

Dear Sir

Per Charles Inn
Portsmouth. Saturday
Evening.

~~Dear Sir~~

I am going on board this afternoon. I should have gone sooner, but was detained by the Jews Sabbath wanting to change some notes into Dollars. We sail tomorrow morning I believe. I shall finish this letter on board. I am now going to Portsmouth to my friend Mr Gibbs the Soap boiler, who has promised to procure me cash for my notes at sunset.

Monday Morning. On board the Thames.

I came on board on ~~Monday~~ ^{Saturday} at midnight. I got into my cot last night & slept like a top. We have still a down officers of the 30th on board & two of their ladies. Something stops our sailing - they talk of being off today. but tis

doubted. Here we lie off the Isle of Wight
snuffing up the sea breeze. All is vastly
comfortable for me on board. The Managing
owner, Mr Chapman, is on board. As soon as he
found me out to be a scholar & a mathematician
it made a vast difference in my affairs. For he
you must know sends out a dear young son
& another young friend. They are delighted in the
opportunity they will have of profiting of
my instructions. The old Gentlemen ^{quite} court me
& has every influence possible on board, the
captain being his slave. So I have a cabin &
servants & every thing I want. 'Tis the luckiest
thing for me in the world - for I was in great
danger of having no berth but my length &
breath. Besides the rest, seeing me treated
with distinction, are not the less disposed
to be civil & courteous. We sit down a
large party, & I am persuaded shall have a
very pleasant voyage. That's foreseeing
with a vengeance! as if we had the key of the

wind - upboard!! but you know what I
mean. I expect a letter from you this
morning, & shall not close till post comes in.

I shall write again as soon as I find an
opportunity. The Lion is now coming.

Your Dutiful Son
Thomas Manning

6
MAY 13
1806

18 May 1806
John D. Manning
D. W. Norfolk

670 13

no post to day

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]