



USS Constitution  
Museum

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TRANSCRIPTION OF

**Letter from  
John Cushing Aylwin to William Aylwin,  
June 12, 1812**

USS Constitution Museum Collection [2216.1]

United States Frigate Constitution  
At an anchor, Cape Henry, S.S.E 2 Leagues

Dear William,

It's now seven days since our leaving Annapolis, during which time we have <sup>^been</sup> struggling against head winds, and heat allmost [sic] insufferable, tomorrow we will be at sea and fully equipped at all points to give the first British frigate we meet with a pretty good drubbing; should we not be so fortunate as to bring her in to port; we will at least break up her Cruize. On the 3<sup>d</sup> Wadsworth joined the Ship, and by him I received the small trunk with my uniform coat & they all answer perfectly well. From some papers which I have seen the war is a pillule, which the Massachusetts Men cannot get down; je ne les conçois pas ses lu peurs [I do not understand their fears], they must be mad. I have not the least doubt, although they had warning sufficient, <sup>^but</sup> that they are now in full cry against Government concerning their property afloat. I hope in your next to me, you will <sup>^write</sup> more full. Aspinwall I have no doubt is anxious to be on the March, when you write him remember me particularly; where we sail for I cannot say, but it is supposed that we are to join

Commodore Rodgers'; and receive orders from him; we have not more than ten weeks provisions; therefore we must soon return to port. They certainly have managed in a very foolish manner respecting our little Navy; by the time we are all assembled, the time will have passed, in which we might have done something, they will have secured themselves. My prize money in this service, I am afraid, will be about equal to what I received in the last. I really did at one time calculate on something, however the thoughts of being at sea on tomorrow evening is some consolation; the exceptionally warm weather we have had at Washington and since on departing from shore caused me to leave off my flannel what I had never done since my first wearing of it; for the which I suffer during night by coughing, I am in hopes it will quit me soon. I never could study the preservation of my health, but now it's almost too late, and scarcely worth the trouble, as we may in all probability put in at New York. I should wish for you to address me a letter to the care of John B[?] as I believe it would be better to the Ship; Lieutenant Spence I have not seen, I believe he did not reach Washington. An -napolis brought him up with a wife; they are a queer set. In one point, that is a great number of officers, they claim as lawfull right, the married woman; it's pleasant to hear  
some

of them talk; I should like to make one call at Boston before we go on our Cruize; my kind respects to our Cousins and Mary Sheafe, also Putnams, and family; and my love to Aunt Nabby[?] for her kind sentiments; the same to you my dear brother.

John Cushing Aylwin

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William Cushing Aylwin, Esq<sup>r</sup>

Boston