

Eliz. Town July 18: 1780

Sir,



By a person from Staten Island I am informed that a report prevails there, that the ~~French~~ British fleet had sailed this morning, which from the number of signal guns I have heard, I am rather inclined to suspect as true.

They have taken on board one Regiment to serve as marines and fifteen hundred volunteers have joined them from New York. It is said their object is the french fleet if so, they are most happily favoured with a very fair wind.

I am told there is in provost a John Scott, confined for serving as guide to the British army in their late excursion - thus much I can say, that I believe what he did in that respect was not done willingly, but through compulsion.

I am yr. Excellency
Obedt^h

Eliz. Dayton

Col. Dayton - 18 July
1780.

British West-gone
after French

173
1780

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]