

Portsmouth War Office August 20th 1779 ^{194 17}

S^r This Town was Alarm'd Yesterday by the Appearance of a Number of Ships &c - which Fortunately prov'd to be the reinforcement from Boston bound for Providence. The Inhabitants are exceedingly Alarm'd at the Defenseless State of the Harbour & desire us to Inform your Honor of the Danger they Daily are in of an Invasion, which in our present situation exposes their Little Property remaining to the Ravages of the Enemy - Therefore beg you wou'd Communicate to the Hon^{ble} Committee of Safety the uneasy and Dangerous State of this Town - & that such measures may be taken to secure this Harbour as in their Wisdom may seem meet - We are wth much respect

Yours most Obedient Servants
John Pemberton
Josh. Wentworth

The Hon^{ble} Nathaniel Mearns Esq^r

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged, yellowed paper with a vertical crease down the center. The text is mostly obscured by the crease and fading.]