

Camp on Rhodé Island Aug. 18th 1778.
 Tuesday Eveng 10 Clock

Sir

Nothing material has happened since my Letter of this morning, except a constant Cannonading from the Enemy, without any other damage than slightly wounding One Man — a firing has been heard at sea, which, We think, denotes the Approach of the French Fleet, and expect to see them in the morning, after which We shall proceed with great Vigor & Dispatch — Our men being busily employed in completing the Works, near the Enemy's lines — Dexterity prevails among them, notwithstanding this Circumscribed Situation and double Guard — this night being very dark we expect ~~an~~ many, in One Day forty One ^{have} come in.

Wednesday Morning 5 Clock — — Everything Quiet, a very heavy Fog and small Rain, no Accounts of the French Fleet, indeed it is impossible they should get in as it is exceeding thick off —

I am obliged to attend the Duty of the Day, can only add that I am with much Respect

Sir

Your most humble Servant
 John Hancock

Copy

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Council Chamber Boston August 20th 1778.

Sir

We have received your favor of the 17th instant and agreeable to your request now inclose you Copies of some of the ~~last~~ latest Letters We have received from the Camp at Rhode Island which will give you the latest and best Intelligence We can furnish you with.

In the Name and behalf of the Council,

I am Sir

Your Humble Servant

Jer: Powell Secy

P.S. Mr. Pologot, the bearer waited upon me immediately on his Arrival, but as there was not any thing new, I advised him to wait till this morning & have now enclosed your Honor all the Authentic intelligence that I have received to the present time