

Memphis at 10th Nov 1754
March 1754

My Lord

I beg leave with the greatest respect, to address you in behalf of myself who have been twenty years in the Navy, & nearly 12 years a Lieutenant. — In the last War while I belonged to His Majesty's Ship the Comestant; commanded by the Honble Captain Tho: Pakenham, I was with six others blown up in one of her Prizes called the Pilot, — three of the six did not survive the event, & myself narrowly escaped with my life, & bear the marks of having received material injury. — I was afterwards captured in the present after her action with the — a Dutch frigate

I am now first Lieut of H.M.S. the Prompter
On Capt Blish being appointed to the command of the Providence, I had the honor to be nominated his first Lieutenant, and on my anxious endeavours & service to give his orders their full effect, and studiously attentive to them to secure the good of the service we were on; which he has signified gave him satisfaction, I now most earnestly lay my case before your Lordship & intreat your justness & goodness to give me that mark of your Lordship's approbation & reward, which Lieut Portlock has received in being promoted with, by promotion.

I am My Lord with the greatest Respect
Your Lordships
most Obedient and
most Able Servant