

on cap's honny, and drove 100 Englishmen from their watering place, and
I could do so with 6 certainly. It would make them more cautious how
they took such liberties on our station soil.

I have likewise had many opportunities of retaking prizes
they have taken, and frequently anchored at a long distance from the ones
but have been obliged to let all those opportunities pass unnoticed for want
of a few of those brave fellows who were swinging in their hammocks and
knew how to beg their commanders with the greater submission to go with them
when I was about to leave Norfolk for an expedition.

I do not sir seek this command with a view
to taking my ease (for to cruise in an open boat in the bay this winter
must be here desirable to many) but I seek it for to serve my Country
and to bring the blush of shame upon those who have for more than
year have had Opportunities daily to render their country a service but
prefer swinging in their hammock to the glory that awaits our true
American who will step forward and save his country's wrongs.

There is sir many brave souls. In Norfolk
the Naval Department, who would accompany me to the arms of Death
Itself, and who burn with ardor to unsheath their blades and send
Destruction on our Invidious foes - but whilst commanded by those
who aspire to nothing above a party of pleasure to Hampton with a
company of Lady's or to be rowed about the harbour to let the
Inhabitant admire his beautiful New gig - ~~the~~ ~~such~~ such however
sir is the unhappy situation of those men that they are almost Disgraced
with the name of their commander - I have seen in Norfolk upwards
of 15 English barges who by stress of weather or by the men rising against
them, are in the hands of the commanders, & so many have been
lost how many might have been taken, I may say with propriety at
least 100, but not one solitary Instance of the Officers of the Navy