

To the Honorable the Governor & Council of the State of
Maine.

Alexander McDougall of Eastport, Maine & now a
Convict under sentence for the crime of Manslaughter. Humbly
shews.

That on the night of 24th December 1834. the Brig Emily of
which I was mate. & the Schr. Louisa of which John Hatch was
mate were lying at the end of Hobbs's wharf in Eastport. the
Louisa lying outside & made fast to the Brig. that about 5 o'clock
Capt. Scheldomin of the Brig. told me to see that the Schooner had
her head or foremost fasts out. as it looked as if it was coming
on to blow; that about 6 o'clock. he requested the crew of the
Louisa to get out her fasts. but they made excuses: that I repeatedly
called on them to do so in civil language. but they refused.

About 10 o'clock the wind beginning to blow from the N. East. I again
requested them to do so. but they would not heed me. I then told
them to stand by their anchor. as I was going to call them off.
I then let go the stern fast & the Schooner's stern swung off. bringing
her bows against the fore rigging of the Brig. that as soon as the
Schr. swung off John Hatch came on deck of the Schr. & swore
if I touched a line he would knock my brains out. & called me
a damned worthless know-nothing fellow. I told him I should
certainly call her off. if he did not get out his lines. that my
orders were to see that the Brig was secure. & that they had
lined out. I then went forward Hatch jumped upon the Brig's
deck. & swore if I touched a line he would knock my brains out.
& cut the Brig adrift. shaking his fists at me & calling for a
hatchet. I was afraid of him. for he was a stout looking man.
I stepped back & he followed me about the deck threatening me.
I went forward & picked up a hand spike & told him if he

came after me. I would strike him. He then went to the Louisa, & told them in a low voice, stooping down over the Brig's railing, to give him a hand spike or something. Damn him. He has a hand spike, & I'll soon make him quit that. He was stooping down in this way for a minute or so, & I told him that he had better go on board his own vessel, & pass me a line & I would make it fast for him. He said he would see me damned first - he would go when he pleased. He then turned round & flew right at me. I jumped back, but he pressed on when I gave the unfortunate blow which caused his death. It was dark & his rush upon me was ^{so} sudden that I was in fear of my life, & struck him meaning only to keep him off. The thought of killing him never entered my mind. Hatch had been drinking & was excited with liquor - and the Capt. of the Louisa said he was in the habit of drinking.

As soon as Hatch fell I went for the owner & got a physician, and attended upon him till he died - I might have escaped by a run of two minutes, but I had no sin on my conscience & did not wish to get out of the way. In a day or two I was committed to Machias Jail, where I laid during a most inclement season of four months. When Mr. Mow of Lubec was kind enough to go my bail. Since which time I have been about my business as master of a vessel, & surrounded myself up to trial, having no doubt of my acquittal, as I felt innocent of crime, & had acted in self defence as any other man would have done in my circumstances.

Your petitioner therefore prays your Honorab^{le} body to take his case into consideration, & by a pardon to restore him to his friends & family.

Machias July 11 1835. Alex M. Dargall

McC Douglas

Oct-1, 1895

~~Alfred~~

~~William~~

~~James~~

~~Samuel~~

Pardons