

Letter from Mr
for

Mr. Hopkins

Mr John Hopkins

Boston 24th Sep: 1790

You are now just setting out in life, and the experience I have had of your Fidelity and Industry has induced me to prevail with the Owners of the Columbia to place you in a situation, which many young Men would rejoice to be in, and which I hope and believe if the voyage is conducted with prudence and attention, will give you property sufficient to introduce you into Business, & lay a foundation for future Employ. — but remember you are, as young men, & that Modesty is one of the brightest ornaments of youth, and is always respected in every stage in life, you will therefore do well to be exceedingly circumspect in all your deportment in life, more especially on this voyage, which is in all probability will be a long very long one, & if any difference or misunderstanding takes place between you & the Officers it will uncutably embitter the remainder of the voyage, & may be very prejudicial to the whole concern, watch therefore with the greatest caution the first rising of temper, and make it a rule if any thing displeases, that you do not reply until your passion is cooled, for when people are so closely confined as you must expect to be in so long a voyage tis the height of prudence to put up with an Injury rather than by resenting it increase it tenfold, we depend much on your vigilance, and we rely altho' you are so far from your employes, yet that you will bear in mind the time will come when we shall see you face to face, & should you then (as we have no doubt you will) see

give us a faithful account of all transactions, & prove to us you have done your duty, I think 'tis needless to tell you, you may depend on future employ, and support, and remember your own Character of good conduct is the only thing to give you footing in life & if well supported will undoubtedly yield you more satisfaction, than any property gain'd unjustly possibly can. — as word to the wise is sufficient, I shall not therefore add further, than to caution you to observe the greatest prudence & temperance in your conduct respecting your own person, and economy & parsimony respecting the Interest of the concerned, & remember that as there is no person on earth however contemptible but what may do you an Injury, that a condescending regard to the meanest person on board the Ship or the most contemptible native of the Country whose you traffick can do you no harm, but may do you service. — If you continue by your honesty & vigilance to deserve recommendation depend on my friendship, but if as is too often the case, you forget your self and your benefactors & conduct in such a manner as shall make me ashamed of the recommendations I have so largely given I shall take no further notice of you. — If you will probably turn out instead of an honour a disgrace to human nature, but in firm reliance on your continuing in the paths of virtue, and exerting yourself to increase my esteem I sincerely

wish you the blessing of Heaven of a happy & successful Voyage & am for myself and the owners of the Columbia — Your assured friend

We agree for your Encouragement to allow you ten Dollars p^o Month to commence the first of September instant and one and half p^o cent on the cargo on the close of the voyage at Boston

J Russell for Sumner & Quincy

Boston 25th Sep 1790

I acknowledge to have engaged to proceed the Voyage to the North West Coast of America & elsewhere in the Ship Columbia Robert Gray Commander of promise to exert myself for the Interest of the concerned on the terms promised above, and I also agree that I am bound by the terms of the shipping paper made between the Owners of the Columbia & Officers and others of said Ship & fully consent for Malconduct to suffer the penalties as specified therein

— John Hoskins