

I must beg you to assure Cousin Wright of the joy I experienced when I knew she was safely delivered. She will have received a letter from me that I wrote by Mr. Leith. It is a great comfort when the eldest is a girl, for as soon as they are a little grown they are such amusing company for the mother, and if the father is absent, time does not pass so heavily as when one is all alone.

As for news, I have none to communicate. You have no doubt heard of the brilliant victory our Admiral, Lord Howe,⁵ achieved over the French fleet the first of June. My dear Meredith was not at Woolwich when the news came. He had received orders to go to a place called Colchester to transact some business. However, as I pride myself on being a good subject, as soon as the sun had set and it became a little dark, I had candles lighted and placed in all the windows of the house, a pretty illumination. I was not long the only one for soon all the neighborhood did the same. We were treated to a display of fireworks not far from us and the sight was truly magnificent. My dear Meredith intends to write to my dear father by this opportunity. He will be able to tell more than I, but I wanted my good mother to know what is going on in my neighborhood.

For a long time I have wanted to ask you how to make apple jelly. You will doubtless be surprised at such a request, but I assure you no one here knows how and never even has heard of it. As my dear husband has what the English call a *sweet tooth*, I want to cram that tooth for him with something good. He often speaks of that delicious apple

⁵ Richard, Earl Howe (born 1726, died 1799) was a brother of Sir William Howe of the army, and like him figured prominently in the American Revolution. Richard Howe was educated at Eton and in 1740 began a naval career which lasted, subject to certain interruptions, practically sixty years. By the capture of the *Alcide* off the mouth of the St. Lawrence in 1755 he opened the naval part of the Seven Years' War. He was a lord of the admiralty, 1762-65, and treasurer of the navy, 1765-70. In 1775 he became vice-admiral and as commander-in-chief of the North American station directed the naval operations in American waters until 1778, when he resigned the command. After a four-year period of retirement he resumed active service in 1782 in which year he became an admiral and effected the relief of Gibraltar. He was created Earl Howe in 1788, commanded the Channel fleet in 1790, and with it won the great victory of June 1, 1794, alluded to in the present letter. *Dict. Nat. Biog.*