

Stampless cover, John Skinner & Sons, Boston to Mr. Wm Hale, Portsmouth, December 1, 1793

Boston 1 Decem. 93

Sir

Yours of the 29 Inst came to hand last night pr ^{post} frost, we are happy to hear you had got the ship of the beach - while she lay there you must have got all the Masts & Spars in readiness, so that we think it cannot make any difference in time as to her leaving Portsmouth which hope & pray may be in the course of ten days from this.

You must put as many hands on her as can work to advantage - if the Mizzen mast is not in & it will not prolong the time of the ship stay at Portsmd would prefer having one that may step in the ships hold, but if it is shipd, would prefer not alter it if you can agree with any joiner by the day (to partition of the State Rooms & work on the cabin) at a moderate price you may employ one to partition the State Rooms & build the berths at the stern would choose three heights of locker but lockers only in first range the cornish round the cabin ornamented that is not a plain cornish. one double state room & one single do. & a place for a stove. --- have what you have done in a neat manner with good materials - the Doors to the State rooms to pul up from between the paunels -- one thing which I forgot to mention to you is to have the ship to Steer with a wheel -- this you'll attend to

You request to have three Hundred pounds in Cash 'twas my intention not to have paid you any Cash till the Ship was compleat & delivered- thinking you might be induced to drive matters faster for the sake of the Cash since which I am certain it will not make you inatentive to the Ship by paying you the sum requested -- therefor yo'll apply to Messrs Champhreys who has my orders to pay you that sum -- the L100 in goods shall be delivered according to your request.

You will see me in Portsmd in abt 8 Days when hope to find the ship ready for Sea. will thank you to pay particular attention to the quality of the pot & pearl ashes you purchase for me as huge quantitys has come from P to Boston branded first sort which has been condemd. purchase only first quality pearl ashes ---

Remain yr. Hum Sert

Rd Skinner

for Jno. Skinner & Sons