upwards of 100 Men killed & wounded chiefly by our Shells. This account is in some measure confirmed by two Hessian deserters who left the Garrison about a hour after and report that in the single redoubt where they were posted there were 31 killed & wounded. & another Deserter in the evening a number of boats crossing over to Gloucester with sick & wounded. Men is a circumstance strongly favorable to the credibility of it —

Our loss compared to that of the Enemy is trifling the whole in killed & Wounded since the commencement of the siege not amounting to more than 60 Men. Cornwallis we are also told is very illy provided with ammunition & this will account for our having made so great a progress with such little annoyance or interruption from him —

I received a letter from my Father by the last Post in which was mentioned it would be forwarded by your Excellency. Permit me now to thank you for your speedy conveyance of it to beg your care of the enclosed to him in answer — My compliments are most respectfully tendered to Mrs. Lee

I have the honor to be with due regard —

Yr. Excellency's

Most obed. & obligd. Servt.

Benjn. Fitzhugh

P.S. 14th. In the course of the last evening and this morning we have received more from the Enemy's Shells than any night before & indeed as much almost as all together. we had near 50 killed and Wounded. however the working Parties continue their work with good coolness and alacrity. and as we threw during the night at least 4 Shells to one received the Enemy must have suffered very considerably —

15th. I had sealed my letter yesterday but was disappointed in sending it by the Conveyance intended & am indeed upon it this morning to congratulate your Excellency on further success and important advantages gained over the Enemy in the course of last night — As soon as dark we attempted two of their redoubts by storm and carried them after some opposition in which we had about 130 killed and wounded. among the latter 5 Officers slightly — the Enemy has [illegible] killed & we have [illegible] upwards of 70 Prisoners [illegible] Major 2 Captains & 3 Subalterns —

[illegible] requires at 8 o'clock enabled us to extend our 2d. Parallel and secure it before morning within 150 yards of their strongest Works. we are now very industriously employed in raising Batteries and are in hopes of opening them early tomorrow. Desertion begins to prevail — we are informed that Cornwallis rests all his hopes on the arrival of the British Fleet and that in 5 or 6 Days at farthest is apprehensive of his making a longer defence — The express is just going off —

B. Fitzhugh

MdHS 1974 [485-708]