

extraordinary thing that a
man hired by government to
carry round naval stores Grape
Shot &c. nominally to Portsmouth
but ~~in~~ ^{intentionally} to attend our fleet
should ^{supposing that we are not going there} refuse to come & that
we should have no power to
force him, his reason for not
coming is to be sure the most
absurd I ever heard, he says
no, he's an Englishman, that he
loves old England too well &
himself so much that he'll
be damned if he quits it, he

was hired for round to
Portsmouth that he'll go there
but in a ~~him~~ ^{if he} go any
for particular reasons ^{the communication with shore}
^{is allowed all letters stop} the general conjecture of
where else ^{at last} we've got
^{our destination being perhaps to be}
^{it is not thought advisable that they should be feared}
our obstinate friends to let his
boat go with us, but he has
cut & run — we weighed anchor
yesterday at three O'Clock but
could only ~~get~~ ^{make} two
^{for want of wind & the current being against us}
leagues, our fleet now consists of
two 74 guns ships, Ramilies Capt.
P. Bickerton, Robust Capt.
Thornbrough, one 64, Cap^t Harrier
36 guns
one frigate Venus Cap^t ~~West~~ ^{West}
Five ships, Incendiary 16 guns Capt.
Digby, the Megera 14 guns & Miller
and one store ship Atlas —