

1778 May 22
Exeter in the State of New Hampshire May 22. 1778 ^{136 25}

Sir The Bearer, M^r Nathaniel Sherburne of Portsmouth in this State
waits on you to Solicit the Release of the Crews of the privateers
Portsmouth, and of M^r Clary who lately sailed from the port of
Piscataqua, and whom the fortune of War hath made your
Prisoners.-- The Subjects of the King of Great Britain who have
been taken at Sea and brought into this State have from time
to time been set at Liberty or sent to Newport to be exchanged.
~~As it is~~ As it is out of my power at this time to send persons
to be exchanged for them, I hope principles of generosity, and the
feelings of humanity will determine you in releasing from
confinement those unhappy persons, and permit them to
return home with said Sherburne on condition that an equal
Number of equal Rank of the Subjects of Great Britain
as soon as ever they may become prisoners in this State, or can be
procured from the Neighbouring States shall be sent to Newport
afors^d in lieu of them. for the true performance of which condition
the Faith of this State is hereby pledged.

Wm. Pitt

To the Commanding Officer of the Naval Department
at Halifax

Copy of a letter to the Com.
standing vessel office at
Halifax. May 22, 1778.

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