

I should be highly delighted if I was in my power to take Halifax in any way to Boston - but this is impracticable - The papers which are in my custody - and are now accumulated to an unwieldy bulk - must at all events accompany me - I shall therefore in conjunction with Chipman procure a passage directly from N. York - if we intend to take our departure about the first of June. -

My best wishes attend Lady M. thro' the fatigues of dangers ^{of a passage} to the final recovery of her health - ~~participate~~ ^{participate} I share in your anxiety for your son - & join in the hope that ~~the air of America may restore~~ ^{he may experience better health} in an American climate.

We are just recovering here from one of the most tremendous scenes that ever was beheld. What they call an Ice fresh - ~~The ice was so thick that it stopped in the narrow passage of one cake rising~~ ^{Major Murray} - Mr. Davidson - Col. Ellegood of many others above you lost every animal which they own. Davidson had 60 head of horn'd cattle, Ellegood 50. & Murray 40. - U. S. - I escape as I always do (upon all great occasions) by a hair's breadth - The water was up to my front door - & 6 feet deep in my cellar - I every moment for 36 hours expected to ~~see my house~~ ^{lose my house} - ~~the ice~~ ^{the mountains} of ice were 40 feet high directly in my rear - the frontest Elms & Maples - were

were broke like ^{mountains} puppers - Luckily - ~~they~~ when they went off - they took a direction just to avoid the buildings & come in at the foot of the garden where they tore all before 'em. I detach'd my wife & all the light Infantry part of my family - & stood ready with a boat to run like a lark fellow for the Highlanders. The ridge where the buildings stand was complicated insulated - I sav'd all my cattle & even my sheep & hogs - my ferries of course went to the devil. -

The name taking Godson, whom you have condescended to enquire about is deserving of the name he bears - ~~he~~ ^{he} is a very handsome - able bodied fellow - very ambitious & particularly generous of the title of Governor which is invariably bestowed upon him.

What will become of him & all the rest of 'em God knows - After so many escapes & perplexities I don't despair of saving them from starvation - but half a score is a very bountiful allowance - The elder one has after immense sufferings work'd himself upon the 2. Deck of the Bellona - He was 19 months before the mast before he was rated - He is perfectly in his element & says he never was so happy in his life. I hope he'll get on.