

military Law, as he quaintly phrases it) operates
as a supersedeas to the Residence of the Commissioners there,
in their official Capacity, & gives him a power of
dispensing with an Act of Parliament. — The truth
is, some of your Gentry have conceived most absurd
Notions of the Nature & Effect of Law martial — it has
no other Operation than to carry into Execution the
Criminal Law of the Land in those Instances where
the Course of the Common Law is interrupted by War or
Rebellion — it does not affect the official Capacity of
the Commissioners or any other constitutional (I
hate that Word) Officer, any more than it affects
the official Capacity of an Admiral on the High
Seas in the Moon — I have no doubt but the Commissioners
are right & the Adm. wrong — for most surely if he was
invested with a dispensing power, it was to ^{be} exercised only
where the Necessity of the Case required it — & tho' for a
Moment we admit he could dispense with the port-bill,
it wd. by no means follow that he could knock the cus-
tom house Officer in the head, & dispense with all the
revenue Laws — but I suppose by this Time he has recd.
his Supersedeas by the Arrival of Adm. Shuldarn — & this
Dispute will drop where it is — tho' if it sho'd be brought
over hither, you may depend upon every Assistance in
my power.

I am out of all patience at hearing, from you
& others, the accounts of your sufferings — what Excuse
can be formed for a British Admiral, who, with 30 or
40. Ships under his Command, suffers a Garrison to
starve

starve tho' surrounded with plenty of every Necessary,
within the reach of his Ships! who tamely & supinely
looks on & sees the Fishing Schooners, Whale-boats, and
bancos riding triumphant under the Muzzles of his
Guns, & carrying off every Supply destined for your
Relief! Heaven grant you patience, & reward every one
according to the Deeds done in the Body. — I can tell you, for
your comfort, that he is cased as hard up on this Side the
Water, as he can be on yours — he has now no Advocate
here, & I believe will scarcely find a Friend in England
upon his return. I hope by this Time, you are relieved in
some measure, as, out of the great Number of Ships wch.
have sailed loaded with provisions & Coal, it ^{will} ~~must~~ be
hard indeed, if some don't get in safe, manag'd the Vigi-
lance of the Rebels, & the Inactivity of Truncheon — I verily
believe your sufferings are drawing near a period — you
will undoubtedly have, early in the Spring, an Army
of 40,000. & a Fleet of upwards of 70. Ships, & then the
Mettle of the Rebels will be try'd — hitherto their Successes have
been owing to their having none to oppose them — the poor
infatuated Wretches, as yet, know Nothing of War — they have
been treated as forward Children heretofore, but now, they will
be treated as incorrigible Traitors — I pity, I feel for the Majo-
rity, but for their Crimes, I wish the Vengeance of G. Britain
may speedily overtake their base Deluders.

I wish you were here Ned, with Money enough in your
pocket — you can have no Idea what a noble Country
this