ALS to David Hume.

Firedrake, Bat, at Portsmouth, 5 May, 1758.

ALS to his cousin David Hume.

1758 May 5, Firedrake, ship at Portsmouth.

4p., with address., 22 x 18cm.
Sir,

I wrote you on the 25th April but such a particular thing as an engagement happening since I make bold to trouble you with relating it. On the 9th inst. we paid from Yarmouth for this place, on the 2nd at 6 in the evening we gave chase to a vessel to the Southward off Beachy Head having English Colours flying. At 7 we came with her. When she struck the English hoisted French Colours & we began to engage which lasted till 9. She then having disabled both our Masts of rigging, made sail from us. We endeavoured to pursue but could not carry sail. She mounted 16 guns & we had 12. She killed as one man & wounded several. If we could see several of theirs have overboard Dead, we came in here next Morning. This is the first engagement that we were in & I can defy the World either to call my Conduct or Courage to an Account.

We are now going into the Harbour to be paid off, so that the men may go in the large Ships that are going on this grand expedition which no doubt you have heard of. I shall be obliged to go to London to Apply to ye Admiralty for
for another ship and as a letter to Mr. Elliot would be of great service both in getting me a good ship of war not letting me long idle. I hope you'll be kind enough to write him in my behalf which will greatly oblige.

Dear Sir,

Finedgate at
Portsmouth May 13th 1798

Your most affectionate servant
Of most obliged hum. Servant

Heal. Edgar

To Mr. David Hume
To Mr. David Hume
Edinburgh