

that station attempting a single enterprise
you Demanded of me Sir Why I have not succeeded with
confidence, the best possible answer that I can give you, is that when
I arrived at Norfolk I met with a reception from Capt Stewards that at
the moment favoured the men that wished to serve his country - but
at the moment that he was gone the case was changed, and a decision
made where is your Order for those men, I immediately replied none
we cannot have them there, after much protest they were given me.
With a promise to return them soon, however this promise I was
determined not to keep as I was well aware that it was your wish
to give me a fair trial and after my experiments on the Montserrat
I went to N. York, on my return my men were again taken from me
I have since since the 24th of Sept had the command of only men
of those whom I paid myself - These are not one half of the
quality that I have had to encounter, they took the pistols and
knives from me that Capt Stewards lent me, and at last he took
board saying that he wanted her for the Flotilla, and the moment that
he got possession he halled her up in the Navy yard, and she is there yet
I then bought a boat for 180\$ an expense that I was at that time
prepared to bear, but I was determined to let the inhabitants of Norfolk
know that he should not defeat my undertaking -

I have to beg in the name of my country that
some command may be given me, and that I may but have a fair chance
to try my experiment, and at the same time serve my country & all
ask - I ask nothing for myself until you Sir shall think that any
one may thank you to give me. Whatever you please, and be assured