

My Dear,

Hampton Jan. 13th 1776.

I arrived here the day after I wrote you last, in very good Health in which state thanks to the almighty I have remained ever since except one day when I was a little unwell owing to intemperance having dined the day before with a Gentleman of this Town who makes it a rule to let no one go from his house sober, I slept privately from him before I was quite otherwise tho. found myself a good deal unwell all the next Day, but was effectually cured at night by going out about nine o'clock with a reinforcement to join a party of four men who we learnt were attacked by the enemy, this was a guard of 16 men which we always keep posted at the Light house distant from hence three miles, but having two Tides to cross in getting to it made it eleven o'clock before we arrived, when we got there the affair was over, Ensign Dowsley who commanded ~~the~~ ^{the} party discovered several Tenders making down the road in the evening ~~by~~ ^{according} kept himself in readiness to receive them, about Dark they came too, oposite his post & attempted to land their men ⁱⁿ two Boats, his eagerness prevented this ^{total} overthrow, ^{of the galleys} he lay close until they came within about thirty Yards of the Shore when he gave them a fire which was returned from the Tenders with small arms Swivels & four pounders without effect, however the Boats Tackled about & run ~~fast~~ with such speed that he could not give them but two rounds before they were out of reach none of our men hurt how they came off we cannot learn had Mr. Dowsley only waited until they had got on shore he certainly would have killed & taken them all.

Leven Powell to
Sarah Powell

Jan 13, 1776

I am however well pleased that he behaved Bravely & only failed
for the want of conduct, which experience will mend,

It being late when I got there & understanding the Tenders were still
lying off in the river I did not return home that night & next
morning had an opportunity of having a little trifling Boush
myself, with a Tender coming up the road to join some then lying
at Ancher but out of our reach, This Tender came up very impudently
not over a hundred Yards from the Shore as if daring of us to turn out
we were then about 150 Yds from the Shore ourselves & ran out before
she got quite against us, & had to run the above distance on the open
Beach to a little Breast work erected close on the Waterside
by which she was to come & at that time very near it, we had
not got above half way when she gave us a fire but seeing it
not minded she ~~talked~~ ^{talked} about ~~to~~ ^{off} with all the Ball she
could make that when we got down she was at least 200 Yds
from us, we gave her a fire but without effect, & thus the matter
ended,

Yesterday two Tenders came up on their way to Norfolk with
a private Sloop which they had taken just out of the Capes loaded
with Salt coming into Archib. Ritchie of Rappahannock.
The Sloop being heavily laden got aground in the morning
in view of this Town last night three of the crew made their
escape & came ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~shore~~ ^{shore}, we learn from them that one of the
Tenders had been out plundering but was very unfortunate
having a few days ago sent a party on shore for that purpose
of which they had lost 6 men killed & one taken prisoner, but
where this was done we could not ~~be~~ ^{be} informed

Upon going out to view one of the Cut Post today about three Miles
from this place I call'd at a mans house who I believe to be
one of those that can suit himself to any times & is consequently

either Whig or Tory according to the Company he is in, I was inform'd
by him of the loss the enemy sustain'd when they land'd to burn
Norfolk which was Forty Negro's & 6 Whites this he got from one
of the ^{king's} Officers since the Affair, our loss only one who died of his
wounds, except some women & Children kill'd in the Streets

Our people since have burnt a little Town Call'd Gosport
& some Mills & a Bakehouse on the opposite side of the river
from where Dunmore's Party frequently got supplies,
Whilst I was out to day I heard a heavy firing at Norfolk & saw
the smoke of the Guns rise but as yet don't know the occasion
Tuesday night 11 o'clock. 27th

Just now returned from a Ball and an assembly of fine ladies
on purpose to finish this letter & some others,
Nothing new happened since the above but ~~nothing~~ ^{nothing} firing at Norfolk
four hours burnt, the loss on our side I understand has order'd the
remains of Norfolk to be burnt & our ~~loss~~ ^{loss} we leave it
we expect to see the Blaze soon,

I've expected by every Post to get a letter from you but as yet
have got none, I want much to hear how you all are,
when I shall be able to return is uncertain but expect by
the first of March, You'll remember me to the family &
believe me to be

Your Loving Husband,
Averil Powell

For Mr. M's
son & family

To
Mr. Jacob Smith

London

January 15th 1796



Hampton Jan, 13, 1776.

My Dear,

I arrived here the day after I wrote you last, in very good Health in which state thanks to the Almighty I have remained ever since except one day when I was a little unwell owing to intemperance having dined the day before with a Gentleman of this Town who makes it a rule to let no one go from his house Sober. I slipt privately from him before I was quite otherwise tho I found myself a good deal unwell all the next day, but as effectually cured at night by going out about Nine O'clock with a reinforcement to join a party of our men Who we learnt were attacked by the enemy. This was a Guard of 16 men which we always keep posted at the Light-house, distant from hence three Miles, but having two ferries to cross in getting to it made it eleven O'clock before we arrived. When we got there the Affair was over. Ensign Owsley, who Commanded the party then, discovered several Tenders making down the road in the evening & accordingly kept himself in readiness to receive them. About Dark they came too oposite his post & attempted to land their men in two boats, his eagerness prevented the total overthrow of the enemy. He lay close untill they came within about thirty yards of the shore when he gave them a fire, which was return'd from the Tenders with small arms, swivels & four-pounders without effect; however the Boats Tack'd about & ran with such speed that he could give them but two rounds before they were out of reach. None of our men hurt. How they came off we cannot learn. Had Mr. Owsley only waited untill they had got on Shore he certainly would have kill'd & taken them all. I am however well pleased that he behaved Bravely & only failed for the want of Conduct, which experience will mend. It being late when I got there & understanding the Tenders were still lying off in the river, I didnot return home that night & next morning had an opportunity of having a little trifling Brush myself with a Tender coming up the road to join some then lying at Anchor, but out of our reach. This Tender came up very impudently not over a hundred yards from the Shore as if daring of us to turn out. We were then about 150 yds. from the Shore ourselves & ran out before she got quite against us, and had to run the above distance on the open Beach to a little Breastwork erected close on the water side, by which she was to come & at that time very near it, we had not got above halfway when she gave us a fire, but seeing it not minded she tack'd about & ran off with all the sail she could make, that when we got down she was at least 200 yds. from us, we gave her a fire, but without effect, & there the matter ended.

Yesterday two Tenders came up on their way to Norfolk with a prize Sloop which they had taken just out of the Capes, loaded with salt, coming into Archib^d. Ritchie of Rappahanock. The sloop being heavy laden got aground in the morning in view of this Town. Last night three of the Crew made their escape & came ashore, we learn from them that one of the Tenders had been out plundering but was very unfortunate, having a few days ago sent a party on Shore for that purpose of which they had lost six men, killed & one taken prisoner, but where this was done we could not be inform'd.

Upon going out to view one of the Outpost today about three miles from this place I called at a man's house, who I believe to be one of those that can suit himself to any time & is Consequently either Whig or Tory, according to the Company he is in. I was informed by him of the loss the enemy sustained when they landed to burn Norfolk, which was forty negroes & 6 whites. This he got from one of the King's Officers since the affair, our loss only one, who died of his wounds, except some women & children killed in the streets. Our people since have

burnt a little Town called Gosport & some Mills & a Bakehouse on the
opposite of the river, from where Dunmore & his party frequently got
supplies. Whilst I was out today I heard a heavy firing at Norfolk
& saw the smoke of the guns rise but as yet don't know the occasion.
Tuesday Night, 11 O'clock. 23rd.

Just now returned from a Ball and an assembly of fine Ladys, on
purpose to finish this letter & some others. Nothing new happened since
the above but more firing at Norfolk & one house burn't.

The Convention I understand has ordered the remains of Norfolk to
be Burn't & our troops to leave it; we expect to see the Blaze soon.

I've expected by every Post to get a letter from you, but as yet
have got none. I want much to hear how you all are. When I shall
be able to return is uncertain, but expect by the first of March.
You'll remember me to the family & believe me to be

Your Loving Husband

Leven Powell

To

Mrs. Sarah Powell
Loudoun.

Favored by
Mr. Jon^a. Davis.