Mr. Adams
July 23 18
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ac.

Lt. Spence

[illegible] circumstances

[illegible] Lieut. [illegible] having been
[illegible] informed that [illegible]
were about to be [illegible] prejudice of his
rank, he requests [illegible] you on the
subject of his standing & character in the
Navy. From my knowledge of him & his
[illegible] in the Mediterranean,
I feel it incumbent on me, as an officer
to give my testimony, entire confidence in his
ability, highly meritorious, & fully capable
of serving the rank of a Commander; & think
I am [illegible] to say, he is entitled by his
courage & devotion to the service, and throughout
his life, that he has manifested extreme anxiety
for active service since the declaration
of war — I should not express these senti-
ments with so much freedom had I not
the fullest conviction that they would be
corroborated by those of my brother officers
who have had an opportunity of knowing
him — He was highly thought of by Comm.
Preble & Decatur, & well known to Capt.
Jones, and also to Comm. Bainbridge & Capt.
Stewart — He is a young man whose
independent circumstances precludes the idea