

Prima ballium

December 14. 1785

Mr  
In Portland Roads

Dec: 19: 1785.

Sir,

My last letter to your Majesty was upon the *Steb's* arrival with a prize. We were detained at Spithead three days by a gale of wind. We sailed on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> to the westward. That evening we chased two smugglers, but before our boats had boarded them, they had landed their cargoes. We followed along to the eastward, that Captain *Thompson's* vessel was hovering on the coast. The next morning a very heavy gale of wind came on from S.W. & drove us up at sunset as high as Beachy Head. Du-



b. Leaked & stood to the westward. Between ten & eleven it began to blow strong with  
 the wind at South with violent rain: the gale kept increasing till we could  
 with but just carry close reefed Top sails & courses. A very heavy sea was so that at  
 every fetch the Fore mast was under water & the ships & many was that  
 we were all afloat on board. Your Majesty will I hope excuse this late arrival  
 that the *Stella* is a good Frigate, the intention of our carrying this project  
 sail was to make a Run out by light, which is eighteen leagues from  
 Beachy head; as there is no good harbour to the eastward of *Wight* head, it was  
 of great consequence to get down as low as the side of *Wight* par. tide by  
 day from appearance, we had to expect a very heavy gale of wind. As the mor-  
 ning broke we saw a Run out bearing North 4 leagues, the very distance

we expected. Upon our seeing the land we made the best of our way into the first  
head; as we went before the wind, the ship rolled the main Deck forward.  
water of those accidents, happened which appeared ridiculous to every body but the  
person who suffers. I was amongst the unfortunates; a sea-breeze threw us by  
my post I was the every individual thing out of the cabin. We remained nine  
days at Spithead, owing to the bad weather, & the necessary reparations after  
such bad weather. We sailed on December 14 on another voyage in the  
morning with four sail of his decked ships, which I believe were the  
men of war from the East Indies. We went present were going up the  
channel with a fine moderate Easterly wind.

Yours  
Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate  
and most dutiful Son, William