

Dear Buller

Back River near Hampton July 3^d 07

Your kind favor of the 25th did not reach me until yesterday, I now hasten to answer as you appear to wish to hear from me Personally although I write in Pain not being able to sit up but how to Lay on my Side, my Wrote would is what you would call Shaking but to me that have so many clots in the heart and them stuck by my Country men without knowing the wants of my Case it is Scarcely felt, Except when drying, the other two are getting well fast, the Conduct of the British was Cruel in the extreme it is certainly infamous in every Point of View, both the Manner in which the Government has acted and is about to act, ^{towards me} does not fall far short of it, knowing, as they do the ^{transport} Situation of the Ship sometimes in every Quarter more like a ~~Ship~~ ^{than} a Man of War, but that may say with Probability the Principle officer necessary to Equip a Ship for defence, the gunners worthless cowardly and trifling in the extreme the Boatman no Cooks and a Society of other necessary Persons deficient or not appointed never did I sit Sail in a Ship so totally unprepared for defence in all my Life, the Ship and Missing

was in good order, and this is all that can be said and in fact it is
all that the crew had time to attend to, and you know that
since the Pease with Tramm, and the boat with Tubbs, that
the Trainings of the Pieces to ~~the~~ Knowledge of the Exercise
of the Guns, has been left for the afternoon Board Passage
The Man it appears had never been at this Quarters but one
and that mostly to answer to their names in order to
correct the Quarters Bill, if one of my informants
accuses had done his duty in a tolerable way would you
suppose it possible for him to be one half hour at his Quarters
and at the end of that time to be without almost every article
that belonged to his division, the only gun that ^{was} found was
let off by a coil of fire from the Gally under my express order
given in this way, (with Bills Countenance promised a cool
observance of my orders.) I therefore called on him and said, Make
go down on the Gun deck and see if you cant get me
our Gun fired for the Honor of the Flag before I strike
it which I intended to do shortly, he went and ^{executed} commencing
my wish to the officer that he brought most Liberty to it on it
executed and it was by these means that this only gun was fired

Wall is of opinion that at this time there was not 10 men on
the Gun deck before the Colostore, I never suffered Capt Gordon to
Remain on the Quarters deck a moment I know that it was
possible to Recover ^{the Pieces} from this Point that it was only to be done
by his assistance ^{& Pursuit} out of my Sight, The two Bombs were hoisted
on the Quarters deck they would have been as useful to me if
they had been in the infernal Regions, when they will go
in an abominable degree of Concord will send a man than
either of them were I am confident ever had the use of them
Reason after the first gun was fired from the Leopard until the
fire was over, Mr Booth also one of my accusers cut a very
conspicuous figure in the same way, Look at a Copy of his Logg
Book, and compare it with his Charges and I imagine you will
conclude with me, that he had not Recovered his Gun for when he
wrote it, Mr Craton Commanded the after division and never
moved one single article out of ~~his division~~ ^{it, not even} the Cabin Deck had
ever struck his attention and to the two guns in the Cabin there was
only one man during the time of the fire, had not Mr Eliot
been in this division I should be inclin'd to believe there would not
be one man Remains, Mr Crain Reported that he

had during the action thrown overboard out of his division 3 men
but on being called on for their names, to make some plausible
excuse for such a fatality he said, that man, was cut in 2
many places that he thought there must have been at least
three, Allen I am told shot his ground with more obstinacy
than any of them but this is all he did, for it was out of
his division that the one gun was fired he is the most impa-^{man}
and the most vindictive Rascal of them all he came
to that ship with all the Prejudices that his friend
Com^d R could inculcate and I am induced to believe
that all the Reports now in circulation prejudicial to me
have originated with him, you say in your Letter to my
Brother that there was some disagreement between my
Officers and myself about striking the Coloss, believe
me, that there was no order of mine executed with
our hands on the part of the Alacrity that this was
after the Ensign was ^{hauled} down which was only done on the order
to strike the Coloss, I observed that the Pendant was still flying
when all those ^{hundred} dum fellows, Barked out to the top men
to hold it down, I only ask People to suspend their
Opinions for the

Perfect, Let the True Story come out and then I shall meet with
Confidence, the consequence, my own conscience approves my conduct
had I been Prepared and Supported I would never have hauled
down the Chesbrothers Colours to the Lions or until the
damage had put the fate of the day out of the Question
but on the contrary those very officers who have conspired
to make favorable Impressions in their favor ^{to their Honor} were so bitter
that on being asked by me about the Manner of the action
if there was no officer on that deck that thought it
his duty to give some orders about securing the Rigging
Remained as I have before said dumb, my allusions in
the first Part of this Letter to the Conduct of the Government
towards me arises from their superseding me Previous to
my Trial thereby saying to the World he dishonored his Country
by his own account which account was calculated to save all from disgrace
it is the first Impudence of the kind I ever knew. I am now
unable to write more and you and my much Esteemed friend
the Colonel must consider this as addressed to you both
jointly. I shall address strictly to both your names ^{Respect} with
the mode of defence or I have employed Mr R Taylor as my
Counsel he is a man of Honor acknowledged by all Parties

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in view of the
admission

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July 18 1877

By a research

ADR

Back River near Hampton July 3d. of

Dear Bull^ues [?]

[1807]

Your kind favor of the 25 Ult^o did not Reach me until yesterday, I now hasten to answer as you appear to wish to hear from me Personally although I write in Pain not being able to Sit up but have to Lay on my Side, my worst wound is what you would call *Shaking* [?] but to me that have so many darts in the heart and them shot by my Country men without knowing the Merits of my Case It is Scarcely felt Except when *dressing* The other two are getting well fast. the Conduct of the British was Cruel in the extreme it is certainly infamous in every Point of View, but the Manner in Which the Government has acted and is about to act towards me does not fall far Short of it, Knowing as they do the Situation of the Ship Lumbers in every Quarter more like a transport than a Man of War, without, I may say (With Propriety) the Principle officer[s?] necessary to Prepare a Ship for defense, the gunners Worthless Cowardly and trifling in the Extreme no Boatswain no Carpenter and a *Variety* [?] of other necessary Persons *deficient* or not appointed, never did I Set Sail in a Ship so totaly unprepared for defense in all my Life, the Hull and Rigging was in good order, and this is all that can be Said and in fact it is all that the Crew had time to attend to, and you know that Since the Peace with France, and the war with Tripoli, that the training of the People to a Knowledge of the

Excercise of the guns, has been Left for the outward Bound Passage the Men it appears had never been at their Quarters but once and that *mianly* to answer to their names in order to Correct the Quarter Bill. if one of my infamous accusers had don his duty in a tolerable way would you suppose it possible for him to be one half hour at his Quarter and at the end of that time to be without almost every article that Belonged to his division. the only gun that was fired was set off by a cole of fire from the gally under my express order given in this Way. (Capt Hall^ds Countenance Promised a cool observance of my orders.) I therefor called on him and Said, Hall go down on the gun deck and see if you cant get me one Gun fired for the Honor of the Flag befor I strike it which I intend to do shortly; he went and communicated my wish to the officer that ^{he thought} most likely to have it executed and it was by this means that this only gun was fired. Hall is of opinion that at this time there was not 10 men on the Gun deck before the Capstern . I never Suffered Capt Gordon to Remain on the Quarter deck a moment I knew that if it was Possible to Recover the People from their Pannick that it was only to be don by his assistance & *Preforce* [] out of my Sight. the two Smiths *Ware* Quartered on the Quarter deck they would have been as usefull to me if they had been in the infernal Regions where they will go if an abominable design of cowardice will send a man there neither of those men I am confident ever had the

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use of their Reason after the first gun was fired from the Leopard until the fire was over. Mr Brook also one of my accusers cut a very conspicuous figure in the Same Way. Look at a Copy of his Logg (forwarded to the office by me) Book, and compare it with his charges and I imagine you will conclude with me, that he had not Recovered his *Senses* when he wrote it. Mr Graton Commandes the after division and never moved one Single article out of it. not even the Cabin *Bulkhead* [P] ever struck his attention and to the two guns in the Cabin there ^{WAS} ~~was~~ only *four* men during the time of the fire, had not Mr Eliot been in this division I have Reason to believe there would have not been one man Remaining. Mr Crain Reported that he had during the action thrown overboard out of his division 3 men but on being called on for their names, to make Some Plausible excuse for such a falsity he said, that man, was cut into so many peaces that he thought there must have been at least three. Allen I am told stood his ground with more obstinancy than any of them but this is all he did, for it was out of his division that the one gun was fired he is the most infamous and the most Vindicative Rascal of them all he came to that Ship with all the Prejudices that his friend Comdr R could inculcate and I am induced to believe that all the Reports now in circulation Prejudicial to me have originated with him.

You say in your letter to my Brother that there was some disagreement between my officers and myself about Striking the Colors. believe me, that there was no order of mine executed with one hundreth Part of the Alacrity that this was after the Ensign was hauled down which was ^{ONLY} done on the order to Strike the Colors, I observed that the Pennant was still flying when all those heretofore dum fellows, Balled out to the topmen to haul it down. I only ask People to Suspend their opinions for the Present. Let the true story come out and then I shall meet, with confidence, the consequences, my own conscience approves my conduct had I been Prepared and Supported I would never have hauled down the Chesapeakes Colors to the Leopard until the dammage had put the fate of the day out of Question but on the contrary those very officers who have contrived to make impressions favorable to themselves were so petrified [?] that on being asked by me (about the middle of the action) if there was no officer on that deck that thought it was his duty to give some orders about Securing the Rigging Remained as I have before said dum, my allusions in the first part of the letter to the Conduct of the Government towards me arises from their ^{superceding} [?] me Previous [?] to my trial then by Saying to the World he disapproves his conduct by his own account which account was calculated to save all from disgrace X It is the first

X and written before I knew of the conduct of those officers

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Instance of the kind I ever knew. I am now unable to write more and you and my much Esteemed friend the Colonel must consider this addressed to you both jointly. I shall adhere strictly to both your advice with Respect to the mode of defense as [] I have employed Mr R Taylor as my Council he is a man of Honor acknowledged by All Partys.