

The Riflemen being old & infirm, I allowed  
an exchange being effected between them.  
I therefore hope you will allow Capt. Ripley  
to withdraw his letter, & cancel the order for  
his trial, for I have had favorable reports  
of his conduct from Captain Leance since  
he left the Guard ship.

Your Orders as to the disposition of the  
force to be placed under my Orders, entirely  
concede with my own, and could I have  
occupied the line of coast you describe, with  
such a force as you have named for it, it  
is probable that neither Congress, Constitution  
nor a Host of Privateers with their Prizes  
would have got into Port, as they had done.

When you make <sup>the</sup> arrangement mentioned  
in a former letter, with respect to the junior  
flag officers on the Station, I hope you will