

their men. You will do well to prepare for their reception a good fire-ship and other means necessary, according as your prudence shall direct. I recommend myself unto your prayers, and remain, gentlemen, your humble servant,
J. NELSON.

AUGUST 27.—The ships of war go from hence in 12 or 15 days; their voyage probably to St. Johns and Penobscot will cost them a month's time more, so that you may expect them in about 6 or 7 weeks hence. After their attempt on your coast, they are to cruise for about a month, &c., so that all concerned in shipping must take care to their affairs.—Let no public talk be made of this letter, for by the escape of some prisoners the report will come hither greatly to my damage. Excuse my broken manner of writing. I am forced to do it as I can get opportunity, and that is in my bed, because of the often coming in and out of the man that attends me, who once surprised me and took from me my ink-horn, but in all things else I am well treated: so are all the rest, according as the country affords, &c.

The letters came to Springfield the 23d of September, and a day or two after to Boston. The Frenchmen not long after, by some means or other were retaken and carried to Canada, where they were punished as deserters. Before their execution they confessed the whole. Mr. Nelson was carried out with them, in expectation of the same fate. They were shot before his eyes. He was sent back to prison, and soon after to France, but on his passage prevailed with a fellow-passenger to convey intelligence of a second design of 12 men-of-war and 2,000 troops, which were every day expected at Canada to make a descent upon the English colonies from Piscataqua to Carolina. He was confined in France in a small hole for two years, without opportunity of seeing any person but a servant who brought his victuals to a grate. A gentleman, who had taken notice of the person who carried the victuals from day to day, had the curiosity to inquire what prisoner was there, and to