

My Dear Mother

Although I have neglected a very particular point of my Duty in not writing to you ~~at~~ now, yet I hope to obtain your pardon when I give you a season sufficient for delaying so long. Shortly after my arrival here I wrote to you together with my Cousin Hugh Reid to ^{both} which Letters I expected answers long before this time ~~but have~~ as they were dated some time about the 25th. of April but not having recd them I thought they might have miscarried & you should think I had quite forgot you, which God knows I have not, I therefore thought it best to let you know that I am in good health, what I have been doing and the good success our Ship has had on her last Cruise. After our Captain had settled the business of our first Prize here which is almost all disposed of and is expected to clear £50000 he thought proper to go on another Cruise towards the Levant, and as it was needful to leave some person here along with Mr. William Stevens who commanded her until such time as 62 Days Quarters should be finished and then ~~the~~ all should be disposed of ~~to~~ he thought proper to leave one and one little boy with him, who has behaved very well to me ever since we have been together. Having finished every thing needful he sailed on the 20th. of May & on the 22d. had the good fortune to take a fine French Brigg in ballast mounting ten four pounders which he sent for Ancona but is not arriv'd yet and we are very much afraid she is either taken or Shipwreck as there is no acct. of her either here or in Leghorn. Soon after but the day of the month I do not know he took another fine Ship of two hundred Tons but then he loaded with rice & flour together with which vessel he arriv'd safe at Leghorn on the 5th. of this present month. On the 20th. of last month I went to see Loreto a place about 40 miles from here where they pretend is the House in which our Saviour was incarnated and was carried there by the Hands of Angels, at which place there is a great many curious things to be seen some description of which I will give you when I have the pleasure of seeing you at Templepatrick, which I am afraid will be not be so soon as I could wish, as there is very likely to be a Spanish War by which means it will be very dangerous to go home and the good fortune our Captain has had it is probable will induce him to try his fortune in