

Letter 2 Samuel Castle to J.E. Blckett

Durham,
18th September 1803.

Dear Sir,

Expecting my wife home today I did not answer your very kind enquiry by the return of post as well to be able to do so more fully as to give the chance of her having seen Mrs Hughes. Thank God I am able to say she arrived safe in the Mail this morning after performing the journey and managing the business very satisfactorily. She saw my son on board the *Le Puissant* (A captured French warship which was being used as the Receiving Ship at Portsmouth) last Monday to go from thence in the *Magnificent* [74], Captain Jarvis, to Admiral Collingwood in the Channel Fleet.

He was in great spirits and after they had relieved themselves by a few tears in private the lad in a most manly way requested his mother not to go to the waterside with him - he did not wish either to heighten her distress or his own, or be seen whimpering - she saw him, however, out of the high room of an Inn. We have by the same mail received a letter from him expressive of his present happiness after struggling with his feelings at leaving his friends. Thus is launched into the busy world (I have the comfort to hope) another hero for further glory in future to his country and heaven will bless the kind exertions you have bestowed on him.....

May God be with the *Venerable* as she was at Camperdown.
Dear Sir, your ever obliged and humble servant
Samuel Castle.