



USS Constitution
Museum

TRANSCRIPTION OF

**Letter from
William Sharp Bush to Jabez Caldwell,
June 5, 1810**

USS Constitution Museum Collection [2270.1]

U. S. Brig Hornet
Anapolis [sic] June 5th 1810

Dr. Coll

When we arriv 'd here, I was not in Service having resign'd while in New York, from this I went to Washington for the purpose of settling my Accts.; while there I was warmly solicited to return again to the Corps; being as has allways [sic] been the case, unable to withstand the persuasion of Friends, I agreed to return, upon conditions that the Secretary would give me the same Rank which I held previous to my Resignation; the Officers wrote to the Department requesting my reinstatement in Language, truly flattering to my Character & Feelings, to this the Secretary return'd an Answer, if possible in more flattering terms; with my former Commission; I am now station'd here in Statu Quo; was I not superior to the effects of Adulation, my Vanity would be highly Rais'd, for on my Arrival here to resume my Commd.; every Countenance (especially those of my Men) beam'd on me a Smile of Joy; welcome [sic] salutations meet my Ears, from

every Quarter; to a Man who has ever been
Anxious to gain & retain the good Opinion of the
World, those marks of approbation are certainly
pleasing; especially from those who are im=
=mediately under my own superintendance; those
Men I have had to punish occasionally, but
can lay my Hand on my Heart & safely say
that, they never have ^{been} chastis'd unless, it ^{^was} Their
due: had I not have resign'd, my noble
Self, would have been among You, to have en=
=joy'd the Pleasure's of our Country, in partici=
=pating the sweets of Domestic Life & Friend=
=ship; in addition to those of Friendship &^{cr},
I would have had, the Happiness of chasti=
=sing Villainy, or of exposing it in its true
Colours; my attachment for my native place
& old Friend, increases by absence, I ^{^have} secur'd
with strict attention the habits, & custom's of
the People where I have been, but have not yet
found the same Hospitality, & Friendly intercourse
which I have been accustom'd to. From here,
we shall Sail in a few Days ^{^for Norfolk} from there we
shall Cruize, from one Extent of the Continent
to the other, during the Summer & but few op=
=portunities will offer for Correspondence perhaps
none after we leave Norfolk, I wish ^{^You'd} Answer
this, immediately upon the reception of ~~the~~ it,
directing it, to Norfolk-

Do excuse the in=

=correctness of this Epistle, for I write amidst
a constant clangor, of various Voices.

Give my ~~family~~^{Love} to your Family
& all Friends - Adieu my D^r. Friend &
believe that I shall ever be

Your sincere Friend
W^m S. Bush

Captⁿ Jabez Caldwell

Annapolis Jun 5

10

Captⁿ. Jabez Caldwell
Near Easton
Talbot County
Maryland