

officer, who had given them some trouble, as well before, as in effecting my capture, and a Colonel Allen, then commanding at Machias, had sent to the General, a petition signed by upwards of 500 of the inhabitants in that vicinity requesting my detention during the war; and all hope of exchange for me being thus barred, and having been then a prisoner on board the prison ship at Boston five months, in the latter end of August 1781, with the aid of one man of my party, I made the Guard, a regimental corporal and two more, my prisoners, by seizing the sentry on deck, about an hour before day in the morning, and with his arms entering the cabins by surprise on the rest. Another of my party having swam ashore for the ship's boat which he brought off, and into which I put the guard, and with my own party attempted to get out of the harbour, but day breaking I landed the guard on an island, ourselves on the Main, set the boat adrift and pushed through the country to Penobscot, but was the next day retaken, conveyed to the gaol of Boston and measured for irons to chain me to the floor, yet (although I was otherwise ill-treated and nearly starved) they were never put on me; a circumstance for which I am informed I was indebted to General Bruce then commanding the British troops in Halifax, who returned their cartel without the usual exchange of prisoners, in consequence of a letter of mine expressive of my situation to an Officer, a Lieutenant Sutherland of the Fencibles, then in Halifax; who put it into the General's hands, and a letter by the cartel from the Commander at Halifax to the Council at Boston, announced to the

latter his determination to return all severities inflicted on me, upon the Rebel prisoners then in Halifax gaol. A second attempt to escape, I made while in gaol and was discovered and remanded to the prison ship, (the Guard no longer mounting on board but in a boat moored under the ship's quarter). A third attempt I had planned in a few days but was restrained from the execution of it by some masters of vessels, then prisoners with me, who apprehended severity to themselves after my departure if I should succeed (for remaining neutral) As I asked no co-operation from them and to avoid being betrayed by them I was obliged to relinquish my intent. Disgusted by their selfish and unnecessary interference where it ought not to have been found, I lowered myself about 11 at night from the cabin window and swam off with the tide of flood undiscovered by the Guard boat for a mile up the harbor where I landed safely and sheltered myself in the house of an Englishman on the river's side (to whom I was known) and by him was carried to a place of security, until at the expiration of four days he put me on board a Penobscot cartel at the mouth of the harbor, in which I arrived safe at Penobscot. General McLean on whom all my hopes of reward for my exertions on service rested was then lately dead. I returned to the Garrison of Fort Howe and the close of the American War left me an half-pay Subaltern with a wife and family of children, since increased to nine sons and two daughters, to which three daughters of an unfortunate brother officer have been added by me, on their being left orphans, by his being drowned in the year 1793, and having lost their mother