

Papers concerning Edward Riou, 1789-1808
Letters to the Admiralty, 22 and 28 June 1791
MLMSS 5711/4

London 22 June 1791

Sir

Though I have in some former letters to you recommended to the care and protection of the Right Honbl. The Lords commisioners of the Admiralty such persons lately belonging to the Guardian who merit the greatest Attention from me, as having shared and equally done their duty amidst the many difficulties attending the distress of that Ship.

And as I have already received the most flattering & public Testimonies of their Lordships approbations of my conduct I am again induced equally by the motives of Duty & Inclination to solicit their Lordships will bestow some marks of their particularly attention on the Undermentioned persons whose claims on their Lordships favour are those of having merited the highest approbation I can bestow on their conduct in the many melancholy scenes that were exhibited in the Guardian

Thos. Clements	Master
Rich. Farquarson	Purser
Arthur [W]adman	Masters Mate
Rich [?] Tremlett	Midshipman
John Somerville	Gunner
John Crowther	Chaplain to the Sett_t. NSW
John Williams	Boatswain
Murry Sampson	Carpenter
John Davenport	Seaman
John Lock	Seaman
John Broard	Seaman
Jo. Quintin	Seaman
David Gillmore	Midship
John Gore	Masters Mate

I likewise [am induced, deleted] beseech you to acquaint [you Sir, deleted] their Lordships that to the great good fortune of meeting with Mr Jo. [F]ryer late Master of the [indecipherable comment] Bounty and to his Exertions is to be Attributed the safety of a very immense Cargo of Stores and Possessions without which I should never have been enabled to have kept the ship afloat [?? As to have preserved the Cargo, deleted]

I have the honor to be

Sir, very respectfully, Yr most Ob hum serv, ER

To Philip Stephens Esq.
Admiralty

London 28 June 1791

My Lord

The recollection of how often I have roused men fallen by intense bodily fatigues into the depth of despondence, and animated them to new exertions by holding out the honours and rewards they would acquire by preserving the King's Ship, is (I hope) a sufficient reason for me to recommend the undermentioned particularly to your Lordships' favour, and also an apology for doing so in a very plain and direct way.

Since my arrival in England, I have understood that the conduct of the Master, and of those who left the ship with him, is considered by some reprehensible. I should be very sorry to have all such persons put to the trial of a similar situation.

I refer your Lordships' judgement to the letter I wrote on that melancholy occasion: and surely no greater proof can there be wanting in justification of Mr. Clements meritorious conduct. But in addition to that I can only say, that though in scenes of distress I did not absolutely command him to leave the ship, yet in conversation I was pleased to find that, whenever I thought proper, he certainly would attempt a Boat, Pleased, I say; I was, my Lord, for many reasons, but for none more so than as every glimpse of hope was left us in the Ship some small chance remained of saving a few in the Boat when commanded by Mr. Clements. I was pleased, too, particularly, when owing to my Ignorance of the state of the Colony of New South Wales, I feared, more than any one, the serious consequences of the loss of the Ship to Others. In fact, whatever reflections may be thrown on Mr. Clements, do certainly come home to myself: For admitting that he left the Ship while there existed any probability of her being saved, he left it by my consent and under my directions. Such Reflections, my Lord, was there the smallest ground, the least room for disapprobation ought to make me the most unhappy man living, when I consider the numbers that perished around me. As I could wish, my Lord, never to enter on the painful subject of the Guardian, but to bury in Oblivion every Thing except the remembrance of the favours received by the Effects of divine Providence. I hope you will allow me to submit to your Lordship the names of persons who merit, in the highest degree, the Attention of the Admiralty, as I have already done in a public Letter; hoping that your Lordship will indulge me with the opportunity of doing justice to their Services, when I shall have the honour of waiting on your Lordship.

Thos. Clements	Master
Rich Farquarson	Purser
Arthur Wadman	Masters Mate
Rich [S?] Tremlett	Midshipman
John Somerville	Gunner
John Crowther	Chaplain to the Colony New So Wales
John Williams	Boatswain
Murry Sampson	Carpenter
John Davenport	
John Lock	
John Broad	
John Quintin	Seamen
David Gilmore	Midshipman
John Gore	Master's Mate

I have the honour to be My Lord
Yr servant etc etc etc ER

[Transcribed by Jan Thomas for the State Library of NSW]