

letters. August 5, 1781, he writes Sarah Buxell, near School-house Lane, Ratcliff Highway, London, for the address of George Boyd, late merchant of Portsmouth, but now living in London. Although but nineteen, he says :

“ Dear Miss Buxell : The ancient friendship that has subsisted between you and myself has induced me to take the liberty to address a few lines to you, as your father’s Christian name has escaped my memory, to acquaint you and your father of my being at present confined in this place. There is no prospect at present of being released from my unhappy situation. I had little expectation of such a dismal prison as this being my residence when I left your father’s house.”

Then follows a copy of a letter to George Boyd :

“ SIR : My present unfortunate and distressed situation of captivity I hope will in some respect apologize for the reason of my present address. The knowledge I have of your ever humane and benevolent disposition, together with the intimacy and friendship that had hitherto subsisted between yourself and my connexions are the principal motives that induce me to state to you in part my situation, in hope thereby to excite your commiseration and to meet your favor and bounty. I had the very unhappy and singular misfortune to be committed here on account of being taken in a letter-of-marque brig under the command of Captain Samuel Gerrish, and am here now about a year, and no more prospect of redemption than the day I was brought here ; my distress increases with my time in captivity, for when first imprisoned had saved some little, that on being sold contributed to my relief, but Time by her woeful experience, hath, notwithstanding a becoming prudence, made way with the whole for some time past, and my situation is such as is scarcely