Falmouth Monday October 16. 1775. The Canceaux ship of
fifteen Guns, commanded by Capt. Mowatt, a large ship, schooner
and a sloop armed, anchored below the town — The 17th at 3 PM
they weighed and came up and anchored within Gunshot and
immediately chose a committee of three gentlemen and sent them
on board to know the reason of that towns being set on fire,
he returned for answer that his orders were to set fire on all
the sea port towns between Boston & Hallifax and that he ex-
-pected New York was then burnt to ashes; he further said that
when he received orders from the Admiral he desired that he
might shew some favour to the town of Falmouth, which
the Admiral granted (I suppose, as Capt. Mowatt was
under particular obligations to some Gentlemen at Falmouth
for civilities to him when in captivity amongst them) and
which favour was, to spare the town 'till 9 o clock Wednesday
morning in case we would send him off eight small arms,
which the town immediately did — Wednesday morning, being
the 18th, the committee went on board Capt. Mowatt again
in order to save the town, he said he would save the town, if
he heard from the Admiral in case we would send off
four Carriage Guns, deliver up all our small arms, Am-
-munition &c and send four Gentlemen of the town as
Hostages, which the town would not do — about half past
nine in the morning he began to fire from the four
armed Vessells, and in five minutes set fire to the
several houses — He continued firing 'till after dark
the same day, which destroyed the largest part of the
town he farther informed the committee that he should
proceed to Portsmouth and destroy that place also

The foregoing is as near the facts as I am able
to remember — as witness my hand

Cambridge Octob: 24. 1775 Signed Pearson Jones