

motives which had induced the President to order me better, he informed me, it was, in consequence of restrictions laid on the American Agents in Canada and Newfoundland. The American Comptroller General of Prisoners on the other hand denies that these were the inducements, but that it was done to facilitate the communications between him and me. — I am of opinion neither of the three were the real cause. I know the motives, they are unwilling to own it, because it is founded on suspicion. — Proof they have not. — With respect to facility of communication it is very immaterial, because it makes only two days difference whether I reside here or at Halifax.

This Government finding it could not obtain from me, what it wished, here through its Secretary of State been negotiating for some time with Sir George Prevost respecting the release and exchange of military Prisoners, in consequence of which an extensive release of Officers and some Men has taken place, and it is probable the remainder will be soon released. Sir George has not communicated with me on the subject, and I hope, he will not allow this Government to retain a British Subject in retaliation without his detaining an equal number of Americans, independent of those sent to England as British Subjects, taken in arms against their King. By my official Letter you will perceive an extensive release and exchange is now taking place, and that after the Carrels have sailed, there will be few Seaman Prisoners remaining here — I find at present no disposition to exchange, but a very great one to pay off Debts. Indeed this Government has not the means. Now while we have plenty of Americans to pay with, why enter into a dispute on the subject of old accounts which will perhaps put a stop to all exchanges. When peace takes place, which I think will be the case before October all Prisoners will be released. — God bless you. I shall be happy once more to see you, before I go home and be no more seen. Believe me

my dear Sir

your faithful Friend & Servant

Thos Barclay.

