

c. s. c. concerns their Commission : We have had no occurrence of any consequence in the Camp since I had the honor of addressing you last But expect every hour to hear that Newport has shared the fate of unhappy Falmouth. I have the honor to be with the most sincere respect. Sir

Your most obedient & humble Serv^t Geo. Washington.

Falmouth Monday October 16. 1775. The canceaux ship of sixteen guns, commanded by Capt. Mowatt, a large ship, schooner and a sloop armed, anchored below the town The 17th at 3 P. M. they weighed and came up and anchored within Gunshot and immediately chose a committee of three gentlemen and sent them on board to know the reason of that towns being set on fire, he returned for answer that his orders were to set fire on all the seaport towns between Boston & Hallifax and that he expected New York was then burnt to ashes he farther said that when he received orders from the admiral he desired that he might shew some favour to the town of Falmouth, which the admiral granted (I suppose, as Cap^t Mowatt was under particular obligations to some gentlemen at Falmouth for civilities to him when in captivity amongst them) and which favour was to spare the town till 9 oclock Wednesday morning in case he would send him off eight small arms, which the town immediately did. Wednesday morning being the 18th the committee went on board Cap^t Mowatt again in order to save the town, til he heard from the admiral in case we would send off four carriage guns deliver up all our small arms, ammunition &c and send four gentlemen of the town as hostages, which the town would not do. about half past nine in the morning he began to fire from the four armed vessels, and in five minutes set fire to the several houses, He continued firing till after dark, the same day, which destroyed the largest part of the town he farther informed the committee that he should proceed to portsmouth and destroy that place also. The foregoing is as near the facts as I am able to remember. As Witness my hand.

signed Pearson Jones

Cambridge Octob. 24. 1775.

Original.

[Gillon to ——]

Sir. If you chuse to import any powder or Arms from Holland think it best that you export the Am^t of the Adventure in Tobacco fit for that market in Vessels that do not draw above 13-14 feet water & sail fast filling up Inv^c & bills of lading with letters as if from S^t Crus or S^t Eustatius bound to