails tomorrow for Tripoli. Letters from Tripoli inform that the Frigate is irreparably destroyed, and that Capt<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge and Officers were taken the following Morning from the Consular House and confined in the Bashaw's Castle.

I have the honor to enclose you a letter from C<sup>n</sup> Bainbridge.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Midshipman John Dorsey, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR You are hereby Ordered to liberate the Russian Brig in which you arrived last evening and be careful that nothing is taken out from her belonging to the Cargo, Officers, Crew or Passengers; You will together with the M<sup>t</sup> Nicholson & the Seamen &<sup>t</sup> belonging to the *Syren* retire to Quarantine Quarters until the *Syren* arrives and you are then to repair on board —.

Given under my hand this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1804

Signed EDWARD PREBLE

[LC. EPP, Order Book, May 1803-June 1805.]

[26 March 1804]

Act pertaining to the Navy

United States Statutes at Large. Eighth Congress. Sess. I.  
*An Act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the United States against the Barbary powers.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That for the purpose of defraying the expenses of equipping, officering, manning, and employing such of the armed vessels of the United States, as may be deemed requisite by the President of the United States, for protecting the commerce and seamen thereof, and for carrying on warlike operations

against the regency of Tripoli, or any other of the Barbary powers, which may commit hostilities against the United States, and for the purpose also of defraying any other expenses incidental to the intercourse with the Barbary powers, or which are authorized by this act: a duty of two and an half per centum ad valorem, in addition to the duties now imposed by law, shall be laid, levied, and collected upon all goods, wares and merchandise, paying a duty ad valorem, which shall, after the thirtieth day of June next, be imported into the United States from any foreign port or place: and an addition of ten per centum shall be made to the said additional duty in respect to all goods, wares and merchandise imported in ships or vessels not of the United States: and the duties imposed by this act shall be levied and collected in the same manner, and under the same regulations and allowances as to drawbacks, mode of security and time of payment respectively, as are already prescribed by law in relation to the duties now in force on the articles on which the said additional duty is laid by this act.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That a distinct account shall be kept of the duties imposed by this act, and the proceeds thereof shall constitute a fund, to be denominated "The Mediterranean Fund," and shall be applied solely to the purposes designated by this act; and the said additional duty shall cease and be discontinued at the expiration of three months after the ratification by the President of the United States, of a treaty of peace with the regency of Tripoli; unless the United States should then be at war with any other of the Barbary powers, in which case the said additional duty shall cease and be discontinued at the expiration of three months after the ratification by the President of the United States of a treaty of peace with such power: *Provided however*, that the said additional duty shall be collected on all such goods, wares, and merchandise, liable to pay the same, as shall have been imported previous to the day on which the said duty is to cease.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States, if he shall deem it necessary, shall be, and he is hereby authorized to cause to be purchased or built, officered, manned and equipped, two vessels of war, to carry not more than sixteen guns each, and likewise to hire or accept on loan in the Mediterranean sea, as many gun boats as he may think proper.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That a sum not exceeding one million of dollars, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, shall be, and the same is hereby appropriated (in addition to the sum heretofore appropriated for the same objects) for the purpose of defraying any of the expenses authorized by this act, which may be incurred during the present year: Or if necessary the President of the United States is hereby authorized to borrow the said sum, or such part thereof as he may think proper, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per centum per annum, from the Bank of the United States which is hereby empowered to lend the same, or from any other body or bodies politic or corporate, or from any person or persons; and so much of the proceeds of the duties laid by this act, as may be necessary, shall be and is hereby pledged for replacing in the treasury, the said sum of one million of dollars, or so much thereof as shall have been thus expended, and for paying the principal and interest of the said sum, or so much thereof as may be borrowed,

pursuant to the authority given in this section: and an account of the several expenditures made under this act, shall be laid before Congress during their next session.

APPROVED, *March 26, 1804.*

[U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. II, pp. 291-292.]

To Degen, Purviance & Co., U. S. Agents, Leghorn, from Tobias Lear, U. S. Consul General, Algiers

Copy

ALGIERS *March 26<sup>th</sup> 1804.*

GENTLEMEN In my instructions from the Secretary of State of the United States, I am directed to use all my endeavours with this Regency, to make payment of our Annuities to them in cash, instead of Naval Stores, which by the Treaty, we must furnish, and which are generally attended with a loss of 150. to 200. p<sup>r</sup> Cent to the United States, as the Stores are taken at their own prices, fixed many Years since with other Nations — On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September last we were indebted to this Regency, for two Years annuity, since which two Cargoes of Timber have arrived from the United States, which will pay but about one Year, leaving us One Year & Six Months indebted to the 5<sup>th</sup> of this Month.

I yesterday settled the Accounts of these Two Cargoes with the Government, and finding a favourable Opportunity, pressed to pay the balance of one Year and an half in cash, which point was Carried with much address, upon condition of their receiving the money immediately As I had not all the cash in hand, and it being impossible to negotiate bills here on the United States, I have ventured, on the Strength of your letter to me of the 22<sup>d</sup> of November 1803, to draw upon you at Sixty Days Sight for Twenty Three Thousand Dollars, in favour of M<sup>r</sup> David Coin Bacri to reimburse the Jews Bacri & Busnah who have advanced this Sum for this purpose. The pecuniary advantages of this transaction to the U. States will be very considerable, besides giving them a better Security for Peace with this Regency than they could have, if we were to be much in arrear.

I give you this explanation in this letter which accompanies my Draft, and shall write more fully by the Opportunity which may offer to convey this.

[NA. SDA. CL, Leghorn, Vol. 1, Oct. 1793-Dec. 1806.]

To Secretary of State from George Davis, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis

Triplicate

TUNIS *March 26<sup>th</sup> 1804 —*

SIR, On the 17<sup>th</sup> ultimo, anchored in the road of the Gouletta a Corsair of Barbary, said to be an Algerine; (a Polacre mounting twelve six & eight pounders) as she came here for Supplies, and the Veckil of Tripoli, charged himself with obtaining them, she was soon discovered to be a Corsair of the enemy. — Contrary winds, and the ill health of the Crew, detained her, untill the 2<sup>d</sup> inst. when she made an attempt to get underway; but we had the satisfaction to discover a U. S. Schooner, entering the port, at the same moment, which induced the Tripolitan, to come to an anchor — I could not obtain permission to go on board, untill the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> — She proved to be the *Enterprize* Lt Comm<sup>r</sup> Decatur, who gave us the pleasing intelligence of the total destruction of the late U. S. Frigate *Philadelphia*, in the harbour of Tripoli. On the following evening I

received an order to appear at the palace, and presuming that the chief object, was to demand the detention of the Schooner, (agreeable to treaty) as the Tripolitan, was ready for Sea — I immediately sent an express, advising the Schooner's getting underway before morning — as the intelligence I should have to give to His Excellency the Bey, would be as painful to him, as it was unexpected, (the *Philadelphia* being destined for this place) — I pleaded indisposition, and sent the necessary communications by my Drogerman. — The burning of the *Philadelphia*, under the Bashaw's forts, has not only made a Serious impression on *our active enemy*; but will have the greatest influence, with *this Prince*; each wandering Bedouin, details the daring action, and augurs something dreadful to our enemy from this event: in short, it is the only occurrence, which has forced them to view the *American character* with proper respect. — The sudden disappearance of the Schooner, excited the curiosity of many; and for the moment, permitted the Tripolitans, to make deductions most favourable to themselves. — On the 13<sup>th</sup> the *Enterprize*, again entered the harbour — the sight of her gave a general panic to the crew of the Tripolitan, who took baggage and abandoned their Corsair the same evening. (The Schooner, after *laying too* some time, shaped her course for Sicily.) The Rais, and great part of the crew, have already left this (*by land*) for Tripoli; and their intention is to send the Polacre to the nearest port in Tripoli, under some neutral flag, as a Merchant Vessel — of this circumstance the Commodore, has already been apprized, and I trust, has taken such measures, as will ensure her capture, should she make the attempt.

On the 23<sup>d</sup> instant, a Spanish Felucca, arrived from Tangiers, (last from Algiers) bound for Tripoli — I have every reason to suspect she is destined as a Corsair for the Bashaw — the Comm<sup>d</sup> will receive the intelligence in time to give her an *overhawling*, as she shapes her course for Jerba.

I am kept in constant agitation, by the Sapatapa, and Commercial Agent — the former on the part of his Master, for a reply to the letter, addressed to Commodore Morris; and the Latter on the part of the Merchants of Jerba, for the property captured on board an Imperial, fifteen months past. As Consul Lear, informed me in his first, (the 12<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1803) that he would probably visit Tunis, in the Spring, when all difficulties should be aranged, I have made this my last apology for a further delay.

[NA. SDA. CL, Tunis, Vol. 2, Part 2, 1803-1806.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 26<sup>th</sup> March 1804

D<sup>r</sup> SIR, On the 9th inst. I wrote you a lengthy letter in cipher, but am doubtful of your receiving it: I gave a hint for our cruisers to be always on their guard when laying in the port of Syracuse, and that it was necessary to examine strictly all description of Vessels and trust to no appearance of colours or dress, for they intend here to cloath their Seamen in the Christian mode, and some times send to sea boats without carriage guns with armed men.

M<sup>r</sup> Shombrie who was here from Malta said by your authority to negotiate for our ransom, I am induced to believe has done some

injury and not the least service; it is reported that he offered any sum which they would demand; and if he was charged by you with a commission to negotiate he did not steer in the proper channel, for he should have treated with Sidi Muhammed Dghies, Minister, and not directly with the Bashaw — the Minister is the proper person to address in such affairs — he has much the confidence of the Bashaw, and his powerful interest may naturally be expected to be at variance with any negotiation that is not carried on in its proper channel through him. When any person comes to treat they should study well the disposition of the Minister, and like an able physician feel his pulse before they prescribe; but this should be done in a most secret and liberal manner: you may be assured that such conduct will tend much to the interest of the United States in negotiating — I frequently mentioned to you Consul O'Brien as a very proper person to be sent here; let who will come he should be a man of address to act with discretion, for only such an one will take to advantage with the minister, who is a man of the world has great discernment and much politeness. I sincerely hope soon to hear of your being off here on the business of treating; by your having a proper character to remain on shore to communicate with you as circumstances may require, I flatter myself a peace would readily take place on as advantageous terms as could be got, — except our country would act with spirit and destroy the place, which could be effected by sending 3 or 4 thousand troops, and if it was possible to observe profound secrecy of the expedition, I have no doubt but a much less force would accomplish it: I am clearly of Opinion that if you could arm about 18 or 20 ships boats you can destroy all the Gun Boats, which would be attended with the most favorable consequences towards a peace; the Gun Boats carry about 25 or 30 men, — they are a dastardly set of wretches. Could you effect the exchange of a Lieu<sup>t</sup> or two by giving all the Tripolitans in your possession, it would be attended with great advantages, as they could give you that information which it is impossible for me to do by letter, and could act as pilots, and would be found Very servicable officers in any attempt made on this Place, being acquainted with its situation and are men of information and courage; — I sincerely hope that you will be able to effect the release of one if not two of them. A few bomb shells thrown into this Town would do damage and cause great alarm. Their Batteries are all in bad order, and they are very bad Gunners.

We are still confined in the Palace, surrounded with guards, and I write this letter without seeing the possibility of getting it out of our prison, however, Magical aid may assist me.

Believe me to be with sincere wishes for success to attend your plans, and Honor & Glory be the reward you meet with from your Country

W<sup>th</sup> BAINBRIDGE

P. S. The Minister has informed me that M<sup>r</sup> Cathcart would not be received as Consul, but they will receive him as Negotiator. This information is sufficient to convince me that it would be highly impolitic for him to have any hand in the Negotiation, not alluding to any fault of M<sup>r</sup> C's, but his standing with this Government.

[The following was written with "secret ink".]

NB by writing with lemmon juice or milk it cannot be discovered until it has been heated over the fire you may communicate freely



in that writing as I shall do after you advise me of the receipt of this  
Pray let me hear from you by all opportunities

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Prime Minister to the Bashaw of Tripoli

TRIPOLY the 26th of March 1804

SIR, I have received the letter which you have done me the honor to write; in answer to which, I will tell you that I did not answer that you wrote me from Malta, was the cause of having seen how you treated our Prisoners against all laws. And if truly there is a Prisoner on board of your Frigate in good health as your Officer has assured me, send him on shore, and then we will treat with you in some Negotiation

(Signed in Arabic) SIDI MOHAMED DGHIES  
Prime Minister to the Bashaw of Tripoly

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

[26 March 1804]

To Sidi Mohamed D'ghies, Prime Minister to the Bashaw of Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

EDWARD PREBLE Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander in Chief of the United States Squadron stationed in the Mediterranean Sea, to SIDI MOHAMED D'GHIES Prime Minister to His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly in Barbary.

#### HEALTH

I have not been honored with an answer to a letter which I wrote you bearing date the 4th day of January last relative to an exchange of Prisoners, although I understand you have rec<sup>d</sup> it, I now afford you an opportunity to convey an answer if you think proper.

I have also to request of His Excellency the Bashaw permission to send on Shore Clothing for the American Seamen and Marines who are his prisoners; and should it be his pleasure to grant it, I will thank you to inform me in what manner, and to whom I am to send them. I wish to be permitted to have the Clothing delivered to the Purser M<sup>r</sup> Keith Spence, to be distributed by him to the Men in order that he may be able to account for it

Any officer either Civil or Military that you may think proper to send off charged with your Answer, or to converse with the Prisoners I have on board shall be well treated, and allowed to return whenever he may think proper

With the highest consideration and respect for your Character I have signed this on board the United States Ship *Constitution* this 26th day of March 1804

(Signed) EDW<sup>d</sup> PREBLE

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*  
Off Tripoly March 26<sup>th</sup> 1804 —

DEAR SIR I have written to His Excellency the Bashaw's Minister of Exterior Relations, requesting an answer to my letter of the 4th

January, and at the same time permission to send some Clothing on shore for your crew, and that it may be delivered to your Purser to be distributed to them. I hope for their comfort he will grant my request. I forward you letters from some of your friends in America, and two exclusive of this from myself — Anything, and everything I have that can contribute to your Comfort you may command. I expect to have farther communication with the shore and shall write you again. Adieu! for the present, and believe me

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Monday, 26 March 1804

Moderate breezes & hazy; running in to the S. W<sup>t</sup> for the Coast of Tripoly From 4 to 6 exercised great guns, small arms, Boarders &c At Midnight wore Ship, and brought to, under easy sail. At 4 A. M. wore, made sail and stood for the land. At 5 saw the land. At 6 saw a sail in the W N W Bore up & gave chase; At 7 Made the private Signal, and discovered the Chase to be the U. S. Brig *Syren*, L<sup>t</sup> Stewart. At 9 A. M. spoke her. Tripoly in sight bearing S W; 6 leagues distant. L<sup>t</sup> Stewart informed me he had captured a ship from Tripoly under Russian colors [*Madona Catapoliana*] bound to Malta with horses, Bullocks and Sheep, which ship had carried 750 Troops from Smyrna to Tripoly for the Bashaw — At 11 A. M. Tripoly bore S b W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W<sup>t</sup> distance 5 Miles Hoisted our Colors, and a White flag at the Fore for a Truce. At Noon pleasant weather; Observed 11 Gun boats at Anchor within the Rocks and under cover of the Batteries which appear to be Strong, and mounted with a considerable number of cannon. — Cap<sup>t</sup> Stewart acquainted me that the *Nautilus* had been ran down by the *Syren*, owing to the neglect of the Lieut<sup>t</sup> of the Watch, and that she had been Obligated to leave the Station for the nearest Port to repair —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803–1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Syren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 26 March 1804

Calm & pleas<sup>t</sup> Weather, Boarded fore & main tacks & wore to the South the town Of Tripoli bore S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E 3 leagues At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 wore to the N E & haul'd up main sail At 8 wore to the southw<sup>t</sup> At 12 wore to the S. W. Midnight light winds & pleas<sup>t</sup> At 4 wore to the S. E. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 discover'd a large sail off our weather bow, made sail, gave chase. At 7 TK<sup>d</sup> to the S. W. took in top gall<sup>t</sup> sails, stay sail, & square main sail At 8 haul'd up fore sail, down jib, brail'd up after main sail. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 came up with the chase, prov'd to be the Frigate *Constitution* (Comm<sup>d</sup> E. Preble) spoke us lower'd down the cutter & L<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on board.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart ret<sup>d</sup> run up the Cutter & made sail for the land. At 11 the Comm<sup>d</sup> fired a gun to leeward & hoisted a White flag at his fore top gall<sup>t</sup> mas<sup>t</sup> head as a flag of truce (about 4 mile off the Town of Tripoli) the Tripolian gun boats suspicious that we might attack them got near the town & arranged them selves across the channel at the mouth of the harbour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 tack'd & stood off shore, inclining to Calm — Meridian the Town of Tripoli S  $\frac{1}{2}$  W dist<sup>t</sup> 5

miles, crew employ'd making matts &c. & — backd the main top sail

Latt: Obs: 33°12' N.

[NDA.]

Extracts from journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. Navy, from 31 October 1803 to 26 March 1804

AFTER the flag of the *Philadelphia* was struck, (says the Doctor,) and the officers and crew were waiting the pleasure of their new masters, the Tripolitan chiefs collected their favourites, and, with drawn sabres, fell to cutting and slashing their own men, who were stripping the Americans and plundering the ship. They cut off the hands of some, and it is believed several were killed. After this battle amongst themselves was a little over, we were ordered in the boats to be carried on shore. One of their officers, whom I had taken by the hand, and who promised me his friendship, came to me, took me by the arm, and told me I must go. I asked him to let my boy go with me, which he refused. I then took hold of my small trunk, which contained my best clothes; he gave me to understand that I could not take it, but should have every thing taken care of and restored to me. He took hold of my hand and hurried me over the side of ship, while his other hand was employed in rifling my pockets, from which he took about ten dollars. I had concealed some gold in my clothes, which he did not find. I then went down into one of their boats, from whence I was to pass into the next, which was almost full of our officers and men. I made all haste to get into it, for I observed that the Turks in the boat where I then was, were stripping my messmate, Dr. Harwood, and the carpenter, Mr. Godby; but I was soon stopped by three of the ruffians, who stood over me with drawn sabres and cocked pistols, and wrested my surtout from under my arm. Whilst they were picking its pockets, and quarrelling with each other for the booty, I sprang for the next boat, which was waiting for me. In my way, I met a little fellow, who seized me, and attempted to take off my coat; but I hurled him into the bottom of the boat, and jumped into the one which was waiting, amongst my fellow officers, where I thought the Turks more civil. They then set off for the town, compelling our men to row the boat, and standing with drawn sabres over our heads. When we had got near the shore, they ordered our men to stop rowing. Two of them came to me and gave me a severe blow on the side of the head. They then searched me, and took a case of surgeon's instruments from my pocket. They took my pocket book, but finding it contained nothing but papers, they returned it. One took my silver pencil, and another the handkerchief from my neck. They then began upon Mr. Knight, sailing master, Mr. Osborne, lieutenant of marines, and all the officers in the boat, plundered their pockets and took the handkerchiefs from their necks. They then landed us at the foot of the Bashaw's palace, where we were received by a guard, who conducted us into the palace before the Bashaw. He viewed us with the utmost satisfaction, and had us conducted into an apartment where we found the captain and several officers, who arrived in another boat just before us. Here was a table set in the European style. The servants appeared to be Maltese and Neapolitan slaves. Here we supped, after which it was announced that another boat had arrived with our officers and men, who were before the Bashaw. Capt. Bainbridge requested me to go and look for Dr. Harwood, whom it was feared was killed. I found him with the carpenter before the Bashaw, stripped of every thing but their shirts and trowsers. They afterwards informed us, that they were stripped in the boat where I lost my surtout; and when they got within a few rods of the shore, they were thrown into the sea, and left either to drown or swim ashore. The Bashaw's servant gave them dry clothes, and we were all again conducted before the Bashaw, and formed into a half circle. He was seated on his little throne, which was decorated in the Turkish order, and made a handsome appearance. He is a good looking man, aged about 35. He counted us, viewed us with a smile, and appeared highly pleased with us.—We were then conducted by the minister of exterior relations and a guard, to the house formerly occupied by the American consul—a very good house, with a large court, and roomy enough for our convenience. We were seated here about nine o'clock in the evening. Capt. Bainbridge got permission from the Bashaw to send for the Danish consul, who paid us a visit and offered every assistance in his power. We slept upon mats and blankets spread upon the floor, which was composed of tiles.

November 1.—This morning the Danish consul, Mr. Nissen, paid us another visit. Capt. Bainbridge engaged him to furnish us with provisions and such other

necessaries as we might want. Our dwelling was furnished in a plain style, and we were supplied with fresh provisions that were tolerably good. We were allowed to go to the front door, and to walk on the terrace or top of the house, which commanded a handsome prospect of the harbour, the sea, the town, the palace, and the adjoining country. Here we could see our ship on the rocks, full of Turks, and surrounded by their boats, and a constant stream of boats going to, and bringing off, the plunder of the ship. We could see these robbers running about town, with our uniform coats and other clothing on. The minister of exterior relations promised to be friendly, and collect as much of our clothing and effects as he could, and return them to us.

Nov. 3.—The Bashaw sent for the carpenter to go on board the ship; he went and found six feet water in the hold. The carpenter's crew and fifty men were ordered and carried on board to work at night. A gale of wind and heavy sea drove the ship off the rocks, and the carpenter returned.

Nov. 4.—In the morning lieutenants Hunt and Osborne, and myself, were at the Danish consul's observatory, on the top of his house, upon a plain with and adjoining ours, which together made a large and handsome walk. We were looking at the ship with Mr. Nissen's glass, when our drogerman came and informed us that the Bashaw had ordered us not to walk upon the terrace any more. We immediately returned to our house.

Nov. 5.—Our new masters came and closed up the passage which led to the top of the house; and a guard was set at the front door to prevent our going into the street. The minister sent his chief secretary with a parole of honour, written in French, which we all signed.

Nov. 6.—We found that we were not allowed to go out, notwithstanding our signing the parole of honour. The minister of exterior relations sent us word that he had got eight of our trunks, which we might have for twelve hundred dollars. We did not take them, nor thank him for his hospitality. We purchased new blankets, sent to us by the Danish consul. The English consul, Mr. McDonald, paid us a visit and offered us every assistance in his power.

Nov. 8.—The Jews purchased some of our clothing and offered it to us at an enormous price; but we purchased but little of it. The Bashaw sent for captain Bainbridge and told him that John Wilson had informed that captain Bainbridge, before hauling down the colours, threw over nineteen boxes of dollars and a large bag of gold. Captain Bainbridge assured him it was false, and gave his word and honour, that there was no money thrown over to his knowledge; but that the money in question was left at Malta. In the evening, the Bashaw not being satisfied, sent for the captain's servant, and ordered him to be flogged if he did not tell the truth concerning the money. The boy denied having any knowledge of it. After repeating the threat several times, and the boy insisting that he knew nothing about the money, he was acquitted. Wilson had turned traitor, and given the enemy all the assistance in his power. He now acts as overseer over our men.

Nov. 9.—Our captain established a credit with the Danish consul, who supplied us with necessary provision, and with cloth for mattresses. A guard was posted at our door, to prevent our going into the street, or purchasing any books or clothing.

Nov. 10.—Several Turks came and informed captain Bainbridge that the Bashaw had been told that captain Rogers who commanded the U. S. frigate *John Adams*, treated the Tripolitan prisoners taken last summer, very bad; and that they feared we should suffer for it.

We have plenty of pomegranates, dates and oranges. The Danish consul visits us every day.

Nov. 13.—The minister of exterior relations sent his drogerman to captain Bainbridge and informed him, that if he would send an immediate order to commodore Preble, to deliver up the Tripolitan prisoners captured by captain Rogers last summer, amounting to about eighty in number, we might remain where we were, but if he did not comply, we should fare worse. Captain Bainbridge replied that he could not command commodore Preble, and therefore could not comply with his request. At 9, in the evening, a Tripolitan officer came armed with two pistols and a sabre, and said, *To night nothing; to-morrow the castle.* We accordingly prepared for the castle.

Nov. 14.—Breakfasted early, to be ready for our new habitation. At 9, A.M. a guard came and ordered us to the castle. We formed agreeable to rank, and marched to the castle. We were huddled into the most gloomy cell, among our men, where there was hardly room for us to stand. Here we spent the day without food, and were scoffed at by our foes until night, when, to our happy surprise, we were conducted back to our old place of abode. The minister of exterior relations

sent for captain Bainbridge, and affected great surprise at our going to the castle, saying that he knew nothing of the measure, which we all knew to be false. He told captain Bainbridge that we should remain where we were until he heard from his people, the prisoners, in the hands of the Americans.

Nov. 17.—Visited our sick, who were quartered in a small house without a floor, near the palace, and about half a mile from our lodgings. The Danish consul supplied the sick with fresh provisions, by the request of captain Bainbridge.

Nov. 24.—The Bashaw refused to furnish necessary clothing for the sick, or any thing for them to eat, but sour filthy bread.—Captain Bainbridge contracted with the Danish consul to supply the sick with beef and vegetables for soup every day.

Nov. 27.—Our men complained of their hard usage, in being compelled to lie on the cold damp ground, to eat bad bread, to work hard, and to be bastinadoed by their drivers.

Nov. 30.—One of our men in a fit of despair attempted to kill himself; but was prevented by the Turks, when in the act of cutting his throat. The wound did not prove mortal. I was permitted by the minister to call on the Spanish physician for medicine for Dr. Ridgley, who was then sick.

December 5.—The Bashaw sent for me to prescribe for himself and two officers of his body guard, and ordered me to get such medicine as was necessary of the minister, who had a medicine chest.

Dec. 6.—Visited the sick at the palace, and found them all better. I was received and treated very politely. The minister sent for me to cure him of a blindness in the left eye. I prescribed for him with very little success.

Dec. 7.—Visited the ambassador of Constantinople, who was affected with the intermitting fever. Found my patients at the palace almost well.

Dec. 12.—Was called on by the general of Marine to visit his principal secretary. Before I was permitted to give any medicine the Turks, six in number, with *Hamel*, our drogman, summoned the sick man, and offered a prayer to Mahomet. The sick man then told me that if I would cure him he would be very thankful, and would speak to the Bashaw in our favour.

Dec. 15.—The Bashaw had a schooner launched, which was built by the Spanish carpenters. She was tolerably handsome, and calculated to carry six guns. When she was launched, three guns were fired from the batteries, and the consuls hoisted all their colours. At sun set, a firing from the batteries announced the commencement of the Mahometan Ramadam, continuing a lunar month, in which they neither eat, drink, nor smoke, while the sun is above the horizon, but fast at night. In walking through the town, to visit my patients, I found the mosque and principal houses illuminated, and the people rejoicing. Passing the coffee house with our drogman, *Lysle*, a renegado Scotchman, who was now the Tripolitan admiral, called me in to drink coffee with him and was very polite.

Dec. 16.—Visited the Marine secretary, and found him in a state of great debility. Could not prevail on him to take any medicine, or the least kind of nourishment. He said he would rather die than offend Mahomet by breaking the Ramadam; but would take whatever I should advise at night.

Dec. 20.—The market was so poor that we could get nothing for dinner, but a shoulder of poor dromedary.

[1804]

January 1.—Was called to visit the Bashaw's child, about eleven months old. The Bashaw seemed much affected on my pronouncing the child dangerous; and wished me to pay every attention to it, saying, that any thing he could afford should be at my service.

Jan. 2.—Found the Bashaw's child better, at which he expressed great satisfaction, and offered me a horse and servant to go to his gardens, about two miles from town.

Jan. 14.—The minister of foreign affairs, *Sidi Mahomet Docize*, visited our prison. The month's fasting (Ramadam) ended this day at the change of the moon. The Tripolitans fired a salute from our ship which lay moored in the harbour within sight of our window.

Jan. 16.—Capt. Bainbridge and lieutenant Porter were invited and accordingly visited the Bashaw, with all the consuls.

Jan. 19.—The Bashaw's agent sent us a present of tea, coffee and sugar, and a lamb, probably to induce us to buy a quantity of old clothes taken from us, for which they asked 600 dollars.

Diet at this time, two eggs and a piece of bread, with rain water for breakfast and supper; poor beef or camel's flesh, bread, and sometimes boiled cabbage, with rain water for dinner.

**February 3.**—Was conducted to the castle to visit the Bashaw, whom I found after passing several centinels, about fifty fierce yelping dogs, and three heavy doors loaded with irons and bolts, which were opened for us by armed mamelukes. Prescribed for the Bashaw's disorder.

**Feb. 6.**—The Bashaw sent for me to come to his room in the castle. He shook hands with me, received me with much politeness, and requested me to pay every attention to his family as a physician.

**Feb. 10.**—The Bashaw gave the officers permission to walk out into the town and country, but not to visit the consuls nor the batteries. Our drogerman, Hamet, was ordered to walk with us and direct us where to go. We went out six at a time.

**Feb. 16.**—Prescribed for the Bashaw's eldest daughter. Her husband offered me many civilities. At 5 o'clock, P. M. were informed that two English merchantmen were standing in for the harbour. They proved, however, to be two vessels under the command of capt. Decatur. About 11, at night, we were alarmed by a most hideous yelling and screaming from one end of the town to the other, and a firing of cannon from the castle. On getting up and opening the window which faced the harbour, we saw the frigate *Philadelphia* in flames.

**Feb. 17.**—The Turks appeared much disheartened at the loss of their frigate. A strong guard was put at our door, and we were forbid going out. I was forbid visiting our sick. It was reported that an American schooner and three boats set fire to the ship. Two Turks escaped who told this news. They said that eight Turks had charge of the ship, and they supposed the other six were carried off by the Americans. Our drogerman informed us that we were to be removed from our present habitation into the castle.

**Feb. 18.**—A guard of about twenty Turks was at our door. I asked permission to visit our sick, and was refused. A gloomy aspect continued on the faces of the inhabitants for the loss of the frigate.

**Feb. 19.**—Again asked permission to visit our sick, and was refused.

**Feb. 20.**—Permitted to visit the sick.—Found the town full of country militia and our guard doubled.

**Feb. 21.**—Our prison was kept full of Turks to guard us. The Bashaw, having got a little over his fright, consented to let us remain where we were.

**Feb. 24.**—We were forbid sending letters to our friends, without first shewing them to the Bashaw or his ministers. The last letters we received, were broken open by the latter, before they were delivered to us.

**March 1.**—We were conducted to the castle.

**March 2.**—Found our habitation very dark and smoky, having no light but what came through a grated sky-light.

**March 3.**—Not allowed to visit the sick, and our drogerman was forbid carrying letters to us.

**March 4.**—Captain Bainbridge received a letter from the ministers, reprimanding him on account of three men who floated ashore a few days after the burning of the frigate. The Turks pretended that they were murdered after they were made prisoners by the Americans.

**March 6.**—In close confinement. Hamet, our drogerman, was taken from us. The Bashaw suspected him of being too friendly to us.

**March 7.**—The Tripolitans got the guns from the remains of our frigate, and mounted them on their batteries. In trying them, several of the gun carriages broke down, and one of the guns burst and killed one Turk and wounded four.

**March 14.**—The Turks seemed much alarmed, and placed a strong guard at our door, for what reason we knew not.

**March 16.**—The Bashaw sent word that I should have any thing I wanted, free of expense.

**March 17.**—Ordered not to send our clothes out to wash.

**March 24.**—I was taken out of prison to visit a mameluke's wife and child. The minister of foreign affairs paid us a visit, and said many clever things.

**March 26.**—A truce was held between commodore Preble and the Bashaw.

[27 March 1804]

Act pertaining to the Navy

Chap. LIII.—*An Act supplementary to the act, intituled "An act providing for a Naval Peace Establishment, and for other purposes."*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to attach to the navy yard at Washington, and to the frigates and other vessels laid up in ordinary in the Eastern Branch, a captain of the navy, who shall have the general care and superintendence of the same; and shall perform the duties of agent to the navy department, and shall be entitled to receive for his services, the pay and emoluments of a captain commanding a squadron on separate service. (a) And the President of the United States is hereby further authorized to attach permanently to the said navy yard and vessels, one other commissioned officer of the navy, who shall receive for his services, the pay and emoluments of a captain commanding a twenty gun ship, one surgeon and one surgeon's mate of the navy, who shall be severally allowed for their services, the same pay, rations and emoluments, as are allowed to a surgeon and to a surgeon's mate in the army of the United States; one sailing master, one head carpenter, one plumber, one head block maker, one head cooper, two boatswains, two gunners, one sail maker, one store keeper, one purser, one clerk of the yard, and also, such seamen and marines, as in the opinion of the President shall be deemed necessary: *Provided*, that the number of seamen or marines, shall not at any time be greater than what is at present authorized by the act to which this is a supplement.

A captain of the navy to be attached to the navy yard and vessels in ordinary at Washington. His duties, pay and emoluments.

Who else are to be attached to the navy yard and vessels in ordinary at Washington.

*Provido.*

Repeal of a part of a former act.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That that part of the act to which this is a supplement, which attaches to each frigate laid up in ordinary, one sailing master, one boatswain, one gunner, one carpenter, and one cook, one serjeant or corporal of marines and eight marines, and to the large frigates twelve, and to the small frigates ten seamen, and which declares that the sailing master shall have the care of the ship, and shall execute such duties of a purser as may be necessary, shall be, and hereby is repealed.

APPROVED, *March 27, 1804.*

[U. S. Statutes at Large, 1799-1812.]

To Lieutenant Samuel Evans, U. S. Navy, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT<sup>t</sup>  
*March 27, 1804 —*

Your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> instant has been received.

You may alter the Shipping Papers, so that the Responsibility of

the Sureties for the Seamen, Ordinary Seamen, and Boys, shall cease on the delivery of the Persons entered on board of one of the Public Ships in Ordinary at this place.

\* \* \* \* \*

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Mrs. Thomas B. Dorsey, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

NAV. DEP

Mar 27, 1804

I have received your letter of the 27. inst and have the pleasure to inform you that M<sup>r</sup> Dorsey was not on board of the *Philadelphia* at the time of her capture by the Tripolitans —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 7, 1803-1805.]

To President Thomas Jefferson from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT —

March 27, 1804

The PRESIDENT —

The motion for abolishing the Office of L<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup> of the Marine Corps having been rejected, I take the liberty to enclose a nomination for that office. The Gentleman proposed is now the Senior Officer of the Corps. —

ROB<sup>t</sup> SMITH.

[Enclosure]

Gentlemen of the Senate,

I nominate

FRANKLIN WHARTON, now Senior Officer in the Corps of Marines, to be

Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps. —

[NDA. Nom. Appts., 1798-1820.]

[27 March 1804]

To Alexander Count de Woronzow (or Worontzoff), Ambassador of Russia to London, England, from James Monroe, U. S. Minister to London, England

M<sup>r</sup> Monroe presents his compliments to the Count de Woronzow and has the honor to inform him that he has just received a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Harris, consul of the U. States of America at S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg, containing a copy of a letter from the Chancellor of the Empire in which that respectable Minister by order of the Emperor assures M<sup>r</sup> Harris in reply to his application on the subject that his Imperial Majesty will interpose his good offices with the Ottoman Porte to obtain thereby the restitution of the frigate & crew from the corsairs of Tripoli which by being lately unfortunately stranded on that coast fell into their hands. M<sup>r</sup> Monroe will hasten to communicate this important information to his government, by whom he is well persuaded that it will be received with the high consideration which is due to so signal a proof of the friendship of his Imperial Majesty for the U — States. M<sup>r</sup> Monroe has the honor in the mean time to express to the Count de Woronzow his own sensibility and to assure him of



the pleasure with which he becomes to his Government the organ of a communication so honorable & interesting to his Country —

WIMPOLE STREET

March 27, 1804.

[NA. SDA. Disp., Gt. Britain, Vol. 12, 1803-1807.]

To Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

*Constitution* MARCH 27th. 1804

SIR, My Boat attends you, and it will afford me pleasure to welcome you on board this Ship.

Citizen BEAUSSIER

*Charge des Affaires  
of the French Republic  
Tripoli*

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

[27 March 1804]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli

LIBERTY. — — — — — EQUALITY

Tripoly in Barbary the 5th Germinal the twelfth Year of the French Republic One and Indivisible

The Charge of Affairs of the French Republic—Commissary General of all Commercial Relations near the Bashaw. To Commodore Edward Preble Commanding the Naval Forces of the United States of America in the Mediterranean on board the Frigate *Constitution* before the Harbour of Tripoly

COMMODORE.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> the letter which you have done me the honor to write this day, and the Dispatches that it mentions. I will not have an opportunity to write you before tomorrow Morning. Please to send the Boat after my letter

I have the honor to be with the highest consideration

BEAUSSIER

P. S. Conformable to your desire in your second letter, I will come on board tomorrow. —

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To the Prime Minister to the Bashaw of Tripoli, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

off Tripoly March 27th: 1804.

SIDI MOHAMED D'GHIES, Prime Minister

*To His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoly*

SIR, I am honored with your letter of yesterday's date, but must confess myself at a loss to know how I have merited the imputation of having treated Prisoners contrary to the dictates of humanity. You certainly are not well informed with respect to my conduct towards your People —

I have (as my Officer observed to you) among others, a prisoner that was taken out of the *Philadelphia* at the time she was set on fire;

he was wounded, but from the kindness and attention he has received is now well in health. I cannot however consent to send him on shore, until a Cartel for the exchange of Prisoners is settled. But you may, as I have before observed, send an Officer to converse with him — I have sent my Boat on Shore with this letter, and to bring off Monsier Beaussier Charge des Affairs of the French Republic

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLY *March 27th 1804.*

DEAR SIR, The Minister Sidi Mohamed Dghies, sends you many compliments. As he must write in French, says it will take some time, and your letter not of great import requests that you will take this as his answer, and says that you are permitted to send the clothing by any Neutral Vessel but not in your Boats.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble,  
U. S. Navy

U S. SHIP *Constitution* off Tripoly  
*March 27th 1804*

DEAR SIR I wrote you that the clothing for your Crew was all made, and on board this Ship. I was however wrong. M<sup>r</sup> Higgins was directed to provide and send it on board, but could not procure Duck sufficient in Season. I have directed my Purser to send on shore 280 Hats, part of which, will be straw as Wool cannot be procured. 280 Pair of Shoes, 280 Checked Shirts all the Duck Frocks he has on hand amounting to 52 and Duck Jackets to complete 280 Frocks and Jackets. All the Duck Trowsers we have in the Ship amounting to 189 pair, and as many of Blue to complete the number 280. I shall direct M<sup>r</sup> Higgins to send over a Duck Frock and Trowsers for each, by a Boat which he shall hire for the purpose, and at the same time send you any Stores you or your Officers may want.

I have directed my Surgeon to put up a quantity of Medicine which I suppose must be wanted by the Officers & Crew and I also send you a couple of Bundles, and a case of Surgeon's Pocket Instruments purchased by M<sup>r</sup> Higgins for you. If you will make known to me any thing wanted by yourself and Officers it shall be immediately supplied. All the letters sent to Malta of last and this months date from Tripoly, I forwarded to Gibraltar by an English Man of War. One of my Officers went in charge of them, and will forward them to your friends.

The First Consul of France the much celebrated Bounaparte has interested himself deeply in your situation. More of this hereafter.

If any letters arrive from America for you, they shall be immediately forwarded in some way or other. I enclose you an account of M<sup>r</sup> Pulis which he is anxious to have paid. If you wish me to pay him, please to regulate the Bill, and I will do it. I took up two of your Bills from him, and paid him the Money One was in favour of the Prime Minister for 300 Dollars, and the other in favour of R<sup>d</sup> Farquhar for the same sum, and have placed this amount to your Account.

I send you a cut from a News Paper with the President's Message relative to the conclusion of the Morocco business, and which will

insure you the valuation of your prize sent the Secretary, and which he rec<sup>d</sup> previous to the message I shall endeavour to prevail on the French Consul to send out a Neutral Vessel if there is one at Tripoli to receive the clothing, and shall at the same time send you a present of Claret, Porter, Cider, Cheese, Coffee, Sugar &c<sup>t</sup> from my own stores, which you will do me a favour to accept of

M<sup>r</sup> Izard tells me you are grown thin, I fear my friend you let your Misfortunes bear too heavy on your mind by which you may destroy your health. Recollect that Destiny and not want of Courage has deprived you of liberty, but not of honor. You will I hope e're long revisit your Native Country, and meet the approbation of your fellow Citizens and confidence of our Government.

[LC EPP, LB, Dec. 1803–April 1804.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge,  
U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY 27<sup>th</sup> [March] 1804

DEAR SIR, Excuse the brevity of my letter of yesterday, and impute it to the hurry that M<sup>r</sup> Izard was in, and the *mistake* that was made.

I have the honor of enclosing you a copy of my note sent to the Minister this day, accompanied by a copy of your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. to me; what effect it will have I cannot say — hope favorable — if it is not, we must content ourselves with our unfortunate lot, and rely on our Country and its Valuable Officers to relieve us; my mind was never adapted for a prison, but shall bear my fate with fortitude: I hope a speedy peace will take place, but cannot expect it incompatible to the Dignity of our Country; *Vigorous* exertions may crown our Wishes.

Your friendly offers and kind assurances of your friendship I do truly estimate, and regret most sincerely of being deprived of the honor of serving under your command: I yet hope one day to have that pleasure.

We will thank you for American & English News-papers (after you have *read* them) as often as opportunity offers. As the weather begins now to be fine, I hope to have the pleasure of frequently hearing from you; and will thank you to mention in your next whether Congress has confirmed the valuation of the *Mirboha*.

Wishing you health & glory as the reward you meet with from your Country.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.–April 1804.]

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bashaw of Tripoli, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI 27<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR, I do myself the honor of sending you a copy of Commodore Preble's letter to me of the 12 inst. in which you will perceive his replies concerning the inhumanity complained of in your letter of the 5; inst. You will also observe in his letter that he entirely disavows of giving M<sup>r</sup> Schombrie, from Malta, the least authority for any negotiation whatever; therefore you will be pleased to consider that persons improper interference as unauthorised by the United States; and the assertions unfounded.

Accept the assurance of my high consideration, and wishing you Health.

SIDI MUHAMMED DGHIES  
Minister of foreign Affairs  
to His Ex<sup>t</sup> the Bashaw  
of Tripoli

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Richard Somers, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Nautilus*,  
from Brian McDonogh, British Consul, Tripoli

SYRACUSE HARBOR  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR Having been detained by the Brig *Syren* of the United States on my passage from Tripoli to Malta and brought into this Port, I feel it a duty incumbent on me, to state to you Sir, that my passage to Malta is on *his Britanick Majestys Service*; I therefore expect you will embrace the earliest opportunity of obtaining for me, my suit & baggage, such accomodation which you may think most convenient in order to expedite the business which I am engaged in

B M<sup>d</sup>DONOGH  
H B<sup>d</sup> Majestys Consol

A true Copy from the Original

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn, from Sir John Acton, Prime Minister of State,  
The Two Sicilies

(Copy)

NAPLES 27<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR, I represented to the King my Master, the demand made by you in the name of the Commander in Chief of the American Squadron, for four Gun, and four Mortar Boats; and His Majesty deigned to manifest no great distance from granting to the said Commander the above mentioned Boats; but as the object which might form some difficulty, would be the granting the corresponding Artillery. In speaking to the Sovereign on the subject, I informed him of this addition to the above mentioned demand. I therefore have to inform you, that if the Commodore could take a trip to Naples, he would be accomodated with every thing to his satisfaction

I therefore wait to hear from you again on the subject, and in the mean time, subscribe myself with distinct and immutable esteem.

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

Extract from Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, on board  
U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 27 March 1804

Sent a Flag with the letters Officer of the Flag saw Capt. Bainbridge.

[LC, original.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Tuesday, 27 March 1804

Lying to off Tripoly: At ½ past 12 P. M. filled & stood in towards the Town; Wind S E. Light breezes and pleasant weather. At 2 P. M. a gun was fired and a white Flag hoisted at the Bashaws Castle. At

½ past 3 P. M. sent a Boat with a flag of Truce to the Town with a Midshipman and a crew of 6 men. M<sup>r</sup> Izard midshipman, was charged with dispatches from me to Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge, the Bashaws prime Minister, the French Commissary General, and letters from some of the Officers prisoners in Tripoly. On the Boat approaching the Rocks near the town, one of their Gun boats took her in tow, and went in with her, at 9 P. M. the boat returned, and brought me a letter of no import from the Prime Minister and another from the French Charge d'Affaires acknowledging the receipt of the dispatches I sent him, from his Court, and two short notes from the unfortunate Cap<sup>t</sup> Bainbridge whom M<sup>r</sup> Izard was permitted to see but with a strong Guard attending — Moderate Breezes all night & pleasant At 9 A. M. calm, the Town of Tripoly S b W ½ W distant 8 Miles — Anchored with our Stream in 35 fath<sup>r</sup> Water, Gravelly bottom; Hoisted a white flag and fired a gun, the Bashaw did the same at his Castle — Sent M<sup>r</sup> Izard on shore with the Barge with 8 men & coxswain. At Noon pleasant — Boat not returned —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden, U. S. Navy, on board U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Tuesday, 27 March 1804

Lying by off Tripoly — At ½ past 12 filled & stood within 5 miles of the Town. As there was no white flag hoisted we tacked & stood off shore — The wind at this time S E which is nearly along shore — At 2 P. M. observed the white flag hoisted on the Battery — Tacked in towards the Harbor At ½ past 3 sent an Officer & boat on shore under flag of Truce — Tacked & bro't to until we saw her enter the outer roadstead: She was there examined by one of the Bashaws gun boats which accompanied her into the Harbor —

At 6 P. M. stowed all the light sails and double reefed the Topsails —

The *Syren* was Ordered to anchor in shore & hoist a light as a Signal for the *Constitution's* boat At ½ past 9 P. M. the Boat returned —

From this time till 9 A. M. Moderate breezes from the Land & pleasant weather —

At ½ past 9 A. M. it fell a dead calm — Came to with the stream Anchor in 33 fathoms, soft bottom — The Town of Tripoly S b W ½ W by compass nearly 9 Miles —

Sent an Officer & boats crew on shore — Light airs or calms all the forenoon — Ships company employed staying the topmasts — Setting up the rigging and cleaning between Decks —

The Town of Tripoly is situated at the bottom of a circular Bay with Groves of trees to the Eastward and a sandy desert to the S. W. & W N: W as far as the Eye could reach — A long reef of black rocks to the Eastward of the Town — Nine Gun boats within them — The Entrance is defended by Batteries from the North shewing 72 Cannon —

These remarks were made last evening when we were about 4 Miles from the Town bearing S b E by Compass —

Noon light airs from the S S W.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 27 March 1804

Commences gentle breezes & pleas<sup>i</sup> in Co: with the Commodore  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 fill'd away & stood to the S<sup>d</sup> at 3 tack'd the main topsail, the Commodore sent a flagg off truce in the town of Tripoli same time fill'd away K<sup>d</sup> to the N. E At 6 tack'd to the Southw<sup>d</sup> At 7 the Town of Tripoli bore South dis<sup>t</sup> 6 miles K<sup>d</sup> to the S. W At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 took in fore sail, jib & after main sail. At 8 beat to quarters & prepar'd for Action lower'd the topsails on the cap & came too with the Stream Anchor in 20 fathoms, Tripoli bearing S  $\frac{1}{2}$  E 4 miles. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 the flag of truce that was sent to Tripoli return'd, Run up the Stream & stood off At 9 hove the main topsail to the mast — Midnight light airs & pleas<sup>i</sup> At [space] the boat went on board the Commodore At 3 fill'd away & stood to the N W following the motions of the Commodore At 4 wore to the S<sup>d</sup> & set after main sail. At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 L<sup>t</sup> Stewart went on board the Commodore. At 8 sounded in 45 fathoms —

Meridian Light airs & pleas<sup>i</sup> Crew employ'd middle stitching sails &c. —

Lat. Obs: 32°58' N.

[NDA.]

To Secretary of State from Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain

AMERICAN CONSULATE —

Cadiz 28<sup>th</sup> March 1804.

RESPECTED SIR — I had the honour of writing you on the 26<sup>th</sup> instant —

I have now that of inclosing you Copy of a Letter received from Charles Pinckney Esq<sup>r</sup> our Minister at Madrid concerning the Quaranteen on American Vessels, and in consequence of orders from said Court, the Quaranteen of 40 days which was laid here on Vessels from Philad<sup>a</sup> Baltimore & New York, are now reduced to fifteen days only, and from the remaining Ports Ten days as before.

I also hand you Copy of a Letter just received from Levett Harris our Consul at S<sup>t</sup> Petersburg concerning the brave & Gallant Officers of the United States Ship *Philadelphia*, which no doubt will please you in every respect; the Letter which Cap<sup>t</sup> say Consul Harris incloses me for Comodore E. Preble, I have immediately forwarded to Consul Gavino to be sent without delay. —

• • • • •  
[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

[Enclosure No. 1]

To Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from Charles Pinckney, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain

Circular.

MADRID 8<sup>th</sup> March 1804.

DEAR SIR. I am to inform you that by an official Letter just received from His Excellency D<sup>n</sup> Pedro Cevallos, first Secretary of State & of Dispatch, he informs me officially that the Quarantine on our Vessels is now reduced to fifteen days of observation, which notice I immediately transmit to you for your information & Government.

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

[Enclosure No. 2]

To Josef Yznardi, U. S. Consul, Cadiz, Spain, from Levett Harris, U. S. Consul General, St. Petersburg, Russia

## CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

St PETERSBURG 28 January —

7<sup>th</sup> February 1804 —

SIR. I hasten to transmit the inclosed Copy of a Letter I have received from the Grand Chancellor of this Empire, in answer to an official note I addressed him on the Subject of the fatal disaster which has befallen a Frigate of our Government in the Mediterranean.

The interest which his Imperial Majesty has deigned on this occasion so honorably to testify, cannot fail to be a Subject of the highest felicitation to every American, and the more, as so important and gracious an intercession, is calculated to lead to presages equally auspicious.

You will embrace Sir, the earliest means to transmit the inclosed Letter to the Commander of the Squadron, and unless you are able to forward it immediately, its importance justifies you to dispatch a Special Messenger to that effect, except on its receipt, you are apprised, that effectual measures have been otherwise taken to liberate the Ship & Crew.

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

[Enclosure No. 3]

To Levett Harris, U. S. Consul General, St. Petersburg, Russia, from the Grand Chancellor of the Russian Empire or Russian Ambassador to London, England

*(Translation from the Original in French —)*

SIR: I made Known to the Emperor the note you addressed to me under date of the 20<sup>th</sup> of this Month, by which you Sollicit our intercession near the Ottoman Port in behalf of the Crew of one of the Ships of War of the United States of America that have been made Prisoners by the Pirates of Tripoly.

It is with great pleasure I announce to you that his Imperial Majesty, guided by the most favorable dispositions for your Government, has given me orders to direct his Minister at Constantinople to make the Strongest representation to the Turkish Court in order that a Firman be dispatched to the Bey of Tripoly, to liberate not only the Crew, but the Vessel itself.

These orders Sir; will be expedited to Constantinople by the first Courier, and I have not a doubt that the representation which will in consequence be made by our Minister M<sup>r</sup> De Italinsky will have their full effect.

It is extremely agreeable to me to add to this information, the most positive assurance that the Emperor peculiarly gratified in according this mark of his Interest for the United States, will not be less so on all occasions wherein He may be able to give them new proofs of it, and of which it is his Majesty's desire that you expressly acquaint your Government.

Signed ALEXANDER  
Count de Worontzoff

[SDA. CL, Cadiz, Vol. 1, 1793-1805.]

To Secretary of State from Joseph Barnes, U. S. Consul, Sicily

LEGHORN Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> 1804

SIR,

\* \* \* \* \*

I have rece<sup>d</sup> a Letter from my Agent M<sup>r</sup> Gibbs at Palermo, dated Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> enclosing me a copy of a Letter from Commodore Preble, requesting Gun Boats & Mortars: & also a Letter from the Party who Acts for the U. S. Squadron at Syracuse, giving an Account of the fortunate event of the destruction of the Frigate *Philadelphia*, in the Harbor of Tripoli: As you will have, no doubt, rece<sup>d</sup> the particulars by Various means 'tis unnecessary to take up your time farther on this Subject.

In regard to the request of Commodore Preble for Gun Boats, & Mortars — tho' my interfering was not very pleasant on two Accounts, yet I did not delay one Moment to reply, & offer him my personal Services with the Neapolitan Gov<sup>t</sup> and any Sum of money he might want that I could command —: The Success & prosperity of our Country's cause being in my opinion paramount to all other considerations, I need not, I am Sensible Sir, take up much of your time in Stating the Aukward and unpleasant predicament in which I am placed.—1<sup>st</sup><sup>ly</sup> An application to General Acton to induce him to Assist the Americans with Gun Boats, Mortars & when no reply had been made to his Overtures for More than twelve months certainly came forward with a bad grace. 2<sup>nd</sup><sup>ly</sup> I am *not* even known as *Agent* for the *Squadron*, tho' Consul for Sicily, as Englishmen and Italians are appointed by some person or other, but by whom *I do not know*; nor, should I have been applied to on this affair but from supposing I might have some weight with General Acton, And knowing that I could command a considerable sum of money of my own; as well as obtain any further Sum that may be wanting. —

Commodore Preble is to be in Naples on the first of April; I have written General Acton, and made the best apology I could for not having answered his former propositions: I have also written Commodore Preble, that should he think it requisite I will join him on the Shortest notice — Had I, Sir, been Possessed of the Same powers which the Consuls of all other Nations are; Commodore Preble would have had the Gun Boats, & Mortars, & all other Matters he wanted, more than a Month past — After various fruitless applications in Sicily he is Obligated to go to Naples, which is consequently a considerable sacrifice of time & Public Money; exclusive of the risk of Some of the Barbarians getting out. I flatter myself however he will Succeed in obtaining the Gun-Boats & Mortars, Notwithstanding the difficulties which have Occurred: I shall use every exertion in my power. \* \* \*

[NA. SDA. CL, Leghorn, Vol. 1, Oct. 1793-Dec. 1806.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Monsieur Beaussier, French Chargé d'Affaires and Commissary General, Tripoli

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY 28<sup>th</sup> March 1804

SIR, On the 26<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> you sent me a letter from the Minister of foreign affairs, and wrote me that you desired to see me on board, before presenting myself on the 27<sup>th</sup> I obtained an Audience of the Bashaw, when I informed him of the lively interest the first Consul



took in the destiny of the American Prisoners, and of his desire soon to hear of their deliverance, and of a solid and advantageous peace between the two parties — The Prince answered me, that he was delighted with the intervention of the First Consul in the affair, and in Consideration of which, he would not avail himself of all the advantages which the chances of War had given him — He advised me to persuade you, to send on shore, the Prisoner taken on board the *Philadelphia*, in order to interrogate him freely, as it respects the treatment he has received — also that of his Comrades, and destroy the general Credited opinion among the inhabitants that they have been Massacred — The Bashaw was very much astonished to see me return without bringing this Man — and more so was Sidi Mohammed Dghies, his prime Minister, who had suggested & advised this, favor, but to facilitate your interest — by the good effects the liberal release of this prisoner would have in the Negotiation without any kind of prejudice to you — I assure you from my own knowledge how much this condescension on your part, would facilitate obstacles, and not pass without Compensation — I once more invite you Sir, to accede to this necessary measure, and you will afterwards receive permission to land, the Medicine Clothing, and the Provisions for the Officers —

You ask'd me when I was on board what I thought would be the price of the Regency for the Ransom of the Prisoners? I here repeat to you I think adviseable for both parties to treat of Peace and Ransom at the same time, in so much as the Bashaw intends it should be so, and will never agree to give up the Prisoners before having received the sum agreed upon, whatever shall be the guarantee they may offer him, that the exorbitant sum demanded, and obtained at Algiers of the Portuguese, the Negotiation of M<sup>r</sup> Schembri, supported by the testimony of the English pro-Consul, the Convention made with the Batavians in perfect peace, & in presence of a strong Squadron, the Agreement made with Sweden for a Small number of prisoners taken in the service of Commerce, the Nulity of a Carteel of Exchange (as the Regency's of Barbary are accustomed to recover from such Colours, from which the Enemy, take Tripoline Subjects & merchandize), all the preparations made against every attack whatever, all these Considerations make me fear, that the Bashaws pretensions will be at least 500,000 Dollars —

On my return from the Frigate I did not fail to inform the prince what were your approaching and formidable resources, of the attack you intend to take, in case there is no hope of a reasonable accomodation — that you intend to send a Ship to Alexandria, to bring down his Brother Sidi Acmet and firmly establish him at Bengaza — that the U. States do not solict for Peace, they desire only to treat for the deliverance of Prisoners by means of a Ransom that should not be too exorbitant, that they would sooner sacrifice these Prisoners than subscribe, or submit, to Conditions incompatible with the honor and dignity of the Nation, that they do not intend to pay any thing for Peace, nor to imitate those powers who pay them annual Tributes — that in the present instance, they only intend to treat for the Ransom of prisoners, and that the present Consul shall not be refused in case of Peace —

It did not appear to me that these resolutions had any impression on the spirit of the Bashaw — I suggested that too much tenacity on

his part in these exorbitant pretensions, might displease the first Consul; to which he answered whatever deference that pays to the desires of his Friend Buonaparte, he cannot believe that he will divest him of the advantages acquired by the Chances of War of three years without intermission — and as to the rest he was ready to defend himself, being in no fear of the threats of placing his Brother on the Throne, & to occasion a Civil War — Since he only sent him from his Governm[ent] at Derne, because he had began to Vex & discontent the people, but not from dread of any injury he might be able to do — he added his Brother was without means, inclined to drunkenness and incapable of acquiring partizans, all these assertions are truths — Perceiving that these Conferences fatigued the Prince, I took my leave, and retired, to be renewed when I receive your answer —

I thought Sir, It would not be my duty to conceal from you, all that has been said, on each side in the two Conferences which I have had with the Bashaw — that you may regulate your conduct thereby — after mature reflection & deliberation I ought to inform you, that whatever be the Success of your efforts to chastise the regency, your Government will have a great addition too the expence, without the advantage of recovering the prisoners, who are shut up in the Castle, from whence it will be impossible to facilitate or effect their escape — and the more damage you cause to be done to the Country, the higher will be their pretensions, be it from Avarice or from obstinacy, this at least, I have reason to apprehend — I cannot continue the functions of arbitrator & conciliator, in shewing myself equitable, impartial and a Friend to peace, except you enable me to answer every objection that they will not fail to make — The Blockade without doubt ought to cease, to Merchant Vessels during the Negotiation —

Have you full power to act, and to Negotiate *according to Circumstances?* or, will it be necessary to wait the Sanction of Government, *which could not foresee the Circumstance of 300 prisoners falling into the power of the Regency* — Being authorized yourself to determine irrevocably, will it require much time to arrive thus far? What is the Maximum of the Sum that you can offer to conclude a Treaty of Peace and to obtain a deliverance of the Prisoners

I cannot end this letter without begging you to accept the thanks for the distinguished honor and politeness you shew'd me on board your Frigate —

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Wednesday, 28 March 1804

Light breezes from the N N W, and pleasant Weather. At 2 P. M. our Boat returned from the Shore, and brought off the French Charge des Affaires Saluted him with 5 Guns on his entering and leaving the Ship — He dined on board, and returned to the Shore in the Barge at 5 P. M. — He informed me, while on board, that he had communicated to the Bashaw his Orders from the first Consul to act as mediator, and endeavor to bring about a peace: but that he was confident it could not be done but by first ransoming the Officers and Crew of the *Philadelphia*, and that the Bashaw will expect a very large sum of money, say at least \$250,000. for ransom & peace: He wished me to fix on a sum that I supposed our Government would consent to pay; this, I did not think proper to do; He observed that the

Bashaw would not consent to a Cartel for exchange of prisoners and did not intend to acknowledge any as prisoners in our possession, but such as were taken under his Own flag. — He likewise observed that we could not be permitted to land the Cloathing and Stores for Our Officers & Men in any other way, than by sending them in a Neutral Vessel. I am confident that the French, English and Swedish Consuls are all in the Bashaw's Interest, That the Danish Consul is the only respectable character among them, and he is not permitted to visit us. We must therefore depend wholly on our own exertions for effecting a peace, which can only be done by an increase of our force, and a Number of Gun & Mortar boats to batter down his Castle and town — At 9 P. M. weighed & made sail. Hoisted lights, let off rockets, & fired guns for the Boat; At 12 Midnight she returned.

M<sup>r</sup> Izard reported that he was not permitted to land, and that a strong guard was placed over the boat while she was detained at the Wharf —

The Weather having a stormy appearance, we stood to the Northward all night — At 9 A. M. tacked to the S W<sup>t</sup> — Wind N W<sup>t</sup> — *Syren* in Comp<sup>y</sup>

At Noon Tripoli S W<sup>t</sup> 30 Miles distant —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

Extract from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius deKrafft, U. S. Navy, in U. S. Brig *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 28 March 1804

Commences with light airs & pleas<sup>t</sup> Standing off[f] & on the Town of Tripoli the Commodore sent his barge in the town. At 2 the Barge return'd with the French Consul went on board the Comm<sup>d</sup> & was saluted with 5 guns. At ½ past 3 took in sail under the lee of the Commodore he lying at Anchor. At 4 Tripoli bearing S. S. W 3 leagues. At 5 T<sup>k</sup> to the Westw<sup>d</sup> ½ past 5 sounded in 30 fathoms & set top gall<sup>t</sup> sails. At 6 the French Consul left the Commodore & was again saluted with 5 guns T<sup>k</sup> to the N. E. At 9 saw a light, near Tripoli. ½ past 9 the light appear'd to approach us, call'd all hands for Action. At 10 the light came along side, (we having a light, which we shew'd now & then for the Commodores boat Which had taken the French Consul on shore) prov'd to be the Commodores barge from Tripoli. ½ past 10 made sail & stood to the N W ½ past 11 back'd the main topsail, sent the Comm<sup>d</sup>'s barge on b<sup>d</sup> of him he getting under way —

Latt: Obs: 33°30' N.

[NDA.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 29<sup>th</sup> March 1804

DEAR SIR, Last evening the Minister of foreign Affairs for this Regency handed me your much esteemed favor of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst., with some others for my Officers. My letter of yesterday, accompanying this, pleads the brevity of mine to you by M<sup>r</sup> Izard.

The cloathing you mentioned of having sent has not yet reached us, I presume for the want of a conveyance — I hope they will soon

arrive, as the Crew is much in want of them; but I am truly sensible of every exertion of yours to relieve theirs and my own wants — in fact your attention to us in our unfortunate situation insures to you the grateful remembrance of many brave unfortunate men.

Enclosed you will receive M<sup>r</sup> Pulos's Acc<sup>t</sup> certified by the Purser and Myself, and will thank you to have it settled. Doct<sup>r</sup> Ridgely received the case of Instruments

I sincerely thank you for the attention to our letters sent for America, and your goodness in promising the forwarding of those which may arrive from there. M<sup>r</sup> Izard's report is true — I am quite thin; your sympathy I justly estimate, and hope it is unnecessary for me to say that I truly believe your friendship sincere; and anxiously wish for an investigation of my conduct before the Tribunal of our Country, but in spite of every effort of my own, and your good advice, I cannot prevent sad reflections; my character! My loss of services to my country! And my Family, are painful subjects to contemplate on in a close Prison in Tripoli.

P. S. enclosed you will receive triplicate of my letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> respecting three persons that joined the *Philad<sup>a</sup>* in Gibraltar — which I will thank you to reply to

[LC. EPP, Vol. 10, Feb.-April 1804.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT —

March 30, 1804 —

You will take the Command of the frigate *John Adams* and use your utmost exertions to prepare her for Sea. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR. The Minister of His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, at Madrid, having represented to M<sup>r</sup> Pinkney, that irregularities have taken place, with respect to the Imperial Polacre *Paula* [*Paulina*], Cap<sup>t</sup> Radich, captured last year by the Naval Squadron of the U. States and carried to Malta, I request you to be pleased to furnish me with the report of the officers concerned in the capture and management of the prize, that proper instructions may be forwarded to M<sup>r</sup> Pinckney concerning the complaint of the Imperial Minister. In particular it is desired to know, whether at any time after the capture an offer was made to Cap<sup>t</sup> Radich of the release of his Vessel and the payment of freight, and whether she has ever been released, an[d] on what terms, or if yet detained, under what suggestion or right.

[NA. SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 14, May 1802-May 1805.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Stephen Decatur, Jr.,  
U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Schooner *Enterprise*

MESSINA March 30<sup>th</sup> 1804.

SIR, I had the honor of writing you from Palermo informing you of my intention to appear off Tunis. after getting a supply of Wood and Water. On my arrival at Tunis I found the Tripolitan in the

same state I had left him that is, laying in the Mole stript & entirely deserted by her men On my arrival here, I applied to M<sup>r</sup> Broadbent to effect the repairs of the Schooner. I am sorry to inform you on opening the Seiling, I found her in a much worse state, than I had any idea of. To give her a sufficient repair would be a lengthy and expensive Job. which I know is not your intention consequently I shall only do what she cannot do without to make her safe in any season.

According to your directions I have examined the Gun Boats here, there are Six equipt and in good order. about 20 Gun and Mortar Boats hauled up which wants considerable repairs

The Carpenter informs me he will complete me in 12 days. I shall urge him to effect it in less. Permit me to assure you Sir, I shall join you as early as possible.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, Commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Friday, 30 March 1804

Fresh breezes & pleasant weather. Wind Variable from W to N W. Tacked Ship for the Coast; At 6 P. M. the City of Tripoly S b W 8 or 9 Miles: Tacked off shore: Wind very light, almost calm; At 9 P. M. a strong gale sprang up suddenly from the N W<sup>d</sup> which obliged us to take in all our light sails, reef topsails & courses & send down royal and top gall<sup>t</sup> Yards At 1 A. M. it blew very heavy; Launched top gall<sup>t</sup> Masts and rigged in the Jib boom; At noon under Close reefed fore & main topsails and Storm Stay Sails. *Syren* in company. — Tripoly bore S b W  $\frac{1}{2}$  W distance 82 Miles. Latitude Observed 34°12' No:

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]

To Lieutenant Isaac Chauncey, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPM<sup>t</sup>

March 31, 1804 —

You will proceed to New York and contract with M<sup>r</sup> Chees[e]man for twenty four pound Gun Carriages for the frigate *United States*, on the best terms in your power. You and Cap<sup>t</sup> Barron will determine as to the number wanted. Likewise as to the dimensions &<sup>c</sup> and you will contract accordingly. In case you should not be able to procure all the Gun Carriages wanted in New York, procure as many as you can there and on your return to the City of Phil<sup>a</sup>, see the Agent & Contract for the residue.—

You will prior to leaving this for New York, consult with Cap<sup>t</sup> Cassin and ascertain from him how many Sailing Masters, Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenters & Sail-Makers are here and qualified for their respective Stations. We want Officers of these descriptions for the 5 Vessels now fitting out. After ascertaining how many are here that are good, you will know how many are wanted, and procure them in New York, and send them to this place immediately with assurance that on their arrival here they shall receive from the government their appointments. —

You will also procure as many good Ship Carpenters to come to this place to work upon the Ships now fitting out as may be in your

power. Get them on the best terms practicable, but don't suffer terms to prevent your getting them. We must have them. —

You will also while you are in New York give your assistance and advice to the recruiting officer stationed there. —

The Agent at New York — & the Agent in Phil<sup>a</sup> will each render you every necessary assistance. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

To Midshipman John M. Gardner, U. S. Navy, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPT  
March 31, 1804 —

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> —

Lieut<sup>t</sup> Cox is ordered to this place — so that the execution of the recruiting orders devolves upon You.

Quarter Masters and Quarter Gunners may be entered, but as it will not be possible for you to ascertain in all cases whether they are fit for the Station or not, you had better enter them subject to the condition, that they shall be confirmed if found competent to the duties. Cases however occurring where the Individuals are personally known to you, to be qualified for the Stations, you may engage them without being subject to this condition. —

Cases occurring where persons wishing to enter as Ordinary Seamen, are known to you to have been six or eight years at Sea, you may allow \$10 p<sup>r</sup> month if they will not enter for less — but first try at \$8 — If they will not take that sum, offer \$9 — and finally if they will not take \$9, give \$10 if you are obliged to give 12 to Able Seamen. —

Let me hear from you frequently. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 6, 1802-1805.]

Extract from journal of U. S. Brig *Argus*, Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 31 March 1804

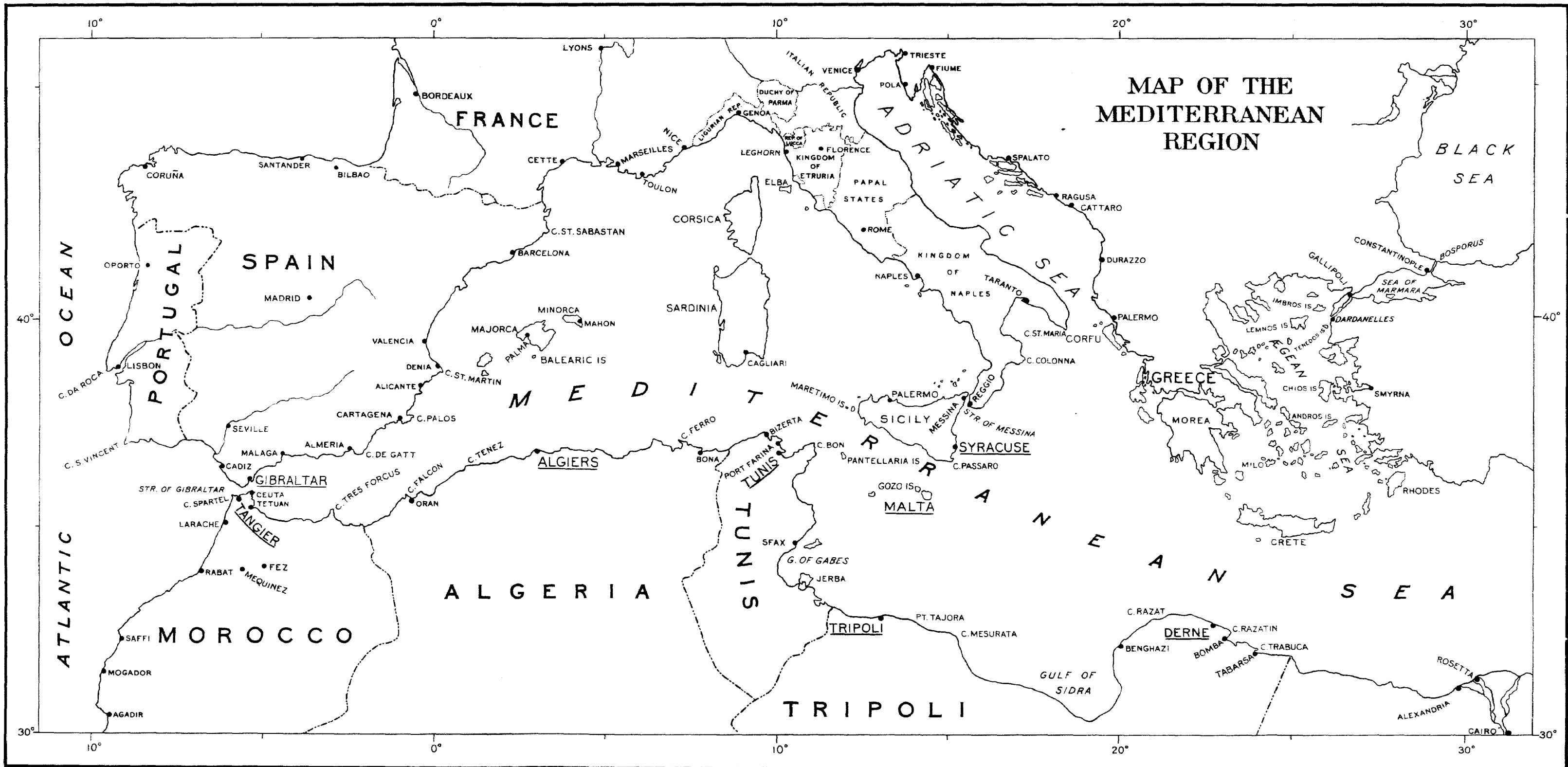
These 24 hours begins with fresh breezes and Clear Weather the Convoy in Company At 9 P M. fired a Gun and made the Sig<sup>l</sup> for the Convoy to make more Sail set and took in Sail as Occasion Required. —

[NDA photostat.]

Extract from Diary of Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commodore of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean, Saturday, 31 March 1804

Strong Gales from the N W<sup>t</sup> & cloudy, Squally weather. Under close reefed topsails & reefed Courses. Standing to the N N E. At 6 P. M. mustered all hands to Quarters. At 8 A. M. the *Syren* two leagues off our lee beam — bore down to her. At 10 A. M. wore to the S W<sup>t</sup>. At noon fresh gales and a rough Sea — Latitude Obs<sup>d</sup> 35°00' No: Tripoly bore S S W distant 129 Miles — East point of Malta N  $\frac{1}{4}$  E. 49 Miles —

[LC. EPP, Diary, 1803-1804.]







# INDEX



# INDEX

|   | Page                                |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Abbreviations index to sources</b> .....                                 | vii                                 |
| <b>Absolam, Muley, brother of Emperor of Morocco</b> .....                  | 106                                 |
| <b>Accountant of the Navy, reference to</b> .....                           | 317                                 |
| <b>Accountant's Office, Navy Department, clerks and salaries</b> .....      | 255                                 |
| <b>Active, British frigate</b> .....  | 3                                   |
| <b>Acton, Sir John, General, Prime Minister of State, The Two Sicilies:</b> |                                     |
| Correspondence with Cathcart, James Leander.....                            | 476, 538                            |
| References to.....  | 448, 478, 497, 500, 542             |
| <b>Actress, American Merchant Ship</b> .....                                | 407-408, 443, 473                   |
| <b>Acts of Congress:</b>  |                                     |
| Authorizing appointments to Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....                | 533                                 |
| Authorizing publication of these documents.....                             | iv                                  |
| Naval Peace Establishment.....  | 289, 392, 533                       |
| Pertaining to Navy.....   | 522-524                             |
| Relief of captors of <i>Meshouda</i> and <i>Mirboka</i> .....               | 299, 503                            |
| Valenzin, David, reference to.....  | 343                                 |
| <b>Adams: U. S. S., Capts. Hugh G. Campbell and Richard V. Morris:</b>      |                                     |
| Accounts for building of, unsettled.....                                    | 381                                 |
| Arrived at Gibraltar en route to United States.....                         | 45, 74, 75, 79, 87, 90              |
| Cathcart, James Leander, on board of.....                                   | 4, 25, 54, 61, 70, 79, 87           |
| Communications and dispatches on board.....                                 | 79, 87, 95                          |
| Draft and model of, payment for.....  | 381                                 |
| Guns.....   | 197, 214                            |
| <i>Nautilus</i> , U. S. S., exchanged signals with.....                     | 27                                  |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 12, 197, 214                        |
| Ordered dismantled and crew paid off.....                                   | 233                                 |
| References to.....  | 3, 54, 58, 60, 70, 89, 90, 127, 264 |
| <i>See John Adams</i> .....   | 73                                  |
| To return to U. S.....  | 90, 197, 214                        |
| Tunis, anchored in Bay of.....  | 4, 6, 25, 54, 61, 70, 87            |
| <b>Adams, William, seaman, No. 89, Philadelphia</b> .....                   | 185                                 |
| <b>Agincourt, H. B. M. S., Capt. Briggs</b> .....                           | 206, 207, 493                       |
| <b>Agostino, Capt.</b> .....  | 92                                  |
| <b>Alcayde Abde-Bahaman Ashash</b> <i>See</i> Morocco, Governor of.         |                                     |
| <b>Alcayde Abdashaman Hashash.</b> <i>See</i> Morocco, Governor of.         |                                     |
| <b>Alexander Hodgdon: Am. Ship</b> .....                                    | 219, 231, 235, 453                  |
| <b>Alexandria, Egypt:</b>   |                                     |
| <i>Argo</i> takes Bey of Mamelukes to.....                                  | 381                                 |
| Hamet Caramanli:  |                                     |
| At Alexandria with troops ready to march against Yusuf.....                 | 339                                 |
| Preparing to retake Derne.....  | 380                                 |
| <b>Alfred, Am. Ship</b> .....   | 514                                 |
| <b>Algiers:</b>   |                                     |
| Aga (General of the Turks), visit of Tobias Lear to.....                    | 247                                 |
| Azulai, Solomon, agent for David Bacris at Tunis.....                       | 266                                 |
| Busnah, a Jew, attacked by a Turk.....                                      | 405                                 |
| Cathcart, James L., rejected as U. S. Consul.....                           | 111                                 |
| City gates shut from sundown to daylight.....                               | 196, 306                            |
| Conditions in.....  | 405                                 |
| <i>Constitution</i> , U. S. S.....  | 231, 233, 256                       |
| Crew of cruisers of, 1/4 Turks, 1/4 sons of Turks, 1/2 Moors.....           | 519                                 |
| Dey of, Mustapha Pasha  |                                     |
| Correspondence with President, U. S. A.....                                 | 132                                 |
| Orders Richard O'Brien and Tobias Lear to palace.....                       | 250                                 |
| References to.....  | iii, 136, 233, 234, 306, 369, 516   |
| Strong friendship for U. S., expressed by.....                              | 246                                 |
| Flags and guns used as signals.....   | 194                                 |

| Algiers—Continued.   | Page  |
|--|---|
| General comments <i>re</i> rules governing ships entering, Consul's duties, salutes, anchorage, customs.....                           | 194-196, 305-306  |
| Great Britain, Affairs in.....   | 88, 249-251, 404, 434, 495  |
| Hogia de Cavallor (General of the Horse), visit of Tobias Lear to....  | 247   |
| Indebtedness of U. S. to Regency of.....   | 524   |
| Lear, Tobias, U. S. Consul General, Algiers. <i>See</i> Lear, Tobias.  |   |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , two Algerines as passengers to Salée.....  | 153, 164  |
| Minister of Marine, Vickie Hodge—Bainbridge, William, Capt., conveyed him to Constantinople in <i>George Washington</i> .....          | 277, 330  |
| Negotiating peace with Portugal.....   | 284   |
| O'Brien, Richard, ex-Consul General. <i>See</i> O'Brien, Richard.  |   |
| Passports and certificates.....  | 247, 264, 293, 518-519  |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. S., and Tripolitan prize—  |   |
| Genoa, Reis, formerly of Algiers, given command of prize.....  | 266   |
| Grounding and capture of, news of, reaches Tobias Lear.....  | 271, 283, 285   |
| Possible sale of, to Dey, by Tripoli.....  | 285, 408, 410   |
| Preble, Commo., landed and was saluted.....  | 233   |
| Present customary to be sent U. S. warship day after anchoring...  | 306   |
| Quarantine.....  | 305   |
| Ransom of 380 Portuguese captives.....   | 284   |
| Relations with Consuls of Denmark, Holland, Spain, and Sweden....  | 136   |
| Salutes.....   | 232-234, 246, 286, 305, 306   |
| Sanhedrin and Secretary of, reference to.....  | 54  |
| Thainville, M., French Commissary General.....   | 275, 277, 285   |
| Time distance from Tunis and Tripoli.....  | 293   |
| Titles of heads of Departments of.....   | 247   |
| Tunis requested by, to refuse James L. Cathcart as U. S. Consul....  | 54  |
| U. S. affairs in.....  | 70, 80, 88, 246-248, 265, 272, 435, 495, 516, 517, 518                              |
| Vessels of—  |   |
| Captives taken by.....   | 247   |
| Complements of.....  | 315   |
| <i>Crescent</i> , frigate, references to.....  | 134, 286  |
| Cruisers laid up for winter.....   | 293   |
| Frigate of 48 guns building.....   | 315   |
| Guns.....  | 247, 286, 315, 518, 519   |
| List of.....   | 247, 286, 315   |
| List of, to whom U. S. passports were issued.....  | 518, 519  |
| Naval force of.....  | 247, 315  |
| Vizen ordered to.....  | 386, 387  |
| Woodrop Sims, formerly Betsy Walker (or Betsy Walk) given an Algerine protection.....  | 400   |
| Algiers, annuities' presents, stores, and tribute to:  |   |
| Annuities—   |   |
| Agreement <i>re</i> deficiencies to be supplied by Bacri @ \$30,000 cash.....  | 246, 286  |
| Articles of tribute required for next annuity.....   | 293   |
| Due 5 Sept. 1803 from U. S. lost in <i>Sally</i> .....   | 297   |
| Guns in lieu of.....   | 134   |
| In arrears.....  | 246, 248, 293, 516  |
| References to store ships.....   | 99  |
| To accept cash for balance due from U. S. instead of naval stores lost in wreck of <i>Sally</i> .....                                  | 292, 524  |
| <i>Argus</i> , U. S. S., jewels and money belonging to U. S. to be shipped from Leghorn on board.....                                  | 93  |
| Biennial present.....  | 99  |
| Biennial present (\$16,000) paid by Mr. O'Brien before arrival of Mr. Lear.....  | 248   |
| Brass guns, carriages, and bricks demanded by Dey.....   | 132, 134-136  |
| Cash (\$12,000) and presents (\$19,593.03) received from James L. Cathcart by Tobias Lear.....   | 293   |
| Cash paid and all indebtedness settled to 25 March 1804.....   | 518   |
| Consular presents, jewels and cash, received by U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> from James L. Cathcart, Leghorn, and delivered at Algiers..... | 54, 87, 91, 98, 99, 139, 142, 153, 155, 234, 239, 246, 286, 287, 293, 307, 338, 437 |

| Algiers, annuities, presents, stores, and tribute to—Continued.   |   | Page |
|---|---|------|
| Consular presents purchased from Bacri & Busnah for \$20,000, by Tobias Lear, in lieu of those en route from Leghorn..... | 246, 286  |      |
| Demands of Dey on United States.....  | 132, 134-136  |      |
| Lear, Tobias. See Lear, Tobias.   |   |      |
| Old Tom carrying presents or tribute to, from U. S.....   | 223, 248, 249   |      |
| Presents, stores and tribute to.....  | 99, 246, 247, 248, 265  |      |
| Sally, Am. ship carrying naval stores for, wrecked off St. Lucar.....   | 232,  |      |
|   | 248, 261, 265, 285-286, 292, 297                                |      |
| Three U. S. ships carrying presents or tribute to.....  | 248   |      |
| Alicante, Spain, circular to Consul at, from Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 215-216   |      |
| Allen, E. & J., owners, American Brig <i>Hector</i> .....   | 123   |      |
| Allen, James, seaman, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 105   |      |
| Allen, John, master, American Brig <i>Hector</i> .....  | 123   |      |
| Allen, William, General.....  | 263   |      |
| Allen, William Henry, midshipman.....   | 263   |      |
| Allezard, John Josep, Surveyor General to Emperor of Morocco.....   | 112   |      |
| Alline, (Benjamin) Purser:  |   |      |
| To act as paymaster, Marine detachment, New Orleans.....  | 350, 508  |      |
| Alterations; <i>Siren</i> main mast shifted farther aft.....  | 307, 338  |      |
| Amaz, Raiz. See Omar, Reis.   |   |      |
| Amazon, H. B. M. S., reported loss of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 175, 232, 235, 236, 256   |      |
| Ambassadors, Foreign. See Consuls.  |   |      |
| American Eagle, Am. brig.....   | 349   |      |
| American Hero, Am. ship, master, Andrew Marsters.....   | 331   |      |
| Amphion, H. B. M. S., Capt. Sutton, R. N.:  |   |      |
| Deserters from U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , on board of.....  | 154, 156-158, 160, 161  |      |
| Morrison, John, Mate in Am. storeship <i>Citizen</i> impressed.....   | 515   |      |
| Sighted and spoken by <i>Siren</i> .....  | 96, 97  |      |
| Analectic Magazine and Naval Chronicle.....   | 425   |      |
| Anchor left at Cadiz during Revolutionary War, taken on <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 201   |      |
| Anderson, Hugh, ordinary seaman, No. 60, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184   |      |
| Anderson, James, 1st, ordinary seaman, No. 244, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187   |      |
| Anderson, James, 2nd, ordinary seaman, No. 246, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187   |      |
| Anderson, Thomas O., Mid., U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .....  | 15, 189, 192, 418, 419, 423, 443,                               |      |
|   | 444, 451, 460, 469, 516   |      |
| Anderson, William, Captain's clerk, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 183   |      |
| Anna Maria, Am. merchant ship.....  | 371, 457, 458   |      |
| Ann and Mary, American brig, Capt. Philip Kean.....   | 78  |      |
| Anson, H. B. M. S., in Syracuse Harbor.....   | 448, 449, 451   |      |
| Antelope, Am. armed merchant ship.....  | 278-279   |      |
| Appleton, John, Master of American schooner <i>Columbia</i> .....   | 73, 77, 78  |      |
| Appleton, Thomas, U. S. Consul, Leghorn, Italy:   |   |      |
| Correspondence with—  |   |      |
| Livingston, Robert R., U. S. Minister to Paris, France.....   | 111, 494  |      |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 499-500   |      |
| References to.....  | 237, 336, 501, 504  |      |
| Applidon, John, ordinary seaman, No. 130, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185   |      |
| Appointments by Preble, Edward, Captain, form of.....   | 204, 398  |      |
| Appropriations, Protection of Commerce against Barbary Powers.....  | 523   |      |
| Aquilina, Vincenzo.....   | 412   |      |
| Arabella, Portuguese ship of war.....   | 54  |      |
| Araba, money paid to, for redemption of crews of <i>Oswego</i> and <i>Betsy</i> .....                                     | 465   |      |
| Archer, John B., Capt., Am. store ship <i>Sally</i> .....   | 232, 248, 261, 267, 297, 435                                    |      |
| Argo, H. B. M. S., Capt. Hallowell, R. N., references to.....   | 331, 381, 390, 493  |      |
| Argus, U. S. brig, Lts. Stephen Decatur, Jr., and Isaac Hull:   |   |      |
| Algiers, en route to, in company with <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Nautilus</i> .....                                       | 221   |      |
| At Algeciras.....   | 208, 211-214, 466, 468, 473, 506                                |      |
| At Alicante.....  | 443, 448  |      |
| At Cadiz.....   | 205, 356, 357, 358, 360, 369, 375, 391                          |      |
| At Carthage.....  | 276, 281  |      |
| At Gibraltar.....   | 204-209,  |      |
|   | 211, 213, 214, 216, 314, 316, 320, 328, 329, 339, 348, 399-402, |      |
|   | 455, 456, 506, 510, 516.  |      |
| At Tangerole.....   | 309   |      |
| At Tangier.....   | 205, 349, 350, 360, 391, 399, 456, 459, 463                     |      |
| Bowsprit, condition of.....   | 28, 66, 91  |      |

**Argus**—Continued.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Brought to—  | Page   |
| American Schooner <i>John</i> , 36 days from Marblehead.....                 | 298  |
| American Brig <i>New Century</i> of Boston.....                              | 298  |
| A Spanish Schooner.....  | 298  |
| By H. B. M. S. <i>Maidstone</i> , off Cape Spartel.....                      | 352  |
| Captured Spanish ketch (or sloop).....                                       | 324  |
| Chased by English vessel and a frigate.....                                  | 243  |
| <i>Citizen</i> in need of men, <i>Argus</i> went to aid of.....              | 460-461, 466, 473  |
| Conveys to Mediterranean \$30,000.....                                       | 209  |
| Convoy duty—   |  |
| Am. ship <i>Actress</i> bound to Alicante.....                               | 407, 408, 473  |
| <i>Betsy Walk</i> (or <i>Betsy Walker</i> ).....                             | 355, 356, 357  |
| In Mediterranean.....  | 95, 205, 209, 219, 221, 246, 453, 548                      |
| To Leghorn.....  | 213, 218, 222, 224, 225, 232, 235, 259, 360                |
| Cruising ground of.....  | 205, 227, 259, 261, 375, 402, 437, 438, 452, 466, 467, 473 |
| Eaton, William, on board.....  | 16   |
| English merchant ship assisted by, at Gibraltar.....                         | 400  |
| Extracts from journal of.....  | 211,   |
| 213, 214, 216, 219, 224, 225, 231, 235, 238, 239, 242, 243, 276, 281,        |  |
| 298, 309, 314, 316, 328, 349, 350, 352, 355, 358, 391, 399, 400, 407,        |  |
| 408, 442, 443, 448, 453, 455, 456, 459, 463, 465, 468, 506, 510,             |  |
| 516, 519, 548.   |  |
| Flags to be signalled at Cadiz.....  | 329  |
| Gibraltar—   |  |
| Arrival of awaited, from United States.....                                  | 95, 107, 153, 161  |
| Arrived at, from United States in 34 days.....                               | 209, 212   |
| Cathcart, James L., to proceed from, to Leghorn.....                         | 93   |
| Departed from.....   | 208, 219, 349  |
| Ordered to remain at, to watch Morocco.....                                  | 142, 161, 339  |
| Quarantine performed at.....   | 320, 360   |
| To sail direct to, from Leghorn.....   | 238  |
| Guns.....  | 197, 214, 227, 384   |
| Handsome appearance much admired.....  | 209, 495   |
| Hull, Isaac, Lt.—  |  |
| Ordered to command of.....   | 159, 203, 208, 209   |
| Took command of.....   | 209, 211-213   |
| In search of Tripolitan cruizer off Sardinia.....                            | 473  |
| Jolly boat of, damaged in gale.....  | 465  |
| Leghorn—   |  |
| Arrived at, with convoy, <i>Alexander Hodgdon</i> and <i>Hazard</i> .....    | 235  |
| Departed from, with <i>Siren</i> .....                                       | 242, 286   |
| Quarantine at.....   | 235, 237-239   |
| Marines on board.....  | 197  |
| Movements of.....  | 320, 473   |
| Off Rhode Island light.....  | 91   |
| Off Tripoli.....   | 12, 210  |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron.....   | 12, 46, 197, 214, 384                                      |
| Ordered to exchange commands with U. S. schooner <i>Enterprise</i> .....     | 65, 66   |
| Orders and instructions to.....  | 69, 71, 204, 205   |
| Preble, Commo., desires a frigate at Gibraltar, to release.....              | 257  |
| Present of fresh provisions received by, from Morocco.....                   | 459, 466   |
| Ready for sea.....   | 21   |
| References to.....   | 16,  |
| 18, 66, 105, 127, 159, 162, 205, 215, 225, 307, 356, 360, 453, 459, 486, 515 |  |
| Repairs to.....  | 66, 91, 320  |
| Résumé of.....   | 16   |
| Sailing from the United States.....  | 24, 66, 105  |
| Sailing qualities.....   | 66, 239, 339   |
| Salute of 16 guns fired on arrival in Alicante Bay.....                      | 448  |
| Sent assistance to American brig ashore on entering Cadiz Bay.....           | 358  |
| Sighted and spoke H. B. M. Brig <i>Childers</i> and <i>Siren</i> .....       | 243  |
| Stores for.....  | 205  |
| Tangier.....   | 71, 350, 352, 391, 463, 464                                |
| Tripoli.....   | 205  |
| Weems, Nathaniel T., Surgeon, ordered to.....                                | 96, 208, 211   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Argus</b> —Continued.   | Page  |
| <i>William and Mary</i> arrived at Gibraltar during absence of.....  | 402   |
| <i>Woodrop Sims</i> , reference to.....  | 16, 514-516, 519                                  |
| <b>Arming of American merchant ships</b> .....   | 278, 279  |
| <b>Arraez Omar.</b> See Omar, Reis.  |   |
| <b>Arraiz.</b> See Reis.   |   |
| <b>Ashhash.</b> See Hashash.   |   |
| <b>Athalaya</b> , reference to.....  | 63  |
| <b>Attagan.</b> See Yataghan.  |   |
| <b>Auditor of the Treasury</b> .....   | 457-458   |
| <b>Augus.</b> See <i>Argus</i> .   |   |
| <b>Aumed, Hadji Tacher.</b> See Tacher, Hadji Aumed.   |   |
| <b>"A Voyage up the Mediterranean"</b> by Cooper Willyams.....   | v, 322  |
| <b>Ayres, John</b> , Danish Consul, Lisbon.....  | 308   |
| <b>Azulai, Solomon (or Azuly)</b> , agent of David Bacri, Algiers, at Tunis.....   | 266, 277, 278                                     |
| <b>Baccas, Don Manuel de</b> , translations by.....  | 25, 117, 118, 124-126                             |
| <b>Bacri and Busnah.</b> Jewish brokers, Algiers.....  | 246, 524  |
| <b>Bacri, David</b> , Algiers.....   | 266, 277-278                                      |
| <b>Bacri, David Coen</b> .....   | 524   |
| <b>Bainbridge, Joseph</b> , Midshipman, U. S. N.:<br>Burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 423, 443  |
| References to.....   | 12, 15  |
| To be tried for participation in a duel, with Captain James McKnight,<br>U. S. M. C.....   | 267   |
| Went on board <i>Enterprize</i> .....  | 211   |
| <b>Bainbridge, Susan</b> , wife of Capt. William Bainbridge.....   | 178-179, 330                                      |
| <b>Bainbridge, William</b> , Capt., U. S. S. <i>George Washington</i> , <i>Philadelphia</i> ,<br>and Prisoner of Tripoli:<br>Advantages by exchange of prisoners, stressed by.....       | 526   |
| Algiers may influence Tripoli in favour of.....  | 277   |
| Appreciation of expressions of sympathy by Stephen Cathalan.....   | 493   |
| Approval by President of capture of <i>Mirboka</i> and recapture of <i>Celia</i> .....   | 207,<br>439, 440                                  |
| Arrived at Gibraltar.....  | 30  |
| Assistance rendered by—<br>Davis, George, Tunis.....   | 310, 347  |
| Farquhar, Richard, Malta.....  | 222   |
| Higgins, William, Malta.....   | 301, 353, 354, 385, 429                           |
| Lear, Tobias, Algiers.....   | 274, 275, 277, 403, 435                           |
| McDonogh, Brian, Malta.....  | 253, 353  |
| Nissen, Nicholas C., Tripoli.....  | 224, 266, 279, 446, 447                           |
| Pulis, Joseph, Malta.....  | 261, 310  |
| Cathcart, James L.....   | 267, 353, 354, 358, 449                           |
| Ciphers of.....  | 253, 254, 310, 431                                |
| Clothing and stores for prisoners of Tripoli.....  | 333, 334, 353, 410, 487                           |
| Comments on distribution of U. S. Ships of War.....  | 253-254   |
| Correspondence with—<br>Bainbridge, Susan, Mrs.....  | 178-179   |
| Cathalan, Stephen, Jr.....   | 493   |
| Cathcart, James L., Leghorn.....   | 353-354   |
| Dghies, Sidi Mohamet, Minister of Foreign Affairs to Bashaw of<br>Tripoli.....   | 218, 219, 224, 445, 446, 474, 475, 537, 538       |
| Lear, Tobias, U. S. Consul General, Algiers.....   | 176-178,<br>274, 275, 329, 330, 403-405, 520, 521 |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 171-173   |
| Not indicated.....   | 432-433   |
| Officers of U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> (list of).....  | 169, 170  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 45,   |
| 47-50, 103, 154, 159, 171, 173-176, 223, 253, 260, 269, 280, 310,<br>319, 334, 346, 353, 408-410, 430-433, 439, 441-442, 449, 455-456,<br>467, 474, 489, 490, 525-528, 536, 537, 545-546 |   |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.....   | 51  |
| Schomberg, C. M., Capt., R. N., H. B. M. S. <i>Madras</i> .....  | 100, 104  |
| Simpson, James, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco.....  | 1-3, 9-11   |
| Smith, John, Lt., <i>Vizen</i> .....   | 72, 73, 170                                       |
| Court of Inquiry re U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 189-194   |

**Bainbridge, William—Continued.**

Page

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Crew of <i>Philadelphia</i> who are British subjects might be freed by        |  |
| Admiral Nelson.....   | 253  |
| Health suffering during captivity.....  | 537  |
| Held in high esteem by Minister of Marine at Algiers.....                     | 277  |
| In search of two Tripoline cruisers sighted off Cape de Gatt.....             | 81   |
| Instructions re letters to and from Commo. Preble.....                        | 253  |
| Izard, Ralph, Jr., Mid., permitted to see him under strong guard.....         | 539  |
| Lemon, lime or milk used as invisible ink.....                                | 526, 527                                   |
| <i>Mastico</i> , afterwards named <i>Intrepid</i> , comments regarding.....   | 410  |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , Moroccan cruiser. See U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....     |  |
| Misfortune attended him in Guadeloupe, Algiers & Tripoli.....                 | 174  |
| O'Brien, Richard, suggested by, in negotiating with Tripoli.....              | 347, 456                                   |
| Orders to, from Commodore Preble.....   | 50, 51, 57, 84, 85                         |
| Payment of accounts of.....   | 536  |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. S. and Tripolitan prize—                          |  |
| Grounding and capture of.....   | 169-194,                                   |
| 170-174, 239, 240, 256, 259, 409, 432, 433, 475                               |  |
| Investigation of his conduct requested by him.....                            | 346, 546                                   |
| Justifies his surrender of.....   | 175  |
| Officers, council of, advised surrender of.....                               | 169, 170, 174, 179, 180                    |
| Plans for destruction of.....   | 253, 347, 408, 410                         |
| Plundered of everything.....  | 409  |
| Report of loss of, sent to Congress.....                                      | 506, 507                                   |
| Requests opinion of officers of, on his conduct.....                          | 169  |
| See also U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                   |  |
| Witnessed burning of, by <i>Intrepid</i> .....                                | 433  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., attitude toward.....                                   | 334, 346, 537                              |
| References to.....  | iii,                                       |
| vii, 14-16, 18-20, 28, 41-44, 46, 49, 51, 54, 56, 58, 66, 70, 89, 95,         |  |
| 106, 182, 190-192, 208, 230-232, 236, 256, 259, 269, 282, 284,                |  |
| 292, 298, 313, 326, 349, 360, 369, 373, 378-380, 382, 386, 400,               |  |
| 407, 410, 430, 437, 462, 485, 499, 502, 503, 517, 522, 529-532.               |  |
| Report of Moroccan aggressions by.....  | 198, 199                                   |
| Seamen sent on board <i>Philadelphia</i> by John Gavino, U. S. Consul,        |  |
| Gibraltar, without permission of.....   | 467  |
| Thainville, Monsieur, assistance rendered to, in U. S. S. <i>George Wash-</i> |  |
| ington.....   | 277, 285, 294                              |
| To be informed of arrival of provision ship <i>Traveller</i> in Syracuse..... | 203  |
| Treatment of, as prisoner of Tripoli.....                                     | 331, 445-446, 449, 487, 489, 501           |
| Tripoli—  |  |
| Cruising off.....   | 90   |
| Report on affairs of.....   | 330  |
| Suggestions to Commo. Preble relative to handling situation                   |  |
| in.....   | 254, 330, 526                              |
| U. S. Consular House, quartered at.....                                       | 183  |
| Vulnerable if 8 or 10,000 men landed near city.....                           | 330, 408, 410                              |
| Warning to Commo. Preble that Tripoli plans to attack in vessels              |  |
| with crews disguised in Christian dress.....                                  | 431  |
| Warns against Neapolitan doctor in <i>Constitution</i> .....                  | 432  |
| Went on board <i>Constitution</i> .....                                       | 81   |
| Baker, Nathan, Purser, U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .....                          | 318, 324, 326, 361-367                     |
| Baldwin, (Thomas), (Midn.) <i>Constitution</i> .....                          | 7  |
| Ball, Alexander John, Sir, British Civil Commissioner for the Islands of      |  |
| Malta and Gozo and Governor of Malta:   |  |
| Asked to direct trial of <i>Paulina</i> .....                                 | 344, 345                                   |
| Correspondence with—  |  |
| Officer Commanding U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean.....                   | 291  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 332-333, 335, 454-455, 482                 |
| Disposition of vessels with passports of, by Dey of Algiers.....              | 250, 404                                   |
| In company with Officers and Officials, went on board <i>Constitution</i> to  |  |
| welcome her arrival at Malta.....   | 477  |
| Order to try Lieut. Stephen Decatur and Mid. Bainbridge, sent to.....         | 267  |
| Passports given by Commo. Preble to carry Bullocks from Tripoli to            |  |
| Malta.....  | 291, 332-333, 335, 338, 387, 388, 417, 454 |
| Passports given by Commo. Preble violated by Schembri, G. A.....              | 513, 514                                   |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Ball, Alexander John</b> —Continued.  | Page   |
| References to.....   | 281, 330, 332-333, 344, 345, 351, 404, 467, 502, 514 |
| <i>St. Crucifisso</i> , brig, captured by <i>Nautilus</i> , off Tripoli, acknowledged to be fair prize by.....   | 487, 490   |
| Vessel of, going to Tripoli, to carry aid to officers and crew of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                      | 333-335  |
| Violation of passport by <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .....   | 452  |
| <b>Ballard, Joseph</b> , seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , sent to hospital at Malta.....                            | 488  |
| <b>Baltimore</b> , Am. ship, Capt. Archibald Karr.....   | 515  |
| <b>Baltimore, Md.</b> , references to.....   | 166, 510   |
| <b>Banter, J.</b> (or <i>Baxter</i> ) one of Owners, American Ship <i>Monsoon</i> .....                          | 123  |
| <b>Baptist, John</b> , <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. Consular House, Tripoli, quartered at.....                    | 183  |
| <b>Barbara, Fortunato</b> , Master, brig <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .....   | 411, 449, 454, 455, 482                              |
| <b>Barbara, Vincent</b> , part owner of <i>St. Crucifisso</i> , statement of.....                                | 412-413  |
| <b>Barcelona, Spain</b> , circular to Consul at, from Preble, Edward, Capt.....                                  | 215-216  |
| <b>Barclay, Harry</b> .....  | 127  |
| <b>Barnes, Joseph</b> , U. S. Consul, Sicily:  |  |
| Correspondence with—   |  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 500-501  |
| State, Secretary of.....   | 542  |
| References to.....   | 312, 487, 542  |
| <b>Barnet, British General</b> , Gibraltar.....  | 347  |
| <b>Barna, Capt., Celia</b> . See Bowen, etc.   |  |
| <b>Barna, Livingston</b> , seaman, <i>Argus</i> .....  | 463, 519   |
| <b>Barron, James, Capt.</b> , U. S. S. <i>President</i> and Norfolk, Va.:  |  |
| Correspondence with—   |  |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 241, 283, 317, 430-431, 491-492                      |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.....   | 189  |
| Gun carriages for U. S. S. <i>United States</i> .....  | 547  |
| Orders and instructions to.....  | 317  |
| President of Court of Inquiry, Capt. William Bainbridge.....   | 189, 194   |
| To build gunboat at Hampton, Va.....   | 241, 283, 430  |
| To testify before Court of Inquiry for investigation of conduct of Capt. Richard V. Morris.....                  | 492  |
| <b>Barron, Samuel, Capt.</b> , U. S. S. <i>President</i> , Commodore of Med. Squadron:                           |  |
| Arrived off Tripoli.....   | 13   |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....  | 484-485  |
| Orders to, from Secretary of the Navy.....   | 484, 485   |
| References.....  | 14, 16   |
| To be President of Court of Inquiry to investigate conduct of Capt. Morris.....                                  | 484  |
| <b>Barndale, William</b> , seaman, No. 270, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 187  |
| <b>Bartel, Midshipman</b> , U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , detected in disloyal correspondence with English..... | 160  |
| <b>Bartele, John</b> , seaman, acting as midshipman, on <i>Constitution</i> .....                                | 201  |
| <b>Bartell, (Midn.)</b> , <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 7  |
| <b>Barwell, James</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 29, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                       | 184  |
| <b>Bashaw of Derne</b> . See Hamet Caramanli.  |  |
| <b>Bashaw of Tripoli</b> . See Tripoli, Bashaw of.   |  |
| <b>Bashaw of Tunis</b> . See Tunis, Bey of.  |  |
| <b>Baugean</b> , copy of rare etching of U. S. schooner <i>Enterprise</i> .....                                  | v, 66  |
| <b>Baxter, John</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 57, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184  |
| <b>Baxter, J.</b> See Banter, J.   |  |
| <b>Beaussier</b> , Citizen, Chargé d'Affaires and French Commissary General, Tripoli:                            |  |
| Aid and release of American prisoners in Tripoli, to be sought by....  | 336,   |
| Correspondence with—   | 337, 544   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 535, 542-544   |
| Talleyrand, Charles Maurice, French Minister for Foreign Affairs.....  | 332  |
| Instructions to, from First Consul, France, sent by dispatch vessel....  | 336  |
| Opinion of, concerning affairs in Tripoli.....   | 542-544  |
| References to.....   | 143,   |
| 229, 274-275, 277, 285, 335, 370, 403, 406, 499, 506, 535-537  |  |
| Saluted by <i>Constitution</i> with 5 guns.....  | 544, 545   |

|   | Page     |
|---|----------|
| <b>Bedinger, Daniel</b> , Navy Agent, Norfolk:  |          |
| Appointed Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.....  | 303      |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of..... 9, 145, 146, 226-227, 250,  | 287      |
| Money deposited with, for building gunboat.....   | 283      |
| References to..... 221, 317, 355,   | 431      |
| <b>Beekman, John</b> , Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard, New York, N. Y. correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....                        | 303      |
| <b>Bell, U. S. S. Constitution</b> , rule regarding use of.....   | 32       |
| <b>Bellerophon</b> , H. B. M. S., Capt. John Loring.....  | 290      |
| <b>Bellet, Mr.</b> , accused of knocking out tooth of Omar, Arracz, of <i>Meshouda</i> .....  | 450      |
| <b>Bellmore</b> , British transport, ran aground in Malta Harbor and refloated, assisted by U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....                        | 490, 491 |
| <b>Benfield, John</b> , seaman, No. 275, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 187      |
| <b>Beni Hassan</b> , Province of Morocco. See Morocco.  |          |
| <b>Bengazi</b> : Request that Hamet Caramanli be landed there or at Derne...  | 352      |
| <b>Bernards tavern</b> .....  | 157      |
| <b>Berryman, Charles</b> , seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424      |
| <b>Betsey</b> , American Brig, Master, Grant, Elias.....  | 123      |
| <b>Betsey</b> , Am. Schooner, stranded on South Coast, and Crew captured by Arabs, disbursement for redemption of crew of.....                        | 464-465  |
| <b>Betsy Walk</b> (or <i>Betsy Walker</i> ), Am. provision or store ship, Capt. Miles Reddick:  |          |
| Arrived at Gibraltar.....   | 142, 153 |
| Landed Stores at Algiers..... 142, 153,   | 233      |
| Mediterranean passport.....   | 287      |
| Provisions for Mediterranean Squadron..... 142, 153, 233, 255-  | 257      |
| Renamed <i>Woodrop Sims</i> .....   | 399      |
| See <i>Woodrop Sims</i> .   |          |
| To be conveyed by U. S. S. <i>Argus</i> .....   | 355-357  |
| <b>Betsy Walker</b> . See <i>Betsy Walk</i> .   |          |
| <b>Bey</b> . See Tunis, Bey of.   |          |
| <b>Bey of Tripoli</b> . See Tripoli, Bashaw of.   |          |
| <b>Bickerton, Richard</b> , Sir, British Admiral, references to.... 302, 330-331, 339-340   |          |
| <b>Bittern</b> , H. B. M. S. ....   | 302, 397 |
| <b>Biddle, James</b> , Midn., <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191   |          |
| <b>Biddle, Clement</b> , midshipman, <i>Siren</i> .....   | 1        |
| <b>Billups, George</b> , Capt. Am. store ship <i>Traveller</i> :  |          |
| Correspondence with—  |          |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 18, 19   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 256      |
| Payments to, on account of freight.....   | 263      |
| References to..... 203, 213,  | 268      |
| <b>Biram, Mohametan feast of</b> .....  | 517      |
| <b>Bissel, Nathaniel</b> , Master of American ship <i>Eliza</i> .....   | 78       |
| <b>Blake, John J.</b> , of Am. ship <i>Baltimore</i> , volunteered as Mate in <i>Citizen</i> .....  | 515      |
| <b>Blake, Joshua</b> , Lt..... 12, 28, 237,   | 466      |
| <b>Black Vomit</b> , epidemic at Malaga, Spain.....   | 159      |
| <b>Blockades</b> :  |          |
| Characterization and establishment of.....  | 389      |
| Comments on International Law and rights of neutrals.....   | 372      |
| Declarations in 1780, reference to.....   | 116      |
| Mediterranean coast and ports by Great Britain.....   | 162      |
| Of Tripoli. See Tripoli, blockade of.   |          |
| Opinion of President relative to constitution of a blockade.....  | 389      |
| <b>Blye, John</b> , Boy, No. 40, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184      |
| <b>Boats of U. S. Ships of War</b> , order governing landing of.....  | 45       |
| <b>Bocri, David</b> . See Baeri, David.   |          |
| <b>Bocris and Busnach</b> . See Baeri and Busnah.   |          |
| <b>Bolton, Sir George</b> , comdg. H. B. M. Brig <i>Childers</i> or <i>Childres</i> ..... 72, 86, 87  |          |
| <b>Bolton, John</b> , seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , invalid.....  | 488      |
| <b>Bomb vessel No. 1</b> , Lieutenant Robinson, damaged in action off Tripoli.....  | 13       |
| <b>Bombardiers</b> : Services of, needed..... 311, 383  |          |
| <b>Bonaparte, Napoleon</b> , First Consul, France, exerts influence in behalf of U. S. affairs in Tripoli..... 308, 332, 498, 499, 501, 506, 536, 544 |          |
| <b>Bonaventuro</b> , Spanish ship, Admiral Lobas do Payta.....  | 202      |
| <b>Boston Public Library</b> . Record published by courtesy of.....   | vii, 25  |

|   | Page                              |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Boston, U. S. S., references to   | 310, 316, 348                     |
| Bowen, Richard, Captain of Am. brig <i>Celia</i> , references to                              | 1-3, 42, 73, 82, 123              |
| Bowen (or Bower), Robert, ordinary seaman, No. 193, <i>Philadelphia</i>                       | 186                               |
| Boulware, Joe W., Lt., U. S. N., acknowledgment to  | iv                                |
| Boyd, James, Surgeon, health of   | 96                                |
| Boyd, Joseph, ship's steward, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>                            | 424                               |
| Boyd, Walter, midshipman, <i>Enterprize</i>   | 251, 252                          |
| Boyles, John, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>                                    | 424                               |
| Brantz and Mayer. See Maver and Brantz.   |                                   |
| Brantz, Lewis, comdg. Am. Merchant Ship <i>Warren</i>   | 166                               |
| Briggs, Capt., H. B. M. S., <i>Agincourt</i>  | 493                               |
| Broadbent, John, U. S. Navy Agent, <i>Messina</i>   | 398                               |
|   | 399, 446, 478, 500, 501, 504, 547 |
| Broad Pennant of Commodore Preble:  |                                   |
| Hoisted on board U. S. schr. <i>Vixen</i>   | 328                               |
| Shifted from <i>Constitution</i> to <i>Enterprize</i>   | 324                               |
| Shifted from <i>Enterprize</i> to <i>Constitution</i>   | 324                               |
| Brooke, Samuel B., Sailing Master   | 13, 432, 447, 479                 |
| Brooks, Nathaniel, ordinary seaman, No. 287, <i>Philadelphia</i>                              | 188                               |
| Brown, George, quartermaster, burning of prize, <i>Philadelphia</i>                           | 424                               |
| Brown, Nicholas, boatswain's mate, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>                       | 424                               |
| Brown, Thomas, Midshipman   | 1, 455, 516                       |
| Brown, Thomas, 1st, seaman, No. 225, <i>Philadelphia</i>                                      | 187                               |
| Brown, Thomas, 2nd, seaman, No. 272, <i>Philadelphia</i>                                      | 187                               |
| Brown, William, deserter from <i>Constitution</i>   | 154-158                           |
| Brophy, Mathew, <i>Constitution</i> , punished for various offenses                           | 244                               |
| Briard, John, seaman, No. 66, <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 184                               |
| British Fleet: Nelson, Lord, in command of  | 30                                |
| Bristoll, Thomas L., correspondence with Knight, William, Sailing Master, <i>Philadelphia</i> | 179-180                           |
| Bronte, Felucca, cost of  | 492                               |
| Brothers, Richard, seaman, No. 46, <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 184                               |
| Brune, General, French Ambassador to Constantinople:  |                                   |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.   | 469, 470-471                      |
| Brush, Nathaniel, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i>                                   | 188                               |
| Buchanan, Smith &, owners of American ship <i>Pelapso</i>                                     | 137                               |
| Budd, Mr., sent from <i>Siren</i> to Lieut. Decatur   | 432                               |
| Buffington, James, master of Am. schooner <i>Eliza</i>  | 78                                |
| Bufuttl, Salvatore. See Busuttl.  |                                   |
| Bugeia, Jacob, ordinary seaman, No. 283, <i>Philadelphia</i>                                  | 188                               |
| Buildings, brick, estimate of   | 220                               |
| Bukerton, Robert, ordinary seaman, No. 53, <i>Philadelphia</i>                                | 184                               |
| Bullis (Bullas), John, Surgeon, U. S. N.  | 21                                |
| Bumboats, reference to  | 244                               |
| Buonaparte. See Bonaparte, Napoleon.  |                                   |
| Burchard, John, M. A., <i>Constitution</i> , report of prisoners on board                     | 383                               |
| Burk, Edward, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>                                    | 424                               |
| Burgiss, A., owner and master of American schooner <i>Equality</i>                            | 137                               |
| Burling, David, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i>                                     | 188                               |
| Burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Philadelphia</i> , Destruction or Burning of.         |                                   |
| Burrows, William W., Lt. Colonel Commandant, U. S. M. C.:                                     |                                   |
| Acceptance of resignation of  | 480                               |
| Correspondence with—  |                                   |
| Hall, John, Capt., U. S. M. C.,   | 254                               |
| Johnson, John, First Lieut., U. S. M. C.  | 357                               |
| Navy, Secretary of  | 127, 480                          |
| Burrows, William, Midshipman, <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Vixen</i>                            | 7, 169, 325, 327, 406             |
| Burton, John, seaman, No. 183, <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 186                               |
| Burton, William, seaman, No. 265, <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 187                               |
| Burtson, John, ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>                          | 424                               |
| Bumah, a Jew, attacked by Turk at Algiers   | 405                               |
| Busuttl, Salvatore, Agent of Hamet Caramanli  | 314, 352, 380                     |
| Butler, James, Seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , punishment of 24 lashes                          | 225                               |
| Butler, Richard, Sailing Master, <i>Vixen</i> , health of                                     | 325, 327, 406                     |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Cádiz, Spain:</b>   | <b>Page</b>                     |
| Cexezo, Francisco, pilot.....  | 164                             |
| Circular to Consul at, from Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 215-216                         |
| Consul, U. S., Yznardi, Josef.....   | 540                             |
| Governor of, Preble, Commo., to call on.....   | 164                             |
| Maidstone, H. B. M. S., impress men from Am. store ship <i>Traveller</i> .....                           | 210                             |
| Quarantine at.....   | 162, 165, 202, 355              |
| Unable to return salute of <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Enterprise</i> with equal number of guns.....      | 165, 166                        |
| <b>Caldwell, James R., Lt., U. S. brig <i>Siren</i>:</b>   |                                 |
| Killed in action off Tripoli.....  | 13                              |
| Ordered to command of <i>Siren's</i> boats assisting <i>Intrepid</i> .....                               | 416, 431                        |
| Testimony of, in Court of Inquiry, in case of Purser Nathan Baker.....                                   | 363                             |
| Went on board <i>Madona de Calapollana</i> .....   | 516                             |
| <b>Calm, Samuel, seaman, No. 65, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....   | 184                             |
| <b>Camfield, Isaac, private, U. S. M. C., burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....                 | 424                             |
| <b>Cammel, Capt. See Campbell, Hugh G., Capt.</b>  |                                 |
| <b>Campbell, Hugh G., Capt., U. S. S. <i>New York</i> and <i>John Adams</i>:</b>                         |                                 |
| Correspondence with Rodgers, John, Capt.....   | 144                             |
| Detached from command of U. S. S. <i>New York</i> .....  | 109                             |
| Member of Court of Inquiry, Capt. William Bainbridge.....  | 189                             |
| Ordered to Navy Department as member of Court of Inquiry to investigate conduct of Capt. Morris.....     | 484                             |
| References to.....   | 12, 27, 47, 55, 70, 75, 87, 110 |
| Took command of U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> .....   | 109                             |
| Waited on Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 138                             |
| Went ashore at Tunis.....  | 4-6                             |
| <b>Cape, Charles, ordinary seaman, No. 210, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....                                | 187                             |
| <b>Cape Trafalgar, 2 Galleys (Moorish) off</b> .....   | 73                              |
| <b>Capel, J. R., Capt., British frigate <i>Phebe</i></b> .....   | 331                             |
| <b>Captain Pacha of the Sultan of Turkey</b> .....   | 310, 313, 371, 480-481, 485     |
| <b>Capture of <i>Philadelphia</i>. See <i>Philadelphia</i></b>   |                                 |
| <b>Caramalli, Sidi Ahmet. See Hamet Caramanli.</b>   |                                 |
| <b>Caramallis. See Caramanli.</b>  |                                 |
| <b>Caramanli, Hamet, rightful Bashaw of Tripoli. See Hamet Caramanli.</b>                                |                                 |
| <b>Caramanli, Hassan, murdered by his brother Yusuf the Bashaw of Tripoli</b> .....                      | 502                             |
| <b>Caramanli, Yusuf, Bashaw of Tripoli, usurper of Hamet's throne. See Tripoli, Bashaw of.</b>           |                                 |
| <b>Carling, James (seaman), punished for negligence</b> .....  | 105                             |
| <b>Carmick, Daniel, Capt., U. S. M. C.</b> .....   | 350, 508                        |
| <b>Carson, William, seaman, No. 191, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....                                       | 186                             |
| <b>Carson, George, seaman, No. 59, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....   | 184                             |
| <b>Cartes, Seth, Sailing Master, U. S. schooner <i>Enterprise</i></b> .....                              | 18, 242                         |
| <b>Carter, Charles B., Purser's Steward and Ordinary Seaman, <i>Siren</i></b> .....                      | 318, 363, 365                   |
| <b>Carthage, U. S. brig <i>Argus</i> in harbour</b> .....  | 276                             |
| <b>Casey, Henry P., Midshipman, <i>Constitution</i>, correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.</b> ..... | 288                             |
| <b>Casey, James, armorer, No. 26, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....  | 183, 184                        |
| <b>Cassin, John, Lieut., Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.:</b>   |                                 |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....  | 220, 316, 320-321, 392-396, 509 |
| Ordered to Navy Department as member of Court of Inquiry to investigate conduct of Capt. Morris.....     | 484                             |
| Peace Establishment Act, objections to and remedies offered.....   | 392-395                         |
| Reference to.....  | 547                             |
| Stores for Mediterranean Squadron.....   | 287                             |
| <b>Casualties:</b>   |                                 |
| Anderson, James, <i>Philadelphia</i> , died at Tripoli.....  | 187                             |
| Caldwell, James R., Lt., killed.....   | 13                              |
| Deblois, James S., purser, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , died.....                                      | 244                             |
| Decatur, James, Lt., killed.....   | 12                              |
| Dorsey, John, Mid., killed.....  | 13                              |
| Garrabrandt, John, <i>Philadelphia</i> , died at sea.....  | 184                             |
| Gooman, Edward, <i>Philadelphia</i> , died at Tripoli.....   | 185                             |
| Hilliard, John, <i>Philadelphia</i> , died at Tripoli.....   | 186                             |
| Ingerson, James, <i>Philadelphia</i> , died.....   | 188                             |
| Israel, Joseph, Lt., killed.....   | 13                              |

**Casualties—Continued.**

|   | Page                                       |
|---|--|
| McDonald, John 1st, <i>Philadelphia</i> , died at Tripoli.....                              | 184  |
| McKinlie, James, Marine, died.....  | 213  |
| Morrison, John, <i>Philadelphia</i> , died at Tripoli.....                                  | 185  |
| Sloan, John, seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , died.....  | 351  |
| Somers, Richard, Lt., killed.....   | 13   |
| Ten men killed when <i>Intrepid</i> blew up.....  | 13   |
| Tripolitan in action against Tripoli.....   | 13   |
| Tripolitans on board Tripolitan prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                             | 14,  |
| 347, 409, 414, 417, 418, 422, 423, 438, 442-444.....  | 454  |
| Twelve men killed, 7 August 1804, off Tripoli.....  | 13   |
| U. S. during burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 14   |
| U. S. in action off Tripoli.....  | 13   |
| Wadsworth, Henry, Mid., killed.....   | 13   |
| <b>Cathalan, Stephen, Jr., U. S. Commercial Agent, Marseilles, France:</b>                  |  |
| Correspondence with—  |  |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.....  | 493  |
| Cathcart, James Leander.....  | 383-384                                    |
| Livingston, Robert R.....   | 406  |
| References to.....  | 406, 422, 459                              |
| <b>Catalano, Salvadore, Pilot, U. S. ketch <i>Intrepid</i> and <i>Constitution</i>:</b>     |  |
| Burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 421, 423, 443                              |
| Commended by Lt. Stephen Decatur, Jr.....   | 414-415, 416, 417                          |
| Opinion of, regarding possibility of getting the <i>Philadelphia</i> out of the harbor..... | 421  |
| Reference to.....   | 502  |
| Witnessed capture of <i>Philadelphia</i> and <i>Mastico's</i> participation in.....         | 180-181                                    |
| <b>Cathcart, James L., Leghorn and Tunis:</b>   |  |
| Algiers, Dey of, rejects him as U. S. Consul.....   | 111  |
| <i>Argus</i> , reference to his proceeding in, to Leghorn.....                              | 93   |
| Arrived at Gibraltar from Tunis, in U. S. S. <i>Adams</i> .....                             | 79, 87, 88                                 |
| Arrived at Leghorn in <i>Siren</i> .....  | 98, 139, 142, 153, 155, 163, 217, 228, 307 |
| At Gibraltar.....   | 93, 139, 142, 153, 155                     |
| At Leghorn.....   | 266, 272-273                               |
| Comments re his status in Tunis, Algiers, and Tripoli.....                                  | 54, 55                                     |
| Conduct of, resented by Barbary Powers.....   | 404  |
| Correspondence with—  |  |
| Acton, John, Sir.....   | 476, 538                                   |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.....  | 353-354                                    |
| Cathalan, Stephen, Jr.....  | 383-384                                    |
| Degen, Purviance & Co., Leghorn, Italy.....   | 93   |
| Nissen, Nicholas C.....   | 61, 62, 92, 266-267                        |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 226,                                       |
| 228-229, 311-312, 372-373, 379, 435-437, 437-438, 458-459, 501                              |  |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 4-6, 54, 55, 272-273                       |
| Tunis, Bey of.....  | 24, 25                                     |
| Criticism of, by Capt. William Bainbridge.....  | 449  |
| Davis, George, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, conduct and status of.....                   | 24, 25, 48, 61                             |
| Derne, suggests naval expedition to.....  | 228  |
| Gunboats and mortar boats.....  | 229,                                       |
| 311, 373, 379, 383, 384, 406, 435-437, 458, 476, 501  |  |
| Jewelry and cash as Consular present—   |  |
| Arrived in Algiers and received by Tobias Lear.....   | 272, 287, 293                              |
| Receipt, by Tobias Lear, for articles received from.....                                    | 91   |
| Sent to Algiers in U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> , from Leghorn.....                              | 93,  |
| 139, 142, 153, 155, 246, 307  |  |
| Lear, Tobias, U. S. Consul General, Algiers, to confer with.....                            | 59   |
| Left Leghorn for Tunis in U. S. S. <i>Adams</i> .....                                       | 4  |
| Louisiana Purchase, requested appointment in connection with.....                           | 55   |
| Opinions of, regarding Peace with Tripoli, and Ransom of prisoners.....                     | 228-229, 272-273, 311                      |
| <b><i>Philadelphia</i>, officers and crew, prisoners of Tripoli:</b>                        |  |
| Authorizes Mr. Nissen to furnish funds for use of Capt. Bainbridge.....                     | 404  |
| Clothing for.....   | 272, 353, 373, 437, 449, 458               |
| Lear, Tobias, resents efforts to aid.....   | 404  |
| Measures taken unofficially for alleviation of condition of.....                            | 266,                                       |
| 272, 353-354, 357, 358, 438   |  |

|  | Page  |
|--|---|
| <b>Cathcart, James L.—Continued.</b>   |   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.—sends invitation to cruise in <i>Constitution</i> to Naples.....                           | 437   |
| Private citizen.....   | 404   |
| Reference to character of.....   | 449   |
| References to.....   | 55, 70,   |
| 75, 80, 87, 88, 99, 172, 264, 319, 331, 341, 369, 409, 437, 445, 517   | 517   |
| Sums up paying tribute to Barbary Powers by all Nations.....   | 229   |
| Tripoli—   |   |
| Acceptable to, as peace negotiator.....  | 536   |
| Accused of being cause of U. S. war with.....  | 222   |
| In captivity 11 years.....   | 354   |
| Unacceptable to, as U. S. Consul.....  | 526   |
| Tunis—   |   |
| Appointed U. S. Consul, Tunis, to succeed William Eaton.....   | 362   |
| Arrived from Leghorn in U. S. S. <i>Adams</i> , Capt. Hugh G. Campbell.....                                      | 4, 87   |
| Bey of, refused him as Consul.....   | 5, 43, 48, 54, 61, 70, 87, 111, 263                           |
| Departure from, in U. S. S. <i>Adams</i> .....   | 6, 70   |
| Predicts war with, unless frigate is given them.....   | 272   |
| President comments on refusal of Bey to accept him as Consul....   | 362   |
| Resignation as U. S. Consul.....   | 55  |
| U. S. affairs in, effected adversely by.....   | 47, 48  |
| Valenzin, David, known as broker in Tripoli by.....  | 346   |
| <b>Cathcart, Mrs. James Leander</b> .....  | 87  |
| <b>Celia</b> , Am. brig, Capt. Richard Bowen of Boston:  |   |
| Captured by Moroccan vessel <i>Mirboka</i> and recaptured by U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                  | 1-3, 8-10, 30, 41, 42, 53, 56, 73, 81, 93, 107, 126, 198, 207 |
| Convoys by <i>Siren</i> .....  | 123   |
| Lubarez, Ibrahim, Reis, <i>Mirboka</i> , capture by, to be investigated....                                      | 25-27   |
| President approved of recapture of.....  | 439, 440  |
| References to.....   | 26, 27, 29, 31, 43, 44, 89, 116                               |
| Restored to Master.....  | 81  |
| Treatment of, by Moors.....  | 82  |
| <b>Cevallos, Pedro</b> , First Secretary of State and Dispatch, Madrid, Spain....                                | 540   |
| <b>Cexezo, Francisco</b> .....   | 164   |
| <b>Chaplain</b> (or Chapline or Chapman) Capt., Am. brig. <i>Francis</i> .....                                   | 213-217   |
| <b>Chargé d'Affairs</b> . See Consuls.   |   |
| <b>Chauncey, Isaac</b> , Lieut., U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> :  |   |
| Correspondence with—   |   |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 482, 509, 546-548   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 132, 133  |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.....   | 144   |
| Joined <i>Constitution</i> off Tripoli.....  | 13  |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , valuation of.....   | 280   |
| Ordered to command <i>John Adams</i> .....   | 482, 546  |
| Recruiting instructions.....   | 509   |
| Reference to.....  | 75  |
| To contract for gun carriages for U. S. S. <i>United States</i> .....  | 547   |
| <b>Cheeseman, Mr.</b> , to furnish gun carriages for frigate <i>United States</i> .....                          | 547   |
| <b>Cherry, John</b> , carpenter's mate No. 142, U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 131, 186  |
| <b>Chesapeake</b> , U. S. S.:  |   |
| Left Mediterranean for U. S. with Lt. Andrew Sterett on board.....   | 346   |
| Radishjz, Lucca, Captain of <i>Paulina</i> absconded from.....   | 345   |
| Reference to.....  | 110   |
| <b>Chief Clerks:</b>   |   |
| Navy Department, Goldsborough, Charles Washington, salary of....   | 255   |
| State Department, Wagner, Jacob.....   | 367   |
| <b>Childers</b> (or Childres) H. B. M. S., Sir George Bolton.....  | 72, 86, 243   |
| <b>Chiarlo, John</b> , seaman, No. 30, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184   |
| <b>Cidi Ahmet Caramanli</b> . See Hamet Caramanli.   |   |
| <b>Cidy Hamet Carmile</b> . See Tripoli, Hamet Caramanli.  |   |
| <b>Circulars:</b>  |   |
| Gavino, John, to U. S. Consuls.....  | 1   |
| Great Britain notification of Blockade of Genoa and Spezzia, and Coast between Leghorn and Cape Della Melle..... | 157   |
| Notification of blockade of Tripoli.....   | 215-216   |

| Circulars—Continued.   | Page              |
|--|-------------------|
| Preble, Edward, Capt. to U. S. Ministers and Consuls.....  | 215-216           |
| To all Consuls, Gibraltar, from U. S. Consul, Lisbon.....  | 46                |
| To all Consuls, Tangier, from Emperor of Morocco.....  | 26, 27            |
| To U. S. Consuls from U. S. Consul General Tobias Lear, Algiers.....   | 99, 100           |
| Citizen: Am. storeship, Capt. Lawson or Capt. Wm. H. Thone or Thorn:   |                   |
| Assisted by <i>Argus</i> in discharging cargo at Tangier.....  | 460-461, 466, 473 |
| Blake, John J., volunteered to act as Mate to United States.....   | 515               |
| Carrying present of 100 gun carriages to Emperor of Morocco.....   | 129,              |
| 167, 168, 198, 221, 297, 361, 438, 452, 460-461, 466, 473  |                   |
| Delayed at L'Orient.....   | 401, 402, 450     |
| Detained in U. S. by apprehensions of crew.....  | 199               |
| Discharging gun carriages at Tangier.....  | 451, 456          |
| Lewis, Frederick, American, put on board at Gibraltar.....   | 515               |
| Midshipman and two seamen from <i>Argus</i> sent on board of.....  | 463, 466, 473     |
| Morrison, John, Mate, impressed by H. B. M. S. <i>Amphion</i> ,.....   | 515               |
| Ordered to Gibraltar.....  | 198, 438          |
| References to.....   | 207, 464, 467     |
| Rice shipped in, unsatisfactory.....   | 464               |
| Sailed from United States for Morocco.....   | 129               |
| To touch at L'Orient with ratification of treaty with France respecting Louisiana.....   | 297               |
| Claims:  |                   |
| Eaton, William, former U. S. Consul, Tunis.....  | 457-458           |
| Valenzin, David, of polacre <i>Paulina</i> .....   | 343               |
| Clark, Mr., <i>Philadelphia</i> , submits report to Congress, regarding Nicholas C. Nissen's aid to officers and crew.....                                 | 182               |
| Clark, John, Boy, No. 128, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185               |
| Clark, Mark, seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , punished for various offenses.....  | 243               |
| Clemens, William, ordinary seaman, No. 167, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186               |
| Clerk of the Navy Yard, duties of.....   | 321               |
| Clerks employed in Navy Department, with salaries.....   | 255               |
| Clighorn, Thomas, seaman, No. 120, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185               |
| Clothing:  |                   |
| Marine Corps, Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 254               |
| Officers and crew of the <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Philadelphia</i> .   |                   |
| Regulations regarding.....   | 33                |
| See Stores.  |                   |
| Cockran, Henry, landsman, No. 99, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185               |
| Colthoon, Cons., carpenter's mate, No. 161, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186               |
| Coleman, John, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 188               |
| Collector of Port of <i>Philadelphia</i> , Pa., P. Muhlenberg.....   | 278               |
| Collings, Thomas, 2nd, seaman, No. 230, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 187               |
| Collins, Clara R., Mrs., acknowledgment to.....  | iv                |
| Collins, John, Capt. Ship <i>Port Mary</i> of Charleston, S. C.....  | 85                |
| Collisions. See <i>New York</i> and <i>Siren</i> .   |                   |
| Columbia, Am. schooner, Captain John Appleton.....   | 73, 77-79         |
| Concord, Am. brig, Benjamin Mason, master.....   | 78                |
| Congress of the United States:   |                   |
| Bainbridge's report of Moroccan aggressions communicated to, by President.....   | 198, 199          |
| Message from President of the United States.....   | 506-507           |
| Reference to.....  | 260               |
| Resolution rewarding participants in burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 428               |
| See Acts of Congress.  |                   |
| Smith, John C., Chairman of Committee of Claims of.....  | 341-342           |
| Congress, U. S. S., references to.....   | 310, 348, 509     |
| Conner, James, seaman, No. 78, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185               |
| Conner, Thomas, quarter-gunner, No. 32, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184               |
| Connolly, Peter, seaman, No. 173, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186               |
| Constellation, U. S. frigate:  |                   |
| Deserters from French Marine claimed to be on board of (See "Nav. Doc." vol. II, p. 292).....  | 228               |
| References to.....   | 16, 17            |
| Constitution, U. S. frigate, Capt. Edward Preble and Lt. John H. Dent: Able seamen for, to be brought to Mediterranean in U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> ..... | 357               |

## Constitution—Continued.

|  | Page                       |
|--|----------------------------|
| Acting Boatswain and Gunner transferred to <i>New York</i> .....   | 154                        |
| Algiers—   |                            |
| Arrived at, in company with <i>Nautilus</i> .....  | 231-233, 246               |
| Dey of, sends presents to.....   | 233                        |
| En route to, <i>Argus</i> and <i>Nautilus</i> in company.....  | 142, 221, 229              |
| Lear, Tobias, on board arrived at & was welcomed by O'Brien,<br>Richard on board of.....                                   | 222, 231-232               |
| Sailed from, for Tripoli in company with <i>Nautilus</i> .....   | 246, 256                   |
| Arrived at Cape St. Vincent from the United States.....  | 18                         |
| Arrived in Bay of Tangier, Morocco.....  | 14                         |
| Assistance given to H. B. M. Ships.....  | 72, 86, 87, 256            |
| At Algeciras.....  | 204, 208, 211-216, 219-220 |
| At Ceuta.....  | 69                         |
| At Tunis.....  | 323                        |
| Beaussier, Citizen, saluted by, upon boarding and leaving....  | 544, 545                   |
| Becalmed, towed by her boats.....  | 105, 497                   |
| Bell, rule regarding use of.....   | 32                         |
| Boarded a Spanish brig from Malaga.....  | 24                         |
| Boarded H. B. M. brig <i>Spider</i> .....  | 456                        |
| Boarded Tunisian vessels.....  | 232, 256                   |
| Boats sent to assistance of British transport <i>Bellmore</i> and refloated her.   | 491                        |
| Boatswain from <i>New York</i> transferred to.....   | 154                        |
| Boatswain and Gunner dismissed as unfit for duty.....  | 162                        |
| Bound to Tangier Bay.....  | 105                        |
| Cadiz, Spain—  |                            |
| At Cadiz.....  | 160-167, 200-202           |
| Cexeso, Francisco, pilot.....  | 164                        |
| Pilotage, charge for.....  | 164                        |
| Sailed for, for cable and sundry articles.....   | 245                        |
| Quarantine.....  | 162, 163, 165              |
| Spanish launch came alongside with an anchor left during<br>Revolutionary War.....   | 201                        |
| Care and cleanliness of.....   | 32-35                      |
| Carronade received by from <i>Siren</i> .....  | 455                        |
| Catalano, Salvadore, Pilot, attached to.....   | 421                        |
| Ceremony and Respect.....  | 40, 41                     |
| Clothing on board for officers and men of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 489                        |
| Clothing to be supplied, by seamen belonging to, list of.....  | 33                         |
| Complement of.....   | 162, 200                   |
| Convoy duty.....   | 67, 93                     |
| Courtesy visit by Portuguese Admiral.....  | 42                         |
| Crowded conditions compel landing prisoners at Syracuse.....   | 485                        |
| Cruising Ground.....   | 88, 90, 91, 93, 227        |
| Deblois, James S., purser, died, funeral of.....   | 244, 258                   |
| Dent, John H., Lt.—  |                            |
| Commanding from 13 to 24 January 1804.....   | 324, 328-358               |
| Ordered to <i>Scourge</i> from.....  | 323                        |
| Deserters from—  |                            |
| On board H. B. M. S. <i>Amphion</i> .....  | 154-158, 160, 161          |
| On board H. B. M. S. <i>Monmouth</i> .....   | 160                        |
| Seamen.....  | 488, 510                   |
| Draft of.....  | 453, 510                   |
| Employment of ship's company.....  | 243-245,                   |
| 251, 254, 256, 268-270, 351, 352, 355, 388, 397, 434, 443, 539   |                            |
| <i>Enterprize</i> , U. S. schooner. See <i>Enterprize</i> .  |                            |
| Extracts from diary of Commo. Preble. See daily entries.....   | 22-548                     |
| Extracts from log book kept by Sailing Master Nathaniel Haraden.<br>See daily entries.....                                 | 201-539                    |
| Extracts from log book of. See daily entries.....  | 24-479                     |
| Extracts from memorandum book of Capt. Preble.....   | 21,                        |
| 24, 41, 45, 53, 66, 108, 131, 202, 216, 219, 239, 242, 244, 276, 278,<br>280, 298, 370, 388, 428, 465, 479, 497, 510, 538. |                            |
| Fire on board of, at Syracuse.....   | 408                        |
| Fire, regulations governing prevention and extinguishing of.....   | 36                         |
| Flagship of Commodore Edward Preble.....   | 46                         |



## Constitution—Continued.

|  | Page                   |
|--|------------------------|
| Flogging   | 105, 225, 408          |
| Flying English Colors  | 232                    |
| Four of Tripolitans taken in <i>St. Crucifisso</i> , sent on board of  | 449                    |
| <i>Francis</i> , Am. brig of Salem, went to assistance of  | 213-217                |
| French deserters who may be on board, will be given up   | 325                    |
| Gibraltar—   |                        |
| Arrived at, September 12, 1803, from United States   | 56, 80                 |
| At and off Gibraltar   | 30,                    |
| 42, 45, 48, 49, 51, 59, 67, 69, 71, 75, 77, 81, 85, 87, 93-101, 104,   |                        |
| 107, 138, 139, 142, 143, 145, 146, 151, 154-156, 158-160, 162, 163,  |                        |
| 203, 204, 206-209, 215-218.  |                        |
| Departed from  | 69, 77, 79             |
| Departed from, for Tangier Bay   | 83                     |
| Guard duty of  | 328                    |
| Guns   | 30, 197, 227, 384, 486 |
| Hammocks, rules governing  | 35                     |
| Harbor Regulations   | 41                     |
| In danger in heavy gale off Tripoli  | 298                    |
| Inconveniences from number of prisoners on board   | 485                    |
| Informed of loss of <i>Philadelphia</i> by British Frigate <i>Amazon</i> (see also <i>Philadelphia</i> )   | 232, 236               |
| <i>Intrepid</i> , U. S. ketch—   |                        |
| Midshipmen, 2 pilots, and men from, on board <i>Intrepid</i>   | 376, 388, 462          |
| Officers sent to, list of  | 443                    |
| Prisoner taken at burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> , taken on board of   | 508                    |
| Invalids and others, sent to U. S.   | 143, 154, 162, 488     |
| Jack hoisted by, as signal for the guard   | 351                    |
| Journal of, in French, reference to  | 43                     |
| Jourvass, Lewis, pilot went on board <i>Siren</i>  | 389                    |
| Lear, Tobias—  |                        |
| Arrived at Algiers on board of   | 263                    |
| Came on board with his family to sail for Algiers  | 162                    |
| Departure for Algiers delayed by assisting in Moroccan difficulties  | 98, 99                 |
| Not on board of  | 76, 77                 |
| On board of, as passenger, with his family   | 23,                    |
| 24, 83, 128, 138, 155, 209, 214  |                        |
| On board of, at Tangier, Morocco   | 52, 53, 54, 57         |
| Leave of absence, rules and regulations governing  | 37                     |
| Leonard, P., Capt.'s Clerk, appointed Chaplain   | 258                    |
| Lewis, Mr., Pilot of <i>New York</i> , on board of   | 154                    |
| Lights, rules governing  | 34                     |
| Macdonough, Thomas, Mid  | 258, 274               |
| <i>Maimona</i> , Moroccan ship from Salée to Lisbon—   |                        |
| Boarded and released near Cape St. Vincent   | 23,                    |
| 24, 31, 51, 56, 64, 80, 93, 94, 107, 112, 149  |                        |
| Effect of release of, on peace negotiations  | 53                     |
| Search for   | 59                     |
| See also <i>Maimona</i> .  |                        |
| Malta—   |                        |
| Arrived at   | 239, 256, 465, 469     |
| At Malta   | 237,                   |
| 279-282, 300, 471, 472, 477, 479-483, 485, 488-491, 493  |                        |
| En route to, in company with <i>Nautilus</i> and <i>William and Mary</i>   | 466, 468               |
| Marcellin, George A., Mid  | 448                    |
| Marines on board   | 197                    |
| <i>Mastico</i> , Tripolitan ketch under Turkish colours, captured by <i>Constitution</i> in company with <i>Enterprise</i> , with Tripolines on board. |                        |
| See <i>Mastico</i> .   |                        |
| Men sent to hospital at Malta  | 488                    |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , Tripolitan ship claimed by Morocco. See <i>Meshouda</i> and Morocco.   |                        |
| Messes, junior officers  | 169                    |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , Prize of U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Mirboka</i> .  |                        |

## Constitution—Continued.

| Morocco (Tangier)—  | Page   |
|---|--|
| Arrived in Bay of, with U. S. S. John Adams   | 51, 53, 54, 57, 60, 61, 107  |
| At Tangier  | 29,  |
|   | 58, 76, 81, 93, 102, 106, 114-117, 120, 122-124, 126, 128-130,     |
|   | 131, 134, 139, 147-150, 201, 202.                                  |
| Commodores Preble and Rodgers Negotiate Peace   | 79, 58,  |
| Departed from   | 57, 61, 84, 138, 141, 151  |
| Emperor of—   |  |
| Ceremonies in honor of  | 108-111  |
| Detention of American Vessel ( <i>Hannah</i> of Salem) at Mogador                           | 48, 57   |
| Order to detain vessels and subjects of   | 48, 49, 50, 58   |
| Presents received for Squadron  | 119, 140, 148  |
| Flag of Truce, White Flag, at F. T. G. Masthead   | 83   |
| Hoisted colors and signalled Consul at  | 81   |
| Kept ready for immediate action   | 108, 109, 112, 120   |
| Officers of, prisoners on board of, treatment of  | 75, 76   |
| Only U. S. S. ship in Bay of  | 134  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., returned on board of   | 150  |
| Rodgers, John, Capt., on board  | 83   |
| Rules governing landing of captive Moroccan officers  | 60, 61   |
| To be at Tangier when Emperor of Morocco arrives there                                      | 94   |
| Neapolitan doctor on board, not to be trusted   | 432  |
| No British subject on board   | 158  |
| Officers from Tunisian Admiral demanded permission to inspect prisoners on board            | 491, 493   |
| Officer prisoners kept on board for exchange purposes                                       | 485  |
| Officers of   | 6, 7   |
| Officers of, praised by Commo. Preble   | 210  |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron   | 11-13, 197, 384  |
| Orders, general   | 39, 40, 63, 165  |
| Peace negotiations, résumé of   | 139-141, 146-153   |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. S., prisoners received from                                     | 130  |
| Preble, Edward, Commodore—  |  |
| Broad pennant hoisted on <i>Enterprize</i> and rehoisted on <i>Constitution</i> at Syracuse | 324, 326, 327  |
| Broad pennant hoisted on U. S. schooner <i>Vixen</i> at Syracuse                            | 328  |
| Transferred broad pennant from <i>Vixen</i> to <i>Constitution</i> at Syracuse              | 358, 359   |
| Went on board of  | 134, 138   |
| Prisoners of war, list of, on board of  | 383  |
| Prisoners taken in <i>Mastico</i> and <i>St. Crucifisso</i> on board of                     | 449, 462   |
| Provisions for  | 231, 244, 246  |
| Punishment of crew ( <i>see also</i> Flogging)  | 225, 243, 244, 255, 276  |
| Received on board part of crew of <i>John Adams</i>   | 154  |
| Received gunner and boatswain from <i>John Adams</i> and <i>New York</i>                    | 162  |
| Received stores from <i>Vixen</i> which were left at Malta by <i>Philadelphia</i>           | 326, 327   |
| Recruits entered at Malta for   | 407  |
| References to   | 17,  |
|   | 18, 30, 47, 51, 59, 73, 80, 84, 87, 88, 94, 98, 99, 103, 107, 119, |
|   | 120, 131, 146, 153, 154, 156, 157, 159, 165, 208, 221, 266, 299,   |
|   | 313, 322, 326, 329, 388, 469, 470, 478, 522, 527.                  |
| Report of prisoners on board of, by John Burchard, M. A.                                    | 383  |
| Résumé of   | 13, 14   |
| Rodgers, John, Capt., received on board   | 128  |
| <i>Rosetta</i> , Spanish brig, boarded by   | 91   |
| Rules and Regulations   | 32-41  |
| <i>St. Brieux</i> , Guernsey Privateer brig anchored abreast of                             | 273, 276   |
| Salutes by and to   | 42,  |
|   | 82, 102, 103, 108-112, 119, 120, 138, 140, 141, 147,               |
|   | 148, 151, 165, 166, 232-234, 243, 244, 246, 327                    |
| Ship's company, rules governing appearance of   | 36   |
| Simpson, James, U. S. Consul, Tangier   | 43-45, 84, 109, 120, 140, 147                                      |
| <i>Siren</i> , U. S. brig   | 64, 65, 528  |
| Smoking tobacco allowed under the forecastle  | 34   |
| Stewart, Charles, Lt., <i>Siren</i> , went on board of                                      | 182  |

## Constitution—Continued.

|   | Page                                  |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Syracuse—   |                                       |
| Arrived at.....   | 242, 302, 496, 497                    |
| Bowsprit badly defective, being repaired at.....  | 326-327, 337                          |
| En route from Malta to.....   | 240-241                               |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., and Stewart, Charles, Lts. of <i>Intrepid</i> and <i>Siren</i> report burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | 443, 444                              |
| Delayed three weeks waiting for leading wind.....   | 276                                   |
| Dent, John H., Lt., commanding during Commo. Preble's absence in Malta.....   | 324, 331                              |
| In harbour of.....  | 180,                                  |
| 181, 189, 242-245, 251, 252, 254, 256, 260, 261, 268, 269, 273,   |                                       |
| 275, 276, 278, 303, 309-311, 315-319, 324-328, 331, 351, 352,   |                                       |
| 355, 359, 366, 370, 371, 374-377, 379-381, 384, 386-390, 397,   |                                       |
| 398, 401, 402, 405, 406, 407, 412, 413, 416, 422, 434, 437-446,   |                                       |
| 449, 451, 452, 454, 455, 457, 459, 462, 464, 499-501, 505, 506, 510   |                                       |
| Preparing for cruise off Tripoli.....   | 498, 506                              |
| Sailed for Tripoli.....   | 257, 259, 278, 510                    |
| Sailed from, for Malta.....   | 465, 466, 469                         |
| To be accompanied by <i>Nautilus</i> to Algiers and Tripoli.....  | 206, 209                              |
| To be joined by <i>John Adams</i> and <i>New York</i> .....   | 146                                   |
| To be overhauled, and equipped for a cruise of four months.....   | 317-318                               |
| Transfer prize, brought to by.....  | 510                                   |
| Tripoli—  |                                       |
| Attack on Tripoli.....  | 12, 13                                |
| Boat of, not permitted to land at Tripoli, and guarded while at wharf.....  | 545                                   |
| Boat with flag of truce sent to, with Midshipman Izard and men.....   | 539                                   |
| En route to, in company with <i>Nautilus</i> .....  | 213, 219                              |
| Fired gun and hoisted flag of truce off town of.....  | 528, 538, 539                         |
| Off Tripoli.....  | 12, 527, 528, 535, 536, 538, 539, 547 |
| Peace proposals refused.....  | 323                                   |
| To join <i>Siren</i> and <i>Nautilus</i> off Tripoli.....   | 485                                   |
| Tripoline Captain on board of.....  | 109                                   |
| Tunis, Bey of, boarded ship belonging to.....   | 238                                   |
| Twelve Moorish officers sent to <i>Constitution</i> , treatment of.....   | 101, 130                              |
| Wadsworth, Henry, Mid.....  | 51, 75, 323                           |
| Wallace, James, ship's Corporal, 36 lashes for fire on board.....   | 408                                   |
| Watches, rules governing.....   | 34                                    |
| Water and stores for.....   | 220, 319, 324                         |
| <i>William and Mary</i> discharging stores, assisted by.....  | 448                                   |
| Women permitted on board in U. S. ports.....  | 33                                    |
| Consular Presents for Algiers. See Algiers, annuities, presents, stores.  |                                       |
| Consuls, Vice Consuls, Consuls General, Chargé d'Affaires, Ministers, Ambassadors:  |                                       |
| Denmark—  |                                       |
| At Lisbon, Ayres, John.....   | 308                                   |
| At Tripoli, Nissen, Nicholas C. See Nissen, Nicholas C.   |                                       |
| Foreign—  |                                       |
| Advised of Blockade of Tripoli.....   | 215-216, 359                          |
| At Lisbon, Portugal, List of.....   | 308                                   |
| At Morocco—   |                                       |
| Colours flying at flagstaff indicates nation at peace with.....   | 53, 54                                |
| Interceded in behalf of Consul James Simpson.....   | 20, 26, 27, 126                       |
| Visits to Emperor.....  | 109, 110, 123                         |
| France—   |                                       |
| At Constantinople, Brune, General (Ambassador).....   | 469                                   |
| At Lisbon, Scrurier.....  | 308                                   |
| At Tripoli. See Beauissier, Citizen.  |                                       |
| Great Britain—  |                                       |
| At Algiers, Falcon, John. See Falcon, John.   |                                       |
| At Lisbon, Gambier, James.....  | 308                                   |
| At Tripoli, McDonogh, Brian.....  | 346, 492, 504                         |
| Holland (or the Netherlands), at Lisbon, Dohrman, Jacob.....  | 308                                   |
| Imperial (Austria or Germany ?), at Lisbon, Baron de Stoqui Sair (?).....   | 308                                   |
| Morocco, at Gibraltar, Hammet.....  | 82                                    |

| Consuls—Continued.  | Page                    |
|---|-------------------------|
| Russia, at Lisbon, Debatchioskey.....   | 308                     |
| Spain, at Tangier, Morocco, Salmon, Don Antonio.....  | 44                      |
| Sweden—   |                         |
| At Constantinople. <i>See</i> Wallen, Mr., and Charles de Konig<br>(Chargé d'Affaires).         |                         |
| At Lisbon, Kantzou.....   | 308                     |
| Tripoli—  |                         |
| At Malta. <i>See</i> Schembri, Gaetano Andrea.  |                         |
| Hamet Caramanli, rightful Bashaw of Tripoli, Bufuttil (?),<br>Salvatore, at Malta.....          | 339, 352                |
| United States—  |                         |
| At Algiers—   |                         |
| Rules for arrival of Ships of War at.....   | 305                     |
| <i>See</i> Lear, Tobias, and O'Brien, Richard, Consuls General.                                 |                         |
| At Alicante, Spain. <i>See</i> Montgomery, Robert.  |                         |
| At Barcelona. <i>See</i> Willis, William.   |                         |
| At Cadiz, Spain—  |                         |
| <i>See</i> Terry, Anthony, Vice Consul.   |                         |
| <i>See</i> Yzuardi, Josef, Consul.  |                         |
| At Genoa. <i>See</i> Wollaston, Frederic Hyde.  |                         |
| At Gibraltar. <i>See</i> Gavino, John.  |                         |
| At Leghorn. <i>See</i> Appleton, Thomas.  |                         |
| At Lisbon. <i>See</i> Jarvis, William.  |                         |
| At London, England—   |                         |
| <i>See</i> Erving, George W.  |                         |
| <i>See</i> Monroe, James, Minister.   |                         |
| At Madrid, Spain. <i>See</i> Pinckney, Charles, Minister.                                       |                         |
| At Malaga, Spain. <i>See</i> Kirkpatrick, William.  |                         |
| At Malta. <i>See</i> Pulis, Joseph.   |                         |
| At Marseilles, France. <i>See</i> Cathalan, Stephen, Commercial<br>Agent.                       |                         |
| At Naples. <i>See</i> Matthiew, John, S. M.   |                         |
| At Palermo. <i>See</i> Gibbs, Abraham.  |                         |
| At Paris, France. <i>See</i> Livingston, Robert R., Minister.                                   |                         |
| At Russia, St. Petersburg. <i>See</i> Harris, Levett.   |                         |
| At Sicily. <i>See</i> Barnes, Joseph.   |                         |
| At Tangier, Morocco. <i>See</i> Simpson, James.   |                         |
| At Tunis—   |                         |
| <i>See</i> Cathcart, James L., appointed but not confirmed.                                     |                         |
| <i>See</i> Davis, George, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires.  |                         |
| Navy Agents. <i>See</i> Navy Agents, U. S.  |                         |
| Salutes.....  | 109, 110, 234, 246, 305 |
| Convoys:  |                         |
| English convoy of 16 sail from Syracuse to Malta.....   | 242                     |
| Requested by vessels in Cadiz, Spain.....   | 77, 78                  |
| <i>See</i> names of ships convoying.  |                         |
| <i>Siren</i> , U. S. brig, list of U. S. Merchant Vessels convoyed by.....                      | 137                     |
| Cook, Jonathan, seaman, No. 220, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                      | 187                     |
| Cook, Peter, <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. Consular House, Tripoli, quartered at....              | 183                     |
| Cooker, Jacob, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                  | 188                     |
| Cornick, John, Capt., Am. ship <i>Old Tom</i> .....   | 223, 248, 249, 251, 435 |
| Cornwallis, Lord, Fleet of, consists of 25 sail.....  | 452                     |
| Courts of Inquiry:  |                         |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt., on board U. S. S. <i>President</i> , 29 June 1805.                  |                         |
| <i>See</i> Bainbridge, William.   |                         |
| Baker, Nathan, Purser. <i>See</i> Baker, Nathan.  |                         |
| Morris, Richard Valentine, Capt.....  | 484, 485                |
| Court, William, & Co., of Mogador:  |                         |
| Correspondence with Gavino, John.....   | 20, 21                  |
| <i>Hannah</i> , Captain and Crew of, given up to.....   | 63                      |
| Cowdery, Jonathan, Surgeon's Mate, taken prisoner in U. S. S. <i>Philadel-</i><br><i>phia</i> : |                         |
| Attended sick at palace in Tripoli.....   | 531, 532                |
| Extracts from journal of, 31 October 1803 to 26 March 1804.....                                 | 529, 532                |
| Lisle, Peter (Murad Reis), Tripolitan Admiral, met by.....                                      | 531                     |
| References to.....  | 15, 169, 170            |
| Treatment of prisoners after burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 532                     |
| U. S. Consular House, Tripoli, quartered at.....  | 183                     |

|   | Page   |
|---|--|
| Cox, Lt., reference to <i>Meshouda</i> .....  | 450, 461                                     |
| Cox, Edward N., Master, U. S. S. <i>Nautilus</i> :<br>Correspondence with Somers, Richard, Lt.....                              | 507  |
| Prize Master of English brig <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .....  | 411, 412                                     |
| Cox, George, Lt., Philadelphia, Pa.:<br>Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....   | 509  |
| Cox, James: Gore, John, Capt., R. N., requests discharge from <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 121  |
| Cox or Coxe, John, deserted from <i>Mirboka</i> .....   | 112, 113, 133, 134                           |
| Cox, John S. H., Lt., U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> and <i>New York</i> :<br>Correspondence with, Preble, Edward, Commodore..... | 48, 49                                       |
| References to.....  | 2, 15, 96                                    |
| Cox, Lieut., ordered to Washington, D. C.....   | 548  |
| Crandle, William, landsman, No. 33, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184  |
| Crane, William M., Lt., prize master on one of Tripolitan boats.....  | 13   |
| Crawford, George, quartermaster, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424  |
| Craycraft, Commodore, H. B. M. Ship <i>Anson</i> .....  | 451  |
| Creighton, Mid., New York, N. Y., reference to.....   | 509  |
| Crescent, Algerine frigate. (See also <i>Algiers</i> ).....   | 247, 286                                     |
| Crucifisso. See <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .   |  |
| Groll, David, seaman, No. 140 <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186  |
| Cross, J., Seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , under arrest for drunkenness.....  | 383  |
| Crucifisso. See <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .   |  |
| Crutzer, John, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 188  |
| Curtis, Loring & Co., owners of American schooner <i>Ossipee</i> .....  | 137  |
| Cutbush, William, Midn., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 15, 169, 170, 183                            |
| Cyrus, Am. Merchant ship, owned by William Moore of Nantucket.....  | 369  |
| Dagan (or Dagen) and Purviance. See Degen, Purviance & Co.  |  |
| Dallas, A. J., Hon., District Attorney, opinion of.....   | 279  |
| Dale, E. C., Mr., reference to collection of.....   | vii  |
| Dale, Richard, Capt., U. S. S. <i>President</i> , Commodore Mediterranean Squadron.....   | iii, vii, 145, 304                           |
| Dana, Henry W. L., records published by courtesy of.....  | vii,   |
| 3, 30, 51, 74, 75, 107, 213, 232, 252, 324, 476, 495  | 187  |
| Dane, William, seaman, No. 221, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187  |
| Danish Consul, Marseilles, France, correspondence with Nissen, Nicholas C., Danish Consul, Tripoli.....                         | 182, 421-422                                 |
| Danish Consul, Malta, mail to Captain Bainbridge forwarded by.....  | 253  |
| Dann, John, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 188  |
| Davenport, Henry, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424  |
| Davis, Daniel, seaman, No. 182, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186  |
| Davis, David, seaman, No. 131, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185  |
| Davis, George, Surgeon, U. S. N. and Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis:<br>Appointed Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis.....                       | 4-6, 43, 48, 87, 483                         |
| Audience with Bey of Tunis.....   | 300  |
| Authorized to give assistance to Officers and Crew of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 285,   |
| 360, 403, 409, 410  | 310, 347                                     |
| Bills drawn on, by Capt. Bainbridge, to be honored.....   | 47, 48, 61                                   |
| Cathcart, James L., U. S. Affairs effected adversely by.....  | 47, 48, 61                                   |
| Correspondence with—<br>Lear, Tobias.....   | 263-266, 271-272, 276-278, 369-370, 483, 521 |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt.....   | 47, 48                                       |
| O'Brien, Richard, U. S. ex-Consul General, Algiers.....   | 61   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 340-341, 359-360, 386, 477, 522              |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 300, 524-525                                 |
| Eaton, William, left Anna Porcile in charge of.....   | 264  |
| Medical care given to Tunis, Bey of.....  | 300  |
| Money transactions with Tobias Lear.....  | 264, 271, 277, 278, 403                      |
| O'Brien, Richard to consult with.....   | 521  |
| President of the U. S. confirms his acting until Consul is appointed..  | 362  |
| References to.....  | 87,  |
| 248, 274-275, 283, 284, 285, 292, 293, 322, 323, 329, 338, 385,   | 387, 403, 405, 442, 517.                     |
| Refusal of, to grant passport to vessel bound to Constantinople.....  | 522  |
| Statement relative to U. S. affairs at Tripoli requested.....   | 248, 263                                     |
| Status of, described.....   | 25   |
| Summoned to castle together with Tripolitan Consul.....   | 492, 525                                     |
| Surgeon, U. S. Navy.....  | 360  |
| Tunisian cruiser carrying passport issued by.....   | 103, 256                                     |

|   | Page                               |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Davis, John, Mid., <i>Constitution</i> , and <i>Scourge</i> ....                                | 7, 15, 18, 169, 323, 423, 443, 448 |
| Davis, Thomas, seaman, No. 165, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                       | 186                                |
| Deacon, David (Midn.) <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 6, 169                             |
| Deal, John, 2nd Lieutenant, Warren.....   | 166                                |
| Dearborn, Henry, Secretary of War.....  | 220                                |
| Deaths. See Casualties.   |                                    |
| Debatchioskey, Russian Consul, Lisbon.....  | 308                                |
| Deblois, James, S., Purser, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> :                                      |                                    |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 231                                |
| Died at Syracuse, funeral of.....   | 244, 258                           |
| Morris, Noadiah, Chaplain, appointed Purser in place of.....                                    | 245                                |
| Decatur, James B., Lt.:   |                                    |
| Correspondence with Somers, Richard, Lt.....  | 507                                |
| Killed during attack on Tripoli.....  | 12                                 |
| Decatur, Stephen, Mr., records published by courtesy of.....                                    | iii,                               |
| vii, 61, 62, 80, 90, 91, 92, 94, 99, 100, 101, 178, 226, 249, 250-251,                          |                                    |
| 287, 298, 330, 340, 360, 370, 379, 380, 405, 434, 435, 439, 442, 519                            | 519                                |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., Capt., U. S. S. <i>Argus</i> , <i>Enterprize</i> , and <i>Intrepid</i> : |                                    |
| <i>Argus</i> turned over to Lt. Isaac Hull and Lt. Decatur took command                         |                                    |
| of <i>Enterprize</i> .....  | 209, 212, 213                      |
| Attack on Tripoli.....  | 12                                 |
| Correspondence with—  |                                    |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 21, 24, 66, 91, 212, 427-428       |
| Preble, Edward, Commodore.....  | 65,                                |
| 66, 71, 159, 203-204, 215, 244, 245, 251, 260, 281, 309, 315, 325,                              |                                    |
| 376-377, 414-415, 446, 456, 492, 505, 546-547.  | 65, 66                             |
| Cruising instructions.....  |                                    |
| Dent, John H., Lt., command of <i>Enterprize</i> during expedition of                           |                                    |
| <i>Intrepid</i> .....   | 448                                |
| <i>Enterprize</i> , U. S. schooner—   |                                    |
| Command of.....   | 46, 159, 203, 208, 209, 211-213    |
| Ordered to Messina for necessary repairs to.....  | 446                                |
| Requests survey of.....   | 325                                |
| Resumed command of.....   | 439, 447                           |
| Gibraltar to send in all Moroccan and Tripolitan ships.....                                     | 71                                 |
| <i>Intrepid</i> , U. S. ketch, expedition to Tripoli to burn prize <i>Philadelphia</i> —        |                                    |
| Burning of, executed by.....  | 12, 15, 423, 427, 428, 443         |
| Captain's Commission as reward for conduct in <i>Philadelphia's</i>                             |                                    |
| destruction.....  | 427, 428, 441                      |
| Commended by Commo. Preble for great bravery in burning of                                      |                                    |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 413, 441                           |
| Commendation of officers and crew of.....   | 423, 438                           |
| Credited with plan for <i>Philadelphia's</i> destruction, by Capt.                              |                                    |
| Rodgers.....  | 426, 427                           |
| Ordered to command ketch <i>Intrepid</i> , and prepare her for a                                |                                    |
| thirty day cruise.....  | 376                                |
| Ordered to Tripoli to burn <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 437, 438, 442                      |
| References to.....  | 378, 381, 388                      |
| Sailed for Tripoli on board, to burn <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                  | 388                                |
| See <i>Philadelphia</i> .   |                                    |
| Stewart, Charles, Lt., praises him and gives all credit to him....                              | 426                                |
| Volunteered to carry into effect the burning of the <i>Philadelphia</i> ..                      | 426                                |
| Went on board <i>Siren</i> and made sail from Tripoli.....                                      | 432                                |
| Member of Court of Inquiry, Capt. William Bainbridge.....                                       | 189                                |
| Member of Court of Inquiry to try Purser Nathan Baker.....                                      | 326                                |
| Ordered to survey situation of <i>Philadelphia</i> in harbor of Tripoli.....                    | 260                                |
| Orders to.....  | 203, 204, 245, 260, 315, 446       |
| Portrait of, by Rembrandt Peale.....  | Facing page                        |
| Prize money for capture of Tripolitan prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                           | 424                                |
| References to.....  | iii,                               |
| 16, 28, 48, 62, 80, 90-92, 99-101, 178, 206, 207, 220, 222, 224, 226,                           |                                    |
| 249, 252, 254, 257, 282, 287, 298, 303, 316, 340, 360, 370, 379, 380,                           |                                    |
| 384, 391, 402, 405, 416, 417, 418, 419, 421, 422, 434, 435, 451, 454,                           |                                    |
| 455, 457, 478, 500, 515, 519, 524.  |                                    |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Decatur, Stephen—Continued.</b>  | <b>Page</b>                                       |
| Reported destruction of <i>Philadelphia</i> , on board <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 443, 444  |
| Resolution of Congress on gallant conduct of, and officers and crew of<br><i>Intrepid</i> in destruction of <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | 428   |
| Sailed from Boston.....   | 24  |
| Sword to be presented to, in name of Congress, by the President.....  | 428   |
| To be tried for participation in a duel, as second of Midshipman<br>Joseph Bainbridge.....  | 267   |
| To exchange commands with Hull, Isaac, Lt. (U. S. schooner <i>Enter-<br/>prize</i> ).....   | 65, 66  |
| Tripoli, ordered to blockade of.....  | 65, 66  |
| Waited on Commo. Preble.....  | 242, 245  |
| <b>Decatur, Susan</b> , widow of Capt. Stephen Decatur, Jr.   |   |
| Claim against U. S. Government.....   | 425, 426  |
| Correspondence with—  |   |
| Jones, Jacob, Lieut.....  | 426   |
| Ridgely, John, Surgeon.....   | 425   |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.....  | 426   |
| Stewart, Charles, Lieut.....  | 426-427   |
| Tazewell, Littleton W., Hon.....  | 424   |
| <b>Degen, Frederick, &amp; Co., Naples:</b>   |   |
| Cathcart, James L., financial arrangements with.....  | 266, 353  |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 497   |
| References to.....  | 500, 501, 504                                     |
| <b>Degen, Purviance &amp; Co., Leghorn, Italy:</b>  |   |
| Correspondence with—  |   |
| Cathcart, James L.....  | 93  |
| Lear, Tobias.....   | 524   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 155, 319, 500                                     |
| Drawn on, by Tobias Lear.....   | 524   |
| Money belonging to U. S. to be available on arrival of Mr. Cathcart.....  | 93  |
| Ordered not to advance Dr. Davis the money credited to him.....   | 264   |
| References to.....  | 48, 50, 64, 65, 66, 137, 237, 238, 322, 360, 501  |
| <b>de Italinsky</b> , Russian Minister to Constantinople.....   | 358, 397, 541                                     |
| <b>de Konig, Charles G.</b> , Swedish Chargé d'Affaires, Constantinople, cor-<br>respondence with Wallen, M.....                      | 461-462   |
| <b>de Krafft, F. Cornelius</b> , Midn., <i>Siren</i> :  |   |
| Extracts from journal of. See <i>Siren</i> , U. S. S.   |   |
| Reproduction from original drawing of map of Tripoli.....   | v, 174  |
| <b>Denison, William</b> .....   | 181   |
| <b>Denmark:</b>   |   |
| Algiers, relations with.....  | 136   |
| Vessels of—   |   |
| Boarded by Tripolitan Cruiser.....  | 400, 401, 456                                     |
| <i>Enterprize</i> ordered to chase Danish ship with Moorish property....  | 75  |
| Prize to French privateer in Tangier Bay.....   | 84  |
| <b>Denoon, Charles</b> , seaman, No. 268, copy of engraving of the loss of<br>U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                      | v, 187  |
| <b>Dent, John H., Lt.</b> , U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , <i>Enterprize</i> and <i>Scourge</i> :                                     |   |
| Appointment as Lieut. Commandant to command <i>Enterprize</i> during Lt.<br>Stephen Decatur's absence in <i>Intrepid</i> .....        | 398, 402, 439, 440, 448, 478, 479                 |
| Attack on Tripoli.....  | 12  |
| Commended by Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 210   |
| <i>Constitution</i> commanded by, while Commo. Preble was at Malta in<br>U. S. schr. <i>Vixen</i> 13 to 24 Jan'y, 1804.....           | 324, 331, 328-358                                 |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 165,  |
| 281, 317-318, 326, 398, 401-402, 439  |   |
| Instructions to, regarding <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 75, 317-318, 439, 447                             |
| Ordered to Malta in <i>Enterprize</i> for information and with despatches.....  | 281, 282  |
| References to.....  | 16, 17, 18, 96, 236, 240, 383, 398, 401, 402, 478 |
| Rejoined <i>Constitution</i> from <i>Enterprize</i> with officers and men.....  | 439, 448  |
| Returns from Malta with dispatches.....   | 261, 282  |
| <i>Scourge</i> , to be commanded by.....  | 323   |
| Survey of <i>Enterprize</i> .....   | 338-339   |
| <b>de Ponteves, Anselme Roubaud</b> .....   | 114   |
| <b>Deserters</b> , U. S., being held on board British Ships of War. See names of<br>ships and deserters.                              |   |
| <b>Desertions.</b> See names of ships.  |   |

|   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Destruction of Philadelphia. See Philadelphia, Destruction or Burning of.                 |   |
| de Woronzow, Alexander, Count. See Woronzow, Alexander, Count.                            |   |
| Dexter, Daniel S., Midn., Constitution  | 6, 169  |
| Dghies, Sidi Mohamet, Minister of Foreign Affairs or Prime Minister to Bashaw of Tripoli: |   |
| Correspondence with—  |   |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.  | 218-219, 224, 445-446, 474, 475, 537-538                                  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.   | 312-313, 527, 535-536   |
| Friendly towards U. S.  | 218, 219  |
| Interposition of, in behalf of U. S. prisoners in Tripoli.                                | 223, 224, 260, 445, 475, 526  |
| Money received from, by Capt. Bainbridge.   | 269   |
| Negotiations for ransom of Philadelphia's prisoners should be made through.               | 526   |
| References to.  | 224, 260, 334, 409, 446, 449, 474, 489, 526, 527, 531, 536, 537, 543, 545 |
| Unable to render further aid to prisoners, due to anger of the Bashaw.                    | 474   |
| Advises release of Tripolitan prisoners at Gibraltar.                                     | 219   |
| Dianna, H. B. M. S. in Tangier Bay.   | 349   |
| Diaries, Extracts from. See name of ship.   |   |
| Dinny, Thomas, private, U. S. M. C., Philadelphia.  | 188   |
| Distances in time from Algiers to Tunis and Tripoli.                                      | 293   |
| Dixon, John, seaman, No. 271, Philadelphia.   | 187   |
| Dixon, William, seaman, burning of prize Philadelphia.                                    | 424   |
| Doane, Nancy, correspondence with Wadsworth, Henry, Mid.                                  | 75, 495   |
| Docize, Sidi Mahomet. See Dghies.   |   |
| Dohrman, Jacob, Dutch Consul, Lisbon.   | 308   |
| Domyn, John, loblolly boy, No. 190, Philadelphia.   | 186   |
| Donegal, H. B. M. S., Sir Richard Straughan.  | 206, 207, 216, 234, 235   |
| Don Quixotte, reference to Dey of Algiers.  | 136   |
| Doogan, William, private, U. S. M. C., Philadelphia.                                      | 188   |
| do Payta, Lobas, Admiral, comdg. Spanish ship Bonaventuro.                                | 202   |
| Dorsey, John, Midn., Siren, U. S. brig:   |   |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.   | 522   |
| Killed in action off Tripoli.   | 13  |
| Not on board Philadelphia at time of her capture.   | 534   |
| Ordered to liberate Russian brig, Madona de Catapoliana.                                  | 477, 480, 522   |
| Reference to as J. S. Dorsey.   | 451   |
| Sent off from Siren to Lieut. Stephen Decatur, Jr.  | 431   |
| To retire to Quarantine Quarters, Malta, until arrival of Siren.                          | 522   |
| Dorsey, Thomas B., Mrs., correspondence with Secretary of the Navy.                       | 534   |
| Douglass, Joseph, sailmaker, U. S. S. Philadelphia.                                       | 15, 169, 170, 183   |
| Dougherty, James, ordinary seaman, No. 150, Philadelphia.                                 | 186   |
| Dowdlisher, Jacob, seaman, No. 136, Philadelphia.   | 185   |
| Doyles, Richard, quarter-gunner, burning of prize Philadelphia.                           | 424   |
| Drummond, William, landsman, No. 101, Philadelphia.                                       | 185   |
| Dublois, James S. See Deblois, James S.   |   |
| Ducket, William, seaman, burning of prize Philadelphia.                                   | 424   |
| Duff, James, British Consul, Cadiz, Spain.  | 157   |
| Dugan, Anthony.   | 354   |
| Duglass, Joseph. See Douglass, Joseph.  |   |
| Dunbar, David, seaman, No. 70, Philadelphia.  | 184   |
| Dunbeaven, Joseph, seaman:  |   |
| Deserter from Mirboka held on board H. B. M. S. Medusa.                                   | 112, 113, 120, 131, 133, 134, 143   |
| Possible alias of, Perry, Joseph.   | 120   |
| Sent to Mirboka.  | 105   |
| Dunbeaver, or Dunbevare, or Dunbevin, or Dunbervan. See Dunbeaven, Joseph.                |   |
| Dwellings to house government employees, estimate of.                                     | 220   |
| Dyson, George, Merchant and U. S. Navy Agent, Syracuse:                                   |   |
| Appointed U. S. Navy Agent, Syracuse, by Commo. Preble.                                   | 339, 348, 351   |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.   | 496   |
| Duties of.  | 351   |
| Negro prisoners taken in Mastico, put in care of, from on board Constitution.             | 374   |
| References to.  | 398, 430, 500, 501, 515   |
| Survey and valuation made of brig Transfer, by.   | 496   |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Eaton, William, General, U. S. ex-Consul, Tunis:</b>  | <b>Page</b>                            |
| Accounts or claim of.....  | 402, 403, 457, 458                     |
| Acting Judge Advocate in Court of Inquiry, Capt. William Bainbridge.....                           | 189, 194                               |
| Attack on Derne.....   | 16                                     |
| Contingent expenses of, ruling on, by Secretary of State.....                                      | 402, 403                               |
| Debts contracted by.....   | 322                                    |
| <i>Gloria</i> reference to.....  | 403                                    |
| Left Anna Porcile in charge of George Davis, Tunis.....  | 264                                    |
| Money paid on account of.....  | 322                                    |
| On board U. S. brig <i>Argus</i> .....   | 16                                     |
| Receipt for Turkish Yataghan delivered to Capt. Richard V. Morris.....                             | 367                                    |
| References to.....   | 61, 272, 458                           |
| Reference to James L. Cathcart's appointment to succeed him as Consul, Tunis.....                  | 362                                    |
| <b>Edward, Am. brig. Capt. Thomas Hopkins, Naples.....</b>   | <b>370</b>                             |
| <b>Edwards, Joseph, seaman, No. 279, Philadelphia.....</b>   | <b>187</b>                             |
| <b>Egolize, English Privateer, arrived at Syracuse.....</b>  | <b>245</b>                             |
| <b>Egypt:</b>  |  |
| Argo, H. B. M. S. conveys one of Mamelukes Beys of Egypt from England to Alexandria.....           | 390                                    |
| Hamet, Bashaw of Derne, fled to Alexandria.....  | 236                                    |
| <b>Eiselen &amp; Horne:</b>  |  |
| Commission for private armed ship <i>Warren</i> .....  | 196                                    |
| Correspondence with—   |  |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 198, 203                               |
| State, Secretary of.....   | 166, 167                               |
| <b>Eiselen and Hoval. See Eiselen and Horne.</b>   |  |
| <b>Elbert, Samuel, Lt., U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i>, <i>Enterprise</i>, <i>Mirboka</i>:</b>       |  |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 377                                    |
| Health of.....   | 472                                    |
| Ordered to <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 104                                    |
| Ordered to take charge of <i>Mirboka</i> .....   | 77                                     |
| Returned to <i>Constitution</i> when <i>Intrepid</i> returned to Syracuse.....                     | 448                                    |
| Sent to <i>Enterprise</i> with Lt. John H. Dent.....   | 448                                    |
| <b>Elbortt, Lieutenant. See Elbert, Samuel, Lt.</b>  |  |
| <b>Eldridge, Nathaniel, seamen, No. 260, Philadelphia.....</b>                                     | <b>187</b>                             |
| <b>Eliza, Am. schooner, Capt. James Buffington.....</b>  | <b>78</b>                              |
| <b>Elliot, Capt., comdg. H. B. M. S. <i>Maidstone</i>.....</b>                                     | <b>210</b>                             |
| <b>Eliza, Am. ship, Captain Nathaniel Bissel.....</b>  | <b>78</b>                              |
| <b>Emery, John.....</b>  | <b>137</b>                             |
| <b>Emfadal, Sidy Mohamet, references to.....</b>   | <b>68, 69</b>                          |
| <b>Emperor of Morocco. See Morocco, Emperor of.</b>  |  |
| <b>Endocott, Samuel, quarter gunner, burning of prize Philadelphia.....</b>                        | <b>424</b>                             |
| <b>England. See Great Britain.</b>   |  |
| <b>Enlisted men, U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps:</b>  |  |
| Crews of Ships of War engaged for two years.....   | 384                                    |
| Deserters from U. S. Ships of War received on board H. B. M. ships.....                            | 351                                    |
| Lists of.....  | 183, 184—185                           |
| Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....   | 533                                    |
| Pay of.....  | 509, 548                               |
| Punishment of.....   | 243, 244, 245, 255, 276                |
| Recruiting instructions.....   | 509, 510                               |
| Sureties for.....  | 534                                    |
| Taken prisoners in <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Philadelphia</i> , officers and crew of.           |  |
| <b>Enright, Thomas, seaman, No. 215, Philadelphia.....</b>   | <b>187</b>                             |
| <b>Enterprise, U. S. schooner, Lts. Isaac Hull, Stephen Decatur, Jr., and John H. Dent:</b>        |  |
| At Cadiz.....  | 161, 165, 166, 201, 202                |
| At Malaga.....   | 26                                     |
| Bainbridge, Joseph, Midn., went on board of.....   | 211                                    |
| Blockade of Tripoli, ordered to.....   | 203, 204                               |
| Burning of Tripolitan prize, former U. S. frigate, <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Philadelphia</i> . |  |
| Convoy duty.....   | 203, 209, 213, 222, 232, 233, 242, 402 |
| Copy of rare etching by Baugean.....   | Facing page 66                         |

## Enterprise—Continued.

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| <i>Constitution</i> loaned to, officers and men to fill gap left by volunteers to        |  |
| <i>Intrepid</i> .....  | 402, 440, 448  |
| Crew of.....   | 167  |
| Cruising off Cape de Gatt in quest of two Tripolitan ships.....                          | 30   |
| Cruising off Mogador.....  | 69, 95, 141  |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr. Lt., in command of.....  | 159, 203, 208, 209, 211-213, 447                             |
| Dent, John H., Lieut., appointment to command. See Dent, John H.                         |  |
| English brig with Tripolines on board brought back to Syracuse by.....                   | 453  |
| Gibraltar—   |  |
| Arrived at.....  | 42, 69, 86, 155  |
| At Gibraltar.....  | 42, 58, 75, 156, 160, 162, 163, 209, 212, 214, 216, 227, 314 |
| Expected in.....   | 153  |
| Guns.....  | 197, 214, 227, 384   |
| Hull, Isaac, Lt., exchanged command of, with Lt. Stephen Decatur, Jr.                    | 209, 212   |
| Macdonough, Thomas, Midn.....  | 258, 274, 443  |
| Malta—   |  |
| Joined U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 282  |
| Arrived at.....  | 456  |
| En route to.....   | 301, 324   |
| Ordered to, with Dent, John H. Lt., on board.....  | 281  |
| New coppered at.....   | 96   |
| Marcellin, George A., Mid.....   | 448  |
| Marines on board.....  | 197  |
| <i>Mastico</i> , Tripolitan ketch—   |  |
| Convoying or towing prize ketch to Syracuse.....   | 294, 295, 298, 301, 322, 380                                 |
| In company with <i>Constitution</i> , brought to and captured. See <i>Mastico</i>        |  |
| Taken into U. S. Navy and renamed <i>Intrepid</i> .....                                  | 376  |
| Messina—   |  |
| Convey duty to and from.....   | 434, 440, 448  |
| Ordered to, to obtain data re gun and mortar boats.....                                  | 401, 402   |
| Undergoing thorough repairs at.....  | 437, 446, 485, 547   |
| Vessel to be hired at, to receive stores, officers and crew of, while repairing.....     | 446  |
| Money not to be spent in ornamenting schooner.....                                       | 446  |
| Off Cape de Gatt <i>New York</i> fell in with.....                                       | 30   |
| Off Palermo.....   | 492  |
| Off Tripoli.....   | 12   |
| One of Commodore Preble's Mediterranean Squadron.....                                    | 12,  |
| 46, 131, 197, 214, 384   |  |
| One of crew, on board U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> in irons.....                         | 245  |
| Ordered to exchange commands with U. S. brig <i>Argus</i> .....                          | 65, 66   |
| Orders and instructions for.....   | 71, 72, 75, 87, 129, 203, 204, 281                           |
| Orders to, countermanded.....  | 69, 71, 141  |
| Parted company with <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 163, 202, 242  |
| <i>Paulina</i> , Austrian polacre, captured by.....                                      | 341-345, 359   |
| Preble, Commodore—   |  |
| Hoisted his flag aboard.....   | 324  |
| Shifted his broad pennant to <i>Constitution</i> .....                                   | 324, 326, 327  |
| Preparing for a cruise.....  | 244, 254   |
| Punishment of crew of.....   | 245  |
| Received from <i>Siren</i> guns and everything sent to her.....                          | 448  |
| References to.....   | 15,  |
| 18, 27, 28, 77, 88, 107, 124, 129, 142, 202, 204, 215, 244, 257,                         |  |
| 270, 299, 309, 318, 326, 402, 422, 430, 455, 477, 483, 485, 505                          | 356  |
| Reliefs for crew of, to sail on board <i>John Adams</i> for Mediterranean.....           |  |
| Returned to <i>Constitution</i> 33 seamen when <i>Intrepid</i> returned to Syracuse..... | 439, 447, 448  |
| Salute of, cannot be returned by Cadiz with equal number of guns.....                    | 165, 166   |
| Signaled to chase strange vessels, by <i>John Adams</i> .....                            | 30   |
| <i>Siren</i> sighted.....  | 463  |
| Survey on.....   | 325, 326, 338, 339   |
| Syracuse—  |  |
| At Syracuse.....   | 242-244,   |
| 251, 252, 268, 269, 273, 278, 303, 310, 324, 325, 327, 328, 331,                         |  |
| 352, 355, 359, 370, 371, 374, 388, 397, 402, 434, 440, 444, 447,                         | 448, 451, 455  |

**Enterprise—Continued.**

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Syracuse—Continued.</b>   | <b>Page</b>                       |
| Conduct of men on shore at.....  | 245                               |
| New rigged and fitted for winter cruising.....   | 203, 255, 257                     |
| Preparing and left for a cruise off Tripoli, with <i>Constitution</i> .....                                    | 259, 260, 278                     |
| Tripoli preparing to burn U. S. vessels at anchor.....   | 505                               |
| <b>Tunis—</b>  |                                   |
| At Tunis.....  | 483, 492, 524                     |
| Captain of Tripolitan Corsair reports intention of boarding.....   | 492                               |
| Chased Tripolitan ship into Bay of.....  | 30                                |
| In quest of Tripolitan Corsair of 12 guns, which was anchored there.....                                       | 483                               |
| Sailed from Tunis for Sicily.....  | 525                               |
| Volunteers from, participated on board <i>Intrepid</i> , in burning Tripolitan prize <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | 376, 378, 379, 381, 388, 427, 440 |
| <b>Equality, Am. Schooner, Abiel Burgiss, Master.....</b>  | 137, 453                          |
| <b>Erving, George W., U. S. Consul, London, England:</b>   |                                   |
| Correspondence with State, Secretary of.....   | 736-369                           |
| <b>Espey, Andrew, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>.....</b>  | 424                               |
| <b>Estimate for brick dwellings and fire apparatus.....</b>  | 220                               |
| <b>Estimates, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....</b>   | 396                               |
| <b>Essex, U. S. S.:</b>  |                                   |
| Preparing for Mediterranean Service.....   | 267, 459                          |
| Recruiting of men by Lieut. Sterett, for.....  | 405                               |
| References to.....   | 110, 127, 310, 347, 493           |
| To carry ratification of Louisiana Purchase to France.....   | 459                               |
| <b>Europe, dispatches for, to be conveyed by Midshipman James T. Leonard.....</b>                              | 321-322                           |
| <b>Eustis, William, Hon., U. S. Congress:</b>  |                                   |
| Correspondence with—   |                                   |
| Murray, Alexander, Capt.....   | 271                               |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 214, 289, 296, 297                |
| State, Secretary of.....   | 226                               |
| Influence of, requested to secure increase in rations and pay for officers on inactive duty.....               | 271                               |
| <b>Evans, Samuel, Lt., Baltimore, Md.:</b>   |                                   |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....  | 510, 533-534                      |
| Reference to.....  | 16                                |
| <b>Fainsworth, James.....</b>  | 131                               |
| <b>Fairfield, Joseph, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>.....</b>                                    | 424                               |
| <b>Falcon, John, British Consul, Algiers.....</b>  | 223, 249, 250, 286, 404, 495      |
| <b>Fame, Am. brig, Lewis Nicholson, Master.....</b>  | 137, 217, 307                     |
| <b>Farfara (Leon, broker at Tripoli).....</b>  | 267                               |
| <b>Farman, Jacob, seaman, No. 172, <i>Philadelphia</i>.....</b>  | 186                               |
| <b>Farquhar, Richard, Malta—</b>   |                                   |
| Advanced money to Capt. William Bainbridge.....  | 222                               |
| <i>Bronte</i> , negotiations regarding sale of.....  | 492                               |
| Hamet Caramanli, assistance to.....  | 390                               |
| Correspondence with—   |                                   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 301, 380-381, 390, 471, 492       |
| President of the United States.....  | 222, 501-502                      |
| Offers services in behalf of officers of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 222, 301                          |
| Opinion of, regarding affairs in Tripoli.....  | 501-502                           |
| References to.....   | 259, 281, 314, 536                |
| Wishes to be employed by U. S. Government.....   | 502                               |
| Witness to grounding & capture of U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 222                               |
| <b>Farr, Thomas, seaman, No. 176, <i>Philadelphia</i>.....</b>   | 186                               |
| <b>Fecurt, Hodge Alarbi, Director of Customs, Morocco.....</b>   | 60                                |
| <b>Fell, Robert, Carpenter, U. S. S. <i>Nautilus</i>.....</b>  | 507                               |
| <b>Felt, John, Carpenter, U. S. brig <i>Siren</i>.....</b>   | 507, 508                          |
| <b>Felt, John, Mariner, Brig <i>Sophia</i>, impressed by H. B. M. S. <i>Donegal</i>.....</b>                   | 234-235                           |
| <b>Fever epidemic at Malaga, Spain. See Malaga.</b>  |                                   |
| <b>Fez, Emperor of. See Morocco, Emperor of.</b>   |                                   |
| <b>Fidalgo, Joachin (or Joaquin), Harbor Master, Cadiz.....</b>  | 164                               |
| <b>Filby, Timothy, ordinary seaman, No. 141, <i>Philadelphia</i>.....</b>                                      | 186                               |
| <b>"Finding Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i>" by Charles Wellington Furlong.....</b>                                | 429                               |

|   | Page               |
|---|--------------------|
| Fire apparatus, estimate of.....  | 220                |
| Fire hazards on ships in ordinary.....  | 392, 393           |
| Fire on board <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 408                |
| Fire, prevention and extinguishing of.....  | 36                 |
| Fires on coast of Morocco used as signals.....  | 84                 |
| Flags:  |                    |
| <i>Constitution</i> , displays English Colors.....  | 232                |
| Displayed by foreign consulates in Tangier, Morocco.....  | 85                 |
| Mastico commanded by Mustapha Reis displayed Ottoman colors..   | 181, 384           |
| <i>Philadelphia's</i> colors struck in surrender to Tripolitans.....  | 172, 174, 177      |
| Quarantine.....   | 355                |
| Signals, U. S. warships entering Algiers.....   | 305                |
| Three Broad Pennants in U. S. Mediterranean Squadron.....   | 90                 |
| Used as Signals..... 81, 83, 103, 173, 194, 203, 279, 318, 329, 347,  | 374                |
| Fleur, Augustus C., seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424                |
| Flint, John, seaman, No. 154, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186                |
| Flogging.....   | 105, 225, 408      |
| Florence, Founder of, reference to gun or mortar boats.....   | 436                |
| Forbes, John M., owner of Am. ship <i>General Wayne</i> .....   | 137                |
| Ford, John, quarter-gunner, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424                |
| Form, "Report of Guard rowed by U. S. Ships".....   | 316                |
| Fort American, Tripoli, built by Am. prisoners.....   | 304                |
| Fortifications on the Sea-Board at Tripoli.....   | 304                |
| Poster, Leonard, <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. Consular House, Tripoli, quartered at.                                 | 183                |
| Fountain, Minor, Master's mate, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 183                |
| Fox, Josiah.....  | vii                |
| Foxall, Mr.....   | 19                 |
| France:   |                    |
| American ships <i>Ganges</i> and <i>Cyrus</i> , under French colors, captured by British Letter of Marque.....      | 369                |
| Beaussier, Citizen, Consul and Commissary General, Tripoli. See Beaussier, Citizen.                                 |                    |
| Blockade of Tripoli, protested by.....  | 372                |
| Brune, General, French Ambassador to Constantinople.....  | 469, 480, 481, 490 |
| Circular to Minister to Paris, from Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 215-216            |
| Claims deserters on board <i>Constellation</i> , and requests their release. (see "Nav. Doc." vol. II, p. 292)..... | 228                |
| Deserters from Marine of, supposed to be on <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 325                |
| Dispatches from Secretary of Treasury to be carried to, by Mr. Leonard or Mr. Nicholson.....                        | 396                |
| Embargo placed by, on all vessels at Leghorn.....   | 452                |
| First Consul, Napoleon Bonaparte.....   | 308, 332, 335-337  |
| Great Britain, War with.....  | 59, 162            |
| Harmony existing between U. S. and.....   | 308                |
| Impressment of Genoese sailors by.....  | 453                |
| Minister of Marine, purchase of Gun and Mortar boats to be negotiated with.....                                     | 406                |
| Paris, U. S. Minister to, Livingston, Robert R.....   | 498, 506           |
| Relations with England and Spain.....   | 262                |
| Report regarding <i>Mastico</i> forwarded to French Ambassador to Turkey.....                                       | 490, 493           |
| Treaty with, ratification of, carried to L'Orient by Am. schr. <i>Citizen</i> .....                                 | 297                |
| Vessels of, referred to.....  | 401, 451, 478      |
| Francis, Am. brig, Capt. Chaplain, or Chapline, or Chapman.....   | 213-217            |
| Francis, James, ordinary seaman, No. 158, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186                |
| Francis, John, seaman, No. 135, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185                |
| Francisco, Boy, <i>Siren</i> , entered at Leghorn.....  | 239                |
| Frank, Peter, seaman, No. 208, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 187                |
| Franklin, Am. brig, Capt. Andrew Morris.....  | 248                |
| Frazier, Daniel, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424                |
| Frazier, Paul, quartermaster, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424                |
| French, Thomas, seaman, No. 257, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 187                |
| Friday (Christian's) is Turk's Sunday.....  | 306                |
| Friendship, Am. Ship, Goodrich, Barzillai, Master.....  | 123, 128           |
| Fryar, James, boatswain's yeoman, No. 148, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186                |
| Fryar, John, seaman, No. 197, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186                |

|   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Fucile, Nicholas Thomas, Judge, Vice Admiralty Court, Syracuse.....   | 180-181   |
| Fudge, George, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424   |
| Fund, The Mediterranean.....  | 523   |
| Furkington, George, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 188   |
| Furlong, Charles Wellington; "Finding Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i> " by.....   | 429   |
| Fyers, Col., Gibraltar.....   | 435   |
| Fyers, Mrs.....   | 435   |
| Gadsden, Christopher, Jr., Midshipman.....  | 245, 252, 258, 273, 314, 338                        |
| Gale, (Anthony), Lt. U. S. M. C.....  | 454   |
| Gallagher, James, ordinary seaman, No. 254, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187   |
| Gallatin, (Albert), Mrs.....  | 201   |
| Gallatin, (Albert). See Treasury, Secretary of.   |   |
| Gallina, il conte. See Schembri, Gaetano, Andrea.   |   |
| Gambier, James, British Consul, Lisbon.....   | 308   |
| Gamble, Robert M., Midn., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 15, 169, 170, 183                                   |
| Gamen, Pietro, Captain, <i>La Vergine del Carmine</i> .....   | 328, 387  |
| Ganges, Am. Merchant Vessel, owned by William Moore.....  | 367, 369  |
| Gardner, John M., Midshipman, <i>Philadelphia</i> , Pa.:<br>Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....   | 509, 548  |
| Gardner, Peter, ship carpenter, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....  | 316   |
| Gardner, William, <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. Consular House, Tripoli.....  | 183   |
| Garlinger, Lewis, seaman, No. 155, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186   |
| Garrabrandt, John, ordinary seaman, No. 28, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184   |
| Gatine, Conns, Tripolitan Consul, Malta, to negotiate sale of prize frigate<br><i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 236   |
| Gavino, John, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar:<br>Advises communications with ports of Spain cut off, due to epidemic<br>of fever.....  | 151   |
| <i>Argus</i> , stores for.....  | 205   |
| Arrival of vessel from Baltimore, at Gibraltar, reported by.....  | 405   |
| Correspondence with—<br>Court, William, & Co.....   | 20, 21  |
| Hull, Isaac, Lt.....  | 360-361, 375  |
| Jarvis, William.....  | 459   |
| Lear, Tobias.....   | 435   |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 221, 355  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 68  |
| Pulis, Joseph.....  | 160, 263, 267, 347-348, 369, 400, 422, 467, 514-515 |
| Simpson, James.....   | 401   |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 62, 63  |
| Terry, Anthony.....   | 78, 79  |
| Trigge, Sir Thomas, Lt. Governor of Gibraltar.....  | 222-223, 313-314, 331, 400-401, 452-453, 515        |
| Yznardi, Josef.....   | 73, 78, 79  |
| Four seamen sent on board <i>Philadelphia</i> by.....   | 21, 22  |
| References to.....  | 1   |
| 9, 43-45, 48, 55, 64-66, 71, 72, 88, 93, 94, 143, 146, 153, 170, 198,<br>202, 227, 235, 237, 252, 268, 338, 356, 357, 375, 386, 397, 434, 456,<br>461, 464, 466, 473, 481, 495, 504, 540. | 3, 467  |
| References to <i>Betsy Walk</i> , renamed <i>Woodrop Sims</i> .....   | 3   |
| Stores and provisions for Mediterranean Squadron.....   | 400   |
| Vizen to deliver dispatches to, for America.....  | 18, 19, 258   |
| Gavino, Miss, sister of John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar.....   | 230   |
| General Greene, U. S. S., repair of, to be rushed.....  | 83  |
| General Wayne, Am. Schr., Thomas Spires, Master.....  | 220   |
| Genoa, Italy, blockaded by British Fleet.....   | 137   |
| Genoa, Reis, given command of Tripolitan prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 157, 162  |
| George Washington, U. S. S., Capt. William Bainbridge.....  | 266   |
| Germany:<br>Claims irregularities in capture and detention of <i>Paulina</i> .....  | iii, 277, 285, 410, 490                             |
| Vessels of, spoken by <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 546   |
| Getchell, F. H., Mrs., Collection of, in Historical Society of Pennsylv-<br>ania.....   | 238   |
| Gibbon, James, Midn., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 159, 204, 215, 244, 281, 309, 315                   |
|   | 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191                         |

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Gibbs, Abraham, U. S. Consul, Palermo:</b>  | <b>Page</b>                           |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 448                                   |
| References to.....   | 501, 504, 542                         |
| <b>Gibraltar:</b>  |                                       |
| <i>Adams</i> , U. S. S., arrived at, en route to United States.....                          | 45                                    |
| American Ship from Baltimore, anchored.....  | 77                                    |
| <i>Argus</i> , U. S. brig. See <i>Argus</i> .  |                                       |
| British officers encourage desertion from U. S. ships of war.....                            | 212, 213                              |
| Commissioner at, Captain Otway, R. N.....  | 51                                    |
| Considered as possible base for U. S. Store ships.....                                       | 143                                   |
| Consul, U. S., Gavino, John.....   | 464, 473                              |
| <i>Enterprise</i> , U. S. schooner. See <i>Enterprise</i> .                                  |                                       |
| Garrison dependent on Moors for fresh provisions in war time.....                            | 82                                    |
| Hart, Captain George, R. N., senior officer of H. B. M. ships in Bay of.....                 | 158                                   |
| <i>John Adams</i> (Jno. Rodgers), arrived at, en route to United States.....                 | 45                                    |
| Lear, Tobias, U. S. Consul General, Algiers—   |                                       |
| Disembarked from <i>Constitution</i> , with his family.....                                  | 54, 138                               |
| To remain at.....  | 59                                    |
| Lieutenant-Governor of. See Sir Thomas Trigge.   |                                       |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , Tripolitan admiral. See <i>Meshouda</i> .                                  |                                       |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , Moroccan ship. See <i>Mirboka</i> .   |                                       |
| Moorish Consul, Hammet.....  | 82                                    |
| <i>Nautilus</i> , U. S. schooner, Somers, Richard, Lt., arrived at.....                      | 45, 313                               |
| <i>New York</i> collided with <i>Siren</i> .....   | 122                                   |
| Order to send into, all Tripolitan and Moroccan subjects and vessels.....                    | 48-51, 63                             |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. frigate—   |                                       |
| Anchored at with <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 42, 47                                |
| Officer and crew left with prize <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 258                                   |
| Requested Capt. Otway to grant dockyard facilities, to repair.....                           | 51                                    |
| Preble, Commodore pays respects to British officials.....                                    | 208                                   |
| Quarantine.....  | 223, 320, 360                         |
| Tripolitans taken prisoners complain of treatment.....                                       | 176                                   |
| U. S. Ships of war, in Bay of.....   | 51,                                   |
| 54, 69, 77, 81, 82, 97, 132, 138, 139, 154, 160, 206   |                                       |
| <i>Vizen</i> , U. S. schooner, Lt. John Smith, arrived at, from Baltimore.....               | 42, 56                                |
| <b>Gideon Granger</b> .....  | 220                                   |
| <i>Gig</i> , building by Capt. James Barron, Hampton, Va.....                                | 431                                   |
| <b>Gillin, William</b> , seaman, No. 213, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                          | 187                                   |
| <b>Gillingham, George</b> , seaman, <i>Siren</i> entered at Leghorn.....                     | 239                                   |
| <b>Glennie, A.</b> See Mackenzie & A. Glennie.   |                                       |
| <b>Gloria</b> , ship (Capt. Bounds), employment of.....                                      | 403, 457-458                          |
| <b>Godby, William</b> , Carpenter, U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> and prisoner:                |                                       |
| Ordered to build gunboat, by Bashaw of Tripoli.....  | 269                                   |
| References to.....   | 15, 169, 170, 183, 184, 529, 530      |
| Witness at trial of Capt. William Bainbridge.....  | 189, 191                              |
| <b>Goldsborough, Charles Washington</b> , Chief Clerk, Navy Department.....                  | vii, 342                              |
| <b>Goldsmith, John</b> , quarter-gunner, No. 67, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 184                                   |
| <b>Golena</b> , Count, Malta, owner of brig <i>Transfer</i> . See Schembri, G. A.            |                                       |
| <b>Goodrich, Benjamin</b> , private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                  | 188                                   |
| <b>Goodrich, Barzillai</b> , Master, Am. Ship <i>Friendship</i> .....                        | 123                                   |
| <b>Goodrich, O. &amp; B.</b> , owners, Am. ship <i>Friendship</i> .....                      | 123                                   |
| <b>Goodwin, Joseph</b> , seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                  | 424                                   |
| <b>Goold, Gidden</b> , Marine, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....                                  | 105                                   |
| <b>Gooman, Edward</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 132, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                  | 185                                   |
| <b>Gordon, Charles</b> , Lt. U. S. N.....  | 13, 58, 381                           |
| <b>Gore, John</b> , Capt. R. N., H. B. M. S. <i>Medusa</i> :                                 |                                       |
| Claims many British subjects on board American Ships of War.....                             | 113, 121, 122                         |
| Conduct of, disapproved by British Admiral.....  | 351                                   |
| Controversy re detention of deserters from U. S. Ships of War and prize <i>Mirboka</i> ..... | 112, 113, 120, 133, 134, 142-144, 351 |
| Correspondence with—   |                                       |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 143, 144                              |
| Stewart, Charles, Lieut., U. S. N.....   | 112, 113, 120, 121                    |
| Offers protection to U. S. deserters.....  | 160, 161                              |
| References to.....   | 121, 156, 158, 160, 213, 339          |
| <b>Graham, Thomas</b> , Gore, John, Capt., R. N., requests discharge of.....                 | 121                                   |
| <b>Graham, William</b> , seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                  | 424                                   |

|  | Page                                   |
|--|--|
| Grand Seignior. <i>See</i> Turkey, Sultan of.  |  |
| Grant, Elias, Master, Am. Brig <i>Betsy</i> .....  | 123                                    |
| Gratz Collection in Historical Society of Pennsylvania.....  | 169                                    |
| Gray, William, Jr., of Salem, owner of Am. ship <i>American Hero</i> .....                             | 331                                    |
| Gray, William, owner of Am. ship <i>Trent</i> .....  | 137                                    |
| Great Britain:   |  |
| Affairs of, in Algiers.....  | 250, 251, 369, 370, 404, 405, 434, 495 |
| Affairs of, with the United States.....  | 158, 160, 161, 212-213, 290, 291       |
| Ambassador of, to Turkey, report regarding <i>Mastico</i> forwarded to.....                            | 490, 493                               |
| Brig of 16 guns purchased by Tripolitans at Malta ( <i>Transfer</i> ).....                             | 323                                    |
| Consul of, certified David Valenzin as Tripoline subject.....  | 346                                    |
| France, War with, influence on provisioning U. S. Ships of War.....                                    | 59                                     |
| Garrison of, at Malta, cattle for.....   | 328, 332, 333, 387, 388, 417           |
| Impressments by.....   | 210, 234, 472, 473, 515                |
| Merchant ship at Gibraltar assisted by <i>Argus</i> .....  | 400                                    |
| No subjects of on board <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 158                                    |
| Pay of officers of, less than in U. S. Navy.....   | 262                                    |
| Petition to be claimed as British subjects, made by some of <i>Philadelphia's</i> crew.....            | 357                                    |
| References to.....   | 229, 435, 436                          |
| Relations with France and Spain.....   | 262                                    |
| Subjects of, volunteered for service to U. S.....  | 120                                    |
| Tripolitan ship under English colors, Capt. Agostino.....  | 92                                     |
| U. S. Consul, London, discussion by, <i>re</i> merchant ships.....                                     | 367-369                                |
| Vessels of—  |  |
| <i>Amazon</i> informed Commo. Preble of loss of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                              | 256                                    |
| At Malta.....  | 256                                    |
| At Syracuse.....   | 448, 449                               |
| <i>Bellmore</i> , transport, assisted by U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....                            | 490, 491                               |
| <i>Biltern</i> , H. B. M. S., sailed from Syracuse.....  | 397                                    |
| Blockading Genoa, Italy, and Spezzia, Greece.....  | 157, 162                               |
| Blockading St. Domingo.....  | 290                                    |
| Brig brought to Syracuse by <i>Enterprize</i> for examination by <i>Constitution</i> .....             | 453                                    |
| <i>Childers</i> rendered assistance by U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....                              | 72, 86                                 |
| Convoy of 40 sail dispersed in gale in Bay of Biscay.....  | 331                                    |
| Encourage deserters from U. S. Ships of War.....   | 339                                    |
| Fleet at Toulon.....   | 223                                    |
| Fleet joined by <i>Royal Sovereign</i> .....   | 452                                    |
| Fleet Northward of Minorca.....  | 30                                     |
| Fleet off Minorca.....   | 478                                    |
| Fleet of Lord Cornwallis.....  | 452                                    |
| Letter of Marque captured <i>Ganges</i> and <i>Cyrus</i> .....   | 369                                    |
| Nelson, Horatio, fleet of.....   | 452                                    |
| <i>Phebe</i> detained <i>American Hero</i> at Gibraltar and released her.....                          | 331                                    |
| Preble, Edward, Commo. protests holding of U. S. deserters, on board of.....                           | 155, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161           |
| <i>St. Crucifisso</i> , merchant brig under English colors, captured by U. S. S. <i>Nautilus</i> ..... | 323, 411, 412, 417, 438, 442, 454, 455 |
| <i>Sophy</i> , H. B. M. S., Arrival of, in Gibraltar Bay with convoy.....                              | 400                                    |
| <i>Spider</i> arrived at Syracuse.....   | 460                                    |
| Greece, vessels of.....  | 459, 460                               |
| Green, Mr., Purser, <i>Nautilus</i> , transferred to <i>Scourge</i> .....                              | 323                                    |
| Green, John, seaman, No. 206, <i>Philadelphia</i> (claimed as a French Citizen).....                   | 186                                    |
| Green, Thomas, deserted from prize crew of <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 133, 134                               |
| Grenell, Sloss H., Mid., New York, N. Y.....   | 509                                    |
| Griffith, George, gunner's mate (gunmate) No. 179, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                           | 186                                    |
| Griffith, Joseph, landsman, No. 96, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185                                    |
| Grimes, James, ordinary seaman, No. 174, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                     | 186                                    |
| Grimes, John, seaman, No. 178, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186                                    |
| Grivegnée, Mr.....   | 231                                    |
| Grog, reference to.....  | 363, 364                               |
| Grounding of <i>Philadelphia</i> . <i>See</i> <i>Philadelphia</i> .                                    |  |
| Gruegnée, Mr. <i>See</i> Grivegnée, Mr.  |  |
| Guerrian. <i>See</i> Tripoli.  |  |
| Guillechini, Mr., Governor of Messina, no authority to dispose of gun-boats.....                       | 478                                    |

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| <b>Gunboats and Mortar boats:</b>  |  |
| Barnes, Joseph, U. S. Consul, Sicily, endeavors to procure.....  | 542  |
| Broadbent, John, U. S. Navy Agent, Messina, Negotiations <i>re</i> procuring.....                                    | 398, 399, 478, 500, 547  |
| Building at Hampton, Va.....   | 431  |
| Building, equipping, and cost of, in the Mediterranean.....  | 373  |
| Building of, in France, endeavor to negotiate.....   | 406  |
| Cathcart, James L., Leghorn, negotiations <i>re</i> procuring, and commitments by.....                               | 373, 435-437, 438, 458, 459, 501   |
| Dent, John H., Lt., sent to Messina for data.....  | 401, 402   |
| Florence and Tuscany, reference to.....  | 436  |
| Gibbs, Abraham, U. S. Consul, Palermo—data to Commo. Preble.....   | 448  |
| Guns and mortars.....  | 435-437  |
| Gunboat No. 2, Lt. Charles Gordon, in action against Tripoli.....  | 13   |
| Gunboat No. 5, Lt. James Lawrence, in action off Tripoli.....  | 13   |
| Gunboat No. 9, Lt. James R. Caldwell, blown up off Tripoli.....  | 13   |
| Livingston, Robert R., asked to prevail on French Government to influence Neapolitan Government to hire or loan..... | 499  |
| Models for use in building of.....   | 283, 430   |
| Naples, Commo. Preble and James L. Cathcart, negotiations <i>re</i> procuring.....                                   | 14, 385, 437, 476, 485, 486, 500, 501, 538   |
| Needed for Mediterranean Squadron.....   | 229, 319, 338, 339, 383, 385, 476, 545   |
| Purchase or building of.....   | 319, 379, 383  |
| To be built.....   | 241, 282, 283  |
| To be built by Capt. James Barron, at Norfolk, Va., to carry one long 32 pound cannon.....                           | 283, 317   |
| To be built by Capt. John Rodgers, at Washington, D. C., to carry one long 32 pound cannon.....                      | 282-283  |
| To navigate under American Flag.....   | 383  |
| Tripolitan gunboats carry between 25 and 30 men.....   | 526  |
| Tripolitan gunboats suspicious of attack by <i>Siren</i> .....   | 528  |
| <b>Gun Carriages:</b>  |  |
| Algiers demands present of, from United States.....  | 132, 134-136   |
| Error made in kind sent to Emperor of Morocco.....   | 461  |
| One hundred sent and arrived in Am. schooner <i>Citizen</i> as U. S. present to Emperor of Morocco.....              | 19, 129, 153, 167, 168, 198, 200, 221, 297, 361, 401, 402, 438, 450, 451, 452, 456, 460, 466, 473, 498 |
| To be contracted for, for frigate <i>United States</i> .....   | 547  |
| <b>Gunnery, officers to be instructed in, by Bombardiers.....</b>  | <b>311</b>   |
| <b>Guns:</b>   |  |
| Adams, U. S. S.....  | 197, 214   |
| Algiers, demands present of, from United States.....   | 132, 134-136   |
| Algiers, vessels of.....   | 247, 315, 518, 519   |
| <i>Antelope</i> , American armed ship.....   | 278-279  |
| <i>Argus</i> , U. S. brig.....   | 197, 214, 227, 384   |
| At Norfolk, Va.....  | 430, 431   |
| Cannon and Mortar, with bombs, balls and ammunition, to be procured.....   | 383, 384   |
| <i>Constitution</i> , U. S. frigate.....   | 30, 197, 214, 227, 384, 455, 486   |
| Derne, fortifications of.....  | 228  |
| Dimensions of a Nine Pounder.....  | 304  |
| <i>Enterprize</i> , U. S. Schooner.....  | 197, 214, 227, 384   |
| <i>Intrepid</i> , U. S. ketch.....   | 413, 422, 423, 441, 454  |
| <i>John Adams</i> , U. S. S.....   | 197, 214, 227  |
| <i>Maimona</i> , Moroccan Ship from Salee.....   | 23, 24, 31, 46, 56, 64, 80, 96, 107  |
| <i>Mastico</i> , Tripolitan ketch.....   | 294, 295   |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , Tripolitan ship.....   | 41   |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , Moroccan ship.....  | 2, 30, 41, 42, 56, 81, 93, 106   |
| <i>Monmouth</i> , H. B. M. S., Capt. George Hart, R. N.....  | 161  |
| Morocco, size of batteries.....  | 461  |
| Mortars needed in attack on Tripoli.....   | 319  |
| <i>Nautilus</i> , U. S. schooner.....  | 197, 214, 227, 384   |
| <i>New York</i> , U. S. frigate.....   | 197, 214, 227  |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. frigate and Tripolitan prize.....  | 106,   |
| 174, 177, 197, 214, 227, 253, 308, 388, 422, 423, 441, 442   |  |
| Preble's instructions for men at.....  | 38   |
| Rules and regulations governing officers and men.....  | 37, 38   |
| Salutes (Algiers).....   | 305  |



| Guns—Continued.  |  | Page          |
|--|--|---------------|
| <i>Scourge</i> , U. S. brig (former prize <i>Transfer</i> )                              | -----                                  | 323           |
| Signals  | 81, 101, 173, 194, 202, 298, 305, 347  | 347           |
| <i>Siren</i> , U. S. brig  | 9, 197, 214, 227, 384                  | 384           |
| <i>Superb</i> , H. B. M. S., Capt. Keets   | -----                                  | 404           |
| <i>Transfer</i> (renamed <i>Scourge</i> )  | -----                                  | 323, 496, 502 |
| Tripolitan naval force and shore batteries   | -----                                  | 253, 304      |
| Tunis, vessels of  | -----                                  | 486, 504, 505 |
| Tunisian cruiser brought to by U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i>                              | -----                                  | 103           |
| <i>Vizen</i> , U. S. schooner  | 197, 214, 227, 384                     | 384           |
| Wanted by Hamet, deposed Bashaw of Tripoli   | -----                                  | 222           |
| <i>Warren</i> , Am. private armed ship   | -----                                  | 198           |
| Guyn, Peter, order to release <i>Hannah</i> , sent to (also reference to)                | 130, 199, 202                          | 202           |
| Hackley, George S., Midn   | -----                                  | 18            |
| Hacksoner, Lewis (German), ordinary seaman, <i>Philadelphia</i>                          | -----                                  | 269           |
| Hadge Alarbi Pecurt. See Morocco, Director of Customs.                                   | -----                                  |               |
| Hadge Alcaide Abde-Rhaman Hashash. See Morocco, Governor of.                             | -----                                  |               |
| Hadji Tacher Aumed. See Tacher, Hadji Aumed.   | -----                                  |               |
| Hadgi Unis Ben Unis, commercial agent, Tunis   | 5, 48, 322                             | 322           |
| Hafis, Chiaus of the Captain Pacha of Sultan of Turkey:                                  |  |               |
| Passenger on <i>Mastico</i>  | -----                                  | 481           |
| Passport of  | -----                                  | 488           |
| References to  | 470, 471, 485                          | 485           |
| Hale, Samuel, seaman, No. 114, <i>Philadelphia</i>                                       | -----                                  | 185           |
| Haley, James, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i>                                  | -----                                  | 188           |
| Halifa, Beis, commanding a Tripolitan cruiser  | -----                                  | 61            |
| Hall, Francis C., Mid., U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i>                                     | 7, 169                                 | 169           |
| Hall, John, Capt., U. S. M. C., correspondence with Burrows, William W.                  | -----                                  | 254           |
| Hall, Mary D., Miss, acknowledgment to   | -----                                  | iv            |
| Hallowell, Capt., H. B. M. S. <i>Argo</i>  | -----                                  | 493           |
| Hamet Bigga  | -----                                  | 10            |
| Hamet Caramanli, rightful Bashaw of Tripoli:   |  |               |
| At Alexandria, Egypt—  |  |               |
| Acquainted with Bey and principal Turks  | -----                                  | 391           |
| Preparing to retake Derne  | -----                                  | 380           |
| Residing in  | 390, 401                               | 401           |
| With troops, ready to march against Tripoli  | -----                                  | 339           |
| Caramanli, family name of Bashaws of Tripoli. See Tripoli.                               | -----                                  |               |
| Communication from, to Joseph Pulis  | -----                                  | 401           |
| Derne, Bashaw of—  |  |               |
| Abandoned Derne and went to Egypt  | 222, 236                               | 236           |
| In possession of half of town  | -----                                  | 61            |
| Marching toward  | -----                                  | 502           |
| Plans return to  | -----                                  | 314           |
| Description of, by Monsieur Beaussier  | -----                                  | 544           |
| Farquhar, Richard, Malta, assistance of  | -----                                  | 390           |
| Hassan, brother of, murdered by Yusuf. See Caramanli, Hassan.                            | -----                                  |               |
| If in possession of Derne and Bengazi, could take Tripoli                                | 486, 487                               | 487           |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt., promised assistance of U. S. Government to                    | -----                                  | 401           |
| Nicola, Capt., willing to co-operate with U. S.  | -----                                  | 471           |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., sympathized with, and promised assistance to                      | 259, 260, 502                          | 502           |
| Promises of  | -----                                  | 339, 502      |
| References to  | 61, 301, 314, 401, 471, 486, 543, 544  | 544           |
| See Tripoli, Derne.  | -----                                  |               |
| United States—   |  |               |
| Advantages to, in espousing cause of Hamet   | 222, 339, 390, 486                     | 486           |
| Requests assistance of, to regain Derne and Tripoli                                      | 222, 314, 339, 352, 390, 399, 401, 544 | 544           |
| Victorious near Derne over troops of Yusuf, Bashaw of Tripoli                            | -----                                  | 259           |
| Yusuf (Yusef, Joseph or Josef), brother of Hamet, usurping throne as Bashaw of Tripoli.— |  |               |
| Offered bribe of \$10,000 for murder of Hamet  | -----                                  | 502           |
| Sends cruisers and troops to Derne to subdue   | 61, 228, 236                           | 236           |
| Hamet, drogerman   | -----                                  | 531, 532      |
| Hamet (or Hammet), Moorish Consul, Gibraltar, references to                              | 82, 260                                | 260           |
| Hammoeks, rules governing  | -----                                  | 35            |
| Hammond, William, ordinary seaman, No. 109, <i>Philadelphia</i>                          | -----                                  | 185           |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Hamuda, Bashaaw.</b> See Tunis, Bey of.   |  |
| <b>Hanah, Am. brig.</b> See <i>Rajah</i> .   |  |
| <b>Handspikes for Emperor of Morocco</b> -----   | 461  |
| <b>Hanghey, Thomas,</b> ordinary seaman, No. 103, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----  | 185  |
| <b>Hanibal, Ship</b> -----   | 173  |
| <b>Hannah, Am. brig of Salem, Capt. Joseph W. Williams:</b>  |  |
| Captain and crew given up at Mogador to Mr. Court.-----  | 63   |
| Cargo of, valuable-----  | 152  |
| Detained by Governor of Mogador, after seizure, 4 September 1803-----  | 21, 63,<br>48, 57, 63, 68, 69, 71-73, 84, 94   |
| <i>Nautilus</i> carried to Mogador, order of release and news of peace-----  | 130,<br>141, 151, 209  |
| Order of release issued by Emperor of Morocco to Governor of Mo-<br>gador-----   | 117  |
| References to-----   | 68, 94, 107, 116   |
| Released, with cargo and crew, by order of Emperor of Morocco, to<br>Governor of Mogador-----                                | 76, 92,<br>114, 115, 117, 118, 130, 140, 141, 146, 148-151, 199, 201, 202, 209, 213. |
| See Morocco, Mogador.  |  |
| Treated very well-----   | 107  |
| <b>Haraden, Nathaniel,</b> sailing master, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , extracts from<br>log of. See <i>Constitution</i> . |  |
| <b>Harbor Regulations, U. S. S. Constitution</b> -----   | 41   |
| <b>Harpers Magazine,</b> article <i>re Philadelphia</i> , published in-----  | 429  |
| <b>Harris, Levett,</b> U. S. Consul General, St. Petersburg, Russia:   |  |
| Correspondence with-----   |  |
| de Worontzow (or Worontzoff), Alexander, Count-----  | 358, 541   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt-----  | 397  |
| Yznardi, Josef-----  | 541  |
| References to-----   | 358, 397, 534, 540   |
| <b>Harris, Thomas,</b> author of "The Life and Service of Commodore William<br>Bainbridge"-----                              | vii  |
| <b>Harrison, A. C.,</b> Sailing Master, U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> -----  | 362-365  |
| <b>Harrison, George,</b> Philadelphia, Pa.:  |  |
| Appointment of Navy Agent and Superintendent of Navy Yard,<br>Philadelphia, Pa-----  | 303  |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of-----  | 346  |
| References to-----   | 317, 454   |
| <b>Harrison, Richard,</b> Auditor of the Treasury, correspondence with State,<br>Secretary of-----                           | 402-403  |
| <b>Hart, George, Capt., R. N., H. B. M. S. Monmouth,</b> correspondence with<br>Preble, Edward, Commodore-----               | 155-159, 161   |
| <b>Harvie, Jacquelin B.,</b> Mid., correspondence with Navy, Secretary of-----   | 328  |
| <b>Harwood, Nicholas,</b> surgeon's mate, <i>Philadelphia</i> , and prisoner of Tripoli-----                                 | 15,<br>169, 170, 183, 529  |
| <b>Hashash, Hadge Alcayde Abde-Rhaman.</b> See Morocco, Governor of.   |  |
| <b>Haskell, Capt.,</b> brig <i>Jack</i> -----  | 18, 80   |
| <b>Hassan (or Hassin), John,</b> ordinary seamen, No. 163, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----   | 131, 186   |
| <b>Hassell, George,</b> seaman, No. 94, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----  | 185  |
| <b>Haswell, John M.,</b> Midshipman, <i>Constitution</i> -----   | 6, 18, 169   |
| <b>Hayden, W.,</b> one of owners, Am. Ship <i>Monsoon</i> -----  | 123  |
| <b>Hazard, Am. Schooner,</b> conveyed by <i>Argus</i> , to Leghorn-----  | 219, 231, 235  |
| <b>Haselton, Thomas,</b> Armorer, No. 100, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----   | 185  |
| <b>Heath, Daniel C.,</b> Midshipman acting as Lieutenant:  |  |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of-----  | 274, 509   |
| Deposition of-----   | 341-342  |
| Prize Master of <i>Paulina</i> -----   | 274, 345   |
| <b>Heather, W.,</b> London, publisher of "The Mediterranean Pilot"-----  | v, 52  |
| <b>Heckmer, Lewis,</b> U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. Consular House, Tripoli-----                                     | 183  |
| <b>Hector, Am. brig, Master, Allen, John</b> -----   | 123  |
| <b>Heerman, Lewis,</b> surgeon's mate:   |  |
| <i>Intrepid's</i> expedition to Tripoli to destroy <i>Philadelphia</i> -----   |  |
| Affidavit of-----  | 417-420  |
| In command of, in absence of, boarding party-----  | 418-420  |
| Justifies Lt. Decatur's action in not waiting for <i>Siren's</i> coopera-<br>tion-----                                       | 418, 419, 420<br>15, 423, 443  |
| References to-----   | 454  |
| <b>Height of U. S. Marine Corps Recruits</b> -----   |  |

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| Hemmen, John, gunner's mate, No. 196, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186  |
| Hemphill, William, gunner's yeoman, No. 252, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187  |
| Hendrickson, John, ordinary seaman, No. 171 <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186  |
| Henley, John D., Midn.....   | 12, 90   |
| Henley, Robert, Midn., <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Algiers</i> .....  | 90, 221, 222   |
| Henry, Barnard or Bernard, Mid., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 15, 169, 170, 183, 184   |
| Henry, James, seaman, No. 207, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187  |
| Henscome, John, seaman, No. 266, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187  |
| Hepburn, Earle, Mr., records published by courtesy of.....   | vii, 28, 90  |
| Herman, Lewis. See Heerman, Lewis.   |  |
| Hibernia, Am. Schooner, John Leach, Master.....  | 137  |
| Higgins, Thomas, ordinary seaman, No. 185, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186  |
| Higgins, William, U. S. Navy Agent, Malta:<br>Appointment of, as U. S. Navy Agent, Malta, by Commo. Preble.....  | 339,<br>351, 353   |
| Authorized to render every assistance of money, clothing, and supplies<br>to <i>Philadelphia's</i> officers and crew.....  | 282,<br>310, 333, 334, 353, 354, 410, 429, 536                     |
| Cathcart, James L. ordered him to forward \$3,000 to Capt. Bain-<br>bridge.....  | 266, 353   |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 301-302,<br>351, 354, 400, 407, 429-430, 452                       |
| Duties of.....   | 351  |
| English Merchant, Malta.....   | 237  |
| References to.....   | 261, 267, 281, 341, 342, 348, 386, 438, 442, 467, 501, 515         |
| To act as prize agent.....   | 452  |
| <i>William and Mary</i> , arranges to send cargo of, from Malta to Syra-<br>cuse.....  | 407, 429   |
| Hill, William, Sergeant, U. S. M. C.....   | 254  |
| Hilliard, John, ordinary seaman, No. 151, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186  |
| Historical Society of Pennsylvania, records published by courtesy of.....  | vii,<br>159, 169, 203, 204, 215, 244, 245, 260, 281, 309, 315, 505 |
| Hodge, George, Boatsn., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191  |
| Hodges, Alexander, Capt., Ship <i>Shepherdess</i> .....  | 211  |
| Hodges, George, Master, Am. Ship <i>Union</i> .....  | 123  |
| Hodges, Nichols, & Co., owners Am. Ship <i>Union</i> .....   | 123  |
| Hoff, William Bainbridge, Capt., U. S. N., copy of drawing by, of the<br>capture of U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | v, 168   |
| Hogg, James, quartermaster, No. 147, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186  |
| Holgan, Mathew, landsman, No. 98, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185  |
| Holkar, Mathias, ordinary seaman, No. 108, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185  |
| Holland:<br>Algiers, relations with.....   | 136  |
| Consul of, visited Commo. Preble at U. S. Consular House, Tangier.....   | 148  |
| Morocco, Emperor of, present to.....   | 461  |
| Hollingsworth, Mr., Am. armed ship <i>Antelope</i> .....   | 279  |
| Holms, James, seaman, No. 62, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184  |
| Hook, William, gunner, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424  |
| Hopkins, Francis, marine, sent to hospital at Malta.....   | 488  |
| Hopkins, Thomas, Capt., Am. brig <i>Edward</i> , Naples.....   | 370  |
| Horne and Eiselen. See Eiselen and Horne.  |  |
| Hornet, U. S. S., Lt. Evans, reference to.....   | 16   |
| Hospital ship requested for Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 161  |
| Howard, John, First Lt., U. S. M. C., U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .....  | 363, 364   |
| Howell, Stephen, seaman, No. 86, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185  |
| Hubert, Francis, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 188  |
| Hughes, William, deserted from <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 133, 134, 143  |
| Hull, Isaac, Lt., U. S. S. <i>Enterprize</i> and <i>Argus</i> :<br><i>Argus</i> , took command of and turned over <i>Enterprize</i> to Lt. Stephen<br>Decatur, Jr..... | 65, 66, 159, 203, 208, 209, 211-213                                |
| Correspondence with—<br>Gavino, John.....  | 360-361, 375   |
| Kirkpatrick, William.....  | 348  |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 356, 360, 375, 399-400, 473, 514                                   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 71,<br>95, 129, 204-205, 218, 237-238, 261, 320, 402, 438, 466-467 |
| Yznardi, Joseph.....   | 329  |

**Hull, Isaac**—Continued.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Extract from journal of. <i>See Argus.</i>  | Page  |
| Ordered to remain at Gibraltar to watch Morocco   | 161   |
| Orders to   | 86, 87, 95, 129, 204, 205, 218, 261, 356, 438 |
| Peace between U. S. and Morocco, informed of  | 129   |
| References to   | 16,   |
| 46, 69, 75, 142, 162, 166, 205, 210, 215, 219, 268, 314, 350, 369, 384,                                       |   |
| 401, 451, 452, 453, 455, 459, 460, 504, 506, 515.   |   |
| To cooperate with John Gavino and James Simpson   | 205, 355-357                                  |
| To send to Gibraltar all Moroccan and Tripolitan ships  | 72  |
| Waited on Preble, Edward, Capt.   | 155, 165                                      |
| Went ashore at Leghorn  | 235   |
| <b>Hunnewell (L. J.), (Midn.) Constitution</b>  | 7   |
| <b>Hunt, Charles, Sergeant, U. S. M. C. Philadelphia</b>  | 188   |
| <b>Hunt, Otis, Sergeant, U. S. M. C., Philadelphia</b>  | 183   |
| <b>Hunt, Theodore, Lt., U. S. S. Philadelphia</b>   | 15, 169, 170, 183, 184, 189, 191, 530         |
| <b>Hunt, Thomas, Mid., U. S. S. Constitution</b>  | 7   |
| <b>Hunter, Frederick, private, U. S. M. C., Philadelphia</b>  | 188   |
| <b>Hunter, John, Madrid, Spain, correspondence with Duff, James</b>   | 157   |
| <b>Huntington, Henry E., Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, Calif.,</b><br>records published by courtesy of | vii, 32-41, 263, 304                          |
| <b>Hurly, Stephen, carpenter</b>  | 28  |
| <b>Hurshaw, Abraham, drummer, U. S. M. C., Philadelphia</b>   | 188   |
| <b>Hutchins, Benjamin, Master of Am. schooner Ossipee</b>   | 137   |
| <b>Illustrations, List of</b>   | v   |
| <b>Il Santissimo Crocifisso. See St. Crucifisso.</b>  |   |
| <b>Immell, Jacob, ordinary seaman, No. 119, Philadelphia</b>  | 185   |
| <b>Imperial Brigs, 8 guns</b>   | 453   |
| <b>Imperial brig spoken by Constitution</b>   | 238   |
| <b>Impressments. See H. B. M. S. Donegal.</b>   |   |
| <b>Independance, Am. ship of Baltimore</b>  | 400   |
| <b>Industry, British ship</b>   | 359   |
| <b>Infernal or Fire Ship. See Philadelphia (Intrepid).</b>  |   |
| <b>Ingerson, James, ordinary seaman, No. 285, Philadelphia</b>  | 188   |
| <b>Ink, secret</b>  | 526, 527                                      |
| <b>Insurance Rates, reference to</b>  | 250   |
| <b>International Law, reference to by French Minister of Foreign Affairs</b>                                  | 372   |
| <b>Interpreter, Manna, from Gibraltar</b>   | 85  |
| <b>Intrepid, U. S. ketch, Lt. Stephen Decatur:</b>  |   |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., Lt., ordered to command  | 376   |
| Formerly <i>Mastico</i> captured by <i>Constitution</i> in company with <i>Enterprize. See Mastico.</i>       |   |
| Guns  | 413, 422, 423, 437, 441, 454                  |
| Mediterranean rig   | 376   |
| Midshipman and 3 men from <i>Constitution</i> on board of   | 462   |
| Officers and crew of—   |   |
| Commended for bravery   | 413   |
| To rejoin respective ships  | 447, 448                                      |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , Tripolitan prize, burning of. <i>See Philadelphia.</i>                                  |   |
| Provisions putrid   | 418   |
| References to   | 379, 384, 415, 416, 444, 455-459, 462         |
| Sailed for Tripoli, in company with <i>Siren</i> , to burn the <i>Philadelphia</i>                            | 381,  |
| 384, 388, 389, 391, 416   |   |
| <b>Syracuse—</b>  |   |
| Arrival of, at Syracuse, from Tripoli   | 413, 428, 440                                 |
| At Syracuse   | 447, 448, 451, 452, 455, 459, 462, 466        |
| Out of commission, mid. and 3 or 4 men on board   | 452   |
| Taken in tow by <i>Siren</i>  | 389, 390                                      |
| To be converted into fire ship to destroy enemy vessels   | 376-377                                       |
| Tonnage   | 441   |
| <b>Irvine, William, General, appointed Naval Storekeeper, Philadelphia, Pa.</b>                               | 317   |
| <b>Irving, David, Sergeant, U. S. M. C., Philadelphia</b>   | 183   |
| <b>Isardi, Consul. See Yznardi, Joseph.</b>   |   |
| <b>Italinsky, de. See de Italinsky</b>  |   |
| <b>Italy, sailors of, impressed by France</b>   | 453   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Izard, Ralph, Jr.,</b> Mid. acting as Lt., U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , <i>Intrepid</i> ,<br><i>Scourge</i> : | Page   |
| Accompanied Commo. Preble ashore at Tangier.....   | 126, 127   |
| Correspondence with Izard, Mrs. Ralph, Sr.....   | 126, 127, 381, 382, 416, 417                         |
| Joined <i>Intrepid</i> to burn <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 381  |
| On expedition to Tripoli.....  | 448  |
| Permitted to see Capt. Bainbridge in presence of strong guard, Tripoli.....  | 539  |
| References to.....   | 6, 15, 17, 18, 169, 423, 443, 537, 545, 546          |
| Report of burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 416, 417   |
| Transferred to <i>Scourge</i> .....  | 323  |
| Went aboard <i>Vixen</i> .....   | 323  |
| Went ashore at Tripoli with 8 men and coxswain, with dispatches.....   | 539  |
| <b>Izard, Ralph, Sr.,</b> Mrs., correspondence with Izard, Ralph, Jr., Midship-<br>man.....                        | 126, 127, 381, 382, 416, 417                         |
| <b>Jack, Brig,</b> Capt. Haskell or Hashill.....   | 18, 80   |
| <b>Jackson and Sheffield,</b> accounts of, for building U. S. S. <i>Adams</i> , unsettled.....                     | 381  |
| <b>Jackson, Robert,</b> seaman, No. 242, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187  |
| <b>Jackson, Samuel,</b> seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424  |
| <b>Jackson, Thomas,</b> seaman, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....   | 105  |
| <b>James, John,</b> Boy, No. 77, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185  |
| <b>James, Noble,</b> private, U. S. M. C., burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                              | 424  |
| <b>James Reuben,</b> seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424  |
| <b>James, Thomas,</b> seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424  |
| <b>James, William,</b> <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 183  |
| <b>Jarvis, John.</b> See Jarvis, William, U. S. Consul, Lisbon.  |  |
| <b>Jarvis, William,</b> U. S. Consul, Lisbon:  |  |
| Circular from Tobias Lear to.....  | 99-100   |
| Circular letter to Consuls at Gibraltar.....   | 46   |
| Correspondence with—   |  |
| Foreign Consuls, Lisbon.....   | 308  |
| Gavino, John.....  | 459  |
| Lear, Tobias.....  | 494-495  |
| Montgomery, Robert.....  | 41   |
| Simpson, James.....  | 130  |
| References to.....   | 73, 130, 146, 308                                    |
| Reference to impressments.....   | 472  |
| <b>Jason,</b> ship.....  | 173  |
| <b>Javit, George,</b> seaman, No. 258, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187  |
| <b>Jefferson, Thomas.</b> See President of the United States.  |  |
| <b>Jenckes, William C.,</b> Lt.....  | 75, 96   |
| <b>Jenks, Lieut.</b> See Jenckes, William C., Lieut.   |  |
| <b>Jennings, John,</b> seaman, No. 105, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185  |
| <b>Jerba,</b> cargo of <i>St. Crucifisso</i> intended for.....   | 412  |
| <b>John, Am.</b> Schooner, from Marblehead, brought to, by the <i>Argus</i> .....                                  | 298  |
| <b>John Adams,</b> U. S. S., Capts. John Rodgers, Hugh G. Campbell and Lt.<br>Isaac Chauncey:                      |  |
| Alicante, Spain, arrival and departure.....  | 22, 26   |
| Barcelona, departure from.....   | 11, 23   |
| Campbell, Hugh, Capt., takes command of.....   | 109  |
| Chauncey, Isaac, Lt., ordered to command of.....   | 482, 546   |
| Convoy duty.....   | 1-3, 11, 18, 21, 22, 26, 28, 82                      |
| Crew ordered paid off without delay.....   | 253  |
| Extracts from journal of.....  | 1-3, 11, 18, 21, 22, 26, 28, 30, 42, 43              |
| Frigate of 22 Guns blown up in Bay of Tripoli by.....  | 41   |
| Gibraltar—   |  |
| Arrived at, en route to United States.....   | 45   |
| Arrived at, with prize <i>Meshouda</i> .....   | 67, 82   |
| At Gibraltar.....  | 42, 43, 56, 77, 96, 97, 132, 138, 139, 146, 151, 154 |
| Left Gibraltar.....  | 83, 85, 104, 146                                     |
| Left for the United States.....  | 154, 160   |
| Gunner from, transferred to <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 154, 162   |
| Guns.....  | 197, 214, 227  |
| Invalids and others sent to U. S. in.....  | 143, 154, 162  |
| Journal in French, translated by Office of Naval Intelligence.....   | 43   |
| <i>Maimona</i> , Moroccan ship, unsuccessful search for.....   | 73, 79, 93, 94, 146                                  |
| Malaga, arrived at.....  | 26   |

| John Adams—Continued.   | Page                      |
|---|---------------------------|
| Men requested by Capt. Bainbridge of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 51                        |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , Tripolitan ship, captured by. See <i>Meshouda</i> .                                   |                           |
| <i>New York</i> , U. S. S. to relieve.....  | 79                        |
| Off Tripoli.....  | 13                        |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron..... 12-14, 131, 197, 214, 482  |                           |
| Preparing to return to United States..... 142, 197, 214   |                           |
| Presents from Emperor of Morocco shared by.....   | 120                       |
| References to.....  | vii,                      |
| 15, 18, 46, 47, 77, 84, 89, 99, 107, 124, 127, 131, 140, 356, 439, 450, 509                             |                           |
| Reference to <i>New York's</i> prize in error, should be <i>John Adam's</i><br>( <i>Meshouda</i> )..... | 53                        |
| Relief crews for <i>Enterprise</i> and <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 356                       |
| Returned to U. S., Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....   | 263                       |
| Rodgers John, Capt. and Commo.—   |                           |
| Hoisted broad pennant.....  | 53, 57                    |
| Hoisted his pennant on <i>New York</i> .....  | 109                       |
| Tangier, Morocco—   |                           |
| Anchored in Tangier Bay.....  | 14,                       |
| 83, 108, 109-112, 114, 120, 127, 130, 131, 147, 155, 163, 164   |                           |
| Arrived with U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 51, 53, 54, 57, 60, 61    |
| Departed from.....  | 57, 61, 84, 132, 141, 151 |
| Departed to cruise off Larach, Salee, and Mogador.....  | 57, 84, 88                |
| Peace negotiations.....   | 79                        |
| Preble, Edw., Capt., notifies Rodgers, John, Capt., he may<br>leave station.....                        | 129                       |
| Salutes.....  | 108, 109, 147             |
| Simpson, James, U. S. Consul, Tangier, visits.....  | 120                       |
| To prepare for sea.....   | 509, 546                  |
| Transport ship armed en flute.....  | 356                       |
| Johnson, Daniel, ordinary seaman, No. 239, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                    | 187                       |
| Johnson, Hendrick, seaman, deserted from <i>Constitution</i> .....                                      | 510                       |
| Johnson, Henry, quarter-gunner, No. 49, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                       | 184                       |
| Johnson, James, ordinary seaman, No. 240, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                     | 187                       |
| Johnson, John, First Lieut., U. S. M. C. ( <i>Argus</i> ).....  | 357                       |
| Johnson, John, seaman, No. 122, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185                       |
| Johnson, Samuel, boy, No. 76, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184                       |
| Johnson, William, seaman, No. 83, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 131, 185                  |
| Jones, Andrew, seaman, No. 212, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187                       |
| Jones, David, ordinary seaman, No. 156, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                       | 186                       |
| Jones, Jacob, Lieut., U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> and prisoner of Tripoli:                             |                           |
| Correspondence with Decatur, Susan.....   | 426                       |
| References to..... 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191  |                           |
| Jones, John G., quarter-gunner, No. 117, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                      | 185                       |
| Jones, Richard B., Midn., U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... 15, 169, 170, 183, 184                     |                           |
| Jones, Thomas, seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , punishment of 36 lashes.....                               | 225                       |
| Jones, Walter F., Notary Public, Norfolk, Va.....   | 420-421                   |
| Jones, William, seaman, No. 195, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186                       |
| Joseph, John, ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 424                       |
| Journal of Surgeon Jonathan Cowdery, U. S. N.....   | 529-532                   |
| Journals, Extracts from. See name of ship.  |                           |
| Jourvass, Lewis, Pilot, went on board <i>Siren</i> from <i>Constitution</i> .....                       | 388                       |
| Joyes, Patrick, & Sons, Bankers.....  | 520                       |
| Junis Ben Junis. See Hadgi Unis Ben Unis.   |                           |
| Junor, John, Boy, No. 39, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184                       |
| Kaiser, Adam. See Kayer, Adam.  |                           |
| Kantzou, Swedish Consul, Lisbon.....  | 308                       |
| Karamanli. See Caramanli.   |                           |
| Karr, Archibald, Capt. of Am. ship <i>Baltimore</i> .....   | 515                       |
| Kayer (or Kaiser) Adam, Carpenter's mate, No. 69, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                             | 184                       |
| Kean, Philip, master of Am. brig <i>Ann &amp; Mary</i> .....  | 78                        |
| Kearney, F., publisher of engraving showing burning of U. S. S. <i>Phila-</i><br><i>delphia</i> .....   | v, 288                    |
| Keen, William Jonas, <i>Philadelphia</i> , Pa.....  | 27, 28, 90                |
| Keets, Capt., H. B. M. S. <i>Superb</i> , interview with Dey of Algiers.....                            | 404                       |
| Kellen, Edward, Master's mate, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 424                       |
| Kelly, William, Seaman.....   | 363                       |

|   | Page   |
|---|--|
| Kelso, James, Steward's Mate, <i>Siren</i> , testimony of.....  | 364, 365   |
| Kennedy, Edmund P., Gunner's Mate, <i>Siren</i> , affidavit.....  | 420, 421   |
| Kennedy, Hugh, seaman, No. 47, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184  |
| Kenny, Robert, seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , sent to hospital at Malta.....                                   | 488  |
| Kent, Duke of, former Governor of Gibraltar.....  | 344, 345   |
| Kimble, Nath., Capt., Am. Ship <i>Trent</i> .....   | 93   |
| King, John, ordinary seaman, No. 222, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187  |
| Kinsman, Nathaniel, Master of Am. ship <i>Trent</i> .....   | 137  |
| Kirkpatrick, William, U. S. Consul, Malaga:   |  |
| Circular from Tobias Lear to.....   | 99-100   |
| Correspondence with—  |  |
| Hull, Isaac, Lieut.....   | 348  |
| Preble, Edward, Commadore.....  | 59, 67, 230, 231                                     |
| Reference to.....   | 3, 28, 434, 520                                      |
| Kittyham, George W., ordinary seaman, No. 234, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                      | 187  |
| Knight, William, Sailing Master, U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> :   |  |
| Correspondence with Bristoll, Thomas L.....   | 179-180  |
| References to.....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 184, 189, 191, 192, 529           |
| Knouse, J., Georgetown ( <i>see also</i> Krouse & Co.).....   | 397  |
| Knox, Dudley, W., Captain, U. S. N. (Retired), documents printed under supervision of.....                    | i, iv  |
| Knox, Frank, Secretary of Navy.....   | i  |
| Konig, de, Charles G. <i>See</i> de Konig.  |  |
| Krafft, de, F. Cornelius. <i>See</i> de Krafft.   |  |
| Krouse & Co., I., Georgetown ( <i>see also</i> Knouse).....   | 258  |
| Kurgen, Jacob, ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                    | 424  |
| Kysley, John, ordinary seaman, No. 71, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184  |
| Lampedusa Island, consideration of, as rendezvous.....  | 250, 299   |
| Langdon, Woodbury, Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N. H.....   | 303  |
| Larach:   |  |
| <i>Maimona</i> , Moroccan ship arrived from Lisbon.....   | 163, 164, 200  |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , reference to.....  | 44   |
| Ships laid up at.....   | 360  |
| Larrinders, John, seaman, No. 273, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 187  |
| La Vergine del Carmine, Maltese Vessel, Capt. Pietro Gamen, pass requested for, by Major General Villets..... | 238, 332, 333, 387                                   |
| Lawrence, James, Lt., Gunboat No. 5 and <i>Enterprise</i> .....   | 13, 15, 251, 341, 423, 443                           |
| Laws, Alexander, Midn. <i>Constitution</i> , references to.....   | 7, 15, 169, 423, 443, 448                            |
| Lawson, Capt. Am. schooner <i>Citizen</i> ( <i>see also</i> Morocco).....                                     | 129, 221   |
| Leach, John, Master of Am. ship <i>Hibernia</i> .....   | 137  |
| Lear, Tobias, U. S. Consul General, Algiers:  |  |
| Algiers—  |  |
| Against U. S. interests to leave.....   | 516  |
| Annuities, presents, stores and tribute to. <i>See</i> Algiers.   |  |
| Arrival at, delayed by U. S. affairs in Morocco.....  | 98, 99   |
| Exercising functions as Consul General.....   | 263  |
| Favorably received at.....  | 233, 234, 246, 275, 435                              |
| No communication with, since arrival at Gibraltar.....  | 88   |
| Ordered to palace by Dey of.....  | 250  |
| Saluted on arrival at.....  | 232, 233, 234, 246                                   |
| Seal of U. S. Consulate received from James L. Cathcart.....  | 91   |
| To pay respects to Monsieur Dubois Thainville.....  | 249  |
| Took passage from Gibraltar and arrived at Algiers in <i>Constitution</i> .....                               | 80, 154, 155, 209, 214, 221, 222, 231, 232, 241, 263 |
| U. S. debt of \$15,075 to Algerine Jews to be paid.....   | 248  |
| Welcomed and accompanied ashore by O'Brien, Richard.....  | 246  |
| Went on board <i>Siren</i> at.....  | 286  |
| Appointed U. S. Consul General, Algiers.....  | 98   |
| Certificate given to Capt. John Cornick by.....   | 249  |
| Circular to U. S. Consuls.....  | 99-100   |
| <i>Constitution</i> , U. S. S.—   |  |
| Conversation with Moors on board.....   | 85   |
| Not on board of.....  | 76, 77   |
| On board of ( <i>see also</i> Algiers).....   | 52-54,   |
|   | 57, 86, 112, 128, 138, 146, 147-153                  |

## Lear, Tobias—Continued.

Page

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Correspondence with—  |   |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.  | 176-178,  |
|   | 274-275, 329-330, 403-405, 520-521                                    |
| Davis, George   | 263-266, 271-272, 276-278, 369-370, 483, 521                          |
| Degen, Purviance & Co.  | 524   |
| Gavino, John  | 435   |
| Jarvis, William   | 494-495   |
| Montgomery, Robert  | 434   |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt.   | 90  |
| Navy, Secretary of  | 78-80   |
| O'Brien, Richard  | 98-99   |
| Pinckney, Charles   | 348-349   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.   | 23,   |
|   | 24, 59, 60, 94, 101, 132, 133, 139, 217-218, 221, 224, 285-286,       |
|   | 340, 377-379, 439, 442, 516-518.                                      |
| State, Secretary of   | 80-89, 146-153, 245-249, 291-294                                      |
| Thainville, Dubois  | 249   |
| Trigge, Sir Thomas  | 250-251   |
| Yznardi, Josef  | 297-298   |
| Duties of   | 99  |
| Gibraltar—  |   |
| Arrived in U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> from United States                        | 80  |
| Left <i>Constitution</i> for quarters on shore with his family                    | 54, 82, 138   |
| Returns to <i>Constitution</i> from quarters on shore with family                 | 83, 104, 162  |
| To remain at  | 59, 70, 77, 78, 93, 99, 146   |
| Went on board <i>Philadelphia</i> at  | 82  |
| Money transactions  | 272, 274, 277, 278  |
| Morris, Andrew, Capt. Am. brig <i>Franklin</i> , ransom of \$6,800 paid by        | 248   |
| Passport of <i>Maimona</i> examined by and signature of Consul Simpson identified | 23, 24, 56, 81  |
| Passport tops for issue to Consuls  | 264   |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , news of burning of, reaches Algiers                         | 265, 266, 435, 494  |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , officers and crew, prisoners—                               |   |
| Cathcart, James L., efforts to aid resented by Consul Lear                        | 404   |
| Measures taken for relief of  | 274, 275, 277, 403, 405   |
| Sent in <i>Two Friends</i> \$2,000 in aid of                                      | 369   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., highly praised by  | 80, 88, 152   |
| References to   | 14,   |
|   | 53, 54, 76, 85, 98, 101, 123, 124, 126, 128, 132, 139, 142, 173, 198, |
|   | 249, 254, 256, 258, 261, 267, 272, 283, 310, 340, 347, 350, 359,      |
|   | 380, 387, 390, 410, 437, 452, 483.                                    |
| Relations of, respecting U. S. Consuls, Tunis and Tripoli                         | 263   |
| Requests permission to keep Henley, Robert at Algiers                             | 221   |
| Rodgers, John, Commo., expressions of praise for                                  | 79, 152   |
| Tangier, Morocco—   |   |
| Accompanied Commo. Preble to  | 99, 104, 105  |
| Audience with Emperor of Morocco  | 140-141, 148-150  |
| Conference with Prime Minister of Emperor of Morocco                              | 126, 127  |
| Not authorized to interfere in Moroccan affairs                                   | 83  |
| Peace negotiations  | 52-54, 57, 146-153  |
| Trigge, Sir Thomas, visited by  | 82, 83  |
| Tripoli—  |   |
| Consular present of \$10,000 authorized   | 499   |
| Notified of Blockade of   | 247   |
| Peace and Ransom Negotiations—  |   |
| Approves proposals of Bashaw's Agent at Malta                                     | 517   |
| Delayed for favorable season  | 218   |
| Empowered by President of U. S. to negotiate peace and ransom                     | 218, 336-337, 499   |
| Empowered Richard O'Brien to negotiate peace treaty with                          | 501   |
| Peace, cost of estimated \$100,000  | 292   |
| Peace, presents estimated \$43,000  | 292   |
| Ransom of prisoners taken in <i>Philadelphia</i>                                  | 292, 517  |
| Preble, Commodore, seeks advice of Consul Lear                                    | 385, 442  |
| Reference to U. S. affairs in   | 248   |



**Lear, Tobias—Continued.**

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Tunis—   | Page                                 |
| Davis, George, U. S. Consul, money transactions..                              | 264, 271, 277, 278, 310              |
| Plan of, to visit.....   | 525                                  |
| Reference to U. S. affairs in.....   | 248                                  |
| To proceed to, before negotiating with Tripoli.....                            | 218                                  |
| Valuation of <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 141, 280                             |
| Lear, Tobias, Mrs., references to.....   | 80, 82, 83, 94, 99,                  |
| 178, 224, 251, 275, 286, 330, 340, 369, 379, 405, 435, 442, 518, 521           |                                      |
| Leave of absence, regulations governing.....                                   | 37                                   |
| Leckie, Gould Francis.....   | 181                                  |
| Lee, Jeremiah.....   | 137                                  |
| Lee, Peter, seaman, No. 188, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                         | 186                                  |
| Leeman, Mary C., Mias, acknowledgment to.....                                  | iv                                   |
| Leghorn, Italy:  |                                      |
| Barnes, J. See Barnes, Joseph.   |                                      |
| Building and fitting out of gunboats at.....                                   | 435, 436, 437, 458                   |
| Cathcart, James L., arrived at, in U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .....               | 217, 228                             |
| Cathcart, James L., has consular present for Dey of Algiers.....               | 93,                                  |
| 139, 153, 155, 287   |                                      |
| Embargo placed by France on all vessels at.....                                | 453                                  |
| Quarantine at.....   | 235, 237                             |
| Refusal by Jew at, to sell arms to U. S. for fear of reprisals of Tripoli..... | 436                                  |
| <i>Siren</i> conveyed consular present to Algiers from.....                    | 338                                  |
| Spence, Robert T., Mid., left at, because his mind was deranged.....           | 307                                  |
| U. S. Consul, Appleton, Thomas.....  | 499                                  |
| Leith, William, ship's cook, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                         | 183                                  |
| Lemon and lime juice used as invisible ink.....                                | 526, 527                             |
| Leonard, James T., Midshipman (Acting as Lieutenant).....                      | 321-322, 396                         |
| Leonard, P., Capt.'s Clerk, <i>Constitution</i> , appointed chaplain.....      | 251, 258                             |
| Livingston, Mr. See Livingston, Robert R.                                      |                                      |
| Lewis, Mr., Pilot of <i>New York</i> , joined <i>Constitution</i> .....        | 154                                  |
| Lewis, Frederick, American, put on board <i>Citizen</i> at Gibraltar.....      | 515                                  |
| Lewis, Frederick, ordinary seaman, No. 282, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....          | 183, 188                             |
| Lewis, George, Boy, No. 170, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                         | 186                                  |
| Lewis, William, Midshipman, <i>Constitution</i> .....                          | 295, 326, 364, 366, 377, 493         |
| Library of Congress:   |                                      |
| Copies of these documents may be furnished to.....                             | iv                                   |
| Map published through courtesy of.....   | Facing page                          |
| Liddy, Robert (seaman), punished for negligence.....                           | 105                                  |
| Lidley, Thomas, ordinary seaman, No. 248, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....            | 187                                  |
| Lieb, Michael, Hon., U. S. Congressman.....                                    | 197-198                              |
| Lieutenant Commandant, not a commissioned rank.....                            | 66, 398                              |
| Lieutenant of Marines, duties of.....  | 38, 39                               |
| Lights, rules and regulations governing.....                                   | 34, 101                              |
| Lisbon, Portugal.....  | 46, 93, 94, 96, 215, 472             |
| Lisle, Peter, renegade Scotchman, Murad Reis.....                              | 62, 301, 531                         |
| Lists of:  |                                      |
| American merchant ships and masters.....                                       | 78, 123, 137                         |
| American vessels convoyed by U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .....                     | 137                                  |
| Enlisted men, U. S. Navy and Marine Corps.....                                 | 183, 184-185                         |
| Officers, U. S. Navy.....  | 6, 7, 15, 18, 169, 170, 183, 184-185 |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. S., officers and crew of.....                      | 183-188                              |
| Livingston, Robert R., U. S. Minister to Paris, France:                        |                                      |
| Correspondence with—   |                                      |
| Appleton, Thomas.....  | 111, 494                             |
| Cathalan, Stephen, Jr.....   | 406                                  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 336-337, 498-499, 503-504            |
| Talleyrand-Périgord, Charles Maurice de.....                                   | 308, 309, 385, 336, 372              |
| Gun and Mortar boats, endeavor to obtain from France and Naples.....           | 406, 499                             |
| References to.....   | 332, 499, 501, 510                   |
| Requests intervention of First Consul in U. S. affairs in Tripoli.....         | 308, 332                             |
| Livingston, W. M., Lt., U. S. brig <i>Argus</i> .....                          | 210, 357, 466                        |
| Lockwood, David, seaman, No. 127, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                    | 185                                  |
| Log books, Extracts from. See name of ship.                                    |                                      |
| London, England, Monroe, James, U. S. Minister to.....                         | 461                                  |
| Loring and Curtis, owners of Am. schooner <i>Ossipee</i> .....                 | 137                                  |
| Loring, John, Capt., Comdg. H. B. M. S. <i>Bellerophon</i> .....               | 290                                  |

|   | Page   |
|---|--|
| Louberais, Ibrahim. <i>See</i> Lubarez, Ibrahim, Reis.  |  |
| Louisiana, references to  | 55, 297, 329, 459  |
| Louverais, Ibrahim (Mirboka). <i>See</i> Lubarez, Ibrahim, Reis.  |  |
| Love, Robert, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 424  |
| Lubarez, Ibrahim, Reis, comdg. Moroccan ship <i>Mirboka</i> :   |  |
| Authority to capture American ships   | 44, 45, 92   |
| Captured by <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 30   |
| Conduct to be investigated by Emperor of Morocco  | 25, 26, 27   |
| Description of  | 85   |
| Formerly Ambassador from Emperor of Morocco to Madrid   | 85   |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , restored to  | 124  |
| Ordered by Emperor of Morocco to Tangier  | 44   |
| Praised by Emperor of Morocco   | 86   |
| References to   | 2, 8-11, 19, 26, 31, 42, 52, 56, 58, 74, 75, 77, 81, 94, 107 |
| Treatment of, since capture by <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 86   |
| Ludlow, Charles, Lt., recruiting instructions to  | 509  |
| Ludlow, Daniel, Navy Agent, New York, N. Y.   | 241, 242, 303, 509   |
| Luna, Sidi Mohamet ben, Tripoli   | 267  |
| Lundy, Dumis, ordinary seamen, No. 229, <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 187  |
| Lunenburg, Henry F., Mr., acknowledgment to   | iv   |
| Lure, Mr.   | 342  |
| Lynch, William, of Philadelphia, Pa.  | 49   |
| Lyne, Richard, seaman, No. 267, <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 187  |
| Mabockah. <i>See</i> <i>Mirboka</i> .   |  |
| Mabokah. <i>See</i> <i>Mirboka</i> .  |  |
| Mac Crindle, Loretta I., Miss, acknowledgment to  | iv   |
| Mac Donnell, Catherine M., Miss, acknowledgment to  | iv   |
| Macdonough, Thomas, Mid., U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> , <i>Mirboka</i> , <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Enterprise</i> : |  |
| Left at Gibraltar with prize <i>Mirboka</i>   | 258  |
| On board prize <i>Mirboka</i>   | 133, 134   |
| Participated in burning Tripolitan prize <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 15, 423, 443   |
| Received on board <i>Constitution</i> from <i>Mirboka</i> , sent on board <i>Enterprise</i>                           | 258, 274   |
| MacGinnis, Charles, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 188  |
| Mackenzie & A. Glennie, London, England, references to  | 50, 64-66, 481, 482  |
| Madden, Edward, Marine, U. S. S. <i>Argus</i> and <i>Constitution</i>   | 220, 225   |
| Maddison, Mr. <i>See</i> Madison, James.  |  |
| Madison, James, Secretary of State. <i>See</i> State, Secretary of.   |  |
| Madona Catapoliana, prize to U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> :  |  |
| Arrived in Tripoli via Jerba and Smyrna in Dec. 1803  | 347, 511   |
| Carried military and naval stores and troops for Bashaw of Tripoli, from Smyrna                                       | 513, 528   |
| Ordered to be released  | 522  |
| References to   | 512, 513, 528  |
| Schembri, Gaetano Andrea, proprietor and freighter of, and Tripolitan Consul at Malta                                 | 511, 513, 516  |
| <i>Siren</i> captured her, under Russian colors with cargo of bullocks, sheep, horses, en route from Tripoli to Malta | 323, 471, 477, 479, 480, 511, 513, 514, 516, 528             |
| Madras, H. B. M. S., Capt. C. M. Schomberg, R. N., references to  | 100, 104, 256  |
| Madrid, Spain   | 215, 228, 540  |
| Magdalena, English schooner, tender to ship <i>Madras</i>   | 256  |
| Magrath, Humphrey, Sailing master   | 28   |
| Maldstone, H. B. M. S., Capt. Elliot  | 210, 352   |
| Maimona, Moroccan ship from Salee, Capt. Hodge Tacher (Aumed):  |  |
| Arrived at Larach from Lisbon   | 164, 200   |
| Complement  | 23, 24, 31, 56, 64, 80                                       |
| Condition of  | 23   |
| <i>Constitution</i> boarded and released because of passport given by James Simpson                                   | 23, 24, 31, 56, 64, 80, 81, 93, 94, 107, 112, 149            |
| Description of  | 46, 64   |
| Detained at Lisbon until restoration of peace   | 59, 96, 146  |
| Guns  | 23, 24, 31, 46, 56, 64, 80, 96, 107                          |
| Mast sprung, at Lisbon to repair  | 46   |
| Moorish Admiral, referred to as   | 112  |
| Passport examined by Tobias Lear, and found to be issued by James Simpson   | 23, 24, 81, 93   |

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Maimona</b> —Continued.  | Page                         |
| References to.....  | 51, 53, 88, 93, 94, 107, 112 |
| Searched for by <i>John Adams</i> .....   | 93, 94, 146                  |
| See <i>U. S. S. Constitution</i> .  |                              |
| <i>Siren</i> , U. S. brig ordered to search for and take her into Gibraltar....             | 64                           |
| <b>Maine Historical Society</b> , engraving reproduced through courtesy of... v,            | 414                          |
| <b>Maine Historical Society</b> , records published by courtesy of..... vii,                | 164, 383                     |
| <b>Malaga, Spain:</b>   |                              |
| Kirkpatrick, William, U. S. Consul.....   | 59                           |
| Merchant Ships to be convoyed, reference to.....  | 69, 70                       |
| Yellow Fever epidemic.....  | 151,                         |
| 159-161, 166, 223, 230, 231, 237, 238, 262, 267, 314,                                       | 401                          |
| <b>Malamorta</b> , Capt., Officer in service of Emperor of Morocco.....                     | 120                          |
| <b>Malcome</b> , Capt., H. B. M. S. <i>Royal Sovereign</i> .....                            | 452                          |
| <b>Malgrate</b> , Portuguese ship of war.....   | 54                           |
| <b>Malta:</b>   |                              |
| Assistance given and courtesies shown U. S. ships of war.....                               | 100                          |
| Busuttill, Salvatore, agent for Hamet Caramanli.....  | 352                          |
| Condition of, healthy.....  | 417                          |
| Considered as possible base for U. S. Store ships.....                                      | 143                          |
| Description of.....   | 382                          |
| Governor of. See Ball, Sir Alexander John.  |                              |
| Higgins, William, appointed U. S. Navy Agent at.....  | 339, 351, 353, 467           |
| Maltese vessel, pilot and 25 men join U. S. Squadron.....                                   | 380, 407, 440                |
| Map of Valetta harbor..... Facing page  | 236                          |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. S.:   |                              |
| Departed from, for Tripoli.....   | 159, 192                     |
| Ordered to.....   | 50                           |
| U. S. stores left by, taken to Syracuse in <i>Vixen</i> .....                               | 237, 326                     |
| Pilot suggested to Commo. Preble by Richard Farquhar.....                                   | 380                          |
| Schembri, Gaetano Andrea, Tripolitan Consul:  |                              |
| Sent two ships to Bashaw of Tripoli.....  | 92                           |
| To negotiate sale of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 236                          |
| Unofficial representation of U. S. in negotiations with Tripoli.....                        | 511, 517                     |
| <i>Siren</i> , U. S. brig, ordered to cruise off.....                                       | 64                           |
| Three Tunisian Ships of War, of 32, 24, and 18 guns, arrived at.....                        | 479, 486                     |
| Two vessels of, to sail for Tripoli and thence to Malta with special<br>U. S. passport..... | 387                          |
| Vessel of, captured at Derne.....   | 61                           |
| Wilkie, Mr., Commissary for British Fleet at.....   | 512, 514                     |
| <i>William and Mary</i> , arrived at.....   | 400, 407                     |
| <b>Mamelukes Beys of Egypt</b> .....  | 390                          |
| <b>Mamo</b> , Baldassare, Notary Public.....  | 412                          |
| <b>Manleaf</b> , Benjamin, ordinary seaman, No. 31, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....               | 184                          |
| <b>Manna</b> , Jewish Interpreter.....  | 85                           |
| <b>Mansfield</b> , Caleb, ordinary seaman, No. 116, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....               | 185                          |
| <b>Mansfield</b> , Duncan, corporal U. S. M. C., burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | 424                          |
| <b>Maps of:</b>   |                              |
| Mediterranean Region..... Facing page   | 548                          |
| Port of Tripoli..... Facing page  | 174                          |
| Tangier Bay..... Facing page  | 52                           |
| Valetta harbor, Malta..... Facing page  | 236                          |
| <b>Marboha or Marboka</b> . See <i>Mirboka</i> .  |                              |
| <b>Marcellin</b> , George, Mid. (acting as Lt.).....  | 18, 252, 256, 258, 448       |
| <b>Marine Corps, U. S.:</b>   |                              |
| At New Orleans under orders of U. S. Army.....  | 350, 508                     |
| At Washington Navy Yard.....  | 393-395, 533                 |
| Commanding officer, pay and emoluments of.....  | 197                          |
| Duties of Lieut. of.....  | 38, 39                       |
| Motion to abolish Office of Lieut. Col. Commandant, rejection of....                        | 534                          |
| Pay of.....   | 396                          |
| Personnel, authorized, in Mediterranean service, on shore duty and<br>to be discharged..... | 197                          |
| Recruits, height of.....  | 454                          |
| References to.....  | 36, 37,                      |
| 40, 41, 127, 170, 183, 220, 225, 254, 276, 408, 424, 480, 488, 529,                         | 533                          |
| Wharton, Franklin, nominated Lieut. Col. Commandant.....                                    | 534                          |

|   | Page   |
|---|--|
| Marlett, Joseph, seaman, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....                                     | 105  |
| Marseilles, France, references to.....  | 215, 216, 458  |
| Marshall, S. R., Surgeon, U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .....                                   | 1, 157, 324, 326, 365, 366   |
| Marshall, Thomas, Surgeon, <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Scourge</i> .....                   | 18, 323  |
| Marsters, Andrew, Master, Am. ship <i>American Hero</i> .....                             | 331  |
| Mary, Am. brig, Capt. Alexander Wood.....   | 78   |
| Mary, Am. brig.....   | 168  |
| Mary, Am. schooner, Capt. Sinclair.....   | 313, 314   |
| Mashouda. See <i>Meshouda</i> .   |  |
| Mason, Mrs., niece of Captain Alexander Murray.....                                       | 271  |
| Mason, Benjamin, Master of Am. brig <i>Concord</i> .....                                  | 78, 96   |
| Massells, Andrew, seaman, No. 214, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                              | 187  |
| Massuad. See <i>Meshouda</i> .  |  |
| Master, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , duties of.....                                     | 39, 40   |
| Mastico, Tripolitan ketch under Turkish Colors, Mustapha Reis of Candia:                  |  |
| Account of prisoners' possessions, ordered taken.....                                     | 377  |
| Bainbridge, William, comments regarding.....  | 410  |
| Captured by <i>Constitution</i> in company with <i>Enterprise</i> .....                   | iii, 288, 289, 294, 295, 302, 310, 311, 313, 322, 323, 333, 334, 337, 340, 341, 348, 371, 374, 377-379, 381, 382, 384, 386, 416, 418, 453, 459, 470, 490 |
| Depositions of Turkish officers and others on board <i>Mastico</i> .....                  | 490, 493   |
| Description of.....   | 294, 295   |
| Guns.....   | 294, 295   |
| Hafis, Turkish officer on board, chiaus or chouix of Captain Pacha—                       |  |
| Believed to have been passenger in <i>George Washington</i> .....                         | 410  |
| Taken prisoner and released.....  | 337, 469, 470, 481, 485, 490   |
| Hauled down Turkish Colors and hoisted Tripolitan.....                                    | 181, 470   |
| Lewis (William), Mid. sent on board.....  | 295  |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. frigate and Tripolitan prize—                                 |  |
| Burning of. See <i>Philadelphia</i> .   |  |
| Participated in attack against, boarded, captured and plundered officers and crew of..... | 180, 181, 294, 334, 371, 377-378, 379, 384, 386, 433, 470, 480, 481, 490   |
| Took prisoners from, to Bashaw of Tripoli.....  | 181  |
| Prisoners taken in—   |  |
| Confined in Castle at Syracuse.....   | 462  |
| Crew and passengers of, taken on board <i>Constitution</i> .....                          | 295, 322, 371  |
| Greeks entered U. S. Service as ordinary Seamen.....                                      | 374  |
| Negroes intended as presents to Sultan of Turkey from Bashaw of Tripoli.....              | 294, 295, 311, 334, 337, 340, 341, 378, 379, 381, 382  |
| Negroes landed at Syracuse in care of George Dyson, Navy Agent, Syracuse.....             | 374  |
| Persons and their nationalities on board when captured.....                               | 310, 470   |
| Tripolitans, 2 officers, 10 soldiers, 42 negro men, women, and children.....              | 289, 294, 295, 310, 337, 340, 341, 470   |
| Tripolitans, exchange of, for prisoners taken in <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                | 302, 310, 322, 334, 337, 340, 341, 371, 377-379, 381, 382, 384-386, 499, 536.  |
| Turkish and Grecian.....  | 294, 295, 334, 337, 340, 341, 470  |
| Well treated.....   | 498  |
| White prisoners taken in, on board <i>Constitution</i> .....                              | 371, 374, 462  |
| Reed, Hethcote J., Mid., sent on board as prize master, with prize crew.....              | 288, 289, 294, 295, 318  |
| References to.....  | 310, 469, 485  |
| Renamed <i>Intrepid</i> ; taken into U. S. Navy.....                                      | 288.   |
| 295, 340, 371, 376-379, 381, 384, 416, 418, 440, 444                                      |  |
| Syracuse—   |  |
| At Syracuse.....  | 340, 352, 380  |
| Convoys and towed to, by <i>Enterprise</i> and <i>Constitution</i> .....                  | 294, 295, 298, 302, 322  |
| Ordered to.....   | 289, 295   |
| Quarantined for 29 days.....  | 303, 319, 352, 371   |
| To be released, if proved to be a Turkish vessel.....                                     | 313, 334, 337, 341   |
| Translation of papers at Malta.....   | 294, 300, 337, 341, 350  |
| Value of, \$1,800.....  | 377, 384   |
| Matthiew, John S. M., U. S. Consul, Naples.....   | 476, 505, 506  |

|  | Page                         |
|--|------------------------------|
| Maverick, A., publisher, reference to engraving of burning of U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | v, 288                       |
| Maxwell, Joseph, Mid., U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .....   | 324, 326, 362-366, 503       |
| Mayer and Brantz:  |                              |
| Correspondence with—   |                              |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 198, 203                     |
| State, Secretary of.....   | 166, 167                     |
| McAlleen, Daniel, Marine, <i>Argus</i> , transferred to <i>Constitution</i> .....                | 220                          |
| McCanley, Corn(elius), ordinary seaman, No. 48, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                        | 184                          |
| McCartney, Hugh, ordinary seaman, No. 200, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                             | 186                          |
| McClaskey, Henry, ordinary seaman, No. 112, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                            | 185                          |
| McCord, Robert, ordinary seaman, No. 250, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                              | 187                          |
| McCormack, Hugh, seaman, punished for negligence.....  | 105                          |
| McCrahen, John.....  | 131                          |
| McCreery, Hon., U. S. Congress.....  | 211-212, 263, 271            |
| M'Donald, Mr. See McDonogh, Brian, British Consul, Tripoli.                                      |                              |
| McDonald, James, No. 115, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185                          |
| McDonald, James, 2nd, ordinary seaman, No. 228, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                        | 187                          |
| McDonald, John, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                  | 188                          |
| McDonald, John, 1st, seaman, No. 55, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                   | 184                          |
| McDonald, John, 2nd, seaman, No. 121, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                  | 185                          |
| McDonogh, Brian, British Consul, Tripoli:  |                              |
| Assistance to officers and crew of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                     | 353, 530                     |
| Correspondence with—   |                              |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 333, 334, 504, 505           |
| Somers, Richard, Lieut.....  | 538                          |
| Recommended by Richard O'Brien to Commo. Preble.....   | 280, 333                     |
| References to.....   | 335, 520                     |
| McDonough, Mr. See McDonogh, Brian or Macdonough, Thomas, Midshipman.                            |                              |
| McDonough, Thomas. See Macdonough, Thomas.   |                              |
| McElwain, Benjamin, Sh. Constr., No. 58, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 184                          |
| McGowan, William, landsman, No. 198, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                   | 186                          |
| McHugh, William, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                 | 188                          |
| McIntosh, George, correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....                                    | 255                          |
| McKee, William, ordinary seaman, No. 73, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 184                          |
| McKenzie & Glenni. See Mackenzie & Glennie, London, England.                                     |                              |
| McKinley, Charles.....   | 131                          |
| McKinlie, James, Marine, <i>Argus</i> , died.....  | 213                          |
| McKnight, James, Captain, U. S. M. C., killed in duel, reference to.....                         | 267                          |
| McKnight, Robert, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                             | 424                          |
| McKoy, William, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                  | 188                          |
| McLaughlin, James, ordinary seaman, No. 51, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                            | 184                          |
| McLaughlin, Jeremiah, seaman, No. 87, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                  | 185                          |
| McLaughlin, Nicholas, ordinary seaman, No. 134, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                        | 185                          |
| McLaughlin, William, ordinary seaman, No. 61, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                          | 184                          |
| McMullin, John, seaman, No. 153, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                       | 186                          |
| McPherson, Thomas, seaman, No. 107, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                    | 185                          |
| Meals on board <i>Constitution</i> , U. S. S., time for.....                                     | 32                           |
| Mediterranean passes and passports. See Passports.   |                              |
| Mediterranean Fund, The.....   | 523                          |
| "Mediterranean Pilot." See "The Mediterranean Pilot."  |                              |
| Mediterranean Region, map of.....  | Facing page 548              |
| Mediterranean Squadron. See Vessels, United States.  |                              |
| Medusa, H. B. M. S., Gore, John, Capt., R. N.:   |                              |
| Coxe, John, deserter, claims protection on board.....  | 112, 113                     |
| Deserters from prize <i>Mirboka</i> received on board of....                                     | 121, 133, 134, 142-144       |
| Deserters from U. S. Mediterranean Squadron, on board of.....                                    | 155-158                      |
| .....  | 160, 161                     |
| Dunbeaven, Joseph, deserter, claims protection on board.....                                     | 112, 113                     |
| Pearce, James, deserter, claims protection on board.....   | 112, 113                     |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., protests against deserters being held on board of.....                    | 143, 144                     |
| References to.....   | 112, 113, 120, 160, 213, 391 |
| Refused demand of <i>Siren</i> to give up deserters.....   | 156, 158, 160                |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Mohammed Ben Abd e Salem Selawy.</b> See Morocco, Selawy, Sidi Mohamet.                          |   |
| <b>Mellin, John</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 133, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                           | Page 185  |
| <b>Memorandum Book of Captain Edward Preble.</b> See name of ship.                                  |   |
| <b>Merbocka or Merboha.</b> See <i>Mirboka</i> .  |   |
| <b>Mercury</b> , Am. Ship, spoken by <i>Argus</i> .....   | 465   |
| <b>Merry, Anthony</b> , British Minister to United States.....                                      | 290-291   |
| <b>Mersuda.</b> See <i>Meshouda</i> .   |   |
| <b>Mesboha.</b> See <i>Mirboka</i> .  |   |
| <b>Meshouda</b> , Tripolitan ship claimed by Morocco, Reis Omar:                                    |   |
| Arrived at Alicante.....  | 41  |
| Captured by U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> , Capt. John Rodgers, 13 May 1803.....                       | 7-10, 30, 82, 95, 130, 144, 145, 146, 149                                       |
| Gibraltar—  |   |
| Arrived at, with <i>John Adams</i> , U. S. S. ....  | 45, 46, 56, 82  |
| Blockaded at (as Tripoline Admiral) by Commodores Dale and Morris.....                              | 23, 82, 145   |
| <i>Nautilus</i> to guard her at.....  | 74  |
| Prisoners from prize <i>Mirboka</i> turned over to <i>Meshouda</i> , from <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | 49, 105, 130  |
| Tripolitan Admiral ( <i>Meshouda</i> ) Peter Lisle, sold to Morocco.....                            | 111   |
| Used as prison ship, by U. S. Squadron.....   | 53, 105, 130  |
| Guns.....   | 41  |
| Guns, stores and cargo returned to owners.....  | 260   |
| Health of Captain and seamen of.....  | 93  |
| <i>John Adams</i> , left Barcelona in company with.....   | 23  |
| Morocco, Emperor of—  |   |
| Attitude concerning.....  | 116   |
| Capture of, pretext for war with.....   | 70  |
| Violation of Blockade of Tripoli, responsibility for.....   | 45  |
| Omar, Reis (or Arraiz) of Tetuan. See Omar, Reis.   |   |
| Passengers and prisoners—   |   |
| Losses claimed by.....  | 450, 461  |
| Moorish and Tripoline Captains of, arrived in Tangier Bay aboard <i>John Adams</i> .....            | 83  |
| Prisoners sent to U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> include 5 Moorish officers.....                      | 77, 130   |
| Treatment of.....   | 62, 218, 219, 223, 224, 260, 530, 531   |
| Tripolitan Captain and number of Tripolitans on board.....  | 82  |
| Two Algerine passengers on board when captured, went to Salee.....                                  | 153, 164  |
| Passports violated.....   | 92, 116   |
| Preble, Edward, Commo.—   |   |
| Considered her legitimate prize, not to be released.....  | 76, 95  |
| Went on board of.....   | 77  |
| Willing to restore her to Morocco.....  | 124   |
| Presence of, at Tangier, recommended.....   | 74  |
| Prize money to captors of.....  | 152, 299, 503   |
| References to.....  | 19, 21, 26, 29, 45, 46, 52, 53, 57, 62, 63, 67, 68, 94, 115, 119, 146, 199, 218 |
| Represented to Consuls as Moroccan vessel.....  | 92  |
| Restoration of, as terms of Peace with Morocco—   |   |
| Considerations determining.....   | 45, 76  |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt., opinion regarding.....   | 149   |
| Restored to Emperor and delivered to Reis Omar.....   | 116, 124, 140, 144, 145, 148-150, 155, 163, 164, 168, 199, 207, 208, 260, 265   |
| Rodgers, John, Capt, restoration of, assured by.....  | 119, 150  |
| Simpson, James, approval of necessary.....  | 207-208   |
| State, Secretary of, authorizes restoration.....  | 168   |
| See U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> .  |   |
| Sent to Salee and to Larach, and dismantled in compliance with peace terms.....                     | 145, 163, 164, 199, 202, 450  |
| Taken to Tangier Bay by <i>New York</i> and <i>John Adams</i> .....                                 | 155, 163, 164, 450  |
| Valuation of.....   | 144, 145  |
| <b>Mesouda.</b> See <i>Meshouda</i> .   |   |
| <b>Messina, Sicily</b> .....  | 437, 478, 547   |
| <b>Messuda.</b> See <i>Meshouda</i> .   |   |

|   | Page                                     |
|---|--|
| Metcalf, James, boatswain's mate, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                  | 424                                      |
| Metigui, Sidi Ahmed el, deputy of Governor of Morocco.....                                    | 60                                       |
| Meyer & Brantz. See Mayer & Brantz.   |  |
| Mezick, Baptiste, Master of Am. ship <i>Petapso</i> .....                                     | 137                                      |
| Miley, Joseph, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                | 188                                      |
| Miller, Mrs., reference to.....   | 63                                       |
| Mills, John, ordinary seaman, No. 186, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                              | 186                                      |
| Milk used as invisible ink.....   | 526, 527                                 |
| Milnor, William, alderman of <i>Philadelphia</i> , Pa.....                                    | 417, 420                                 |
| Minises, Antonio, ordinary seaman, No. 243, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                         | 187                                      |
| Ministers, U. S. and Foreign. See Consuls.  |  |
| Mirboka or Mirboha, Moroccan ship, Reis Ibrahim Lubarez:                                      |  |
| At Tangier.....   | 74, 77, 100, 101, 123, 132-134, 140, 150 |
| Captain and six officers of, arrived in Tangier Bay aboard <i>Constitution</i> .....          | 83                                       |
| Captured by <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 1-3, 8-11                                |
| 30, 41, 42, 56, 81, 106, 107, 126, 198, 207   |  |
| Capture of approved by President and Secretary of the Navy.....                               | 207, 439, 440                            |
| Capture of, influence on peace negotiations.....  | 53, 265                                  |
| <i>Celia</i> , Am. brig—  |  |
| Captured by.....  | 1-3, 8-10, 31, 93, 107, 126              |
| Recaptured by U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 81, 93, 198                              |
| Complement.....   | 2, 42, 56, 81, 93                        |
| <i>Constitution</i> received from, men belonging to <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                 | 130, 131, 154                            |
| Cox, John S. H., Lt. in charge of, at Gibraltar.....  | 48, 49                                   |
| Deserters from, held on board H. B. M. S. <i>Medusa</i> .....                                 | 112,                                     |
| 113, 120, 121, 133, 134, 142-144, 162   |  |
| Dunbevan or Dunbeaven, Joseph, deserted from.....   | 120                                      |
| Elbert, Samuel, Lt., U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , ordered to take charge of.....            | 77                                       |
| Gibraltar—  |  |
| Anchored in Bay of—   |  |
| With <i>Philadelphia</i> and <i>Siren</i> .....   | 3, 41, 42, 56, 67, 81, 105               |
| Pratique, conditions governing at.....  | 21, 22                                   |
| Guns.....   | 2, 30, 41, 42, 56, 81, 93, 106           |
| Health of Captain and seamen of.....  | 93                                       |
| Lubarez, Ibrahim, Reis. See Lubarez, Ibrahim.   |  |
| Lynch, William, prize agent should <i>Mirboka</i> be sent to U. S.....                        | 49                                       |
| Macdonough, Thomas, Mid.—   |  |
| Left at Gibraltar.....  | 258                                      |
| Sent from <i>Mirboka</i> to <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 274                                      |
| <i>Meshouda</i> as prison ship received prisoners of, from U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | 49, 130                                  |
| Moroccan prisoners on board U. S. S. <i>New York</i> sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....             | 131                                      |
| Morris, Charles, Jr., Midshipman, <i>Constitution</i> , sent to.....                          | 105                                      |
| Not fit to cross Atlantic Ocean.....  | 96                                       |
| Officers and crew of, sent to <i>Constitution</i> and prize <i>Meshouda</i> .....             | 49,                                      |
| 53, 54, 57, 77, 105   |  |
| Pearce or Pierce, James, seaman, deserted from.....   | 131                                      |
| Preble, Edw., to send to United States.....   | 31                                       |
| Preble, Edw., Commo., went on board of.....   | 77                                       |
| Prisoners taken in.....   | 2, 3, 49, 105                            |
| Prize Master (Lt. Joseph Tarbell of <i>Constitution</i> ) and prize crew.....                 | 48,                                      |
| 49, 101, 102, 104, 105, 121, 130, 131, 133, 147   |  |
| Prize money to captors.....   | 152, 299, 503                            |
| Propriety of capture questioned.....  | 44                                       |
| Reed, Master's Mate of <i>Constitution</i> , sent to.....                                     | 105                                      |
| References to.....  | 20,                                      |
| 26, 27, 29, 43, 44, 51-54, 57, 67, 84, 85, 89, 97, 107, 119, 537                              |  |
| Restoration of, as terms of peace with Morocco—   |  |
| Conditions governing release of ship and prisoners.....                                       | 76, 96, 130, 131                         |
| Lt. and 20 men from <i>Constitution</i> to take her to Tangier.....                           | 147                                      |
| Simpson, James, approval of necessary.....  | 147, 207-208                             |
| To Emperor of Morocco.....  | 92,                                      |
| 96, 102, 114, 115, 119, 124, 130, 140, 141, 146-150, 199, 207-208                             |  |
| Treatment of officers and crew since being captured by <i>Philadelphia</i> .....              | 2,                                       |
| 3, 56, 62, 82, 86, 543  |  |
| Valuation of.....   | 132, 133, 141, 280, 410                  |

|   |  |                   |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <b>Mishauda, Mishouda, Misoudra, Missuada.</b>  | <i>See Meshouda.</i>   |                   |
| <b>Mishoba.</b>   | <i>See Mirboka.</i>  |                   |
| <b>Misticoi,</b>  | reference to.....  | Page 63           |
| <b>Mitchell, Charles,</b>   | ordinary seaman, No. 95, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....           | 183, 185          |
| <b>Mitchell, John,</b>  | seaman and quartermaster, No. 157, <i>Philadelphia</i> ..... | 186               |
| <b>Mohametan feast of Biram,</b>  | reference to.....  | 517               |
| <b>Momona.</b>  | <i>See Maimona.</i>  |                   |
| <b>Money,</b>   | instructions regarding.....                                  | 50                |
| <b>Monmouth, H. B. M. S.,</b>   | Capt. George Hart, at Gibraltar.....                         | 155-161           |
| <b>Monroe, James,</b>   | U. S. Minister to London, England:                           |                   |
| Correspondence with—  |  |                   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   |  | 215-216           |
| State, Secretary of.....  |  | 472-473           |
| Woronzow, Alexander, Count de.....  |  | 534               |
| Requests aid for <i>Philadelphia's</i> officers and crew, from Sweden and Turkey..... |  | 461-462           |
| <b>Monsoon, Am. Ship,</b>   | Master Nickerson, David.....                                 | 123               |
| <b>Montgomery, Robert,</b>  | U. S. Consul, Alicante:                                      |                   |
| Correspondence with—  |  |                   |
| Jarvis, William, U. S. Consul, Lisbon.....  |  | 41                |
| Lear, Tobias.....   |  | 434               |
| References to.....  |  | 99, 100, 349, 443 |
| <b>Moore, George,</b>   | seaman, No. 219, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 187               |
| <b>Moore, John,</b>   | private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....              | 188               |
| <b>Moore, N. K.,</b>  | Hon., U. S. Congress.....                                    | 262-263           |
| <b>Moore, Thomas,</b>   | Carpenter.....   | 326               |
| <b>Moore, William,</b>  | owner of Am. vessels <i>Ganges</i> and <i>Cyrus</i> .....    | 369               |
| <b>Moore, Mr.</b>   |  | 271               |
| <b>Moorish Admiral,</b>   | reference to Moroccan cruiser <i>Maimona</i> .....           | 112               |
| <b>Morbacka.</b>  | <i>See Mirboka.</i>  |                   |
| <b>Morgain, John</b>  |  | 131               |
| <b>Morocco:</b>   |  |                   |
| Affairs of United States in.....  | 43-45, 95, 96, 111, 198, 199, 208-209,                       | 536               |
| American commerce in need of protection along Atlantic ports of.....                  |  | 79                |
| American vessels captured by.....   |  | 90                |
| <i>Argus</i> U. S. brig—  |  |                   |
| To cruise off coast of.....   |  | 161, 205          |
| Reports peaceful relations with U. S. continue.....                                   |  | 360               |
| At peace with all nations.....  |  | 23                |
| <i>Celia</i> , Am. brig, prize to <i>Mirboka.</i>                                     | <i>See Celia</i> and <i>Mirboka.</i>                         |                   |
| Consulate flags flying during continuance of U. S. vessels in Tangier Bay.....        |  | 81, 84, 85, 91    |
| Consuls' colors flying indicate nations at peace with.....                            |  | 53, 54            |
| Consul of, at Gibraltar, Hammet.....  |  | 82                |
| Departure of Rodgers, John, Capt., for U. S. postponed by Moroccan difficulties.....  |  | 80                |
| Director of Customs, Hadge Alarbi Fecurt.....   |  | 60                |
| Effect of war on insurance rates and Mediterranean trade.....                         |  | 200, 250          |
| Emperor of, Muley Soliman, Ben Mohamet, Ben Abdallah—                                 |  |                   |
| Arrival at Tangier and ceremonies in honor of... 106, 108-112, 140, 147               |  |                   |
| At Mequinez.....  |  | 63, 199           |
| Attitude toward Governor of.....  | 44, 52, 53, 106, 107   |                   |
| Bodyguard of.....   |  | 120               |
| Brother of, Muley Absolam.....  |  | 106               |
| Consuls to be received by.....  | 109, 110, 115, 123   |                   |
| Correspondence with—  |  |                   |
| All Consuls in Tangier.....   |  | 26, 27            |
| Mogador, Governor of.....   |  | 125, 126          |
| Mogador, Officers of.....   |  | 125, 126          |
| President of the U. S.....  |  | 124, 125          |
| Senate of the U. S.....   |  | 124, 125          |
| Simpson, James.....   | 7-9, 25, 117, 118, 498                                       |                   |
| Description of, by Mid. Ralph Izard.....  |  | 126               |
| En route to Tangier.....  |  | 68, 88            |
| Father of, Sidi Mahomet.....  |  | 119               |
| Feels that U. S. and U. S. President have neglected him.....                          |  | 138, 153          |
| Friendship for United States.....   | 25, 26, 27, 60, 265  |                   |



**Morocco—Continued.****Emperor of—Continued.**

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| Hostility and treachery of, towards United States.....   | 44, 45,<br>57, 59, 60, 80, 81, 88, 90, 198, 199  |
| Left Tangier.....  | 131  |
| Order to capture Am. vessels—  |  |
| Issued by Emperor but blamed on Governor.....  | 71, 72, 89, 94   |
| Denies giving order to capture.....  | 116, 146   |
| Presents sent by, to U. S. Ships of War.....   | 110,<br>111, 114, 119, 140, 148, 150, 459, 466   |
| Present to, from Holland.....  | 461  |
| Prime Minister of. See Secretary of State of.  |  |
| Titles of.....   | 9, 124   |
| Treaty of 1786—  |  |
| Negotiations for ratification of ( <i>see</i> Morocco, peace nego-<br>tiations).....               | iii, 20, 76, 115-117   |
| Ratified and confirmed by.....   | 14, 76, 92, 118, 119, 124,<br>125, 129-131, 138, 140, 141, 151, 154, 155, 230, 265                               |
| References to.....   | 116, 125, 144, 146   |
| Violation of.....  | 31   |
| War declared against U. S. by.....   | 70, 93   |
| Fez, references to.....  | 76, 150  |
| Fires made on mountains to give alarm and prevent landing from ships.....                          | 84   |
| Governor of, Hodge Alcaide Abde-Rhaman Hashash—  |  |
| At Tetuan.....   | 57   |
| Emperor's attitude toward.....   | 44, 106, 126, 127  |
| Friendship for U. S.....   | 60   |
| Hostile to United States.....  | 3, 96  |
| Metigui, Sidi Ahmed el, deputy of.....   | 60   |
| Orders given to capture Am. vessels.....   | 44,<br>45, 52, 56, 58, 81, 82, 84, 86, 94, 107, 126, 127   |
| Preble, Commo., does not wish to negotiate with.....   | 76   |
| Protests against treatment of prisoners from <i>Mirboka</i> .....                                  | 62   |
| References to... 8-10, 60, 62, 68, 69, 84, 97, 106, 116, 130, 131, 226                             |  |
| Tetuan, left Tangier for.....  | 164  |
| Treatment of Americans by.....   | 86   |
| Gun carriages sent in Am. schooner <i>Citizen</i> , to Emperor at Tangier.....                     | 19,<br>129, 153, 167, 168, 198, 200, 211, 297, 361, 401, 402, 438, 450-452,<br>456, 460, 461, 464, 466, 473, 498 |
| Guns, size of batteries.....   | 461  |
| Handspikes for.....  | 461  |
| Information relative to conditions in, requested by Commo. Preble.....                             | 261  |
| <i>John Adams</i> , U. S. S., in search of Moorish frigate <i>Maimona</i> .....                    | 73, 79   |
| Lear, Tobias, references to.....   | 52, 53, 54, 57, 83, 99, 104, 105   |
| Lubarez, Ibrahim, Reis. See Lubarez, Ibrahim.  |  |
| Malamorta, Captain, conveys presents to U. S. Squadron.....  | 120  |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , Tripolitan ship. See <i>Meshouda</i> .   |  |
| Mogador—   |  |
| Chief trading port of U. S. Commerce.....  | 465  |
| <i>Enterprise</i> and <i>Nautilus</i> cruising off.....  | 69, 95   |
| Governor of, correspondence with Emperor of Morocco.....   | 125, 126   |
| Governor of, Muhammed Ben Abd el Sadak.....  | 117  |
| Governor of ordered to detain all American vessels.....  | 68, 69   |
| <i>Hannah</i> , Am. brig, detention and release of. See <i>Hannah</i> .                            |  |
| Reference to.....  | 20   |
| Morris, Richard V., Commo., has funds allotted for peace.....                                      | 116  |
| <i>Nautilus</i> , U. S. schooner, ordered to cruise off Tangier, Larach, Salee<br>and Mogador..... | 63   |
| Naval force of.....  | 226  |
| Need of U. S. Mediterranean Squadron to display force before.....                                  | 139, 146, 515  |
| Omar, Reis (or Arraiz) comdg. <i>Meshouda</i> . See Omar, Reis.                                    |  |
| Order of Secretary of the Navy to capture or destroy Moroccan vessels.....                         | 209  |
| Order to capture vessels of, cancelled.....  | 129, 154   |
| Order to U. S. Ships of War to send to Gibraltar all vessels of.....                               | 48-50,<br>58, 63-65, 71-73   |

**Morocco—Continued.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Peace between United States and—   | Page   |
| Audiences with Emperor and Commo. Preble, Mr. James Simpson and others.....                    | 115, 130, 140, 141, 148-150  |
| Ceremonies attendant upon Peace between Morocco and U. S. ....                                 | 119, 120   |
| Commodores Preble and Rodgers, with James Simpson enter into negotiations.....                 | 51-54, 57, 59, 79, 83, 85, 89, 92, 94-99, 107, 108, 112, 114-117, 126-128, 131, 139-141, 146-153   |
| Conditions governing and Terms of.....   | 119, 127, 140-141, 199   |
| Peace restored with United States.....   | 12, 14, 118, 125, 129, 130, 131, 138, 151, 154, 155, 230, 250, 265, 297, 360   |
| Declaration of Peace between U. S. and.....  | 118, 125   |
| U. S. vessels constantly ready for action during negotiations.....                             | 76, 108, 109, 112, 147   |
| Ports of, listed.....  | 200  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.—   |  |
| Comments regarding.....  | 58, 70   |
| Ordered in all U. S. Ships of War.....   | 131  |
| Province of Beni Hassan, Sidi Mohamet Selawy appointed Bashaw of, with residence at Salee..... | 461  |
| References to.....   | iii, 3, 22, 31, 58, 63, 81-86, 91, 92, 94-97, 101, 102, 110, 112, 114, 120, 123, 124, 128, 139, 148, 160, 164, 202, 217, 218, 297, 320, 382, 450, 451, 453, 461. |
| Rules governing landing of captive Moroccan Officers.....                                      | 60, 61   |
| Salutes of <i>Constitution</i> , <i>John Adams</i> and <i>New York</i> returned by.....        | 134, 138, 140, 141, 147, 151   |
| Salutes to, by U. S. Ships.....  | 102, 103, 108-111, 119, 140, 147, 148  |
| Secretary of State of Emperor of, Sidi Mohamet Selawy—   |  |
| At Tetuan.....   | 106, 114, 147  |
| Conferences with.....  | 126, 127, 141, 150   |
| Correspondence with Simpson, James.....  | 29, 67, 68, 73, 74, 77, 92-94  |
| Desires punishment of person responsible for hostilities with U. S. ....                       | 97   |
| Empowered to make Peace.....   | 149  |
| Return of, to Tangier.....   | 147, 148   |
| Simpson, James, assured of friendship of.....  | 67, 68   |
| Wants harmony with United States restored.....   | 148  |
| Simpson, James, U. S. Consul, Tangier. See Simpson, James.                                     |  |
| <i>Siren</i> U. S. brig, references to.....  | 64, 65, 131  |
| Spanish Consul at Tangier, Salmon, Don Antonio.....  | 44   |
| Surveyor General, Allezard, John Josef.....  | 112  |
| Tangier—   |  |
| Commodores of two U. S. Squadrons in the Mediterranean, arrived at.....                        | 51-54, 57  |
| Condition of Fort and Batteries.....   | 84   |
| Map of Bay of.....   | Facing page 52   |
| U. S. Consul, Simpson, James.....  | 464  |
| U. S. Ships of War, depart from.....   | 131-134  |
| U. S. affairs in, delay Tobias Lear's arrival in Algiers.....                                  | 98   |
| U. S. colors not hoisted with other Consular flags, at Tangier.....                            | 112  |
| U. S. flags flying at Tangier.....   | 107, 109   |
| U. S. Consul's Flag not flying at Tangier.....   | 81, 91   |
| U. S. Ships of War, off coast of.....  | 107  |
| Vessels of—  |  |
| Dismantled and laid up at Salee and Larach.....  | 360, 402   |
| Frigate with four American vessels as prizes, reported by British vessel.....                  | 73, 79   |
| Galley expected to leave Tangier.....  | 69   |
| Galley off Cape Trafalgar.....   | 73   |
| <i>Maimona</i> from Salee. See <i>Maimona</i> .  |  |
| <i>Mirboka</i> . See <i>Mirboka</i> and <i>Celia</i> .   |  |
| Number in service.....   | 1  |
| Ordered to capture Am. and U. S. vessels.....  | 63, 84, 112  |
| Remain in winter quarters.....   | 449  |
| Statement of.....  | 226  |
| War with and rumor regarding.....  | 30, 70, 93, 131  |

|   | Page                              |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Morris, Andrew, Capt., Am. brig <i>Franklin</i> , ransom of \$6,800 paid--- | 248                               |
| Morris, Charles, Mid., <i>Constitution</i> -----                            | 6,                                |
| 15, 18, 77, 104, 105, 133, 134, 169, 256, 258, 323, 423, 443, 448           |                                   |
| Morris, James C., Steward, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----                        | 183                               |
| Morris, Noadiah, Chaplain, <i>Constitution</i> -----                        | 117, 140, 245, 251, 258, 275, 323 |
| Morris, Richard V., Commodore, U. S. Mediterranean Squadron, U. S. S.       |                                   |
| <i>New York and Adams:</i>  |                                   |
| Accounts of-----  | 322                               |
| American vessels at Cadiz request convoy be furnished by-----               | 77, 78                            |
| At Gibraltar-----   | 45, 67, 78                        |
| At Malaga-----  | 26                                |
| Attendance of, required at Navy Department-----                             | 484                               |
| Correspondence with-----  |                                   |
| Davis, George-----  | 47, 48                            |
| Lear, Tobias-----   | 90                                |
| Navy, Secretary of-----   | 343-344, 345-346, 484             |
| Pulis, Joseph-----  | 344-345                           |
| Tunis, Bey of-----  | 43                                |
| Yznardi, Joseph-----  | 78                                |
| Court of Inquiry to investigate conduct of-----                             | 484, 485                          |
| Davis, George, left in charge of U. S. affairs in Tunis, by Commo.          |                                   |
| Morris-----   | 25, 43, 87                        |
| Despatches delivered to Secretary of the Navy-----                          | 227                               |
| Disobedience of orders by-----  | 484                               |
| Due to arrive at Gibraltar from Malta-----                                  | 22                                |
| <i>Enterprise</i> , relief crew needed-----                                 | 167                               |
| Extracts from journal of Midshipman Henry Wadsworth. <i>See</i> Ex-         |                                   |
| tracts from journal of <i>New York</i> .                                    |                                   |
| In command of Mediterranean Squadron-----                                   | 484                               |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , reference to-----   | 45, 111, 145, 149                 |
| <i>New York</i> , U. S. S.—   |                                   |
| Hauled down his broad pennant-----  | 53, 57                            |
| On board without broad pennant-----   | 54                                |
| Orders and instructions of President of U. S. to-----                       | 484                               |
| <i>Paulina</i> , Austrian polacre, reference to capture of-----             | 274, 343-345                      |
| Preble, Edward, Commodore, waited on-----                                   | 45, 54                            |
| Received Turkish Yataghan from William Eaton, and delivered to              |                                   |
| Secretary of Navy-----  | 367                               |
| References to-----  | iii, 4, 5,                        |
| 11, 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 57, 74, 75, 87, 89, 90, 95, 96, 107, 111, 116,      |                                   |
| 127, 150, 168, 228, 264, 311, 341, 342, 345, 346, 348, 359, 492, 525        |                                   |
| Requests that money credited to Dr. Davis not be advanced to him-----       | 264                               |
| Return of, to U. S. in U. S. S. <i>Adams</i> , after being suspended from   |                                   |
| command-----  | 12, 30, 74, 75, 90, 107, 265      |
| Seaman sent to Maltese Hospital by order of-----                            | 483                               |
| Morrison, John, Mate in Am. storeship <i>Citizen</i> , impressed-----       | 515                               |
| Morrison, John, seaman, No. 111, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----                  | 185                               |
| Morrison, Philip, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> -----           | 188                               |
| Morse, Noah, seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , sent to hospital at Malta-----   | 488                               |
| Morta, Thomasce, correspondence with Yznardi, Josef-----                    | 165                               |
| Mortar boats. <i>See</i> Gunboats and mortar boats.                         |                                   |
| Moshier, William-----   | 21                                |
| Mountford (Timothy)-----  | 435                               |
| Moushouda. <i>See</i> <i>Meshouda</i> .                                     |                                   |
| Muhammed Ben Abd-Salem Selawy. <i>See</i> Selawy, Sidi Mohamet.             |                                   |
| Muhammed Ben Abd el Sadak. <i>See</i> Mogador, Governor of.                 |                                   |
| Muhlenberg, P., Collector of Port of Philadelphia, Pa.-----                 | 278-279                           |
| Muley Soliman. <i>See</i> Morocco, Emperor of.                              |                                   |
| Mullin, Patrick, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> -----            | 188                               |
| Munell, Peter, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> -----           | 424                               |
| Munro, Henry, ordinary seaman, No. 144, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----           | 186                               |
| Munroe, Georgia T., Miss, acknowledgment to-----                            | iv                                |
| Murad Reis. <i>See</i> Lisle, Peter.  |                                   |
| Murrain, William, ordinary seamen, No. 74, <i>Philadelphia</i> -----        | 184                               |
| Murray, George, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> -----          | 424                               |

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| <b>Murray, Alexander, Capt.:</b>   |  |
| Aid of Congress sought by, to improve pay of officers on inactive status.....        | 201, 262, 271                                  |
| Correspondence with—   |  |
| Eustis, William, Hon., U. S. Congress.....   | 271  |
| McCreery, Hon., U. S. Congress.....  | 211-212  |
| Moore, N. K., Hon.....   | 262-263  |
| Nicholson, Joseph Hopper, Hon., U. S. Congressman.....                               | 200-201  |
| Niece of, Mrs. Mason.....  | 271  |
| Wishes command of Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 212  |
| <b>Murray, Anthony, private, U. S. M. C., Philadelphia.....</b>                      | <b>188</b>                                     |
| <b>Murray, Robert, seaman, <i>Argus</i>, attempted to desert.....</b>                | <b>216</b>                                     |
| <b>Murray, Thomas, seaman, No. 91, Philadelphia.....</b>                             | <b>185</b>                                     |
| <b>Mustapha Pascha, Dey of Algiers. See Algiers, Dey of.</b>                         |  |
| <b>Mustapha, Reis, Captain, <i>Mastico</i>.....</b>                                  | <b>181, 371, 470, 480, 481, 490</b>            |
| <b>Muster Roll or Roster, U. S. S. Philadelphia.....</b>                             | <b>184-185</b>                                 |
| <b>Muster rolls, instructions regarding.....</b>                                     | <b>321</b>                                     |
| <b>Myres, Christian, seaman, No. 233, Philadelphia.....</b>                          | <b>187</b>                                     |
| <b>Mystery ship, U. S. brig <i>Siren</i>, disguised as.....</b>                      | <b>376</b>                                     |
| <b>Naples, Italy:</b>  |  |
| Consul, U. S.—   |  |
| Circular to, from Capt. Edward Preble.....   | 215-216  |
| Matthiew, John S. M.....   | 476, 505                                       |
| Gun and Mortar Boats:  |  |
| Model and draught of, on board U. S. S. <i>New York</i> , to be studied by U. S..... | 241, 283                                       |
| Permission requested to purchase at.....   | 476  |
| Preble, Commo., to consult with King of.....   | 437  |
| Preble, Commo., negotiations re.....   | 485, 486, 500                                  |
| Reference to.....  | 448  |
| To be purchased at.....  | 385, 501                                       |
| Gunboats procured from.....  | 12, 14   |
| King of—   |  |
| Advantage gained by, in furnishing U. S. with gunboats.....                          | 499  |
| At war with Barbary States.....  | 499  |
| Saluted by <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 327  |
| Vessels of—  |  |
| Five frigates on cruise against all Barbary powers.....                              | 494  |
| Squadron at Messina.....   | 478  |
| <b>Narcissa, British frigate.....</b>  | <b>3</b>                                       |
| <b>Nautilus, U. S. S., Lt. Richard Somers:</b>                                       |  |
| Algeciras, references to.....  | 142, 208, 209, 212-214, 216, 219-222, 232, 233 |
| Anchor lost by and purchased for.....  | 260, 369                                       |
| Condition of.....  | 28   |
| Convoy duty.....   | 49, 57, 59, 82, 83, 90, 221, 246, 259, 468     |
| Cruising ground of.....  | 227, 385, 386, 440                             |
| Cruising instructions.....   | 63, 64   |
| Fitted for winter cruising.....  | 255  |
| Gibraltar—   |  |
| At Gibraltar.....  | 45, 56, 82, 90, 97, 206, 207, 209, 213         |
| Conveying dispatches to, for United States.....                                      | 260,   |
| 270, 273, 276, 338, 347, 348   |  |
| Departed from.....   | 208, 348                                       |
| Expected in.....   | 153  |
| Ordered to.....  | 130, 151, 268                                  |
| Ordered to guard prize <i>Meshouda</i> with prisoners on board.....                  | 74   |
| Green, Mr., Purser, transferred to <i>Scourge</i> .....                              | 323  |
| Guns.....  | 197, 214, 227, 384                             |
| Hill, (Wm.), Sergeant, U. S. M. C., in irons on board of.....                        | 254  |
| In company with <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 236, 243, 244, 246, 256, 268-270, 388          |
| Malaga, references to.....   | 30, 51   |
| Malta, references to.....  | 411, 466, 471, 472, 477, 479, 480, 482         |
| Marines on board of.....   | 197  |
| Mogador, references to.....  | 95, 130, 141, 151, 161, 209                    |
| Morocco—   |  |
| In company with <i>Siren</i> , dispatched to call in all U. S. ships of war.....     | 131  |
| To cruise off Mogador, against Emperor of Morocco.....                               | 90   |

**Nautilus—Continued.**

|   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Nearly ready for sea.....   | 255   |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 12, 46, 131, 197, 214, 384                        |
| Obliged to leave Station for repairs.....                                     | 528   |
| Operations of.....  | 27, 28  |
| Ordered in pursuit of a cruiser.....  | 468, 469  |
| Ordered to Sea.....   | 482   |
| Ordered to Tangier Bay, Larach, Salee, and Mogador.....                       | 63, 74, 95  |
| Orders and instructions to.....   | 49, 206, 387                                      |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., went on board of.....                                  | 208   |
| Purchased from Mr. Tenant, Baltimore.....                                     | 17  |
| References to.....  | 16,   |
| 18, 23, 45, 67, 69, 70, 105, 107, 120, 160, 164, 201, 202, 211, 220,          | 225, 240, 243, 257, 270, 314, 374, 468, 496, 503. |
| Résumé of.....  | 17  |
| Sailed on a cruise.....   | 101, 104, 328                                     |
| <i>St. Crucifisso</i> , merchant brig, under English colors, captured by..... | 323,  |
| 411, 412, 417, 438, 441, 442, 445, 449, 452, 454, 482, 490.                   |   |
| <b>Siren—</b>   |   |
| Cheered by.....   | 444   |
| Collision with and damages sustained.....                                     | 507, 508, 528                                     |
| Somers, Richard, Lt., went on board of, and returned.....                     | 508, 511  |
| Spanish man of war chased by.....   | 238   |
| <b>Syracuse—</b>  |   |
| Arrived at, from Gibraltar.....   | 370, 379  |
| Arrived at, from Tripoli.....   | 463   |
| En route to.....  | 275, 331, 338, 511                                |
| In Harbor of.....   | 242-244,  |
| 268, 269, 273, 275, 276, 371, 374, 387, 388, 397, 440, 464, 538               |   |
| Sailed from, with despatches, to Gibraltar.....                               | 348, 398  |
| <b>Tangier—</b>   |   |
| At Tangier.....   | 107, 112, 114, 120, 122, 127, 130, 131, 139, 147  |
| Arrived at, from Mogador.....   | 199   |
| Departed from.....  | 132   |
| Instructions from Commo. Preble concerning anchoring in Bay of.....           | 122   |
| <b>Transfer—</b>  |   |
| Capture of, in company with <i>Siren</i> .....                                | 495, 496  |
| Prisoners received from <i>Siren</i> .....                                    | 508   |
| See U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .   |   |
| <b>Tripoli—</b>   |   |
| Fired at batteries of.....  | 27  |
| Off Tripoli.....  | 12, 411, 437, 485                                 |
| Ordered to Blockade of.....   | 206, 213, 219, 387, 390, 483                      |
| <b>Tunis—</b>   |   |
| Citizen of, prisoner from <i>St. Crucifisso</i> , liberated by Commo.         |   |
| Preble.....   | 482, 485  |
| Sailed for Bay of.....  | 386, 387, 390                                     |
| <b>Naval Academy Museum</b> , map reproduced through courtesy of.....         | v. 174  |
| <b>Naval Committee of the House of Representatives</b> , Report No. 201.....  | 419   |
| <b>Naval Historical Foundation</b> , records published by courtesy of.....    | viii,   |
| 281, 402, 439   |   |
| <b>Naval Storekeeper</b> , Philadelphia, duties and compensation of.....      | 317   |
| <b>Navy Agents, U. S. and Superintendents of Navy Yards:</b>                  |   |
| Baltimore, Md., Stricker, John.....   | 198   |
| Duties and compensation of.....   | 303   |
| Malta, Higgins, William.....  | 339, 467  |
| Messina, Sicily, Broadbent, John.....   | 478, 500  |
| <b>New York—</b>  |   |
| Beekman, John.....  | 303   |
| Ludlow, Daniel.....   | 241, 303  |
| Rutgers, Henry, appointed.....  | 241   |
| Norfolk, Va., Bedinger, Daniel.....   | 250, 303  |
| Philadelphia, Pa., Harrison, George.....                                      | 303   |
| Portsmouth, N. H., Langdon, Woodbury.....                                     | 303   |
| Syracuse, Dyson, George.....  | 339, 500, 501                                     |
| <b>Navy Department:</b>   |   |
| Accountant's office, clerks and salaries.....                                 | 255   |
| Clerks employed in, with respective salaries, office hours.....               | 255   |

| Navy, Secretary of, Robert Smith:   | Page         |
|---|--------------|
| Advised of Peace Negotiations with Morocco.....   | 138          |
| Appointment of Samuel B. Brooke as Sailing Master by.....   | 479          |
| Charged by President to call Court of Inquiry to investigate conduct<br>of Capt. Richard V. Morris..... | 484          |
| Correspondence with—  |              |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.....  | 171, 173     |
| Barron, James, Capt..... 241, 283, 317, 430-431, 491-492  |              |
| Barron, Samuel, Capt.....   | 484-485      |
| Bedinger, Daniel..... 9, 145, 226-227, 250, 287   |              |
| Beekman, John.....  | 303          |
| Billups, Capt., ship <i>Traveller</i> .....   | 18, 19       |
| Burrows, William W., Lt. Col. Commandant, U. S. M. C.....   | 127, 480     |
| Carmick, Daniel, Capt., U. S. M. C.....   | 350, 508     |
| Cassin, John, Lieut..... 220, 316, 320-321, 392-396, 509  |              |
| Chauncey, Isaac, Lieut..... 482, 509, 546, 547-548  |              |
| Cox, George, Lt., Philadelphia, Pa.....   | 509          |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., Lt..... 21, 24, 66, 91, 212, 427-428   |              |
| Dorsey, Thomas B., Mrs.....   | 534          |
| Eiselen & Horne.....  | 198, 203     |
| Eustis, William, Hon., U. S. Congress..... 214, 289, 296-297  |              |
| Evans, Samuel, Lieut..... 510, 533-534  |              |
| Gardner, John M., midshipman.....   | 509, 548     |
| Gavino, John.....   | 221, 355     |
| Grenell, Sloss H.....   | 509          |
| Harrison, George.....   | 346          |
| Harvie, Jacquelin B., Midshipman.....   | 328          |
| Heath, Daniel C., Midshipman acting as Lieutenant.....  | 274, 509     |
| Hull, Isaac, Lieut..... 356, 360, 375, 399-400, 473, 514  |              |
| Irvine, William, Gen.....   | 317          |
| Lear, Tobias.....   | 78-80        |
| Leonard, James T., Midshipman (acting as Lieutenant).....   | 321-322, 396 |
| Lieb, Michael, Hon., U. S. Congress.....  | 197-198      |
| Ludlow, Charles, Lt.....  | 509          |
| Ludlow, Daniel.....   | 241          |
| Mayer & Brantz.....   | 198, 203     |
| McIntosh, George.....   | 255          |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt..... 343-344, 345-346, 484   |              |
| Nicholson, John B., midshipman.....   | 396, 510     |
| Nicholson, Joseph H., Hon., U. S. Congress.....   | 391-392      |
| Officer Commanding U. S. Frigate <i>Adams</i> .....   | 233          |
| Officer Commanding U. S. S. <i>New York</i> .....   | 253          |
| Officer Commanding U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean.....   | 207-209      |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 18,          |
| 56-59, 69-71, 95-96, 139-143, 160-162, 167, 209-210, 221, 227,  |              |
| 233-234, 256-260, 337-340, 350, 356-357, 384-386, 389, 413,   |              |
| 427, 438-441, 481-482, 485-488, 491, 496-497.   |              |
| President of the U. S.....  | 534          |
| Randolph, John, Jr., Hon., U. S. Congress.....  | 255, 299     |
| Reddick, Miles, Capt.....   | 356          |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.....  | 282-283      |
| Rutgers, Henry.....   | 241          |
| Smith, John C., Hon., U. S. Congress.....   | 342          |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 546          |
| Stewart, Charles, Lt.....   | 1, 122       |
| Stricker, John.....   | 196          |
| Tingey, Thomas, Capt..... 19, 129, 167, 207   |              |
| Treasury, Secretary of.....   | 220          |
| Watson, James.....  | 381          |
| Webster, Alexander, & Co.....   | 198, 203     |
| Wharton, Franklin, Capt., U. S. M. C.....   | 454          |
| Details of transaction of Mediterranean Squadron, dispatches to.....                                    | 338          |
| Orders Court of Inquiry held on Bainbridge, Wm., Capt., on board<br>U. S. S. <i>President</i> .....     | 189          |
| Orders to Commo. Preble.....  | 439          |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. frigate, grounding and capture of. <i>See Philadelphia</i> .                |              |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , Tripolitan prize, statement concerning.....                                       | 422-424      |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Navy, Secretary of, Robert Smith—Continued.</b>  | <b>Page</b>                                |
| Edward, Capt., commended by.....  | 227, 439, 440                              |
| Received from Capt. Richard V. Morris, Turkish Yataghan, for Secretary of State.....                  | 367  |
| References to.....  | 42,  |
| 50, 51, 64, 65, 66, 73, 78, 87, 151, 182, 198, 212, 230, 313, 314, 342, 369, 387, 392, 447, 496, 537. |  |
| <b>Navy Yards:</b>  |  |
| Norfolk, (Gosport), Va.....   | 283  |
| Superintendents, duties and compensation of.....  | 303  |
| Washington, D. C.—  |  |
| Arrangements contemplated at.....   | 392-394                                    |
| Commissioned officers, seamen, and marines attached to.....   | 533  |
| Directions for employing and paying workmen at.....   | 321  |
| Engagement of ship carpenter and constructor for.....   | 346  |
| Expenses of.....  | 395, 396                                   |
| Frigates laid up in ordinary, complements of.....   | 392  |
| Gunboat to be built by Capt. John Rodgers.....  | 282-283                                    |
| List of ranks of officers and men at.....   | 393, 395                                   |
| Master of the yard, proposed duties of.....   | 394  |
| Navy Captain to have general superintendence of.....  | 395  |
| Officers to be discontinued may retire on half pay.....   | 392  |
| Peace Establishment Act, objections to and remedies offered by Lt. Cassin.....                        | 392-395                                    |
| <b>Neapolitan Government, permission obtained from, to land Tripolitan prisoners at Syracuse.....</b> | <b>485</b>                                 |
| <b>Neilson. See Nelson, Lord.</b>   |  |
| <b>Nelson, Lord, British Vice Admiral:</b>  |  |
| Bravery and fearlessness of.....  | 434  |
| References to.....  | 30, 86, 88                                 |
| 157, 158, 159, 223, 249, 253, 286, 339, 351, 369, 404, 405, 452, 478                                  |  |
| Rejection by, of petition of <i>Philadelphia</i> crew members, to be claimed as British subjects..... | 357  |
| <b>Neutral Nations, circular notification of Blockade of Tripoli, to.....</b>                         | <b>389</b>                                 |
| <b>Neutrals, rights of, in connection with blockade.....</b>  | <b>372</b>                                 |
| <b>Neutrality, violation of by Am. vessels <i>Ganges</i> and <i>Cyrus</i>.....</b>                    | <b>369</b>                                 |
| <b>Newbold, John.....</b>   | <b>137</b>                                 |
| <b>New Century, Am. brig of Boston, brought to, by the <i>Argus</i>.....</b>                          | <b>298</b>                                 |
| <b>Newman, John, quartermaster, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>.....</b>                         | <b>424</b>                                 |
| <b>New Orleans, references to.....</b>  | <b>350, 508</b>                            |
| <b>New York Historical Society:</b>   |  |
| Drawing by Captain W. B. Hoff, reproduced through courtesy of.....                                    | v, 168                                     |
| Portrait of Stephen Decatur by Rembrandt Peale, reproduced through courtesy of.....                   | v, 492                                     |
| Reference to.....   | viii                                       |
| <b>New York, U. S. S., Capts. John Rodgers, Richard V. Morris, and Hugh G. Campbell:</b>              |  |
| Arrived at Malaga.....  | 30   |
| Arrived in U. S.....  | 250  |
| Boatswain (acting) and Gunner transferred to, from <i>Constitution</i> .....                          | 154  |
| Boatswain from, transferred to <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 154, 162                                   |
| Campbell, Capt., detached from.....   | 109  |
| Conveyed <i>Meshouda</i> to Tangier, Morocco, in accordance with Peace Treaty.....                    | 450  |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....   | 253  |
| Cox, John S. H., Lt., concerning orders.....  | 49   |
| Crew ordered paid off without delay.....  | 253  |
| Extracts from journal of, kept by Mid. Henry Wadsworth.....   | 3, 30, 51                                  |
| Fell in with British Fleet Northward of Minorca.....  | 30   |
| <b>Gibraltar—</b>   |  |
| Arrived at.....   | 45, 51, 56, 82, 106                        |
| At Gibraltar.....   | 42, 54, 67, 75, 77, 96, 138, 139, 144, 151 |
| Collision with <i>Siren</i> and damage sustained.....   | 122, 128                                   |
| Departed from, on cruise off Larache, Mogador.....  | 146  |
| Left, for the United States.....  | 154, 160                                   |
| Preparing to return to U. S.....  | 142  |

**New York—Continued.**

|  | Page                             |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Gunboat, model of Naples, on board of.....   | 241                              |
| Guns.....  | 197, 214, 227                    |
| Invalids & others sent to U. S. in.....  | 143, 154, 162                    |
| Lewis, Mr., Pilot of, joined <i>Constitution</i> .....                               | 154                              |
| <i>Meshouda</i> in company with.....   | 53                               |
| Morocco, salutes.....  | 108, 109, 147                    |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt. hauled down his broad pennant.....                         | 53, 57                           |
| Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....   | 263                              |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron.....   | 12, 14, 131, 197, 214            |
| Ordered to United States.....  | 214                              |
| Orders to Commanding Officer.....  | 253                              |
| Recruiting instructions.....   | 509                              |
| References to.....   | 15,                              |
| 79, 86, 88, 89, 96, 99, 107, 120, 124, 127, 131, 140, 146, 199, 245, 439             | 439                              |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.—  |                                  |
| Assumed command of.....  | 107                              |
| Hoists his pennant on.....   | 109                              |
| On board of.....   | 129                              |
| Simpson, James, visits.....  | 120                              |
| Tangier—   |                                  |
| Arrived in Bay of.....   | 14, 108, 109, 147                |
| At Tangier.....  | 109, 114, 120, 127, 128, 130-134 |
| Departed from, en route to Gibraltar.....  | 134, 141, 151                    |
| In company with <i>John Adams</i> and <i>Mishouda</i> .....                          | 155, 163, 164                    |
| In company with <i>John Adams</i> and <i>Nautilus</i> .....                          | 112                              |
| Sailed for U. S. from.....   | 197, 199                         |
| Wadsworth Henry, Mid., went on board of.....   | 74                               |
| Nicholas, Joseph, seaman, No. 162, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                         | 186                              |
| Nichols, David, ordinary seaman, No. 43, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 184                              |
| Nichols Hodges & Co. See Hodges, Nichols & Co.                                       |                                  |
| Nicholson, Capt.....   | 271                              |
| Nicholson (Midn.), <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 7                                |
| Nicholson, George, Boatswain.....  | 28                               |
| Nicholson, John B., Midshipman.....  | 396, 477, 480, 510, 522          |
| Nicholson, Joseph Hopper, Hon., U. S. Congress:                                      |                                  |
| Correspondence with—   |                                  |
| Murray, Alexander, Capt.....   | 200-201                          |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 391-392                          |
| References to.....   | 211, 271, 392                    |
| Nicholson, Lewis, Master of Am. brig <i>Fame</i> .....                               | 137                              |
| Nicholson, William B. Midshipman <i>Siren</i> .....                                  | 451                              |
| Nickerson, David, Master, Am. Ship <i>Monsoon</i> .....                              | 123                              |
| Nicola, Capt.....  | 471                              |
| Nihell, John, ordinary seaman, No. 187, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                    | 186                              |
| Nissen, Nicholas C., Danish Consul, Tripoli:   |                                  |
| Cathcart, James L.....   | 353, 358, 404                    |
| Conduct of, toward officers and crew of <i>Philadelphia</i> , given recognition..... | 182-183, 279, 410                |
| Correspondence to Capt. William Bainbridge forwarded by.....                         | 224, 280, 432                    |
| Correspondence with—   |                                  |
| Cathcart, James Leander.....   | 61, 62, 92, 266-267              |
| Danish Consul, Leghorn.....  | 494                              |
| Danish Consul, Marseilles, France.....   | 182, 421-422                     |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 279, 446-447, 488-489            |
| Obliged to renounce charge of affairs of all foreign nations.....                    | 447                              |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> prisoners, assistance rendered by.....                           | 171, 173, 520, 529, 530          |
| Recommended to assist in peace negotiations with Tripoli.....                        | 226                              |
| References to.....   | 218-219, 229, 311, 334, 353, 358 |
| Noble, G. & E., Naples.....  | 501                              |
| Noble, Mr., <i>Bronte</i> , felucca, cost of.....                                    | 492                              |
| Norfolk, Va., provision ship loaded at, not arrived in Mediterranean.....            | 142                              |
| Norman, Elijah, seaman, No. 224, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                           | 187                              |
| Norman, James, Master of <i>Sophia</i> , deposition of.....                          | 234-235                          |
| Nugent, William, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                     | 188                              |
| Null, John, seaman, No. 263, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 187                              |
| Numond, Joseph, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 424                              |



|   | Page                         |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Nyssen, Anthony</b> , Batavian Consul General, Tunis.....                                | 266                          |
| <b>Nyssen, Mr.</b> See Nissen, Nicholas C., Danish Consul, Tripoli.                         |                              |
| <b>Oakes</b> , General, Commander in chief, British Army, Malta.....                        | 331, 350, 477                |
| <b>O'Bannon, P. N.</b> , 1st Lieut., U. S. M. C., attack on Derne.....                      | 16                           |
| <b>O'Brian, Dennis</b> , ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....        | 424                          |
| <b>O'Brian, Reuben</b> , private U. S. M. C., burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....    | 424                          |
| <b>O'Brien, Richard</b> , U. S. ex-Consul General, Algiers:                                 |                              |
| Algiers—  |                              |
| Accompanied Tobias Lear in interview with Dey.....  | 246, 247                     |
| Conducted U. S. affairs in, with adroitness.....  | 248                          |
| Demands of, commented on by, and answer proposed.....                                       | 134-136                      |
| Ordered to palace by Dey of.....  | 250                          |
| Regulations, signals and customs of, to be observed by United States ships.....             | 194-196                      |
| Sailing from, on board <i>Vixen</i> .....   | 521                          |
| Welcomed Tobias Lear on board U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> & accompanied him ashore.....    | 232, 246                     |
| Will remain at, until Spring 1804.....  | 275, 405                     |
| Cooperation of, with Tobias Lear.....   | 265                          |
| Correspondence with—  |                              |
| Davis, George.....  | 61                           |
| Lear, Tobias.....   | 98-99                        |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 194-196, 283-285, 380, 496   |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 134-136                      |
| Informed of loss of <i>Sally</i> .....  | 232                          |
| Opinion of, regarding force to be kept at Gibraltar.....                                    | 233-234                      |
| Preparation for departure to U. S. by.....  | 517                          |
| Recommends building ships and frigates.....   | 134, 135                     |
| References to.....  | 99,                          |
| 100, 153, 177, 222, 234, 247, 261, 264-266, 271, 329, 340, 369, 387, 483, 489, 516-518      |                              |
| Son of, born in Algiers.....  | 284, 405                     |
| Survey and valuation made of brig <i>Transfer</i> by.....                                   | 496                          |
| To be succeeded by Tobias Lear.....   | 98                           |
| Translation by.....   | 132                          |
| Tripoli—  |                              |
| General comment by, on U. S. affairs in.....  | 283-285                      |
| Knowledge of language & customs of Barbary Regencies, useful in peace negotiations.....     | 347, 378, 442, 516, 517, 526 |
| Recommended Brian McDonogh, Tripoli, to Commo. Preble.....                                  | 280, 333, 347                |
| To negotiate peace treaty with.....   | 380, 456, 501                |
| Tunis, references to.....   | 517, 521                     |
| <b>O'Brien, Richard</b> , Mrs., references to.....  | 99, 275, 380, 405            |
| <b>Oddy, Thomas</b> , seaman, No. 164, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                            | 186                          |
| <b>Office Hours of Navy Department</b> .....  | 255                          |
| <b>Officer Commanding U. S. frigate Adams</b> . correspondence with Navy, Secretary of..... | 233                          |
| <b>Officer Commanding U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean:</b>                              |                              |
| Correspondence with—  |                              |
| Ball, Alexander John.....   | 291                          |
| Farquhar, Richard.....  | 301                          |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 207-209                      |
| <b>Officers Commanding Ships of War of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean:</b>             |                              |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 281-282, 333                 |
| Ordered not to engage French citizens.....  | 325                          |
| Volunteered services for burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 413                          |
| <b>Officers, U. S. Army</b> , U. S. Marine Corps under orders of, at New Orleans.....       | 350, 508                     |
| <b>Officers, U. S. Navy:</b>  |                              |
| <i>Constitution</i> , U. S. S., correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....               | 169                          |
| Davis, George, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires Tunis, a Surgeon, U. S. N.....                       | 360                          |
| Gunnery instructions by Bombardiers.....  | 311                          |
| Instructed by Chaplain Thompson in theory of navigation.....                                | 328                          |
| Lieutenant Commandant not a commissioned rank.....  | 66                           |
| List of on board <i>Intrepid</i> .....  | 443                          |
| List of ranks of, at Washington Navy Yard.....  | 393, 395                     |
| Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....  | 538                          |

| Officers, U. S. Navy—Continued.   |  | Page |
|---|--|------|
| Pay and subsistence of, inadequate.....   | 211-212, 262, 271, 289                               |      |
| Pay of.....   | 296-297, 396, 533                                    |      |
| Payments of money to.....   | 204, 205, 387  |      |
| Peace Establishment Act—  |  |      |
| Objections to and remedies offered.....   | 392-395  |      |
| Supplementary Act.....  | 533  |      |
| Philadelphia. See U. S. S. Philadelphia.  |  |      |
| Preble, Edward, Captain and Commodore, extols bravery of.....   | 210, 439   |      |
| Rations of.....   | 296-297  |      |
| Spence, Robert T., Mid., left at Leghorn his mind being deranged...   | 307  |      |
| Officers, U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps:  |  |      |
| Lists of.....   | 6, 7, 15, 18, 169, 170, 183, 184-185, 443            |      |
| Old Tom, Am. Ship, Capt. John Cornick.....  | 9, 223, 233, 248, 249, 251, 435                      |      |
| Omar, Arraiz, of Tetuan, Capt. of Tripolitan ship <i>Meshouda</i> .....   | 8, 82, 116, 150                                      |      |
|   | 163, 164, 199, 200, 202, 209, 450, 461               |      |
| Orders, issued by Commodore Edward Preble. See Preble, Edward.  |  |      |
| Ormond, Richard, seaman, burning of prize Philadelphia.....   | 424  |      |
| Osborn, William S., 1st Lieut., U. S. M. C., U. S. S. Philadelphia and<br>prisoner of Tripoli.....                                  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191, 529, 530                |      |
| Osborne, Mr. See Osborn, William S., 1st Lieut., U. S. M. C.  |  |      |
| Ospley, Marquis, Minister of Marine, Messina.....   | 478  |      |
| Ossipee, Am. Schooner, Benjamin Hutchins, Master.....   | 137  |      |
| Oswego, Am. Ship (stranded near Cape Nun, April 3, 1800, and crew<br>captured by Arabs)—Disbursement for redemption of crew of..... | 464-465  |      |
| Ottoman Porte. See Turkey, Constantinople.  |  |      |
| Otway, Captain, R. N., Commissioner at Gibraltar.....   | 51, 67   |      |
| Pacha, Captain. See Captain Pacha.  |  |      |
| Palermo, Abraham Gibbs, U. S. Consul at.....  | 501, 542   |      |
| Paolina. See Paulina.   |  |      |
| Pantelaria, Island, consideration of, as rendezvous.....  | 258  |      |
| Parker, Joseph, seaman, burning of prize Philadelphia.....  | 424  |      |
| Parker, Sylvester, ordinary seaman, No. 192, Philadelphia.....  | 186  |      |
| Parodini, John, (Maltese) seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , deserted at Malta.....  | 488  |      |
| Parole of Honor, reference to.....  | 530  |      |
| Parterson, Capt., <i>Phoenix</i> , of Philadelphia.....   | 90   |      |
| Partesano, Salvatore.....   | 180-181  |      |
| Pasgrove, James, seaman, burning of prize Philadelphia.....   | 424  |      |
| Pasmore, John, ordinary seaman, No. 90, Philadelphia.....   | 185  |      |
| Passports:  |  |      |
| Certificates and Passports issued to Algerine cruisers, list of.....  | 518-519  |      |
| Consular, for Algerine cruisers.....  | 518  |      |
| Hafis, chiaus of Captain Pacha, Turkey, issued to.....  | 488  |      |
| Maimona, Moroccan ship, from Salee, released by U. S. passport.....   | 23, 24   |      |
| Mediterranean, change in.....   | 210, 247, 264, 293, 357                              |      |
| Requested by Sir A. Ball and issued by Commo. Preble, to carry bul-<br>locks to Malta from Tripoli.....                             | 281, 282, 291, 328, 333-335, 338, 387, 388           |      |
| Violations of.....  | 7, 8, 92, 411, 412, 417, 438, 442, 449, 452, 454-455 |      |
| Patapasco. See Pelapasco.   |  |      |
| Pattengale, Daniel, seaman, No. 166, Philadelphia.....  | 186  |      |
| Patterson, Daniel Todd, Midn., Philadelphia.....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191, 192                     |      |
| Paula. See Paulina.   |  |      |
| Paulina, Austrian polacre.....  | 274, 341-345, 359, 525, 546                          |      |
| Paulis, Joseph. See Pulis, Joseph, U. S. Consul, Malta.   |  |      |
| Pay:  |  |      |
| Officers, U. S. Navy.....   | 262, 271, 296, 297                                   |      |
| Ship carpenter and constructor.....   | 346  |      |
| Surgeon and Surgeon's Mate.....   | 533  |      |
| U. S. Army, reference to.....   | 533  |      |
| U. S. Marine Corps.....   | 197  |      |
| Pay and rations of officers, U. S. Navy.....  | 289  |      |
| Pay and Subsistence of Officers inadequate.....   | 211-212  |      |
| Payta, Lobas do, Admiral, comdg. Spanish ship <i>Bonaventuro</i> ,.....   | 202  |      |
| Peabody Museum, records published by courtesy of.....   | vii, 304   |      |
| Peace Establishment Act (Naval), reference to.....  | 289, 392-395, 533                                    |      |
| Peale, Rembrandt, copy of original portrait of Stephen Decatur.....   | v, 492   |      |
| Pearce, James, deserted from <i>Mirboka</i> , prize to Philadelphia.....  | 112, 118   |      |

|  | Page                         |
|--|------------------------------|
| Pease, Matthew, <i>Argus</i> , Woodrop Sims, Citizen.....  | 463, 519                     |
| Penneg, seaman, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....   | 105                          |
| Pepper, William, private U. S. M. C., burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 424                          |
| Percey, James, seaman, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 105                          |
| Percival, George, ordinary seaman, No. 63, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 184                          |
| Perry, Joseph, possible alias of Dunbeaven, Joseph.....  | 120                          |
| Perry, William, seaman, No. 264, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187                          |
| Perviance. See Purviance.  |                              |
| Petapasco, American Ship, Baptiste Mezick, Master.....   | 137, 217                     |
| Peters, Sweeny, seaman, No. 269, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187                          |
| Phebe, British frigate, Capt. J. R. Capel, detained <i>American Hero</i> .....                     | 331                          |
| Pheonix, of Philadelphia, Capt. Parterson, towed into Gibraltar by <i>Nautilus</i>                 | 90                           |
| Philadelphia, Pa., references to.....  | 317, 509, 548                |
| Philadelphia, U. S. frigate and prize, captured by Tripoli, Capt. William Bainbridge:              |                              |
| Burning of, copy of engraving by St. Memin,.....   | facing page 414              |
| Burning of, copy of engraving by F. Kearney.....   | facing page 288              |
| Capture of, copy of drawing by Captain William Bainbridge Hoff                                     |                              |
| Facing page.....   | 168                          |
| <i>Celia</i> captured by <i>Mirboka</i> and recaptured by <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Celia</i> . |                              |
| Chased and brought to a Tunisian cruiser of 22 guns, 120 men, off Sicily.....                      | 103                          |
| Convoy duty and cruising orders.....   | 50, 51                       |
| Copy of an engraving by Charles Denoon.....  | Frontispiece                 |
| Cruising off Tripoli.....  | 90                           |
| Destruction or burning of, by expedition under Lts. Decatur and Stewart—                           |                              |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt., prisoner in Tripoli—   |                              |
| Description of burning.....  | 433                          |
| Suggestions and plans of, for destruction.....   | 253, 347, 408, 410           |
| Burnt cables, drifted ashore and burned to waters edge.....  | 432, 463                     |
| Casualties.....  | 414,                         |
| 417, 418, 422, 423, 438, 442—444, 454  |                              |
| Catalano, Salvatore, Pilot, U. S. ketch <i>Intrepid</i> —  |                              |
| Opinion of, and statement, regarding taking her out of harbor.....                                 | 421                          |
| Sicilian pilot on board U. S. ketch <i>Intrepid</i> .....  | 414—417, 443                 |
| Controversy concerning <i>Intrepid</i> and <i>Siren</i> .....                                      | 419, 420, 421                |
| Cowdery, Jonathan, Surgeon, describes burning and subsequent treatment of prisoners.....           | 532                          |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., Lt., commanding U. S. ketch <i>Intrepid</i> —                               |                              |
| Orders and instructions to.....  | 260, 376—377                 |
| Orders given to destroy her, not to remove her from harbor.....                                    | 421, 423, 437, 438, 442, 443 |
| Report of burning.....   | 414—415, 443, 444            |
| Returned on board <i>Intrepid</i> from <i>Siren</i> .....  | 391, 399, 444                |
| See Decatur, Stephen, Jr.  |                              |
| Started enterprise earlier than arranged with <i>Siren</i> .....                                   | 415,                         |
| 416, 418—420   |                              |
| Volunteered to carry into effect, with U. S. schooner <i>Enterprise</i> .....                      | 426                          |
| Went on board <i>Constitution</i> to report burning of.....  | 443, 444                     |
| Decatur, Susan. See Decatur, Susan.  |                              |
| Effect on Messina and Naples.....  | 478                          |
| "Finding the Frigate <i>Philadelphia</i> " by Charles W. Furlong (1905).....                       | 429                          |
| Guns mounted, and guard on board.....  | 388, 454                     |
| Guns of, discharged by heat of fire.....   | 414, 416, 419                |
| Guns of, to be used to destroy shipping and Bashaw's Castle, if possible.....                      | 377                          |
| <i>Intrepid</i> , U. S. ketch, Lt. Stephen Decatur, Jr.  |                              |
| Arrived at Syracuse from Tripoli.....  | 428                          |
| Beset with great danger and hardships.....   | 418, 427, 428                |
| Boarded, captured and burned <i>Philadelphia</i> , details of.....                                 | 12, 14,                      |
| 413—424, 437, 438, 441—444, 454  |                              |
| Boarding party from, 60 men and officers.....  | 414, 417                     |
| Boat in charge of Midshipman Thomas O. Anderson.....   | 418, 419                     |

**Philadelphia—Continued.****Destruction or burning of—Continued.*****Intrepid*—Continued.**

|   | Page                    |
|---|-------------------------|
| Boats of <i>Siren</i> commanded by Lt. James R. Caldwell, dispatched to assistance of.....                  | 416, 431                |
| Boats of <i>Siren</i> met with just outside the harbor of Tripoli.....                                      | 419                     |
| Boats of <i>Siren</i> unable to render assistance to.....   | 413,                    |
| 415-418, 420, 422, 423, 441   | 441                     |
| Council held and change of plans made.....  | 418                     |
| Damage suffered by.....   | 454                     |
| Decatur, Lieut., signals for reinforcement of officers and men from boats of <i>Siren</i> .....             | 432                     |
| Endangered by the burning Frigate.....  | 419                     |
| English colors hoisted.....   | 417                     |
| Fired upon by batteries, Bashaw's Castle and two Corsairs.....  | 414,                    |
| 416, 419, 422, 423, 432, 438, 442, 454  | 454                     |
| Fitted out as Cruiser, with 4 guns and 70 men.....  | 384                     |
| Given full credit for burning <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 419-420                 |
| Gordon, Charles, Lt., of <i>Constitution</i> volunteers to join.....  | 381                     |
| Heerman, Lewis, Surgeon's Mate—   |                         |
| Affidavit of.....   | 417-420                 |
| Left in command of <i>Intrepid</i> during boarding of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                             | 418                     |
| Guns of.....  | 454                     |
| <i>Intrepid</i> and <i>Siren's</i> boats joined the <i>Siren</i> .....                                      | 416                     |
| Izard, Ralph, Jr., Mid.—  |                         |
| Joins expedition.....   | 381                     |
| Report of.....  | 416, 417                |
| Mediterranean rigged.....   | 376                     |
| Nine men sent on board from <i>Siren</i> .....  | 428                     |
| No firearms used.....   | 414, 422, 438, 442      |
| Officers and crew of—   |                         |
| Claim of, for prize money.....  | 424                     |
| Commended by Lt. Stephen Decatur, Jr., and Commo. Preble.....   | 414, 423, 441           |
| To receive two months' pay as reward.....   | 428                     |
| Participating in expedition, list of.....   | 423, 424, 443           |
| Officers, Midshipmen and Pilots from <i>Constitution</i> , on board of.....                                 | 376, 388, 443           |
| Reinforcements sent to, from <i>Siren</i> .....   | 431, 432, 451           |
| Rejoined <i>Siren</i> and proceeded to Syracuse.....  | 419, 420, 421, 423      |
| Resolution of Congress on gallant conduct of Lieut. Decatur, officers and crew of <i>Intrepid</i> .....     | 428                     |
| Retreat of Lieut. Decatur in <i>Intrepid</i> effected without loss of a man.....                            | 427                     |
| Sailed from Syracuse with orders to destroy <i>Philadelphia</i> , with aid of U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> ..... | 376-379,                |
| 381, 384, 413-416, 420, 422, 423, 438, 442, 443, 444, 454   | 454                     |
| Signal of <i>Siren</i> , unanswered by.....   | 420                     |
| Towed by her boats away from the burning frigate.....   | 419                     |
| Towed by <i>Siren</i> to Syracuse.....  | 389, 390, 428, 432, 444 |
| Tripolitan prisoner taken was badly wounded but recovered in U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....             | 414,                    |
| 417, 419, 422, 423, 438, 442-444, 454, 508, 535, 536, 543   | 543                     |
| Two Tripolitan corsairs nearby.....   | 422, 438, 442, 443      |
| Volunteers for expedition.....  | 381, 420                |
| Volunteers from <i>Enterprise</i> , manned with.....  | 376,                    |
| 378, 379, 381, 384, 388, 427, 440   | 444                     |
| Welcomed and cheered by Squadron at Syracuse.....   | 444                     |
| Misunderstanding in U. S. relative to.....  | 427                     |
| Navy, Secretary of—   |                         |
| Congratulations of, on success of expedition.....   | 427                     |
| Lays statement before President of U. S. ....   | 422-424                 |
| Nissen, Nicholas C., sent particulars to Leghorn.....   | 494                     |
| Officers of U. S. Squadron volunteered for.....   | 413, 422, 423           |
| Plan for, believed by Capt. John Rodgers to have originated with Lt. Decatur.....                           | 426                     |
| Plan of action agreed to by Lt. Decatur and Stewart.....  | 415, 416, 418, 420      |

## Philadelphia—Continued.

## Destruction or burning of—Continued.

|   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Practicability of taking her out of harbour instead of burning...   | 426   |
| Preble, Edward Capt. and Commo.—  |   |
| Commends Lts. Decatur and Stewart.....  | 413, 423  |
| Destruction of imperative, was moored in position to prevent<br>her being taken from harbor.....                                  | 422, 441, 442   |
| Destruction of, plans for.....  | 258   |
| Details sent by, to James L. Cathcart.....  | 437, 438  |
| Navy, Secretary of, received dispatches from.....   | 427   |
| Orders of.....  | 376-377   |
| Report of, to Gavino, John, Gibraltar.....  | 422   |
| Report of, to Secretary of the Navy.....  | 413   |
| References to.....  | 385, 388, 389, 417, 418, 419, 423,<br>424, 452, 493, 495, 498, 499, 502, 515, 516, 522, 524, 525, 542 |
| Report of, incites respect of Tunisians for U. S.....   | 483   |
| <i>Siren</i> , U. S. brig, Lt. Charles Stewart—   |   |
| Anchored a distance from city of Tripoli....  | 399, 413-416, 422, 423  |
| Anderson, Thomas O., Mid., conduct of.....  | 443, 444, 451   |
| Arrived at Syracuse from Tripoli.....   | 428   |
| Brooke, Mr., and Mr. Budd, with 8 men (in barge), sent off<br>to Lieut. Decatur.....  | 432   |
| Cheers welcomed return of boats to <i>Siren</i> .....   | 432   |
| Combustibles for burning frigate prepared on board <i>Siren</i> ....  | 421   |
| Cooperation of, defeated by <i>Intrepid's</i> starting enterprize<br>earlier than arranged.....                                   | 415, 416  |
| Crew of, at quarters.....   | 421   |
| Crew of informed of purpose of expedition.....  | 389   |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., Lt.—   |   |
| On board.....   | 391   |
| Sent from, to <i>Intrepid</i> and directed to proceed ahead....   | 399   |
| Went on board <i>Siren</i> and made sail from Tripoli.....  | 432   |
| Details of <i>Siren's</i> participation in.....   | 420-421   |
| Disguised as a merchant ship.....   | 376, 384  |
| Entire crew of, volunteered to fill up crew of <i>Intrepid</i> .....  | 420   |
| Gale off Tripoli delays expedition.....   | 399   |
| Kennedy, Edmund P., affidavit of.....   | 420-421   |
| Log entries for 16 and 17 February.....   | 428-429, 431-432  |
| Officer and nine men sent on board <i>Intrepid</i> .....  | 416, 418, 428   |
| Officers who neglected their duty, list of.....   | 451   |
| Pilot Lewis Jourvass on board.....  | 388   |
| References to.....  | 418, 419, 438   |
| Rejoined by <i>Intrepid</i> and proceeded to Syracuse.....  | 419, 420, 421, 423  |
| Sailed from Syracuse with <i>Intrepid</i> , with orders to assist<br>and cover her retreat after burning <i>Philadelphia</i> .... | 375-379,<br>381, 384, 388-391, 413-416, 418, 420-423, 437, 438, 440,<br>442-444, 454                  |
| Satisfaction expressed by Commo. Preble on assistance<br>rendered by <i>Siren</i> .....   | 441   |
| Stewart, Lieut., reports execution of orders to Commo.<br>Preble.....   | 443, 444  |
| To signal <i>Intrepid</i> when to proceed.....  | 420   |
| Welcomed and cheered by Squadron at Syracuse.....   | 444   |
| Stewart, Charles, Lt., <i>Siren</i> —   |   |
| Commended by Commo. Preble.....   | 413, 423  |
| Orders and instructions to.....   | 376, 442, 443   |
| Praises and gives credit to Lt. Stephen Decatur, Jr.....  | 426   |
| Report of.....  | 415, 416  |
| Swords to be used in boarding.....  | 377   |
| Thanks of the President, Congress, and Secretary of the Navy to<br>all.....   | 427-428   |
| Tripoli—  |   |
| Anger of Bashaw hampers ransom and peace negotiations....   | 474,<br>489, 504, 505   |
| Deprived Bashaw of proceeds from sale to Tunis or Algiers....   | 439, 498  |
| Desire of Bashaw to make peace on more moderate terms due<br>to.....  | 425   |
| Indescribable situation produced in.....  | 425   |
| Witnessed by Bashaw.....  | 421   |

**Philadelphia—Continued.**

|  | Page  |
|--|---|
| Destruction or burning of—Continued.                                 |   |
| Tripolitan Guards killed escaping from.....                          | 474, 475, 489   |
| Volunteers who participated, List of.....                            | 424   |
| Disposition of Prisoners on board of.....                            | 49  |
| Draft of.....  | 191, 277, 285   |
| Force of, reduced by illness.....                                    | 103   |
| Four seamen sent on board by John Gavino, U. S. Consul, Gibraltar... | 467   |
| Gibraltar—   |   |
| In Bay of.....   | 30, 42, 51, 54, 81, 106   |
| Request of Preble, Commodore, for facilities to repair rudder at...  | 51  |
| Rudder, pintle of, broken off.....                                   | 47  |
| Underway out of.....   | 57  |
| Godby, William, carpenter, prisoner of Tripoli—                      |   |
| On board when frigate was floated by Tripoli.....                    | 530   |
| To build gunboat for Bashaw.....                                     | 269   |
| Green, John, <i>Philadelphia</i> , claimed as French citizen.....    | 186   |
| Grounding and capture of, in harbor of Tripoli—                      |   |
| Attacked by Tripolitan Gunboats.....                                 | 172, 174, 294   |
| Bainbridge, William—   |   |
| Details, reports and comments of.....                                | 171-174, 240, 409, 432-433  |
| Received approbation and commendation of his officers.....           | 169, 170  |
| Requested & received his officers' opinion and advice.....           | 169,  |
|  | 170, 179, 180   |
| Catalano, Salvadore, witnessed capture of.....                       | 180-181   |
| Cathcart, James L., comments on.....                                 | 272-273   |
| Colors hauled down in surrender to Tripolitans.....                  | 172, 174, 177   |
| Council of officers advised surrender of.....                        | 174, 179, 190   |
| Court of Inquiry—  |   |
| Bainbridge, William exonerated by Sentence of Court.....             | 194   |
| On board U. S. S. <i>President</i> 29 June 1805.....                 | 189-194   |
| See also Bainbridge, William, Capt.                                  |   |
| Testimony of Capt. William Bainbridge.....                           | 192-194   |
| Cowdery, Jonathan, Surgeon, gives detailed acc't of plunder and      |   |
| treatment of prisoners taken.....                                    | 529, 530, 531, 532  |
| Data furnished by Italian Surgeon.....                               | 322-323   |
| Dispatches giving details of, forwarded.....                         | 259, 338, 427   |
| Dorsey, Mr., not on board.....                                       | 534   |
| Every exertion used to get off the reef.....                         | 475   |
| Guns thrown overboard.....   | 174, 177, 266, 475  |
| Guns useless due to careening of ship.....                           | 176, 409, 475   |
| Lear, Tobias, comments.....  | 274-275, 277, 518   |
| <i>Mastico</i> , Tripolitan ketch, Mustapha Reis, participated in    |   |
| capture and plundering of ship and crew. See <i>Mastico</i> .        |   |
| News of.....   | 170,  |
|  | 175, 239, 240, 256, 265, 266, 283, 285, 459                         |
| Order given to scuttle ship.....                                     | 190, 191  |
| Particulars and references to.....                                   | 14,   |
|  | 169-194, 169, 170, 175-180, 182, 222, 232, 235, 236, 239, 240,      |
|  | 256, 291, 292, 432, 433, 541.                                       |
| Peace retarded by capture of.....                                    | 257, 311  |
| Porter, David, Lt., description by.....                              | 475-476   |
| Prestige of U. S. adversely affected by.....                         | 175, 300  |
| References to.....   | 270-272   |
|  | 286, 298, 308, 312-315, 319-320, 329, 332, 336, 338, 340, 341, 348, |
|  | 353, 400, 401, 420, 425, 461-462, 481.                              |
| Report of money thrown overboard, false; was left in Malta.....      | 530   |
| Report of, sent to Congress.....                                     | 506-507   |
| Signal Books.....  | 192   |
| Six feet of water in hold.....                                       | 530   |
| Tripoli, prize of—   |   |
| Command of <i>Philadelphia</i> given to Reis Genoa, formerly of      |   |
| Algiers.....   | 266   |
| Floated, put in condition and guard put on board.....                | 173, 253, 437   |
| Lisle, Peter, given command of (rumor).....                          | 301   |
| Moored in harbor with all her guns.....                              | 253   |
| Restoration of, to U. S., offered in exchange for a schooner.....    | 337,  |
|  | 350, 378, 517   |

## Philadelphia—Continued.

## Grounding and capture of—Continued.

## Tripoli, prize of—Continued.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Page   |
| Sale of, considered, to Tunis or Algiers (or some other Power)                     | 236,   |
|  | 277, 285, 408, 410   |
| Unable to man frigate properly   | 236  |
| Usefulness to, doubtful  | 258  |
| Tripolitans fought among themselves while capturing frigate and prisoners          | 529, 530   |
| Guns   | 106, 197, 214, 227, 308, 422, 423, 441, 442                          |
| In pursuit of two Tripolitan ships   | 18   |
| Invalids from, sent to U. S. in <i>New York</i> and <i>John Adams</i>              | 143, 154, 162  |
| <i>John Adams</i> , men requested from   | 51   |
| Lists of officers and crew of  | 15, 170, 184-188   |
| Lubarez, Ibrahim, Capt. of <i>Mirboka</i> , authority to capture American          | 44, 45   |
| Ships, reference to  | 50, 51, 67   |
| Malaga, references to  | 326, 327   |
| Malta—   | 159, 192   |
| <i>Constitution</i> received stores left at Malta by <i>Philadelphia</i>           | 50,  |
| Departed from for Tripoli  | 100, 103, 104, 237, 350, 457   |
| Left at Malta main mast, spars, lumber and stores                                  | 188, 197   |
| Marines, list of   | See <i>Mirboka</i> .   |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , Moroccan cruiser, captured by                                     | Officers and crew of, taken prisoners by Tripoli—                    |
| Attempts of, to escape   | 425  |
| Bainbridge, William Capt.—   | Comments re peace, ransom and Tripoli generally                      |
| Comments re peace, ransom and Tripoli generally                                    | 329-330  |
| Protests against treatment since burning of <i>Philadelphia</i>                    | 445-446,   |
|  | 449  |
| Bashaw of Tripoli will not consent to exchange of prisoners                        | 544, 545   |
| Beaussier, Citizen, French Commissary General to endeavor to aid and release       | 336, 337, 498, 506, 542-544  |
| Bonaparte, Napoleon, First Consul, France interest taken by                        | 308,   |
|  | 335-337, 542-544   |
| Casualties, 2 of crew died   | 347, 409   |
| Cathcart, James L.—  | Endeavors to alleviate condition of, and money, clothing arranged    |
| Endeavors to alleviate condition of, and money, clothing arranged                  | 266,   |
|  | 237, 272, 273, 353-354, 357-358, 373, 437, 449                       |
| Endeavors of, to aid, resented by Tobias Lear                                      | 404  |
| Clothing and stores for, not permitted to land except in Neutral Vessels           | 545  |
| Clothing for, neglected to be forwarded by Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta       | 334  |
| Clothing, stores and money for, receipt of acknowledged by Capt. Bainbridge        | 487  |
| Clothing, stores, medicines, and money for from all sources                        | 176,   |
|  | 267, 272, 274, 275, 277, 284, 310, 312, 319, 333, 340, 341, 353-354, |
|  | 357-358, 360, 369, 370, 373, 378, 385, 409, 430, 437, 442, 449, 458, |
|  | 467, 487, 489, 527, 528, 536, 537, 543, 545-546                      |
| Conduct of   | 445  |
| Confined in Palace, surrounded by guards   | 526  |
| Cowdery, Jonathan, Surgeon, detailed account of plunder and treatment of prisoners | 529-532  |
| Davis, George, Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis, sent aid to                               | 409-410  |
| Dghies, Prime Minister, Tripoli, interest in                                       | 260, 313   |
| Employment of, by Bashaw   | 269  |
| Farquhar, Richard, assistance by   | 222, 301   |
| Financial arrangements relative to   | 369, 370, 403  |
| Gratification of Bashaw on capture   | 425, 433   |
| Held in French Consul's house  | 254  |
| Horrors of imprisonment  | 425, 433   |
| Higgins, William (Malta), measures taken by, in aid of                             | 282, 301, 410  |
| Lear, Tobias, measures taken by, for relief of                                     | 271,   |
|  | 272, 283, 329, 369, 403, 434, 435, 517, 521                          |
| Letters, newspapers, dispatches, and clothing for                                  | 333, 334, 432  |
| Liberation or release of   | 15, 339, 439, 462, 480, 481, 490, 498-501, 506                       |

## Philadelphia—Continued.

## Officers and crew of—Continued.

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| Lives of, may be endangered by attack on Tripoli.....  | 406  |
| Livingston, Robert R., U. S. Minister to Paris, seeks aid of First Consul, France.....                         | 332  |
| McDonogh, Brian, British Consul, Tripoli:  |  |
| Offers assistance to.....  | 530  |
| Reference to anger of Bashaw hampering negotiations....  | 504-505  |
| <i>Mastico</i> removed prisoners from, to Bashaw of Tripoli.....   | 181, 433   |
| May be put to death as traitors for voluntary service to Tripoli.....  | 313  |
| Members of crew of, petitioned Lord Nelson to claim them as British Subjects.....                              | 253, 357   |
| Members of crew turned Turk, or Mohammedan.....  | 269, 301, 329, 347, 409  |
| Monroe, James, U. S. Minister to London, England, endeavors to aid.....  | 461-462  |
| Nissen, Nicholas C., Danish Consul—  |  |
| Assistance rendered by.....  | 171, 172, 173, 182-183, 253, 446, 447, 520, 529, 530, 531  |
| Thanked by Commo. Preble for his kindness to.....  | 279  |
| Not to be treated as slaves.....   | 313  |
| Number of prisoners, or complement of.....   | 347, 409   |
| Officers, paroled.....   | 172, 173, 530  |
| Plundered by Captain and Crew of <i>Mastico</i> .....  | 371, 384, 386, 433   |
| Plundering and treatment of.....   | 175, 176, 178, 179, 180, 182, 223, 224, 254, 269, 292, 312, 313, 329, 331, 334, 357, 360, 409, 432, 433, 459.  |
| Preble, Edward, Commo.—  |  |
| Measures taken for welfare of.....   | 257, 259, 310, 354   |
| Orders and instructions to.....  | 312  |
| Orders to, aiding and encouragement of.....  | 334  |
| Wishes officers and crew had preferred death to slavery.....   | 256  |
| Prisoner attempted to kill himself by cutting throat.....  | 531  |
| Property plundered, offered to them for sale, by Tripolitans.....  | 530  |
| Pulis, Joseph, U. S. Consul, Malta, sends money and medicines to.....  | 261  |
| Quartered at Bashaw's palace and U. S. Consular House.....   | 172, 173, 183, 267, 522, 526, 529, 531   |
| Ransom and exchange of, estimates, demands, proposals and negotiations.....                                    | 284, 285, 292, 302, 311, 313, 333, 334, 336-338, 340, 341, 350, 353, 354, 378, 379, 384, 385, 425, 448, 494, 498, 499, 517, 525, 526, 536, 544, 545. |
| Rations.....   | 254, 531   |
| References to.....   | 298, 308, 315, 425, 470, 529, 540  |
| Reference to conduct of, by Italian Surgeon.....   | 322  |
| Relief of, by U. S. Minister to Madrid.....  | 348, 349   |
| Removal of, from Consular House to Bashaw's Castle.....  | 522  |
| Ridgely, John, Surgeon, ill, treated by Dr. Cowdery.....   | 531  |
| Russia's intercession with Turkey for release of.....  | 358, 397, 534, 541   |
| Situation and condition of.....  | 269  |
| Smith, Thomas, 1st. prisoner in Tripoli, turned Turk.....  | 185  |
| Sweden and Turkey, intercession of, sought, for release.....   | 462, 480, 481, 490, 541  |
| Taken prisoners.....   | 175, 177, 181, 254, 298, 308, 312, 315, 332, 470, 480  |
| Thainville, M., French Commissary General, Algiers, interested in welfare of.....                              | 294  |
| Treatment of, after burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> , unjustifiably harsh.....                                  | 421, 431-433, 445-447, 449, 455, 474, 487, 489, 494, 498, 499, 501, 522, 532.  |
| West, Peter, prisoner in Tripoli turned Turk.....  | 185  |
| Wilson (or Willson), John (claims protection of Sweden), turned Turk, various references to activities of..... | 176, 185, 223, 224, 269, 280-281, 301, 409, 530  |
| Officers of, correspondence with Capt. William Bainbridge.....   | 169, 170   |
| One of Commodore Preble's Mediterranean Squadron....   | 11-13, 46, 197, 214  |
| Order to capture Moroccan ships and send to Gibraltar.....   | 48-50, 58  |
| Orders to.....   | 79, 85   |



|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Philadelphia</b> —Continued.   | Page                                |
| Orders to capture Moorish vessels cancelled.....                                    | 154                                 |
| Parted company with <i>Port Mary</i> off Spanish coast.....                         | 103                                 |
| Preble, Commo., and Tobias Lear went on board at Gibraltar.....                     | 82                                  |
| Prize money for capture and destruction of.....                                     | 420-424                             |
| References to.....  | iii, viii, 16,                      |
| 19, 37, 45, 67, 72, 77, 90, 99, 100, 107, 110, 121, 154, 182, 203, 206,             |                                     |
| 218, 251, 256, 261, 268, 285, 286, 293, 312, 334, 346, 348, 353, 382,               |                                     |
| 388, 397, 425, 485, 487, 488, 501, 546.   |                                     |
| Résumé of.....  | 14, 15                              |
| Sailing from Malta to Tripoli, with <i>Vizen</i> .....                              | 104                                 |
| Sailing orders.....   | 57                                  |
| Tripoli—  |                                     |
| Arrived at.....   | 192                                 |
| At sea off coast of.....  | 159                                 |
| Batteries, shore.....   | 304                                 |
| Map of.....   | 174                                 |
| Ordered to blockade.....  | 50, 51, 58, 64, 66, 70              |
| Ordered <i>Vizen</i> to part company with, at Tripoli.....                          | 73, 192                             |
| <i>Vizen</i> to accompany her to blockade of.....                                   | 50, 51                              |
| Picking, Sherwood, Commander, U. S. N.....  | viii, 74, 495                       |
| Pierce, George.....   | 342                                 |
| Pierce, James, deserted from prize crew of <i>Mirboka</i> .....                     | 131, 133, 134                       |
| Pierce, Thomas, deserter from <i>Mirboka</i> , held on board of <i>Medusa</i> ..... | 143                                 |
| Pifer, Jacob, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                       | 188                                 |
| Pilots at Cadiz, Spain.....   | 164                                 |
| Pinckney, Charles, U. S. Minister, Madrid, Spain:                                   |                                     |
| Correspondence with—  |                                     |
| Lear, Tobias.....   | 348-349                             |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 228, 325                            |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 343                                 |
| Yznardi, Josef.....   | 540                                 |
| Endeavors in behalf of American prisoners in Tripoli, taken from                    |                                     |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 348, 349, 403                       |
| References to.....  | 434, 520, 540, 546                  |
| Piomingo, Am. Ship, embargoed at Leghorn.....                                       | 453                                 |
| Plover, John, deserter from <i>Constitution</i> .....                               | 154-158                             |
| Policy concerning American merchant ships.....                                      | 278, 279, 367-369                   |
| Ponteves, De, Anselme Roubaud.....  | 114                                 |
| Pool, Eugene H., Dr., reproduction of engraving by courtesy of.....                 | v, 288                              |
| Porcile, Anna, redemption of, at Tunis.....   | 264                                 |
| Porter, David, Lt., U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> and prisoner of Tripoli:           |                                     |
| Biography of, reference to <i>Analectic Magazine</i> .....                          | 425                                 |
| Correspondence with Wadsworth, Henry, Midshipman, <i>Constitution</i> .....         | 475-476                             |
| Description of grounding and capture of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 475-476                             |
| References to.....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 188, 531         |
| Sent in barge to announce surrender of U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> .....           | 475-476                             |
| Sword and Belt of, recovered by Captain Edward Preble.....                          | 334                                 |
| Witness at trial of Capt. William Bainbridge.....                                   | 189-191                             |
| Port Mary, Am. storeship of Charleston, S. C., Capt. John Collins.....              | 85, 103, 401,                       |
| 402, 434, 451, 453, 457, 463  |                                     |
| Portugal, references to.....  | 54, 284, 292, 314, 465              |
| Poulis. See Pulis, Joseph.  |                                     |
| Preble, Edward, Capt. and Commodore of U. S. Mediterranean Squadron:                |                                     |
| Advocates U. S. sending Minister Plenipotentiary to Ottoman Porte.....              | 487                                 |
| Algiers landed under salute of 5 guns.....  | 233, 246                            |
| Appointments or promotions, form of.....  | 204                                 |
| Arrival off Malta.....  | 256                                 |
| At Malta ten days in U. S. brig <i>Vizen</i> flying broad pennant.....              | 317,                                |
| 323, 327, 330, 331, 334, 337, 347   |                                     |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.—   |                                     |
| Cipher of.....  | 310, 431                            |
| References to.....  | 50, 51, 57, 253, 261, 346, 410, 431 |
| Regrets loss of services of, to Squadron.....                                       | 311                                 |
| Sympathy expressed and help assured for his officers and men....                    | 280                                 |
| Broad pennant hoisted, <i>Constitution</i> . See <i>Constitution</i> .              |                                     |
| Broad pennant shifted from <i>Enterpize</i> to <i>Constitution</i> .....            | 324, 326, 328                       |
| Broad pennant shifted to U. S. schr. <i>Vizen</i> .....                             | 323, 328                            |

| Preble, Edward—Continued.   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Cadiz, to call on Governor of   | 164   |
| Cathcart, James L., Leghorn. <i>See</i> Cathcart, James L.                    |   |
| Commended by—   |   |
| Lear, Tobias, U. S. Consul General, Algiers                                   | 80, 88, 152   |
| Navy, Secretary of  | 227, 427, 439, 440                                      |
| President of the United States for peace with Morocco (and acknowledgment of) | 297, 440  |
| State, Secretary of   | 297   |
| Commends Baker, Nathan, Purser  | 366, 367  |
| Commends Dent, John H., Lt.   | 210   |
| Commends officers of <i>Constitution</i> and of U. S. squadron                | 210, 439  |
| Commends Stewart, Charles, Lt.  | 413, 423  |
| Comments <i>re</i> inadvisability of paying tribute to Barbary Powers         | 338   |
| Commodore of new Mediterranean Squadron                                       | 46  |
| Congratulated on taking the prize ketch <i>Mastico</i>                        | 302   |
| <i>Constitution</i> , Internal Rules and Regulations for, by                  | 32-41   |
| Conversation with Moors on board <i>Constitution</i>                          | 85  |
| Copy of a portrait by J. Trumbull   | Facing page 12  |
| Correspondence with—  |   |
| Appleton, Thomas  | 499-500   |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.  | 45,   |
| 47-50, 103-104, 154, 159, 171, 173-176, 223-224, 253-254, 260,                |   |
| 269, 280, 310-311, 319-320, 334-335, 346-347, 353, 408-410,                   |   |
| 430-432, 439, 441-442, 449, 455-456, 467, 474, 489, 490, 525-528,             |   |
| 536, 537, 545-546.  |   |
| Ball, Sir Alexander John,   | 332-333, 335, 454-455, 482                              |
| Barnes, Joseph  | 500-501   |
| Beaussier, M.   | 535, 542-544  |
| Billups, George   | 256   |
| Boyd, Walter, midshipman  | 252   |
| Broadbent, John   | 398-399, 446, 478, 500                                  |
| Brooke, Samuel B., sailing master   | 447, 479  |
| Brown, Thomas, Midshipman   | 455   |
| Brune, General  | 469, 470-471  |
| Bufuttil (or Busuttil) Salvatore  | 314, 352  |
| Burrows, William, Midshipman  | 325   |
| Casey, Henry P., Midshipman, <i>Constitution</i>                              | 288   |
| Cathcart, James L.  | 226,  |
| 228-229, 311-312, 372-373, 379, 435-438, 458-459, 501                         |   |
| Chauncey, Isaac, Lt.  | 132, 133  |
| Cox, John S. H., Lt., U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i>                            | 48, 49  |
| Davis, George   | 340-341, 359-360, 386, 477, 522                         |
| Deblois, James, Purser, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i>                          | 231   |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., Lt.  | 65,   |
| 66, 71, 159, 203-204, 215, 244, 245, 251, 260, 281, 309, 315, 325,            |   |
| 376-377, 414-415, 446, 456, 492, 505, 546-547.                                |   |
| Degen, Frederick & Co.  | 497   |
| Degen, Purviance & Co.  | 155, 319, 500   |
| Dghies, Sidi Mohamet  | 312-313, 527, 535-536                                   |
| Dent, John H., Lt.  | 165, 281, 317-318, 326, 398, 401-402, 439               |
| Dorsey, John, Midshipman  | 522   |
| Dyson, George   | 496   |
| Elbert, Samuel, Lt.   | 377   |
| Farquhar, Richard   | 380-381, 390, 471, 492                                  |
| Gadsden, Christopher, Jr., midshipman   | 252   |
| Gavino, John  | 68, 160, 263, 267, 347-348, 369, 400, 422, 467, 514-515 |
| Gibbs, Abraham  | 448   |
| Gordon, Charles, Lt.  | 381   |
| Gore, John, Capt., R. N.  | 143, 144  |
| Harris, Levett  | 397   |
| Hart, George, Capt., R. N., H. B. M. S. <i>Monmouth</i>                       | 155-159   |
| Higgins, William  | 301-302, 351, 354, 400, 406, 429-430, 452               |
| Hopkins, Thomas, Capt.  | 370   |
| Hull, Isaac, Lt.  | 71,   |
| 95, 129, 204-205, 218, 237-238, 261, 320, 402, 438, 466-467                   |   |
| Junior officers, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i>                                 | 169   |

## Preble, Edward—Continued.

## Correspondence with—Continued.

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| Kirkpatrick, William   | 59, 67, 230-231  |
| Lear, Tobias   | 23, 24, 59, 60, 94, 101, 132, 133, 139<br>217-218, 221, 224, 285-286, 340, 377-379, 439, 442, 516-518  |
| Lewis, William, Midshipman   | 377  |
| Livingston, Robert R.  | 336-337, 498-499, 503-504  |
| Mason, Benjamin, Capt. (and others)  | 96   |
| Matthew, John S. M.  | 505-506  |
| McDonogh, Brian  | 333-334, 504-505   |
| Monroe, James  | 215-216  |
| Moore, Thomas, Carpenter   | 326  |
| Morris, Noadiah, Purser, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i>  | 275  |
| Navy, Secretary of   | 18,<br>56-59, 69-71, 95-96, 139-143, 160-162, 167, 209-210, 221, 227,<br>233-234, 256-260, 337-340, 350, 356-357, 384-386, 389, 413, 427,<br>438-439, 440-441, 481-482, 485-488, 491, 496-497. |
| Nissen, Nicholas C., Danish Consul, Tripoli  | 279, 446-447, 488-489  |
| O'Brien, Richard   | 194-196, 283-285, 380, 496   |
| Officers Commanding Ships of War of U. S. Squadron in the<br>Mediterranean                   | 281-282, 333   |
| Otway, Captain, R. N.  | 51   |
| Captain Pacha of the Sultan of Turkey  | 480-481  |
| Pinckney, Charles  | 228, 325   |
| Pulis, Joseph  | 236-237, 261, 300, 401, 405, 483   |
| Reddick, Mills   | 496  |
| Reed, Hethcote J., Midshipman  | 288-289, 318   |
| Robinson, Thomas, Jr., Lt.   | 377, 478-479   |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.   | 46, 47, 129, 132, 133, 144   |
| Schembri, Gaetano Andrea   | 513-514  |
| Simpson, James   | 30,<br>31, 43, 45, 51-53, 71, 75, 76, 97-98, 102-103, 106, 109-111,<br>115-119, 123, 124, 163, 164, 201, 202, 450-451.   |
| Smith, John, Lt.   | 230, 252, 268, 326, 377, 387-388, 406, 407, 457  |
| Somers, Richard, Lt.   | 45,<br>49, 63, 74, 122, 130, 206, 268, 374, 377, 387, 411, 482-483   |
| Spence, Keith, Purser  | 430  |
| State, Secretary of  | 72, 73, 138, 297   |
| Stewart, Charles, Lt.  | 64,<br>65, 98, 100, 121, 122, 129, 237, 307, 316, 318, 324, 326, 361, 366-<br>367, 375-377, 415, 451, 471, 495-496, 511.   |
| Sutton, Capt., R. N., H. B. M. S. <i>Amphion</i>   | 154, 155   |
| Swedish Consul, Tripoli  | 280-281  |
| Tarbell, Joseph, Lieut.  | 100, 133, 134  |
| Terry, Anthony   | 232  |
| Thorn, Jonathan, Midshipman (acting as Lieutenant)   | 204  |
| Thomas, Joseph   | 520  |
| Villetts, W. A., Major General   | 328, 333   |
| Warrant and Petty Officers, Seamen and Marines, U. S. S.<br><i>Philadelphia</i> , Tripoli    | 312  |
| Yznardi, Josef   | 164, 165   |
| Dispatches for, by <i>Vizen</i>  | 326, 327   |
| Dispatches to Secretary of Navy, details of transactions of<br>Squadron                      | 313, 338   |
| Extracts from diary of and memorandum book of. <i>See Constitution</i><br>and <i>Vizen</i> . |  |
| Extracts from log of. <i>See Constitution</i> .  |  |
| Fire ships and infernals planned for attack on Tripoli                                       | 486  |
| Fraudulent withdrawal of funds from Mackenzie & Glennie, by<br>Robert Laurent                | 481-482  |
| Gibraltar, references to   | 12, 78, 82, 83, 93, 208, 245, 347  |
| Lear, Mrs. Tobias, embroiders sword belt as gift to  | 518  |
| Morocco, operations and negotiations with. <i>See Morocco</i> .                              |  |
| Order concerning Surgeon's Mates, Master's Mates and Mid                                     | 165  |
| Orders issued by   | 6, 7, 45, 48-51, 57, 58, 84, 86, 87, 536   |
| Orders Port of Tripoli blockaded ( <i>see also Tripoli</i> )                                 | 308  |

**Preble, Edward**—Continued.

Page

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Orders to.....  | 389, 472                               |
| Orders to Commanding Officers of Mediterranean Squadron with reference to boats landing.....  | 45                                     |
| Passports issued by.....  | 281, 282, 313, 332, 333, 335, 513, 514 |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> —   |  |
| All details pertaining to. <i>See Tripoli and Philadelphia.</i>   |  |
| Effect of capture on his plans.....   | 256                                    |
| Policy regarding Seamen who appear to be British subjects.....  | 472-473                                |
| References to.....  | vii,                                   |
| 3, 14, 17, 22, 42, 62, 98, 99, 117, 118, 120, 134, 138, 145-147, 151, 166, 170, 178, 180-182, 192, 199, 207, 211, 212, 214, 219, 220, 222, 236, 242, 247, 248, 257, 260, 265, 270, 273, 277, 292, 329, 349, 356, 357, 382, 403, 417, 418, 439, 444, 445, 453, 462, 476, 494, 530, 538, 540, 541 |  |
| Refused to comply with demand of Tunisian Admiral to inspect prisoners.....   | 491, 493                               |
| Relieved as Commodore, Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 13                                     |
| Rodgers, John, Commo—   |  |
| Cooperation with.....   | 46, 47                                 |
| Reply of, concerning Commodore Rodger's resentment of his pennant flying on <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 46, 47                                 |
| Sailed in <i>Constitution</i> for Tripoli.....  | 510                                    |
| Schembri, Gaetano Andrea, Valetta, Malta—   |  |
| Memorial from.....  | 511-513                                |
| No knowledge of.....  | 489                                    |
| Unauthorized representation of United States in Tripolitan affairs.....   | 512, 514, 537                          |
| Signal books in Library of Congress.....  | 304                                    |
| Statement of, concerning captured brig <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .....  | 411-412                                |
| Stores for Mediterranean Squadron—should be sent from U. S.—  | 59                                     |
| <i>Syracuse</i> —   |  |
| Appointed George Dyson Navy Agent at.....   | 351                                    |
| At <i>Syracuse</i> .....  | 256                                    |
| Expressions of friendship to, by residents of.....  | 243                                    |
| Landed at <i>Syracuse</i> and waited on Governor.....   | 243, 245                               |
| Ordered spars landed at.....  | 244                                    |
| Stores to be consigned to.....  | 161                                    |
| Sword and Belt of Lieutenant David Porter recovered by.....   | 334                                    |
| Trigge, Sir Thomas, visited by.....   | 82                                     |
| <i>Tripoli</i> —  |  |
| Blockade of and negotiations with. <i>See Tripoli and Philadelphia.</i>   |  |
| Cruise of, off Tripoli.....   | 310, 311, 357                          |
| Tripolitan prisoners treated well by.....   | 84, 489                                |
| Tunis, reference to.....  | 142                                    |
| Waited on Commodore Morris, Richard V.....  | 45, 54                                 |
| Waited on by—   |  |
| Campbell, Hugh G., Capt.....  | 138                                    |
| Hull, Isaac, Lt.....  | 155, 165                               |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.....  | 61, 131, 138                           |
| Yznardi, Josef.....   | 165                                    |
| Warns Decatur, Stephen, Jr., Lt., against Tripoli and Tunis.....  | 505                                    |
| Went on board <i>Nautilus</i> .....   | 208                                    |
| <b>Preble, Henry</b> .....  | 231                                    |
| <b>President of the U. S., Thomas Jefferson:</b>  |  |
| Authorized to have purchased or built two war vessels.....  | 523                                    |
| Authorized to hire or accept on loan gunboats in Mediterranean....  | 523                                    |
| Cathcart, James L., reference to appointment as U. S. Consul, Tunis.....  | 111, 362                               |
| Correspondence with—  |  |
| Algiers, Dey of.....  | 132                                    |
| Farquhar, Richard.....  | 222, 501-502                           |
| Morocco, Emperor of.....  | 124, 125                               |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 534                                    |
| Tunis, Bey of.....  | 361-362                                |
| Decatur, Stephen, Jr., references to.....   | 428, 441                               |
| Message to Congress of the United States.....   | 506-507                                |

President of the U. S.—Continued.

|   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Morocco—  |   |
| Approved of peace arrangements with.....  | 450   |
| Bainbridge report of Moroccan aggressions communicated to Congress.....   | 198, 199  |
| Commendation of Bainbridge, William, Capt. in capturing <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 207, 439, 440   |
| Commendation of Commo. Preble's peace with Morocco.....   | 297   |
| Emperor of, wishes correspondence with.....   | 138   |
| Orders <i>Meshouda</i> and <i>Mirboka</i> restored to.....  | 207, 208  |
| Restoration of Moroccan ships and subjects favored by.....  | 199   |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt., references to.....   | 484   |
| O'Brien, Richard, proposes answer to be sent to Dey of Algiers.....   | 134-136   |
| Opinion of, as to what constitutes a Blockade.....  | 389   |
| References to.....  | 31, 43, 46, 54, 55, 60, 88, 89, 114, 115, 124, 126, 141, 149-151, 166, 167, 183, 210, 218, 227, 246, 282-283, 291, 294, 339, 351, 362, 403, 422, 485, 509, 517, 522, 523, 533 |
| Requested by Congress to present Lt. Decatur a sword, and two months' pay to each officer and the crew of <i>Inrepid</i> .....      | 428   |
| Salutes and other marks of respect shown, on visit to vessels returned from Mediterranean.....                                      | 263   |
| Thanks of, to be conveyed Lieut. Decatur and each individual taking part in destruction of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                | 428   |
| President, U. S. S., Commo. Samuel Barron and Capt. James Barron:   |   |
| Arrived off Tripoli.....  | 13  |
| Court of Inquiry into Capt. William Bainbridge's conduct, held on board 29 June 1805.....   | 189-194   |
| To prepare for sea.....   | 509   |
| Prince, Thomas, ordinary seaman, No. 82, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185, 269  |
| Printing historical and naval documents, acts authorizing.....  | iv  |
| Prisoners:  |   |
| American, captured by Tripoli—  |   |
| Built Fort American, Tripoli.....   | 304   |
| Taken in <i>Philadelphia</i> , Cowdery, Jonathan, Surgeon, detailed account of treatment and plunder of.....                        | 529-532   |
| Taken in <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Philadelphia</i> .  |   |
| Willson, John. See Willson (or Willson), John.  |   |
| List of, on board <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 383   |
| Moroccan, taken in <i>Meshouda</i> . See <i>Meshouda</i> .  |   |
| Moroccan, taken in <i>Mirboka</i> . See <i>Mirboka</i> .  |   |
| Portuguese, ransom offered Algiers.....   | 284   |
| Swedish, Bashaw of Tripoli threatens to put to death.....   | 406   |
| Taken by U. S. S. <i>Enterprise</i> in polacre <i>Paulina</i> .....   | 341, 342  |
| Transfer, prize prisoners transferred from <i>Siren</i> to <i>Nautilus</i> .....  | 503, 508  |
| Tripolitan—   |   |
| American treatment of....   | 176, 223, 224, 313, 475, 487, 489, 527, 535, 536  |
| Captured in <i>Mastico</i> . See <i>Mastico</i> .   |   |
| Captured in <i>St. Crucifisso</i> by U. S. S. <i>Nautilus</i> .....   | 411, 438, 441, 442, 449, 454, 462   |
| Disposition of.....   | 313   |
| Eight officers detained on board <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 485   |
| Landing of, at Syracuse, by Commo. Preble.....  | 485   |
| Release of, advised by Prime Minister of Tripoli.....   | 219   |
| <i>Meshouda</i> captured by U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> . See <i>Meshouda</i> .  |   |
| Tunisian taken by <i>Nautilus</i> in <i>St. Crucifisso</i> released.....  | 485   |
| Turkish, captured in <i>Mastico</i> . See <i>Mastico</i> .  |   |
| Prison ship, <i>Meshouda</i> at Gibraltar.....  | 105   |
| Prizes:   |   |
| <i>Celia</i> prize to Moroccan ship <i>Mirboka</i> . See <i>Celia</i> .   |   |
| List of, taken by vessels of U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean....  | 323-324   |
| <i>Madona Catapoliana</i> . See <i>Madona Catapoliana</i> , and Schembri, Gaetano Andrea.   |   |
| <i>Mastico</i> , Tripolitan ketch captured by U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> in company with <i>Enterprise</i> . See <i>Mastico</i> . |   |
| <i>Meshouda</i> , Tripolitan, under Moroccan protection—captured by <i>John Adams</i> . See <i>Meshouda</i> .                       |   |

**Prizes—Continued.**

*Mirboka*, Moroccan ship captured by U. S. S. *Philadelphia*. See *Mirboka*.

*Paulina* captured by U. S. S. *Enterprise*. See *Paulina*.

*Philadelphia*, U. S. S. captured by Tripolitans after grounding. See *Philadelphia*.

*Philadelphia*, Tripolitan prize, recaptured and burned by U. S. ketch *Intrepid*. See *Philadelphia*.

Spanish ketch captured by *Argus*..... 324

*St. Crucifisso*. See *St. Crucifisso* and Schembri, Gaetano Andrea.

Taken by U. S. vessels, to be sent to Syracuse for adjudication..... 206

*Transfer*, brig of 16 guns, captured by U. S. brig *Siren* (renamed *Scourge*). See *Transfer*.

Three Tripolitan boats taken during action against Tripoli..... 13

**Provisions:**

At Syracuse supply depot (see also Stores)..... 254, 256, 257

*Constitution*, U. S. S. .... 231, 506

Cost of rations..... 396

Brought by *Traveller*, unfit for use..... 275, 440

*Intrepid*, putrid provisions accidentally supplied..... 418

Krouse & Co., I., Georgetown..... 250

Mediterranean Squadron..... 203, 221, 236-237, 258, 259, 287, 440, 515

Salt unfit for use..... 273

*Siren*, U. S. brig..... 154, 252

*Vixen*, U. S. schooner..... 252

*William and Mary*:

Arrived at Gibraltar from Norfolk and ordered to Malta... 360-361, 375

To carry cargo from Malta to Syracuse..... 429

Prussian Brig sent into Malta by *Siren* and released..... 471, 477, 478, 480

Public Printer authorized to furnish copies to Library of Congress... iv

*Pulis*, Joseph, U. S. Consul, Malta:

Correspondence with—

Gavino, John..... 401

Morris, Richard V., Capt..... 344-345

Preble, Edward, Capt..... 236-237, 261, 300, 401, 405, 483

Detention, at Malta, of clothing and stores for Capt. Bainbridge, by... 310,

334, 353

Former Consul to Bashaw of Tripoli..... 222, 386

Inattentive to concerns of U. S. (cannot speak English)..... 339, 385, 386

Informed of Blockade of Tripoli..... 282

Letters and despatches of U. S. Squadron held up and misdirected

by..... 385, 386, 441

Orders to..... 310

*Paulina*, reference to..... 344, 345

References to..... 170, 222,

236, 258, 281, 301, 311, 341, 342, 369, 456, 467, 472, 515, 536, 546

Requests information regarding seaman left at Maltese Hospital... 483

Stores for Mediterranean Squadron addressed to..... 400

Stores from *Philadelphia* placed under charge and in Magazine of... 103

To hire vessel to carry dispatches, and stores for Captive Officers,

to Tripoli..... 282

To select and accompany translator to Syracuse to translate papers

of *Mastico*..... 300, 350

Went on board *Siren*..... 463

*William and Mary*, Capt. E. H. Tipling—Instructions to unload cargo

at Malta disapproved by William Higgins..... 429

Punishment, aboard *Constitution*..... 225, 408

Purser, U. S. S. *Constitution*, duties of..... 40

Purviance. See Degen, Purviance & Co.

**Quarantine:**

Algiers..... 305

Cadiz..... 162, 163, 165, 202, 355

Gibraltar quarantined against vessels from Spain..... 223

Leghorn..... 237, 238, 239

Madrid changed from 40 to 15 and 10 days..... 540

Syracuse..... 319

Quigly, Frederick, private, U. S. M. C., *Philadelphia*..... 188

Quin, John, private U. S. M. C., burning of prize *Philadelphia*..... 424

|  | Page                             |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Quinley, James, seaman, No. 274, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187                              |
| Radish, or Radishjz, Lucca, master, <i>Paulina</i> : Austrian polacre.....   | 343, 346                         |
| Rafts supported by goat skins filled with air.....   | 97                               |
| Raiden, William.....   | 131                              |
| Raiz Halifa. See Halifa, Reis.   |                                  |
| Raiz Hash Saci. See Saci, Raiz Hash.   |                                  |
| Raiz Mohammed Suai. See Suai, Raiz Mohammed.   |                                  |
| Rajah, Am. brig. Master Emneul Ward.....   | 93                               |
| Randolph, John, Jr., Hon., U. S. Congress correspondence with Navy,<br>Secretary of.....                             | 255, 299                         |
| Ransom:  |                                  |
| Algiers—   |                                  |
| Offered \$1,200,000 by Portugal.....   | 284                              |
| Paid by Tobias Lear for Captain Andrew Morris and crew of<br>Am. brig. <i>Franklin</i> .....                         | 248                              |
| Tripoli—   |                                  |
| Demands for ransom and peace \$3,000,000 ( <i>see also</i> Tripoli and<br>U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> ).....        | 311                              |
| Officers and crew of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 284, 285, 292, 378, 379, 384     |
| Paid \$150,000 by Sweden for 150 captives.....   | 285                              |
| Rapp, John, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 188                              |
| Rations:   |                                  |
| Cost of.....   | 396                              |
| For U. S. Marines at New Orleans, supplied by Army.....  | 508                              |
| For prisoners taken from <i>Philadelphia</i> by Tripoli.....   | 254                              |
| Officers, U. S. Navy.....  | 271, 289, 296, 297               |
| Rawman, John, seaman, No. 247, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187                              |
| Ray, William, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 188                              |
| Rayason, James, seaman sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 105                              |
| Read, Benjamin F. See Reid.  |                                  |
| Recruiting, instructions to:   |                                  |
| Baltimore, Md.....   | 510                              |
| New York, N. Y.....  | 509                              |
| Philadelphia, Pa.....  | 509, 548                         |
| Reed, U. S. Marine Corps, height of.....   | 454                              |
| Reddick, Miles, Capt. Am. ship <i>Betsy Walk</i> (or <i>Betsy Walker</i> ), later<br>named <i>Woodrup Sims</i> ..... | 356, 496, 515                    |
| Reed, George W., Lt., <i>Nautilus</i> .....  | 507                              |
| Reed, Hethcote, J., Midshipman.....  | 169, 288-289, 295, 318, 388      |
| Reed, Mid. or Master's Mate, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> and prize <i>Mirboka</i> .....                             | 6,<br>77, 104, 105, 133          |
| Reedy, John, testimony of, case of Purser Nathan Baker.....  | 365                              |
| Reess (or Russ), Mr., owner of <i>Francis</i> .....  | 216, 217                         |
| Register of American ship, defaced by Captain John Loring, R. N....  | 290                              |
| Regulations. See Rules and Regulations.  |                                  |
| Reid, Benjamin F., Midn., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191, 448 |
| Rendezvous, Mediterranean Squadron. See Syracuse.  |                                  |
| Renshaw, James, Mid., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 188, 189, 191 |
| Reynard, carried news of accident to U. S. schooner <i>Vizen</i> .....   | 457                              |
| Rhodes, William, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 188                              |
| Ridgely, John, Surgeon, <i>Philadelphia</i> and prisoner of Tripoli:   |                                  |
| Appointment of, as U. S. Consul, Tripoli, after the war.....   | 425                              |
| Case of instruments received by.....   | 546                              |
| Correspondence with Decatur, Susan.....  | 425                              |
| References to.....   | 15, 169, 170, 183, 425, 531      |
| Roberts, Laurent, forger.....  | 481, 482                         |
| Robertson, B. S., Jr., Lt. Comdr., U. S. N. (Ret.), acknowledgment to...   | iv                               |
| Robertson, Mr.....   | 482                              |
| Robinson, Purser, <i>Enterprise</i> .....  | 430                              |
| Robinson, Lt., Bomb vessel No. 1.....  | 13                               |
| Robinson, Charles, ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                       | 424                              |
| Robinson, James, ordinary seaman, No. 278, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187                              |
| Robinson, James, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424                              |
| Robinson, John, ordinary seaman, No. 104, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185                              |
| Robinson, Thomas, Jr., Lt., U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 12, 326, 377, 478, 479           |

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Rodgers, John, Capt., <i>John Adams</i>, New York, and Commodore of U. S. Mediterranean Squadron:</b>       | <b>Page</b>                       |
| Arrival of, at Washington, D. C.   | 348                               |
| Arrived at Alicante, Spain   | 22                                |
| Arrived at Gibraltar   | 45                                |
| Arrived in U. S. in U. S. S. <i>New York</i>   | 250                               |
| Broad pennant of, on <i>John Adams</i> and <i>New York</i>   | 53, 57, 109                       |
| Commodore of old Mediterranean Squadron  | 46                                |
| Conduct of, while in command of homeward bound Squadron  | 265                               |
| <i>Constitution</i> , went on board of   | 53, 83                            |
| Correspondence with—   |                                   |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.   | 51                                |
| Barron, James, Capt.   | 189                               |
| Campbell, Hugh G., Capt.   | 144                               |
| Chauncey, Isaac, Lt.   | 144                               |
| Decatur, Susan, Mrs.   | 426                               |
| Navy, Secretary of   | 282-283                           |
| Preble, Edward, Captain  | 46, 47, 129, 132, 133, 144        |
| Simpson, James   | 51, 52, 53                        |
| Departure for U. S. postponed by Moroccan difficulties   | 80                                |
| Extracts from journal of. See <i>John Adams</i> , U. S. S.   |                                   |
| Gunboats   | 282-283, 316, 430                 |
| Lear, Tobias, praises zealous cooperation of, with Commo. Preble   | 79, 152                           |
| Left <i>Constitution</i>   | 84                                |
| <i>Meshouda</i> captured by, in U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> . See <i>Meshouda</i> and <i>John Adams</i> .       |                                   |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , valuation of  | 141, 280                          |
| Morocco, Tangier—  |                                   |
| Anchored in Bay of   | 109                               |
| Arrived at, with Preble, Edward, commodore   | 51, 53, 54, 57                    |
| Cooperation of, with Commo. Preble and James Simpson in peace negotiations                                     | 47, 79, 83, 131, 141              |
| Released from service at Tangier, by Commo. Preble   | 129                               |
| <i>New York</i> , U. S. S., on board of, took command  | 107, 129                          |
| Plan for destruction of <i>Philadelphia</i> credited to Lieut. Decatur, by                                     | 426                               |
| References to  | 10,                               |
| 14, 17, 27, 30, 31, 41, 49, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 70, 78, 90, 104, 110,  |                                   |
| 122, 128, 131, 140, 141, 151, 199, 283, 382, 426, 503, 530.  |                                   |
| Resented Commodore Preble's pennant flying in Mediterranean  | 46, 47                            |
| See <i>John Adams</i> .  |                                   |
| Senior officer in Mediterranean  | 54                                |
| Took command of Capt. Richard V. Morris' Squadron  | 12, 107                           |
| Waited on, and visited by, Preble, Edward, Capt.   | 61, 131, 138                      |
| <b>Rodgers, William</b> , ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i>                                | 424                               |
| <b>Rodrick, Robert</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 216, <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 187                               |
| <b>Rogers, Capt.</b> See Rodgers, John, Capt.  |                                   |
| <b>Roggers, Commodore.</b> See Rodgers, John, Capt.  |                                   |
| <b>Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, President:</b>  |                                   |
| Engraving by Charles Denoon, from collection of  | v                                 |
| Records published by courtesy of   | 372                               |
| References to  | viii, 129, 372                    |
| <b>Rosetta</b> , Spanish Brig  | 91                                |
| <b>Ross, Andrew</b> , painter, No. 236, <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 187                               |
| <b>Roth, William</b> , quarter-gunner, No. 139, <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 186                               |
| <b>Rowe, John</b> , Marine, <i>Constitution</i> , punishment of  | 276                               |
| <b>Rowe, John</b> , Mid., U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , <i>Scourge</i>  | 7, 15, 17, 18, 323, 423, 443, 448 |
| <b>Royal Sovereign</b> , H. B. M. S. (120 guns), Capt. Malcome   | 452                               |
| <b>Ruddock, William</b> , Boy, No. 52, <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 184                               |
| Rules governing U. S. Ships of War entering Algiers  | 305-306                           |
| Rules and Regulations, Preble, Commodore Edward  | 32-41                             |
| <b>Russ, Mr.</b> See Reess, Mr.  |                                   |
| <b>Russell, John</b> , seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , punishment of   | 276                               |
| <b>Russia:</b>   |                                   |
| Emperor of, intercession by Minister to Turkey, ordered by, in liberation of <i>Philadelphia</i> and prisoners | 358, 397, 534, 535, 541           |



## Russia—Continued.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Grand Chancellor of, Alexander, Count de Worontzoff (or Woronzow).....                      | 358, 397, 541                               |
| U. S. Consul General to St. Petersburg, Levett Harris.....                                  | 358, 397                                    |
| Vessels of—   |   |
| <i>Madona Catapoliana</i> , under Russian colors, captured by U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> ..... | 323   |
| Turkish soldiers on board arrived in Tripoli from Smyrna.....                               | 347   |
| <b>Russo, John Baptiste</b> , part owner of <i>St. Crucifisso</i> , statement of.....       | 412-413                                     |
| <b>Rutgers, Henry</b> , appointed U. S. Navy Agent, New York, N. Y.....                     | 241   |
| <b>Rutherford, James</b> , quarter-gunner, No. 102, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....               | 185   |
| <b>Ryan, Michael</b> , seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , invalid, returned to America.....      | 488   |
| <b>Rylander, Charles</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 284, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....              | 188   |
| <b>Rynolds, Thomas</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 223, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                | 187   |
| <b>Saci, Reis Hash</b> .....  | 62  |
| <b>Sadak, Muhammed Ben Abd el.</b> See Mogador, Governor of.....                            |   |
| <b>St. Antisimo</b> , carries despatches to Tunis.....                                      | 272   |
| <b>St. Brieux</b> , British privateer from Guernsey, boarded by <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 273, 276                                    |
| <b>St. Crucifisso</b> , brig under English colors, <i>Fortunata Barbara</i> , master:       |   |
| Acknowledged to be fair prize.....  | 487, 490                                    |
| Captured by U. S. S. <i>Nautilus</i> off Tripoli.....                                       | 323,  |
| 411-413, 417, 438, 441, 442, 445, 449, 452, 454, 482, 485, 487,                             | 490, 513                                    |
| Cargo of.....   | 411, 412, 417, 438, 441, 442, 449, 454      |
| Convoyed to Malta by <i>Siren</i> .....   | 455   |
| Cox, Edward N., midshipman, made prize master of.....                                       | 411, 412                                    |
| Disposition of.....   | 482   |
| Jerba—no papers for, found on board.....  | 513   |
| Letters for Tripolitans secreted under transom ceiling.....                                 | 513   |
| Liberation of man, proved to be a Tunisian, captured in.....                                | 485   |
| Master of, to be punished for violations.....   | 452   |
| Ordered to U. S. for adjudication.....  | 411   |
| Ownership title of.....   | 412   |
| Pass requested for, by Major General Villets, Malta.....                                    | 328, 332, 333, 387                          |
| Passport and blockade of Tripoli violated by.....   | 411,  |
| 412, 417, 438, 441, 442, 449, 451, 452, 454-455, 482  |   |
| References to.....  | 482, 512, 513                               |
| Sale of, to Vincent Barbara and John Baptiste Russo.....                                    | 412   |
| Schembri, Gaetano Andrea, proprietor and freighter of.....                                  | 412, 511, 513                               |
| See Schembri, Gaetano Andrea.....   |   |
| Sicilian on board to be landed at Jerba.....  | 412   |
| Statement of Captain Edward Preble concerning.....  | 411-412                                     |
| Syracuse, sent to, by <i>Nautilus</i> for examination.....                                  | 411, 438, 441, 442, 449, 454, 462           |
| Tripolitans on board of when captured (some sent to U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> ).....     | 411, 438, 441, 442, 449, 453, 454, 462, 482 |
| <b>St. Domingo</b> , ports of, declared in state of blockade by Great Britain.....          | 290, 291                                    |
| <b>St. Memin, Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de</b> , reproduction of engraving by.....    | v, 414                                      |
| <b>Salaries of Navy Department</b> .....  | 255   |
| <b>Salae, Morocco:</b>  |   |
| <i>Maimona</i> sailed from. See <i>Maimona</i> .....  |   |
| Residence of Sidi Mohamet Selawy, Bashaw of Beni Hassan.....                                | 461   |
| <i>Meshouda</i> to be hauled up and never to go to sea.....                                 | 145   |
| Ships laid up at.....   | 360   |
| <b>Sally</b> , Am. store ship, Capt. John R. Archer:  |   |
| Cargo of, to be sold at public auction (salvage of too expensive).....                      | 261, 297                                    |
| Conveying naval stores as annuity for Algiers, wrecked on Bar of St. Lucar.....             | 232, 248, 261, 265, 267, 285-286, 292, 297  |
| Reference to.....   | 435   |
| <b>Salmon, Don Antonio</b> , Spanish Consul, Tangier, Morocco.....                          | 44  |
| <b>Salutes:</b>   |   |
| Algiers.....  | 194-196, 232-234, 246, 286, 305, 306        |
| Alicante, Spain.....  | 448   |
| Cadiz, Spain.....   | 165, 166                                    |
| Gibraltar.....  | 42, 82                                      |
| Malta saluted by <i>Vixen</i> with 15 guns.....   | 330, 331                                    |
| Morocco.....  | 103, 108-111, 119, 120, 138, 140, 147       |

| Salutes—Continued.  | Page                         |
|---|------------------------------|
| Naples, Royal Salute in honor of King of.....                                     | 327                          |
| Syracuse, <i>Constitution</i> , U. S. S.....                                      | 243, 244                     |
| Tripoli.....  | 304, 544, 545                |
| U. S. Consuls.....  | 109, 110, 195, 234, 246, 305 |
| Salvador, Mr. See Catalano, Salvatore.  |                              |
| Samuel, in Richmond. See Warrington, Mid.   |                              |
| Sanhedrim, Algiers, reference to.....   | 54                           |
| Santissimo Crocefisso. See <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .                                |                              |
| Saragosa. See Syracuse.   |                              |
| Sardinia, Tripolitan cruiser of 8 guns, 90 tons, 60 men, rumored off.....         | 466, 467, 473                |
| Saunders, Simeon, Marine, <i>Constitution</i> , transferred to <i>Argus</i> ..... | 220                          |
| Schembri, Gaetano Andrea (il conte Gallino):                                      |                              |
| Consul of Bashaw of Tripoli at Malta.....   | 492, 511                     |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....                                     | 513-514                      |
| Memorial to Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 511-513                      |
| Preble, Edward, Commo. has no knowledge of.....                                   | 489                          |
| Proprietor and freighter of—  |                              |
| <i>Madona Calapoliiana</i> captured by <i>Siren</i> .....                         | 511, 513                     |
| <i>St. Crucifisso</i> captured by <i>Nautilus</i> . See <i>St. Crucifisso</i> .   |                              |
| Transfer captured by <i>Siren</i> and <i>Nautilus</i> .....                       | 511, 513                     |
| References to.....  | 92, 236, 422, 474, 543       |
| Transfer, sailed on board of, for Tripoli.....                                    | 512                          |
| Unauthorized representation of United States in Tripolitan affairs.....           | 494,                         |
| 511, 512, 514, 517, 525, 526, 537   |                              |
| Schomberg, C. M., Capt., R. N., comdg. H. B. M. S. <i>Madras</i> .....            | 100, 104, 477                |
| Scolchfigge, John (Maltese), seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , deserted at Malta..... | 488                          |
| Scott, William, seaman, No. 262, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                        | 187                          |
| Scourge, U. S. S., Lt. Ralph Izard and John H. Dent, former prize brig            |                              |
| Transfer:   |                              |
| Captured by <i>Siren</i> , in company with <i>Nautilus</i> . See Transfer.        |                              |
| Captured Spanish ketch.....   | 324                          |
| Complement for.....   | 323                          |
| Dent, John H., Lt., ordered to command of.....                                    | 323                          |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 12                           |
| References to.....  | 17, 18, 496                  |
| Résumé of.....  | 17, 18                       |
| Scrivier, French Consul, Lisbon.....  | 308                          |
| Seamen, U. S. Navy. See Enlisted Men.   |                              |
| Sein, John, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                       | 188                          |
| Selawy, Sidi Mohamet Ben Absalem, Secretary of State of the Emperor               |                              |
| of Morocco. See Morocco, Emperor of, Secretary of State of.                       |                              |
| Serin, U. S. Sloop of War. See U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> .                          |                              |
| Seville Consulate Archives, record published by courtesy of.....                  | 96                           |
| Shaw, John, U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> , punished for various offenses.....     | 244                          |
| Shaw, Thomas, seaman, No. 106, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                          | 185                          |
| Shays, Daniel, ordinary seaman, No. 286, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                | 188                          |
| Sheffield. See Jackson and Sheffield.   |                              |
| Sheffield, William E., suit of, against James Watson.....                         | 381                          |
| Shepherdess, Am. Ship, of Boston, Capt. Alexander Hodges.....                     | 211, 213, 215                |
| Ship carpenter and constructor, salary of.....                                    | 346                          |
| Shipping Papers, authorization to alter.....                                      | 533, 534                     |
| Ships. See Vessels.   |                              |
| Shoffer, Frederick, seaman, No. 241, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                    | 187                          |
| Shombrie, Mr. See Schembri, Gaetano Andrea.                                       |                              |
| Shoot, Philip, ordinary seaman, No. 211, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                | 187                          |
| Shryder, John F., seaman, No. 149, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                      | 186                          |
| Sicily:   |                              |
| Catalano, Salvatore, pilot of <i>Intrepid</i> , a native of.....                  | 443                          |
| Reference to King of.....   | 476                          |
| U. S. Consul, Joseph Barnes.....  | 487, 500, 542                |
| Sidi Haggi Junis Ben Junis. See Hadgi Unis Ben Unis.                              |                              |
| Sidi Muhammed Dghies. See Dghies, Sidi Mohamet.                                   |                              |
| Sidy Ahmed el Metigui. See Metigui, Sidi Ahmed el.                                |                              |
| Sidy Mahammed Ben Abd-Salem Selawy. See Selawy, Sidi Mohamet                      |                              |
| Ben Absalem.  |                              |
| Sidy Mohamet Emfadal. See Emfadal, Sidi Mohamet.                                  |                              |
| Signal Books, <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. S.....                                  | 192                          |

| Signals:  | Page   |
|---|--|
| By flags and guns, Algiers.....   | 194-196  |
| Flags used as.....  | 103, 230, 279, 318, 329, 351, 374                          |
| Guns, lights.....   | 101  |
| Preble, Edward, set of, in Library of Congress.....   | 304  |
| See also Flags, salutes and guns.   |  |
| Signior, Grand, Sultan of Turkey.....   | 374  |
| Silby, John, seaman, No. 137, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186  |
| Sille, Charles, ordinary seaman, No. 168, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186  |
| Sim, Patrick, asst. surgeon.....  | 18   |
| Simmons, Christopher, seaman, No. 194, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186  |
| Simpson, James, U. S. Consul, Tangier, Morocco:   |  |
| Arranges release of Omar, Arraez (Reis) of Tetuan.....  | 450  |
| Arrested by and detained under guard in house of Governor of Morocco.....   | 9, 10, 20, 26, 27, 57, 63, 78, 84, 112, 126, 127, 149, 199 |
| Assisted Commodores Preble and Rodgers in peace negotiations with Morocco.....  | 52-54, 57, 84, 89, 102, 103, 108, 230                      |
| Assured of Emperor's protection.....  | 99   |
| <i>Athalaya</i> , reference to.....   | 63   |
| Audience with Emperor of Morocco.....   | 140-142, 148-150   |
| Blue Jack to be flown by, on arrival of Emperor at Castle in Tangier.....   | 103  |
| Constitution, U. S. S., reference to going on board.....  | 84, 109, 140, 147  |
| Consular House not furnished by U. S. Government.....   | 153  |
| Correspondence with—  |  |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.....  | 1-3, 9-11  |
| Gavino, John.....   | 62, 63   |
| Jarvis, William.....  | 130  |
| Morocco, Emperor of.....  | 7-9, 25, 117, 118, 498                                     |
| Morocco, Governor of.....   | 60, 68, 69   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 30,  |
| 31, 43-45, 51, 52, 53, 71, 75, 76, 97-98, 102, 103, 106, 109-111, 115-117, 118, 119, 123, 124, 163, 164, 201, 202, 450-451.                   |  |
| Rodgers, John, Capt.....  | 51, 52, 53   |
| Sidi Mohammed Ben Abd-Salem Selawy.....   | 29, 67, 68, 73, 74, 77, 92-93, 94                          |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 19,  |
| 20, 89, 114, 115, 168, 198-199, 199-200, 460-461, 464-465   |  |
| Hull, Isaac, Lieut., to cooperate with.....   | 205  |
| Maimona, Passport issued to, by.....  | 23, 24, 56, 93   |
| Miller, Mrs., reference to.....   | 63   |
| Misticoi, reference to.....   | 63   |
| Morocco, Governor of, friendship for U. S.....  | 60   |
| Morocco, Governor of, report of meeting with.....   | 19, 20   |
| Not to confer with Hodge Hashash, Governor of Morocco.....  | 67, 74, 146  |
| Permission to hoist Consular Flag.....  | 60   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., to use blue Jack as signal.....  | 103  |
| References to.....  | 21, 42,  |
| 53, 54, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 88, 94, 95, 96, 101, 112, 122, 130, 139, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 161, 208, 223, 297, 314, 320, 331, 452, 498 |  |
| Released by Emperor of Morocco.....   | 99, 107, 146   |
| Release of, obtained by foreign consuls in Morocco.....   | 20, 26, 27, 126  |
| Restoration of <i>Meshouda</i> and <i>Mirboka</i> .....   | 147, 168, 207-208  |
| Secretary of State of Emperor of Morocco, Selawy, references to.....  | 67,  |
| 68, 126, 127, 141, 147, 148   |  |
| Servants of, arrive at Gibraltar.....   | 68   |
| Suggests United States show special courtesy to Emperor of Morocco.....   | 153  |
| Translations by.....  | 117, 118, 125, 126   |
| Vessels of U. S. Squadron at Tangier visited by.....  | 120  |
| Simpson, James, Mrs. reference to.....  | 63, 123, 451   |
| Sinclair, Capt., Am. Schooner <i>Mary</i> .....   | 313  |
| Sinclear, William, seaman, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....   | 105  |
| Siren, U. S. brig, Lt. Charles Stewart:   |  |
| American Merchant Vessels convoyed by, list of.....   | 123, 137   |
| At Algiers.....   | 284, 289, 293, 307   |
| Brooke, Samuel B., to remain on board as Supernumerary master.....  | 479  |
| Captains of vessels to be convoyed by, came aboard for instructions.....  | 101  |
| Cathcart, Jas. L., to go to Leghorn in.....   | 98, 139, 142, 153, 155                                     |
| Collision with <i>Nautilus</i> and damages sustained.....   | 507, 508, 528  |

## Siren—Continued.

|   | Page   |
|---|--|
| Collision with <i>New York</i> and damages sustained (one casualty).....  | 122, 128   |
| <i>Constitution</i> received carronade from.....  | 455  |
| Convoy duty.....  | 95, 96, 98, 100-102,<br>105, 122, 123, 128, 139, 140-142, 147, 151, 153, 155, 161, 163, 217, 307   |
| Conveyed <i>St. Crucifisso</i> to Malta.....  | 455  |
| Court of Inquiry on Conduct of Purser Nathan Baker, held on board.....  | 363-366  |
| Cruising ground of.....   | 227, 338   |
| Cruising instructions off Morocco.....  | 64, 65   |
| Demanding release of deserters on board <i>Medusa</i> .....   | 156-158  |
| Departure from U. S. for Gibraltar.....   | 11   |
| Despatched to call in all U. S. Ships of War.....   | 131  |
| Dispatches on board with notification of peace with Morocco.....  | 141, 150, 151  |
| Dispatches sent on board of, for U. S.....  | 128  |
| Distance by log from Cape Henlopen to Cape Sparte.....  | 97   |
| Dorsey and Nicholson with 8 men sent on prize, and afterwards re-<br>turned.....  | 477, 480   |
| Employment of ship's company.....   | 389-391, 428, 429, 431, 444, 445, 448  |
| En route to Malta, prize Ship in company.....   | 477  |
| <i>Enterprize</i> sighted by.....   | 463  |
| Extracts from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius de Krafft.....   | 9,<br>11, 96-97, 101-102, 105, 123, 124, 128, 132, 139, 154, 156, 163,<br>217, 234, 239, 286, 288, 289, 301, 302, 324, 327, 359, 388-391,<br>399, 428, 429, 431-432, 444, 445, 448, 451, 460, 463, 464, 469, 472,<br>477-480, 484, 497, 502-503, 508, 511, 516, 528, 540, 545. |
| Francisco, Boy entered at Leghorn.....  | 239  |
| Gibraltar—  |  |
| Arrived at, from Philadelphia, Pa.....  | 96-98, 107, 122, 146   |
| At Gibraltar.....   | 97,<br>105, 120, 121, 122, 132, 138, 139, 151, 154, 156, 160, 162, 163   |
| Sailed from.....  | 101, 259, 163  |
| Guard duty of.....  | 328  |
| Guns.....   | 9, 197, 214, 227, 384  |
| Health of officers.....   | 307  |
| Jolly boat damaged by gale and lost.....  | 307  |
| Jourvass, Lewis, pilot, came on board.....  | 388  |
| Leghorn—  |  |
| At Leghorn.....   | 217, 228, 229, 234, 235, 237-238, 307  |
| Departure from.....   | 239  |
| Quarantined at.....   | 228  |
| List of officers of, who neglected their duty.....  | 451  |
| <i>Madona Catapoliana</i> polacre under Russian flag, captured by. See<br><i>Madona Catapoliana</i> .   |  |
| <i>Maimona</i> , to search for and bring her in for examination.....  | 64   |
| Main mast moved farther aft to improve her sailing.....   | 307, 338   |
| Malta—  |  |
| At Malta.....   | 463, 464, 469, 471, 472, 480, 484  |
| Ordered from, to Syracuse.....  | 237  |
| Ordered to, and to Tripoli.....   | 64   |
| Sailed from, for Tripoli.....   | 471, 472   |
| Marines on board.....   | 197  |
| Officers of, clash with British officers on shore.....  | 157  |
| Off Tripoli.....  | 437, 485, 495, 528, 540, 545   |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 12, 46, 131, 197, 214, 339, 384, 420   |
| Orders and instructions for.....  | 237, 252, 539  |
| Outsailed by U. S. brig <i>Argus</i> .....  | 239, 339   |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , burning of. See <i>Philadelphia</i> .   |  |
| Polacre Ship (Prussian Brig) with Turks aboard, sent into Malta for<br>examination and afterwards released.....   | 471, 477, 478, 480   |
| Provisions for.....   | 154, 234, 252  |
| Ready for sea.....  | 1  |
| References to.....  | 69,  |
| 105, 107, 108, 112, 113, 129, 134, 142, 143, 157, 239, 243, 266, 316,<br>318, 320, 324, 329, 340, 366, 380, 389, 416, 444, 455, 456, 457, 462,<br>496, 500, 522, 538. |  |
| Repairs to and general refit.....   | 307, 338   |
| Résumé of.....  | 15, 16   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Siren</b> —Continued.   | Page  |
| Returned to <i>Enterprize</i> guns and everything received from her.....                           | 448   |
| Sailed for Tripoli, in company with <i>Intrepid</i> , to burn the <i>Philadelphia</i> .....        | 388, 389  |
| Sights galley attacking American schooner.....   | 102   |
| Spirit room broken into.....   | 362   |
| Somers, Richard, Lt., came on board from, and returned to <i>Nautilus</i> .....                    | 508, 511  |
| Spoke Tunisian ship.....   | 479, 486  |
| Syracuse—  |   |
| Arrived in Syracuse Harbor from Tripoli.....   | 413, 415, 428, 440  |
| At Syracuse.....   | 301-303, 307, 310, 316, 324, 327, 352, 355, 361, 362, 388, 415, 444, 447, 448, 451  |
| Tangier, Morocco, in Bay of.....   | 128, 129, 131, 132, 150   |
| To proceed off Tripoli and to capture all vessels of.....  | 64, 65, 98, 259, 483  |
| <i>Transfer</i> (later U. S. S. <i>Scourge</i> )—  |   |
| Captured by, for violation of Blockade of Tripoli.....   | 17, 323, 495, 496, 502, 503   |
| See <i>Transfer</i> and U. S. S. <i>Scourge</i> .  |   |
| <i>William and Mary</i> , Am. storeship, convoyed to Malta.....                                    | 452, 459, 460, 464  |
| <b>Skilling, Richard</b> , seaman, No. 79, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 185   |
| <b>Sloan, John</b> , seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , death of.....                                   | 351   |
| <b>Smith and Buchanan</b> , owners of Am. ship <i>Petapso</i> .....                                | 137   |
| <b>Smith, Mr</b> .....   | 127   |
| <b>Smith, Benjamin, Lt.</b> , <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 184, 189, 191  |
| <b>Smith, John</b> , 1st, boatswain's mate, No. 126, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                     | 185   |
| <b>Smith, John</b> , 2nd, ordinary seaman, No. 143, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                      | 186   |
| <b>Smith, John</b> , 3rd, seaman, No. 181, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 186   |
| <b>Smith, John</b> , 4th, seaman, No. 259, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                               | 187   |
| <b>Smith, John</b> , <i>Constitution</i> , punished for various offenses.....                      | 244   |
| <b>Smith, John C.</b> , <i>Constitution</i> , punished for various offenses.....                   | 244   |
| <b>Smith, John C.</b> , Hon., U. S. Congress, Chairman of Committee of Claims, U. S. Congress..... | 341, 342, 457-458   |
| <b>Smith, John</b> , Lieut. commanding U. S. schooner <i>Vizen</i> :<br>Arrived in Gibraltar.....  | 42, 56  |
| Correspondence with—   |   |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.....   | 72, 73, 170   |
| Preble, Edw.....   | 45, 230, 252, 268, 326, 377, 387, 388, 406, 407, 457  |
| Malaga, called at.....   | 67  |
| Orders to.....   | 57, 85, 252, 268, 387   |
| References to.....   | 16, 46, 48, 50, 51, 58, 90, 104, 107, 154, 159, 192, 236, 237, 251, 259, 260, 273, 278, 301, 302, 327, 378, 384, 386, 407, 434, 435, 450, 461, 463, 494, 516, 517, 520, 521 |
| Survey of <i>Enterprize</i> .....  | 338-339   |
| To take full charge of cargo of store ship <i>William and Mary</i> at Malta.....                   | 405   |
| Waited on Commo. Preble.....   | 268, 398  |
| <b>Smith, Robert, Secretary of Navy.</b> See Navy, Secretary of.                                   |   |
| <b>Smith, Simon</b> , Midn., No. 18, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                     | 15, 169, 170, 183, 184  |
| <b>Smith, Thomas</b> , 1st, seaman, No. 123, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                             | 185   |
| <b>Smith, Thomas</b> , 2nd, seaman, No. 152, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                             | 186   |
| <b>Smith, William</b> , seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , sent to hospital at Malta.....               | 488   |
| <b>Smoking</b> , Rules and regulations governing.....  | 34  |
| <b>Soliman, Muley.</b> See Morocco, Emperor of.  |   |
| <b>Somers, Richard</b> , Lt., U. S. schooner <i>Nautilus</i> :<br>Arrived at Gibraltar.....        | 45, 313   |
| Arrived Malaga.....  | 30  |
| Arrived at Tangier.....  | 147   |
| Attack on Tripoli.....   | 12  |
| Correspondence with—   |   |
| Cox, Edward N., Master, <i>Nautilus</i> .....  | 507   |
| Decatur, James B., Lt., <i>Nautilus</i> .....  | 507   |
| Fell, Robert, Carpenter, <i>Nautilus</i> .....   | 507   |
| Felt, John, Carpenter, <i>Siren</i> .....  | 507   |
| Keen, William Jonas.....   | 27, 28, 90  |
| McDonogh, Brian.....   | 538   |
| Preble, Edward.....  | 45,   |
| 49, 63, 74, 122, 130, 206, 268, 374, 377, 387, 411, 482-483  |   |
| Reed, George W., Lt.....   | 507   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Somers, Richard—Continued.</b>   | <b>Page</b>                                      |
| Killed in action on Tripoli.....  | 13   |
| Orders from Preble, Commo. regarding anchoring in Tangier Bay.....  | 122  |
| Orders to.....  | 268, 387, 482                                    |
| Peace reestablished with U. S. and Morocco.....   | 122, 130   |
| References to.....  | 17,  |
| 18, 46, 51, 56, 59, 67, 70, 90, 107, 130, 151, 206, 207, 211, 213,  |  |
| 219, 313, 320, 348, 370, 384, 386, 411, 463, 471, 472, 482, 511   |  |
| Returned to <i>Nautilus</i> from <i>Siren</i> .....   | 503, 508, 511                                    |
| To deliver dispatches to John Gavino at Gibraltar.....  | 268  |
| Waited on Commodore Preble.....   | 243, 245, 398                                    |
| Went on board <i>Siren</i> .....  | 484, 508   |
| <b>Sophia, Am. brig, Capt. James Norman</b> .....   | 234-235  |
| <b>Sophy, H. B. M. S., arrival of, in Gibraltar Bay, with English convoy</b> .....                        | 400  |
| <b>Southward, William, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....                                | 188  |
| <b>Spain:</b>   |  |
| Affairs of, to be arranged by Bey of Tunis.....   | 300  |
| Cevallos, Pedro, First Secretary of State and Dispatch.....   | 540  |
| Consul of, visited Commo. Preble at U. S. Consular House, Tangier.....                                    | 148  |
| Dispatches to, from United States, concerning Louisiana.....  | 329  |
| Grain for.....  | 465  |
| Relations with Algiers.....   | 136  |
| Relations with France and England.....  | 166, 262   |
| Vessels of—   |  |
| Ketch captured by <i>Argus</i> .....  | 324  |
| Ketch captured by <i>Scourge</i> .....  | 324  |
| Man of war of, chased by U. S. schooner <i>Nautilus</i> .....   | 238  |
| <i>Rosetta</i> , Spanish brig boarded by U. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....                                  | 91   |
| <b>Spanish Brig, arrival of, at Tunis, with funds for relief of <i>Philadelphia's</i> prisoners</b> ..... | 521  |
| <b>Spence, Keith, purser, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....   | 15, 169, 170, 183, 188, 189, 191, 307, 430, 527  |
| <b>Spence, Robert T, midshipman, <i>Siren</i>, his mind deranged</b> .....                                | 307  |
| <b>Spezzia, Greece: blockaded by British Fleet</b> .....  | 157, 162   |
| <b>Spider, H. B. M. S.</b> .....  | 434, 456, 459                                    |
| <b>Spires, Thomas, Master of Am. ship <i>General Wayne</i></b> .....                                      | 137  |
| <b>Spyres, John, ordinary seamen, No. 118, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....                                  | 185  |
| <b>Spyres, Peter, landsman, No. 34, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....   | 184  |
| <b>Squadron in Mediterranean. See Vessels, United States.</b>   |  |
| <b>S. S. mo <i>Crocifisso</i>. See <i>St. Crucifisso</i>.</b>   |  |
| <b>Stadler, I. S., copy of an etching by</b> .....  | v, 322   |
| <b>Stanford, James, boatswain's mate, No. 42, <i>Philadelphia</i></b> .....                               | 184  |
| <b>State, Department of, references to</b> .....  | 99, 263  |
| <b>State, Secretary of, James Madison:</b>  |  |
| Cathcart, James L., resignation of.....   | 55   |
| Commends conduct of Captain Edward Preble.....  | 297  |
| Correspondence with—  |  |
| Barnes, Joseph.....   | 542  |
| Cathcart, James L.....  | 4-6, 54, 55, 272-273                             |
| Davis, George.....  | 300, 524-525                                     |
| Eiselen & Horne.....  | 166, 167   |
| Erving, George W.....   | 367-369  |
| Eustis, Williams, Hon., U. S. Congress.....   | 226  |
| Gavino, John.....   | 78, 222-223, 313-314, 331, 400-401, 452-453, 515 |
| Harrison, Richard.....  | 402-403  |
| Lear, Tobias.....   | 80-89, 146-153, 245-249, 291-294                 |
| Mayer & Brantz.....   | 166, 167   |
| Monroe, James.....  | 472-473  |
| Merry, Anthony.....   | 290-291  |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 546  |
| O'Brien, Richard.....   | 134-136  |
| Pinckney, Charles.....  | 343  |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 72, 73, 138, 297                                 |
| Simpson, James.....   | 19,  |
| 20, 89, 114, 115, 168, 198-199, 199-200, 460-461, 464-465   |  |
| Smith, John C., Hon., U. S. Congress.....   | 557-458  |
| Terry, Anthony.....   | 77, 78, 159, 160                                 |
| Treasury, Auditor of.....   | 322  |

State, Secretary of—Continued.

| Correspondence with—Continued.  |  | Page |
|---|--|------|
| Treasury, Secretary of.....   | 220, 371   |      |
| Webster, Alexander & Co.....  | 166, 167   |      |
| Willis, William.....  | 23   |      |
| Wollaston, Frederic Hyde.....   | 113, 114   |      |
| Yznardi, Josef.....   | 165, 166, 261-262, 540   |      |
| Davis, George, Chargé d'Affaires, Tunis.....  | 47   |      |
| Defacing of American Ships Register protested by.....   | 290  |      |
| Protest of, against blockade of ports of Island of St. Domingo.....   | 290-291  |      |
| Receives Turkish Yataghan from Secretary of Navy.....   | 367  |      |
| References to.....  | 61, 70, 87, 95,<br>119, 141, 151, 234, 264, 343, 349, 362, 406, 434, 450, 517, 518, 524  |      |
| Steele, Mr., Master Carpenter of Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....   | 283  |      |
| Stephenson, Richard, gunner, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 15, 169, 170, 183, 189, 191  |      |
| Sterett, Andrew, Lt.....  | 267, 341-346, 405, 459   |      |
| Stevens, Ebenezer, reference to <i>Anna Maria</i> .....   | 371  |      |
| Stevens, William, seaman, No. 277, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 187  |      |
| Stewart, Capt., H. B. M. Sloop <i>Termagant</i> .....   | 105  |      |
| Stewart, Midshipman, U. S. brig <i>Argus</i> and storeship <i>Citizen</i> .....                                 | 463  |      |
| Stewart, Charles, Lt., U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> :  |  |      |
| Arrived at Algiers, 24 days from Leghorn, and went ashore.....  | 286, 288   |      |
| Arrived at Gibraltar from United States.....  | 98, 122, 146   |      |
| Case of Purser Nathan Baker.....  | 324, 326, 364, 366, 367  |      |
| Commanding officer Syracuse during absence of Commodore Preble.....   | 331  |      |
| Conduct of, commended by Capt. Edward Preble.....   | 413, 423   |      |
| <i>Constitution</i> , went on board of.....   | 132, 443, 444, 528, 540  |      |
| Controversy with Gore, John, Capt. R. N.....  | 120  |      |
| Correspondence with—  |  |      |
| Baker, Nathan, Purser, <i>Siren</i> .....   | 362-363  |      |
| Decatur, Susan, Mrs.....  | 426-427  |      |
| Gore, John, Capt., R. N. (H. B. M. S. <i>Medusa</i> ).....  | 112, 113, 120, 121   |      |
| Marshall, Samuel S., Surgeon, U. S. N.....  | 157  |      |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 1, 122   |      |
| Preble, Edward, Commo.....  | 64, 65,<br>98, 100, 121, 122, 129, 237, 307, 316, 318, 324, 326, 361, 366-367,<br>375-376, 377, 415, 451, 471, 495-496, 511.   |      |
| Extracts from journal of Midshipman F. Cornelius de Krafft. See <i>Siren</i> .                                  |  |      |
| Orders to.....  | 98-100, 129, 252, 316, 376, 378, 442   |      |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , burning of, report by.....  | 415, 416   |      |
| References to.....  | 15, 46, 96, 101, 121, 123, 128, 137, 139, 142, 143,<br>147, 155, 156, 235, 238, 239, 284, 293, 302, 303, 320, 381, 384, 388,<br>413, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 423, 427, 441-444, 452, 454, 455, 463,<br>464, 469, 471, 472, 477, 479, 483, 484, 486, 502, 508, 528, 540, 545 |      |
| Requested delivery of American deserters by Gore, John, Capt., R. N.,<br>comdg. H. B. M. S. <i>Medusa</i> ..... | 112, 113   |      |
| Senior officer at Gibraltar.....  | 120, 121   |      |
| Survey of <i>Enterprise</i> .....   | 338-339  |      |
| Tarbell, Joseph, Lt., reported U. S. deserters on board H. B. M. S.<br><i>Medusa</i> .....                      | 121, 134   |      |
| Went on board <i>Nautilus</i> to investigate damage done by collision.....                                      | 508  |      |
| Stewart, Thomas, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 188  |      |
| Stile, George, owner of Am. brig <i>Fame</i> .....  | 137  |      |
| Stile, Jos'h.....   | 137  |      |
| Stillwell, John.....  | 131  |      |
| Stoddart, B. See Stoddert, Benjamin.  |  |      |
| Stoddert, Benjamin, Navy, Secretary of.....   | 159  |      |
| Stoqui Sair? Baron de (Austrian) Consul, Lisbon, ref.....   | 308  |      |
| Storekeepers. See Naval Storekeepers.   |  |      |
| Stores:   |  |      |
| Malta—Vizen taking to Syracuse stores left by <i>Philadelphia</i><br>at.....                                    | 103, 237, 326, 350   |      |
| Baker, Nathan, Purser, U. S. Brig <i>Siren</i> , charged with irregularities.....                               | 363-366  |      |
| Gibraltar, to be sent from, to Malta and Syracuse.....  | 160  |      |
| Marcellin, George, in charge of, at Syracuse (see also Charles Morris) ..                                       | 256  |      |

| Stores—Continued.  |                              | Page                                   |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Mediterranean Squadron.....  |                              | 18,                                    |
| 19, 59, 143, 145, 146, 161, 203, 210, 226, 227, 258, 259, 287, 326,                        |                              | 327, 355-357, 369, 397, 400, 407, 451. |
| Syracuse, general rendezvous and deposit of Stores.....                                    | 160, 205, 254, 257,          | 348                                    |
| Syracuse, landed from storeship <i>Traveller</i> .....                                     |                              | 245                                    |
| To be shipped to Syracuse in Am. ship <i>Traveller</i> , cost of transporting.....         | 209-210                      |  |
| U. S. to be received at H. B. M. arsenal, Malta.....                                       |                              | 100                                    |
| <i>William and Mary</i> , Am. storeship.....   | 221, 375, 405, 429, 434,     | 491                                    |
| <i>Woodrop Sims</i> arrived at Gibraltar from Norfolk.....                                 |                              | 510                                    |
| <b>Stout, John</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 238, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   |                              | 187                                    |
| <b>Stout, John</b> , private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                       |                              | 188                                    |
| <b>Straughan, Richard</b> , Sir, comdg. H. B. M. S. <i>Donegal</i> .....                   | 234-235                      |  |
| <b>Stretch, John</b> , Cooper, No. 27, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                           |                              | 184                                    |
| <b>Stricker, John</b> , Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md.....                                     | 196, 198, 250                |  |
| <b>Stunbough, Nicholas</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 97, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....            |                              | 185                                    |
| <b>Stunbough, Rudolph</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 180, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....            |                              | 186                                    |
| <b>Suai, Reis Mohammed</b> .....   |                              | 62                                     |
| <b>Sullivan, Jeremiah</b> , private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                |                              | 188                                    |
| <b>Summers, George</b> (seaman), punished for negligence.....                              |                              | 105                                    |
| <b>Summers, Lieutenant</b> . See Somers, Richard, Lt.                                      |                              |  |
| <b>Sunday (Turk's) is Christian's Friday</b> .....   |                              | 306                                    |
| <b>Superb</b> , H. B. M. S., Capt. Keets, standing on and off in Algiers Bay.....          |                              | 404                                    |
| <b>Superintendent of Documents</b> authorized to sell these publications.....              |                              | iv                                     |
| <b>Superintendents of U. S. Navy Yards</b> . See Navy Agents and Navy Yards.               |                              |  |
| <b>Superior</b> , Am. brig, Carmick, Daniel, Capt., U. S. M. C.....                        | 350, 508                     |  |
| <b>Supply depot</b> , Mediterranean Squadron. See Syracuse.                                |                              |  |
| <b>Sureties for men recruited for U. S. Navy</b> .....                                     | 533, 534                     |  |
| <b>Sutton, Capt., R. N.</b> , comdg. H. B. M. S. <i>Amphion</i> .....                      | 154-156,                     |  |
|  | 158-161, 339, 351, 515       |  |
| <b>Sweden:</b>   |                              |  |
| Algiers, relations with.....   |                              | 136                                    |
| Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.....   | 461-462                      |  |
| Consul of, Tangier visited Commo. Preble at U. S. Consular House.....                      |                              | 148                                    |
| Consul of, at Tripoli—   |                              |  |
| To aid U. S. prisoners.....  | 462                          |  |
| Willson, John, prisoner, U. S. S. <i>Philadelphia</i> claims protection of.....            | 224,                         |  |
|  | 280-281, 409                 |  |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 280-281                      |  |
| Peace made with Tripoli, and 150 captives redeemed for \$150,000.....                      |                              | 285                                    |
| Prisoners of, in Tripoli—treatment of.....   |                              | 459                                    |
| Vessels of.....  | 468, 469                     |  |
| <b>Sword and Belt of Lieut. David Porter</b> .....   |                              | 334                                    |
| <b>Sword, Decatur, Stephen</b> , Lt.....   |                              | 428                                    |
| <b>Swords to be used in boarding Tripolitan prize</b> <i>Philadelphia</i> .....            |                              | 377                                    |
| <b>Symmons, John</b> , fifer, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                       |                              | 188                                    |
| <b>Syracuse</b> , The landing-place at, copy of etching by I. S. Stadler. Facing page..... | 322                          |  |
| <b>Syracuse:</b>   |                              |  |
| <b>Anson</b> , H. B. M. Ship, arrived at.....  |                              | 449                                    |
| Comment on, by Mid. Ralph Izard, Jr.....   |                              | 382                                    |
| <i>Constitution</i> in harbor of (see <i>Constitution</i> ).....                           | 242-244, 317, 318, 337, 465, | 466                                    |
| <b>Deblois, James S.</b> , died and was buried in.....                                     |                              | 244                                    |
| Duties of guard of U. S. Ships.....  | 315, 316                     |  |
| <b>Dyson, George</b> , appointed U. S. Navy Agent at.....                                  | 339, 351, 501, 515           |  |
| <b>Intrepid</b> and <i>Siren</i> return to, from Tripoli.....                              | 415, 422, 443, 444           |  |
| <b>Mastico—</b>  |                              |  |
| Prisoners taken in, confined at.....   |                              | 462                                    |
| Prize to <i>Constitution</i> , at.....   |                              | 340                                    |
| Quarantined for 29 days.....   |                              | 371                                    |
| <i>Nautilus</i> sailed with despatches to Gibraltar.....                                   |                              | 348                                    |
| <i>Port Mary</i> arrived at, from Messina.....   |                              | 434                                    |
| Precautions taken by U. S. squadron to meet Tripolitan attack in.....                      |                              | 506                                    |
| <b>President</b> , U. S. S., anchored in.....  |                              | 189                                    |
| Provisions and stores obtainable at.....   |                              | 259                                    |
| Quarantine.....  | 319, 371                     |  |
| <i>St. Crucifisso</i> sent to.....   | 411, 438, 441, 442, 454      |  |
| See <i>Philadelphia</i> .  |                              |  |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Syracuse—Continued.</b>   | <b>Page</b>                            |
| Siren at.....  | 361                                    |
| Supply depot and rendezvous of U. S. Squadron in Mediterranean.....  | 160,                                   |
| U. S. ships in.....  | 161, 243, 254, 257, 311, 340, 341, 348 |
| Vessels taken by U. S. to be sent to, for adjudication.....  | 242, 327, 370, 434, 444                |
| <b>Tacher, Hadji Aumed (See Maimona)</b> .....   | 206                                    |
| <b>Talleyrand-Périgord, de, Charles Maurice,</b> French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Paris.....  | 23, 24, 31, 56, 64                     |
| <b>Tangier.</b> See Morocco, Tangier.  | 308, 309, 332, 335, 336, 372, 499      |
| <b>Tarbell, Joseph,</b> Lieut., <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Mirboka</i> :<br>Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Captain.....                   | 100, 133, 134                          |
| Deserters from prize crew of <i>Mirboka</i> , on board H. B. M. S. <i>Medusa</i> .....   | 121,                                   |
|  | 133, 134                               |
| <i>Mirboka</i> , Moroccan ship, prize master of. See <i>Mirboka</i> .<br>Return to <i>Constitution</i> .....                                   | 131                                    |
| <b>Tash, Hash,</b> Miss, correspondence with Wadsworth, Henry.....   | 106, 107                               |
| <b>Tate, J.,</b> one of owners, Am. ship <i>Monsoon</i> .....  | 123                                    |
| <b>Tate, Vernon D., Dr.,</b> National Archives, acknowledgment to.....   | iii                                    |
| <b>Taylor, Charles H.,</b> etching of U. S. Schooner <i>Enterprize</i> presented to Navy Department by.....                                    | v, 66                                  |
| <b>Taylor, John,</b> seaman, No. 124, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185                                    |
| <b>Taylor, Jos'h,</b> owner of Am. ship <i>Hibernia</i> .....  | 137                                    |
| <b>Taylor, William,</b> Quartermaster, No. 81, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 185                                    |
| <b>Tazewell, Littleton W., Hon.,</b> correspondence with Decatur, Susan.....   | 424                                    |
| <b>Temperfelt, William,</b> <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 183                                    |
| <b>Tenant, Mr.,</b> Baltimore, schooner <i>Nautilus</i> purchased from.....  | 12, 17                                 |
| <b>Termagant, H. B. M. Sloop, Capt. Stewart</b> .....  | 105, 213, 307                          |
| <b>Terry, Anthony,</b> U. S. Vice Consul, Cadiz, Spain:<br>Correspondence with—<br>Gavino, John.....   | 73, 78, 79                             |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 232                                    |
| State, Secretary of.....   | 77, 78, 159, 160                       |
| References to.....   | 78, 93, 297                            |
| <b>Thacher, (Peter?)</b> .....   | 213                                    |
| <b>Thainville, Dubois,</b> Chargé d'affaires and Commissary General of the French Republic, Algiers:<br>Correspondence with, Lear, Tobias..... | 249                                    |
| Gratitude of, for services rendered by Bainbridge, William, Capt., in <i>George Washington</i> .....   | 277, 285                               |
| Interest of, in Welfare of Officers and Crew of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 294                                    |
| References to.....   | 275, 403                               |
| <b>Thayer, Amaze (or Amassas)</b> owner, Am. Brig <i>Celia</i> .....   | 2, 123                                 |
| <b>Thays, John,</b> seaman, No. 138, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 186                                    |
| " <b>The Mediterranean Pilot,</b> " reference to.....  | v, 52                                  |
| " <b>The Naval Chronicle,</b> " reproduction of map from.....  | v, 236                                 |
| <b>Thomas, Joseph,</b> Malta, correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 520                                    |
| <b>Thom (or Thone), William H.,</b> Am. storeship <i>Citizen</i> .....   | 401, 452, 460, 464, 466                |
| <b>Thompson (Midn.),</b> <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 7                                      |
| <b>Thompson, John,</b> quarter gunner, No. 113, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185                                    |
| <b>Thompson, Mr.,</b> Chaplain, U. S. Navy.....  | 328                                    |
| <b>Thompson, Richard,</b> ordinary seaman, No. 204, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186                                    |
| <b>Thorn, Mr.</b> See Thom.  |  |
| <b>Thorn, Jonathan,</b> Mid. acting as Lt., <i>Constitution</i> and <i>Enterprise</i> :<br>Appointed to act as Lt. of <i>Enterprise</i> .....  | 204                                    |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 204                                    |
| Orders Midshipman Boyd to return to boat in Syracuse Harbor.....   | 251                                    |
| Participated in burning of <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 423, 443                               |
| Prize master on one of Tripolitan boats.....   | 13                                     |
| Reference to.....  | 15                                     |
| <b>Thornton, Mr.</b> .....   | 290                                    |
| <b>Timber,</b> arrival of, for Algiers, from U. S. ....  | 524                                    |
| <b>Tingey, Thomas,</b> Capt., Superintendent, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.:<br>Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....                     | 19, 129, 167, 207                      |
| Money deposited with, for building gunboat.....  | 283                                    |
| <b>Tipling, Erasmus H.,</b> Capt., <i>William and Mary</i> .....   | 369, 400, 429, 430, 440, 467           |
| <b>Tool, Patrick,</b> Seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , punishment of.....   | 276                                    |
| <b>Tossa,</b> Portuguese ship of war.....  | 54                                     |

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Transfer, prize brig taken by <i>Siren</i> (renamed U. S. S. <i>Scourge</i>):</b>               | <b>Page</b>                          |
| Brought to by <i>Constitution</i> .....  | 510                                  |
| Captured by U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> in company with <i>Nautilus</i> , and sent in to Syracuse..... | 17, 495, 496, 502-503, 510, 512, 513 |
| Cargo of iron, horses and oil.....   | 496, 512, 513                        |
| Formerly English brig, purchased at Malta by Tripolitans.....                                      | 323                                  |
| Guns.....  | 323, 496, 502                        |
| Left Malta for Tripoli with cargo of military stores.....  | 513                                  |
| Lt. Joseph Maxwell, sent on board as prize master, with two midshipmen and eleven men.....         | 503                                  |
| Officer, concerned in capture of, sent to U. S. to obtain her condemnation.....                    | 496                                  |
| Prisoners from, taken on board <i>Siren</i> .....  | 503                                  |
| Prisoners sent from <i>Siren</i> to <i>Nautilus</i> .....  | 508                                  |
| Promise to be accountable to captors for value of prize.....                                       | 496, 497                             |
| Schembri, Gaetano Andrea, proprietor and freighter of, on board, sailed for Tripoli.....           | 511-513                              |
| See <i>Scourge</i> , U. S. S.  |                                      |
| Taken into U. S. service and renamed <i>Scourge</i> .....  | 323, 496                             |
| Value of.....  | 496                                  |
| <b>Translations:</b>   |                                      |
| Journal of U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> . See <i>John Adams</i> , extracts from journal of.          |                                      |
| Papers taken from <i>Mastico</i> .....   | 350                                  |
| <b>Translator, Don Manuel de Baccas</b> .....  | 25                                   |
| <b>Traveller, Store Ship—Capt. George Billups:</b>   |                                      |
| Arrived at Gibraltar.....  | 209                                  |
| At Syracuse.....   | 243, 256, 257                        |
| Carrying dispatches.....   | 338, 347                             |
| Carrying stores for Mediterranean Squadron.....  | 18, 19, 203                          |
| Cost of transporting stores from Gibraltar to Syracuse.....  | 209                                  |
| Preble, Commo., to arrange for landing of cargo of, at Syracuse.....                               | 245                                  |
| Provisions brought by, unfit for use.....  | 275, 440                             |
| References to.....   | 263, 267, 273, 397                   |
| Stores landed at Syracuse.....   | 268, 347                             |
| To be convoyed to Gibraltar by <i>Vixen</i> .....  | 268, 278, 327                        |
| To be convoyed to Syracuse by <i>Enterprise</i> .....  | 203, 209, 213, 222, 233              |
| Two men from, impressed by British Ship <i>Maidstone</i> at Cadiz.....                             | 210                                  |
| <b>Treasury, Auditor of:</b>   |                                      |
| Correspondence with State, Secretary of.....   | 322                                  |
| Reference to.....  | 457-458                              |
| <b>Treasury, Comptroller of</b> .....  | 367                                  |
| <b>Treasury, Secretary of, Albert Gallatin:</b>  |                                      |
| Correspondence with—   |                                      |
| Muhlenberg, P., Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, Pa.....                                     | 278-279                              |
| Navy, Secretary of.....  | 220                                  |
| State, Secretary of.....   | 220, 371                             |
| War, Secretary of.....   | 220                                  |
| References to.....   | 201, 396                             |
| <b>Treaty, suggested between Turkey and U. S.</b> .....  | 113, 114, 176                        |
| <b>Treaty of 1786.</b> See Morocco, Emperor of.  |                                      |
| <b>Treaty with Tripoli.</b> See Tripoli and <i>Philadelphia</i> .                                  |                                      |
| <b>Trent, Am. Ship, Capt. Nath Kimble</b> .....  | 93                                   |
| <b>Trent, Am. Schooner, Nathaniel Kinsman, Master</b> .....  | 137                                  |
| <b>Trigge, Lady</b> .....  | 251, 435                             |
| <b>Trigge, Sir Thomas, Lt. Governor of Gibraltar:</b>  |                                      |
| Concerned over U. S. rupture with Morocco.....   | 82                                   |
| Correspondence with—   |                                      |
| Gavino, John.....  | 21, 22                               |
| Lear, Tobias.....  | 250-251                              |
| References to.....   | 82, 213, 251, 347, 435               |
| Visited by Commodore Preble and Tobias Lear.....   | 82                                   |
| <b>Triply, Capt.</b> See Tipling, Erasmus H., Capt.  |                                      |
| <b>Tripoli:</b>  |                                      |
| Act of Congress for protection against.....  | 522-524                              |
| At war with U. S. ....   | 308                                  |

| Tripoli—Continued.   | Page   |
|--|--|
| Attack against, may endanger lives of U. S. prisoners taken in Philadelphia.....                 | 406  |
| Attack on.....   | 12, 13   |
| Bainbridge, William, Capt.—  |  |
| Points out efficacy of a land attack against city.....   | 330, 403, 410  |
| Report on affairs of, by.....  | 330  |
| Bashaw of, Yusuf Caramanli—  |  |
| Agent at Malta proposes U. S. give a schooner in lieu of Philadelphia.....                       | 517  |
| Consul of, at Malta, Const. Gatine.....  | 236  |
| Cowdery, Dr., gains prestige by treating children of.....  | 531, 532   |
| Demands release of his subjects.....   | 223  |
| Description of.....  | 529  |
| Desires to make peace with U. S. and on more moderate terms....                                  | 425  |
| Hamet Caramanli, rightful Bashaw of Tripoli. See Hamet Caramanli.                                |  |
| Influence of Napoleon Bonaparte with.....  | 499  |
| In ill-favor of his people.....  | 380  |
| McDonogh, Brian, suggested by Richard O'Brien to mediate.....                                    | 280  |
| Minister of Foreign Affairs or Prime Minister of. See Dghies, Sidi Mohamet.                      |  |
| Murdered his brother Hassan.....   | 502  |
| Nichola, Captain, in service of.....   | 471  |
| Obliges Mr. Nissen to renounce charge of affairs of all foreign nations.....                     | 447  |
| Preble, Commo.—  |  |
| Measures of, for bringing to terms.....  | 439, 442   |
| To negotiate peace with.....   | 350  |
| Truce with.....  | 532  |
| Pulis, Joseph, U. S. Consul, Malta, former Consul of.....  | 222, 386   |
| Batteries, fortifications, naval force and strength of.....                                      | 12, 13, 27, 61, 62, 228, 236, 253, 304, 339, 539   |
| Beaussier, Monsieur, French Consul.....  | 277, 285, 542-544  |
| Blockade of—   |  |
| Ball, Sir Alexander John, Malta, requests passport to transport Bullocks from.....               | 291  |
| Constitution, U. S. S.....   | 213  |
| Declaration and notification of.....   | 215, 216, 308, 359, 389, 469   |
| Ineffective.....   | 116, 253, 254  |
| Instructions.....  | 50, 51   |
| Lear, Tobias notifies Dey of Algiers.....  | 247  |
| Passes given Maltese vessels to carry Bullocks to Malta from.....                                | 332-333, 335, 338  |
| Philadelphia, U. S. S. ordered to.....   | 66, 70   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., received no instructions to blockade.....                                 | 472  |
| Protested by France.....   | 372  |
| Pulis, Joseph, U. S. Consul, Malta, informed of.....   | 282  |
| References to.....   | 58, 203, 205, 206, 215-216, 257, 261, 262, 264, 324, 328, 359, 379, 385, 387, 389, 469, 484, 544 |
| Violations of.....   | 204, 387, 389, 495, 496, 511-514, 528  |
| Bonaparte, Napoleon, First Consul, France desires peace, U. S. and Tripoli.....                  | 336, 337, 498, 506   |
| Caramanli, family name of pachas of.....   | 61   |
| Caramanli, Hamet, rightful Bashaw of, deposed by Yusuf his brother. See Hamet Caramanli.         |  |
| Cathcart, James L. See Cathcart, James L.  |  |
| Concluding peace negotiations with Portugal.....   | 292  |
| Consul of, proceeding to Malta.....  | 516  |
| Consular Present, Lear, Tobias, authorized to pay ten thousand dollars.....                      | 499  |
| Derne:   |  |
| Affairs of Hamet Caramanli, Bashaw of Derne and rightful Bashaw of Tripoli. See Hamet Caramanli. |  |
| Attack on.....   | 16   |
| Force sent to, by Bashaw of Tripoli to subdue Hamet.....   | 61   |

## Tripoli—Continued.

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Derne—Continued.   | Page                              |
| Fortifications of.....   | 228                               |
| Vessel of Malta captured at.....   | 61                                |
| Flags used as signals for going ashore.....                                | 173                               |
| Guerrian trouble between, terminated.....                                  | 61                                |
| Guns.....  | 253, 304                          |
| Guns fired as signals.....   | 173                               |
| Harbor and coastal conditions.....   | 254                               |
| Lear, Tobias, U. S. Consul General, Algiers—                               |                                   |
| Reference to U. S. affairs in.....   | 248                               |
| Authorized to negotiate peace with.....                                    | 337, 499                          |
| Cathcart, James L., to confer with.....                                    | 59                                |
| Peace, ransom and presents estimated by, \$450,000.....                    | 292                               |
| Mahometan Ramadam, celebration of.....                                     | 531                               |
| Malta, Agent at, sends 2 ships.....  | 92                                |
| Map of Port of.....  | Facing page 174                   |
| Merchant vessels in port of.....   | 62                                |
| Money conveyed by <i>Two Friends</i> .....                                 | 369                               |
| Morris, Capt., to proceed with Squadron off.....                           | 484                               |
| Names of Forts of.....   | 304                               |
| Nichols, David, <i>Philadelphia</i> , claimed as French citizen.....       | 184                               |
| O'Brien, Richard—  |                                   |
| Assistance of, needed, in negotiating peace.....                           | 347, 380, 456, 501                |
| General comment and suggestions of, on U. S. affairs in Tripoli.....       | 283-285                           |
| Officers of, captured by <i>Constitution</i> .....                         | 310, 311                          |
| Peace made with Sweden, and 150 captives redeemed for \$150,000.....       | 285                               |
| Peace negotiations—  |                                   |
| Demands, expectations, negotiations, proposals, and general data.....      | 217,                              |
| 218, 222, 285, 292, 308, 311, 323, 329-330, 337-338, 350, 351, 353,        |                                   |
| 354, 378-380, 385, 425, 498-502.   |                                   |
| Peace and Ransom—  |                                   |
| Demands and expectations of.....   | 292, 311, 333, 498, 499, 543, 544 |
| Proposals for.....   | 337, 338, 351, 378, 379, 385      |
| Peace with U. S. ....  | 15                                |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , all details concerning. See <i>Philadelphia</i>      |                                   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt. and Commodore—                                       |                                   |
| Believes French, English, and Swedish Consuls loyal to Bashaw.....         | 545                               |
| Men of different nations sought, for attack on.....                        | 319                               |
| Operations at.....   | 304                               |
| Orders to send all Tripolitan vessels in to Gibraltar.....                 | 63, 71, 72                        |
| Prisoners treated well by.....   | 260, 489                          |
| To sail for Tripoli from Syracuse.....                                     | 257, 261                          |
| Warns of danger to ship cruising alone off Tripoli.....                    | 257                               |
| Precautions taken to meet attack in Syracuse.....                          | 506                               |
| Preparation for defense against U. S. attack, made by.....                 | 421, 505                          |
| Prisoners on board <i>Constitution</i> landed at Syracuse.....             | 485                               |
| Prisoners, Swedish treatment of.....                                       | 406, 459                          |
| Prisoners, U. S., taken in <i>Philadelphia</i> . See <i>Philadelphia</i> . |                                   |
| Provisions and stores for, available by land from Tunis.....               | 254, 330                          |
| References to.....   | iii,                              |
| 142, 175, 180, 222, 257, 267, 308, 311-313, 322, 332, 334, 339, 347,       |                                   |
| 354, 371, 379, 381, 382, 386, 390, 436, 445, 459, 471, 480, 481, 486,      |                                   |
| 488-490, 492, 495, 498, 499, 501, 502, 516, 520, 521, 525, 526,            |                                   |
| 542-544.   |                                   |
| Rent for U. S. Consular House paid to May 1804 by Cathcart,                |                                   |
| James L. ....  | 267                               |
| Saci, Reis Hash.....   | 62                                |
| Salute to Commo. Dale.....   | 304                               |
| Suai, Reis Mohammed.....   | 62                                |
| Subjects and property of, on board <i>Paulina</i> when captured.....       | 343, 345                          |
| Time distance from Algiers.....  | 293                               |
| Transfer captured by U. S. brig <i>Siren</i> . See <i>Siren</i> .          |                                   |
| Treaty with, U. S. will not purchase, or pay tribute.....                  | 498-499                           |
| Valenzin, David, believed to be subject of.....                            | 343, 345, 346                     |
| Vessels employed against.....  | 12, 13                            |

## Tripoli—Continued.

| Vessels of—   | Page                    |
|---|-------------------------|
| Arrived from Derne with money and presents for Bashaw .....   | 347                     |
| Attack on U. S. vessels in Syracuse planned by .....  | 431                     |
| Boarded Danish vessel .....   | 400, 401, 456           |
| Captures by .....   | 253                     |
| Casualties to, during action against Tripoli .....  | 13                      |
| Commanded by Capt. Agostino, and under English flag arrived from Malta .....                            | 92                      |
| Commanders of .....   | 62                      |
| Corsair or polacre at Tunis, details concerning .....   | 477,                    |
| 483, 492, 522, 524, 525, 547  |                         |
| Crews of, to be disguised in Christian clothing .....   | 431, 456, 505, 525      |
| Cruisers all in port .....  | 62, 282                 |
| Cruiser commanded by Raiz Halifa .....  | 61                      |
| Cruiser of 8 guns and 60 or 70 men rumored off Sardinia, description of .....                           | 466, 467, 473           |
| Cruisers to be guarded against between Cape Bon and Sicily .....  | 408, 410                |
| Gunboat to be built by prisoners from <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 269                     |
| Gunboats carry between 25 and 30 men .....  | 526                     |
| Gunboats hauled up .....  | 408, 410, 528, 539      |
| Gunboats suspicious of attack by <i>Siren</i> .....   | 528                     |
| <i>Mastico</i> captured by <i>Constitution</i> in company with <i>Enterprise</i> . See <i>Mastico</i> . |                         |
| <i>Meshouda</i> prize of U. S. S. <i>John Adams</i> . See <i>Meshouda</i> .                             |                         |
| Ordered to be captured by <i>Nautilus</i> .....   | 206                     |
| Polacre of twelve (12) guns sailed from .....   | 347                     |
| Schooner being built by prisoner from <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 269                     |
| Schooner built by Spanish ship builder .....  | 236, 531                |
| Ship, Polacre rigged, 22 guns, blown up (see Documents 22 and 30, June 1803) .....                      | 382                     |
| Tripoline ship, possibly reference to <i>Meshouda</i> .....   | 94                      |
| Two, sighted off Cape de Gat .....  | 81                      |
| White flag hoisted and gun fired in return of <i>Constitution's</i> salute .....                        | 538, 539                |
| <b>Trippe, John</b> , wounded during attack on Tripoli .....  | 12                      |
| <b>Trippet, William</b> , ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 424                     |
| <b>Trumbull, J.</b> , copy of portrait of Lieut. Edward Preble .....                                    | Facing page 12          |
| <b>Trustee</b> , bound to Hamburg, spoken by <i>Siren</i> .....   | 464                     |
| <b>Tuck (?) John</b> , deserted from prize crew of <i>Mirboka</i> .....                                 | 133-134                 |
| <b>Tucker, Dundas Preble</b> , Lieut. Comdr., U. S. N., portrait published through courtesy of .....    | Facing page 12          |
| <b>Tully, Philip</b> , private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                                  | 188                     |
| <b>Tumbo, William</b> , seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                              | 424                     |
| <b>Tunis:</b>   |                         |
| Advised of Blockade of Tripoli .....  | 359                     |
| Azulai, Solomon, agent for David Bacris in Algiers .....  | 266                     |
| Bey of (Hamuda)—  |                         |
| Cash, as an Annuity, offered to .....   | 5                       |
| Correspondence with—  |                         |
| Cathcart, Jas. L. .....   | 24, 25                  |
| Morris, Richard .....   | v, 43                   |
| President of the United States .....  | 361, 362                |
| Demands of .....  | 323, 491, 570           |
| Demands reply to his letter to Capt. Richard V. Morris .....  | 300, 359-360            |
| Dissatisfaction of, toward U. S. .....  | 495                     |
| Hamuda .....  | 43                      |
| References to .....   | 341, 443, 477, 517, 521 |
| Unsatisfied demand for frigate cause for his desire for war .....                                       | 263,                    |
| 323, 361, 479, 491, 504, 505  |                         |
| Will arrange affairs with Spain .....   | 300                     |
| Cathcart, James, appointed U. S. Consul. See Cathcart, James L.   |                         |
| Davis, George. See Davis, George.   |                         |
| Money transactions .....  | 322                     |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , frigate—  |                         |
| Effect of capture by Tripoli and subsequent burning of, on U. S. affairs in Tunis .....                 | 175, 300, 483, 525      |
| Money transactions in aid of Capt. Bainbridge and crew of .....   | 410                     |
| To be offered for sale to .....   | 408, 410, 525           |

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Tunis—Continued.</b>  | <b>Page</b>                     |
| Presents for   | 403                             |
| Provisions and stores for Tripoli obtainable by land, from   | 254, 330                        |
| Relations with United States   | 272, 486, 491–495, 503–506, 521 |
| Spanish Felucca, bound for Tripoli, arrived at   | 525                             |
| Time distance from Algiers   | 293                             |
| Titles of Bey of   | 43                              |
| Tripolitan corsair of 12 guns preparing for sea, threatens U. S. S. <i>Enterprize</i>                          | 492                             |
| Tripolitan polacres in harbor of   | 477, 522, 524, 525, 547         |
| Tripolitan vessels, on visits to, often wear similar colors to Tunisian vessels                                | 487                             |
| Vessels of—  |                                 |
| At Malta   | 479, 486                        |
| Boarded by <i>Constitution</i>   | 232, 238, 256                   |
| Cruiser of 22 guns and 120 men brought to, off Sicily, by <i>Philadelphia</i>                                  | 103                             |
| Guns   | 504, 505                        |
| Naval force  | 486, 491, 504, 505              |
| Refusal of, to permit examination of passports by Lieut. Stewart, <i>Siren</i>                                 | 486                             |
| Ship spoken by <i>Siren</i>  | 479                             |
| <b>Turkey:</b>   |                                 |
| British and French Ambassadors to, report regarding <i>Mastico</i> forwarded to                                | 490, 493                        |
| Captain Pacha—   |                                 |
| Influence of requested, with Bashaw of Tripoli for release of <i>Philadelphia's</i> prisoners                  | 480–481, 490                    |
| Hafis, chiaus of, taken in <i>Mastico</i> , released   | 485, 488                        |
| Reference to   | 310                             |
| Constantinople (Ottoman Porte)—  |                                 |
| Powerful influence of Court of St. Petersburg at   | 397                             |
| Preble, Edward, Commo., recommends U. S. Minister Plenipotentiary be sent to                                   | 487                             |
| Russian Minister to, Mr. d'Italinsky   | 358, 397                        |
| Influence of, with Bashaw of Tripoli, sought   | 462, 541                        |
| Subjects of, taken prisoners in <i>Mastico</i>   | 374                             |
| Sultan of—   |                                 |
| Declaration of Blockade of Tripoli, to be presented to   | 469                             |
| General Brune to act as Mediator for U. S. with  | 470                             |
| Intercession by Emperor of Russia with, to obtain restitution of <i>Philadelphia</i> and her officers and crew | 534                             |
| Officer of, commended by Capt. Edward Preble   | 469                             |
| Officer, or Chiaus, of, deposition of  | 471                             |
| References to  | 341, 382, 470, 471, 487         |
| Referred to as Grand Signior.  |                                 |
| <i>See Mastico</i>   |                                 |
| U. S. wishes to remain in peace with   | 481                             |
| Treaty with, would aid Commerce in Mediterranean Seas  | 176                             |
| Wollaston, Frederic Hyde, request to represent U. S., in   | 113, 114                        |
| <b>Turner, Patrick</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 50, <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 184                             |
| <b>Tuscany</b> , reference to gun or mortar boats  | 436                             |
| <b>Tuttle, Jesse</b> , Captain's mate, No. 92, <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 131, 185                        |
| <b>Two Friends</b> , Spanish Brig, conveyed \$2,000 from Algiers to Tripoli                                    | 369                             |
| <b>Tyms, Alexander</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 54, <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 184                             |
| <b>Tyres</b> , British Colonel, Gibraltar  | 347                             |
| <b>Unis Ben Unis.</b> <i>See</i> Hadgi Unis Ben Unis.  |                                 |
| <b>U. S. Army</b>  | 508, 533                        |
| <b>Union</b> , American Ship, Master, George Hodges  | 123                             |
| <b>Urry, George</b> , Corporal, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i>   | 188                             |
| <b>Valenzin, David</b> , polacre <i>Paulina</i>  | 1, 274, 341–346                 |
| <b>Valetta Harbor</b> , Malta, map of  | Facing page                     |
| <b>Valetta, Harbor of</b> , description of   | 468                             |
| <b>Van Camp, John</b> , private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 188                             |
| <b>Van Bissen, Arnoldus</b> , Boy, No. 129, <i>Philadelphia</i>  | 185                             |

|   | Page          |
|---|---------------|
| Venable, Abraham, appointed Governor of Louisiana.....  | 459           |
| Venn, Charles, 1st Lieutenant, Warren.....  | 166           |
| Verification of cargoes.....  | 367-369       |
| Vessels:  |               |
| Nationality of cargoes—re law of Nations—"Neutral Bottoms make free Cargoes".....                   | 368           |
| United States—  |               |
| Merchant—   |               |
| Algiers, customary procedure and signals upon entering and leaving.....                             | 194-196       |
| <i>American Eagle</i> , Am. brig.....   | 349           |
| <i>American Hero</i> , detained and released at Gibraltar....                                       | 331           |
| <i>Anna Maria</i> , transport to Tunis.....   | 371           |
| Arrival at Palermo of five, from U. S.....  | 402           |
| At Cadiz, request convoy.....   | 77, 78        |
| Baltimore, Capt. Archibald Karr.....  | 515           |
| <i>Betsy Walk</i> (or <i>Walker</i> ), store and provision ship. See <i>Betsy Walk</i> .            |               |
| Capture of, by Moorish frigates denied by Commo. Preble..   | 96            |
| <i>Celia</i> recapture by <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 30            |
| Chartering of, to carry stores to Mediterranean Squadron.   | 145, 146      |
| <i>Citizen</i> , storeship. See <i>Citizen</i> .  |               |
| <i>Constitution's</i> officer and boat goes to assistance of.....                                   | 208           |
| Cyrus, under French colors, captured.....   | 369           |
| Edward, Brig, at Naples.....  | 370           |
| Equality, reference to.....   | 453           |
| <i>Frances</i> ran on rocks.....  | 213, 214      |
| <i>Ganges</i> , under French colors, captured by British.....                                       | 369           |
| <i>Hannah</i> , detained; released by order of Emperor of Morocco, See <i>Hannah</i> .              |               |
| Independence of Baltimore touched at Gibraltar.....   | 400           |
| Insurance rates high on cargoes of.....   | 250           |
| <i>Mary</i> , Am. Brig.....   | 168           |
| <i>Mary</i> , Am. schr. carries mid. Christopher Gadsden to U. S. with despatches.....              | 314           |
| Mediterranean Store Ship to be Armed, and used as Store and Hospital Ship.....                      | 161, 162      |
| Moroccan cruisers ordered to capture.....   | 63            |
| Neutrality, violation of, by <i>Ganges</i> and <i>Cyrus</i> .....                                   | 369           |
| <i>Old Tom</i> , Capt. Cornick. See <i>Old Tom</i> .  |               |
| Opinion of Hon. A. J. Dallas, arming of.....  | 278, 279      |
| <i>Port Mary</i> , victualling ship for Mediterranean Squadron....                                  | 401           |
| Private armed, commissions for.....   | 198, 203      |
| Protection offered by Commo. Preble's squadron.....   | 96            |
| Regulations should be made re British and American ships.   | 367-369       |
| <i>Sally</i> , Capt. Archer. See <i>Sally</i> .   |               |
| <i>Shepherdess</i> , aided by U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....                                    | 211, 213      |
| Ship loaded at Norfolk, Va., for Mediterranean Squadron, not arrived.....                           | 142           |
| <i>Sophia</i> , Am. brig, impressment of John Felt.....   | 234, 235      |
| <i>Traveller</i> , store ship. See <i>Traveller</i> .   |               |
| Warned by John Adams against Moroccan cruisers.....   | 84            |
| Warren, commission for, requested.....  | 166, 167      |
| <i>William and Mary</i> store ship to Gibraltar, Malta, and Syracuse. See <i>William and Mary</i> . |               |
| <i>Woodrop Sims</i> (formerly <i>Betsy Walk</i> ), store ship. See <i>Woodrop Sims</i> .            |               |
| Ships of War—   |               |
| Boats of, tow ship when becalmed.....   | 105           |
| Building at Hampton, Va.....  | 317, 430, 431 |
| Building at Washington, D. C.....   | 282-283, 316  |
| Flags and guns used as signals.....   | 173           |
| In actual service.....  | 197           |
| In Ordinary, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.....   | 392-395       |
| Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., ships fitting out.....  | 547-548       |
| Rules concerning ships in ordinary.....   | 533, 534      |

## Vessels—Continued.

## United States—Continued.

## Ships of War—Continued.

## Ships of War, Mediterranean Squadron—

|   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Additional force required and requested.....  | 80, 88, 142, 161, 210, 257, 258, 385, 438, 486, 487, 491, 504 |
| Algiers, general comments <i>re</i> ships entering, Consul's duties, salutes, anchorage, customs..... | 194-196, 305-306  |
| Appearance and maneuvering of, greatly admired.....   | 495   |
| Assistance given and courtesies shown, at Malta.....  | 100   |
| Barron, Samuel, Capt. and Commodore.....  | 13  |
| Carronades and ammunition requested for.....  | 486   |
| Command of, desired by Capt. Alexander Murray.....  | 212   |
| Commodores Preble, Rodgers, Morris, status of.....  | 90  |
| Cooperation sought to reestablish Hamet Caramanli.....  | 314   |
| Crews of, engaged for two years.....  | 384   |
| Cruising ground.....  | 62, 227, 385  |
| Cruising off Mogador, Larach, and Salee.....  | 96  |
| Dale, Richard, Capt., arrival at Tripoli, reference to.....   | 304   |
| Dangerous for small vessels to separate for protection of American commerce.....                      | 486   |
| Desertions from, encouraged by Commanders of British Men of War.....                                  | 112, 113, 155-158, 160, 161, 351                              |
| Details of transactions of, dispatched to Secretary of Navy.....                                      | 338   |
| Disposition of.....   | 485   |
| Employment of.....  | 259-260   |
| English officers refuse to give up deserters from.....  | 212-213   |
| Fire ships and infernals planned.....   | 486   |
| Foreign Consulate flags flying during presence of, in Tangier Bay.....                                | 85  |
| Form, Report of Guard Rowed by U. S. S.....   | 316   |
| Guard duty by one ship of squadron each day (24 hours).....   | 315, 316, 318, 374  |
| Gun and Mortar Boats needed for ( <i>see also</i> Gun and Mortar Boats).....                          | 229, 339, 383, 385, 437, 545                                  |
| Headquarters of, at Syracuse.....   | 340, 341  |
| Honor paid to, on return from Mediterranean.....  | 263   |
| In action against Tripoli.....  | 12, 13  |
| Inadequate for protection of merchant vessels.....  | 200, 486, 491   |
| Increase in naval force authorized by Congress.....   | 523   |
| Internal Rules and Regulations for Constitution.....  | 32-41   |
| List of.....  | 197, 214, 227, 384  |
| List of prizes taken by.....  | 323-324   |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt., in command of.....   | 484   |
| Officers of, not to write of any ship's movements.....  | 432   |
| Order governing boats of.....   | 45  |
| Order to detain all Moroccan ships and subjects.....  | 48, 49, 58  |
| Ordered to permit vessels carrying Bullocks from Tripoli to Malta, to pass blockade.....              | 332-333, 335  |
| Orders and instructions to. <i>See</i> names of vessels.  |   |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> —Grounding, capture, and burning of. <i>See Philadelphia.</i>                     |   |
| Plans for location of summer rendezvous.....  | 258   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt., relieved as Commodore.....   | 13  |
| Preble, Commo., reports status of.....  | 338-339   |
| Preble, Edward and Rodgers, John, Commodores of two squadrons.....                                    | 46, 47, 57  |
| Preparing to attack Coasts of Tripoli.....  | 499   |
| Provisions for. <i>See</i> Stores.  |   |
| Rendezvous.....   | 258   |
| Résumé of.....  | 11-18   |
| Rodgers, John, Capt., to command.....   | 107   |
| Sailed for United States.....   | 154, 160, 197   |
| Salutes by.....   | 109-111, 234  |
| <i>Scourge</i> , U. S. brig, formerly prize brig <i>Transfer</i> .....                                | 496   |
| Sent to Mogador, Salee, Larach, and Tetuan.....   | 71  |



**Vessels—Continued.**

## United States—Continued.

## Ships of War—Continued.

## Ships of War, Mediterranean Squadron—Continued.

|  | Page   |
|--|--|
| Ships of Commo. Preble's squadron.....   | 504, 505   |
| Strength of.....   | 99   |
| Syracuse, supply depot and rendezvous.....   | 160, 243, 254, 257, 311  |
| To be furnished with Mediterranean Passes.....   | 210, 357   |
| To send prizes to Syracuse, for adjudication.....  | 206  |
| Tripoli preparing to burn or destroy U. S. vessels while<br>at anchor.....   | 431, 505, 506  |
| Viewed by Emperor of Morocco in Tangier Bay.....   | 119  |
| <b>Vice Consuls.</b> See Consuls and Vice Consuls.   |  |
| <b>Vice Consul</b> , U. S., Sicily: worthlessness and dishonesty of.....   | 487  |
| <b>Vickle Hodge Minister of Marines at Algiers</b> .....   | 330  |
| <b>Victory</b> , H. B. M. S., Lord Nelson.....   | 30, 404  |
| <b>Villetes</b> , W. A., Major General, Commander-in-Chief of the British Gar-<br>rison, Malta:                    |  |
| Correspondence with Preble, Edward, Capt.....  | 328, 333   |
| References to.....   | 331, 477   |
| Requests passes for two Maltese Vessels, carrying cattle from Tripoli<br>to Malta for use of British Garrison..... | 327, 332, 333, 387   |
| <b>Visits</b> , Ceremonial, Algiers.....   | 305-306  |
| <b>Vitron.</b> See <i>Buttern</i> .  |  |
| <b>Vixen</b> , U. S. S., Lt. John Smith:   |  |
| Algiers.....   | 386, 387, 390, 437, 483, 494, 516, 521                             |
| Anchor returned to <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 453  |
| Burrows, William, Midn. appointed Acting Sailing Master of.....  | 325, 327   |
| Butler (Richard), Master.....  | 327, 406   |
| Carrying dispatches to Commo. Preble.....  | 230, 326, 327  |
| Convoy duty.....   | 268, 274, 278, 407, 434, 440, 453                                  |
| Cruising orders.....   | 192, 385, 387  |
| Damage to, from <i>Port Mary</i> running on board of.....  | 457  |
| Delivered to <i>Constitution</i> , stores which were left at Malta by <i>Phila-</i><br><i>delphia</i> .....        | 326, 327   |
| Extracts from Memorandum Book and diary of Capt. Edward<br>Preble, on board of.....                                | 327, 330, 331, 350, 351, 358, 359                                  |
| Fell in with, and released a privateer.....  | 51   |
| <b>Gibraltar—</b>  |  |
| Arrived at, from Baltimore.....  | 42, 56, 82   |
| Attempts to reach, in vain, due to weather conditions.....   | 259, 260   |
| At Gibraltar.....  | 51, 54, 107  |
| En route to.....   | 236  |
| Guns.....  | 197, 214, 227, 384   |
| Izard, Ralph, Midshipman, went on board.....   | 323  |
| Lost anchor.....   | 260  |
| Malaga, touched at.....  | 67   |
| <b>Malta—</b>  |  |
| At Malta.....  | 104, 230, 330, 331, 457, 463                                       |
| At Malta, Commo. Preble's broad pennant flying.....  | 333, 337, 340, 347   |
| Departed from.....   | 159, 323, 464  |
| En route to, sprung fore-topmast Crosstrees and returned to<br>Syracuse.....                                       | 327  |
| Sailed for.....  | 323, 328, 407  |
| Saluted Garrison at, with 15 guns.....   | 330, 331   |
| Stores left at, by <i>Philadelphia</i> , brought to Syracuse by.....   | 326, 327, 350  |
| Marines on board.....  | 197  |
| Morris (Noadiab), Purser, went aboard.....   | 323  |
| One of Mediterranean Squadron.....   | 12, 46, 131, 197, 214, 384   |
| Orders for.....  | 16, 17, 48, 72, 73, 79, 85, 237, 252, 386, 387, 405, 407, 440, 485 |
| Outsailed by <i>Argus</i> .....  | 339  |
| <b>Philadelphia—</b>   |  |
| Ordered to cruise with, and to blockade Tripoli.....   | 50, 51   |
| Ordered to part company with.....  | 73   |
| To be accompanied from Malta to Tripoli by.....  | 104  |
| <b>Preble</b> , Edward, Capt.—   |  |
| Hoisted his flag on board of.....  | 323, 327, 328  |
| Left, at Syracuse and hoisted his broad pennant aboard <i>Consti-</i><br><i>tution</i> .....                       | 327, 358   |

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Vixen</b> —Continued.  | Page                    |
| References to.....  | 45.                     |
| 67, 90, 103, 203, 206, 273, 276, 304, 406, 434, 435, 448, 451, 516-518, 520             |                         |
| Résumé of.....  | 16, 17                  |
| Spoke British Ship <i>Industry</i> .....  | 359                     |
| Syracuse—   |                         |
| Arrived at.....   | 259, 268-270, 327, 359  |
| At Syracuse. 251, 278, 324, 326, 358, 387, 388, 397, 402, 434, 444, 447, 448            |                         |
| Tripoli—  |                         |
| Blockade of.....  | 12, 58, 64, 66, 70, 387 |
| Rumor of capture of vessel of, by.....  | 468                     |
| Tunis, to sail for.....   | 386, 387, 390           |
| Wadsworth, Henry, Midshipman, went on board.....  | 323                     |
| Warrington, Mid. on board.....  | 75                      |
| <b>Wadsworth, Henry</b> , Midn. (acting as Lieut.), <i>Constitution</i> , New York..... | 472                     |
| Commanded gunboat No. 6 at Tripoli.....   | 13                      |
| Correspondence with—  |                         |
| Doane, Nancy.....   | 75, 495                 |
| Porter, David, Lt.....  | 475, 476                |
| Tash, Hash, Miss.....   | 106, 107                |
| To whom not indicated.....  | 212-213, 251-252        |
| Wadsworth, Mr.....  | 232                     |
| Wadsworth, Zilpah.....  | 74                      |
| Extracts from journal of. See U. S. S. <i>New York</i> , extracts from journal of.      |                         |
| Killed in action off Tripoli.....   | 13                      |
| Narrative by.....   | 322-324                 |
| Ordered to U. S. S. <i>Constitution</i> .....   | 51                      |
| <i>Philadelphia</i> , burning of, ill health prevented his joining expedition.....      | 495                     |
| References to.....  | 17, 18                  |
| Transferred to <i>Scourge</i> .....   | 323                     |
| Went aboard <i>Vixen</i> .....  | 323                     |
| <b>Wadsworth, Zilpah</b> , correspondence with Wadsworth, Henry, Mid.....               | 74                      |
| <b>Wagner, Jacob</b> , Chief Clerk, Department of State.....                            | 367                     |
| <b>Wainright, Rubin</b> , private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....               | 188                     |
| <b>Waldram, James</b> , Landsman, No. 245, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                    | 187                     |
| <b>Walker, John</b> , 2nd, seaman, No. 261, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 187                     |
| <b>Wallace, James</b> , Corporal, U. S. M. C. <i>Constitution</i> , punishment of.....  | 408                     |
| <b>Wallen, M.</b> , correspondence with de Konig, Charles G.,.....                      | 461-462                 |
| <b>Wallington, Abram</b> , seaman, No. 217, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 187                     |
| <b>Walsh, Michael</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 160, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....             | 186                     |
| <b>Ward, Emneul</b> , Master, Am. brig <i>Rajah</i> .....                               | 93                      |
| <b>Ward, Thomas</b> , seaman, No. 256, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                        | 187                     |
| <b>Ware, James</b> , sailmaker's mate, No. 177, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....               | 186                     |
| <b>Warren</b> , Am. Merchant ship, Lewis Brantz comdg.....                              | 166, 167, 196, 198, 203 |
| <b>Warren, David</b> .....  | 131                     |
| <b>Warrington, Mid.</b> , U. S. S. <i>Vixen</i> , reference to Samuel in Richmond.....  | 75                      |
| <b>War, Secretary of</b> , Henry Dearborn:  |                         |
| Correspondence with Treasury, Secretary of.....   | 220                     |
| References to.....  | 317, 350, 508           |
| <b>Watson, James</b> , former Navy Agent, New York, N. Y.....                           | 381                     |
| <b>Weasel, H. B. M.</b> brig, lost in gale on Caberitta Point.....                      | 468, 473                |
| <b>Weatherby, Calvin</b> , seaman, No. 205, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                   | 186                     |
| <b>Webster, Alexander, &amp; Co.:</b>   |                         |
| Correspondence with—  |                         |
| Navy, Secretary of.....   | 198, 203                |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 166, 167                |
| <b>Webster, Enos</b> , marine, sent to hospital at Malta.....                           | 488                     |
| <b>Weems, Nathaniel T.</b> , Surgeon, ordered to <i>Argus</i> .....                     | 96, 208, 211            |
| <b>Weima, Doctor.</b> See Weems, N. T., Surgeon.  |                         |
| <b>West, Peter</b> , seaman, No. 110, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....                         | 185, 269                |
| <b>Wharton, Elisha</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 125, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....            | 185                     |
| <b>Wharton, Franklin</b> , Capt. U. S. M. C.:   |                         |
| Correspondence with Navy, Secretary of.....   | 454                     |
| Nomination of, as Lieut. Col. Commandant of the Marine Corps.....                       | 534                     |
| <b>White, L.</b> , London, publisher.....   | v, 322                  |
| <b>White, James</b> , ordinary seaman, No. 249, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....               | 187                     |
| <b>Wiley, William</b> , boatswain, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....           | 424                     |

|   | Page  |
|---|---|
| Wilkie, Mr., H. B. M. Commissary for Fleet at Malta.....  | 512, 514                                    |
| William and Mary, Am. store ship, Capt. Erasmus H. Tipling.....   | 221, 227, 250,                              |
| 356, 360, 361, 369, 375, 400, 402, 405, 407, 429, 434, 440, 447, 448, 451,  |   |
| 452, 455, 459, 460, 464, 466-468, 487, 488, 491   |   |
| Williams, Andrew, Quartermaster, No. 44, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184   |
| Williams, John, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424   |
| Williams, Joseph W., Master of Am. brig <i>Hannah</i> of Salem. 21, 57, 63, 73, 84, 199   |   |
| Williams, Michael, ordinary seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 424   |
| Williams, Peter, <i>Philadelphia</i> , U. S. Consular House, Tripoli.....   | 183   |
| Williams, Thomas, ordinary seaman, No. 93, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 185   |
| Williams, William, seaman, <i>Constitution</i> , punishment of.....   | 276   |
| Willis, William, U. S. Consul, Barcelona, correspondence with State,<br>Secretary of.....                                       | 23  |
| Willison, James (seaman), punished for negligence.....  | 105   |
| Willyams, Cooper, Rev., "A Voyage up the Mediterranean," etching<br>from.....   | v, 322                                      |
| Wilson, David, quartermaster, No. 35, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184   |
| Wilson, James, quarter-gunner, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424   |
| Wilson (or Willson) John, quartermaster, No. 84, <i>Philadelphia</i> and<br>prisoner of Tripoli (see <i>Philadelphia</i> )..... | 185, 223, 224, 269, 280, 281, 301, 409, 530 |
| Wolf, John, Boy, No. 41, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 184   |
| Wollaston, Frederic Hyde, U. S. Consul, Genoa:<br>Correspondence with State, Secretary of.....                                  | 113, 114                                    |
| Wolsfrandorf, John, private U. S. M. C., burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424   |
| Women permitted on board <i>Constitution</i> in U. S. ports.....  | 33  |
| Wood, Abiah and H., owners, Am. Brig <i>Betsy</i> .....   | 123   |
| Wood, Alexander, master of Am. brig <i>Mary</i> .....   | 78  |
| Woodrop Sims (formerly <i>Betsy Walk</i> ), Am. storeship, Capt. Miles<br>Reddick:<br>Arrived at Gibraltar.....                 | 510, 514, 516                               |
| Conveyed by <i>Argus</i> , from Gibraltar to Syracuse.....  | 16, 514, 515, 519                           |
| Formerly <i>Betsy Walk</i> , renamed.....   | 399   |
| Has Algerine protection against all Barbary powers.....   | 400   |
| Men loaned to, transferred to <i>Argus</i> .....  | 519   |
| References to.....  | 356, 514                                    |
| Woodruff, Samuel, quarter-gunner, No. 72, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184   |
| Wormeley, Wallace, Midn., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 15, 169, 170, 183                           |
| Woronow (or Worontzoff), Alexander, Count, Grand Chancellor of<br>Russia, Ambassador to London.....                             | 358, 397, 534, 541                          |
| Wren, Solomon, sergeant U. S. M. C., burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424   |
| Wright, John, boatswain's mate, No. 64, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 184   |
| Writing, secret or invisible.....   | iii   |
| Wulan, Peter, private, U. S. M. C., <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 188   |
| Wyk, Sir Peter.....   | 9   |
| Wyman, Semin, Marine, sent to <i>Mirboka</i> .....  | 105   |
| Wymer, John, ordinary seaman, No. 169, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....  | 186   |
| Yataghan, Turkish Sword, delivered to Capt. Richard V. Morris by<br>William Eaton.....  | 367   |
| Yeates, Matthew, seaman, burning of prize <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 424   |
| Yellow Fever in Malaga. See Malaga.   |   |
| Young, Thomas, seaman, No. 237, <i>Philadelphia</i> .....   | 187   |
| Yznardi, Josef, (or Yznardy, Joseph), U. S. Consul, Cadiz:<br>Circular from Tobias Lear to.....                                 | 99-100                                      |
| Correspondence with—<br>Gavino, John.....   | 1   |
| Harris, Levett.....   | 541   |
| Hull, Isaac, Lt.....  | 329   |
| Lear, Tobias.....   | 297-298                                     |
| Morris, Richard V., Capt.....   | 78  |
| Morta, Thomascee.....   | 165   |
| Pinckney, Charles.....  | 540   |
| Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 164, 165                                    |
| State, Secretary of.....  | 165, 166, 261, 262, 540                     |
| References to.....  | 78, 160, 232, 252, 285                      |
| To forward dispatches.....  | 338   |
| Waited on Preble, Edward, Capt.....   | 165   |