

Euc.

(Copy)

W. Swan brought a letter from our  
Friend in Rhode Island written 31. May 1781

The G<sup>l</sup> after a consultation  
at Hartford with G<sup>l</sup> W<sup>l</sup> have  
come to a Resolution of abandoning  
the Island.

Their Baggage is all bringing  
back from Providence, and together  
with their heavy Cannon which was  
out on the Island, is putting on board  
Ship — I imagine their  
destination is for the Delaware  
or if possible for some part of Virginia

All this might be prevented  
if the Admiral would bring his  
Fleet to Anchor off the Harbors  
Mouth, in the same both the  
Count D'Estaing occupied

This would keep the G<sup>l</sup> Army

at

at Newport which it is certainly  
Your interest to do — It would  
mortify the Monsieurs, render them  
contemptible in the Eyes of their  
Allies — Every thing would be  
prevented from going out or in.

All Supplies from France  
or Connecticut totally cut off, which  
would greatly embarrass them, and  
either reduce them to the alternative  
of coming out and fighting our  
fleet, or remaining silent Spectators  
of our Gallant Navy bidding them  
defiance, and perhaps obliging them  
to continue in this spot, untill  
Your strength will admit of Your  
sending them from whence they came  
in a state of Captivity.

In respect to the danger  
of a Gale of Wind it is a mere Bugbear  
for supposing a Gale of Wind at  
South

South East and to blow ever so violent  
the Connecticut passage is open to our  
fleet, and as the Wind generally  
Chops round to North & NW after  
a South East Gale they may easily  
resume their Station - If the Wind  
blows hard at any other Quarter  
they can put to Sea

While they keep their Station  
a Frigate to Windward of Seonnet  
passage, another off Norington  
and Block Island, and a third  
further out beyond Block Island,  
gives them warning of every thing  
that is coming from Sea, and  
prepares them for every event

This movement must be  
made with all Expedition, otherwise  
they are in a very short time beyond  
all Schemes - They have  
collected their two Frigates from  
the Delaware the Hermione & Aniel  
and

and the Two forty Gun Frigates  
from Boston Sailed for Newport  
Harbour on Monday - The Bearer  
whose fidelity may be depended  
on can at any time convey your  
Commands, but Let it be done  
in the manner of Queries - And  
what further information I think we  
shall at the same time be conveyed

John Manners

From

Abbeots Strand

Nov 7