

My Dear Lady

Hampton Janry 27<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Since my last to you nothing of any great consequence  
have happen'd here, a few days ago a Brig. from Antigua  
came into Hampton Road & apply'd to our Guard kept at the  
light house ab. 3 miles from hence for protection which she  
got & was tow<sup>n</sup> safe in here Yesterday Morning, part of her  
Cargoe (which was very trifling) I now send you in 1 dozen of good  
Oranges, which M. Grayson is kind enough to promise to deliver to  
you.  
My this Week we get the address of the Lords & Commons to  
his Majesty in answer to his Speech, I presume you have  
seen the Speech, if you have not I can tell you it is very  
Bloody, & the Act upon it full as much so, from these we may  
conclude what is to follow; no doubt the hardest yend off which  
a Period is to be put to these unhappy times God only knows.  
We are here in a state of Suspence this new regulation of the Govern-  
ment puts us out of our fears & we do not well know what to be  
at, the most of the Capt<sup>ns</sup> & Subaltern officers expect appointments  
in the Regular Service by the Committee, & expect in that case  
they will be able to recruit most of their men as regulars  
if this is done I apprehend we that are not in that service  
will of course be discharged, either to be discharged or matters  
put on a better footing than they stand at present is what I wish  
at ~~present~~ & matters are so circumstanced that a proper Subor-  
dination cannot be kept up,

The firing of Cannon at Norfolk that I mention'd in my last  
was to cover the landing of the enemy in order to set fire to  
some of the houses that had before escap'd the flames, this  
they effected with the loss of three of their men which we got &  
several we learn since were wounded, we had three killed

Two of which was killed by one Cannon Ball,  
Two days ago I was at <sup>the</sup> Light house with the Guard that is kept there  
& ~~found~~ saw the Anders carry up a Brig which they had taken  
belonging to some of our Friends, the River is so full of them a  
Vessel can scarcely pass, I rec<sup>d</sup> a few days ago a letter from  
Dexter Hammon he is well & I now inclose you a letter from  
Valley, You'd remember me to the Family & believe me  
As he

Your loving husband  
Dexter Powell

January 7<sup>th</sup> 1776

LONDON

Mrs Sarah South

Q

sent by Mr. B. & C.  
Mr. Grayson.

only to be kept in mind