Appendixes
To Mr. Pepys [April 26, 1677]

May it please your honor.

I most humbly ask your forgiveness for this presumption and pray your leave only to offer this one thing in my behalf, which is, if you please to give me your remission for my past miscarriages and the honor of serving you once more, upon my first ill comportment, or being (upon any occasion) found a minute out of your house without your leave, I willingly lay this at your feet as my own act to banish me forever your service, favor, or countenance. By which (the strictness of my performance hereof easily appearing to your honor) I humbly hope you will be convinced that I cannot hereafter be guilty of any of the crimes I now lie under the marks of your displeasure for.

I beg your honor, for God's sake, to harken to this my humblest suit, in which I am the more earnest as being fully confident the resolutions and vows I lie
under to God Almighty will enable me perfectly to keep up to this I now humbly offer, and by which I may get your honor's favor and good opinion and preserve myself from despair and ruin. Withdraw, sir, I pray, your displeasure, and let time satisfy you 'tis in my nature (with God's assistance) to do this, and that 'tis on no slender grounds or want of a full assurance of my being able to comply herewith. I dare hazard that whereon my future well being and all the good I expect in this world depends. I pray God incline your honor to a gracious consideration hereof.

Your honor's most penitent and submissive applicant,
S: Atkins.

II

To Mr. Pepys at Brampton, Huntingdonshire,
November 4, 1680

Honored Sir:

Captain David Lloyd being this day appointed to the command of the Crowne lying at Portsmouth and designed for the convoy of the Fish Ships¹ to the Straits in company with Captain [Morgan] Kempthorne² in the Kingfisher, whereon they are to proceed about the 15th of this month, I have fully resolved (with submission to your good liking) to take my fortune with him therein, being thereto encouraged by Mr. Hewer's kindness in his promises of doing me some good office in the Treasury at Tangier, when that

¹. Captain David Lloyd was appointed on October 20, and took command of the Crowne on November 4. The "Fish Ships" were on their way to the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland. The war ships would convoy them only as far as the Straits of Gibraltar.

². Captain Morgan Kempthorne was given command of the Kingfisher, a 4th rate, on October 21, 1679. Killed in battle.
affair comes to be settled; besides the expectations from Captain Herbert and Sir Palmes Fairborne, if anything lie in their way to do me a good turn; to help me in which it is that, for saving all the time that may be, I have addressed this trouble to you (under an uncertainty of your returning hither) to pray your favor to write to Scotland for his Royal Highness's letters to both of them in my behalf, to the former mentioning particularly (if you think fit) the business of the Judge Advocate.

To which I have one other prayer to add, and I hope to give you no more trouble, which is that my stock of credit with my friends and relations being wasted in my maintenance these thirteen months of illness, and a provision of bed, linen, clothes, and other necessaries fit for the voyage being to be made very quickly to enable me to go, you will please to order me here such a sum as twenty pounds for my doing that, and to support my necessary expenses to Portsmouth and from thence onward in the voyage. Your favor in which will (I trust in God) be a means to put me in some condition ere long of overcoming the series of ill fortune I have been crushed with, and shall constantly be owned as an indelible obligation among the many others you have placed on me, that am with all duty and regard, sir,

Your ever obliged and most faithful humble servant.
Sam Atkins

If you please to write, your letter will find me, directed to be left at Derby House.

3. "Captain" Herbert was actually Admiral Arthur Herbert, Commander-in-Chief in the Straits.

4. Sir Palmes Fairborne had spent eighteen years in the army at Tangier. He was killed by a musket shot on October 24, 1680. Obviously the news of his death had not yet reached England.
To Mr. Pepys

At sea off the Southward Cape,\(^5\) August 15, 1681.

Honored Sir,

Since the trouble I gave you from Naples of what had happened worth your notice in my voyage so far downwind as that place, nothing has fallen out that would excuse my interrupting you with a letter till this time, that I think it becomes me to let you know we are in safety got this far with our convoys, whom having seen as far further in their way as the latitude of the Rock of Lisbon, we are directed to leave under the care of Captain Wrenn\(^6\) in the *Nonesuch*, and to return with the *Kingfisher* (now under the command of young Captain Wheeler\(^7\), to the prosecution of what orders we shall find from the Admiral\(^8\) at Tangier, which we left three days since in good condition, under a perfect peace with the Moors and a good degree of plenty of all sorts of provisions.

In my attendance upon the Admiral I wanted the letter in my favor from Scotland, which I pray your favor to hasten to me, though I find the ill will he bears you (notwithstanding your fair correspondencies) reaches to me, who am glad to be thought considerable enough to suffer for your sake, and shall never court favor nor friendship from one that I know with so little reason treats you so ill at this distance. But this usage from him to you is no other than many other worthy gentlemen have the like reason to

5. The Southward Cape was Cape St. Vincent, Portugal.

6. Captain Ralph Wrenn was appointed to command the *Nonesuch* on August 9, 1681.

7. Captain Francis Wheeler was appointed to command the *Kingfisher* on August 7, 1681, after Kempthorne’s death.

8. Admiral Arthur Herbert, later Earl of Torrington.
complain of, particularly the late governor, Colonel Sackville, Mr. Shere, his quondam amigo, Captain Russell, and, save a favorite or two, the whole fleet and garrison. The former is divided into two implacable factions, and the differences between them irreconcilable; his great jealousy and the attention he gives to stories from rascals employed to bring them make his carriage very intolerable, so as everybody grows weary, and the service in the mean time can boast of no advantage from it. This freedom in me I hope, sir, you will excuse, and take no notice of anything from me, who, if I have no favor from him, would yet be as quiet as I could while I continue under his command. His enmity to Mr. Shere was, I believe, the greatest reason that induced him to go with the hulk and stores to Gibraltar, though it must be allowed that place is much better for the service than I think Tangier can ever be made; but I have many reasons to doubt that consideration weighed now with him.

The whole satisfaction and quiet I have is in being in this ship with Lloyd and Leighton, who are much the best men of this sort I ever met with, nor can I ever sufficiently own the former’s friendship and kindness, of whom, without doing any sort of injury to truth, I may say he is the best governed, soberest, reasonable man my conversation ever fell with, nor ever was the King master of so well disciplined, civil, and sober ship as this we swim in, of whom with great verity I can say now what before I could not believe could truly have been said of any ship, as to her government and disposal for the King’s honor and

9. Colonel Edward Sackville succeeded Fairborne as governor of Tangier; he returned to England c. May, 1681.

10. Edward Shere was the engineer who finished the great Mole at Tangier and later destroyed it.

11. Captain Edward Russell was brother-in-law to William Harboard, who had sought to replace Mr. Pepys as Secretary.

12. Thomas Leighton, lieutenant of the Crowne, was appointed captain of a prize, the Two Lions, on July 17, 1682.
advantage. Forgive, sir, this digression, and as the chief thing I covet in this world continue me in your good favor and protection as, honored sir,

Your ever obedient, faithful and humble servant,
Sam Atkins

IV

To Mr. Pepys

Alicante Road, January 1, 1681/2

Honored Sir:

At the desire of Captain Lloyd I should have troubled you with a letter by young Dennis from Cadiz upon occasion of his going home, but my being out of the way prevented my doing it then, and till this having no opportunity, I think it may become less necessary now to do it, Captain Lloyd’s to his father being, I suppose, communicated to you, wherein I am sure he has dealt truly and plainly with him, and though it be an unwelcome tale to a parent, yet it must be less surprising to him that had found so little good effects of the pains he took while he was under his own immediate care. I assure you, sir, no entreaties, admonitions, threats, or the severest punishments ever worked upon him; every day made him worse, and his crimes were grown such as might be original ill examples to the oldest man in the ship, to all which was added his natural aversion and awkwardness to his trade, his labors wherein (had he been otherwise fit to be kept in a ship) would never have made him a philo-nauticus.

All the other trouble I have to give you is to hand the enclosed account of our success against the Algerines for your perusal, and to pray your favor to hasten to me

the letter from Scotland in my behalf to the Admiral, that I may do all I can to improve the good fortune God Almighty has now twice blessed me with, to some advantage of getting my bread one way or t’other.

I pray your favor to give my humblest services to Mr. Hewer, and to accept the like with all duty to yourself, whose commands I pray may be given me, if my labor or study in my many vacant hours can serve to render you any little services in these parts, or from this trade, for I am with all possible respect and sense of gratitude, honored sir.

Your ever faithful and most obedient servant,
Sam Atkins.

[Enclosure]

December 18th, 1681. An account of the taking of the Red Lion of Argier by the Crowne frigate, D:Lloyd, commander, in company with the Sapphire14 and Calabash,15 fireship.

At ten o’clock on Sunday night, the 18th day of December, standing to the southward with our starboard tacks on board, we made five sail: four to windward and one right ahead, with their larboard tacks on board standing to the northward, having then a fresh gale at west-south-west. We gave notice to the Sapphire, who was astern, and got our ship ready with all diligence. The ship ahead weathered us about a quarter of a mile; the four others tacked and stood as we did, and we having made a clear ship went about, thinking to fetch the sternmost, which was the first we saw. The Calabash likewise tacked, but the Sapphire stretched further to the

14. The frigate Sapphire was commanded by Captain Anthony Hastings, appointed April 22, 1681.

15. The Calabash, a small prize commanded by Captain Peter Pickard (appointed December 20, 1680), was sold as useless in December, 1684.
southward and then tacked. Between eleven and twelve the stern ship weathered us about three ships length; in passing we hailed him but had no answer. We got into his wake and tacked and stood after him; the like did the Calabash and at the same time the wind veered to the west. The Sapphire being about a mile ahead of us and standing to the northward, tacked and stood after the chase as we did. We run from the Calabash and by the Sapphire a great pace and fetched again on the chase; the ships to windward still kept their wind. Between twelve and one the chase paid away large, but we kept our course till we had the length of him, and the Sapphire, being fallen on our larboard quarter, paid with him. He therefore put right afore it and we and the Sapphire after him, she keeping him on her starboard and we on our larboard bow, and fetched faster on him, which he perceiving brought to and got his larboard tacks on board and stood close hauled to the northward, then put a light abroad which was answered by the ships astern with two lights and firing of three guns, distinctly one from t'other. His standing to the northward brought the Sapphire ahead of us, but we run under his lee and by two o'clock had half a mile ahead of her, and by our standing to the northward gave opportunity to the Calabash to join with us. At two o'clock the wind was very much dullard, which helped the chase to keep her own, nor was there any sensible difference then to be perceived between the chasers.

By three this morning we got near him and hailed him, which he answered in English by asking whence we were, and being told, we could get no further answer. We sounded our trumpet and fired a gun to make him stay, and the Calabash being got a-breast of us and somewhat to windward of him, fired guns, but the chase being in our wind we could not get further than just under his quarter. At four o'clock we rung our bell, and the like did the Calabash (the Turks never carrying
or using any), upon which he quickly fired his stern chase at us, and we plied our fore chase, being much afraid of a calm which might give him opportunity to get from us with his oars. The Calabash also plied his guns, and the Sapphire did the like, being then about two cables length astern of us upon our weather quarter. At daybreak we put abroad our English and he his Turk's colors, being then shot a cables length ahead of us, but his sails and rigging being very much galled with our great and small shot gave him very little hopes of escaping. He therefore at nine o'clock got out his boat and rowed towards the ships to windward about two leagues, who shamefully kept hovering there without attempting to give the least relief to their companion or hopes to us of having a fling at them, which we greatly desired.

We got our boat out, and Mr. Leighton, Mr. Bulkeley, Mr. Elliott and myself went in her, but the Sapphire being astern of us had the advantage of having his boat nearer to the enemy's, and the gale also freshening we were called and came back. The Turks to windward went about and stood away with all the sail they could, but seeing the boats, braced to, which made Captain Lloyd call to the Sapphire to go about and look after the boats, which he did. Between ten and eleven we got up to the prize. The Calabash attempted to lay him on board on the larboard bow but, he putting his helm a-weather, missed and shot ahead. At the same time we laid him on board with our bowsprit over his quarter abaft his mizzenmast, but our sprit sail not being handed, lest he should get away from us by our shortening sail, blinded us that our men who were ready upon the bowsprit-end could not enter, and he wearing caused our bowsprit to sweep away his staff and ensign, and we at that time poured our broadside and small shot into him, and he immediately

16. Probably Bulkeley and Elliott were midshipmen or reformadoes. James Elliott was appointed a lieutenant of the Crowne on July 17, 1682, and Thomas Bulkeley a lieutenant of the same ship on August 1, 1682.
called for quarter. The *Calabash* then backed astern and dropped in twelve men. We hauled up our sails and brought to and sent our boat with the lieutenant, the other gentlemen and myself, and took possession of her. In the meantime the rest of the Turks made what sail they could away, and the *Sapphire* took up her boat, who, after some dispute, had taken the Turk's boat with the captain and two lieutenants in her.

The prize is called the *Red Lion* of Argier, manned with 150 men, Moors and Turks, and 25 Christians (six wherof are English) and mounted with 24 guns. Great part of the Moors were killed or wounded, and the ship much torn in her sails and rigging. She left Argier but the Friday night past in company with four sail more and a settee, one of which lost company. The other three were called the *Media-Morte*, a ship never before at sea, mounted with 40 guns and 38 pattereroes, with above 500 men; the *Great Pearl* of 38 guns, 30 pattereroes and 400 men; the *Sampson* with 28 guns, 8 pattereroes and 100 men—all very clean ships, notwithstanding which and that we had been just seven weeks off of ground, we out-sailed them and took this by down-right running. The *Sapphire* gave chase to the ships to windward, but the night growing on, and they being, I believe, near three leagues in the wind's eye, she found it to no purpose and so gave it over.

17. A settee was a small single-decked ship with two masts and lateen sails.

18. Pattereroes, or perriers, were small, breach-loading guns.
V

To John Walbanke.¹⁹

Tangier, 26th July, 1682.

Dear Jack,

Notwithstanding what I wrote you by Captain Russell in the *Newcastle* of the hope I had then upon his and my other friends' intercession with the Admiral to be lieutenant to Lloyd, grounded upon his promises made to them and me, he has since the departure of Captain Russell refused the doing me that favor and put in another man as equal stranger to him as myself, and under far less recommendation than I was. The Governor here,²⁰ Aylmer,²¹ Lloyd, and Russell before he went made as much intercession with him as would have made almost an admiral: nothing will do, he utterly refuses it, and would indeed have put me into the *James* galley, but that with the advice of my friends, after he having declared himself my enemy and done what he did, I refused with great modesty, resolving never to receive any favor from anybody with such prejudice to me as that must cause; he having declared that I nor anybody that ever had relation to Pepys could be his friend, although at the same time he has confessed he had inclinations to think well of me, but thought I must be corrupted as to his interest. I wrote to him and got no reply and delivered him a letter wherein I desired that he would not persist to do me injury if he designed me no good, for I was a young fellow depending upon my fair character in the world for my future fortune, and since he nor any man could deservedly say ill of me,

¹⁹. John Walbanke, long an Admiralty clerk, died in December, 1686.

²⁰. The governor of Tangier was Colonel Percy Kirke, who succeeded Colonel Edward Sackville.

²¹. Captain Matthew Aylmer was appointed on January 10, 1682, to command a prize, the *Tiger*. 
I desired he would not make my fortune desperate, especially since his ill opinion of me proceeded from a reason I could not possibly help, which was my having had relation to Mr. Pepys, to whom he is an implacable enemy. Upon this letter he gave his word of honor to the Governor never to do me any ill office, though he could not be brought to do me good, with which very well satisfied I parted with him with a resolution never to receive or desire any favor from him, and I hope you nor any of my friends will think I stomach it too much, after the unkind and ungentlemanlike usage he has given me privately to my friends, but so as I could not take hold of it to justify myself, and though I had taken this, I was abused, he never would do me further kindness, and did this not for my sake but to be rid of the importunity of my friends that appeared so warmly to him for me. We cannot guess at any other reason he has to be so much my enemy, having always had good characters of me from all that knew me, but we are apt to think he would have Lloyd and I parted, who he thinks, perhaps, are too great friends, and that I may have advised him to do some things he has not liked. Whatever it be, I refused at first ever to leave him, nor will I till the fatal stroke part us, and had not stirred about being lieutenant had not he promised I should be so with Lloyd. I am thus tedious with you in this story because he has, I believe, wrote to the Commissioners to tell them that, in answer to their letter which was twelve months since, he would now have preferred me, and I refused it; so that you may have it in your power to do me right when it shall come to the Board and especially to Mr. [Edward] Hales [and] Sir Humphrey [Winch], and if they have it so represented as to think I have not done ill, I have no cause to repent: for indeed I would not, especially since the action is over and preferment so slow, be thought to have given over my pretentions to business by embracing a new trade at this time of day, but only by my being in this to have made myself fitter for the other, which I am sure I have done ninety in the hundred, and
I would not be without the experience I have to improve myself in business for twice as much hazard, labor, and pains as I have been at for this.

Pray, let Mr. Pepys know the whole affair, for I am loath to write myself, since I fear those I have already wrote have not been received as I hoped, having not ever since I left England seen a syllable from him or Mr. Hewer, to my great trouble and affliction. Pray you, consider my misery and relieve me as it falls in your power; especially let me know my business of the ship's done, that my debts be paid, and I in a condition to come and look after somewhat for myself, to which by Aylmer I have great encouragement from the Duke to believe he will do all he can when I come. I should think 'twould not be hard for you to get an order for my being borne with Lloyd as a Midshipman Extra, since the fight with the Turks in the Kingfisher. It would put a little money in my pocket at my return, and that, with my pay in the garrison and my debts paid, I might happily pass a little time with you till I could amend my fortune, which God send. Excuse this scribble, which I do in haste and the ships under sail, being unwilling to omit any occasion to let you know how affairs go here, and pray let me hear by the post to Cadiz from you, as the only comfort I meet here. The whole fleet are here, expecting the Admiral's orders, which nobody guesses at, but 'tis thought we shall all be going, which for Lloyd's sake with my soul I wish. My services to your lady and all my friends.

Your most humble, affectionate
and hearty friend,

Sam: Atkins.

Don't expose this scribble, for I bear it here without making noise, especially at this time.
To Mr. Pepys

Tangier, 8th March, 1682/3.

Sir,

Midst many difficulties and misfortunes I have met since I came abroad, that which has given me most sensible affliction is that I have not received one line from yourself or Mr. Hewer in answer to the two or three I took the liberty to trouble you with, and several to Mr. Hewer; of late indeed I have forborne any to either, not having had anything extraordinary to justify the trouble, and from (I hope) a false suspicion I had, grounded upon having no returns, that my former gave you some offense. The business of the lieutenancy and my difference with the Admiral I prayed Mr. Walbanke to communicate to you, and so shall not trouble you here about it, more than assuring you if I did it amiss, it was by the advice of my friends and intended otherwise; the manner of it, and many circumstances which I could not so well commit to paper, I prayed Captain Leighton, who was a witness here of them, to impart to you, and I believe he has by them convinced you I was not much in the wrong, though I confess from what has since happened, and from longer and better consideration, I have repented what, with the greatest provocation from the Admiral both with respect to yourself and me, I did. I am past all hopes of ever having any kindness from him, and have it only left to wish it may not be long in his power, especially in these parts, to do me any. In my governance in that and other matters your wise advice would be very welcome to me, and I hope I may not in vain expect, since I am ever resolved to follow it, and in everything studiously approve myself, honored sir,

Your very faithful and
most obedient servant
Sam: Atkins.
The Documents in the Case

I

Manuscript sources in the Bodleian Library, Oxford University

1. Atkins's "Account of the Passages at my several Examinations before the Committees of Lords and Commons," Rawlinson MS A 181, ff. 11-25. For a printed version with several variants see A Complete Collection of State Trials, VI, cols. 1473-92.

2. Atkins's "A Short Narrative of Samuel Atkins his Case," Rawlinson MS A 173, ff. 113-32.

3. Atkins's letters, Rawlinson MS A 161, f. 188; A 183, ff. 142, 190, 192, 194; A 178, ff. 184, 186.

4. Martin's letters and depositions by officers of the Quaker, Rawlinson MS A 173, ff. 133-37.


7. Pepys's letters, Rawlinson MS A 194, f. 225; f. 234; f. 257.
II

Other Sources


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*Calendars of Treasure Books.*

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“Newdigate Newsletters,” Folger Shakespeare Library.


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