

PROGRESS OF THE FRENCH WAR

On Board the Boyne Transport

Cove of Cork, 23rd April 1797

My dear Sir, You will have heard ere this from my beloved Archang's letters that no sooner had I recovered from my illness than it so happ[e]ned the Company to which I belong received orders to proceed to Ireland and be there Stationed. I consequently joined it at Plymouth and thank God after a very short of passage of only Three days arrived here last Night. we expect to disembark at [and] March to Cork tomorrow. the orders for our going to Ireland were so sudden that I had no time to make any arrangement respecting my beloved Family accompanying nor indeed did I conceive it prudent they should at this crisis untill matters are settled and the Country less agitated than at this moment. however I have learnt this morning with great satisfaction that things wear a much more pleasant aspect. It is a novel buisness, a Company of the British Artillery in this Country, but I hope we shall be well received, it having been a pointed requisition from the Irish Government. The only Consolation I have at leaving my most truly dear Wife and Children is that this command has most probably saved me from the West Indies, as our Company stood first on the Roster for any service that might happen therefore I believe the old Saying is a good and just one, *Whatever is is right*. I think you are of the same opinion I can readily suppose you will excuse the small and ill wrote letter, but the want of more paper and the confused Noise on board and hurried state we are in will I am conscious plead the cause. A Vessell came in last Night dismasted. She was Chased by a French Frigate. I learn She is bound to Quebec, and therefore intend putting this Scrawl on Board, which I hope may reach you. I wrote by the Post of today informing my own Archange of my Arrival, a circumstance which will afford her heart felt pleasure, if I find it likely that the Comp^y will be Stationary in Ireland, and that it may be long ere I get one of my own (for I only stand Twelve above me), why it is my intention in such case after matters are settled in this part to contrive that My dear Family join me. this matter depends upon circumstances.