Schr Invincible
May 30th 1836

Dear Sir —

I have the honor to inform you, that our last evening we saw a vessel in the offing, showing a flash of a musket which we took to be a bright light (knowing it to be a mexican signal) we got underweigh, after running down and signaling we knew it to be the Pirates —

The Pirates Captn must have known by our signals, that we were the Invincible — If so ignorant = not to know; and thinking we were an enemy, why should he run from us, if knowing that it was the Invincible why fire into us — This Sir is a question I hope will be investigated & why did Captn or Commodore Hawkins send the Gun which was fired at us — This information I received from Capt Reid — also he told me that Lt Hawkins wished to fire a broadside into us, being in hopes any more information wanted every Officer and man accutting

Copy of letter from Lieut Phelps to Mr Gilliss
Relative to the Pirates mistaking the Invincible for a Mexican Vessel
& the Invincible &c.