

U. S. Ship Washington

23rd March 1818.

My Dear Mother

It has been much longer since I wrote to you than I intended. The opportunities by which I have sent letters to dear Susan have been unexpected and sometimes I have scarcely had time to write to her; and I know that she would always inform you and my other friends of my situation. I wrote to her the other day by a vessel going to the rock of Gibraltar. My health has very much improved notwithstanding the disadvantage of the voyage to England at so unpropitious a season. By the advice of the physicians of the Squadron I have given over exposing myself on board ship and ~~she~~ have resided in Shapina two months. It is a large town on the island of Sicily where the celebrated Sylla and Charvodia are; opposite to the Calabrian shore. It is said to be healthy in summer but in winter the changes are more frequent than any place in the U. States. I had determined to go to Rome or Pisa and as the Washington sailed yesterday for Naples I have taken passage in her. I believe I shall leave her there and go from thence to Rome. It is said she will go home and if it be to Boston I will be able to send some little curiosities to my dear wife. I sent some little things by a vessel from Shapina; but those were none very rare ~~there~~. I am in hopes the warm weather now coming on I shall get entirely rid of my cough. I will not go to any