

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

**Volume III
Part 3 of 3**

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

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To Richard O'Brien, U. S. ex-Consul General, Algiers, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*
Syracuse Harbour 31st Jan^y 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. Captⁿ 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^{rs} OBrien, and accept my best wishes for your health & happiness.

[Stephen Decatur Col.]

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.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Richard Farquhar, Malta
MALTA Feb^y 1st 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 & Meuserate &^{ca}, 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 1st Feb^y 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^s 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^t 2^d Feb^{ry} 1804

Your favor of the 16th ult^o has been received it contains the first information which has reached me of the suit instituted against you by M^r 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^r W^m 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 2nd Feb^y 1803 [1804]

This evening, my Dear Mother, I sail for Tripoli on board of a prize (we took on the 23rd Dec^r) 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^{to} Son

RA: IZARD jun^r

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

[NDA A-4.]

Prisoners on board U. S. frigate *Constitution*
Constitution daily report of Prisoners Febr^y 2^d 1804

Names	Quality	By whom Conf ^d	when	how	Crime
J. Cross	Seaman	Lieu ^t Dent	Jan ^y 25	in irons	Drunkenness

Prisoners of War

Names	Names
Affvishous Osmanlagger Ossinadder Mustapha Mahomet Alle Mahomet Ibvahim Alle	Mustapha Hassan Mustapha Masarese Salaseres Mahomet Hamet Hamet Ibvahim Mustapha Selim Koma

On the GunDeck

Centrys charge Birth Deck

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^d Feb^y 1804

D^r 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^r S^r

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 Esqr.....	Commanderin Chief.
Brig <i>Argus</i>	18, 36 pounders,		Isaac Hull Esqr.....	Lieutenant Commandant
Brig <i>Syren</i>	18, 32	d ^o	Ch ^o Stewart Esqr.....	d ^o
Schooner <i>Vixen</i>	16, 24	d ^o	John Smith Esqr.....	d ^o
Schooner <i>Nautolus</i> ..	16, 9	d ^o	Rich ^d Somers Esqr.....	d ^o
d ^o <i>Enterprise</i> .	16, 24	d ^o	Stephen Decatur Esqr....	d ^o

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^y 3rd 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^d 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^t Decatur. She sailed last evening for Tripoly; the object is, to destroy the *Philadelphia*. She sailed in company with the *Syren* Brig Lieu^t 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^t 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^r 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^s 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 ^r . \$120, 000

He afterwards concluded, that the Bashaw would take One hundred thousand doll^s 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^s from Malta last Week, and a quantity of clothing for his Officers &c^a. I conceive it my duty to attend to their Wants, and shall most certainly do so. Captain B — complains of not having rec^d letters from me, I have written a number, and it has been altogether the fault of M^r 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^r 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^r 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^t 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^r 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^r 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^r 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^y 3rd 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 18th Ulto — 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^y 3^d 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^d 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^y 3^d 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^o 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^o Lear and R^d 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^o 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 At 5 P. M. Sailed the *Syren* L^t Stewart and the Prize *Intrepid* with L^t 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^d setting up the Rigging and watering ship, Towards the Evening Sailed the *Syren* and the prize, the prize was Comm^d 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^d 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^d 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^t 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^d 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^r 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^t sails At 11 back'd the main topsail & sent a number of 6 lb cartridges, 1 lb d^o a quantity of wads & a package of brimstone. — Midnight haul'd up square main sail & handed top gall^t 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^t

Feb^y 4. 1804.

Your favor of the 12th Nov^r 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^d. 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^{ts} rec^d 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^t 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 asstonish 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^d 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^t sails crossed T. Gall^t 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^d 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^d W^d 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^t 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^d & E^d At 4 made signal for the *Intrepid* to wear again same time wore to the N^d & W^d $\frac{1}{2}$ 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^t Decatur — Meridian wore to the N^d & E^d 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,
with his crew, | 1 Ship-keeper to each ship, and |
| 1 Purser, | 100 Seamen, and three guards of
marines, |
| 1 Clerk, to keep the account of the
stores, | Plumber, blacksmith, and crew, |
| 1 Clerk of the yard, | Block-maker and crew, |
| 2 Boatswains, | 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
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
			\$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^t
Feb^y 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^t 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^t 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^t
Feb^y 7. 1804. —

This letter will be delivered to you by M^r Jn^o 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^r 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^t and you will be allowed at the Treasury dep^t 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^t Petersburg 26 Jan^y — 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^t Petersburg at Constantinople, to delay improving the value of its interposition: It will in that case perhaps, conduct you to a Correspondence with M^r 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.]

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^d 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^{ts} 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^{es}t & 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 8th day of Feb^r 1804
and 28th 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 8th 1804

SIR, M^r 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^t 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^q 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^t 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^t 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^q & increasing, also the sea, the brig rolling gunnels under — brought too the takes on the cable (parted them) drawing bolts & hooks, bro^t 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^t

Feb^r 9. 1804. —

Since my letter to you on the subject of conveying the *Betsy Walk* (now called the *Woodrop Sims*) I have rec^d 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^r 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^y 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^r 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 Straight 107^{lb} 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 10th febr^y 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 12th Ult^o 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^o 144

GIBRALTAR 10th february 1804

SIR I have not been honord with any of yours since my last N^o 143 dated 2^o Ins^t continued to the 4th —

I have now to inform you that I this day received a Letter from W^m H. Thone Commander of the Scho^r *Citizen* with the Gun Carriages dated L'Orient 6th Ult^o 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^r of which declares he was boarded the 12th Ult^o 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^t 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 10th February 1804.

SIR, I wrote you the 26th. Ult^o 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^o 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 10th Feb^ry 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^ry 10th 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^t Comm^d J. H. DENT

U. S. Schooner *Enterprize*

[NH. Dent's LB.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant Isaac Hull, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES BRIG *Argus*

Gibraltar Bay 10th Feb^y 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^t Dent whom I have appointed L^t Comm^{dt} L^t Decatur being absent on an expedition to the Coast of Tripoly — Lent the *Enterprize* a Lieut^t 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^y 11th 1804.

SIR. I return the documents enclosed in your letter of the 19th Ult. in relation to M^r 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 11th 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^r 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^y 12th 1804

DEAR SIR I had the pleasure of writing to you on the 16th of December, under cover to D^r Davis, our Charge d'Affairs at Tunis, and forwarded a copy on the 2^d ins^t through the same channel. I also wrote to Citizen Beaussier, the Commissary Gen^l of the French Republic, at the same time, and enclosed a letter for you from M^r Thainville the French Agent here. Immediately on hearing of your misfortune I authorized D^r 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^d a letter from D^r Davis of the 27th of Dec^r acknowledging the receipt of my letter &c. and enclosing a copy of his to you on the 20th of Dec^r —

I sent to our Gov^t 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^d a letter from the Hon^{ble} 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^t 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^d 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^r Cathcart, dated at Leghorn Dec^r 13th informing me that he had authorized M^r Nyssen, the Danish Consul at Tripoli, to furnish 3 or 4000 dollars for your use, and that he sh^d purchase two suits for each man from his private funds. The style of M^r 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^r 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^r 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^r 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^r 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 16th ultimo, when 8 British Ships of the line, with Lord Nelson, in the *Victory*, appeared off the Harbour. Cap^t Keets came to anchor in the *Superb* of 74 Guns, with M^r Falcon on board. The letters of Lord Nelson to the Dey, insisting upon his receiving M^r 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^t Keets had an interview with the Dey on the 16th 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^r Falcon again, or to yield any one point. — The next day the Ships stood into the Bay. Cap^t 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 19th 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 21st of Nov^r. By a letter which I received yesterday from M^r Gavino, he informs me that a Vessel arrived from Baltimore which brings accounts of Cap^t 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^r O'Brien is still here, his wife has lately presented him with a fine Boy, and I presume they will hardly depart until the season is more favourable. — They send their best regards to you. —

M^{rs} 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^r in N^o 6.

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat, Book A.]

To Joseph Pulis, U. S. Consul, Malta, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*
Syracuse Harbour Feb^r 12th 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^y 12th 1804. *Syracuse Harbor*

SIR M^r 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^r Burrows on board this Ship, and Recieve M^r 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 13th Feb^y 1804

SIR I have the honor to beg your reference to the inclosed Copy of a Letter I have received yesterday from J. Lea^r 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 dyploamacy, 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^r 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^r Cathcart at Leghorn on that subject Begging you to advise the Sec^y of State at Washington of what occurs —

P. S. I have Strongly Recommended the American Officers & Crew of the *Philadelphia* to my friend M^r 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^y 13th 1804

DEAR SIR I have received your esteemed favour of the 9th Ins^t 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^y 13th 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^t 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^m Higgins Esq^t 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^o 611 and at 9 this Morning the signal N^o 598 Ships company employed this afternoon as necessary. At Sun-down the weather became moderate and continued so during the night At 7 A. M. made the *Vixen* Signal N^o 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^{es}t and one discharged from the sick list —

At Noon light airs from the East^d.

[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^e 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°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^d 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^d.

[LC. EPP Log *Constitution*, 1803-1804.]

Presumably to Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI BARBARY 15th 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 16th Feb^{ry} 1804

DEAR SIR, I am this day hon^d with your much esteemed letters of the 19 & 20th December 4th 16th & 24th 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^s 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^r 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^r 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^c 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 Capⁿ 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^r Higgins to send us. also One thousand dollars in Cash. The necessary receipts I shall send to M^r 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^r Higgins omitted sending us an invoice of the articles which will be necessary to make the proper charges. Your letter to M^r 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^s

[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 16th 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^r 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 7th 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 *S^t Crucifisso* Fortunata Barbara late master was met with the 16th Day of Feb^r last under English Colors by the U. S. Schooner of War the *Nautilus* under command of L^t 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^r Edward N Cox an officer in the Navy of the U. S. who is ordered to navigate her to Philadelphia

Given &^{ca} on board the U. S. Ship
Constitution Syracuse harbor
23^d 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^d 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 31st of the said month of January for going to Gerba as her immediate destination is to be observed; for, the Freighter M^r 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^t Servants.

GI^o 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 19th Feb^r 1804

SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that the U. S. Brig *Syren* L^t Comm^t Stewart, and Ketch *Intrepid* of 4 Guns L^t Comm^t Decatur arrived here last evening from a cruise. They left this port the 3rd Inst^t 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^t Comm^t 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^t 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^t 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^t Comm^t 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

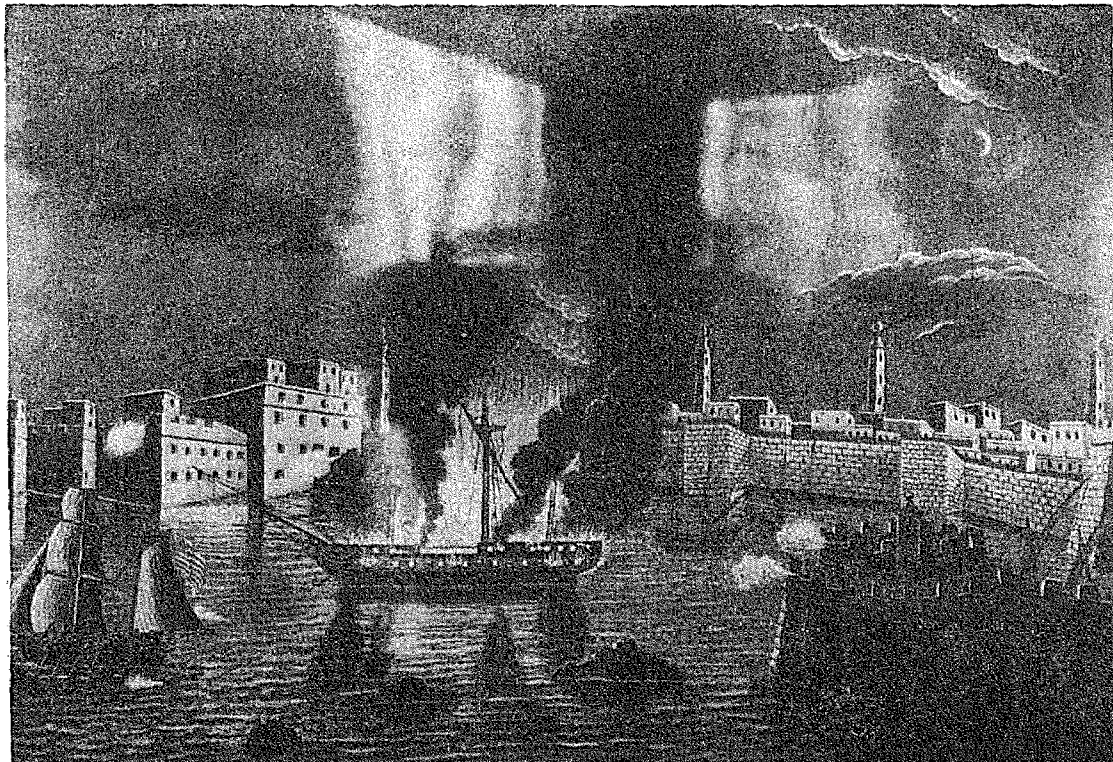
SIR, I have the honor to inform you, that in pursuance of your orders of the 1st Ins^t to proceed with this Ketch off the Harbour of Tripoly there to endeavour to effect the destruction of the United States late Frigate *Philadelphia*. I arrived there in company with the U S Brig *Syren* L^t Comm^d Stewart 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^d 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^t 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^d 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^d 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^r Salvador the Pilot, on whose good conduct



*BURNING of the FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA in the HARBOR of TRIPOLI, 16th Dec. 1802.
by a Gunboat, sent by Commodore Boscawen.*

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^t

(Signed) STEPHEN DECATUR

Commodore EDW^d 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^t Comm^d 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^t 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^t Comm^d 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 19th Feb^y 1804

SIR, Pursuant to your orders of the 31st January 1804 we sailed on the 3rd of February in company with the *Intrepid* L^t Commandant Decatur, and arrived off Tripoly the 8th Ins^t 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 11th It then abated, and I sent for Lieu^t 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 15th when considering the possibility there was of the Tripolitans having some suspicions of our intentions, I reinforced L^t 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 16th 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^e & 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^t 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^t Comm^d 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

20th FEB^y 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^r gave the name of *Intrepid*. We are astonishing the folks in these parts & we do as we please with the Syracusans. On the 2nd we left this place for Tripoli & arrived off there in a few days but the weather obliged us to keep off untill the 7th 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 15th 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 16th 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 28th Sep^r & 15th 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^g. 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^t Son

RA: LZARD JUN^r

[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^d 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 Licut. 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. Affidant 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' 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' 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^r C. Nissen Consul of his Danish Majesty at tripoly, Dated 29. february 1804

The Americans have Just now burnt Their Fregate in This Port. on The 16th curr^t at Sun Set, they Saw two Vessells masked so as they could not be recognized, the one was an american Fregate 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 Fregate, 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 Fregate 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^t —

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^o 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 28th March 1804

STEPHEN CATHALAN JUN^r

[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^r [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^d Ins^t 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 16th Captⁿ 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 31st January 1804 Commodore Preble lying with his Squadron in the Harbour of Syracuse, gave orders to Lieu^t Charles Stewart, commanding the Brig *Siren* of 16 Guns, and to Lieutenant Stephen Decatur j^r 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^t Decatur had orders to enter the Harbour in the night, board and set fire to the *Philadelphia* and Lieu^t 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 16th February when Lieu^t Stewart having taken the best possible position to effect the object of his Instructions, Lieu^t 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^t 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^t 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 ^r | } Lieutenants. |
| Ja ^s Lawrence | |
| Joseph Bainbridge | |
| Jonathan Thorn | |
| Louis Heerman Surgeon. — | |
| Ralph Izard | } Midshipmen. |
| John Rowe | |
| Charles Morris | |
| Alex ^t Laws | |
| John Davis | |
| Th ^s Macdonough | |
| Tho ^s O. Anderson | |
| M ^t Salvadore [Catalano] — Pilot | |

62 Men. —

Lieu^t Decatur has stated that all his Officers and men behaved with the greatest coolness and intrepidity, and Commodore Preble has informed me that Lieu^t Stewart's conduct was judicious and meritorious.

ROB^t SMITH —
Secretary of the Navy.

[Note: Men who took part in the destruction of the *Philadelphia*.

William Wiley, boatswain	James Robinson, seaman
William Hook, gunner	Matthew Yeates, seaman
George Crawford, quartermaster	William Ducket, seaman
George Brown, quartermaster	Andrew Espey, seaman
John Newman, quartermaster	William Tumbo, seaman
Paul Frazier, quartermaster	Thomas James, seaman
James Metcalf, boatswain's mate	Joseph Numond, seaman
Nicholas Brown, boatswain's mate	George Murray, seaman
Edward Kellen, master's mate	Robert McKnight, seaman
Samuel Endicott, quarter gunner	William Dixon, seaman
James Wilson, quarter gunner	Henry Davenport, seaman
John Ford, quarter gunner	Joseph Parker, seaman
Richard Doyles, quarter gunner	Dennis O'Brian, ordinary seaman
Joseph Boyd, ship's steward	Jacob Kurgen, ordinary seaman
Edward Burk, seaman	John Burtson, ordinary seaman
Peter Munell, seaman	William Rodgers, ordinary seaman
Richard Ormond, seaman	Charles Robinson, ordinary seaman
Samuel Jackson, seaman	William Trippet, ordinary seaman
James Pasgrove, seaman	John Joseph, ordinary seaman
Joseph Goodwin, seaman	Michael Williams, ordinary seaman
John Boyles, seaman	
Augustus C. Fleur, seaman	<i>Marines</i>
Charles Berryman, seaman	Solomon Wren, sergeant
Daniel Frazier, seaman	Duncan Mansfield, corporal
William Graham, seaman	Noble James, private
Reuben James, seaman	John Quin, private
Robert Love, seaman	Isaac Camfield, private
John Williams, seaman	Reuben O'Brian, private
Joseph Fairfield, seaman	William Pepper, private
George Fudge, seaman	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 RIDGELY.

[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' 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' 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' D 451, 14347.]

[16 February 1804]

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

NAVY DEPT^t
22 May 1804. —

Commodore ED^d 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^t 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^t SMITH.

[NDA. LB, 1799-1807.]

[16 February 1804]

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

NAVY DEP^t
22^d May, 1804 —

STEPHEN DECATUR jⁱ esq^t
Captain in the Navy of the United States.

Care of Comm^r ED^d 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^t 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^t 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 cutlasses, 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^g 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^t 9 TK^g to the S. W. set stay sails & jib At 10 call^g 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^d to the S^d & E^d —

Meridian wore to the S^d & W^d handed square main sail, reef'd the fore sail & set after main sail moderate breezes & pleas^d the *Intrepid* bearing S $\frac{1}{2}$ E 8 miles dis^t

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 1905, 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^{ry} 1804^s

DEAR SIR: I have been honored with your Letter under the 13th Ins^t 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 Captⁿ 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^r 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^t 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^{tn} Bainbridge, — As yet I have received no intelligence whatever from Tripoly, 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^s/10^d p^r 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^r 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^y 27th 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^r Indent before sent

280 Duck frocks or Shirts

280 pair Duck Trowsers

280 pair shoes

Signed, KEITH SPENCE Purser

Signed, W^m 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 16th 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 17th 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^r Bedinger has directions to deliver to you one 32 pound Cannon, should you call on him for it. —

R^t 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 / c / digsonvzyrw

* * * Your letter not explaining clearly led me into a mistake to write you some days since by the [space] of the 15th December, which must have gone down with the Vessel — This is by the [space] of the 5th December, which continue — *dated this 25th 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**) Commences with fine breezes & pleas^t 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 dis^t. 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 dis^t —

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^g to calm, sent off to Lieu^t Decatur reinforcements in the boats, Lieu^t Caldwell & Jn^o Dorsey mid^s with 20 men

(in the launch) M^r Brooke & M^r Budd with 8 men (in the Barge) At ½ past 10 Lieu^t 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^d the fire on the *Intrepid*, all around the frigate & in every direction — Midnight gentle breezes & pleas^t weat^h Weigh'd & stood to the N^e & E^e 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^t Decatur came on board got top gall^l masts on end & made sail. Town of Tripoli bearing S S W dis^t 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.]

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

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 18th Feb^r 1804

DEAR SIR, A Vessel from Malta arrived here on the 15th inst^t 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^r 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.]

To whom not indicated, presumably from Captain William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

TRIPOLI february 18th 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 31st 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 15th 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^s. Cleared Hawse and down top Gall^s 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^y 19th 1804

DEAR SIR, I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable favor of the 19th 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^{ble} Ch^s Pinkney, one for M^r Kirkpatrick, & one for M^r 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 17th 18th & 19th 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 Nelson, who commanded the fleet, forbids the idea of fear on the part of the British, and it is presumed th^t 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^s* & 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^t Smith — March 17th

P. S. I enclose the two letters for the Sec^y 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^o 7.

ALGIERS Feb^y 19th 1804

DEAR SIR, It was not until the 11th inst, that I had the pleasure of receiving your acceptable favour of the 15th Deco^r with its enclosures; for which I am much obliged to you; my a/c as sketched in your letter, is just, M^r 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^y 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^a* & the Captivity of poor Bainbridge & his Crew at Tripoli, you are undoubtedly informed of before this, it happened on the 31st of October, and it was not until the 15th 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^d Nov^r but he will receive further aid. (See British Affairs in letter to Capt. Bainbridge Feb^y 12th 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^s Trigg & his amiable Lady — I respect the Veteran, and his attentions are not forgotten. To Col^o Fyers his Lady & family & our other acquaintances in Gibraltar we wish to be remembered with respects & regards.

1st by Spanish Courier via Alicant. — 2^d by U.S. Schooner [*Vixen*] Lt. Comdt Smith via Alicant March 17th 1804 —

[Stephen Decatur Col. NDA photostat.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from James Leander Cathcart, Leghorn

LEGHORN 19th Febru^y 1804.

SIR. I had the honor to answer yours of the 4th on the 30th Ult^y & 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^y 19th 1804.

DEAR SIR. I am hon^d with your highly esteem'd favour of the 30th Ult^o together with a Copy of your letter to Cap^{tn} 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^t 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 30th 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, tompons 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 3rd ins^{nt} I sent Cap^{tn} 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^{tn} 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 16th Cap^{tn} 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^{tn} 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^{ts} & a considerable cargo of goods; hemp, plank, &^{ca} &^{ca} on board, she is a good prize. —

Your attention to Cap^{tn} 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^{ry} 19th, 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^{ry} 19th 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^t Dent a Lieu^t 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.]

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

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*
Syracuse Harbour Feb^{ry} 19th 1804

SIR, By letter from the Navy dep^t of November 8th 1803 I am commanded by the Hon^{ble} 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^{ble} Secretary. I obey these commands with pleasure & satisfaction, sensible that you merit and deserve them.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Lieutenant John H. Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy
Constitution, SYRACUSE HARBOUR,
Feb^{ry} 19th 1804

SIR You will immediately join this Ship and return all the men lent from her to the *Enterprize*. —

[NHF. Dent's LB.]

[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^{ry} 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^{rs} Wth 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^r 19th 1804

SIR, I am hon^d 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^d 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 Captⁿ 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 19th 1804

Sir, I had the honor to write you the 3rd Ins^t 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 23rd Ult^o. 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 — 10th rec^d 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^t 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.

12th I rec^d 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^d 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^d 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^y 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^t 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^t 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 19th 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 19th 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^r 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^d 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^y 19th 1804.

DEAR SIR I wrote you the 3rd Ins^t that I had sent L^t Comm^t Stewart in the Brig *Syren*, and L^t Comm^t 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^t Decatur entered the Harbor of Tripoly in the evening of the 16th Ins^t 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 receive 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^t 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 tomahawk. 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^t 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 conceive it will be well to write him:

I beg you to make my best respects to M^{rs} 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^t 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^t Paul bore W b N ½ N at ½ 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^d Ins^t for the Coast of Tripoly with orders to Burn the frigate *Philadelphia*. At ½ past 10 L^t Stewart and L^t Decatur came on board and informed me that my Orders were executed; On the night of the 16th L^t 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 ^t Comm ^d	Stephen Decatur Jun ^r	
	{ James Lawrence	
Lieut ^{ns}	{ Joseph Bainbridge &	
	{ Jonathan Thorn	
Surgeon	Lewis Herman	
	{ Ralp[h] Izard.....	Belonging to the
		[Constitution]
	{ John Rowe.....	"
	{ Thomas M ^d Donough.....	[Enterprize]
Midshipmen.	{ Charles Morris.....	[Constitution]
	{ Alexander Laws.....	"
	{ John Davis &.....	"
	{ Thomas Oakley Anderson.....	[Siren]
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^o 589. At 10 appeared in the offing the U S Brig *Syren* and the *Intrepid* — Made the *Syren*'s signal N^o 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^t Steward of the *Syren* & Lieu^t 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.]

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 *intriped*/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.]

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 Meridⁿ took in top gall^t sails, stay sails & flying jib — At ½ past 1 set top gall^t sails At 2 set top gall^t & middle stay sails & flying jib made the S. W. end of Scicily. ½ past 3 set royals, larboard fore & main top gall^t 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^t Decatur: At ½ past 6 the boat return'd with M^t Anderson & the remainder of the men. At 8 cape Passaro bore N N E 3 miles dis^t — 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^t & royal stay sails, after mⁿ sail At 10 pass'd cape Passaro. —

Midnight moderate breezes & pleas^t. 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^t 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^t 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^t 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.]

To Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tripoli, from Captain William Bainbridge,
U. S. Navy

(Copy)

TRIPOLY IN BARBARY 20th Feb^y 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^y 20th 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^r 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^r 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^y 20th 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-imbursement 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 20th 1804.*

SIR Give me leave Sir to present You my thanks for the very polite letter of the 19th 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 16th 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^l 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*, *Enterprize* and *Intrepid* in Company — Ordered L^t Dent to join the Ship with the men lent the *Enterprize* & Cap^t Decatur to resume to Command of the *Enterprize* 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*, *Enterprize* and *Intrepid* in company. On the late expedition to Tripoly the Commodore sent the following Officers from the *Constitution*, Mess^{rs} Reid & Izard Masters Mates and Mess^{rs} Rowe, Laws, Morris and Davis Midshipmen. L^t Dent of the *Constitution* in the absence of L^t Decatur was appointed to the command of the *Enterprize* — He took with him from the *Constitution* Lieut^t Elbert M^t 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^t 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^d — 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 *Enterprize* 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^{ry} 1804,

DEAR SIR I am honored with your kind favor 13 Ins^t — & 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^l 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^t Crucifiso*, 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 16th Ins^t 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 &^o

[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^d 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^d February 1804

DEAR SIR By this conveyance you will receive letters from me of the 16th and 18th ins^t that of the 18th informed you that we were surrounded with Gaurds since the burning of the Frigate. — On the 20th 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^r Cathcart at Leghorn which was handed to me by this Government after they had read it M^r C — has in my opinion been very officious in making purchases of Cloathing to the Amount of 5200 dollars amongst which is 1000 doll^r 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 16th 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^r 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^d Feb^y 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^r 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^t 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 25th Feb^y 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^{rs} 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^d Feb^y 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 16th Ins^t 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 31st Ut^o. I beg leave to observe that Mr. Anderson was afterwards sent in the Ketch *Intrepid* Lieu^t Comm^{dr} Decatur with the reinforcement from the *Siren*, and Lieut^t Decatur reported to me (no doubt to you likewise) that his Conduct was officer like and highly meritorious — Also M^r Dorsey was with Lieu^t Caldwell who has reported his Conduct while in the Boat as deserving of praise

M^r T. O. Anderson
J. S. Dorsey
C. F. DeKrafft
W^m 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^m & 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^o 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 23rd Feb^r 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^r 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^o 145

GIBRALTAR 23rd feb^r 1804

SIR I had the honor of addressing you the 10th Ins^t N^o 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^t 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 21st Instant with the Gun Carriages, when M^r Thorn deliver'd me the Original of your favour of 2^d Nov^r last Continued to 4th d^o, 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^s will forward by first opportunity —

M^r 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^l 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^t Sovereign* of 120 Guns Commanded by Capⁿ Malcome in Eight days from off Ushant to reinforce Lord Nelsons fleet, the Capⁿ told us when he left Lord Cornwallis fleet it consisted of 25 Sail the Line of which 11 three Deckers cruising off Brest

Capⁿ 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 *Piomingo*, & *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 Iseland of Sicily or Sardina

Capⁿ 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^s —

[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 Gibraltar 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^d 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^d — 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^t Feb^y 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^t 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^r 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^y 24th 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^t 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 16th Ins^t 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^t 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^t 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^s 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* conveys 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 take yourself under the Command of Cap^t Stewart.

FEB^r 24th 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^d 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^t 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 cruiser being in the channel of Malta — Made the *Enterprize* signal for a Cap^t Lieut^t 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^r rigging. The *Intrepid's* launch employed watering the *Constitution*.

At 11 A. M. the weather became Overcast. Furlied 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^d —

[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^r 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^d, *Syren* & *Intrepid* in company — Ships company setting up top gall^t 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^t Yards and launched top Gall^t 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 26th 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^r Gavino to M^r Pulis informing him that a Danish Vessel was boarded by a Tripolitan Cruiser between the Islands of Sicily & Sardinia on the 12th 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^y 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^t 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^d. 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^o 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 27th 1804.

SIR. I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 23^d inclosing M^r 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^r 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^r 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^y 27th 1804.

SIR I had the honor to forward to you at Syracuse via Naples a plan of a gunboat on the 30th Ult^o & on the 19th ins^{nt} 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 Mar-seilles, 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 dont 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 26th 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^s S^t I dont know how true M^r 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 27th Feb^r 1804

SIR The 11th Inst. I communicated to you the Acc^t 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^t 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^d 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^t Yards — Slung the lower Yards & shortened in to a Stay Peak & stowed the sheet anchor — Surgeons report 13 sick & 6 Convst 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^d Ins^t

[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^t too on the star-board cable & made signal for the above ship to get under way — Midnight fresh breezes & pleas^t At $\frac{1}{2}$ past Midn^t 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^t At 4 cape Morade point bore N N E 4 leagues dis^t 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^t masts. At 9 cape Passaro bore N E dis^t 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^t Came in boat from the above ship 2 men, left on board the store ship (belonging to the *Siren*) M^t Anderson & 5 men. Meridian moderate & pleas^t 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^o 73 Triplicate

TANGIER 28th February 1804.—

SIR I have had the honour to receive original and duplicate of the Letter you wrote me the 31st October last year with postscripts of 4th & 10th Novem^r — The former was delivered me 22^d this Month by M^r 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 5th Septem^r, 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^r 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^o 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 Captⁿ Smith & Lieu^t 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^r Monroe Envoy Extraord^y and Minister Plenip^y 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 28th 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^{rs} 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^t 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^d & W^d Day light sway'd up top gall^t masts. 3 sail in sight. Entrance of Malta bearing S W by W. At 7 set square main sail top gall^t sails & flying jib At 11 handed top gall^t 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^t Smith Commander of the *Vixen* came on board. At ½ past 5 came too with the starb^d 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^d & 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^d here [Sarasossa] the united States Schooner *Nautilus*, which has Returnd from cruising off 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^r 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^m & 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^m & 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 [Saragossa] 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 ½ past 12 the *Vixen* weigh'd & put to sea. At ½ past 1 unmoor'd & brought too on the Starboard cable. At 3 hove up & stood out of the harbour under topsails. ½ past 3 boarded fore tack At 4 the South end of Malta bore W by S. 5 miles dist^t Left at Malta on liberty six of the Officers. At ½ past 4 saw a sail bearing N E standing to the N^d & W^d made sail & gave chase, ½ 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^o 74. TANGIER 2^d 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^r Gavino to receive it for Issue to the Squadron. —

I am sorry for this disapointment, but happily I did not mention in my Letter to His Majesty that the Rice was come. —

With this I enclose duplicate of N^o 73 forwarded by way of Gibraltar, to which I beg your reference for farther particulars respecting the Cargo of the Schooner *Citizen*. —

M^r 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 8th 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, until 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 breeze 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^d March 1804

SIR, After I had put my Letter to you of the 10th Feb^y on board the Convoy for Malta, a Vessel arrived here from the Eastward, which brought information, of his having been boarded of[f] Sardinia, by a Tripolitan Cruizer, carrying 8 Guns, and Sixty or Seventy Men, I made all the dispatch I could, and sailed on the 13th 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 24th in the morn^g 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^r 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^g 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 &^g 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 3rd March 1804

DEAR SIR, When I was at Gibraltar, M^r 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 3rd March 1804.

DEAR SIR, I wrote you the 27th January last p^r the Victualler *William & Mary*, under cover to Consul Pulis, as the Captain would not go to Syracuse on acc^t of his Insurance, and the 10th Ulto, 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^t of him.

* * * * *

This goes under cover to Sir Alex^r Ball, and contains letters rec^d for you p^r the *Citizen*, Those for other Gentlemen of the Squadron, and for Tripoli, I send M^r 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 Portugese 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 leagurs 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^o 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^s 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 *Syren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 3 March 1804

Commence with light airs from the S^d & E^d 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^t Stewart went on board the Commodore, ½ past 11 L^t Stewart return'd — At meridian M^r Anderson & the men (that went on board the store ship) return'd sent the 2 men on board of her belonging to her. Rec^d 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 23rd 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 Chouix 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^d any answer to the Letters he Sent to Your Excellency

I have had some conversation with the Captⁿ 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^d the Letter from your Consul also all the Particulars. I calld on a Captⁿ Nicola who has been many years in the Service of the Bashaw of Tripoli and who latly came from there, and being now displeasd with the Bashaw is willeng to Serve your Excellency. he is also of opinion that this is the time to Cooperate with the Bashaw of Derna

MALTA 4th 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 4th 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^d all the afternoon, in clear^d 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 Summers, who waited on the

Commodore, and Reports that he could gain no intelligence of the Cruisese he was ordered to look out for.

[NA. ND original.]

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^t Stewart of the *Syren* waited on the Commodore — Towards evening the *Syren* sailed on a cruize 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^t Somers waited on the Commodore and reported he could gain no Intelligence of the cruizer 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 Venereal L^t Elbert, M^t Wadsworth & One Seaman The others are affected with coughs, Fevers and declines M^t Pulis the American Consul waited on the Commodore. Noon moderate breezes from the N N W.

[LC. EPP, Log *Constitution*, 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, Sunday, 4 March 1804

Commences with fresh breezes & rainy weather. At ½ past 2 come up & made sail out of the harbour [Malta].

Lat: Obs: 36° 25' N.

[NDA.]

To James Monroe, U. S. Minister to London, England, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

March 5th 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^t 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 5th March 1804

SIR, I have the honour to inform you, that I arrived at Gibraltar, from Cadix and Tangier, on the 8th Feb^y, and on the 10th a Swedish Vessel arrived from the Eastward, the Cap^t of which brought information of his having been boarded off Sardinia, 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 14th 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^d, 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 advisable 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 24th 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^r 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 5th March 1804

DEAR SIR, With this you will receive three letters from me of the following dates 16th and 20th of February and the 3rd of March. I do myself the honor of enclosing you a note I wrote on the 3rd ins^t 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 4th January last and which reached me the 15th 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 3rd ins^t 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 27th Feb^{ry} that M^r 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^t 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 Priviledges 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 cruizers, 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 5th[*] 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 Matthew Esq^r 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^r Matthew will be directed to procure the necessary order for their delivery to Edward Preble Esq^r 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 5th 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^t Ball, General Villetts, General Oaks Cap^t 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^t 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 *Syren* 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^t 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^t & papers. on examination concluded to send her into port. sent on board to take charge of her M^t Dorsey & Nicholson. at ½ past 2 sent them & the Cap^t with 8 of our men on board of her, fill'd away with the prize in comp^t for Malta. It bearing S. S. W 4 leagues dis^t ½ past

3 handed top gall^t 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^q & E^q set top gall^t sails & fore sail. Midnight light airs from the N E. the S. cape of Malta bearing N W by W 2 leagues dist^t

At 1 took in top gall^t sails. At 5 set after main sail & top gall^t sails, stay sails, flying jib & square main s^t 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 6th 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^t Com^t J: H: Dent, I had the honor of receiving thy letter of the 8th Ult^o: and waited immediately upon His Excellency the Governor Guillechini to see if I could procure the Gun Boats &c^a 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^l Acton's answer to my request for Gun Boats &c^a 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 6th 1804

SIR I have appointed L^t Dent a L^t Comm^t You will therefore Observe such ceremony and respect towards him as is observed towards

the L^{ts} 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 6th 1804

SIR I have recieved your letter of the 20th ult^o with your acceptance of the appointment of Sailing Master to which Station the Hon^{ble} Secretary of the Navy has appointed you by letters dated the 17th 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 & lightning — 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 *Siren* 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^{ies} rigging. At 5 discover'd a sail ahead, gave chase, At 4 took in royals & steering sails, wind hauling to the Westw^d At 6 she hoisted the barbary flag 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^d in a heavy squall from the N^d 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^d 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^t

March 7, 1804

WILLIAM W. BURROWS

Charleston S. C

Your resignation of the appointment of L^t Col. Commandant of the Marine Corps tendered in your letter of the 23 ult^o 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^s 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^d a letter from Mess^{rs} James Mackenzie & A Glennie of London, by whom I have been advised that they had hon^d 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^r 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^r excepting M^r 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^t —

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 8th 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^r Robertson, and your saying you know him to be a Tunissian

RICH^d 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 until I join you with this Ship or until 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^t Comm^r SOMERS —
U. S. Sch^r *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 9th 1804

Rec^d April 9th 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^r 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 Veckil 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 9th March 1804.

SIR I have to inform you that An American Seaman was left at this place, on Account of a Desease, and sent to the Maltese Hospital, By Commodore Morris's Orders; where he has remained from the 25th 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^t 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^d & W^d 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^t Summers came on board.

[NDA.]

To Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEP^t
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 1st 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^t Hugh G. Campbell and L^t Jn^o Cassin, with orders to appear at this place on or before the 1st 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^t 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^t 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^t & 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^s 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 Ulto 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 Capⁿ 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 Tunissians 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^t 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^d a letter from a M^r 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^t 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^d letters from Captain Bainbridge he acknowledges the receipt of six letters from me, and a quantity of clothing, stores, and one thousand doll^s 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 Captⁿ 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 11th 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^m & 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^d with your highly esteemed favour of the 20th Ulto. 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 Capⁿ B—— and his Officers of any priviledges 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 priviledges 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^d with answer which the Minister Mentioned to have been made to my letter of the 4th January.

M^r 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^r 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^d a Malta Vessel to the Eastw^d 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^t 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 23rd 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^d 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^t 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^t Yards and launched Top Gall^t 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 Hawsers 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^t 1100 pounds, One 8 Inch & One 6 Inch Hawsers 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^{sc} —

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 14th 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^t

March 15, 1804 —

You will repair to this place — leave your present residence so as to arrive here on or before the 1st 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 15th 1804.

SIR, I arrived at Tunis on the 3rd ins^t and found there one of the Bashaw of Tripoly's Corsairs of 12 Guns and a great many Men. I was informed by M^r Davis, she would be ready for Sea in two or three days, the wind blowing heavy from the Northw^d and Westward I remained here three days. On the fourth I rec^d a letter from M^r 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^d a letter from M^r 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 13th 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^r 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^d the Inventory of the Feluga The *Bronte*, She has 4 four Pounders &^s &^c She cost M^r Noble more than £500 but I beleve will Sell for £400 he wants an Answer to day

I rec^d 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^r 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 15th 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 *Agincourt* Captain Briggs and *Argo* Cap^t 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^r Lewis Midshipman on board H B M's ship *Agincourt* by permission of Cap^t Briggs who was so obliging as to recieve him passenger for Gibraltar. M^r 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 16th March 1804

DEAR SIR Your friendly letter of the 19th 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^t

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 E. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Thomas Appleton,
U. S. Consul, Leghorn

LEGHORN 16th 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 29th of february. — the following is the translation of his letter. — “on the 16th ins^t 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^o 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 6th ins^t 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

ALGIERS March 16th 1804

DEAR SIR

* * * * *

The U. States Schooner *Vixen*, Cap^t 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 19th of Jan^r except^d that M^r Falcon, their former Consul here, sailed from Gibraltar for England in Feb^r. —

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 17th 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.]

[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^t Stewart, for a violation of the Blockade of Tripoly; and after taking a careful survey of her Hull, Cables, Anchors, Rigging, Sails & Boats &c^s 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.]

[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 underwritten 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.]

[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^{le} 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^s &c^s 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^r 17th 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^d with your much esteemed favour of the 15th Ult^o: and thank you for the information it contains respecting the procuration of Gun & Mortar Boats; & I should immediately write to Gen^l 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 28th day of Dulkaada the Blessed, 1218 — (Corresponding with the 18th March 1804)

* * * * *
[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 18th March 1804

SIR, I arrived here last evening from a Cruise and was hon^d with your Dispatches of the 17th 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^y under date the 19th Ult^o: 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^r! 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^t 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^t 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^s 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^s 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^t 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 18th 1804.

SIR I am hon^d with your much esteemed favour of the 6th Feb^y 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^d 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 unre-served 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 18th 1804

GENTLEMEN. I have this moment arrived here, and shall sail again tomorrow for the coast of Tripoly. I am hon^d with your esteemed favour of the 30th January, and thank you for the information it contains. I shall, agreeable to your recommendation apply to Fred^s Degen & C^o 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^d 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 18th 1804

DEAR SIR, I have rec^d 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^s 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^r 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 18th March 1804.

SIR, I returned to this Port last evening from Sea, and was hon^d with your letter of the 6th Ulto. Yours by the *Syren*, I had previously rec^d 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^d 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^r 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^r John Broadbent at Messina M^r A Gibbs Palermio, Mess^{rs} Fred^s Degen & C^o at Naples, Mess^{rs} Degen Purviance & C^o Leghorn and William Higgins Esq^t 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^r Appleton by M^r Livingston our Minister, I have rec^d 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^t

Consul from the U S. for Sicily

Memo^s Care of Mess^{rs} 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 18th 1804.

D^r 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^r OBrien late our Consul at that place is coming up, fully empower'd by Col^l Lear to join with me in a negotiation 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^r OBrien is sent up by Col^l 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 Captⁿ 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 there 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 field 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 &^s.

As Side Hamet Caromanli, has Promised to repay all the Money &^s 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^d 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 Capⁿ 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 18th 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 *Siren* of 18 guns, Lieutenant Charles Stewart, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 18 March 1804

Fresh breezes & pleas^t ½ past 12 took in royals, steering sails, top gall^s 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^t & 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^{rs} examination, Sent in her as Prize Master L^t Maxwell two midshipmen & eleven men to assist in taking her in, Brought on board the Cap^t 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^t 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^d 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^s S E by S $\frac{1}{2}$ S. 9 miles dis^t discov^d 2 small sail to the S. W Call'd all hands & made sail, stood to the N^d — Made a signal to the *Nautilus* to give chace At 10 let out all reefs TK^d & stood in for the land in chace, Till 12 standing off & on about 4 miles to the W^d of Tripoli firing several shot at the boats close in under the land — Meridian Tripoli bearing S E by S 9 miles Dis^t

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 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 E. Livingston, U. S. Minister to Paris, France, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*

Syracuse Harb^r 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^r Appleton, Leghorn Mess^{rs} Fred^s Degen & C^o Naples, M^r Broadbent Messina. M^r Gibbs Palermo. M^r Gavino Gibraltar & Capⁿ 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^o!

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^o! 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
19th 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 cruisers 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. Matthew, U. S. Consul, Naples, from Captain Edward Preble,
U. S. Navy

Copy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constitution*
Syracuse Harbor 19th 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^t 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 &^c 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 &^c &^c. Recieved a letter from M^t 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^d 201 bbbs bread 91 bbbs beef & 78 bbbs 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 bbbs bread, 15 small casks, 17 boxes cheese 7 tierces rice, 17 boxes candles, 4 bbbs beans, 22 bags of peas 16 bbbs Vinegar, 12 bbbs 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 East⁹

[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. 20th 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 20th until 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 until 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 ^t
	EDWARD N COX	Master
	JOHN FELT	Carpenter of the <i>Syren</i>
	ROBERT FELL	d ^o 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^t At [space] the *Nautilus* under our lee, At 5 unbent the jib, fore sail & main top sail, & bro^t new ones too the yards, the Town of Tripoli bearing S. S. E. 3 leagues. At 8 Lieu^t 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 Lieu^t Stewart went on board the *Nautilus*, soon after she bore away & made signal for us to follow her motions. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 back'd the main topsail & sent the Carpenter on board the *Nautilus* to assist in repairing her, At 8 Cap^t Stewart return'd, 10 sent the Prisoners of the *Transfer* on board the *Nautilus*. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 L^t Summers came on board, rec^d from the *Nautilus* 1 binnacle compass — Meridian light airs & pleas^t 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^y 21st 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^r 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 21st March altho dated 21. Jan^y 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.
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^t ISAAC CHAUNCEY, or in his absence
L^t CH^s LUDLOW, or in his absence
Mids^z 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^r 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^t GEORGE COX, or in his absence
L^t DAN^l C. HEATH, or in his absence
L^t J. M. GARDNER —
Phil^a

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^t 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. Caried 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 20th deserted from the *Constitution* Hendrick Johnson Seam^s 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^s 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 Leagurs 72 butts & 40 Gang Casks of Water making in all 37450 Gall^s 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^t 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^d & W^d

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 Catapaniani* 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^t The Pilot of this Ship informs me that they came from Smyrna about the 6th Nov^r 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^r 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^{mo} Crocifisso* and the *Madonna di Catapaniani* lately seized [on 16 February and 22 March respectively] by the Cruizers 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^r 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^r 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 13th of Feb^r but being forced back by contrary winds was obliged to remain in the harbour of the Valette till the 17th when he again sailed for Tripoli & arrived there on the 21st —

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 1st 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 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 19th Septem^r 1804.

TO GAETANO ANDREA SCHEMBRI,

SIR, — Some time since I received Your Memorial setting forth the "deep Interest" you had in three Vessels Viz^t 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^{mo} 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^r 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^t Ball.

I only regret that an investigation must be deferred until laid before my Gov^t: 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^t 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^d March 1804

SIR, I have been honoured with your Letters of the 24th Jan^y and 9th Feb^y by the *Woodrop Simms*, which Vessel arrived here last evening — I have since consulted M^r 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 22nd of March 1804

DEAR SIR, Although I had nothing new, I wrote you on the 3rd instant under cover to Governor Ball with sundry enclosed p^r an English convoy. And the 17th 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^r 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 recp^t of your favor dated Feb^r 1804, with the few lines of 5th ins^t 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^o 147

GIBRALTAR 22^d March 1804

SIR Without any of your favours I have now the honor of handing you Duplicate of my few lines N^o 146 Via Cadiz also of M^r William Higgins Letter to me dated Malta 25th Ult^o 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^t 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^s 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^t 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^d Karr Commander of the American Ship *Baltimore* then in this Port, to alow John J. Blake one of his ships Comp^t 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^l for the *Woodrop Sims* to Weigh sent 8 men to Assist her got her under way the wind hauling to the Eastward Obliged 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 ½ past 10 haul'd up courses, took in Royals, steering sails, & stay sails & fired a bow gun at the chace. At 11 came up with her, found her to be a Russian ship bound from Tripoli to Malta. L^t Caldwell & M^r Brown went on board of her, the boat return'd with the Cap^t 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^t At 4 the Russian Cap^t went on board his ship. At 5 his pilot came on bo^d of us with 6 men to remain on board of us. At ½ past 6 concluded to send her into Syracuse M^r Brown & M^r Anderson went on board of her as Prize Masters with 10 men to assist in taking her into Port At ½ past 7 set top gall^t sails, & stay sails, jib & square main sail — Meridian light airs & fine weather crew emp^d 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 23rd 1804.

DEAR SIR, I had the honor to receive by Lieu^t Comm^t Smith of the United States Schooner *Vixen*, your several favours of the 17th and 31st January and 3rd & 19th 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 15th 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^r 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^r OBrien, than by me. As he had been making arrangements^{to} 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^r OBrien time to prepare for his departure (which would require some days) Lieu^t Comm^d 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 25th 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^t Commandant Smith from any blame on account of unnecessary delay; and I believe the services which M^r 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^r 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^t. 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^r 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^r 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^r Cathcart, and the Bey's subsequent letter to the President, I have hitherto avoided taking any steps in the business.

To M^r 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 Governm^t 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^r Lear sends you by Capⁿ OBrien a sword Belt, which she has had embroidered here for you, and of which she begs your accep^t 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^r Lear

P. S. March 25th 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 Cruizers

List of Passports, Prize Certificates & Tops of Passports given to the Algerine Cruizers March 23^d 1804. —

- 1 Passport
- 2 Prize Certificates
- 1 Old Top of Mediterranean Passport
- 1 New ditto of ditto

N^o 1. A coper bottom frigate of 46 Guns Rais Hamida Algerine

N^o 2. Ditto Frigate, Copper bottom, forty four Carriage Guns, Rais Hamet Ally, Algerine, Comd^t

N^o 3. ditto Frigate, Copper bottom thirty four Carriage Guns — Rais Hamet Ally, Algerine Comd^t

N^o 4. ditto Xebeck Thirty four Carriage Guns, Hassan Rais, Levantino Commander

N^o 5. ditto, Xebeck — Thirty carriage Guns, Mamet Rais Levantino Comd^r —

N^o 6. ditto Xebeck — Twenty six Carriage Guns, Mustapha Rais, Levantino — Comd^r

N^o 7. Polacre Twenty two Carriage Guns, Mustapha Rais, Levantino — Comd^r

N^o 8. Brig, Copper bottom, twenty two Carriage Guns, Hassan Rais, Levantino, Comd^r —

N^o 9. Ditto Xebeck, Twenty Carriage Guns, Rais Hamidan — Algerine, Comd^r —

N^o 10. Ditto Polacre 18 Carriage Guns, Hassan Rais Levantino — Comd^r

N^o 11. ditto Schooner, Eighteen Carriage Guns, Bechie Rais — Algerine — Comd^r

N^o 12. ditto Schooner, Sixteen Carriage Guns, Sali Rais — Levantino — Comd^r

There are two Merchant Polacres of the Regency w^h have Consular Passports to be renewed for coasting or trading — no tops — no Prize Passports — to be dated 23^d 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^d 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^d 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

24th March 1804

SIR, In a letter which I received from my friend M^r M^dDonough (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)

ALGIERS March 24. 1804

DEAR SIR, A few days ago I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 14th Feb^r by L^t Comd^r 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^{ble} Ch^r Pinkney, our Minister at Madrid, which I rec^d 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^d a duplicate, at the same time, from M^r Kirkpatrick in Malaga of his letter of

the 31st Jan^y — enclosing one for You which is forwarded herewith.

My Predecessor, Cap^t 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^{rs} 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^o 8 Copy

ALGIERS, *March 24th 1804*

SIR, I cannot forbear expressing the surprize I felt in not having received a line from You since Your letter of the 27th 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 20th of Jan^y, 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^{os} 5. 6. & 7. —

The U. S Schooner *Vixen*, Lieu^t Comd^t Smith, arrived here on the 15th ins^t from the Commodore. She has since been over on the Coast of Spain, & sails again tomorrow to join the Commodore. In her goes Cap^t 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^d from Commodore Preble a copy of your letter to him of the 26th of Jan^y 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^t OBrien will decide. —

I can only say on our affairs here that we yet appear to stand well. — To Cap^t 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 24th 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^t 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 Captⁿ 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 Cⁿ Bainbridge.

[LC. EPP, LB, Dec. 1803-April 1804.]

To Midshipman John Dorsey, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Constitution MARCH 25th 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^r Nicholson & the Seamen &^r 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
25th 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 26th 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^r Cent to the United States, as the Stores are taken at their own prices, fixed many Years since with other Nations — On the 5th 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 5th 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^d of November 1803, to draw upon you at Sixty Days Sight for Twenty Three Thousand Dollars, in favour of M^r 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 26th 1804* —

SIR, On the 17th 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, until the 2^d 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, until the evening of the 4th — She proved to be the *Enterprize* Lt Comm^d 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 13th 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^d 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 Commodore will receive the intelligence in time to give her an *overhauling*, 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 12th Dec^r 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 26th March 1804

D^r 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^r 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 OBrien 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^t 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^m BAINBRIDGE

P. S. The Minister has informed me that M^r 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^r 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^r 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^d 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^r 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^d 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 26th 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^t for the Coast of Tripoly From 4 to 6 exercised great guns, small arms, Boarders &^{ts} 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^t Stewart. At 9 A. M. spoke her. Tripoly in sight bearing S W; 6 leagues distant. L^t Stewart informed me he had captured a ship from Tripoly under Russian colors [*Madona Catapoliiana*] 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^t 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^t Stewart acquainted me that the *Nautilus* had been ran down by the *Syren*, owing to the neglect of the Lieut^t 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^t 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^t At 12 wore to the S. W. Midnight light winds & pleas^t 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^q to the S. W. took in top gall^t 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^o E. Preble) spoke us lower'd down the cutter & L^t Stewart went on board. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 L^t Stewart ret^q run up the Cutter & made sail for the land. At 11 the Comm^o fired a gun to leeward & hoisted a White flag at his fore top gall^t mas^t 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 dis^t 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 sprung 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. M'Donald, 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 matrasses. 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 drogeman, 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 drogeman, *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.

Proviso.

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^t
March 27, 1804 —

Your letter of the 24th 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^r 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^t Col^o Commd^t 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^t 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^r 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^r Harris, consul of the U. States of America at S^t 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^r 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^r 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^r 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^d 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^r 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^r 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^r 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^r 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^d 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^d 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^t from my own stores, which you will do me a favour to accept of

M^r 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 27th [March] 1804

DEAR SIR, Excuse the brevity of my letter of yesterday, and impute it to the hurry that M^r 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 12th 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 27th 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^r 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^t 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 27th 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 Majesty's 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^dDONOGH
H B^y Majesty's 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 27th 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^r Izard midshipman, was charged with dispatches from me to Cap^t 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^t Bainbridge whom M^r 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^r Water, Gravelly bottom; Hoisted a white flag and fired a gun, the Bashaw did the same at his Castle — Sent M^r 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 deKraft, 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^t in Co: with the Commodore $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 fill'd away & stood to the S^g 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^g to the N. E At 6 tack'd to the Southw^g At 7 the Town of Tripoli bore South dis^t 6 miles K^g 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^t 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^g & set after main sail. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 L^t Stewart went on board the Commodore. At 8 sounded in 45 fathoms —

Meridian Light airs & pleas^t 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 28th March 1804.

RESPECTED SIR — I had the honour of writing you on the 26th instant —

I have now that of inclosing you Copy of a Letter received from Charles Pinckney Esq^r 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^a 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^t 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^t 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 8th March 1804.

DEAR SIR. I am to inform you that by an official Letter just received from His Excellency Dⁿ 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

S^t PETERSBURG 28 January —7th 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 20th 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^r 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. 28th 1804

SIR,

* * * * *

I have rece^d a Letter from my Agent M^r Gibbs at Palermo, dated Feb. 23rd 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^d 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^t 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.—1st^{ly} 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. 2nd^{ly} 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 28th March 1804

SIR, On the 26th ins^t 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 27th 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^r 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 pretentions 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^r 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^t — Wind N W^t — *Syren* in Comp^y

At Noon Tripoly S W^t 30 Miles distant —

[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, Wednesday, 28 March 1804

Commences with light airs & pleas^t 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^o & 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^o to the Westw^d ½ past 5 sounded in 30 fathoms & set top gall^t sails. At 6 the French Consul left the Commodore & was again saluted with 5 guns T^o 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^o's barge on b^d 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 29th March 1804

DEAR SIR, Last evening the Minister of foreign Affairs for this Regency handed me your much esteemed favor of the 27th inst., with some others for my Officers. My letter of yesterday, accompanying this, pleads the brevity of mine to you by M^r 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^r Pulos's Acc^t certified by the Purser and Myself, and will thank you to have it settled. Doct^r 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^r 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 16th ult^o respecting three persons that joined the *Philad^a* 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 30th 1804.

SIR. The Minister of His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, at Madrid, having represented to M^r Pinkney, that irregularities have taken place, with respect to the Imperial Polacre *Paula* [*Paulina*], Cap^t 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^r 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^t 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 30th 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^r 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^d which obliged us to take in all our light sails, reef topsails & courses & send down royal and top gall^t Yards At 1 A. M. it blew very heavy; Launched top gall^t 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^t

March 31, 1804 —

You will proceed to New York and contract with M^r Chees[e]man for twenty four pound Gun Carriages for the frigate *United States*, on the best terms in your power. You and Cap^t Barron will determine as to the number wanted. Likewise as to the dimensions &^s 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^a, see the Agent & Contract for the residue.—

You will prior to leaving this for New York, consult with Cap^t 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^a 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 DEPMT
March 31, 1804 —

I have rec^d your letter of the 28th ins^t —

Lieu^t 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^r 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

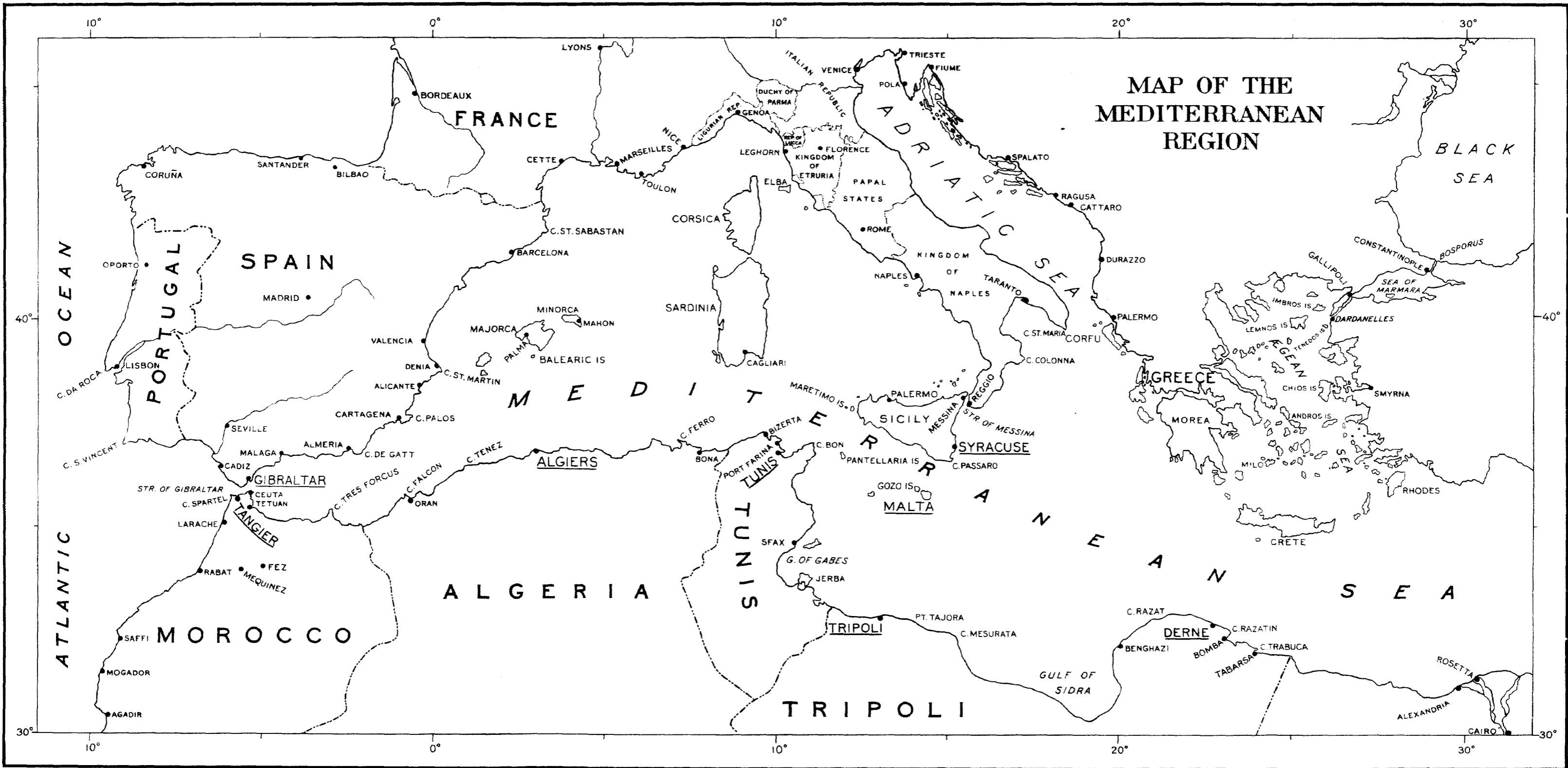
These 24 hours begins with fresh breezes and Clear Weather the Convoy in Company At 9 P M. fired a Gun and made the Sig^t for the Convoy to make more Sail set and took in Sail as Occasion Required. —

[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^t & 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^t. At noon fresh gales and a rough Sea — Latitude Obs^d 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.]



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