

Camp on Rhode Island 10<sup>th</sup>; August 1778.

Sir

I have the Honor to inform you that last night a Battery was begun to be erected, about three Quarters of a mile distant from the Enemy's outer lines, <sup>as</sup> will very Probably be completed this morning as we are favoured with a thick Fog, which enables our Men to continue their work, as soon as the Fog is dispelled I expect a severe cannonading will commence.

Yesterday a report circulated through <sup>the</sup> Camp that the French Fleet had got to Block Island on their return hither, having taken a 6th Gun Ship 3 Brigades & twenty transports from the Enemy, but this wants Confirmation, we are impatiently waiting for the Count de Stains arrival. The Returns of the Militia of the Massachusetts State, and indeed of the whole Army fall very short of every One's expectation, the effective rank & File of the Army don't make eight thousand Men.

I have the Honor to be w<sup>th</sup> real Esteem

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

John Hancock

Copy



From Pres<sup>t</sup> Hancock 1770  
To Massch<sup>s</sup> Council  
dated at Camp on Rhode  
Island Aug<sup>r</sup> 1778  
Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>