

Mount Weymouth

11th July 1814

Sir, A great number of seamen having lately deserted from British Ships at this Port many of whom I understand have been sent round the coast and some applying for Employment representing themselves as having been discharged from the Service. They have to request that you will be pleased to inform the Merchants and Ship Owners at Hamilton that no seamen are to be paid off from British Ships abroad & that I shall be much obliged to them if they will cause any of the Persons who are not provided with passes to stop offering themselves for Employment to be apprehended & put into jail until they can be sent for by the Persons taking them up & lodging them in a place of security will be entitled to a reward of 50 guineas for each straggler. As I have at all times given my protection to the seamen employed in the Bermuda Trade I trust no man having the appearance of belonging to the Navy will be received by the Masters of British Ships & that they will cause it to be signified to the Masters of their Vessels that there is a very heavy Penalty attached to the harbouring of any Deserters from His Service which the Lords of the Admiralty have late instances prosecuted to its full extent. The Shipping Interest acts fairly by detaining the information of Deserters who may apply for Employment the order which prohibits the Employment of seamen from Bermuda Trades shall be continued as far as if I find that Deserters are harboured or detained I shall be incumbent on me to detain them and I have sent an Officer Mr Johnson with a Party of British men for the purpose of going to Hamilton to look after straggles & I shall be much obliged by your having the goodness to cause his being assisted by the Constables & if any are apprehended allowing them