

Four Pages from John Claypoole's Memorandum Book

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to learn me to speak their Language in which I begin now to make tolerable progress, I am now recover^d and have got on board again and I expect we shall sail before long so that if we have luck I shall soon be after this letter, Commend me to all friends believe me to be your real friend and verry humble Servt

Jn Claypoole

Lenox, Cove of Corke May 9th 1781

Dear Sir

In my last letter to you I told you that I expected shortly to be at home, But you find I am disappointed and indeed I have met with so many disappointments in my time that I begin now

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Now to be tolerably well season,^d to them, We set sail from L,Orient on the 26th of March in Company with 7 or 8 Sail among which was the Lyon and the ann &c, we had a glorious breeze which lasted us for 7 or 8 days about which time the Lyon parted with us and shap,^d her course for the west Indias, On the 4th of April as we were Pleasantly sailing and pleasing ourselves with the prospect of soon being at home and enjoying the company of our friends all hand being in high spirits having each of us a good venture on board, but fortune that fickle Jade Threw a Privateer in our way who soon made a Prize of us and with us Shap,^d her Course for Ireland, She was Call,^d

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Mill Prison the 1st of Sept^r 1781

Sir,

The last letter I wrote you was from on board the lenox in the Cove of Cork which ship had orders to weigh Anchor which she did on the 21st of June and set sail for England in Company with a fleet of near an hundred Sail, consisting of men of war, Frigates, Sloops of war, Transports merchantmen &c, &c, &c,

on the 25th of June cast anchor in Plymouth sound and on the 29th we prisoners were removed to a Guard ship call^d the Dunkirk laying in Hamoare where we remaind till the 6th of July when myself with 9 others were carry,^d on shore at Plymouth Dock and Carry,^d before a Justice of the Peace

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who after having examind us one by one in a verry formal manner told us that we stood charg,^d with High Treason being found in arms and in open rebellion against his King upon the high Seas, for which crime as he term,^d it we were to be commited to the old Mill Prison, there to remain till his king should be graciously pleased to call our Tryal accordingly our mitemuses were wrote and we were brought to this place where we have been now about 2 months and for aught I know shall be here 2 years, for I do not see any likelyhood of our being exchang,^d and it seems impossible to get out of this place with out the wretched alternative of entering into their Infernal service