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To the Hon. Meshech Weare Esq. President
of the State of New Hampshire

The Petition of the Reverend Nathaniel Fisher,
late of the Province of Nova Scotia,

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioner, having resided in Nova Scotia for more than the Seven years & Six Months last of his life, and having had repeated Invitations from the Churches of Boston & Salem to settle & officiate among them in the duties of his function, and desiring to return to the State of Massachusetts, of which he is a Native, and which he left long before the present war commenced, did, on the seventeenth of this Instant embark in the Shallop Betsy, Peter Dowsett Commander, with the desire & intention of becoming a Subject of the United States of America, but, on or about the twenty first Instant, was captivated by the John Bungan Privateer of this place, Sylvanus Tripe Master & Commander, and is now considered & treated as a Prisoner of War, although not found bearing Arms, or in any way acting contrary to the peace & safety of this State, or to the United States, therefore, your Petitioner most humbly requests that your Honor would be pleased to take his distressed situation into your wise consideration, and to grant him a Permit to pass on to Boston. And furthermore your Petitioner prays, that his Bedding & wearing Apparel, together with his Books & manuscripts & his Papers of private, personal concern only, may be restored to him, of the benefit of which he is at present deprived.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray. &c.

Nathaniel Fisher

Portsmouth.

Octo. 24th 1781.

Rev. Nath. Fisher
Oct 17 1801

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text appears to be organized into several paragraphs.]