

New York Oct. 14th 1782

My dear General.

The extraordinary behaviour of M^{rs} De La Roche has occasioned a delay to the Packet of some days, which allows me the pleasure of sending you a few lines more.

The Fortunes & Champion arrived yesterday with an account that they saw in the evening of the 9th a fleet of 25 sail, nine or ten of which they judged to be of the Line; in the latitude of the Delaware, between fifty & sixty leagues of the Land; ^{steering about south south east} I had the honor of a note immediately from ^{h. P.} wishing to see me, and to have my opinion of what was best for him to do. It immediately struck me, that this fleet could be no other than the Halifax Convoy of transports, which sailed from that port for Charles Town on the 5th instant, & upon conversation with Captain Christian, I was fully confident of it, and adm^r. P. became equally so; I was not at all displeas'd at the report, as
it

it will operate as a spur, for I have not liked
the Idea of six & twenty sail of the Line laying
inactive here so long, while the Enemy had a
Squadron in the neighbourhood, and sent Ships
to sea to drive our frigates from a sight of Boston
harbour. I am glad of it upon another account
as it enabled me with much propriety to suggest
my thoughts. Admiral Prichard proposes to sail in
a few days with half his force, and to leave me
to watch Vandreuil with the other half; and I hope
he will order me into Boston Bay; if I am left
to do as I like, I will certainly go there, and finding
the Enemy in no forwardness for sea; stretch to
Halifax for a few days, by way of keeping up our
water, and from ^{thence} I can not only follow Vandreuil
better, than from this port, but more easily watch
his motions. The Spanish General with the greater
part of his Troops are certainly at Cape Francois,
where preparations are making for some enterprise, I
shall therefore if I am not ordered to the contrary
when I leave this coast, steer directly, in the track
to

A Hispaniola; and if I am so fortunate, as to get
hold of Vaudreuil, I shall be completely happy.

I am my dear General

your ever affectionate & faithfull
Hoody

We are all miserable
at hearing nothing from England