

Southall Papers

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Readers

Payton A. Southall to

George W. Southall.

28 June 1832.

Washington Navy Yard U.S. Experiment
28th June 1832

My dear brother,

Your two very kind favours one directed to Baltimore the other to this place came safe to hand upon our arrival here on Friday last, and in compliance with your request I have executed the Power of Attorney you wished and now enclose it to you, sincerely hoping you may make the most of it to our advantage. I think we should get at least fifty dollars an acre for our lands, but I am willing to abide by any sale which you may think proper to make of them, and would advise you to dispose of them if you can get any thing like the value for them. On yesterday the Secretary of the Navy visited our vessel and has determined after she undergoes some alterations that she shall proceed to the Mediterranean. We shall be detained here in consequence of this for some three or four weeks after which we shall proceed to Norfolk and sail from that port for our cruising ground. I hope you will certainly not fail to meet me there as it will be the last opportunity I shall have of seeing you for some three or four years to come probably for ever. The Officers generally are very much disappointed with the vessel not considering her sea worthy and have in a written report expressed themselves to the Secretary of the Navy to that effect, but nevertheless himself and the Commissioners of the Navy have determined to send her out. This information I do not wish you to communicate to Maria upon any consideration as it would cause her much un-

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21 June 1832

uneasiness. There is a very strong state of excitement prevailing here on account of the determination of these honorable gentlemen to send her out and as you may say to sacrifice the lives of the Officers and Crew. However be it as it may I shall go out in her, and trust to Providence for the rest.

There have been three new Surseers made within the last two or three weeks, to fill up vacancies by death. And many other promotions in the Navy. Among them My old friend Lieut. Bell, promoted to Captain. The house did not adjourn until 10 o'clock last night, on account of the Tariff Bill, which was engrossed and had its first reading to day. It is not by any means satisfactory to either side. I saw the President to day, the old gentleman is in good health and fine spirits, and had just receive despatches, that the troops were rapidly suppressing the invasion of the Indians.

I received yesterday a Copy of Papa's petition to the legislature, I think it bears very heavily upon old Campy and Simple but not more so than they deserve. The Sergeant of Arms to the house of Representatives absconded day before yesterday with about ten thousand dollars of the money belonging to the members among which was a \$100. of Mr Coke's. He was pursued and overtaken about fifteen miles from this place on his way to Baltimore, but he had only forty dollars about him, having lost the ballance it is said at gambling table. Mr Coke is extremely anxious to get home and intends going to the Springs this Summer, he says

that Cleanna must take a seat in his Carriage and go along with Mr. Byrd and himself. I am sorry to learn that her health is so delicate at present, I however expected it from the Course of life she was pursuing. I shall write you and inform you of the time we shall sail from this place for Norfolk so that you may meet me there. Give my love to Papa, Mama Cleanna and Matilda and tell them I shall write them very shortly. I am getting on with my business as well as could be expected taking every thing into Consideration, but there is no money to be made Cruising about in the U. States and for that reason I am particularly anxious to get out to the Mediterranean. Mr. Coke desires to be remembered to you all, Write me soon and let me hear all the news.

Farewell for the present, and believe me, to remain your ever devoted and affectionate brother.

Peyton A. Southall