

**Naval Documents
related to the
Quasi-War between the
United States and France**

**Volume II
Part 2 of 3**

**Naval Operations
from November 1798 to March 1799**

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[1 January 1799]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

DEAR SIR, The Signals from the Navy Office are very imperfect indeed. I shall be obliged to adopt a Sett of my own, when our little Squadron gets together, mean Time we must do as well with the above as possible. I shall however for the present, make Use of Lights and Guns, instead of Guns only for Night Signals, in the following manner to Viz^t

	for N ^o 1	one Light
	2	two ditto
	3	three ditto
	4	four ditto
	5	five ditto
	6	six ditto
	7	seven ditto
	8	eight ditto
	9	nine ditto
	10	one Gun
	11	one Gun, one Light
	12	one Gun, and two Lights, & so on
and for	20	two Guns
	21	two Guns, and one Light
and for	30	three Guns —
	31	three Guns, and one Light, & so on
and for	40	four Guns —
	41	four Guns, and one Lights
	42	ditto, and ---- two ditto
	43	ditto, and ---- three ditto
	44	ditto, and ---- four ditto
	45	ditto, and ---- five ditto
	46	ditto, and ---- six ditto
	47	ditto, and ---- seven ditto

as there is no other Vessel of the Squadron together, you will not wait for the Signal to exercise Guns &c. but do it as often as possible. I exercise my Marines twice a Day, and the Cannon as often as the Weather, and other Circumstances will admit. Your's &c.

U. S. Ship *Constellation* }1st January 1799— }Capt^s Barron }Brig [*Richmond*] Norfolk }

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[1 January 1799]

To Acting Sailing Master Joseph Ingraham, from Lieutenant Edward Preble,
U. S. NavyTo M^r JOSEPH INGRAHAM, hereby appointed Sailing Master of the
United States Brig *Pickering*

By Virture of the Power and Authority to me given, I do hereby Constitute and appoint you Sailing Master of the U States Brig *Pickering*; Willing and requiring you forthwith to go on Board and take upon you the charge and command of Sailing Master in her accordingly; Strictly charging and commanding all the Officers and Company belonging to the Said Brig Subordinate to you, to behave themselves, Jointly and Severally in their respective employment with all due respect and Obedience unto you their said Sailing Master

— And you likewise to Observe and execute as well the general printed Instructions, as what Orders and Directions you shall from Time to Time receive from me, or any other your superior Officers for the United States Service; hereof nor you, nor any of you may fail as you will answer the contrary at your Peril; and for so doing this Shall be your Warrant,

Given Under My hand & Seal in Boston this Thirty first Day of January 1799, in the Twenty Third Year of the Independence of the U States of America,

By Order of the Secretary of the Navy

EDWARD PREBLE

[LC, EPP, Vol. 1, 1680-1799.]

To Thomas Martin, Collector of Customs, Portsmouth, N. H., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 1st January 1799.

THOMAS MARTIN Esquire
Portsmouth New Hampshire —

SIR I am honored with your favor of the 22^d instant — & have also received a Letter from Captain Adams, — from which it appears that the *Adams* [the *Scammel*] is to be of no use to the Public, until she undergoes alterations in her Masts and indeed the Captain strongly advises that she be converted into a Brig. —

I beg that you will be so good as to call on Col^o Hackett — and other experienced Men — have the Vessel examined — and as quickly as possible, have such changes made, as will make the Vessel fit for service. — and without delay. — If she will do as a Schooner, the expence of making her a Brig, ought to be avoided. — I hope every thing can be put in order, to have the Vessel ready to be of some service, by a Cruise to the West Indies, in three weeks from the time you receive this —

Don't delay any thing for want of orders, but have the best done, that can be done — The Vessel had better be sunk than remain a useless expense — I will send Iron in time if possible — and will attend to your suggestion about the Gentleman named in your Letter. —

I am &c.

[NOTE.—See letter to Mr. Martin from Secretary of the Navy, dated 2 January 1799.]

[NDA. GLB, No. 1. 1798-1799.]

To William Nichols, Marshal of Pennsylvania, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 1st 1799

Wth NICHOLS Esquire *Marshal*

SIR The most distressing complaints are made on behalf of the prisoners at Burlington — they are represented to be literally naked, I was in hopes you would have prevented Complaints of this kind, Pray have the Cloathing purchased for them sent without delay

I have the Honor &c.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Joshua Sands, Collector of Customs, New York, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 1st 1799 —

JOSHUA SANDS Esq^r
Collector New York

SIR The Cutter *General Greene* Cap^t Price now in the Bay of Delaware is about to Join the *Governor Jay* Cap^t Leonard at your port, and may have arrived there, and from thence is to proceed to the West Indies — Cap^t Price will want a supply of powder say 8 barrels of Cannon and 2 of Musket powder, which you will please to furnish, with any other articles he may stand in need of — the Situation of the Navigation prevented being Supplied from hence

I have the Honor &^c

There is public powder at New York perhaps you may be able to obtain that. —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Tuesday, 1 January 1799

Moderate and light Breezes with smooth Water, all these twenty four Hours, with pleasant Weather for the Season of the Year; passed several Vessels standing in for the Land. Had all Hands to Quarters, and cleaned below, a Number of our People with violent Colds; send Night Signals on Board the *Richmond*, those received from the Navy Office being very imperfect.

Latitude observed 35°.50' N^o

Longitude Account 73 .49 W.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 1 January 1799

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Ship under double reef'd Top Sails Split the Fore & Main Top sails & bent new Ones.

@ 4 Saw 2 Strange Sails to the Southw^d & Eastw^d

@ ½ past Set the Topsails close reef'd

At 8 More Moderate At 2 A.M. the Wind came to the Northw^d

At 7 A. M. Up foresail & brot her too @ ½ past 8 filld & made Sail to the Southw^d Ends with Fresh Breezes & Cloudy.

[Latitude In 37.42]

[NDA.]

To Captain John W. Leonard, of the U. S. Revenue Cutter *Governor Jay*, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 2^d 1799

Cap^t LEONARD
New York

SIR The *Governor Jay* under your Command, being well provisioned, and watered sufficiently to last you to the place of destination, and having at least 40 rounds of ammunition; I have it in Command from the President, to order that without delay, you proceed in

Company with the *Gen. Green*, Cap^t Price — taking under convoy the Ship *America*, with provision for our Vessels of War, to the Havanna — and cruise between the Matanzas, and the Morea, until you fall in with Cap^t Decatur, of the Sloop of War *Delaware*, under whose orders you will then place yourself Vessel and Crew. —

You have heretofore received your Authority to capture French armed Vessels, — Armed Cruising Vessels, without commissions are Pirates, and from Vessels of this description our Commerce receives a great deal of Injury. — You consider your Authority to extend to the Capture or destruction of these Vessels also; and in addition to your former Instructions, it is the positive Command of the President, that on no pretence whatever, you permit the public Vessel of War under your Command, to be detained or searched; nor any of the Officers or Men belonging to her, to be taken from her, by the Ships or Vessels of any Foreign Nation, so long as you are in a capacity to repel such outrage on the honor of the American Flag.

If Force should be exerted to compel your submission, you are to resist that force to the utmost of your power; & when overpowered, you are to strike your Flag, and thus yield your Vessel, as well as your Men — but never your Men without your Vessel. —

You will remember however, and it is strictly enjoined by the President, that your demeanour be respectful, & friendly to the Vessels and people of all Nations, in amity with the United States, and that you avoid as carefully the commission of, as the Submission to Insult or Injury. Herewith you will receive the private Signals to be used by our Vessels of War — and those to be used between American and British Vessels —

Wishing you great Success

I am &c

N. B. Inclosed are Commissions for John Squire as Y^t 1st Mate, John Wade 3^d Mate, Adolph Lent Surgeon's Mate.

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Thomas Martin, Collector of Customs, Portsmouth, N. H., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 2nd January 1799.

THOMAS MARTIN Esquire
Portsmouth N H—

SIR Since my Letter of yesterday, I have made such inquiry, as to be intirely satisfied that the *Scammel* ought not to be made into a Brig— If she is already tender she will be more so by increasing the weight at top. Please therefore suffer no other alteration than a proper reduction of the Masts and sails — These small Vessels are more expensive than useful — they decrease our means, without increasing our strength — all unnecessary expense should therefore be carefully avoided. Presuming that the necessary alterations can be quickly made, I shall quickly send Cap^t Adams his Instructions for the Island — and shall also send a Commission for the Gentleman you recommend — to be used if Adams's health should not permit him to go. —

I have the honor &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

202 NAVAL OPERATIONS; NOVEMBER 1798-MARCH 1799

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Wednesday, 2 January 1799

The first Part a fresh Breeze and a head Sea. Spoke his Britannick Majesty's Sloop of War, *Weazle* of 16 Guns on a Cruize, the latter light Winds. Spoke the Ship *Industry* of Norfolk from Liverpool bound to Norfolk.

Took the Wedges out of the Partners of the Masts on Gun Deck (and coated the Masts) in Order to try whether it would make any Difference in the Sailing of the Ship.

Latitude observed $35^{\circ} .17' N^{\circ}$

Longitude Account $72 .19 W$.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract of log of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Samuel Nicholson,
Wednesday, 2 January 1799

Moderate breezes and Cloudy Running to the Southw^d under double reefd Topsails and Foresail.

Sailmakers employd Repairing a Main Topsail and the Watch employd cleansing ship. at 3 Swayd up Top Gallantmasts

At 7 Up Mainsail and furl'd d^o

At 9 Fresh breezes and cloudy

At 11 Tack'd to the Eastward and double reefd the topsails

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 handed the Main Top M^t Staysail

AM. at 7 let out close reef of the Topsails at 9 reefd the Main Course and Set it At 10 Musterd the Ships company and Read the Articles of War, the State of the Weather would not allow it to be done before

Employd stowing the Anchors and cleansing between decks

At 11 Set the Jib. Carpenters employd in their different stations.

Took charge as officers M^r Jarvis as third Lieutenant M^r Torrey as Acting Lieutenant M^r Thayer as Lieutenant of Marines and M^r Moore as Gunner

At Noon Moderate breezes and cloudy with Small Showers

[Latitude Observed $36^{\circ} .19' North$]

[NHS Col, NYHS.]

Presumably to Secretary Pickering from William Smith, U. S. Minister to Lisbon,
Portugal

(Private)

LISBON, Jan^y 3. 1799.

DEAR SIR Yesterday I rec^d a letter from Cap^t Kennedy of the Ship *Pacific*, bound from London to Charleston, dated at Vigo informing me of his being captur'd by a french privateer. He sail'd with the Convoy but was seperated. On board was M^r Tazewell, (M^r Gerry's Secretary) whom I daily expect here. The Captain of the Privateer says the Vessel will be condemned because she had guns, otherwise she wo^d be released as neutral, but this is only a pretext; they wish to deter our Merchants from arming. The *Pacific* had 14 Guns & only 15 Men, & her Muster-roll is not signed by a Magistrate.

The Cap^t wrote for my advice & opinion whether he would be condemned; he might as well have asked me when the affairs of France will be finally settled. —

* * * * *

M^r Tazewell writes me from Vigo that the Passengers in the *Pacific* were very ill treated by the Officers of the french privateer & that notwithstanding his french passport, he was plundered by them.

M^r Bulkeley informs me that the *Pigou* was captur'd six days after she left the Delaware by two French Frigates the *Pigou* had on board 150,000 Doll^rs which the frigates took on board & have brought to *L'Orient*, from whence the acco^t is arrived here; the *Pigou* had not arrived; Keeping this money will be an act of open hostility.

With Sincere regard, I am

D^r Sir,

Your most ob^t

W^m SMITH.

[Mass. HS. Pickering Papers, Vo. 24.]

To Captain Stephen Decatur (Senior), U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 3^d Jan^y 1799. —

Captain STEPHEN DECATUR

Havanna —

SIR I have caused to be shipped in the Ship *America* under convoy of the Cutters *Governor Jay* and *General Greene*, 20,000 lbs Ship Bread 50 lb^s Beef, and as much Pork, addressed to the American Consul [Daniel Hawley] at the Havanna, for the use of the Vessels under your Command, and have written him to furnish any supplies you may stand in need of — but I hope you will not want much, as every thing will be very dear at the Havanna — The *General Greene* and *Governor Jay* will be under your Command — I have no doubt you will make them useful — I inclose additional Instructions which the President has ordered to be given in consequence of a late transaction in the neighborhood of the Havanna — Campbell I hope will also quickly join you in the *Eagle* Cutter. —

I saw Cap^t M^r Knight yesterday — Your friends & family are well. —

I have the honor &^t

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Daniel Hawley, U. S. Consul, Havana, Cuba, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 3^d January 1799

DAN^l HAWLEY Esq^r

Havana

SIR I have directed 20,000 lb^s bread, & 100 barrels of beef & pork, to be shipped to your Address from New York, in the Ship *America*.

This provision is intended for the Use of the public Vessels of War, of the United States, which may want Supplies at the Havanna.

Cap^t Decatur in the Ship *Delaware*, will have two or three Vessels under his Command, and will give directions as to the delivery of the provisions. I have the Honor to request that you will be pleased to have it Stowed — & inform Cap^{tn} Decatur in whose care you place it, or if Cap^t Decatur should not be in the vicinity of the Havana the Commanding Officer of the American Vessels on that Station —

For any Expence attending this business your Draft on me as Secretary of the Navy will be paid at sight, as well as for any other necessary Supplies furnished our Public Vessels, but it is not expected they will require much, if any, & for any thing furnished them, it will be proper to take duplicate receipts from the Captain, one to be transmitted with the Draft — I have the Honor to be & C^t

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To James & Ebenezer Watson, Navy Agents, New York, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 3^d January 1799. —

Mess^{rs} JAMES & E. WATSON

GENTLEMEN I Send to day the orders for Leonard and Price to proceed to the Havanna, & to convoy the Ship *America*. — Please address the Meal and Bread, shipped in the *America* to Daniel Hawley Esquire, or the person Acting as American Consul at the Havanna, and inclose to him one Bill of lading, and send another to me. —

I have the honor &^{ts}

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To William Crafts, Navy Agent, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 3^d 1799

W Crafts Esq^r

Charleston So Carolina

SIR I had the honor to write you on the 31st Ultimo in reply to your late letters, and have since received yours of 18th Ultimo — A Remittance Shall immediately be forwarded to you, and in future I shall endeavour to prevent your being exposed to any Advance —

On the Subject of Rations you will no doubt have them supplied on the lowest terms in your power —

The Crews of our Vessels are too extravagant in this respect, and have been indulged in the Article of West India, rum, but they have not been allowed bread of the quality called pilot bread — It has been usual to supply them with the best kind of brown Ship bread, with which they hitherto have been & ought to be satisfied. —

I thank you for the information respecting the harbor of Beaufort I have the Honor & C.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[3 January 1799]

Extract of a letter from Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass.

"The Cast Iron Hearths will not answer — both those sent by M^r Watson for the *Portsmouth* and *Merrimack* are useless — the latter gave way long ago, and a new one was made at Newbury, and I am just now advised that the former has also split so as to be useless — The Bailers and the Hearths were both with what are called fire Cracks, which by use have so much opened as to become incapable of use."

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Thursday, 3 January 1799

Variable Winds, and mild Weather for the Season with smooth Water. Regulated our Sail according to the Situation of the Convoy; Nothing remarkable, and no strange Vessels in Sight.

Latitude observed 34°.44' N^o

Longitude Account 70 .57 W.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 3 January 1799

At 1 PM weigh'd our anchors & made sail in company with 2 Ships, the Wind at N N W, at 2 PM discharg'd our pilot — At 4 PM Boston light house bore W b S dist. 4 leagues from which I take my Departure it being in Latt 42' 25° N & Long^d 70' 50° West from the Meridian of London —

Middle part moderate breezes & Cloudy with Snow

Latter part light winds and Snowy Weather

No observation.

[Latitude by D. R. 42.32 N, Longitude 68°56° W]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass., NDA photostat.]

Extract from the journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 3 January 1799

Sent boats to the shore lay off and on S^t Pierre Martinico

Saluted Admiral Harvey 13 guns which was answered, same N^o Came to anchor, saluted the Fort at Fort Royal, which was also answered with the same N^o

[NA.]

[4 January 1799]

Articles of Agreement between Secretary of the Navy and Henry Foxall & Company, Proprietors of the Eagle Foundry

Articles of Agreement made this fourth day of January One thousand seven hundred & Ninety Nine, Between Benjamin Stoddert, Secretary of the Navy of the United States, for and on behalf of the

said States of the one part, and Henry Foxall & C^o proprietors of the Eagle Foundry, of the other part — as follows. —

First.—The said Henry Foxall & C^o engage to deliver, for the use of the Navy Department of the United States, at the boring Mill on Schuylkill, a quantity of Iron Cannon to the amount, (calculating at the price herein after mentioned) of Twenty three thousand Dollars, of such calibre, and agreeably to such models as may from time to time be determined on by the Secretary of the Navy.

Second.—The said Cannon are to be cast in the solid and bored truly, so as that the diameter of the bore, shall correspond exactly, to each given Calibre, to be perfectly straight, and in the center of the piece from the Muzzle to the Breech. —

Third.—That from and after the first day of February next the said Henry Foxall & C^o shall deliver upon an average four complete Guns weekly. —

Fourth.—That the said Cannon shall be proved at the expense of the United States, agreeably to such rules and regulations as have been customary in proving Guns for the United States, and under the directions of such persons, as may be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy or his successors, who shall attend thereto whenever required by the said Henry Foxall & C^o, but should any of the Guns burst in proving, the said Foxall & C^o are to pay the expence of powder. —

Fifth.—That the said Cannon shall weigh about two Hundred pounds weight for every pounds weight of the Ball which the same shall be intended to carry. —

Sixth.—That the Secretary of the Navy shall allow, and cause to be paid to the said Henry Foxall & C^o, for every ton weight of Cannon, so cast and delivered, the sum of One Hundred and forty six Dollars and two thirds. —

Seventh.—That the said Secretary of the Navy in addition to two thousand Dollars already advanced, shall cause to be paid to the said Henry Foxall & C^o Six thousand Dollars upon the signing and delivery of the present Contract, and as soon as Cannon are delivered to that amount, shall advance a further sum of Eight thousand Dollars, and when Cannon shall be delivered to the amount of the sum last mentioned, shall pay for all Cannon as the same may be delivered, until the whole number contemplated by this Contract shall be completed. —

Eighth.—In case any disagreement should arise with respect to the fulfilment of any part of this Contract, two persons shall be chosen by each party, and should they disagree, they shall chuse a fifth person, and the decision of these five shall be final. —

In Witness whereof the parties hereto have interchangeably set their hands and seals, the day and Year above said. —

HENRY FOXALL & C^o
BEN STODDERT.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

C. W. GOLDSBOROUGH
GARRETT COTTRINGER

I the subscriber do hereby engage to guarantee the fulfilment of the within Contract, on the part of the within named Henry Foxall & C^o —

THO^s FITZ SIMONS —

From Secretary Timothy Pickering to the Secretary of the Navy

PHILADELPHIA, Jan^y 4. 1799.

SIR, M^r Foxall called on me this morning about his cannon contract; when I wrote, on his paper of proposals, what occurred at the moment. Justice to him requires that I should add — That he was the first person who produced, in the U. States, cannon of an unexceptionable quality, in the *casting & boring* — the first that made perfect machinery for the latter important operation: that the other founders, Lane & Godfrey (or Salter) and lately Col^o S. Hughes, have constructed, or are constructing similar machinery, by means of workmen *previously instructed by M^r Foxall* — enticed away by means well understood among Iron-Masters: that M^r Foxall is the only founder on whom we could depend for further improvements, and particularly for casting that very useful gun called the *Carronade*: & that it was certainly contemplated to allow him a price superior to that agreed to be given to Lane and Godfrey (now Lane & Salter).

Upon the whole, since the U. States are bound to take of M^r Foxall guns to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, if those of sizes above twelve pounders are wanted, I think he has an equitable claim to have them substituted at the same price agreed to be allowed him for smaller guns. The U. States are really greatly indebted to him for the improvements he has introduced amongst us.

I am very respectfully yours,

(Written in pencil) TIM^y PICKERING

The SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

P. S. I suspect that M^r Foxall would agree to cast the larger guns at £55. p. ton, without regard to the rise of iron. The £56.5. — given to Lane & Salter for small guns is £6.5. — more than (they) were entitled to.

[NDA. 0-1859, BG—Cannon manufacture, testing, etc.]

To Lieutenant Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 4th January 1799. —

Lieutenant EDW^d PREBBLE

SIR You will hereafter consider yourself as Lieutenant Commandant — of the Cutter *Pickering*, — and govern yourself accordingly. —

It is possible that you may have to recruit some men. In this event, you will immediately proceed to act upon my Instructions of this date, enclosed for your government. —

You will have the assistance of the Collector, if his Assistance is requisite in fitting your Vessel for Sea — and I hope no exertion of yours will be wanting in effecting this object —

I am &c —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 4th January 1799

Lieu^t ED^d PREBBLE

Boston.

SIR The Crew of the Cutter *Pickering*, may consist of Seventy Men and Boys, if you judge so many necessary — of this number, you may recruit not exceeding Thirty five able Seamen — the residue to be ordinary Seamen, Landsmen and Boys. —

It being our best Policy to create Seamen; you may find it to your advantage to lessen this proportion of able Seamen, and to increase the proportion of ordinary Seamen & Boys. —

I conceive too that our Vessels have hitherto been too much crowded with Men; and it &^o &^o

see page 246. — of which this Letter is a copy —

I am &c

[Note: Page 246 contains Circular Letter to the Commanders of the Revenue Cutters, dated October 10th, 1798 regarding recruiting crews.]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 4th January 1799

Lieu^t ED^d PREBBLE

Boston. —

SIR You will receive two other Letters from me of this date. The Revenue Cutters will I expect be quickly put on the Navy Establishment; & when this takes place, they will be supplied by the Navy Agents — but until it does take place, they must be supplied as heretofore by the Collectors. —

The Collector at Boston therefore, and not M^r Higginson must be considered the Agent for the *Pickering* at present. —

By your Recruiting Instructions you are not to exceed 70 Men — If Men should be wanted, and Marines will answer to fill up the number, in that case apply to M^r Higginson, who will furnish them. — They are Recruited to serve on board our Vessels, — and must be so employed, when Landsmen are wanted. —

I hope the greatest exertions will be used, to get both the *Pickering* and the *Herald* ready for Sea. —

I have the honor &^o

[NDA. OSW, Vol 1.]

To Lieutenant William V. Hutchings, U. S. Navy, (referred to also as W^m H. Hutchins), from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 4th January 1799. —

Lieu^t W^m V. HUTCHINGS [referred to also as W^m H. HUTCHINS]

SIR Upon receiving this, you will take charge of the *Herald* — and hereafter consider yourself as Lieutenant Commandant of the Same. —

The Crew of the *Herald*, may as heretofore, consist of 46 able Seamen, 21 ordinary Seamen and 10 Boys, — exclusive of Officers and Marines. — You may possibly have to recruit some few of each description. In this event, you will consider yourself at liberty, should you suppose it for the good of the service, to recruit within the limitation of able Seamen — and so encrease the number of ordinary Seamen and Boys, — as to make the whole number of each description, to amount to as many as the limitations admit; — but you must not exceed 46 Able Seamen; and your able Seamen, ordinary seamen and Boys, collectively must not exceed Seventy seven. — Able seamen you will allow 17 dollars p^r month — Ordinary seamen and Boys, from 5 to 14 Dollars according to merit — all to be entered to serve one year. —

You must recruit none but sound and healthy Men — No Negroes or Mulattoes are to be admitted; — and as far as you can judge you will exclude all of a suspicious character. — You may if necessary advance your Recruits, two months Pay; but in this case you will take care to obtain sufficient Security to resort to in the event of desertion — Every Man shipped must take an oath agreeably to the form you will receive herewith. —

Enclosed is the form of a Shipping paper, wherein the name station and Pay of each person on board must be entered — To avoid Confusion, this business must be executed with the utmost accuracy. — The form of a Bond to be signed by the sureties for the Seamen &c you will also receive; and particular care must be taken, that the Persons signing as such sureties, should be of good and respectable characters before they are accepted. —

Stephen Higginson Esquire will supply the monies necessary for the purposes of Recruiting — and you must advance to the recruiting Officers, who must settle their Accounts with you — They will be allowed, besides their Pay and Rations, Two Dollars for each recruit in full for every expence of attesting, Ribbon, Punch &c — In short, every expence, but that of provisioning the Men inlisted at a distant Port — and in such case the unavoidable expense for their conveyance to the Ship. But they must observe the utmost oconomy; for extravagant charges for those expenditures will not be allowed, without a proper Voucher to support it. —

I am &c &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Purser Charles Wadsworth, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 4th January 1799

CHARLES WADSWORTH Esq^r

Purser to the Frigate *United States*. —

SIR The Ship *Portsmouth* Cap^t M^cNeill now at Portsmouth, will shortly sail to join Cap^t Barry — so will the *Herald & Pickering* at Boston. — You should take your passage in the first of these Vessels, which may sail to join your Ship. —

I am &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 4th 1799

S. HIGGINSON Esq^r
Boston

SIR The *Pickering* being on the Revenue Cutter Establishment, must as heretofore be supplied by the Collector, — to whom I have written, — & besides supplying her for a Voyage to the West Indies, I have requested him to advance Cap^t Chapman, to pay the Crew to the last of Dec^r — The *Herald* you may pay up to the same time. —

I expect the Cutters will be soon added to the Navy Establishment. —

I have written L^t Hutchings to take command of the *Herald*. — L^t Preeble to the *Pickering* — I am strongly perswaded the *Herald* would be a better Vessel and more formidable with 16 Guns. — & fewer Men, pray regulate this matter, according to the judgment of Cap^t Sever.

There are marines at Springfield — probably those ordered from Springfield for portsmouth may be at Boston — pray cause as many of the men wanted by both vessels, as can be supplied by Marines, be so supplied — besides saving expence, many good purposes are answered by making as much use as possible of Landsmen on board of our Ships. —

As soon as I hear that those Vessels have arrived at Boston, I shall send their orders for Sailing, trusting that they will be ready,

I enclose an order for the Marines. —

I have the Honor &C.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Benjamin Lincoln, Collector of Customs, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department, January 4th 1799

BENJ LINCOLN Esq^r
Collector

SIR I have the honor to request, that you will be pleased to advance money to Cap^t Chapman to pay the Crew of the Cutter, *Pickering*, up to the end of last Month — and that you will give all necessary aid to L^t Preeble, who will now take the Command of this Vessel, in fitting her out with as much provisions, as she will conveniently stow & ammunition if that should be wanted for a Cruise to the West Indies. —

I have the Honor &c^t

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Nicholas Johnson, Navy Agent, Newburyport, Mass., from Charles Coley, Pilot

CHARLESTOWN
January the 4th 1799

Mr NICKLESS JOHNSON Esq^r

You being Agent for the Ship *Marramack* I now inform you that She Saled the 2. Day of this present month at one a Cloock and the Cap^t was Very Well Satesfied that the Ship Would proove good I Do Suppose you Would Be glad to Have My Bill that you Might Satele your Books and I Should Be Very glad to Have My Mony as Soon as posable, if that you Could Send a order for any one to pay me or Land When you Shall be in Boston that I might be thare I Should Be very glad from your Humble Sarvent The pilett of the Ship — Charles Coley.

[HS of Old Newbury, Original.]

To Amaziah Jocelin, Navy Agent, Wilmington, N. C., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 4th January 1799

Mr AMAZIAH JOCELIN
Wilmington No. Carolina

SIR I am honored with the Receipt of your letters of the 8th of November and 19th Ultimo, and regret exceedingly, the dreadful Calamity to which the Town of Wilmington has been exposed. —

I shall immediately order 50 Muskets and as many Boarding Pikes to be sent to you, and am glad that the other Articles for the Gallies which have been destroyed by the Fire can be replaced on the Spot. — Mr Winder the Accountant of the Navy Department, will send you the forms for rendering your accounts, to which you will please to attend. — I thought he had already done it, but find it has been omitted — It may be proper to pay the Wages of the Officers & Crews of the Gallies up to the 1st Instant, and in order to enable you to do this and to provide for the other expenditures you mention, a Remittance Shall be immediately sent to you of 2800 Dollars —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Friday, 4 January 1799

Moderate Breezes, and smooth Water, all the Fleet in Sight.

At 7 AM passed a Merchant Ship, standing to the Eastward, which showed English Colours. At 9 ditto saw a Sail to the Southward of us, but it soon came on hazy, and we lost Sight of her. All the Fleet in Sight.

Latitude Account 33°.37' N°

Longitude Account 69.37 W.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 4 January 1799

Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Cleard out the Cable Tiers A 8 P.M.
Up M. Sail & furl'd him & Set the M. Stay Sail At 10 fresh Breezes
& Cloudy Shortend Sail

Middle part Moderate

At 6 A.M. Made more Sail At 7 A.M. Saw a Strange sail @ ½
past 7 fired a Gun for her to bear up to us Up Courses & bro't her too
Prov'd the Amerⁿ Sch^r *Ceres* from Boston bound to Surinam At
11 AM fill'd & Made Sail

[Latitude observed 34°10^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 4 January 1799

[Fort Royal, Martinique.] Dined on board the *Prince of Wales* —
Weighed, got under way for Prince Ruperts —

[NA.]

To Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 5th January 1799

Cap^t Tho^s TRUXTUN

Frigate Constellation

SIR You will no doubt be apprised through other sources, that
two French Frigates of considerable strength, arrived at Guadaloupe
about the last of Nov. and there being one at that place before, your
situation, if they remain at Guadaloupe will be very hazardous.
They can always run down upon you in a few hours. —

Under such circumstances & if the French Frigates should not be
completely blocked up by the British in Guadaloupe, or by Barry &
Nicholson, it will be best for you with your whole force, to join Barry
at Dominica. — You will add to his Strength, and to the security
of all our Vessels —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Sir Hyde Parker, Royal Navy, Commander in Chief &c, Jamaica from Captain
Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP OF WAR *Ganges*

off Cape Francois 5th Jan^y 1799.

SIR The Polite attention, and friendly treatment I have experienc'd
from Ed. T. Smith Esq^r on falling in with His Brittanic Majesty's
Ship *Hanibal* of your Squadron — And receiving communication
from Captⁿ Smith of your particular orders, for the observance of
similar treatment by all the Commanders of the Ships of your fleet,
which may fall in with those of the United States.

I feel it incumbent on me Sir, to offer you my highest acknowledgements,
and to assure you, I shall embrace the earliest opportunity
for transmitting account thereof to the Minister of the Navy — for

the information of the President of the United States, who will most certainly receive it with due estimation. I can only add Sir that it will be highly gratifying to me (during the short period of my stay in these seas) if opportunity shall present to reciprocate, by due attention, to any of His Britanic Majestys Ships or vessels their officers or crews — or to any of those of his trading subjects

I have the honor to be

Sir

&c. &c. &c.

T. T. [THOMAS TINGEY]

His Excellency

Sir HYDE PARKER K^{nt}

Commander in Chief &c. &c.

Jamaica

[NDA. Tingey LB, 1798-1800.]

To Captain Daniel McNeill, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 5th 1799. —

Cap^t DANIEL McNEILL

Portsmouth —

SIR Your Letter of the 26th Ult^o is received, and I am pleased to find that you have engaged so nearly your full compliment of Men —

The Commissions for your Officers so far as they have been named to me shall be sent on in a few days, and the rest must act under your Appointment, which shall be confirmed, but you must not incur delay on this account, — The Schooner *Scammel* must sail in company with you, and Cap^t Adams will act under your Orders. — I shall send your Cruising Instructions with the Commissions, & hope you will be ready by the time they get to hand. —

I am Sir &c —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 5th January 1799.

S. HIGGINSON Esq^r

Boston

SIR I find by a letter recommending an officer, from Cap^t Nicholson, that he remained at Boston the 25 Dec, — I am mortified that he had not Sailed before that day. It is of the utmost importance that he should not loiter his time away in port. — If it is possible, that he should be at Boston when this letter arrives be pleased to send it to him — and if he remains two days after the receipt of it, — The president will expect that a better reason than can at present be conceived, will be given for the delay, — and I must beg, if he should not be gone that you will inform me whether this long delay is attributable to his own neglect or not —

I have the Honor &c.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Saturday, 5 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and hazy Weather, all the Fleet in Sight.
Regulated our Canvass according to the Sailing of the Convoy.
Nothing very remarkable.

Latitude observed $31^{\circ}.30'N^{\circ}$

Longitude Account $67.57 W.$

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S.
Navy, commanding, Saturday, 5 January 1799

First Part pleasant Weather.

At 5 PM sent up F T G Y^d & set the sail

At 8 D^o fresh breezes & a large sea from N W took in T G Sails
& took in 2 reefs in the topsails — carry'd away the fore Chain Iron
on the Starb^d side — Middle part fresh breezes & a large sea, made
much water

Latter part more moderate —

At 10 AM Shook out one reef out of the Topsails & set F & M T G
Sails

Ends Cloudy with fresh breezes

No Obs^d

[Latitude D. R. 38, 28, Longitude $64^{\circ}43' W$]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

[6 January 1799]

To Lieutenant William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from General Desfourneaux,
Commander in Chief of Island of Guadeloupe

TRANSLATION,

OF A LETTER FROM DESFOURNEAUX "TO LIEUT. BAINBRIDGE, COM-
MANDING THE ARMED SCHOONER OF THE UNITED STATES, THE
Revenge [Retaliation]."

SIR, I have given an account to the President of the United States
of the observations contained in your letter of the 6th of January,
1799. I have told him that you have been forced by me to resume
your command, rendering you responsible for the consequences
which might result from your refusal. I have acquainted him that I
have reduced your crew to forty men, and that I have required that
you take your rout for the United States in concert with the *Roman*
and *James*, flags of truce, carrying citizens of your nation hitherto
considered as prisoners.

The season does not permit me to fix positively upon a particular
port of America for your destination: if that of Philadelphia be free
of ice, it will undoubtedly command your preference, I am persuaded,

that your conduct in these circumstances will be that of a man of honour, and that you will not lose sight of the manner in which I have conducted myself towards you.

Receive my adieus, the prayers sincere which I offer, that your passage may be happy, and the assurance of the desire I have to see amicably terminated the differences of your nation with Gaudaloupe.

DESFOURNEAUX.

[LC, "Coliseum & Museum & Savannah Advertiser", March 15, 1799.]

[6 January 1799]

To General Desfourneaux, Commander-in-Chief of Island of Guadeloupe, from
Lieutenant William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

BASSETTERRE, GUADALOUPE, *January 6th, 1799.*

SIR, After what you told me yesterday, relative to the United States schooner *Retaliation*, you seem disposed to return her to my command, with the commission and power I received from my government. I take the liberty of laying before you some reflections I have made since, which proceed from my duty as an officer of the United States, and from the gratitude I owe to your politeness.

In being established in the command of this vessel I cannot dispense with obeying the orders I received from my government; if you will be pleased to observe them, you will see they order me to seize all French vessels; in not doing it I expose myself to the punishment a court martial may see proper to inflict, and fail in my duty as an officer.

On the other part, can I permit myself after the treatment I have received from you, in going out of your harbour, and especially after giving you my parole of honor not to do it; it would be contrary to honor and humanity. My situation, General, you will judge yourself is very delicate.

The way to conciliate is to send her as a flag of truce, and putting on board a French officer, who will have the command of her, I will lend every assistance in navigating her, I trust you will not receive this refusal of mine against my wishes of seeing the affairs between America and France amicably settled. No man wishes more to see it than I do; but my duty as an officer will make me act conformable to that character.

I am, General,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. BAINBRIDGE.

GENERAL DESFOURNEUX,
particular agent of the
Executive Directory of Guadeloupe,

[LC, "Coliseum & Museum & Savannah Advertiser" March 15, 1799.]

[6 January 1799]

To John Hollingsworth, Merchant of Philadelphia, from Toussaint Louverture,
General in Chief of the Army of St. Domingo

[Translation]

Document N° 1.

Liberty

Equality

CAPE FRANCOIS THE 17th OF NIVOSE IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ONE AND INDIVISIBLE, JANUARY 6th 1799.

TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE *General in chief of the Army in St Domingo*,
CITIZEN JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH, of Philadelphia, Merchant; citizen

I did not wait till this day to feel the necessity there is for the Island of St Domingo to form again bonds of friendship and good understanding with the United States, such as that friendship and good understanding so happily existed between the two countries whose mutual prosperity required they should never have been destroyed. This opinion of mine I have sufficiently evinced by sending to the Federal Government persons in whom I put my confidence and whose mission was to restore that good harmony that prevailed before. Neither your Government nor your fellow citizens ought to question the sincerity of my proposals, they need only recall to their minds that ever since American Merchants have resorted to the ports of this Island whereof the produce is so valuable to them, I never ceased to grant them protection, and that I did always make it a point to have that justice done them, which they claimed from me, whenever I had it in my power so to do. I call Americans themselves to witness it, who had recourse to my authority. Should then Your Government trust my promises which I never made in vain, it will listen to those I have sent and answer the mutual expectation of the two Nations to whose welfare Governments are bound always to make all sacrifices. Then will the wishes contained in your Letter, citizen, and which evince your true patriotism, be fulfilled, so will my own wishes be: because by restoring commerce to my country, I do both contribute to its prosperity and secure the happiness of my fellow citizens; on their part, Your Government will attain the same end, an end which cannot less excite its ardent solicitude than it does mine.

With a design to make you easy about what is the object of your hopes and fears, I do again promise you, upon my word which was always a good one, and which I always held sacred, that such American vessels fitted for St Domingo as shall enter our Ports, shall be heartily welcome, favoured and protected, that no restraint shall be put upon their trade and finally that when they come among us they shall find that they are among a friendly and brotherly people.

I do also guarantee the execution of what may have been agreed upon, between the persons I have sent and the Government of the United States; and I do assure you that it shall never be on my part that both the respective rights of the two Nations and the agreement resulting from the negociation I have commenced, shall be violated.

The trusty person whom you invite me to send over, in order to negociate about those momentous concerns, is citizen Bunel who has by this time reached America. I cannot better recommend him to

you, than by requesting you to aid his mission with the whole of your credit with your countrymen, as well as with every good advice you may think requisite to accelerate the happy attainment of what we both desire for the mutual prosperity of our country, by thus doing, You will become entitled to my sincere gratitude. Be assured that I will always preserve the pleasing recollection of the step which your love for your country has induced you to take with me: it was the best title you could get to my esteem which you possess without reserve.

I greet You in the name of Universal Liberty.

[Conn. H. S. Mss No. 14.]

To John Hollingsworth, Merchant of Philadelphia, from Henry Cristophe, General of Brigade and Commander in Chief for District of the Cape

[Translation]

Document N^o 3.

Liberty.

Equality.

CAPE NIVOSE 30th IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
ONE AND INDIVISIBLE.

HENRY CRISTOPHE *General of Brigade and Commander in chief for the District of the Cape;*

To citizen HOLLINGSWORTH of Philadelphia Merchant;
citizen

I am directed by the General in chief, Toussaint Louverture, to mention to you the receipt of the papers and Letters which you sent to him. citizen Chalecross whom you had instructed with them, and who has delivered them himself to him met with a kind reception from him. The offers you caused to be made, have been gratefully accepted of. You may safely consign such provisions as shall be asked from you; they shall be paid for with the most scrupulous punctuality without Your's experiencing the least delay. I join in with the General in chief, and do personally promise You to do any thing in my power in order to the full and entire accomplishing of such transactions and agreements as may be gone into with your mercantile house. You are to apply unto citizen Granier, a Merchant of this place whom I commend to You as a consignee; he will take upon himself the selling of such articles as you may please to consign unto him and he will send You in return colonial Produce or else as you may direct him. He is a Merchant fully deserving of your confidence and with whom You will be happy to have done business. He is in a situation, should Your's make you desire it, to make you advances to the amount of one hundred and perhaps two hundred thousand weight of Sugar. He will act in concert with citizen Chalecross, now at this place and whom You put Your confidence in all Your transactions both with the Administration and with others. Greeting and Fraternity.

(signed) HENRY CRISTOPHE.

I, Joseph E. G. M. de LaGrange, Interpreter of foreign Languages for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing in the City of Philadelphia, by lawful Authority duly commissioned and Sworn, do hereby certify that the foregoing Pages contain a true and faithful Translation, to the best of my skill and ability, of Three [*] Original Documents written in the French Language and produced unto me for that purpose.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my accustomed Seal at Philadelphia this Twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Nine.

J. LA GRANGE.

[*NOTE.—Document No. 2 has been omitted.]
[Conn. HS. Mss. No. 14.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Sunday, 6 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and squally uncertain Weather with Rain, and a Swell from the Eastward, the Vessels under Convoy causing much Trouble to keep them together; owing intirely to the Inattention of the Masters: Regulated our Canvass to the Indifferent Sailing of the *Thetis*.

Latitude observed 30°.30' N°.

Longitude Account 67 . 9 W.

[HS of Pa. NDA Photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 6 January 1799

Arrived in Prince Ruperts —

[NA.]

[7 January 1799]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy

BASSE TERRE, GAUDALOUPE,
7th January, 1799.

I wrote to you on the 3d instant, informing you that Gen. Desfourneaux, who had superceded Victor Hugues in the command of this island, meant to return the schooner to the United States; the terms on which she was first offered, and the conditions on which I would accept of the command.

On the 5th, had a conference with him when to my great surprize he told me he meant to give me up the authority I had received to command the schooner, from my government; which was the President's instructions and your letter.

By so doing, he delivers me a command to seize all French vessels, as an officer being bound to follow orders, I must have gone again a cruising; on the other side, considering myself a prisoner, (although he will not acknowledge me as such) how can I draw the sword until

I am exchanged? Finding myself in this delicate situation, I conceived myself bound by honor to state my objections to Mr. Desfourneaux, for refusing the command of the *Retaliation*, which I did by letter, a copy of which is here inclosed[*]; after the delivery of it, I had an interview with him; he treated me very cavalierly, conceived I had no right to make those objections, and threatened imprisonment for my noncompliance; I told him he had me in his power, and could treat me as he pleased, but no fears of punishment would make me act contrary to the character of an officer.

I found he was determinated to return her, told him I was sorry he compelled me to leave his port with these orders; that I should certainly obey them, and take all his vessels I could.

His answer was if I did he would put every American to the sword; finally he told me, as he was master here, he would compel me by force to leave this place as commander of that vessel. To superior power I am obliged to yield; considering myself a prisoner, I shall haste to my country to get an exchange, when I shall be ready for a second cruize, which I hope will prove more fortunate than my first. He sends two vessels with me as cartels, with the American citizens, who have met with very bad prisoners fate in this island. My government no doubt can see into his intentions for returning the schooner. It is with them alone to receive her. Driven by force, I shall make a speedy return to my country, and trust that the government will conceive the regard and respect I bear my country was the sole motive for my present conduct.

Your obedient servant,

WM. BAINBRIDGE.

BENJAMIN STODDERT, Esq.

Secretary of the Navy.

[*See Bainbridge's letter of January 6th, 1799 to General Desfourneaux.]

[LC, "Coliseum & Museum & Savannah Advertiser" March 15, 1799.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 7th January 1799.

S. HIGGINSON Esq^r Boston

SIR I am honored with your letter of the 29th mentioning the arrival of the *Herald*, and the *Pickering* — which I am very glad to hear. — I have no letter from Nicholson, I suppose I shall receive them by next post, when I will take up the subjects you mention in your letter.

Cap^t Sever is to Command the Frigate at Portsmouth — Cap^t Chapman, the Ship at Boston. I hope Cap^t Sever will have all the acc^t of the *Herald*, settled as they should be. He seems to be a man of regularity, & will be a valuable man to our Navy. The *Pickering*, is not yet properly within my department. —

The principal part of our force will be employed under Barry, from the Island of Dominica. — Some of the Vessels will quickly want provisions, & it may be proper to keep them a good while, in the Island.

Be so good therefore to Charter a Vessel, or room in a Vessel for 72,000 lbs. of bread, 155 Barrels of beef, 155 Barrels of Pork, 88 C^{wt} of Fish — & 120 bushels of beans or peas, to Sail under Convoy of the *Herald & Pickering*, or the *Portsmouth* M^oNeill — I will inform you in time, to whom it is to be addressed. — The Beef and Pork can be Supplied from the purchase you have made.

If bread cannot be obtained please to Ship of that article, what you conveniently can — but let me know quickly what you can Ship, that I may make arrangements to send it from New York —

I have the Honor &C.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[7 January 1799]

Extract of a letter to Secretary of the Navy from Captain Stephen Decatur (senior),
U. S. Navy

“ON BOARD THE SLOOP OF WAR, *Delaware*,
January 7, 1799.

SIR, “I hasten to inform you that we arrived safe with the convoy under our care, which was increased on the passage by the junction of eight, making in the whole 15, all of which we saw safe into the Havannah on the 30th of December; — after which we hauled our wind in pursuit of a French privateer which we had seen the day before; and on the first day of January off Matanzas, we spied three sail running down before the wind, two of which were French privateers in pursuit of an American schooner from New York, and would have overtaken her, had we not spoke the schooner, when the privateers hauled their wind; it being so light, however, we could make no hand of them. One laid to windward at long gun-shot, having a brass 24 pounder, and fired 15 times at us; but could not reach us.

On the 5th of January, off the Havannah, Mr. Iznardi, American Consul there, came on board, and informed me that there was an Embargo at the Havannah, and it was likely it would continue for some time. There are near 100 Americans there. He likewise informed me of a French ship that mounted from 26 to 28 guns; two brass eighteen pounders are among the number.”

[NYHS “Greenleaf’s New York Journal & Patriotic Register”, March 16 1799.]

To Commissioners of the City of Washington, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 7th January 1799

Commissioners of the City of Washington

GENTLEMEN I have the honor to request the favor of you to inform me, whether the Ground or 50 Acres of it, said to be for the Marine Hospital, in the City of Washington, can be appropriated to the uses of the Navy. —

I have the honor &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Monday, 7 January 1799

Very uncertain Weather the first Part of these Twenty four Hours, and much Rain; the Middle more settled, and the Latter clear. Saw two Sail the one standing to the Westward the Other to the South Eastward. Employed at Sundries, Fleet all in Sight.

Latitude observed $29^{\circ}.16' N^{\circ}$

Longitude Account $64^{\circ}.31' W.$

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 7 January 1799

Fresh breezes & Cloudy @ 1 P. M. found the Fore to bend much to Starb^d Upon Examining it found it was Sprung opening $\frac{1}{2}$ an Inch every Lee Roll. Shortend Sail Immediately & Sent down the Fore top Gall^y Yard got the Fore Runners & Securd him as Well as possible till he was fish'd which the Carp^s & Boatswain went about Immediately. At 7 Moderate Breezes with a Heavy Swell from the Northw^d At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 Wore to the Eastw^d

At 4 Moderate & Cloudy @ $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 hove too close reef'd the Top Sails & down T. G^t Yards. Employ'd Secur^s Fore Mast & Setting up the bob Stays @ $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 fill'd and made Sail.

[Latitude $31^{\circ} 19^{\circ}$]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 7 January 1799

First part fresh breezes & Cloudy all hands employ'd setting up the rigging. At 2 PM in F & M Topsails at 3 saw a Ship to wind^d at 4 bore away to the N W set Topsails & out reefs — got T G Masts on end at 8 took in all three topsails & launch'd T G Masts & reef'd the F sail

Middle part heavy Gales & rain

Latter part D^o wind & weather & a rough Sea.

No Obs^s

[Latitude $37^{\circ} 07^{\circ}$, Longitude observed $62^{\circ} 02^{\circ}$]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from Journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 7 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] *Montazuma*, arrived also Brig *Norfolk* —

[NA.]

To President John Adams from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department, 8 January 1799

JOHN ADAMS Esq^r

President of U. S.

SIR I have the Honor to enclose a copy of the additional Instructions you were pleased to direct to be issued to the Commanders of the Public armed Vessels — in consequence of the outrage committed on the Ship *Baltimore* Cap^t Phillips. — In Justice to the general conduct of the Officers of the British Navy, I take the liberty to observe, that in every instance but the one in question, they have behaved towards our public armed Vessels & Officers, not only with politeness & respect, but with Friendship, manifesting on every occasion, a disposition to render them service

I am &c

[NDA. Nom. Appts. LB, 1798—1820.]

To Captain Hugh G. Campbell, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 8th Jan^y, 1799 —

Cap^t HUGH G. CAMPBELL

SIR Presuming, that agreeably to my Instructions of the 11th Ultimo, you have provisioned, watered, and in all respects prepared the Brig *Eagle* under your Command for Sailing, I have it in command from the President to order, that without delay you proceed to the Island of Dominica in the West Indies, & cruise in the Vicinity of Prince Ruperts Bay, until you fall in with Cap^t Barry of the Frigate *United States*, under whose orders, you will then place, yourself, Vessel, and Crew.

In addition to the usual number of Officers allowed Revenue Cutters you may take a Surgeons Mate, who will be allowed 30 doll^s per Month and 2 Rations per day. —

You have heretofore received your authority to Capture French armed Vessels, Armed Cruising Vessels without Commissions, are pirates and from Vessels of this discription, our Commerce receives a great deal of Injury — You will consider your Authority to extend to these Vessel also. —

It is the positive command of the President that on no pretence whatever, you permit the public Vessel of War under your Command to be detained or Searched, nor any of the Officers or Men belonging to her, to be taken from her by the Ships or Vessels of any Foreign Nation, so long as you are [in] a Capacity to repel such outrage on the Honor of the American Flag. —

If force should be exerted to compel your Submission, you are to resist that force to the utmost of your power; and when overpowered by superior force, you are to strike your Flag and thus yeild your Vessel as well as your men, but never your Men without your Vessel. —

You will remember however, and it is strictly enjoined by the President, that your demeanour be respectful and friendly to the Vessels and people of all Nations in amity with the United States — and that you avoid as carefully the Commission of, as the Submission to insult or injury. — let me hear from you the day you Sail

I am Sir with respect &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Captain James Sever, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 8 January 1799.

Cap^t JAMES SEVER

Boston

I am this day honored with your letter of 30th Ultimo, and being very much engaged, I have only leasure to say, that your whole conduct on board of the *Herald* has been highly satisfactory to the present — exhibiting an example of steady perseverance in a most Disagreeable Service — and strict attention to orders and to duty. —

It has been always intended that on your return to Boston, the *Herald* should be put under the Command of an inferior Officer — and that you should take charge of the Frigate originally destined for you, at Portsmouth — to which place after paying the necessary attention to your private affairs, you will be pleased to repair, and give so much of your attention as may be found necessary, to the building & equipping of the Frigate, for Sea. —

Cap^t Chapman is to take command of the Ship building by the Citizens at Boston. —

I shall shortly address you again — in the mean time I remain with much esteem

Your &c^t

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To William Nichols, Marshal of Pennsylvania, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 8th January 1799.

W^m NICHOLS Esq^r

Marshal

SIR It appears from letters from Burlington that the prisoners have rec^d coats, pantaloons, 1 Shirt each, and a pair of Woollen Stocking for each Man, —

They want Shoes, and Blankets, pray without delay, direct a pair of Shoes, for each man, and a Blanket for each, — And let me know the Whole Am^t of expence paid by you for prisoners — that I may lay the subject before Congress that they may make an appropriation.

I have the Honor &c^t

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To H. E. Saabye, U. S. Consul, Copenhagen, Denmark, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Philadelphia January 8, 1799.

H. R. SAABYE Esq^r

SIR, I have this morning had the pleasure to receive your letter of October 10th with your semi-annual return of American ships which arrived in your seas between January 1 & June 30, 1798. It gave me great pleasure to find our commerce so considerable and so secure in your parts of Europe. The whole commercial world is indebted to Great Britain for the protection which her navy affords against the licensed piracies of the French Republic — America too long bore her monstrous aggressions; and immense losses have been the consequence. We are now increasing our infant navy, by which our coasts are already cleared of French cruizers and our Great West India trade enjoying considerable protection. I hope in the current year we shall be able to extend protection to our European commerce, in addition to that which private arming has procured. I am very respectfully Sir, &c.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

[SDA. Dip. Cor. Inst. to Min. Book 5, 1798-1800.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Tuesday, 8 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and squally Weather, made and took in Sail so as to keep the Merchantmen in the Order of sailing as near as possible. Employed all Hands in repairing Rigging, Sails, and Colours, together with cleaning below, and doing various other necessary and indispensable Matters.

Latitude observed 27° 47' N^o

Longitude Account 62.00 W.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 8 January 1799

First part begins with heavy gales Scudding under a goose wing'd reef'd F sail at 4 PM more moderate set close reef'd F T sail & 3 reef'd M T sail & Mizen T Sail close reef'd, a large sea from the N W at 8 PM Shook out reef from the F T sail at 10 out 2nd reef of F & M T sails

Middle part more moderate at 4 AM set M Sail

Latter part fresh breezes & squally with rain, at ½ past 8 saw a sail sent up T G Y^{ds} set T G Sails, at [word obliterated] came up with her & found her to be a Ship — Clear'd a way & all hands to quarters ready for action

No obs^r

[Latitude 35' 16°, Longitude 58' 59°]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate,
United States, 8 January 1799

Sailed from Prince Ruperts Ship *General Washington* in C^o

[NA.]

To William Crafts, Navy Agent, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 9 January 1799.

Wth CRAFTS ESQUIRE

Charleston So. Carolina

SIR In order that the Ship building by the Citizens at Charleston, should be officered in full time, I have the Honor to request, that you will call on the Committee for building that Ship, and get them to send a list of the names of such gentlemen, as they think best qualified for the different appointments, —

The President has in all similar cases paid great respect to the wishes of the Gentlemen who so liberally contribute their mony for the public service — and will not pay less respect to the Gentlemen of Charleston. —

Inclosed you have an account of the Officers required for such a ship — bravery is a qualification, not to be dispensed with. —

I have the Honor &C.

Captain

3 Lieutenants

6 Midshipmen } or if more promising young Gentleⁿ should offer, the
1 Purser } number may be encreased to 8 or 10 — I mean Mid-
1 Surgeon } shipmen —

1 Surgeons Mate

1 Boatswain

1 Gunner

1 Sailing Master

1 Sail Maker

1 Carpenter

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[9 January 1799]

To Barnabas Hegg, Jr., Plymouth, Mass., from Elk^d Cook

GENTLEMEN I hear inform you by way of Duxbury Cap^t Bradford of Our Sailing from S^t Piers the 9th of January in Company with 20 Sail of American Vessells to take Acovoy Appointed by Comodore Berry A^t Prince hoopers bay in Dominico —

have Inclosed half Set of Exchange for £150 Sterling Drawn by M^r Cruden on Government London

have Nothing here to wright As I wrote you the Perticulars of the Voyge Markets Are falling fast for Every thing but Salt fish which will fetch 6 & ½ Dollars per Quintal if good

Am your humble Servant

ELK^d COOK

S^t Pier 9th January 1799

to M^r BARNABAS HEGG Jun^r

Plymouth

[Baker Library. Harvard U. Boston.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Wednesday, 9 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and squally the first and Middle; the latter clear and pleasant. All Hands employed repairing Sails, and at other necessary Duty.

Latitude observed 25°.24' N^o

Longitude Account 60 .45 W.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 9 January 1799

First part Cloudy squally W^t & fresh breezes at 3 PM Came along side the Ship & boarded her. She prov'd to be the Ship *Carterett* from Tortola bound to Falmouth — 9 days out — John Treleiddra Master at ½ past 3 PM made sail —

Middle part fresh breezes & hazey weather

Ends with Cloudy Weather & fresh breezes

No Obsⁿ to depend on

[Latitude 31' 56° Longitude 57.07]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 9 January 1799

Spoke the *Pearl* a British Frigate 36. Guns

[NA.]

To Josiah Parker, Chairman of the Committee of the House of Representatives,
from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 10th 1799

Col^o JOSIAH PARKER

Chairman of the Committee of the
House of Representatives

SIR I have the Honor to enclose estimates of the Military Stores &c for a Ship of 74 Guns, and a Brig of 18 Guns.

The Military Stores for the latter, you will find included in the estimates already given in. —

The *Constellation* first sailed from Hampton Road the 23^d June 1798. The *United States* from Delaware, the 13 July 1798. and the *Constitution* from Boston the 20th July 1798 —

I have the Honor &c.

[NOTE.—The estimates herein mentioned are printed in "American State Papers, Naval Affairs" Vol. 1, pages 67 and 68.]

[NDA. Con. LB, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Josias M. Speake, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 10 January 1799 —

Lieu^t SPEAKE

Commanding Officer of the
Ship *Baltimore* Norfolk

SIR Cap^t Phillips, in consequence of his conduct, in the transaction with Cap^t Loring will not be suffered again to take Command of the *Baltimore* — nor of any other Vessel in the service of the United States. Knowing your Spirit, and that you are equal to the command of the *Baltimore* I should be well content that you should have the permanent Command of her — But you are too young a Lieutenant, — and there are a few Older in Commission, who would be injured by such an arrangement, yet you are forward enough in appointment, to expect promotion before long. At present you must consider yourself — as Commanding Officer of the *Baltimore*, until other arrangements be made — which probably may not be made, until you arrive in the West Indies. Keep every thing quiet on board of the Ship — and have every thing in order for a cruise — but you will not sail until you hear from me again —

I am Sir your &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

[10 January 1799]

Extract of a letter from Captain George Burns of the Letter of Marque schooner *Amazon*, of Charleston, dated Curacao February 6, 1799, concerning encounter with French privateer *Flower of the Sea*

FEB. 6.

"I am very sorry to inform you, on the 10 of Jan. being ten leagues to the eastward of Lageira, I unfortunately fell in with the French privateer, *Flower of the Sea*, of 8 guns and seventy men. They engaged us, and we fought them five glasses; then they hoisted the bloody flag, and the most of my people at this time were wounded, less or more; and finding it impossible to keep them off any longer, was obliged to strike. The privateer had seven men killed and nine wounded in the engagement. They brought us in here, landed the cargo, and stripped the vessel of every thing.

[LC, "Salem Gazette", Vol. 1, April 12, 1799.]

[10 January 1799]

Extract from the log book of Captain Casach, concerning engagement between American Sloop *Henry* and Spanish packet *St. Rosella*, Captain Monors

"October 31, 1798, left Giboon river, on the coast of Africa. Nothing material happened until the 28th December, when I was chased by a French privateer in lat. 20. N. long. 62. 30. W. On the 9th January, at 2 P. M. being in lat. 22. 10. N. long. 71. 40. W. saw a vessel to the eastward in chase of me, coming up very fast, and at 2 P. M. was within hail, firing at me. I hailed her several times, but got no answer. She being close, I opened a brisk fire upon her, which was kept up for about 40 minutes, when she dropt astern. At

11 P. M. she returned again under my lee. After a close engagement of about three quarters of an hour, beat her off, immediately made sail to the northward, and the next morning saw nothing of her. At 10 A. M. however, I discovered her a second time in my wake, and at 1 P. M. was within gun shot. Finding myself so near, and that I could not escape by sailing, shortened sail; on coming up along side, they gave me a broadside, which was immediately returned; after which I engaged her within half pistol shot for six glasses, and was then obliged to strike, having all my standing and running rigging cut to pieces, and my vessel ungovernable. My antagonist was a Spanish packet, called the *St. Roselia*, Capt. Monors, carrying ten 11 and 12 pounders, and 75 men, from Teneriffe bound to Havanna. I had only six three pounders and two two pounders, and 14 men. After taking possession of my vessel, they run her on shore about seven leagues to leeward of Cape Maize, where all the crew and slaves perished, except 27 of the latter, who swam on shore. Myself and crew were extremely well treated by the Captain and officers of the *St. Roselia*, but after arriving at the Havannah, I was imprisoned among people of every denomination, and extremely ill fed, being only allowed three-sixteenths of a dollar per day, by the Commissary, for my subsistence."

Capt. Casach, late of the sloop *Henry*, his mate, and an apprentice, arrived here yesterday in a cartel from Havannah.

[LC, Phila. "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", 19 March 1799.]

Extract from Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Thursday, 10 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and pleasant Weather. The Schooner *Little John* from her Manuvres appeared to wish to quit the Convoy. I however, seeing the supposed Intentions of the Master, gave Directions to the Officer of the Watch to inform him, if he did not make more Sail, and pay Attention to our Motions, I would fire into him. All the Convoy at Noon in Sight. Employed making every necessary Preparation to meet our Enemies, which is probable in these Seas.

Latitude observed 22° .32' N^o

Longitude Account 59 .48 W.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown,
U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 10 January 1799

First part pleasant & fresh breezes

At 5 PM took one reef in the T sails and took in T G sails

Middle part fresh breezes & Cloudy

At 6 AM out reefs & got Mizen T G^{at} Y^{at} athwart —

At 9 AM saw a sail and gave chase — 11-½ AM came up with & boarded her — the brig *Three Friends*, W^m Blanchard Mas^{tr} from Thomastown bound to Barbadoes 11 days out —

Latter part pleasant

[Latitude observed 29.03 N., Longitude 56.18 W.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Rufus King, U. S. Minister to London, from Robert W. Fox, U. S. Consul,
Falmouth, England

FALMOUTH 11 January 1799

R. W. Fox —
RUFUS KING Esq^r

ESTEEMED FRIEND I am favord with thy esteemed of the 8th & shall write as thee recommends, I am much obliged for what thee informs me respecting the Person on board the American Ship, the Collector says notwithstanding any letter I may have from thee, its necessary the Duke of Portland should grant permission for him to come onshore; — thy letter is in time for the Packet.

The American Ship *Atlantic* Captⁿ Dean from Charleston for London arrived here yesterday on her Passage they fell in with a French Privateer of 14 Guns & an English Brig bound from London for Galway her prize, the Ship *Atlantic* Fired 2 Guns (having about 12 Guns — 13 Men & 3 Boys) at the Privateer on which she made off & on boarding the English Brig they found her in possession of some Armed French Men. — Captⁿ Dean therefrom took possession of the Brig & has brought her into this Port — he intends to write thee himself to day more fully & request thy sentiments hereon, tho' we expect he'll be sailed for London before thy reply is received.

I am very respectfully
Thy assured Friend

ROB W. FOX

LONDON

[SDA. Falmouth, C. L., Vol. 1, 1790-1802.]

To James & Ebenezer Watson, Navy Agents, New York, from
Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 11, 1799

Mess^{rs} JA^s & E. WATSON
New York

GENTLEMEN, Please have the enclosed letter to Cap^t Leonard del^d in time — It is extraordinary that he should conceive that he is not permitted to sail with the provision, without the *General Greene* —

I have the Honor

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[Enclosure]

To Captain John W. Leonard, of the U. S. Revenue Cutter *Governor Jay*, from
Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 11 January 1799 —

Cap^t J W LEONARD
of the *Gov. Jay*.

SIR When the Ship *America*, having public provisions, for our Vessels at the Havanna, is ready for Sea; you will proceed with her to the Havanna, without waiting for Cap^t Price should he not be arrived at New York —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Friday, 11 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and a Cross Sea running. Employed all Hands in repairing the Rigging and Sails &c. Discovered by my Lunar Observation for the Longitude, that we have had a very strong Current setting to the Westward. This Current has placed us fifty Leagues further to Leeward than the Course steered, and Distance sailed by Log would make our Situation, which proves the Necessity of all Vessels, but our Ships of War in particular having accurate Observations made on Board them for the Longitude as well as the Latitude, there being no Dependence to be placed in the Longitude calculated by any common Reckoning, but I have often made the same Sort of Remarks before on my Asiatic Voyages, and still hope our Government will make some Provision for instructing the Officers in our rising Navy with this invaluable Information.

[Latitude and Longitude not given.]

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

To Captain Daniel McNeill, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 12 January 1799

Cap^t DANIEL M^cNEILL

SIR Presuming that the Ship *Portsmouth* under your Command, will be prepared in all respects for Sailing by the time you receive this, I have it in command from the President, to order that without delay, you proceed to the Island of Dominica in the West Indies and Cruise in the vicinity of Prince Ruperts Bay, until you fall in with Cap^t Barry of the Frigate *United States* appointed to command on that Station, who will afterwards direct your operations. —

You have enclosed instructions founded on the Acts of Congress authorizing you to capture French armed Vessels wherever found on the high seas, or elsewhere, and to recapture Vessels captured by the French. — In the execution of these Instructions, you must not forget that we are at war only with French armed Vessels, and the men found on board of them, — The Vessels of other Nations are entitled to & must Receive from us, civility and Friendship. —

You are not even to recapture a Vessel of our own, taken by the Vessels of any of the Nations at war but the French, — We are at peace and wish to remain so, with all other nations, and we must presume their Courts will render Justice. —

You cannot be too attentive to the Introduction of order, and discipline among your crew; and you should be assiduous in endeavouring to inspire your Officers, and Men, with a high sense of the Honor of the American Flag, which must be maintained at every hazard. And it is the positive command of the President, that on no pretence whatever, you permit the public Vessel of war under your command, to be detained or searched, nor any of the Officers or Men belonging to her to be taken from her, by the Ships or Vessels of any Foreign Nation, so long as you are in a capacity to repel such outrage on the Honor of the American Flag. If force should be exerted to compel your Submission, you are to resist that force to the utmost

of your power, and when overpowered by superior force, you are to strike your Flag, and thus yield your Vessel as well as your Men, but never your men without your Vessel. —

You will remember, however and it is strictly enjoined by the President, that your Demeanour be respectful, and Friendly to the Vessels and people of all Nations, in amity with the United States, and that you avoid as carefully the commission of as the submission to insult or Injury. —

There is a discription of armed Vessels from which our Commerce has hitherto received a great deal of Injury. I mean, armed cruising Vessels, acting without Commissions. Such Vessels are pirates; and you will consider your authority to extend to the Capture, or destruction of these Vessels also. —

Wishing you an honorable and successful Cruise —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Daniel McNeill, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 12 January 1799

Cap^t DANIEL M^cNEILL

SIR Enclosed you will receive the private Signals to be used by our Vessels of War, and those in use between our Vessels, and those of his Britannick Majesty's — I also enclose your Commissions for

Richard S Tibbitts.....	Lieutenant
George R Turner.....	d ^o
Joshua Geo. Symmes.....	Surgeon
Thomas Hoist.....	2 nd Lieut. of Marines

& Warrants for

Abijah Will Noble.....	Purser
Jacob Nutter.....	Gunner
Daniel M ^c Neill j ^r	Midshipman
George Boyd.....	d ^o

Your other officers, M^r Higginson will assist you in selecting, and they must act, under a temporary appointment from you — which will intitle them to the same emoluments, as if they were regularly appointed and commissioned, you may give them assurances of their being confirmed in such appointments on your return from the present Cruise.

I am &c

N. B. I inclose a letter to each of your officers, who have been appointed — It is necessary, they should communicate their acceptance in writing, and take the Oath of alligiance enclosed them, previously to your delivering their Commissions & Warrants.

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Otway Byrd, Collector of Customs, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 12th January 1799.

OTWAY BYRD Esquire
Norfolk —

SIR I am honored with your Letter of the 1st Instant — but it only reached me this day. —

I am Sorry for the account given by Cap^t Bright of his Vessel. She was it seems, built here, and by his own direction. I have no doubt she has too many Guns and too many Men — I beg therefore, you would take steps to Ascertain with Captain Bright, the number of Guns she ought to carry, and have her reduced to that number — and also have her men reduced to the proper complement. As to her being an unfit Vessel for the West Indies, she is fitter for that service, than for our Coast, where she must be always useless — The Vessels which injure our commerce most in the West Indies, carry one and two Guns — Vessels carrying four, six or eight Guns, are the most useful kind we can employ — and if Captain Brights Vessel be reduced to 6 or 8 Guns, and 30 or 35 Men, she will be more formidable than in her present situation. —

I have ordered Lieu^t M^cRea from Alexandria, to repair immediately to Norfolk. — Should there be occasion, that is, if Cap^t Bright should decline going to the West Indies, M^cRea may take the Command of the Vessel but I presume, Captain Bright will not decline — whoever commands this Vessel, she need not sail, until the *Baltimore* is ready — which will be soon after you receive this. —

I have the honor &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant John McRea, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 12 January 1799

Lieu^t J. M^cREA
Alexandria

SIR Immediately on rec^d of this, you will please repair to Norfolk — and wait upon Otway Byrd Esq^r & if the arrangements he should have made render it necessary, you will take the command of the Revenue Cutter, *Virginia* & proceed in Company with the Ship *Baltimore*, to Join Cap^t Truxtun in the West Indies. —

Should it not be necessary for you to take the Command of the *Virginia*, you will in that case, go on board the Ship *Baltimore*, at Hampton Road, now under the command of L^t Speak, & proceed in her to the West Indies, where you will join Cap^t Truxtun, and act on board of his Frigate. — He will I presume want a Lieu^t —

Should you have occasion for three or four Months pay, you may draw on me as Secretary of the Navy. —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To William Pennock, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 12th January 1799. —

WILLIAM PENNOCK Esquire
Norfolk. —

SIR I have the honor to request that you will immediately charter in some proper Vessel, room for the provisions at foot — and send the same under convoy of the *Baltimore* Lieu^t Speake, to the Island of S^t Kitts —

There must be no time lost in this business — I shall in two or three days send the orders of Lieu^t Speake, and by that time hope the Vessel will be ready with the provisions — It is to be presumed that you may readily get room in a Vessel bound to the West Indies, but if not, that you can readily hire a small one. —

I am &C.

30,000 Lb. Bread

60 Barrels Pork

60 Ditto Beef

if you can do it readily, you may add 10,000^{lb} more Bread.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Rufus King, U. S. Minister to London, England, from Secretary of State

[PHILADELPHIA]

Department of State, 12 January 1799.

RUFUS KING Esq^r
N^o 38.

SIR, The inclosed copy of a protest I received from Mess^{rs} Valck & C^o, Merchants of Baltimore, and owners of the Ship *Aurora*. The injury done to that vessel by the Frigate *Latona*, Capt. Southeren, as detailed in the protest, is so outrageous and inhuman, as to dishonor the King's service. It is difficult, seeing the vessels were so near together, to find an excuse for Capt. Southeren's conduct; neither his own safety, nor the fear of her running away, can apologize for pouring a broadside into a ship of such inferior size, and merely an armed merchant man taking the fact to be true, that his men fired without his orders, it implies such a want of order and discipline on board of his vessel, as to prove him little worthy of his office.

I have written to the owners for an authenticated estimate of the damages received, and, if I obtain it in time, shall enclose it. I cannot have a doubt that the British Government will immediately order full compensation to be made for the pecuniary injury. What further attonement is due, by way of public example, may I think in this instance be properly left to them to devise and inflict.

I have the honor to be, Sir, &c.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

[SDA. Dip. Cor. Inst. to Min. Bk. 5, 1798-1800.]

[Enclosure]

To Valck & Co., Baltimore, Owners of Ship *Aurora*, to Secretary of State

[PHILADELPHIA]

Department of State 11th January 1799

GENTLEMEN I have received your letter of the 7th enclosing a protest of Capt Spriggs and his officers belonging to your Ship *Aurora*. The latter exhibits a conduct so flagrant on the part of the British Frigate *Latona*, as to merit the attention of both Governments. I feel satisfied that the British Government will be disposed to render immediate, and complete satisfaction, for the injury. I must therefore request you to make out a Statement of the damages duly authenticated and proved, which I shall send to our Minister in Great Britain with such instructions, as are suitable to the nature of the affair.

I am Gentlemen

Respectfully &c.

TIMOTHY PICKERING

Mess^{rs} VALCK & COMP^y
Baltimore

[SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 11.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Saturday, 12 January 1799

By the Lunar Observation for the Longitude to Day I find the Current continues to set Westerly very strong. I accordingly gave the Fleet Warning, and hawled up more to the Eastward, so as not to pass the Latitude of the Isle of Barbuda in the Night. Saw a strange Sail at 8 AM a long Distance to Leeward. At 10 Ditto made the Island Nevis bearing S.W. and Barbuda E.N.E. the latter about seven Leagues Distance. At Noon Antigua bore S.E. a fine fresh Breeze, but squally at Times. Dispatched the *Richmond*, Cap^t Barron to convoy the two Schooners, *Little John*, and *President* safe to Saint Thomas's, and to return immediately, and join me at Saint Christophers. Mean Time I determined on seeing the *Thetis* safe to Martinica myself.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 12 January 1799

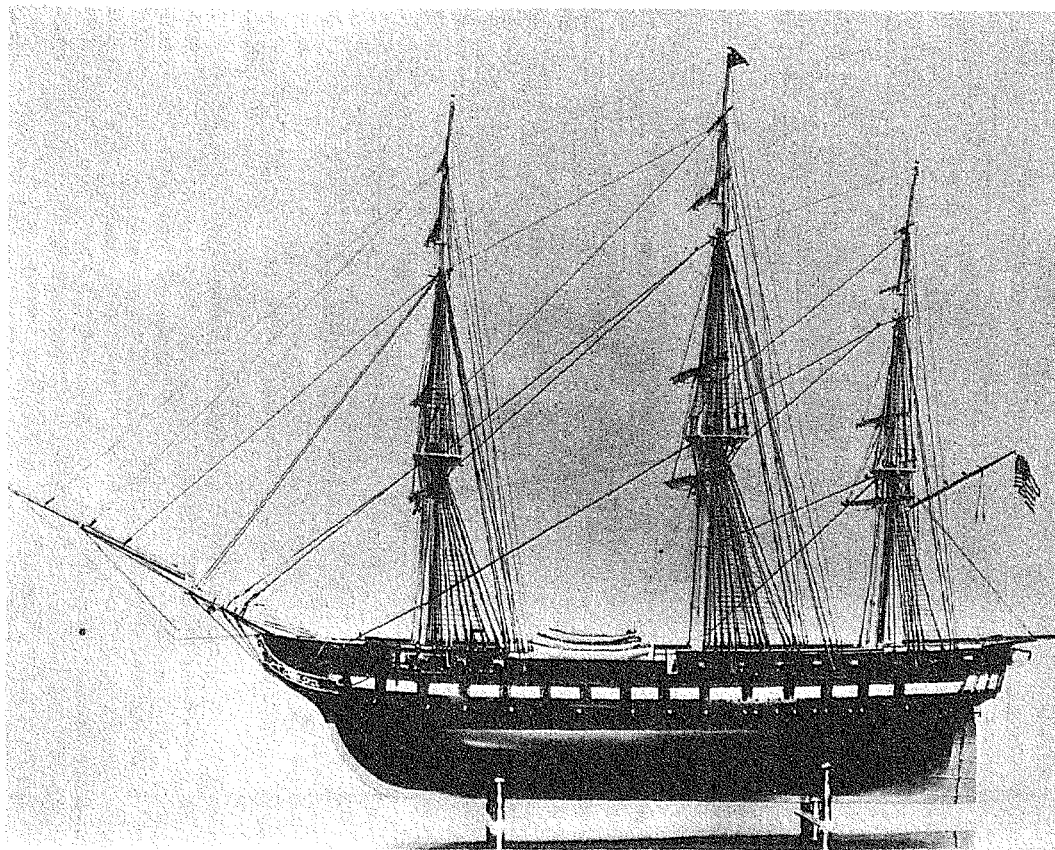
Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Cross'd the Tropic of Cancer perform'd the Usual Ceremonies Viz^t Black^s Ducking Shaving &c. which among 400 People produced a Set of Devils equal to any ever Seen.
@ 4 Made Sail

At 10 P.M. Squally. Shortend Sail.

cleansed between Decks Took to pieces the Spare gun carriages there being no room for them in the Hold. got all the Spare Sails up & cleared out the Sail room.

[Latitude In 18.10 N^o]

[NDA.]



U. S. FRIGATE CONSTITUTION.

[13 January 1799]

Extracts of a Letter from Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy, to Secretary of the Navy

ON BOARD THE *Montezuma*, JAN. 1, 1799.*Ten Leagues East of Gaudaloupe.*

We separated from the fleet we had convoyed on the 5th Dec. and made sail to gain our windward station, but we had such variable and blustering winds, that we could only fetch the Sambero passage; we then cruized up leisurely by St. Martins, St. Bartholomews, St. Eustatia, and all that chain of Islands, up to the west side of Gaudaloupe, and saw nothing but a few Danes and Swedes, which we chased and boarded. We then plyed about there and off the north end, and in the very tract we had before seen so many privateers, without seeing any vessel whatever, but one American schooner, by which I wrote to you a few lines, which was, indeed, the first and last opportunity I have had of giving you any intelligence about us, and the *Cayanne* sloop of war, that was in Antigua, when we were there. We run into their bays and searched in every direction for them, but without effect. Not finding it of importance to remain there any longer, we beat up to windward of Antigua, as far as the long. of 59 degrees, and there cruized for ten days; chased and boarded several American vessels, bound to different Islands, likewise had some long chases after two privateers, which we boarded, and turned out to be British from Antigua, none of which had seen any French vessels, or their prizes; then we stood further down to the southward, to the windward of Martinique, off which Island we fell in with admiral Harvey, in the *Prince of Wales* of 98 guns; were recognized by our signals, which, in my former letter, I informed you I had wrote to him about. He gave me a polite invitation to go on board of him, which I did, and met with a very friendly reception. He informed me, he had fully complied with the request I made him, and that he had distributed the signals to all the men of war on the station which I found was the case, having met with several of them that had repeated and answered them, so that we are now as well known by them, and by most of their privateers, as their own ships, which saves me from a great deal of trouble and anxiety.

The admiral offered me every friendly assistance we might stand in need of, and seemed glad that America and Great-Britain stood upon such fair terms, and wondered much at our long forbearance, in the harrassment of our commerce, which I told him proceeded from the lenity of our government, ever inclined to peaceable measures; that our executive had always been firm, but kept the door of conciliation open as long as there was a shadow of hope, in avoiding the last alternative; that I believed we should have been earlier with our energetic measures, but that we had hard materials and obstinate parties, to work upon. He enquired where I had cruized generally; I told him particularly my different routes, which he said were very proper, and agreed with me that he thought few of their cruizers were out, as he had most of his ships watching the motions of the French ships in Basseterre.

Thus, Sir, you may assure the public of the high estimation we stand upon in this quarter of the globe, and whatever cruizers you may send this way may be sure of a polite reception, and that our commerce stands upon a much more favorable situation, than it has hitherto done, at least in these seas, for we have chased and boarded almost every vessel we have seen (and run from none) without meeting a foe.

I verily believe that our few cruizers have given the French here a serious fright, they know the quality of our vessels, and they know our industry. If we have not succeeded in taking them we have answered as good a purpose, that of keeping them in port, which I flatter myself we have contributed in effecting.

After leaving the admiral, we stood to the northward, and cruized off Deseada, for a week, and this day fell in with a Danish ship from Hamburgh, bound to St. Thomas, had run down upon that latitude without seeing any thing but one American. Capt. Williams now informs me that he has sustained a serious injury in his masts, and thinks they cannot be secured, but by going into port. I sent my master and carpenter on board of him, to examine them, and we have determined to secure them as well as possible, so as to enable us to keep out as long as we can. Indeed we have a most blustering time of it here.

I never counted upon so much bad weather, as we have had, upon this station: We have scarcely had two following days good settled weather for near a month, but a constant, succession of hard squalls and rain, frequently blowing so hard, we could scarcely carry a rag of canvass, which has severely tried our vessels and crews; and although our people have been generally able to stand the deck, yet I find many of them much inclined to be on the Doctor's List.

5th—Off Dominico.

Capt. Williams being still fearful of his masts; his tops, trussle-trees, &c. being in a bad condition, and not able to carry the sail we are often obliged to press in a chase, and the weather still tempestuous in squalls, which, as well as from the absolute need of refreshments that our crews both stand in need of, my crew especially, having been confined on board ever since the 20th Sept. I deem it necessary to give them a few days relaxation in port, to hearten them up; nor have I been out of the ship ever, since I left Annapolis, but for a few hours at Norfolk; we therefore, after having just boarded a government brig of 14 guns, who gave us the same accounts, of meeting with no Frenchmen on the station, determined to avail ourselves of their quiet, to run down for the harbour of Roseau, on the S. W. side of Dominico, for information to direct our future movements, and to enquire for an opportunity of sending this letter.

My boat has just arrived with the agreeable intelligence of the arrival of the *United States* in Prince Ruperts Bay; we therefore set all sail to join her.

Prince Rupert's Bay, Jan. 10, '99.

We arrived here on the 6th, where I met with my old Friend Commodore Barry, in the *United States*, and the [George] *Washington*, Capt. Fletcher. The next day, they sailed to cruise a few days off Gaudaloupe.

From the conversation I have had with Com. Barry, I am happy to find I have anticipated a part of your instructions to him, viz. setting the signals, laying a train for the exchange of prisoners, and in meeting your plan for a deposit of provisions, in some convenient place, and this place I conceive the most eligible of any in the windward islands. The garrison officers seem delighted with the plan, and shew us every civility, and this day I have finished all my business of wooding and watering, and in putting my ship in complete order for sea, and to-morrow I expect the whole of them to dine on board with me, having passed this day with them, principally with a view of bringing about a friendly and happy communication for those that may come after me. On the 12th I shall leave this, to endeavor to join the two frigates, and cruise a few days 'till Capt. Williams is ready, and hope by that time the provision vessels may arrive, as I shall want a small supply; I then shall take off a large convoy, now collecting here (20 sail now being in port) and shall call off Antigua, Nevis, Montserrat, and St. Christophers, and proceed with them to a safe lat. After that, I shall return to cruise among the Southern Islands, for a while, leaving the Commodore on this station, as I am informed he means to cruise here.

After I have tried that station, I presume it will be time for me to look towards America, as I find you have sent ships to where I intended to cruise.

Off Dominico, January 13.

P. S. I have strong reasons to believe, that many of our countrymen run off Gaudaloupe and Cayenne, to be taken, they being furnished with a proper countersign; when carried in, they leave their vessels behind, and then set off for America with a tale of having made their escape, and soon go back with another; I fear their art is beyond discovery.

A. MURRAY.

[LC, Conn. "Connecticut Courant", 4 March, 1799.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Sunday, 13 January 1799

Squally as before with some Rain. At 4 PM spoke an English Schooner from Martinica bound to Antigua, the Master informed me Captain Barry in the *United States* was at Martinica, when he left it, and several other of our Vessels of War at Dominica, that two french Men of War were at Gaudaloupe, and that five English were cruising in that Quarter.

At 5 PM Saint Johns Antigua bore N.W.B.N. and the S.E. Part of Mount Serrat S.S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. and Rock Don Dó (Rodondo) West, nearest Shore four Leagues Distance. Stood on as per Column of Courses for Martinica with the Schooner *Thetis* in Company, which Vessel I have all along had much Trouble with, owing to the Neglect of the Master not making Sail, and attending to Orders.

At 8 AM the Saints bore N.N.E. Distance 6 Leagues, called all Hands to Quarters, two Men of War beating to Windward under the Saints, and as they anchored, I took them to be English. At Noon Port Roseau, Dominica, bore E.N.E. 3 Leagues Distance. Current running strong to the Westward.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 13 January 1799

The French fired 9 shot at us 2 over us, the remainder all fell short 7 was sent from a Battery at Deshayes [Deshaies, Guadaloupe] the other two from one further to the South^e

Arr[ive] in prince Ruperts — found Twenty-three American vessels under convoy of the Ship *Montazuma*, Cap^t Murry. —

[NA.]

To James & Ebenezer Watson, Navy Agents, New York, from Secretary
of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 14th 1799. —

Mess^{rs} JA^s & EBEN^t WATSON

New York.

GENTLEMEN, You will perceive by the preceeding Extract of a Letter from M^r Higginson, the very bad quality of the Cambooses which you forwarded to the Eastward — The Maker of them ought to refund the Cost, and care should be taken when others are ordered that similar defects be prevented. —

Your Letter of the 10th Instant informing of the arrival of the *Fair American* is received. — M^r Griswold should apply to the Attorney of the United States in your district and pursue the steps that he may recommend. — With regard to any Advances that may be made for the *Fair American*, if you act as Agents for the recaptors as I presume you will, you will of course make the advances that may be necessary and repay yourselves out of the sum that may be allowed for Salvage. — If the Prize Master chuses a different Agent which is not probable, that Agent must make the advances and repay you the sum you have paid M^r Griswold, — by this means it will be unnecessary to introduce it into your Accounts with the Public —

I am &c &c.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Monday, 14 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, squally, and a very strong Westerly Current as before. Standing on by the Wind towards Martinica, making the most of every Slant. At 10 AM, being off Saint Peirs at the Distance of 4 Leagues, I desired the Master of the *Thetis* to make the best of his Way in to an Anchor, as the Coast was perfectly clear and I at the same Time wished the Lady on Board a happy Sight of her Friends; and immediately after made Sail to the Northward intending to call at S^t Christophers.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 14 January 1799

Moderate & Cloudy Exercized the Sails
 Made & Shortend Sail as Necessary.
 Middle part Fresh Breezes At 6 P. M. Saw a Strange Sail bear
 S.E.b.S. gave her chace at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 gave her a gun. prov'd an English
 Ship from London bound to Barbadoes & had lost her Convoy
 Latter part Steady Breezes
 [Latitude $13^{\circ} 00^m$]
 [NDA.]

To Jacob Sheaffe, Navy Agent, Portsmouth, N. H., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 15 January 1799. —

JACOB SHEAFE Esquire
 Portsmouth

SIR I am honored with the receipt of your Letter of the 31 Ult^o
 and for your government in giving directions for the Head of the
 Frigate, I inclose you Hints suggested by M^r Rush an eminent Carver
 in this City — also the Copy of a Letter from M^r Joshua Humphreys,
 Naval Architect, who is of opinion that the foremast may with safety
 be fixed farther aft. —

The Frigate was originally intended to be called the *Congress*,
 and this must be her name. — The Carver will observe M^r Rush's
 observations applicable thereto — The Rope Makers here consider
 that 25 Yarns to a single strand of 3 Inch Rope is too fine, and are of
 opinion that 20 will be sufficient to make very excellent Cordage. —

I will reflect on what you mention as to the size of the Guns, and
 if you can give me any further information to govern me in this
 respect I will deside, — they can be had here made very handsome
 & excellent in quality. —

I have the honor &c^o

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Certification of Nathaniel Phillips, Surveyor of the port of Warren and Barrington,
 R. I., reference the U. S. Ship of War *General Greene*

DISTRICT OF NEWPORT.

Port of Warren and Barrington, Jan^y 15th 1799.

I Nathaniel Phillips, surveyor of the port of Warren and Barrington,
 do certify, that I have surveyed and admeasured a Ship of War, called
 the *Gen^l Greene* and find that said vessel is American built, has two
 decks, three masts, Square stern, with no tuck; has two gallerys and
 Man head; that she is in length one hundred twenty four feet 3 inches;
 in breadth thirty-four feet eight inches, and in depth seventeen feet
 four inches, and that she measures six hundred fifty four tons and
 sixty two-ninety-fifth parts of a ton.

As witness my hand,

NATH^l PHILLIPS, *Surveyor.*

Countersigned in testimony of the truth of
 the particulars above mentioned, by
 [no signature]

[Rhode Island HS.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Tuesday, 15 January 1799

Pleasant Breezes intermixed with light winds, and clear Weather. At 8 PM the East End of Dominica bore East five Leagues Distance, and at 6 AM the S.E. Point of Gaudaloupe bore East four and half Leagues Distance, and the Town of Basseterre E.N.E. about three Leagues Distance, at same Time saw a Ship of War to Leeward of the Saints; at 8 ditto wore and stood towards her with a very light Air of Wind.

At half past 8 made the private British Signal for this Day, which she answered: I then made a private Signal to speak her, which she also answered; and at 10 ditto they hoisted out a Boat, and sent one of the Lieutenants on Board with Captain Barton's Compliments to know my Commands. I informed the Officer they were merely to hear the News in this Quarter, as I had just arrived on the Station from the United States of America, and to know the Name of his Ship, which he informed was the *Concorde*. He then told me that Victor Hughes was sent to France, a Prisoner, and that the Frigate *Insurgent* and *La Pensee* had sailed with him about the 1st Instant; that one Frigate, and a Corvett only remained, and that they were at present at Basseterre Gaudaloupe ready to sail for Cayen. Captain Barton requested of me Night Signals which I gave him and he sent me in Return his private Signal for Saint Christophers, and a Letter for his Agent there, we then hawled down our Colours, took Leave, and each stood on his Course.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 15 January 1799

Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Call'd all hands to Quarters & Exercized the great Guns & Small Arms. At 6 Shortend Sail At Midnight Wore Ship Up Fore Sail and hove her too with her head to the Northw^d. At 3 Wore Ship to the Southw^d. At 5 Saw a Sail bear^t S. S. E. gave chase found it was the Vessell we Spoke Jan^y 14. @ ½ past 7 Spoke a Sch^r f^m Phil^a bound to Trinadada

Later part Clear

[Latitude 13° 15^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 15 January 1799

First part light winds & pleasant weather

Took in Steer^e sails & T G Sails and sent down T G Yards

Middle part Moderate & hazy

Sent up T G Y^{ds} & sett T G sail

Ends pleasant & Moderate breezes

[Latitude observed 15.48 N, Longitude 55.23 W.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 15 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Sail'd in Company with the *Montazuma* &
Brig *Norfolk* with twenty three sail under the direction of Cap^t
Murry. —

[NA.]

To Commanders of U. S. Vessels of War from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
January 16th 1799 —

Circular

Additional Instructions

It being not less the inclination and the Interest of our country to
avoid disputes with all nations, than the fixed determination of the
President, never to provoke disputes by taking, or maintaining
improper grounds; it is right that you should understand; that as our
laws do not prevent our armed Ships from protecting from French
cruisers the Vessels of our Merchants with contraband goods, — so it
will not be lawfull for you to prevent Merchants Vessels altho under
your Convoy from being searched or detained by the Vessels of any
of the powers at War, except the French. —

I have the Honor &c

[NOTE.—See Circular Instructions, 29 December 1798.]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department, 16th January 1799.

Cap^t JOHN BARRY

SIR Enclosed are Letters for Captain Nicholson[*] & Lieu^t
Hamilton, which you will please to have delivered, — and also take
order, that Lieu^t Hamilton be received on board the *Constitution*
as 3^d Lieutenant

I am sorry to observe that Captain Nicholson has excited great
clamour against him, by his arbitrary conduct towards some Officers
he left behind. — I hope however, he will not justify by his conduct
under your Command, the predictions of his Enemies — but that
he will conduct himself with prudence and propriety — and pay strict
attention to your orders. — Should he act in a different manner,
you will know what to do with him — That Ship and all others
under your command, must claim your attention, as well as your
own Ship. —

I have written to M^r Higginson to send under convoy of Captain
M^rNiell, or the *Pickering* a quantity of Provisions p^r list enclosed,
addressed to Mess^{rs} Frazer Urquhart & C^o for the Vessels under
your command. — Should any circumstance make it necessary for
you to leave your station, with your Fleet, it will be well for you to
take the Provisions on board. —

Enclosed you will find additional Instructions to our armed Ships, of the 29th Decem^r and 16th January — which please to have distributed among your Fleet to the Commanding Officers. —

It is very much the wish of the President, that you should take some occasion, before your return to shew yourself, with the greatest part of the Fleet at Cape Francois, to Gen^l Toussaint, who has a great desire to see some Ships of War belonging to America — but it is not intended, that you should sacrifice any important object, to gratify this General; with whom however, if it should fall in your way, it may be well for you to cultivate a good understanding. —

Congress have as yet passed no Act respecting the Navy. — They will probably direct the building of some Ships of the line, and I expect will put the service on a respectable footing. — Write me by all opportunities — and be particular as to the merits of your Lieutenants — as promotions will take place before your return. —

I have heard of the French Frigates at Guadaloupe — You must judge whether Truxton ought to join you, and must act accordingly — If these Frigates should not render it too dangerous, it will be best that our Vessels be dispersed as much as possible, and I should imagine the British force in those Seas would confine the French Frigates in port. — It would however be glorious to the American Navy, if you could devise a plan for capturing them. —

I have the honor to be &c

It is possible that the Regulations of the British Government in their Islands may occasion a difficulty as to landing the provisions at Dominica, in which case it will be necessary to take them at once on board your Fleet, and I have written to Mess^{rs} Frazer Urquhart & C^o that you would do so in case of need. —

I have the honor &c

72,000 Lbs Bread
155 Barrels Beef
155 Barrels Pork
88 C^t of Fish
120 Bushels Beans or Peas. —

[*Letter to Captain Nicholson instructed him to receive Lieutenant Hamilton on board *Constitution*.]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Robert W. Hamilton, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department, 16th January 1799

Lieu^t HAMILTON

SIR It is the wish of the President, that you should be employed on board the Frigate *Constitution*, until her return. — There are two Lieu^t on board of that Ship, whose Commissions are older than yours — and as the rank must be from dates of Commission, you can only act as third Lieutenant on board of the *Constitution* — On your Return to the Continent your situation will be made more agreeable —

Please to observe there are no second Lieu^{ts} in the Navy, but on board of any particular Ship where there are more than one Lieu^t they must of course act as 1st & 2^d & so on on such Ship. — Your Commission is enclosed.

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department, 16th January 1799

Cap^t THO^s TRUXTUN

SIR The President thinking the conduct of Cap^t Phillips, in the transaction with the British Ships, at the Havanna, every way improper, has thought fit to dispense with his future Services. — L^t Speake therefore Commands' the *Baltimore*, till he joins you when if you think proper, you may put L^t Rogers [Rodgers] on Board, as the Commanding Officer; in which case L^t Speake must deliver to him, his Instructions. —

I have not named L^t Rogers to the President as Captain; because at the same time, that this is done, to prevent Jealousy; I want to bring forward one at least of Barrys Lieutenants. — There will be soon Ships for all who merit them; —

I have desired M^r Pennock to send under convoy of the *Baltimore*, the provisions as per list enclosed, for the use of your fleet, — to be addressed to Mess^{rs} Dinniston & M^r Lauchlan — I am not certain that the meat will be permitted to be landed, — If not I presume you can find room on board for it.

It will be proper to have all the provision taken on board before you leave that station. —

I wrote you some days past respecting the French Frigates at Guadaloupe; I suppose they will be kept close in port by the British. — If however there should be danger, it will be best for you to join Barry; it would be glorious if you could devise a plan for capturing these Frigates. —

The *Virginia* I presume will sail with the *Baltimore*. — Should she be commanded by Cap^t Bright in that case L^t M^r Rea will expect to go out in the *Baltimore* — and if you should send Rogers on board the *Baltimore*, it may be convenient for you to take M^r Rea on board the *Constitution*. [Constellation]

General Toussant has a great desire to see some of our Ships of War at Cape Francois — and the President has a desire that he should be gratified — yet it is not wished any great object should be sacrificed to effect this. — Should you see the General, it will be well to cultivate a good understanding with him. —

The Congress as yet have done nothing on the subject of the Navy; They will authorize Ships of the line — whether 12 as I propose or a smaller number, I cannot at present judge.

The enclosed additional Instructions to the commanding Officers of our Ships, you will please to have given to any you may fall in with, without them. —

I hope to hear from you by every opportunity, — with your opinion fully on every point, which may contribute to the advantage of the Navy, as well as proper employment of our Ships. —

I have the Honor to be &c

To Lieutenant Josias M. Speake, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 16th January 1799

Lieu^t SPEAKE of the

Officer Commanding the Ship *Baltimore*

SIR The Sloop of War, the *Baltimore*, now under your Command, being prepared in all respects for Sailing, I have it in Command from the President to order that without delay, you proceed to the Island of St Christophers, in the West Indies, & cruise in the Vicinity of St Christophers, until you fall in with Cap^t Truxtun of the Frigate *Constellation*, who will afterwards direct, your operations. —

I inclose you your authority to capture or destroy French armed Vessels wherever found — and to recapture Vessels Captured by the French. — There is a discription of Vessels from which our Commerce has hitherto received much injury; I mean armed Vessels acting without Commissions. Such Vessels are Pirates — and you will consider your authority to extend to the Capture or destruction of these Vessels also. —

You will, however remember, that we are at war only with French armed Vessels, and the people found on board of them, — all other Vessels, and persons, are entitled to and must receive from us civility and friendship; should you even meet with an American Vessel captured by any Foreign Vessel except the French, you cannot lawfully recapture such Vessels.

It must be presumed, that the courts of such Nations will render justice. —

You will be attentive to the introduction of order & discipline among your Crew, — and on all occasions use your utmost endeavours, to inculcate a high sense of the Honor of the American Flag, which must be maintained at every hazard. —

Wishing you an honorable and Successfull Cruise, —

I have the Honor &c

Sent him a copy of the circulars given the 29th Dec 1798 & 16th January 1799 —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Josias M. Speake, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 16th January 1799

Lieu^t JOSIAS M SPEAKE

SIR I enclose you Commissions for yourself

Lieu^t John West d^o

Thomas Rowlands, Surgeon

Henry Wells— d^o Mate

Warrants for Solomon Hotchkiss—Sailing Master

Solomon Dickinson—Purser

Peter Clopper—Sail Maker

Horace Smith—Midshipman

Stanton Hazard— D^o

John Gault— D^o

I have the Honor to be Sir

Your obed^t &c &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

[16 January 1799]

To First Lieutenant B. Clinch, U. S. Marine Corps, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

Lieutenant Clinch will be pleased to wait on the Commanding Officer at Bassatere St Christophus, and present Commodore Truxtun's Compliments, and inform him; the Fleet now in Sight are a Collection of American Vessels from the different Islands bound Home under Convoy, and that the Fleet will anchor in the Roads, and wait the Arrival of several other Merchantmen, & a Sloop of War from Antigua. Lieutenant Clinch will also inform the Officer commanding, that Commodore Truxtun will salute the Fort with thirteen Guns, provided he will return the United States Ship *Constellation* an equal Number. Lieutenant Clinch will inform the Commanding Officer, that the *Constellation* is to cruize during this Winter, in these Seas, and that Bassatere will be the Rendezvous.

Lieutenant Clinch will perform this Service as speedily as possible and return with an Answer respecting the Return of a Salute.

UNITED STATE'S S. *Constellation*

16th January 1799 —

T. T. [THOMAS TRUXTUN]

[HS of Pa. NDA Photostat Truxtun LB, 1798-9.]

[16 January 1799]

To Lieutenant Ambrose Shirley, U. S. Navy, master aboard U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

SIR, In Answer to your Note of this Morning, I am compelled to put you right, in your Attempt to vindicate yourself. Had you served on Board any Ship of War, in a Navy that had been established, you would not have any confused Idea, as to the Duty of a Master at this Day. While acting as a Master here, you act as a Warrant Officer, and of Course you act as subordinate to the Orders of a Lieutenant, which is the Case in every Ship of War, with the Officer in your Station. When the Lieutenants are at their respective Posts on the Battery &c. You then execute my Orders, and pass the Word Solus, but when those commissioned Officers are not at their Divisions, but on the Quarter Deck, it is then your Duty to receive Instructions from them, where the same is given by Orders from me without Hesitation, and as an Example to Others, it ought to be done with Cheerfulness.

As a Master you are accountable that all Sails, Rigging, Colours &c. &c. &c. are kept in Repair, that the Stowage of the Hold, be complete, and the Trim of the Ship preserved, Log Book well kept &c. and that due Care be taken of the Provisions and Water, and this is an Abundance of Duty to perform, and will occupy the Time, and Attention of any Man to do it well.

Altho' the Signal Officers are directed to keep in Repair the Colours, it does not take from the Master his Responsibility if due care be not taken of them, and I must confess, that I felt ashamed Yesterday, at the Ensign being hoisted before a foreign national Ship, in the State it was, and of Course my Indignation was aroused.

The Use of the Trumpets have repeatedly directed, it's not being complied with is certainly a great Inattention to my Orders, as well as unprecedented on Board even a little trifling Ship of War.

I could add much more on this Subject, but it is unpleasant, and I trust you have good Sense enough to correct little Errors without making any Addition from me necessary. In Fact you are a Lieutenant in the Navy, and your Rank is preserved to you from the Date of your Commission, but you only act as a Master here at present, Attend to these Observations, and profit by them, and you will do right. I am,

Your Obed^t humble Servant

T. T[RUXTUN]

Wednesday 16th Jan^r

—1799—

M^r SHIRLEY.

[HS of Pa. NDA Photostat, Truxtun LB, 1798-1799.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Dep^t 16 Jan^r 1799.

STEPHEN HIGGINSON Esq^r

SIR The provisions, which by my Letter of 7th Instant, you were directed to procure, you will please to consign to Mess^{rs} Frazer Urquhart & C^o of Dominica, to whom I write on the subject

I am &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Wednesday, 16 January 1799

At 1 PM discovered a Fleet of Vessels to Windward of Gaudaloupe, standing down before the Wind, hawled to the Northward, and soon after hove about, stood towards them, and made the private Signal for the Day, which was answered, but not distinctly to our View. We soon after however discovered the Fleet to consist of the *United States* Frigate, and the *Montezuma* and *Norfolk* Sloops of War with twenty five Sail of Merchantmen under Convoy (and as we found on Captain Murray's coming on Board) bound to the United States, that they had left Prince Rupert's Bay, Dominica early in the Morning.

The *United States* soon after we discovered the Fleet hawled her Wind to the S.E. consequently I had not an Opportunity of speaking with Captain Barry, for before we got up with the Fleet, he was out of Sight.

Captain Murray requested me to take Charge of the Fleet, which I agreed to do, and lead a head, untill my Arrival at Saint Christophers' from whence I told him, he must proceed on himself with the Convoy according to his Arrangements made previous to joining me, for as I intended to cruize among the Islands &c. I could go no further with him; I informed him at the same Time, that I had Directions from

the Secretary of the Navy to detain the *Norfolk* and keep her with me, and that I should accordingly order Captain Williams to return and join me as fast as possible, after accompanying the Convoy as far as the Latitude of 25° North.

Made Sail and stood on for Montserrat. At 2 AM abreast of that Island at 8 ditto up with Rock Dondo (Rodondo) directed Captain Murray to proceed on with the Van, and anchor in Bassateere Roads, St Kitts, and direct the Vessels to show their Colours going in, and that I would bring up the Rear, and remain without untill all was at Anchor. Dispatched Lieutenant Clinch with my Compliments to the Commanding Officer at the Fort, and to inform him I would salute the Fort with 13 Guns provided he would return an equal Number, and to inform the Governor &c. that I intended to anchor the Convoy in the Roads of Bassateere for a few Days only, untill the *Norfolk* Sloop of War returned from Antigua with what Vessels may be there bound Home. At Noon abreast the East End of Nevis, the Weather cloudy, and having a dirty appearance. Bent the Cables, and got the Anchors all clear.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 16 January 1799

Fine W^t at 1 Saw 2 Sail bear^t N.W. gave chase @ 4 Discov^d one to be a Ship of War. Made the private Signals as American & English which she could not Answer upon which She crowded Sail took in Studding Sails & Hauld our Wind & clear'd Ship for Action @ 7 squally with Rain @ 8 the chase bore N.N.W. 5 or 6 Miles Distance bowsed in the lee guns & down ports Kept Sight of the chase between the Squalls untill ½ past 11 when we lost her @ 20 Minutes past 12 Saw a Sail bear^t N.W. Suppos'd to be the Vessell we had been in chase of. bore up and fired 2 guns at her She then wore Round & Made Sail gave her two more Guns wore to the Southw^d and Boarded her She prov'd to be the Ship *Spencer* from Shields (England) bound to Barbadoes prize at the time we boarded to the *Insurgente* French Frigate of 36 Guns. Took the Prize Master & Crew out & Sent an Officer & 9 Men to take Charge of her.

[Latitude 34.33 N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 16 January 1799

First part pleasant & light wind & Smooth Sea running down under the three Topsails

Middle part D^e wind & weather

Latter part pleasant, went through the manouvres of a Sham Action

[Latitude observed 15.04 N., Longitude 57.15 W.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

[17 January 1799]

To President John Adams from General Desfourneaux, Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Guadeloupe

The following Extract of a Letter, with the annexed Address, was received yesterday by a merchant of respectability in this city.

"ST. THOMAS, 17th Jan.

"I enclose you Gen. Desfourneaux's Address to the President, copied from one handed me by a gentleman, who arrived here yesterday from Guadeloupe, and whose vessel was condemned a week ago, on the same grounds as usual."

To JOHN ADAMS,

President of the United States of America.

SIR, Arrived at the post intrusted to me by the Executive Directory. I think proper to inform you of the dispositions of the French Directory, towards the Neutrals and Allies, of which America is a part.

You will find them mentioned in the Decrees of the 13th of Thermidor, (12th Aug.) the copy of which I add to this. The privateers fitted out in the ports of Guadeloupe, shall run against "the enemies of the Republic, but shall pay every regard to Allies and Neuters, who shall not be found in contravention, with the laws respecting them.

The citizens of the United States may come and exchange their produce, for the productions of the Island of Guadeloupe — they will dispose of their property freely — the laws will protect them, and will punish with rigour, whoever will dare to oppose them, or to suspend their effect — I hope that many proofs of the loyalty which will never cease to be the character of my actions, will be sufficient to restore the confidence and connections mutually useful.

I left France the 7th Vendemair last, (28th Sept.) with a division. The 16th of the same month, being in lat. 36, 15, long. 21, 35; the commodore of the division, spoke the American vessel *Aranno*, Capt. Daniel Prior, belonging to Joseph and John Dorr, citizens of the United States, and Merchants in Boston.—The papers, and especially the Role of Equipage, being in order, the vessel proving to be American property, the vessel was cleared. It was also offered the captain, that if he would follow till day light, the vessels of the division, they would give him a spar, to repair his fore-topmast, carried away in a storm. The vessels of the division, shortened sail to let the American keep up, but whether the vessel could not keep away, or the captain thought proper to change his course, we lost sight of him.

The 30th Brumaire (20th Nov.) being to windward and in sight of the Island of Desirade; we perceived 4 vessels of War, sailing for us, being so close that we could plainly distinguish them to hoist English colours, at that instant the order was given to chase them, but immediately they tacked about and stood from us.

The frigate *L'Insurgent* having overtaken the schr. *Retaliation*, commanded by Lieut. Bainbridge, we were convinced the vessels chased were Americans.

The necessity to arrive at our destination, and avoid the pursuit of the English forces, superior to ours, of which we had knowledge, every thing prevented me from taking a true view of our situation with the United States. In consequence, I gave orders for the schooner to follow the Division.

After having spent the first moments to make my powers known, I occupied myself with the affairs of the *Retaliation*, and if circumstances and political reasons had not obliged me to lay an embargo, I should have immediately let her go to the United States. These obstacles do not now exist. I leave the Lieut. Bainbridge at liberty to sail for the United States, giving him charge of the packets for you, and recommending him to make his way with the vessel in which I send back all the American citizens made prisoners before my arrival in this island.

I conclude, Sir, with repeating to you that the citizens of the United States will be considered and treated like Allies, that in every circumstance they will obtain justice, and will be well received.

Receive the assurances of my consideration.

(Signed) DESFOURNEAUX.

[NYHS, "Greenleaf's New York Journal & Patriotic Register", Feb'y 16, 1799.]

To Captain Jonathan Chapman, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 17th January 1799

Cap^t JONAS CHAPMAN

Boston.

SIR I am honored with yours of the 1st Inst. It is impossible to gratify your wishes, as to the date of your Commission, it would interfere essentially, with the claims of other Officers. I never understood from Mr Higginson, that it was meant to be understood by you, that your Com^d as Cap^t in the Navy, should take date from the day you were appointed to Command, the Revenue Cutter, — and if I had so understood him, it would not have been in my power to comply with such engagement. —

I have added at foot the names of the Cap^{ts}, and in the order of their rank, — with which I hope you will be satisfied. — There are as you will observe, but few above you, it is doubtful, whether three of these will continue in the service, — and it will not be long before you will be near the head of the list.

It would occasion me real regret — and I am Sure it would give great pain to the President, if an Officer of your merit should quit the Service. —

I return your Commission in hopes you will be satisfied to retain it, and to take the Command of the Ship building by the Merchants at Boston

I have the Honor &c

Barry

Nicholson

Truxtun Morris

Talbot McNiell

Dale Murry

Sever Tingey

Decatur Chapman

Perry

The rest are after you except Williams, about whose appointment there are doubts. —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 17th January 1799

Lieu^t Edw^d PREBBLE

SIR Presuming that the *Pickering* under your command, is now ready for Sailing, I have it in Command from the President, to order that without delay, you proceed to the Island of Dominica in the West Indies, and cruise in the vicinity of Prince Ruperts Bay, until you fall in with Cap^t Barry of the Frigate *United States*, under whose orders you will place yourself, Vessel, and Crew. —

I enclose you your Authority to capture, or destroy, French armed Vessels, wherever found on the high Seas, or elsewhere, — also to recapture Vessels, captured by the French; There is also a description of Vessels in the West Indies, from which our Commerce has hitherto received much injury; I mean, armed cruising Vessels, acting without Commissions, you will consider your authority to extend to the capture, or destruction, of these Vessels also. —

In the execution of these Instructions, you must bear in mind, that we are at war only with French armed Vessels, and persons found on board of them.

Being at peace with all other Nations, we should endeavour to cultivate, and preserve it, by practising the duties of Civility, and Friendship; — Should you meet with any American Vessel, captured by the Vessels of any of the powers at war except the French; or should you even see such Vessels in the act of capturing an American Vessel; — you cannot recapture in the one case; — nor can you lawfully interfere to prevent such capture in the other; — It must be presumed that the Courts of such Nation will render justice. —

You will use your utmost endeavours, to introduce and preserve order, and discipline among your Crew; and on all occasions, inculcate the highest sense of the Honor, of the American Flag; — which must be maintained at every hazard. —

I enclose you a copy of the circular instructions, given the 29th Dec 1798 and 16th January 1799. Wishing you honor & success. —

I have the Honor &c

Also enclosed his Comm^s “to take rank from 9th April 1798”

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Francis Bright, or officer commanding Revenue Cutter *Virginia*,
from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 17th January 1799

CAP^t FRANCIS BRIGHT
or Officer Commanding
the Cutter *Virginia*. — }
Norfolk

SIR Otway Byrd Esq^r Collector of the port of Norfolk, has no doubt communicated to you the contents of a late letter written to him on the Subject of your Cutter, and I hope she is by this time ready for sea, in which case you will sail in company with the Ship *Baltimore* to join Cap^t Truxtun whose instructions you will hereafter follow. —

I enclose you late orders issued to the different Commanders, in the Navy of the United States to govern their conduct, to which you cannot pay too pointed an Attention. — Cap^t Truxtun is cruising off the Island of S^t Kitts. — Should you contrary to my expectations not be ready to sail with the *Baltimore*, you will proceed as soon after as possible to that Island where you cannot fail to meet with him —

I wish you a Successful Cruise —

Sir Your most &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 17th January 1799. —

STEPHEN HIGGINSON Esq^r Boston

SIR I have no letter from you later than the 3^d Janua^r — in one of that date you say Cap^t Sever will be in town this evening, when the arrangements for the *Herald* must be made, the Commander appointed and other Officers provided; — I wait with impatience, to know these arrangements, — and until I hear from you, I cannot move. If possible such difficulties as to Officers shall be avoided in future. —

If your next letter should not inform me of arrangements as to the Officers being made; — I will get officers appointed, who I know will serve, and who deserve to be appointed. —

It will be agreeable if the *Herald* is changing into a Cutter, as delay must arise for want of Officers; it will be fortunate if she is under the hands of the Carpenter. — The *Pickering* need not wait for the *Herald*, but may sail with M^oNeill, whose orders go on to day. — but this is not material, each may go alone, and it will afford a better chance of falling in with French Cruisers. — I wish the provisions may go under the convoy of M^oNeill; — tho if this is not practicable; I suppose either the *Herald* or the *Pickering* will be sufficient. —

The enclosed letter to Mess^{rs} Frazer Urquhart

& C^o Dominica to whom be pleased to address the Provisions, may go by the Chartered Vessel. —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[Enclosure]

To Frazer Urquhart & Co., Dominica, from Secretary of the Navy

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Philad^a 16th January 1799.

Mess^{rs} FRAZER URQUHART & C^o

Dominica —

GENTLEMEN Under the sanction of the enclosed letter from Mess^{rs} Gabriel Wood & C^o I have the Honor to inform you that I have directed Stephen Higginson Esquire of Boston to Ship to your care a quantity of Bread, Beef, Pork, Fish & Beans or Peas, intended for the use of the Fleet, under the Command of Cap^t John Barry, now cruising in the vicinity of your Island — you will be pleased to receive these articles, giving Cap^t Barry notice of their arrival, which you will have an opportunity of doing as he will occasionally repair to Prince Ruperts

Bay, during his Cruise, — I do not apprehend there will be any difficulty as to the landing of the whole of these Articles, but should any of them be objected to in consequence of your existing Regulations; you will please to inform Cap^t Barry thereof, and he will send for them, and take them out of the Vessel, so as to prevent the necessity of any other Arrangement. —

You will please to draw on me as Secretary of the Navy, for any expence attending this object, as well as for your Compensation. —

I have the Honor &C.

[Enclosure herein mentioned was not located.]

NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To William Pennock, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 17th January 1799. —

WILLIAM PENNOCK Esquire
Norfolk. —

SIR I hope the Provisions lately ordered have been procured — You will address them to Mess^{rs} Denniston & M^r Lauchlan of S^t Kitts, for whom I enclose a Letter, which you will be pleased to forward by the Vessel you charter for the above purpose. —

I have the honor to be &c

P. S. I hope you have prepared
L^t Speake in the Ship *Baltimore*
for sailing & that he is ready. }

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[Enclosure]

To Denniston & McLauchlan, St. Kitts, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 17th January 1799.

Mess^{rs} DENNISTONS & M^r LAUCLAN
S^t Kitts.

GENTLEMEN In consequence of the inclosed letter from Mess^{rs} Gabriel Wood & C^o I have taken the liberty to direct M^r William Pennock of Norfolk, to address to your care Sundry Articles of provisions, intended for the supply of the Vessels of War under the Command of Cap^t Thomas Truxtun, now cruising in the vicinity of your Island. —

I request that you will be pleased to receive these Articles, and follow Cap^t Truxtun directions respecting their delivery, — should the Regulations of your Government forbid their being landed, you will in that case, give Cap^t Truxtun notice, in order that he may take them at once, on board his Frigate, so as to render any other arrangement unnecessary. — He will occasionally appear off the Harbour, so that you will have frequent opportunitys of communicating with him. —

For the amount of the Expence attending this object, as well as for your Compensation, you will be pleased to draw on me as Secretary of the Navy, and your draft shall be duly honored. —

I have the Honor &c

[Enclosure mentioned herein was not located.]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Thursday, 17 January 1799

Light Winds, and hazy Weather throughout the whole of these Twenty four Hours. At half past 5 PM having brought up the Rear of the Fleet, which had all come to in the the Roads of Bassateere, Saint Christophers, anchored off the Moorings (and veered out half a Cable) in ten Fathoms Water, being half a Mile from the Shore.

At 7 AM saluted the Fort with 13 Guns, which was returned with an equal Number. Employed repairing the Sails, Rigging &c. &c. &c. getting the Main, and Mizzen Masts more upright, and raking the fore Mast Aft two Inches in the Partners.

Received the Visit of Captain Matson of his Britannick Majesty's Ship *Cyane*, Sir Patrick Blake, and a Number of other Gentlemen from the Island.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 17 January 1799

Moderate Breezes & clear Weather at 9 A. M. bro't too and took out of the Ship *Spencer* the Officers & Men we Sent on Board her. Captain Nicholson not thinking himself authorized from the Instructions he has Rec^d from the President of the United States to Recapture any English Merchantmen notwithstanding she was captured by an Arm'd Vessell of the French Republick, and the Act of Congress not giving him power to keep her it was tho't prudent by him to release her. Saw a Convoy of 20 Sail Stand^d to the Northw^d

[No observation.]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 17 January, 1799

First Part pleasant weather & light breezes

All hands employ'd exercising the Guns and Making and taking in sail

Middle & latter part pleasant Moderate weather

[Latitude observed 15.12 N., Longitude 58.54 W.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extracts from correspondence between Elbridge Gerry and Secretary of State transmitted to Congress by President Adams.

5th Congress.]

No. 148.

[2d Session.

FRANCE.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, JANUARY 18, 1799.

UNITED STATES, January 18, 1799.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

The communication relative to our affairs with France, alluded to in my address to both Houses, at the opening of the session, is contained in the sheets which accompany this. A report of the Secretary of State, containing some observations on them, will be sent to Congress on Monday.

JOHN ADAMS.

Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. Gerry, dated

JUNE 25, 1798.

SIR: By the instructions dated the 23d of March, which, agreeably to the President's directions, I addressed to Generals Pinckney and Marshall and yourself, and of which six sets were transmitted, one by a despatch boat sent on purpose, and some of which doubtless reached you during the last month, you will have seen that it was expected that all of you would have left France long before those instructions could arrive, and which were transmitted rather from abundant caution than necessity, seeing no probability or hope existed that you would accomplish the object of your mission. The respect due to yourselves and to your country irresistibly required that you should turn your backs to a Government that treated both with contempt—a contempt not diminished, but aggravated, by the flattering but insidious distinction in your favor, in disparagement of men of such respectable talents, untainted honor, and pure patriotism, as Generals Pinckney and Marshall, and in whom their Government and their country reposed entire confidence; and especially when the real object of that distinction was to enable the French Government, trampling on the authority and dignity of our own, to designate an envoy with whom they would condescend to negotiate. It is, therefore, to be regretted that you did not concur with your colleagues in demanding passports to quit the territories of the French republic some time before they left Paris.

General Marshall has arrived, and delivered to the President your letter of April 16th, with its enclosures; all which were on the 21st instant laid before Congress, accompanied by a message, in which the President declares the negotiation at an end, and that "he will never send another minister to France, without assurances that he will be received, respected, and honored as the representative of a great, free, powerful, and independent nation."

It is presumed that you will consider the instructions of the 23d of March before mentioned as an effectual recall; lest, however, by any possibility, those instructions should not have reached you, and you should still be in France, I am directed by the President to transmit to you this letter, and to inform you that you are to consider it as a positive letter of recall.

I am, respectfully, sir, &c.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

[Am. State Papers.]

Extract from Elbridge Gerry's communications to Secretary of State

NANTASKET ROAD, *October 1, 1798.*

* * * * *

On the 26th of July, I left Paris; and, from the best information which I could obtain relative to the disposition of the Executive Directory, (for I never had any direct communication with them) they were very desirous of a reconciliation between the republics. Every impediment to my departure had been adopted by the French minister; and he would have prevented it, had he succeeded in his plan of an epistolary discussion. His object was, as I conceived, to

gain time for ascertaining whether the United States were then disposed to a treaty; of this he manifested doubts, being persuaded that their resentment was too great to admit of it. He seemed also to apprehend that, in consequence of the incredible exertions, of Great Britain, and the unequivocal evidence she had given of her ability to defend herself, they were inclined to avenge their injuries by an alliance with her; and that, should France come forward with overtures, or the plan of a treaty, she would fail therein, and compromise her honor. I was, nevertheless, of opinion that, should France be just and liberal in her measures, the Government of the United States would still meet her on the ground of accommodation. My judgment was the result of their instructions; for I had never received any other official intelligence since my departure from America; I have, therefore, uniformly inculcated that sentiment.

Having been thus in a situation wherein, amidst a series of events, each has been productive of fresh embarrassments, I have invariably pursued what to me appeared the honor, interest, and welfare, of my country, and been guided by the sense of the Government, as far as I could ascertain it.

If the door is still open to peace, the establishment of it must be a happy event to the United States, as it will exempt them from calamities, which, notwithstanding delusive appearances, will, with short intervals, probably continue, for half a century, to exhaust and depopulate Europe.

But, if the national pulse beats high for war, and the wise and constitutional councils of the United States shall consider it as the only safe and honorable alternative, may that Omnipotent Being, who controls events, protect them; and may they commence the war with ardor, continue it with vigor, and terminate it with glory. That this will be the issue there can be no doubt, whilst the American republic shall choose UNION for her motto; and profiting by the misfortunes of other nations, shall be convinced that *discord will ensure dependence, and concord independence in war and peace.*

I shall, probably, when at leisure, give you some other details of less consequence, and, in the interim.

Remain, sir, with much esteem and respect, your very humble servant.

E. GERRY.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, Esq.

Secretary of State of the United States.

[Am. State Papers.]

To Robert G. Harper, Chairman of Committee of Ways & Means, from
Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 18. 1799

ROBERT G. HARPER Esquire

Chairman of the Committee of Ways & Means. —

SIR The existing Laws allowed the Secretary of the Navy to employ Clerks, at the rate of 500 Dollars per Annum, to absorb, with the contingent expences of the Office to the end of 1798, the sum appropriated, being Dollars 6214.72/100. —

Conceiving that it must have been the intention of Congress that the Clerks in the Navy Office should be on the same footing with those employed in the other Departments, and knowing that a House full of such Clerks, as could be employed at 500 Dollars would be found insufficient for the business of the Office, I have ventured to draw money on account, and to pay the Clerks employed by me, such Salaries as I thought their services entitled them to receive. —

The whole amount of payments for Clerk hire, since the commencement of my Office to the 31st December 1798 is Dollars 2821 28/100 agreeably to the statement enclosed. — This sum stands charged to me on the Books of the Treasury — and by the existing Laws I can only be credited for the time of the service of each Clerk except the principal Clerk, at the rate of 500 Dollars. — I beg the favor of your attention to the subject. You will perceive that the Act of the 30th of April 1798. establishing the Navy Department, has reference to the Act of 3^d March 1791 supplemental to the Act establishing the Treasury Department, and not to the temporary Acts of 30th May, 1796, 3^d March 1797, and 14th May 1798. —

I have the honor to be with great Respect &c.

		<i>Doll^r</i>	
Garrett Cottringer.....	to 31 st Decem ^r	@ 1200....	572. 87
Josiah Fox.....	to 1 st July.....	900....	56. 86
Robert Gill Store Keeper.....	to 31 st Decem ^r	1000....	516. 48
Jacob F. Tathill.....	to 1 July.....	700....	23. 7
".....	to 31 Dec ^r	750....	375.
C. W. Goldsborough.....	to 1 July.....	700....	11. 53
".....	to 31 Dec ^r	800....	400.
John Lockwood.....	to 30 Sep ^r	500....	156. 59
".....	to 31 Dec ^r	600....	150. —
James Key.....	to 17 Dec ^r	750....	347. 90
William Hollingsworth.....	to 31 Dec ^r	600....	24. 45
Office Keeper & Messenger....	31 Dec ^r	350....	186. 53
		<i>Doll^r</i>	2821. 28

[NDA, Con. LB, Vol. 1.]

To Murray & Mumford, New York, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 18th Jan^y 1799

Mess^{rs} MURRAY & MUMFORD

New York.

GENTLEMEN I beg pardon for not attending to your letter of the 22^d Ult^o — in the hurry of my business it escaped me; I am this day honored with yours of the 16th It has been deemed important, to break up if possible, the Cruisers from the West Indies, which infest our trade — and it was two or three months ago determined our whole force should be employed this Winter about the Islands; with this view; — more Vessels are getting ready, and we shall have I presume enough by the Spring, to afford such a force as you suggest for the Mediterranean, — and it is very much the desire of the Gov^t that our force should be employed to afford, the greatest possible protection to

our trade. — but it may be April or May, before any arrangements can be made beyond the West Indies.

If Congress authorizes more Ships, I will attend to the Gentlemen at Hudson; pray can Ships drawing 18 or 20 feet Water be floated from thence

I have the Honor &c

[NDA, GLB, Vol. 1.]

To David Sears, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 18th January 1799

DAVID SEARS Esq^r

Boston

SIR I am honored with yours of the 9th Inst — Having a very high opinion of Cap^t Chapman's merit, I was extremely sorry, that I could not comply with his wishes as to the date of his commission. — It could not have been done, without interfering with the rights of others, and without producing resignations of valuable Officers. — To this effect I have written Cap^t Chapman, and that he was placed as high, as it was practicable to place him, — indeed he is high enough to have well grounded expectations of being the head of the Navy before long. — Several above him will leave the Service. I very sincerely hope, he will be induced to remain in the service — and in that hope, return^t his Commission — and as the loss of a good man to the Navy at this time, when its Character is yet to be established, is a great loss, I hope you Sir will use your influence to satisfy Chapman he ought to remain. —

I have the Honor to be &c

[NDA, GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Friday, 18 January 1799

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] After making all the necessary Arrangements for general Repairs, and for the better trimming of the Ship, I went on Shore, and waited on Governor Thomson Commander in chief of the Charibbee Islands, who received me in the most polite Manner, offering every Service, in his Power to convenience me in my Operations on this Station, and giving me the most friendly Invitation to dine, and frequently visit him.

I also returned the Visits of all those Gentlemen, who honored me, and made the necessary Arrangements with M^r Clarkson of this Island but formerly of Philadelphia to supply the Ship on the best possible Terms with such Articles, as may be necessary.

Here I find the Produce of the United States generally in Demand, and the Price such as will warrant a good Freight with all the other customary Charges.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Friday, 18 January 1799

First part pleasant weather & Moderate breezes
All hands employ'd at exercising the guns &c
Middle part pleasant and light winds & smooth Seas
At 10 AM saw the Island of Dominico bearing W b S dist 12
leagues * * * *
Ends pleasant
[Latitude observed 15.17 N., Longitude 60.28 W.]
[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

[19th January 1799]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP, *Constellation*,
Bassaterre Roads 17th Jan^y 1799 —

DEAR SIR, I sailed with the *Constellation* from the Bay of Chesapeake the 31st December in the Evening, with the *Richmond* in Company, three Schooners, and a Brig. Nothing after occurred worth Notice here, untill the 12th when I arrived in Sight of the Island of Antigua, and dispatched Captain Barron to see two of the above Schooners safe to Saint Thomas's, their Place of Destination, and to return as soon after as possible and join me at my Place of Rendezvous (Saint Christophers) and in the Mean Time I proceeded with the other Schooner, having the *Lady* on Board, that you committed to my Care, to Martinica, and left the Vessel off her Port standing in (and the Coast perfectly clear) on the 14th about 11 o'Clock in the Morning. I shall just observe, that this Vessel has given me a vast Deal of trouble, and, in Fact, if I had not watched her Night and Day, and shortened Sail, so as to make the Ship frequently uneasy, as well as uncomfortable to myself, she would have parted Company, ere we left the Coast of America, I however congratulate the Friends of the young *Lady* that was on Board, on her being now safe with her friends in Martinica.

As soon as I left the *Thetis*, I proceeded for Saint Christophers, determined to look into Bassaterre, Gaudaloupe, and the next Morning, I fell in with the British Frigate, *Concord*, of 44 Guns, which I spoke, and after some Civilities having passed between Captain Barton, and myself, I run close by Bassatere, within Sight of the Town, and so as to point out the Government House, two of their Frigates having sailed for France, on Board of one of which was Victor Hughes, there remains only the *Volunteer* of 44 Guns, and a Corvette in these Seas, both of which were laying in Bassatere Road, when I passed it; but they have no Disposition to come out, and risk either an Action with the English, or American Frigates in these Seas. Shortly after passing Bassatere, I discovered a Fleet astern, and not knowing what they were, hove about, and repassed Bassatere again, and shortly after discovered the Fleet consisted of the Frigate *United States*, the *Montazuma*, *Norfolk*, and 25 Sail of Mer-

chantmen. Captain Barry stood to Windward, and did not come down. On my speaking Captain Murray, he requested me to take Charge of the Convoy, and proceed with him, as Captain Barry had refused, and I acquiesced with his Request so far, that I would see them into this Port, where we arrived last Evening, but as he, and the *Norfolk* would be sufficient to see them clear of the other Islands, and to the Latitude of 25 North, I should go no further with them, but should order Williams to join me immediately, and without Loss of Time, after reaching the 25^o of North Latitude, but I fear this Man is better calculated for a Purser, than a Captain of a Ship of War, as he pays more Attention I understand to pecuniary Matters, than those of a more glorious Nature.

Shortly after proceeding with this Convoy, I dispatched Williams to Antigua to bring down any American Vessels that may be there, agreeable to the Arrangement Captain Murray had made previous to my falling in with him, and I expect Williams here to Morrow, and if so the Fleet shall sail next Day. As soon as I fill up my Water, I mean to proceed immediately on a Cruize about these Islands, untill the *Baltimore*, and other Vessels join me, which I hope will be soon. You may rest assured, that no Opportunity shall pass, that good Fortune may favour me with of doing my utmost for the Honor of our Nation, and the Good of our Commerce. I have found a M^r Clarkson, a Merchant from Philadelphia, of respectable connections, married and settled here. I shall consequently direct my Purser, to call on him for his Aid in procuring Supplies, — untill I have Advice of your appointing a public Agent.

The Crew of the *Constellation* is in good Health, and fine Spirits, all meritoriously wishing to meet the Enemy on equal Ground, and in Hopes of the kind Indulgence of Heaven to our united Prayers in this of all other the most desireable Object. I have the Honor to Remain

Dear Sir,

Your very Obedient Servant

T. T.[RUXTUN]

P. S. I enclose you Dimensions of the *Constellation's* Masts, and Spars for the Government of the Sail Maker in making a new Suit of Sails, which I request may be of the best, heavy, and most approved European Canvass (say Holland, or best English Pattent) the Ship has not fair play for Want of proper Sails; these Sails ought to be ready by 1st May and made by Jacobs of Baltimore, or Dowers of Philadelphia. We shall also want one new Cable, made of the best Hemp, 19 Inches in Circumference, & 120 Fathoms in Length; 4 Shroud Hawser, Cable laid, 10½ Inches in Circumference, and each Hawser 120 Fathoms long. Great Care must be taken that the Hemp is well cleaned and all the Tow taken out, otherwise a Gang of Rigging will not stand more than a Year.

T. T.[RUXTUN]

Hon^{ble} BENJAMIN STODDERT
Secretary of Navy.

18th January. Yesterday I was entertained by the Governor, and Commander-in-chief of this, and all the Charibbee Islands; every Tender of Service was made, and Joy seemed to be marked in every Countenance present, and the more so, as some evil minded American had industriously reported, that our Government had ordered the Ships of War to avoid going near the English Islands, lest the French should be offended, and our Object was to make Peace with them if possible at all Events. I have assured the Governor, that I was well satisfied, that the President of the United States would never come to an Accommodation with that perfidious Nation, untill full and ample Satisfaction was made for the Insults we had received, and for the Property unlawfully captured from our Merchants, and other Traders, with which Account he was much pleased.

I enclose you a Letter I have just received from the Surgeon General, by which you may judge of the Orders delivered out to every Department here with Respect to us. And I am satisfied we shall find the Station a very pleasant One, Nothing shall be wanting on my Part to heighten the good Opinion of the People in this Quarter of us. A Salute has passed between the *Constellation* and Fort on equal Terms. I also enclose you Copy of a Letter to Captain Matson of his Britannic Majesty's Ship, *Cyane*, For your further Government as to the Conduct I mean to pursue, I am anxiously waiting the Arrival of the Ships destined to join me, and hope I shall soon meet them in the Neighborhood of this Island, and the Store Ship, for Provisions are scarce, and dear throughout the Islands at present.

19th I enclose you Desfourneaux, the french Agents', at Gaudaloupe, Proclamation, which I have just received. We have various Accounts of Bainbridge, but none to be depended on, tho' I should not be surprized, if they were to give him his Vessel from what I have heard, as the present Agent is a man of deep Finess. However, our Country I'm sure, cannot now be duped, by any Conduct of this Agent, whose Character must be well known throughout America.

Yesterday American Brig arrived here which had been taken by a french Privateer just out from Gaudaloupe, and retaken by an English Vessel of that Description.

T. T.[RUXTUN]

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[Enclosure]

[19 January 1799]

To Captain Richard Matson, Royal Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

SIR, In Case of meeting at Night, Captain Barton and myself have agreed on the Night Signal at foot. I have his private Signal, and shall display a blue answering Flag, whenever it is made to me.

Should I meet with you at Sea after the Signals of the Day have been exchanged, you will know the *Constellation* by a Dutch Jack, which you may answer by an English Jack at the same Place, in Order that I may know your Vessel.

Any Services that may be in my Power to render you, or the other Ships of his Britannick Majesty in these Seas &c. you will do me a

great Favour by an Intimation of them at any Time; and I have to request you will be pleased to communicate this Tender to Admiral Harvey, and the Commanders of all the King's Ships in the West India Station, whenever you have Oppertunity. In Fact we may be of mutual Service to each Other, and I shall be pleased to unite in any Enterprize against the Common Enemy, that may promise Success or Glory.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great Respect,
Your very Obedient humble Servant

T. T.[RUXTUN]

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*,
Bassatere Roads, St Christophers
19th January 1799.

Captain MATSON
of his Britannick Majesty's Ship *Cyane*.
[HS of Pa. NDA Photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9]

To Secretary of State from Gibbs & Channing, Navy Agents, Newport, R. I.

NEWPORT Jan^y 19 1799 —

SIR We have just received a letter from Henry Hudson master of our Brig *Little Sally*, informing that on his passage from this port to the Havannah, he was captured and carried in to New Providence and obliged as a condition of release to deliver up 13 Casks Nails part of the Cargo laden and to us belonging in said Brig.

Having carefully examined previous to lading of the Vessel, what articles were esteemed contraband of War in the Treaty with Great Britain, we were then, and still are of opinion that Nails of the description we ship'd did not come under the articles of Contraband of War. And observing by the letter of the Captain, that Vessels with other articles, not Contraband of War, (without a very forced construction) were carried in and condemned at New Providence — We have considered it a duty to give you the earliest advice, and shall be obliged with your opinion, if we are right in the construction we put, on Nails being free — If so we shall immediately take steps to prosecute the owners & Masters of the Privateer for restitution and damages — in which we trust we shall have the countenance and support of Government — Considering it of importance that immediate measures should be taken to check the lawless sport of piracy that reappears in New Providence — We are Sir with great

Respect Your ob^t Serv^t

The Nails delivered up are —

5 Casks	6 ^d Cut nails	} for Sugar Boxes. —
7 do	12 ^d do do	
1 do	8 ^d do do	

Hon^e TIMOTHY PICKERING Esquire —

[Newport HS, Gibbs & Channing LB, 1799.]

To Robert G. Harper, Chairman of Committee of Ways & Means, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 19th Jan^r 1799

R. G. HARPER Esq^r

Chairman of the Committee of Ways & Means

SIR I beg leave to submit to the consideration of the Committee of ways and means, a letter from the Accountant of the Navy. —

The Estimate of the expence of Clerk hire in the Office of the Accountant of the Navy, ascertained in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, was made in the absence of the Accountant. — I take the liberty to observe, that it will be in vain to expect the Public business to be preformed, unless the responsible Officer be allowed to engage a sufficient number of Clerks, and pay such Salaries as will be necessary to procure competent Talents. — Still I hope the Number contemplated by the Accountant, will not be required longer than to get the business of the Office well arranged; and whatever may be the Sum appropriated, no more of it will be used, than absolutely Necessary. —

[NDA. Con. LB, Vol. 1.]

[Enclosure]

To Secretary of the Navy from William Winder, Accountant of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Accountants Office Jan 18 1799

BENJAMIN STODDERT Esquire

Secretary of the Navy

SIR The appropriation proposed for clerks in this office for the year 1799 as stated in the estimate refered to in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury will not I apprehend be sufficient to procure clerks for performing the several duties of the office.

It must be recollected that the Act of the 16 of July, 1798 not only charges the accountant of this department with the settlement of all accounts relative to the expenditure of money; but also with those relative to the issueing and distributing of Stores. And to perform these several duties I apprehend two distinct systems of Accounts must be adopted with an appropriate set of books and clerks for each system.

The form prescribed by the Comptroller of the Treasury for the money accounts requires the expenditure to be arranged under several general heads, and as it has been judged advisable to keep the accounts of each vessel distinct, accounts of Expenditure for the number of vessels multiplied by the number of general heads must be opened beside several others for the Navy Stores at different ports, for the Marine Corps and for prisoners of War, subjects not contemplated by the Comptroller, so that the whole number of accounts of expenditure that must necessarily be opened will be little short of five hundred and it will be readily conceived dissections so multiplied must occupy much time and attention both of the examining and stateing clerks and of the book keeper.

With respect to the Store accounts little has yet been done. When the office was at Trenton some essays were made towards organizing a system; but since removing the office to Philadelphia the press of

accounts for settlement and a want of experienced clerks have not permitted me to bestow any attention on that business; but I apprehend it must be conducted on principles similar to those adopted by the commissary of Military Stores, and I presume will fully employ one clerk of the most respectable talents and very probably an assistant.

Viewing the business of the office in this light I am lead to suppose that it will require three clerks to examine settle and adjust the accounts for entry, one to select from them the several articles not finally expended in order to their being entered in the store accounts, one to keep the books, one to keep the Store accounts, one copying clerk, and one principal clerk to assist in the general superintendence of the business of the office. And from the rates of compensation in private service and in the other public offices, I should estimate for them as follows, to wit

One principal clerk.....	1200
One Book keeper.....	1000
One Clerk for the Store Accounts.....	1200
Four clerks for examining Stateing &c* 750 each.....	3000
One Copying Clerk.....	500
	6900

It is probable it may not be necessary to allow compensations to the full extent above stated, or to employ so many through the whole of the year; it may nevertheless be adviseable that a power should be some where vested, to employ as many of them as may be found necessary, and to agree to such compensations as will secure capable clerks if such should offer, keeping within the limits assigned

I will also beg leave to call your attention to the past services of the clerks in this office. By the existing laws no clerk in this department is entitled to compensations at a higher rate than 500 dollars per annum, but from the appropriations made it is presumed Congress intended to put them on the same footing as the clerks in the other departments, and before I was apprised of this limitation I had lead two of the clerks employed in this office to expect higher compensations; I therefore declined presenting an account for settlement but obtained an advance from the treasury for 1333^o 68'' on account, relying that Congress would make such provision as would authorize me to pay the clerks the compensation I proposed which from the first institution of the office to the 31st of Dec^r last amounts to 657.95, and adding thereto the compensation allowed me makes the whole to that period for compensation to me and the clerks in the office 1377.95 as will appear by the enclosed Statement.

I am &c.

W. W. [WILLIAM WINDER]

[NDA, LB Acct, 1798-1800.]

To Samuel Humphreys from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Jan^y 19th 1799.

SAMUEL HUMPHREYS

SIR During your stay in Georgia you will have an oppertunity and it may be useful if you will examine the Islands and Main with attention, so as to inform yourself of the Spots where live Oak timber

grows in the greatest Quantities and of the best quality, most contiguous to Navigation; and whether contracts might not be made with suitable Persons for the delivery of certain quantities, and kinds of this timber, and on what terms. —

From your Investigation you will be able to judge whether the best mode of procuring Supplies will be by contract, or whether any mode more eligible may be adopted. — In fine I beg you will make yourself fully acquainted with this Subject, as at your return it may lead to some important arrangements; your expence on this business will be paid by the Public. —

I am &c^t

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[19 January 1799]

Slops for U. S. Ship of War *Portsmouth*

Invoice of Slops furnished by Thomas Thompson Esq^r for the Ship of War *Portsmouth* Daniel M^cNeil Esq^r Commander and delivered to M^r Weld Noble Purser of said Ship

61 large Jacketts.....	\$5 -	305. "
65 under ditto.....	1. 75	113. 75
125 pair drawers.....	. 92	115. "
44 Shirts.....	1. 34	58. 96
15 ditto.....	1. 59	23. 85
113 Frocks.....	1. 34	151. 42
10 Blanketts.....	2. -	20. "
5 doz Hatts.....	12. -	60. "
2 duffil great Coats.....	6. -	12. "
125 pair Shoes.....	1. 20	150. "
2 pair Trousers dtd Marine (<i>Crescent</i>).....	1. 75	3. 50
6 Blanketts from Frigate <i>Crescent</i>	2. -	12. "
11 d ^od ^o	1. 75	19. 25
	doll ^r	1044. 73

Invoice of Slops furnished by Stephen Higginson Esq^r receiv'd by the Sloop *Delight* from Boston and deliver'd to said Purser.

64 outside woolen Jacketts.....	21/Curr ^y	doll ^r 224. "
60 under d ^o d ^o	8/-	80. "
58 pair woolen Trowsers.....	11/-	106. 33
66 pair duck Trowsers.....	5/6	60. 50
30 duck Jacketts.....	7/9	38. 75
1 doz canvas Frocks.....	7/6	15. "
	doll ^r	524. 58

Receiv'd the above mentioned articles of Slop Cloathing, amounting to Fifteen hundred, Sixty Nine Dollars, Tairty One Cents, Viz^t of Stephen Higginson Esq^r Five hundred, Twenty four dollars, Twenty Eight Cents and of Thomas Thompson One thousand, Forty four dollars Seventy Three cents, which I am to acco't for to the Navy Department agreeable to Instructions.

H. WELD NOBLE Purser

PORTSMOUTH Jan^y 19.1799.

[On back of account.]

Portsmouth 28th Jan^r 1799

Received of Thomas Thompson Esq

24 Blankets	11/3	45. -
2 D ^o	10/6	3. 50
Truckage		. 25
		<u>\$48. 75</u>

H. WELD NOBLE

[NDA. Area 7, Jan'y 19, 1799.]

[19-21 January 1799]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 19 January 1799, Saturday, 20 January, Sunday, and 21 January 1799, Monday

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] Employed doing the Needful Repairs to the Ship &c. on the 19th, and 20th, landing our spare main top Mast, one spare Main Yard, one spare Mizzen top Mast, one Derrick, and a cross Jack Yard, for the Purpose of having the Ship more clear, and in better Condition for carrying Sail.

I have also hoisted out the Launch, and rigged and placed her in Charge as well as the Spars of M^r Clarkson the temporary Agent as this is to be my Place of Rendezvous in the West Indies.

On the 21st at 8 AM, having given Captain Murray of the United States' Ship *Montezuma* his Orders Yesterday, the Convoy for the different Ports of the United States got Underway, and proceeded on their Voyage convoyed by the United States Brig *Norfolk* also.

I directed Captain Williams of the *Norfolk* to accompany Captain Murray with the Convoy to the Latitude of 25° North, and return to this Island immediately to receive my further Orders. Having received a Petition for Convoy from several Masters of Vessels at Antigua on the 20th and as the *Richmond* had this Morning returned from Saint Thomas's, I immediately dispatched her for Antigua to bring down those Vessels to Saint Christopher's, and to remain there, until I collect Others from Saint Bartholomew's, Montserrat &c. to make the Convoy more respectable.

Since the Receipt of the above Petition, I have received several Others from S^t Bartholomew's, and other Islands.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 19 January 1799

Calm and cloudy Weather At 2 a Light Breeze f^m E.N.E. made Sail to get round the S.E. end of Dominico at 9 Shortend Sail & Steerd N.N.W. by the Island of Dominico at 10 Saw 4 Sail Stand^s to Northw^d Cleard Ship for Action At Midnight calm & Cloudy lost Sight of the Sails @ 2 a Light breeze f^m Eastw^d Saw Prince Ruperts Bay bear^s N.N.E. At 9 Calm Saw 3 Men of War wth American Coll^{rs}. Made the private Signal which was answer'd by Com^o Barry At 10 Cap^t Nicholson went on b^d the *United States* Com^o Barry.

[Latitude 15° 29^m N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Saturday, 19 January 1799

First part light winds & pleasant Weather

At 4 PM the North part of Dominico bore W $\frac{1}{2}$ S dist 6 leagues

At 6 D^o the High land of Guadaloupe bore N N W dist. 12 leagues

At 7 the Saints bore N W at Midnight the North Point of Dominico
bore W b S dist 3 leagues

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 AM hove too — at 2 AM saw 2 sail to leeward, bore
away & made sail for the Island of Dominico at 9 AM hove too & the
1st Lieut^t went on shore to the fort at 10 the boat return'd — bore
away at 11 tack Ship several times —

[Latitude observed 15.37 N, Longitude 61.19 W.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 19 January 1799

The *Constitution* joined us, Cap^t came on board. —

[NA.]

[20 January 1799]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

DEAR SIR, You will get under way, and proceed to Saint John's
Antigua, as fast as possible, and bring down what American Vessels
may be there to these Roads; from whence I will afford them further
Convoy to the Northward. A Number of Masters have written me,
that they will be ready to Sail by the 25th but you may wait untill
the 27th Instant (next Sunday if they should not be ready). You
will in your Way up and down, examine all armed Vessels particularly;
for the french Privateers may endeavour to pass as English, having
Americans on Board. Should I not be in these Roads on your Return,
you will detain the Fleet for my Arrival, as I purpose being off S^t
Martins to Morrow, or next Day. I am Dear Sir

Your very Obed^t humble Servant,

T. T. [RUXTUN]

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*
Bassatere Roads, S^t Christophers
20th January 1799.

Captain BARRON
U. S. Brig, *Richmond*.

[HS of Pa. NPA Photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[20 January 1799]

To The American Masters of Vessels at Antigua from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

GENTLEMEN, I have dispatched the Brig *Richmond* Captain Barron
to bring you down to these Roads, from whence you shall have further
Convoy to the Northward; as it is my Duty, so it will always give

me Pleasure to afford Protection to the Persons and Property of my fellow Citizens.

I am, Gentlemen

Your very Obed^t humble Serv^t

U. S. SHIP *Constellation* — — — }
Bassateere Roads St Christopher's }
 20. January 1799. — }

To

The American Masters of Vessels

at Antigua — — —

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[20 January 1799]

To Captain Thomas Williams, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

SIR, By the Orders from the Secretary of the Navy, which I have shewn you, the *Norfolk*, which you command, is put in Squadron under me, I have therefore to desire, that you accompany Captain Murray with the Convoy as far as the Latitude of 25° N^o and then return to these Roads, with all possible Expedition unless you should meet me about St^t Martins.

As I have immediate Service, for the *Norfolk*, I request that you go no further than the above Latitude, & that you loose no Time in joining me. M^t Clarkson is the temporary Agent for the present, who you will call on for Letters from me on your Return, and who will supply what you are really in Want of.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obed^t Servant,

T. T[RUXTUN]

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*
Bassateere Roads 20th Jan^y 1799
 Captain THOMAS WILLIAMS
 of the U. S. Brig, *Norfolk*.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[20 January 1799]

To Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

DEAR SIR, I have given Captain Williams his Instructions, to accompany you as far as the Latitude of 25° North, tho' I can badly spare him, having my intended Operations all arranged, in which his Vessel will be much wanted, I shall be obliged by your discharging him with Directions to join me off St^t Martins (or to proceed agreeable to his Instructions received from me) immediately after passing the Tropic, provided you think the Convoy there out of Danger. You may now proceed to Sea, whenever you please, and believe that I am, D^r Sir, with great Esteem,

Your very Obedient humble Servant

T. T[RUXTUN]

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*
Bassateere Roads, St Christophers
 20th January 1799 —
 Captain MURRAY.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[20 January 1799]

Articles of Agreement between William Clarke and Francis Salters [or Saltus], and a Committee of the Citizens of S^t Helena Parish

Articles of Agreement, indented, made and concluded on between John Chaplin Jun, William H. Capers, William Joyner, Thomas Talbird, William Elliot, Stephen Elliot, and Thomas Grayson, Committee of the Citizens of S^t Helena Parish, of the one part, and William Clarke and Francis Salters [or Saltus] of the other part.

Whereas Benjamin Stoddert Esq^r Secretary of the Navy Department under the Government of the United States has empowered & instructed the said Committee to procure to be built for and on behalf of the said Government a Galley of the size and dimensions described in the Instructions hereunto annexed, Be it known, that the said William Clarke and Francis Salters do hereby contract and agree with the said Committee to build with good Materials, and in a Workman-like manner for the Government of the United [States], a Galley of the same size and dimensions as the largest of the Gallies built for the Government in Charleston by M^r Pritchard, and to finish the said Galley agreeably to the directions sent on by the Secretary of the Navy and hereunto annexed, to copper her, and to furnish and equip her with Masts, Spars, Rigging, sails, Anchors, Cables, Boat, Cabouse and Compleat her in every respect for service, her Military equipments only excepted, and do obligate themselves to deliver her so compleated on or before the fifteenth day of June ensuing, to the said Committee or the officer appointed by the said Government.

In consideration whereof the said Committee for and on behalf of the Government of the United States do hereby agree to pay to the said William Clarke and Francis Salters, the same price, that the Galley of the same size built for the Government in Charleston and finished in like manner, shall be found to cost.

Witness our Hands & seals this 20th day of January, 1799.

FRANCIS SALTERS [or SALTUS]

for self & Partner

WILLIAM JOYNER

JOHN CHAPLIN JUN^r

WILLIAM H. CAPPERS

WILLIAM ELLIOTT

STEPHEN ELLIOTT

THOMAS TALBIRD

THOMAS GRAYSON

[NDA. Contracts, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 20 January 1799

Moderate Breezes working to Windward at 3 P. M. departed this Life Oliver Jestram Seaman at 4 Committed his Body to the deep with the Usual Ceremonies at ½ past 4 Shortend Sail for Cap^t Nicholson to come onb^d from the Commodore at 5 fill'd & made Sail

at 10 Joind the U. S. Ship of War *Geo. Washington* of 32 Guns. find^d the Ship too Deep hove overboard Some Shingle Ballast

Dominico N. West End bear^d South 9 miles Distance Marigalante N.N.E. 10 Miles.

[No observation.]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 20 January 1799

First part pleasant Weather

At 1 PM bore away for 2 large Ships run within $1\frac{1}{2}$ leagues of the same & shew'd our signals, but they not answering them at 2 PM hall'd our wind & made sail for Dominico

At 5 D^e Came too in Prince Ruperts Bay & moor'd Ship, the Cap^t went on shore—Saw a large Ship running down the North side of the Island

Latter part pleasant

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES' SHIP *Constellation*,
Bassateer Roads, S^t Christophers, 21st Jan^r 1799.

DEAR SIR, When I was on my Return from off Martinica to this Place, I stretched near the Roads of Bassateer, Gaudaloupe, and spoke the *Concord*, a British Frigate, commanded by Captain Barton, who informed me, that you was then at Prince Ruperts' Bay, Dominica, and in the Afternoon (of the 15th Instant) I discovered, and spoke Captain Murray with the Fleet, and agreeable to his Request took the Command, and led them down to this Place, where they all anchored safe the next Day, and from whence they sailed this Morning for the United States.

I left Hampton Roads the first Instant with a Convoy having with me the *Richmond*, Captain Barron, on the 12th I made the Island of Antigua, when I dispatched the *Richmond* with some of the Vessels to Saint Thomas's, with Orders to join me as soon as possible at this place, and I proceeded and saw safe (on the 14th) into Saint Peire's Road, Martinica, the Schooner *Thetis*, having the young Lady on Board, that M^r Stoddert mentioned to us in Philadelphia.

On speaking with Captain Murray off Gaudaloupe he informed, that you had left the Fleet, and was just in Sight to Windward from the Deck; I consider it rather unfortunate, that you had not accompanied Murray, and the Convoy an Hour, or two longer, as we then should have had the Pleasure of meeting.

The *Norfolk* was put in Squadron with me, and I delivered Captain Williams the Secretary's Orders Yesterday, but at the Request of Captain Murray, I have suffered the *Norfolk* to accompany him to a certain Latitude beyond the Tropic, and then he is to join me here. The Number allotted me by the Secretary of the Navy, is six Sail, and I purpose furnishing Convoys for the Vessels from Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, Saint Christophers, and the Islands to Leeward as far as Saint Thomas's, and have assured the Consignees of Vessels, and many Masters, that as you have a Squadron to Windward, I was certain, on a proper Application being made to you, that you would order them a Convoy for all Vessels bound to the United States from Barbadoes, Saint Vincent, Grenado, Martinica, and the other Islands.

It is my Wish to fulfill my Instructions from the Government in the most full, and complete Manner in every Particular, and altho' we may not meet very soon, I shall always be happy to pass a friendly

Letter with you, when good Opportunities offer, and communicate what is proper for each others' Information.

I sail in the morning, and shall stretch close in with the Bay of Saint Martin's, a Place I intend to watch very closely, as well as Saint Bartholomews. I have sent the *Richmond* to Antigua, and Montserrat, to collect the Vessels, that were not ready to leave those Islands with the *Norfolk*, when she called for them; I expect her down with them the 28th Instant, when I shall have collected, I expect, about 20 Sail, and as I expect Williams will be here about that Time, I mean to proceed with them myself to the Northward, as far as Murray will go with the present Convoy.

Be pleased to make my Compliments to O'Brien, and be assured, I am, Dear Sir, with Sentiments of great Regard and Esteem

Your Friend, and very humble Servant

THOMAS TRUXTUN

N. B. I expect the *Baltimore* and }
two Others out every Day to join me }

Captain BARRY of the United States Ship *United States*.

[NYPL, and HS of Pa., NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 21 January 1799

Light Winds & Cloudy Employd triming Ship made and Shorten'd Sail as Necessary. At 4 P.M. S.E. end of Marigalante N.E.E. 7 Miles Dist

At 8 Moderate & Cloudy. S.E. end of Marigalante W.S.W. 5 Miles Dist. *United States* in C^o

At 9 A.M. Saw a Strange Sail bear^t E.N.E. The *United States* made the private Signal which She could not answer made Sail and gave Chace @ 12 the Chace bore N.N.E. 12 Miles Dist

[Latitude observed 16° 4^m N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 21 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] First part pleasant Weather & light winds

Middle part moderate, with some squalls or rain

Latter part pleasant — took on board 37 Casks of water & 1 boat load of Ballast to trim the Ship — Arriv'd from a Cruise the British Frigate *Pearl* Cap^t Ballard

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Lieutenant Charles C. Russell, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 22^d January 1799 —

Lieu^t CHARLES C RUSSELL

Boston

SIR You will please immediately on rec^t of this, take Command of the Ship *Herald*, as L^t & Commandant, and make all possible dispatch in getting that Vessel ready for Sea. —

I believe she is overloaded with Guns — that she will be a better, and more formidable Vessel with 14 or 16 Guns, and a reduced Crew. You are therefore at liberty to reduce her number of Guns. —

I shall tomorrow write you again. —

I have the Honor to be &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 22^d January 1799.

STEPHEN HIGGINSON Esq^r

Boston

SIR I am this day favored with your of the 14 Ins^t — your last letter, of the 3^d January taught me to expect, that arrangements would be made for the *Herald*, on the arrival of Cap^t Sever, in Town, that evening. — and I have done nothing on the subject of Officers, in consequence of that letter. — I now write L^t Russel, to take command of that vessel, as L^t and Commandant.

It appears clearly enough from the documents that Russell brought, that Nicholson's conduct in withholding his commission was improper. — That he afterwards wanted Russel on board — and Russel acted right in refusing to go, without rec^d his commission, which he knew to be in the hands of Nicholson — He is well spoken of by Gentlemen from Boston — and I hope may be quite equal to the Command of the *Herald*. — you have said nothing on the subject of reducing the number of Guns, as proposed in my letter. — I have written to M^r Russel on this subject

I wish the Vessel may be under the Carpenter hands, to make her into a Cutter, as I find there would have been full time, before she will sail. —

It will now be too late to begin; — and I suppose she will be ready for a Cruise as soon as Instructions to that effect, can be sent on, which shall be in two or three Days. —

I have the Honor &c^r

[NDA, GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 22^d January 1799

STEPHEN HIGGINSON Esquire

Boston

SIR Cap^t Chapman recommended in a letter dated the 31st Oct^r M^r Hiller, to be a first Lieu^t in the Navy. He wrote me the 1st January, that unless M^r Hiller could have rank from June 1798, he begged leave to resign the service. Such claims are inadmissible.

I send a commission enclosed, giving him rank from 31st Oct^r — If he will continue in the Service under this Com^s please to deliver it to him; if he will not, be so good as to return it immediately — and let a suitable person be appointed immediately to fill the vacancy. — If none such occurs in a day or two I shall lament it — and will in future remedy such inconveniences by paying less attention to the circumstance of getting the Officers where the Ships are preparing —

I have the Honor to be &c^r

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Tuesday, 22 January 1799

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] Fresh Breezes, and very squally unpleasant Weather. Several Merchant Ships arrived from England under Convoy, last from Barbadoes, of the *Saint Magarette*, a Frigate of 36 Guns, commanded by Captain Parker, and in the Evening the said Frigate with the *Cyane* British Sloop of War, Captain Matson sailed for Antigua.

At 10 AM the *Constellation* underway, and run to Leeward between Sandy Point (the West End of St Christopher's) and St Eustatia intending to cruize off St Martins, and Saint Bartholomew's, untill I have further Information respecting the Enemies Cruizers &c:

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 22 January 1799

Fresh Breezes and Squally @ $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 P.M. Carried away our Main T.G. Yard Sent it down & got up another.

At 8 P.M. Marigalante bore W.S.W. 12 Miles Distance Deseada bore N. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 3 or 4 Leagues Distance

Parted Company with the *United States* owing to the Darkness of the Night

At 2 $\overline{\text{A}}$ Ship to the Southw^d At 5 $\overline{\text{A}}$ Ship to the Northw^d
At Merd^s Marigalante North end W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. 20 Miles & Deseada N.N.W. 15 Miles.

[Latitude 15°29' N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 22 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] First part pleasant Weather

At 7 PM unmoored Ship

At 9 got underway, set all sail on the wind

At 11 PM fresh breezes took in T G sails

At 2 AM took in one reef in the Topsails

At 4 AM saw a Sloop, gave her a Gun & brought her too & boarded her — She was from Rozeau [Roseau] in Dominico bound to the Saints

[Latitude observed 15.51N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Secretary of State from Fulwar Skipwith, U. S. Consul General, France

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To SEC: OF STATE

PARIS 23^d January 1799.

SIR, As every circumstance expressive of the present disposition or intentions of this Government towards neutral Nations in general, and the United States in particular, must at the present juncture,

prove acceptable to our Government to know, I hasten to transmit you a copy of the message lately addressed to the Council of 500, by the Directory concerning the actual system of privateering; the object of that message is first to place in the hands of Government, the immediate controul of all prise business, instead of the Commercial and civil Tribunals, and from the evident necessity of repressing the violence and rapacity of French privateers, I have reason now to think that the system suggested by the Directory will be soon approved by the Legislature; and that in consequence the rights & property of Neutral Nations will be considerably more respected than they have hitherto been. In hope, as I am also, of this change proposed by Government of the mode & principles of judging prises, proving favorable to some, if not all the American Vessels lately captured and now under trial, I deem it expedient to follow where I am charged with the defence of such Vessels, and to recommend to all others charged with the same, the system of procrastination.

I deem it not uninteresting also to inclose to you under cover hereof an exact translation of a letter lately provoked by me from the Minister of Foreign Relations to the Minister of Justice, in consequence of some representations, which I had just before made of the absurd and iniquitous application, of the laws and arrests concerning the Role d'Equipage, which shamefully continue to be practiced by many of the Tribunals. I beg to observe that the copy of the letter above alluded to was privately procured and furnished me by M^r Victor Dupont formerly French Consul at Charleston, and whose aid and Zeal in rendering my Countrymen service, I cannot too much commend. At this Gentleman's request I likewise transmit to you an example of a letter lately published and written by him to the Commissary of the Directory near the Tribunal of Cassation on the subject above mentioned.

I inclose to you at the same time copy of a declaration made by three American Seamen before the American Consular Agent at Ostend concerning the loss of the Ship *Polly*, Captain Stewart, and her Cargo near that port and on their passage from New York to Hambro; and at foot you have the names of [space] American Vessels which have been captured by French privateers & brought into ports since my last respects.

Respectfully, I have the honor to be,
Sir, Your most Humble Servant

FULWAR SKIPWITH.

Brig *Tryal*, of Philadelphia, Cap^t Talbot, brought into Bordeaux.
Ship *Pigou*, of Philadelphia, Cap^t Green; L'Orient.

— *Patapsco*, Captain Hill, Dieppe.

— *The American*, of New York, Cap^t Burger, Dieppe.

— *The Amsterdam*, Cap^t Adam Scott, Cherbourg.

— *The Ami & Susan*, of Charleston, Cap^t Pickett, Cherbourg.

Brig *Adventure*, of Philadelphia, Cap^t Brioren, Brest.

Ship *Statira*, of Norfolk, Cap^t Seaward, L'Orient.

Brig *Maria*, of Norfolk, Cap^t Jeffery, Roscoff.

— *Ruby*, of Charleston, Cap^t Riof, Concameau.

To Lieutenant Charles C. Russell, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 23^d January 1799

L^t CHARLES C RUSSEL

Boston.

SIR My letter of yesterday invested you with command of the *Herald*, with instructions that you should use your utmost Exertions to prepare her for sailing. — I hope by the time this reaches you, this Vessel will be ready to proceed on the intended Cruise — I have it therefore in Command from the President, to order that without delay, you proceed to the Island of Dominica, in the West Indies, & cruise in the vicinity of Prince Ruperts Bay, untill you fall in with Cap^t Barry of the Frigate *United States*, who will afterwards direct your operations. —

I enclose your Authority to capture or destroy French Armed Vessels wherever found on the high Seas, or elsewhere; also to recapture Vessels captured by the French — There is another description of Vessels from which our Commerce has sustained much Injury. — I mean armed cruising Vessels acting without commissions, — such Vessels are pirates, and your Authority extends to the capture or destruction of all Vessels of this description. —

In executing these Instructions you will bear in mind, that we are at peace with all Nations except the French; and that it is not only our Policy but our wish, to cultivate and preserve peace, by practising the duties of civility, & friendship. Therefore, should you meet with any American Vessel captured by the Vessels of any of the Nations at war except the French; or should you even see such Vessels in the very act of Capturing an American Vessel—you cannot recapture in the one case, nor can you lawfully interfere to prevent such Capture in the other. — Where such captures are made, it is to be presumed that the Courts of such Nations will render justice. —

You cannot be too assiduous, to introduce and preserve order & discipline among your Crew. — Order and discipline among your Crew, a Love of country, and respect for its Government; a high sense of the honor of the American Flag, and a Spirit of Emulation, to maintain it, are the only roads to honor and distinction; Such I hope will be most prominent features in the Character of the Officers and Crew of the *Herald*. —

I enclose you a copy of the circular Instructions, given the 29th Dec 1798 and 16th January 1799 — which you are strictly to attend to. —

I have the Honor to be &c

To Lieutenant Killiam Van Rensselaer, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 23^d 1799

Lieut^t KILLIAM VAN RENSSSEALER

SIR You will please to proceed with as much expedition as you can to Boston, where you will enter on board the Ship *Herald* — Lt Russel being the Commander. —

I have the Honor to be &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*,
Wednesday, 23 January 1799

Kept on our Tacks beating to Windward all these twenty four Hours, and at Noon the Easternmost Point of Nevis bore S.B.E. and the Body of Saint Bartholomew's N.N.W. nearly Midchannel between the two Islands, no Vessels in Sight except two or three small Droghers.

Finding the Ship very tender in Consequence of the Expenditure of Water since we left the Chesapeake Bay, I ordered fifty Puncheons to be filled with salt water as soon as possible.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 23 January 1799

Light Winds. & Squally at times At 1 Shortend Sail @ 5 Up M^o Sail for the *United States* to come up Saw a Ship of War bear^t W.b.N. Rec^d orders f^r Com^o Barry to wear round and Stand to the Southw^t then wear & Stand to the Northw^t and Join him in the Morn^g the Com^o Made Signal to the Strange Sail prov^d an English Ship of War At 7 Saw the *United States* bear^t N.N.E. At 9 Ans^w the Com^o Signal to make Sail.

[Latitude 16° 50" N]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 23 January 1799

First part fresh breezes & pleasant Weather several small sail in under the land —

At 5 PM sent down T G Yards

South part of Dominico bearing S b W Dist. 5 leagues, Mariegalante N N E Dist. 4 leagues — At half past 1 AM standing in too near to Marigalante had 2 Shots from the Fort but did no damage Kept away a little, at 2 AM hall'd too again —

At Meridian Dominico, bore S W 4 leagues — Marigalante N W b N 6 D^e

[Latitude observed 15.44 N]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Captain Samuel Nicholson, U. S. Navy

[U.S.S.] *Constitution* PRINCE RUPERTS BAY

24 January 1799

SIR The United States Frigate *Constitution* which I have the honour to command is very much disabled in her Masts & Spars — I have therefore to request that you would be pleas'd to order a Survey of Carpenters & such other officers as you shall think proper — I have the honour to be

Your Obed. Hble Serv^t

SAM NICHOLSON

To JOHN BARRY Esq^r }
Commanding the
American Navy }

[NHSC. NYHS.]

To Richard Caton, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 24th January 1799

RICH^d CATON Esquire
Baltimore

SIR Col^o Howard was so obliging as to shew me your letter to him, respecting Cap^t Phillips. —

I am not surprized that his dismission should have excited the Sensibility of his friends — and indeed of those who had only heard of him — for the opinion generally entertained of him, was a favourable one, and except in the transaction with Loring, he appears to have conducted himself with propriety and zeal — and I am inclined to believe, that had it been his fortune to have had a transaction with a French instead of an English Vessel, no cause would have been given to censure his conduct. — Cap^t Phillips has all the evidence respecting his treatment by the Executive, in his own hands, if he has been hardly dealt with, I am to blame, not the President, who Judged from my representation.

He has a copy of the Narrative upon which he was dismissed, & the copy which he has is in the hand writing of Cap^t Truxtun — I beg you to get a sight of this paper, read my letter to him containing his dismission; — and all the letters and Instructions he rec^d for his cruise, and then judge between him and the Executive. —

Nothing is more true, than that, as the last letter he received, states, his subject was taken up with every disposition to make every allowance for the unprecedented situation, to which he had been exposed.

The feelings of the people of this Country, are not more averse, than the feelings of the President, to the sacrifice of an innocent man, to motives of policy. It was Phillips's own narration of his own conduct, which dismissed him.

As to his being without a commission, if such was the fact, and I have no doubt it was; he neither in his narrative, nor in his conversation here, mentioned it as a circumstance which produced the smallest effect upon his conduct with Loring or which subjected him to any difficulty, or embarrassment; nor do I believe he was ever questioned

by Cap^t Loring on the subject; — or why not mention it in his narrative, or conversation here, as a mitigation of conduct, which he saw was not approved? The way he introduced the subject of a commission at all was by a question, whether he was not to have one the last day I saw him — I found on the register that a commission was marked as being sent him on the 9th day of July — but from his enquiry and from other circumstances, I was satisfied he had not rec^d it — & I gave him one, it not being determined at that time, to dismiss him the service. —

You speak of a private letter of mine to Phillips in your letter to Col. Howard — he has no private letter of mine — nor ought he to make such a representation.

I trouble you with this long letter, not with any desire to censure Phillips — but to put it in your power to know the whole truth, and to advise him the course he ought to pursue. I would indeed be sorry if any tenderness for the Reputation of our Government particularly for a Department of it, under my management should influence honorable men from a vindication of an injured man —

I have the Honor &C.

P. S. You are at full liberty to make what use you please of this letter.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To John Derby, Salem, Mass., from John Saunders

NEW YORK Jan^r 24, 1799.

D^r SIR We have an arrival here from Cadiz, left there 10 Nov^r amongst many others, — the Ship *Astrea* 26 Guns & Brig^t *Georgia Packet* 12 Guns, both to sail for Alicant first fair wind — the paper containing this Intelligence I have sent per mail — I have sold 20 Tons of Iron @ £ 43, 120 Days & 50 Bolts duck @ 17 \$ — 90 Days —

The Ship *Sampson* (owned by Gouverneur & Kemble) is [word obliterated] 89 days from Bourdeaux with 600 pipes 4th Brandy. [word obliterated] will find it difficult to obtain an entry —

West India Goods & produce keep up & large Shipments making — Vessells & freights encreasing — 28 / Sterling is giving per cask flax seed to Island & 30 / may be obtained — from the large number of persons commencing the Insurance Business, premiums have fallen 1/3 —

With best wishes for your prosperity

Remain your Ob^t Serv^t

JOHN SAUNDERS

M^r JOHN DERBY Esq^r

[Essex Institute. Salem, Mass.]

[24 January 1799]

Deposition of James Freeman, Master of the Brig *Diana*

On this Twenty Six day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & ninety nine — James Freeman Master of the American Brig called the *Diana* mounting six carriage Guns & manned with fifteen men & bound for this Port of Malaga with a

Cargo of Dry Cod fish Francis Douglas Mate & Nathaniel Harris second Mate personally appearing before me Michael Morphy Consul of the United States of America at this port & made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God each Speaking for himself do jointly & Severally Declared in manner and to the effect following that is to say, that they the appearers Sailed in & with the said Brig from the Harbour of Boston on the 27th December of last year —

Nothing occurring on their passage untill they got in sight of this Port when at 9 oClock A. M. on the 24th January last past they fell in with two french privateers, & as soon as they came within reach we saw that they intended to Board uss by their Manuvers we immediately hoisted our colours and fired a shot at them & they immediately hoisted french colours & fired upon us with their Bow Guns we then commenced firing with all the Guns that we could bring to bear, but they kept direct astern of uss as much as possible & from 9 untill 12 we fired our Stern Guns between 35 & 40 times and with such Dexterity that they Dare not come near us although one of them was much Superior to uss in force, But unfortunately a third Privateer comeing out from Malaga fired a twelve pounder at uss, which as soon as the other Privateers saw him took courage & they all came upon uss at once & we then saw resistance useless which obliged uss to haul Down our colours, & they run their vessels direct on board; the first that boarded uss was the *Du Gommier* Captain Bernard Maurel mounting Five carriage guns one of which was a large brass one & forty men Eight whereof were wounded three mortally & did the Vessel much Damage the Second called the *Don Quichotte* Capⁿ Anthony Icard mounting one Gun & some Swivils the third Sixty men & nine Guns Six, Eight & Twelve pounders, then four miles from Cape Molino and Eight miles from Malaga, our vessel received much Damage in her Sails & rigging so that we had much difficulty to get into Port not less than three hundred Shotts struck our vessel & cast anchor in this port yesterday —

Wherefore these appearers by Reason of the premisses Do hereby for themselves and all other who it doth or may concern Solemnly Protest against the said Cruizers called the *Du Gommier* & *Don Quichotte* their officers & all persons concern'd in them for all Damages & losses they may accrue to their vessel & Cargo through the Cause of this Detention & also against the Consul of the french Chancery in Malaga — And they make this Declaration & protest before us to Serve & avail in time & place Convenient —

Thus Declared Sworn & Protested in our	} JAMES FREEMAN FRANCIS DOUGLASS NATH ^l L. HARRIS
presence in Malaga the day & Year above	
written witness our hand & Seal of office —	

MICH^l MORPHY

And Afterwards to wit on this Fourth day of february in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred & Ninety Nine the said James Freeman Master of the armed American Brig called the *Diana* Fran^t Douglas Mate & Natha^l Harris second Mate again appearing in this Counsular office Declaring Solemnly on Oath that the Consul of the french Republick at Malaga after examining their papers had passed Sentence this day adjudging their Brig & her Cargo as good & lawfull prize to the privateers the *Du Gommier* Capⁿ Bernard Maurel

& the *Don Quichotte* Capⁿ Anthony Icard for the reasons he Sets forth in his Condemnation as per copy handed me, & from w^{ch} I appeal to the Superior Tribunal of Aix there being no Declaration of war at either side between the Republick of france or the United States & no cause for this treatment —

Wherefore these appearers for themselves & all others whom it doth or may concern Do hereby Solemnly protest against the said Consul & his Sentence & all concerned in the privateers for having dispossessed them of their vessel & Cargo & turned them on shoar when they should be provided for, as happens with all other nations in cases of a Similar nature And they make this Declaration & protest to evidence the premisses & to serve & avail in time & place Convenient —

Thus Declared Sworn & Protested before us { JAMES FREEMAN
in Malaga the Day & Year above written — { FRANCIS DOUGLASS
NATH^l L. HARRIS

MICH^l. MORPHY

[SDA. Spol. Cl. S. C., 1819, Vol 23.]

[24 January 1799]

The capture of the Ship *Diana*, commanded by James Freeman

"MALAGA, Jan. 26, 1799.

"GENTLEMEN, I am sorry to inform you of our misfortune: However, I have done all that any man could do to save your property.

"The 22d day after I left Boston, I fell in with the ship *Industry*, Capt. Goodwin, and kept company with her until the 25th of Jan. then parted off Ceuta. The next morning early, I saw two privateers coming out from Malaga, who passed by us — then tacked ship and followed us. As soon as they got within reach, I hoisted my colours, and gave them a shot from my weather quarter: They immediately hoisted French colours, and both gave me a shot, and got direct a-stern. I then cut my stern ports down to the deck, and got my two longest guns out a-stern. In the mean time they had fired the second shot, and had got quite near me. I then commenced firing my stern chases, and the second shot I cut away the jib and half the foremast of the largest privateer, which caused them to drop a little farther astern, and we all continued firing from 9 o'clock till 12, and their guns being so much larger than mine, they kept cutting away my rigging, when I could scarce reach them. By this time I was becalmed, and saw another privateer coming a-head, and fired a 12-pound shot at me, and those a-stern, taking advantage of the calm, with their oars kept in such direction, that I could not fire a gun — neither did they until they came within musket shot, when they gave me a charge of grape and musket shot, which cut away main-topsail yard, jib and fore-topmast stays, both top-gallant sheets and halyards, so that they are all hanging overboard. I fired my muskets once, and finding resistance useless, hauled down my colours; being then about 4 miles from land, and 8 from Malaga. I fired my stern guns about 40 times, and two

windward ones about 10, and it is the most surprising thing, that they killed none of my men, tho' we received above 300 shot into our vessel.

"The first boat that boarded me had one brass 9-pounder, and four 3's, and 40 men, of which I killed two and wounded six — the second was a small one of only one gun and 4 swivels — the third was a privateer of nine guns, one 12 and eight 8-pounders, and 60 men.

"I dare say you have heard of the capture of your schooner, Capt. Griste, long before this. As I cannot justify Capt. G. for giving up your property to such a boat, with a pretence that his men would not fight, therefore I shall say no more about him.

"I am your obedient servant,

"JAMES FREEMAN."

✎ This Griste commanded a schooner armed with two 12, and four 3-pounders, 2 large swivels, small arms, pistols, cutlasses, board-nettings, and every implement that was necessary to defend his vessel, with 13 hands, and was captured by a boat that is said mounted 2 guns, and which he himself took for a fishing-boat, as appears by his protest.

[LC, Boston, "Columbian Centinel", 13 April 1799.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Thursday, 24 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and very Black, squally, dirty unsettled Weather with Rain from 6 PM to 4 AM. At half an Hour before One PM discovered two Sail, a Ship, and a Schooner before the Port, and Road of Gustavia, in the Island of Saint Bartholomew, which bore N.N.W. and as it lies in Latitude of 17°.54'N°, and our Latitude, when we made the above Vessels, was 17°.31'N° (it being 17°.28 at Noon) we could not have been less than 7 Leagues from the Harbour, and as the top Sails, and top Gallant Sails of the strange Ship were only above the Horizon, the Ship which stood in on our first Appearance could not have been above $\frac{3}{4}$ of a League from the Harbour, when we discovered her. I however gave Chace, but as she stood immediately in, and I had no Chance of speaking her, I brought to the schooner which stood off, and found by her Papers, she was a Swede bound to Gaudaloupe, and had been out about three Hours. Sent on Board, and had her well examined, but she had Nothing in but Ballast, and I suffered her to proceed; the Master informed me the Ship was a Frenchman from Bordeaux bound to Gaudaloupe, and had some Guns.

Standing off and on before the Port of Gustavia in Hopes the french Ship will come out. The above Schooner's Name was the *Venus*, James Hassell Master.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 24 January 1799

Fresh Breezes & Squally W^t At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 Observ^d the Fishes of the Foremast to Work very Much and the head of the mast to incline to Starboard on Examination found the Mast in a Very Dangerous Situation Carried away our Main T. Mast Cross Trees & Main T. Mast Stay Down T.G. Yards at 4 Made signal to the Com^o we were not able to Keep Company as we could not carry Sail She hove too. at 5. Rec^d orders to Stand on till we weathard Deseada then Shorten Sail till day light & then follow the Com^o into port At 8 Deseada bore W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. 7. Miles dist at 4 P.M. Departed this Life Cornelius Howard (Negro) at 6 committed his Body to the Deep. at Merd^o Dominico West end bore S.E.b.E $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 2 Miles Dist.

[NDA.]

To Thomas Johnson, Frederick, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 25th 1799

THO^s JOHNSON Esq^r
Frederick Town, M^d

SIR I have received your letter of the 20th Ins^t You may deliver the Kentledge to M^r John Suter of Alexandria; I should long since have answered your former letter, but the Secretary at War has not yet made up his mind on the subject — you shall here from me as soon as I am enabled to give you the information you require, — but I fear you will make no bargain —

The Agent at the Public Arsenal at Harpers Ferry writes the Secretary at War, that there is no Iron to be had, nearer than Grubbs in Penn^a fit for Musket Barrels. — Is this possible; It is a thing well worth your enquiry, and consideration. — I do not believe it can be true. —

I am Sir

Your mos^t &^c

[NDA. GLB, Vol 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Friday, 25 January 1799

Two Brigs, the one belonging to New York, and the Other to Wilmington and Phyladelphia, having come out at Sun Rise of Saint Bartholomew bound Home, and the Masters judging that their Insurance would be effected by their going to Saint Christophers to join the Convoy for the United States which I expect to dispatch next Week, I determined on seeing them clear of Saint Martins, Anguilla and the Dog Island &c: and accordingly made Sail, and led them on At 9 AM we passed the Forts of Saint Martins, which belongs to the French within Gun Shot. At 11 passed Anguilla, and at Noon abreast of the Dog Island which bore E.N.E. two Leagues Distance.

Very squally, uncertain Weather with Rain, employed repairing the Rigging, and Sails, both of which are very bad.

Brought to three Schooners, and a Sloop these twenty four Hours, but found them all under friendly Colours; two of the Schooners were English (one a Privateer the *Tickler* of Antigua) the other two Vessels were Swedes.

Latitude observed 18°.13' North.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 25 January 1799

Fresh Breezes & Squally At 1 P. M. Shorten'd Sail and prepar'd for working into Dominico at 2 carried away our Jibb Boom @ 3 P. M. came too with our best Bower in 17 f^m Water Cap^t Nicholson waited on Comodore Barry & Represented the Situation of the *Constitution* wth was as follows Viz^t

Our Fore Mast badly Sprung

Our Main Top Mast badly Sprung

Our Jibb boom carried away.

at 5 Moor'd Ship Best Bower E. N. E. Small Bower W. S. W. at Day light out Boats Survey'd the Fore Mast by order of Cap^t & it is Reported Serviceable wth Repairs went to work Immediately in order to expedite the Business.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 25 January 1799

First pleasant weather

At 2 PM saw Descada bearing N ½ W Dist. 7 leagues — at 3 PM Squally, Reef'd the Topsails, at 6 D^o point Chateaux bore N ½ W 4 leagues

Middle part fresh breezes —

At 6 AM saw a sail to windward Made sail & gave chase at 7 She bore away for us, shew'd her our Signals which she answer'd at 11 spoke her, the U. S. Ship [George] *Washington* Patrick Fletcher Commander, Cap^t Brown went on board her

[Latitude observed 16.02 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA Photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mallowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 25 January 1799

Arrived and anchor'd at Prince Ruperts Bay —

[NA.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Saturday, 26 January 1799

Fresh Breezes, and squally. At One PM being a little to the Northward of the Dog Island, which forms the Southern, and Sombrero the Northern Part, of the Common Passage for Ships bound Homeward from these Islands, and no Vessels in Sight, I desired the two Brigs mentioned in Yesterday's Transactions to proceed on, as I

considered them out of all Danger of the french Cruizers, that hover about this Quarter, and made Sail by the Wind to the Southward, and Eastward. At 8 AM chased a Danish Ship into Saint Bartholomew's. At 10 Ditto a Sloop came out which I suspected to be a Frenchman, and on her being something better than three Leagues from the Harbour, gave Chace to her, and when she was about four Leagues, fired two Shot athwart her Bow, some Distance ahead of her, as a Signal for her to heave to in Order that I might speak her, but she put about, and stood in Again after the second Shot to the Harbour.

At half past 11 AM saw a Sail to Windward, gave Chace.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 26 January 1799

First part pleasant Weather & fresh breezes — at 6 PM. Deseada bore N W 4 leagues. Marigalante S W $\frac{1}{2}$ W 6 leagues. Dominico S W b S 8 leagues. fresh breezes & large sea — Beating to windward in company with the U. S. Ship [*George*] *Washington* — Reef'd the topsails & sent down T G Yards —

Middle part hard squalls with rain.

Latter part pleasant weather at 8 AM Deseada bore N b W 4 leag^r Marigalante West 5 D^r & Dominico S W b S 8 leag^r dist. sent up T. G. Yards

Ends pleasant.

[Latitude observed 16.01 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy

[U. S. S.] *Ganges* S^t THOMAS'S 27th Jan^y 1799

SIR I had the honor to address You the 26th Dec^r by the ship *Charles* of Boston, copy of which N^o 1 is herewith enclos'd. — The weather continuing fine, and progressing on our course, on the morning of the 30th we gave chace to, and spoke the Brig^t *Mermaid* Capt^s Lownes of & from Baltimore for S^t Vincents — and on the 2^d ins^t made the Land of Hispaniola, at or near Old Cape Francois — Steering along the coast at noon on the 3^d we had pass'd Monté Christo, and in the afternoon, being only a few leagues to windward of New Cape Francois, we discover'd three Sail to whom we gave chace, till night render'd our falling in with them very uncertain — On the morn: of the 4th however we were near them, and soon discover'd them to be two British line of Battle Ships, and a Sloop of War — After receiving and answering the private signals, with that Flag. I went on board the *Hanibal* of 74 Guns, having been particularly and politely requested thereto by her Captain: Ed: T^r Smith Esq^r commander of the squadron: from whom I received the most friendly and marked attention — withal informing of it being the particular order of the Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, for a like regard to our ships Public or private, to every captain in his fleet — Capt^a Smith having also intimated (though in the most pleasing

terms, and scarce to be understood, as other than spontaneous discourse) that as I had arriv'd on a station preoccupied, and so closely invested by them — it would be pleasing to him — and he assur'd also that it would be much so to the Admiral; if I would write to the latter at Jamaica — offering also to be the bearer, or at least to forward my communications; conceiving no impropriety in this, I address'd the Admiral [letter of 5 January, 1799] which I hope will not meet the disapprobation of the President or Yourself

I also understood from Capt^s Smith and the other two Captains, who were on board the *Hanibal* at the time — that an almost total stagnation to the French privateering had taken place; owing to so heavy a penalty for their behaviour having been decreed, that very few were able or willing to comply with, and that not more than one in twenty of the prizes they took were french vessels; from this I could not but presage little business for the *Ganges*.

I continued to cruize off Cape Francois, till the morn' of Sunday the 6th when I steer'd to the leeward to come more immediately in the station assigned me, and hoping there also to meet the vessels order'd to join me from Charleston. In the afternoon sailing down the north side of the Island Tortudas, we discover'd a Sloop beating to windward — expecting from the situation that he was an American homeward bound, and willing to transmit you intelligence of all being well — made sail and brought him too. It proved the Sloop *Ceres* of Warren Rhode Island, David Sanders master; he was from Baltimore loaded by Jn^o M^cFadon & C^o with 500 barrels of flour, some wine and dry goods, clear'd out for Baracou in the Island of Cuba, and consign'd to the Captain; where also he declar'd he was bound; insisted that he had overran his port, and was beating off Key Moha, which he pretended to take the Isle of Tortudas for. — I detain'd him on board during the night — and in the morning sent for his mate and log book; but their business was too well preconcerted; the Captain, Mate, and Log-book were in unison, and all his papers clear & regular for his purpose. No doubt remain'd with me of his being bound for Cape Francois; but as I could obtain nought to substantiate proof thereof, at 9 on the morning of the 7th I dismiss'd him, causing him to steer for Baracou, where I had intended to see him put in — but soon after two sail appearing to the Southward, I quitted him and gave chase.

Approaching them I by signal discovered them to be two British Frigates. — on the 8th I fell in with another off the Platform; in succeeding days with others; and in short during my stay there, scarce an hour pass'd, but one, two, or more British cruizers were in sight. — On the 10th the trade wind began to blow with more violence than it had heretofore done — and the Ship having lightened considerably by the expenditure of water & provision, proved too tender to bear a press of sail — I had not been without apprehension & expectation of this, previous to leaving Philadelphia — and indeed it had been more than once intimated by Capt^s Dale. But my endeavors to obtain a sufficient quantity of shingle ballast, had been render'd abortive, unless I had determin'd to let other material business remain, in which case it is evident the Ship would have been detain'd in the Delaware by the Ice. —

Every day prov'd more convincing of the necessity of getting the ship down in the water — as, should we have been obligated to chace to the leeward, the weather must have been fine indeed or we could not possibly have regain'd our station. I made repeated attempts to gain the Island of Henegga, in order to ballast there, and probably obtain some water — but the weather continuing heavy, the wind more in the NE than usual — and the Ship making bad way against the sea — I could not fetch that Island — and was therefore necessitated to return and lay with easy sail, under the west end of Hispaniola, between Cape Nicholas and the Platform. On the 15th I stood close in with the land, sent the boats on shore with a quantity of bags, and fill'd with ballast from the beach of a very small bay — but to have obtained sufficient relief by this mode I found would be too operose — and it being attended with some risque to the boats crews while on shore — as I could not without danger keep the Ship near enough to cover & defend them; I did not repeat the experiment — This day however we also fill'd some of our empty casks with salt water.

On the morn' of the 16th the weather proved mild, we stood out to the northward of Cape Nicholas, determining to try again for Heneaga, or some of the Keys — but about noon the wind springing up from the NNW — we weather'd the Isle of Tortudas by evening — and continuing our stretch by the wind, it just veer'd sufficient for us to weather the whole Island of Hispaniola, and on the morning of the 19th we were in with the Island of Porto Rico — a few leagues to the leeward of the City & harbour of St Johns.

The wind now resum'd its usual direction from the ENE — and being doubtful of the reception I might meet at Porto Rico, as also being totally unacquainted with its coast or harbour — I determin'd to endeavor for this port — and succeeded in getting in on the evening of the 24th — early on the 25th I waited on the Governor, who politely requested I would obtain, whatever I might be in need of.

On the Coast of Porto Rico, we saw and chaced several vessels, but all those we were enabled to bring too, belonged to this port, and were trading under Danish colours to & from different ports of Hispaniola.

I found here several American vessels, and one French privateer schooner of 14 guns; of which however I have heard there are very few now in these seas — This schooner is commanded by an Irishman named Williams, and sail'd yesterday on a cruize. —

There is one kind of business carried on here at present, which it would I conceive behove us much to endeavor to suppress. — Many American vessels are said to have arrived here, with provisions &c. in a day or two their papers are chang'd by a pretended sale, and they go off for French ports, in some instances, without shifting or discharging their cargoes — return here with french produce, resume their American papers, and clear from this for home. I shall endeavor to ascertain & identify some of the actors in this nefarious business, and give you information. — You should have been inform'd in my letter by the Pilot on leaving the Delaware — but in my hurry it totally escap'd recollection, that when the Ship was at New Castle, on getting the Long-boat in — it was found that the space left for

her to go through the upper deck, had, by a most egregious mistake been made near a foot too short — she was of course by necessity left on shore, and was put into the care of M^r James Riddle — This circumstance obligates me to hire a boat for the purpose of ballasting — I shall lose no time in effecting this business; in the interim shall fully replenish the store of water — and put to sea for the purpose of resuming my station — That situation however being once regain'd, and having met with the vessels order'd to join me (for they had not appear'd when I left it) unless there appears a greater prospect of actually effecting some of the purposes for which we came to Sea — I shall remain there very few days, but proceed agreeably to your instructions for the Cheseapeak, expecting there your farther directions.

Conceiving you may deem it right to order a launch to be built for the *Ganges*, either at Philadelphia, or at Norfolk against her arrival (for she certainly ought to have one) it need not exceed in extreme length 25 to 26 feet.

A memorandum of the Powers of Attorney, witnes'd by myself and the Purser, for the purpose of granting half pay to some of the wives or friends of the Crew — appears not to have been forwarded to You — I have enclos'd it therefore and the more especially as one person had the address to get one witnes'd — though we have no such man on board — The crew of the *Ganges* are in high health, nor has any one been materially sick during the voyage — I forbear troubling you with a list of them, as they are identically the same as agreeably to the Pay Roll transmitted from the capes of the Delaware — and in justice to them I must say that, such an enthusiastic ardor continues to pervade all ranks of Officers & Crew — that I stand assur'd of the firmest support, in case of being fortunate enough to meet opportunity for actual service.

As we came off deficient in the number you order'd for the Ship — I shall endeavor to obtain a few here, being inform'd there are some Americans on shore out of employ.

I am now at 1st February, having compleated my store of water, and got ballast sufficient I hope for the present cruise — I was about to proceed to Sea yesterday morning when I received application from the owners or masters of eight American vessels (who would be ready to sail this day) to wait and convoy them through the passage to leeward of this Island, fearing lest the french privateer which sail'd hence a few days past, should be there laying wait for them — Conceiving it my duty to afford them the protection requir'd — I detain'd the *Ganges* 'till this day — and I was farther induc'd thereto, in hope of recovering the Armourer, Armourers mate, & two Marines viz^t Christopher Welden, and Thomas Brown — who deserted the night before last — but I have not been succesful in finding them — nor have I obtain'd but two seamen at this port. I am now about to get under way with the homeward bound vessels — which I mean to attend clear of the Islands, and proceed as before intimated

I have the honor to be

&c &c &c

T. T. [THOMAS TINGEY]

Hon^{ble} BENJⁿ STODDERT

Sec^y of the Navy Philad^a

P^r Brig *Nancy*, Captⁿ DOUGHERTY

Duplicate

P^r Brig *Mercury*, Captⁿ KUHN

Being copy of the application, alluded to in the foregoing.

S^t THOMAS 31st Jan^y 1799

Captⁿ TINGEY

SIR We take the liberty of requesting you to detain the Sloop of War *Ganges*, now in the service of the United States of America, one day longer for the purpose of convoy, as it will be impossible for the subscribers to get their vessels ready before that period — We have the honor to be

with great respect Sir &c &c

Signed JOSIAH INGERSOLL	JN ^o R SKIDDEY [?]	Az ^o RILEY
CHRISTOPHER LEE	JOHN OGILVIE	FRANCIS YOUNG
	GEORGE KUHN	ISAAC BURR

[NDA. Tingey LB, 1798-1800.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Sunday, 27 January 1799

At ½ past One PM brought to after firing three Shot, and spoke a Brig thirty three Days out from Plymouth in Great Britian, bound to Saint Bartholomews under Swedish Colours.

The Master reported that he had been robbed by a french Privateer, of four Guns, and all his Stores; had no other News, except a Report in England of the Death of General Bunoparte in Egypt.

After speaking the above Brig, stood on as per Column of Courses, intending to look into Mountserratt Road for American Vessels, and to conduct them to Saint Kitts to join the Convoy for America. At 5 PM an English Privateer, that was repairing at Saint Bartholomews, came out and fired a Gun to Leeward as a Signal for a Friend.

At 6 AM saw two Men of War to Windward, gave Chace to the largest Ship, and sometime after made the private Signal, which was answered, and they proved to be British.

Stood on towards Montserratt, and at Noon abreast of the Road, and within a Mile of where I found three English Vessels, and one Light American Schooner, together with one Ship, and three small Vessels, which shewed no Colours, consequently I take them to be Prizes.

Very squally, dirty, and disagreeable Weather. My Intention for stretching so near into Montserratt was to see whether there were any American Vessels there bound to the United States, in Order that I might take them under Convoy.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 27 January 1799

PRINCE RUPERTS BAY.

Moderate Breezes & Cloudy got up the New M. T. Mast. Condemn'd 400^{lbs}. Bread unfit for use Rec'd from the *United States* 1 Piece of Timber & one Anchor Stock At 7 P. M. Anchor'd here the U. S. Ship of War *Geo. Washington* of 32 Guns. Cap't Fletcher, and U. S. Sloop of War *Merrimack* Cap't Brown of 28 Guns. Carpenters employ'd fishing the Fore Mast.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 27 January 1799

First part pleasant Weather

At 1 PM spoke the [*George*] *Washington* & bore away in Company for Dominico at 4 hall'd to the S E^s

At 5 squally, reef'd the Topsails, at 7 lay by —

Middle part Moderate & pleas't

At 4 AM made sail, at 7 saw a Ship to leeward shew them our signals which were answer'd —

At 9 came too in Prince Ruperts bay in Comp'y with the [*George*] *Washington* in 15 fathoms water — *United States* & *Constitution* at anchor in the bay

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 27 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] The [*George*] *Washington* & *Merrimack* arrived. —

[NA.]

[28 January 1799]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

DEAR SIR, I have been several Days cruising off Saint Bartholomews since I saw you, where there lies a French Ship ready to sail, and as I understand, for Guadaloupe. Yesterday I stretched within a short League of Bassatere and saw Nothing, except a small Droger, which I fired several Shot at, close in Shore, nor was any Thing to be seen under the Saints.

I convoyed two valuable Brigs from Saint Bartholomews on Friday, as far as the Passage between Dog Islands and Sombrero and I request you to proceed with the Vessels at present with you as far as the Latitude of twenty degrees North, and return to these Roads as fast as possible, where you will find me, I am now going to Windward, to take another Chance of meeting the french Ship, having only come down to dispatch you.

Should you meet with the *Norfolk*, or *Baltimore*, or any other Vessel belonging to my Squadron, desire them to repair to this Place with you. Wishing you Success I remain

Dear Sir

Your Obed^t hble Servant

BASSATEER ROADS 28th Jan^y. 1799.

Capt^y BARRON

U. S. Brig *Richmond*

[HS of Pa. NDA Photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Thomas Morris, One of the Committee for Ship Building at Charleston, S. C.,
from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 28th 1799.

THOMAS MORRIS Esq^r

of the Committee Charleston

SIR I am honored with the receipt of your letter of the 7th Ins^t — There is a Ship building at New York called the *Adams* and as a distinction, it will be proper to have the Charleston Ship named the *John Adams* — your letter for Gurney & Smith shall be delivered — Enclosed you will receive Lists of Military Stores and provisions which will be necessary — you will please to be particular in informing me, which of the Articles you can procure, the residue shall be forwarded you from hence — The sooner I am furnished with the information the better —

I have the Honor to be &c &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To William Crafts, Navy Agent, Charleston, S. C., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 28th Jan^y 1799.

WILLIAM CRAFTS Esq^r Charleston

SIR I am honored with your letter of 10th Ins^t — my letters theretofore, will explain why the *Gen^l Pinckney* was not immediately put under your direction, as Navy Agent. — I certainly never intended any thing like censure of you in any of my observations. — If the *Gen^l Pinckney* Should be in port when you receive this, I beg the favor of you as Navy Agent, to take immediate possession of her. — and fit her out with the Number of Guns, she is in your Judgment capable of carrying to advantage — if the number be only Six. — I have written to M^r Simons to give up the direction of this Vessel to you. —

I have the Honor to be &c &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To James Simons, Agent for U. S. Brig General *Pinckney*, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 28th Jan^y 1799

JA^s SIMONS Esq^r *Charleston*

SIR If the Gen^l *Pinckney* Should be in port when you receive this, you will please to give over the direction of that Vessel, to W^m Crafts Esquire, Navy Agent. —

I have the Honor to be &^c &^c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Monday, 28 January 1799

Stretched over from Montserrat Roads towards Gaudaloupe with a fresh Breeze of Wind; and at 5 PM chased a small Sloop, which I took to be a Drogher close under the Land of Bassateere, and fired several Shot at her, but a heavy Squall coming on, I lost Sight of her. Wore round, and shaped my Course for Saint Christophers, where I expected to meet the *Richmond* with several Merchant Vessels from Antigua bound to the United States.

At AM passed close under Montserrat, at four Ditto passed Rondondo also, at 7 Ditto abreast of Nevis, made my private Signal, in Order to ascertain if the *Richmond* was in S^t Christophers, which she soon answered, when I made the Signal for the Fleet to get Underway, which was also answered by the *Richmond*, which Vessel got underway, and immediately came out, stretched to Windward where I was lying with the maintop Sail to the Mast. I directed Captain Barron to come on Board immediately, and receive his Orders, which he did, and I directed him to proceed with all the American Vessels ready for Sea to the Latitude of 20° North, and then to return to Saint Kitts for further Orders.

As soon as I dispatched Captain Barron, I made Sail, & Stretched to Windward, intending to stand near to Gaudaloupe, and afterwards proceed, as I may have Information, & as particular Circumstances may make it necessary.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

To Secretaries of State, War, and the Treasury from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 29th January 1799.

SEC^y OF STATE
OF WAR
OF TREASURY —

SIR The President requested me to consult the Heads of Departments, whether the President, in whom is vested the Executive power of the Nation, possesses the Constitutional power of regulating the exchange of Prisoners, & all matters belonging to that Subject. —

Will you be pleased to turn this subject over in your mind? — If the power is not with the President, an Act of Congress will be necessary. —

I have the honor &c

[NDA. Sec. State. LB, 1798-1824.]

To Secretary of War from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 29th January 1799

SECRETARY AT WAR

SIR Two difficulties occur in the Statement of the account for the first Cruise of the Ship *Ganges*. — — Cap^t Dale contends that he should pay nothing for Cabbin Stores. — That going that Cruise to oblige the government and the Merchants, under circumstances which rendered it doubtful whether he was to continue in the service, he stipulated with you, that the cabbin Stores should be furnished him by the public. — —

It seems the Crew of the *Ganges*, were promised higher pay than was allowed by the existing regulations — — and it is said that the merchants of Philadelphia were to pay the difference. — — Mess^{rs} Willing and Francis, charge in their account against that Ship the whole sum paid the Crew — 20 Dollars, for example, to a Seaman — the regulations allow but 17. — — — —

Will you be so good as to give me your recollection of the agreement with Cap^t Dale as to Cabbin Stores — — and your opinion, from your recollection of the circumstances of the case, whether the charge of Willing & Francis should be admitted to the extent they make it. — — or whether they should only have credit for the Pay according to the Navy Regulations, — — I will just observe, that it seems hard that the Merchants should be obliged to pay any part of the expense of the Crew of a Public Ship. — —

I have the honor &c

[NDA. Sec. War, LB, 1798-1824.]

To Gibbs & Channing, Navy Agents, Newport, R. I., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Jan^y 29th 1799

Mess^{rs} GIBBS & CHANNING

Newport.

GENTLEMEN I am pleased to hear by a Letter from Cap^t Perry, that the Ship *General Greene* was safely launched on the 21st Ins^t — You have been furnished with lists of different articles necessary for this Ship, and some have been supplied from this place; be pleased to examine as to what you have so received, what you have yourself supplied or can supply, and inform me particularly if it will be necessary for me to send any other articles from hence, as I wish exceedingly to get this Ship away with dispatch —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Midshipman John Dent, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation* OFF

Bassateer, Gaudaloupe 29th January 1799.

SIR, You have paid so little Attention to the Rules and Regulations of the Navy, and to the general Duty assigned you in your Station, on Board this Ship as a Midshipman, that I have almost been

induced to send you Home; but at length I have determined (considering your Youth) on giving you another Chance, and if you have Reflection, you will now attentively study your own future Happiness, by speedily improving your Conduct, and Deportment in every Particular.

You have had very many Lessons, accompanied with the most friendly Advice, which it was wished and expected would have had the desired Effect of bringing forward your Exertion, and Readiness on all Occasions to do your Duty in a way, that would have been honorable to yourself, pleasing to me, and highly gratifying to your Father, and Friends, but hitherto you have been so very inattentive to Orders, and your own Improvement, and even Careless in your Person, that I have been ashamed to see you on the Quarter Deck.

I shall here stop for the present, but if after this I have the painful Task, of giving you another Reprimand rest assured, it will be followed by your taking Leave of this Ship, and a brief Statement being sent to your Father of all your Proceedings.

Was my own Son, who is in a similar Station with yourself in the Navy, to act as you have done, contrary to Example, and the most wholesome Advice, I should not only dismiss him the Service, but I believe I should disinherit, and let him shift for himself.

I am Yours &c.

T. T[RUXTUN]

M^r JOHN DENT.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Tuesday, 29 January 1799

Fresh Breezes the first, and Middle, the latter light Winds. At 8 PM close under Montserrat, the Lights of Plymouth Town bearing N. E.

At 6 AM Bassateer Roads, Gaudaloupe bore E. S. E. between four and five Leagues Distance. Saw a Sail, to which I gave Chace as per Column of Courses; at Eight Ditto brought to with a Shot the Brig *Kleine Betty* of Hamburg, Johan Jottlieb Stowben, Master from Dominica, bound to Saint Bartholomews, had been taken by the French, and retaken by the English, and cleared by the Vice Admiralty Court of Dominica as neutral Property, the Master paying Costs of Suit.

At 11 Ditto exercised Great Guns, and small Arms &c: &c: &c: and at Noon before the Roads &c. of Bassateer, Gaudaloupe, with the Town in Sight.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 29 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Moderate breezes & Cloudy Rec^d on b^d a Quantity of water @ 11. Fresh Breezes and Cloudy the *United States* weigh'd Anchor & went out of port. Punish'd James Casy Seamⁿ wth 12 Lashes for Striking his Superior Officer on Shore.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 29 January 1799

Sailed from Prince Ruperts —

[NA.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Commanders of American Vessels,
requesting convoy

BARBADOS January 30, 1799.

Com^d: BARRY —

Ship *United States*

Sir! We understand by late arrivals from Martinique that you were there in the Ship *United States*, with Some other Ships of War — belonging to America under your Command. We the Undersigned Americans having such a Vessel in this Port, and expect to be ready to Sail for America by the tenth of February and having no Convoy nor the Means of defending ourselves, take the Liberty of Requesting you to send some Ship here to Protect us Clear of the Islands; As most of us have our return'd Cargoes in Produce, it makes us anxious to have some Convoy — thinking it a duty we owe our Country in General and Owners in particular, to call upon you as an American to Protect us — which we have not the least doubt of your ready Compliance with, If consistant with your Arrangements. — We would wish to be favour'd with an Answer as soon as Convenient, as we Shall make our Arrangements accordingly. —

We remain with respect

Sir

Y^r M^o Ob^t Hum^o Servants. —

ASA BENTON —
SILAS BROWN
NOAH WYETH
NORMAND KNOX
HORACE CHURCH
WILLIAM BLANCHARD
FRANCIS BULKLEY
ASAHEL DEMING
DAN^l SAVAGE
ROB^t TATE
JOHN C. DECKER
JOHN LARSVENCE [or LAWRENCE]
GEORGE WEBB
DANIEL MOULTON

Recd at Martinico by Y^t

Humb^o Servant

M.[oses] BROWN.

[Notation on back of this letter — "Moses Brown, Ob. 1804, aged 62 — Captain U. S. N. In the Revol. War, he Com. Several of the largest Privateers of N. E., and was engaged in many severe battles. Sec. Drake."]

[HS of Pa.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain Patrick Fletcher, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP OF WAR *G Washington*

Jan^y 30th 1799

EDW^d PREBLE Esq^r

DEAR SIR I have Rec^d from the Sect^y of the Navy a letter Informing me that he should pay to my Order the Whole Amount of the salvage arising from the sale of the *Fair-American & Frances* as soon as the Bills become due & in Order that a Just distribution of the Prize money may be made you will please to send me a list of your Officers and Crew Directed to the care of Mess^{rs} Gibbs & Channing — March at Newport, I am now Ready for sea and only Waiting for a fair Wind and Expect to Return to this port by the time the Bills Become payable wishing you health & happiness I am dear sir
your ob^t Serv^t

PAT^k FLETCHER

N B having heard of your appointment I Congratulate you on it
[LC, EPP. Vol. 1, 1680-1799.]

To John Brown, Providence, R. I., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

JOHN BROWN Esq^r

Navy Department 30th January 1799

Providence

SIR I am honored with your letter of the 19th Jan^y I am much obliged for the information it contains. —

You say that a sufficient quantity of the best White Oak Timber, for a 74 Gun Ship can be had for 5 Dollars p^t Ton, of 40 square feet, delivered at the yard at India Point. A 74 Gun Ship, will require plank 4-1/2 to 7 Inch^s thick, and from 35 to 60 or 70 feet in length. — & a great proportion of crooked timber, which may be in short lengths. — will you be so good as to let me know as early as convenient, at what rates the plank could be procured delivered at the yard — and also whether the crooked timber can be had, at the yard, at 5 Dollars. —

The House of Rep^s have voted 6 Ships of 74 Guns — I suppose so many will be authorized — & not 12 as I hoped — as to the Ship you offered the Public, the *Geo. Washington* was the last I had authority to buy —

I have the Honor &^e &^e

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Surgeon Larkin Thorndike, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 30th January 1799.

Doct^r LARKIN THORNDIKE

Surgeon of the Ship *Herald* }

Boston.

SIR I am honored with your Letter of the 23^d — You were appointed a Surgeon, by the President, and confirmed by the Senate, the 3^d of last July. -- You cannot be degraded from the Rank of Surgeon, whatever may be the force of the Vessel, in which you may

be employed. — The *Herald* must sail in a few days after your receipt of this letter — there is not now time, to make different arrangements for her — . It is not unlikely she may return to Boston, before the Ship building at Boston can be prepared for Sea. — It will give me pleasure to contribute to your wishes, on your return. —

I have the honor to be &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To William Gray, Jr., Chairman of Committee for Ship building at Salem, Mass.,
from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 30 January 1799

Wth GRAY Jun^r Esq^r
of the Committee
Salem

SIR As it is probable that the Committee for Superintending the building of the Ship of War at Salem, intended to be loaned to the Government of the United States, can by this time ascertain how far the Subscriptions will go towards her Equipment, I request you will be pleased to advise me on this subject, in order that I may know precisely what Articles the public are to supply, and you will be pleased to mention what sized Guns it is intended the Ship shall carry, as I presume it is expected that they are to be furnished by the Public. —

I have it the Honor to be &C &C.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[30 January 1799]

Encounter of Brig *Essequibo Packet*, Captain Thomas Willson, with French Picaroon,
to Windward of Martinico

NEW-LONDON, Jan. 30

Capt Thomas Willson, of the brig *Essequibo Packet*, from Martinico, gives the following narrative: — "On my outward bound passage to windward of Martinico, saw a schooner early in the morning; which gave chase and hoisted English colours. When within half a mile, hauled down the English colours, set the tri-coloured flag and fired a shot. I was then convinced what she was, and accordingly prepared to go on board — but feeling disposed to take a few more shot before I gave up, still kept on. They then fired another shot after me — which I found was in vain to think of getting clear, as it was early in the morning. I then observed to a gentleman passenger, a British officer, that *the jig was up with us*; he gave for answer, they would upset in 15 minuets, as there was a heavy squall rising. I told him I saw the squall coming but that it would not come soon enough to prevent the picaroon from being along side in ten minutes — however I was willing to wait the event, perhaps Divine Providence would fight our battle. The squall arose as it were in an instant, which took her, and she finally upset, and every soul on board perished. I made use of every exertion to save the crew, but all ineffectual. I then made the best of my way into port and glad to think we had so narrowly escaped the *paws* of a pirate! but sorry at the loss of so many lives.

[LC, Boston, "Columbian Centinel", 2 February, 1799.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Wednesday, 30 January 1799

Fair and pleasant Weather intermixed with some Squalls of Wind, and Rain, standing on our Tacks according to the Wind, and our Distance from the Land, all these twenty four Hours. At 6 AM saw a Sail, gave Chace, and at Eight ditto brought to after firing three Shot a Schooner from Martinica bound, and belonging to Boston, in Ballast. The Master informed, he left Martinica about 4 PM Yesterday, saw no Ships of War or Privateers of any Sort. At Noon the Town, and Fort at Bassateer, Gaudaloupe, with the Frigate *Volunteer* of 44 Guns and a Corvette in the Road, bore East, four Leagues Distance. There were several Merchantmen in the Road also.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 30 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Light Winds & Cloudy. employ'd watering & Rigging the Ship Sway'd up the Top gallant mast Carpenters employ'd fishing the Fore Mast. Saw an English Ship of war pass the Bay Standing to the Northw^d The following Men Run the Gauntlet for theft Viz^t Robert Hilman, Phillip Swift, Geo. Bowers, W^m Cox, Andrew Mellen & James Fetherson.

[NDA.]

Extract from log book of Ship *Mary*, Captain Gamaliel Bradford, Wednesday,
30 January 1799

January 30th at 10 oClock Am. cast off from Hancocks Wharf — and came down Wind S.west
at noon pilot left us — abreast of light house —
Boston Light. 42.21. 70.53

Ships company

Gam ^l Bradford	master
Gershom Bradford	mate
Nathan Southworth	2 nd mate
J. Dizer	A. Hewit
J. Converse	E. Weston
S. Johnson	L. Fish
Sam White	J. Loring
Seth Winslow	J. Ball
W ^m Prior	S. Bradford
J. Wells	R. Peak
J. Holmes	S. James
Chandler	N. Hartwell
B. Prior	Perry

[Collection of G. and E. W. Bradford.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 30 January 1799

Sent a boat on shore at S^t Pierre [Martinique] to inform all American ships there would be a convoy for America.

[NA.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Jan^y. 31st 1799 —

STEPHEN HIGGINSON Esq^r Boston

SIR I have this day your letter of the 24th Ins^t I think it will be best to make use of the Vessel you have chartered as a Store Ship. — She can be discharged at latest in one Month after arriving at Dominica. — If the *Pickering* should be still in port, please to detain her until you hear from me again, which may be by next post; Russells orders have not yet been sent on. — For fear of delay about the signals they shall be sent on with my next. —

You should get any money expended for the *Pickering* returned to you by the Collector. — The Revenue Cutters are not yet on the Navy Establishment. — I shall remit you, 12000 Dollars in a day or two. It has not been in my power to do it for several Days past. — I have the Honor to be &c

[NDA. GLB Vol. 1.]

To Captain Robert Gill, Navy Storekeeper, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department January 31st 1799.

Cap^t ROB^t GILL

SIR You will not after this date without my directions, receive any Shot come from where it may of a size under Six Pounds —

I am Sir

Your mos^t Oh^t S^t

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Thursday, 31 January 1799

Squally Weather with light Winds, and Calms intermixed.

At 4 PM being about three Leagues from Bassateer, and in full View of the Frigate, and Corvette lying in the Road, hoisted our Colours, hawled the Courses up, and stood towards the Road, untill about 6 PM, when I tacked and stood to the Northward. At 8 ditto the Frigate fired an Evening Gun, and a short Time after two heavy Cannon were fired perhaps as a Signal.

Stood along the Island of Gaudaloupe to the Northward, with a View of looking round Englishmans Head, where I am informed the french Privateers often hover with their Prizes, untill they have an Opportunity of running into Bassateer. At Noon the Southern Part of Montserrat bore W. N. W. between 4 and five Leagues Distance. Employed repairing the Rigging, Sails &c:&c:&c: No Vessels in Sight.

Latitude observed 16°.35' North.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 31 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Fine W^t employ'd Woolding the fore Mast & heaving over B^d Shingle Ballast, the Ship being too Deep A Cask of Rum was Stove by Accident in the Spirit Room the Dampness of the having Rotted the Hoops. @ 11 the English Frigate *Concorde* of 36 Guns Anchord here Punished W^m Brook wth 12 Lashes for fighting also E^d West E^d Siddons W^m Holland Barnard Trueman & Jn^r Rauch 12 Lashes each for Leaving the boat without leave.

[NDA.]

Extract from log book of Ship *Mary*, Captain Gamaliel Bradford,
Thursday, 31 January 1799

Firs[t] pa[r]t of these 24 hours high winds, and lowry — take depar^t from Boston light house —

8 pm squally with rain took in T. G. sails — 11 °C wind shifts Westward — and freshens — 6 AM double reef topsails — han^d M.S. & Miz. T. S. — latter part fresh gale and snow squalls —

No Obsⁿ

[Collection of G. and E. W. Bradford.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown,
U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 31 January 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] First part pleasant weather & Moderate breezes —

Employ'd Getting Water & ballast

Middle part Squally Rainy Weather

Arriv'd here the Schooners *Unity* and *Fame* from Surinam

Latter part pleasant W^t

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To the officer having care of French prisoners at Burlington from
Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 1st Feb. 1799 —

*The Officer having the care
of the French Prisoners
at Burlington*

SIR It being represented that a Negro Man named James who was taken in the *La Croyable* and is now confined with the French Prisoners at Burlington belongs to a M^r Benj. Emery of the Island of S^t Christopher, a British Subject, and was pressed on Board the *La Croyable*, from a Brig^d bound from S^t Christophers to New foundland, the Officer having charge of the French Prisoners at Burlington is hereby directed to deliver the s^d Negro man James to the order of Phineas Bond Esq^r

I am &c &c

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT.]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department February 1st 1799

Cap^t JOHN BARRY

Frigate *United States*

SIR In my letter of the 16th Ultimo I informed you that M^r Higginson had orders to Ship a quantity of Provisions for the use of the Vessels under your Command, and by his last advices, I find he has introduced into the agreement for the Vessel he has chartered a clause which will leave it in your power to retain her as a Store Ship, if you should find it for the good of the service to do so, and render the landing and Storing the provisions at Dominica useless; but as the Vessel is chartered by the month you will be careful not to keep her an hour longer than may be necessary, and when discharged give a Certificate of the time of the discharge writing to me also particularly on this point in order that an exact Settlement of the charter party may be made. —

I have the Honor to be &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Josias M. Speake, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Feb. 1st 1799 —

L^t JOSIAS M. SPEAK

Norfolk

I have this day received your letter of the 23^d Inst. I have also received the resignations of. —

Thomas Rowland.....Surgeon

Solomon Dickinson.....Purser

Horace Smyth.....Midshipman and a letter,

without a signature, dated the Ship *Baltimore* 23^d January desiring that the writers Commission of Lieutenant, should be accepted. —

But whether the writer is M^r West — or M^r Harwood, I cannot tell — Your next Letter I hope will inform me. — It is not very

proper in these Officers to resign at the moment they might expect the Ship to be ordered on foreign service. — however, there are

valuable Men enough to be found, desirous of serving their Country. — Under such circumstances — and as you will be in want of

Officers, you will remain at Hampton until the rec^d of my next letter. — Doc^t Wells who is a man of Merit, I understand, must act as Surgeon,

on Board of the *Baltimore*. — She will want a Surgeons Mate, & if M^r West resigns, you will want a Lieutenant; If M^r Harwood, you

will want a Lieu^t of Marines. I will in my next endeavour to regulate all these things — & to send on the Commission for the Surgeon. —

The Congress are augmenting the Navy, & provision will be made for the Officers of Merit, whose promotion cannot fail to be sufficiently

rapid from the increase of the Ships — I wish you had more Midshipmen — our future Lieutenants — & Commanders must be made

out of this description of Officers. —

P. S. M^r Charles Morris, who you recommended as qualified Shall be appointed Purser.

I am Sir Y^r mos^t &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Richard Dale, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 1st Feb. 1799

Cap^t R. DALE

I have communicated to the President your letter of the 28th January. — Not wishing to deprive any valuable Officer in the Service of the Navy of an opportunity of bettering his fortune, the President consents that you have leave of absence for a Voyage to the East Indies, but it must be on this condition, that your pay & emoluments, as a Cap^t in the Navy shall cease from this day, until you are called into service — your present Rank in the Navy will be retained. —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Charles C. Russell, U. S. Navy, from C. W. Goldsborough, for Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 1st Feb 1799 —

L^t CHARLES C RUSSELL

SIR Inclose you the private Signals to be used between our Vessels; & those to be used between our Vessels & the Vessels of his Britanick Majesty —

I have the Honor to be

C. W. G[OLDSBOROUGH]

Similar one to EDW^d PREBBLE

for

Secretary —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Friday, 1 February 1799

Fresh Breezes, and squally Weather, stretching from Montserrat to Antigua, and from thence under Gaudaloupe. At about 9 AM saw a Sail bearing S. S. E. gave Chace, and run her to an Anchor in the Harbour of Fort Saint Pine, in the Island of Gaudaloupe, which is a little to the Southward of a small Lump, or Isle called Englishman's Head.

It is well to remark, that when we discovered the Chace, we were about 8 Leagues from the Place, where she anchored, and at the Time we first saw her, she was upwards of four Leagues from us, and when she came to her Distance from us was not more than three Miles, so that in about three Hours, we gained three Leagues on this Vessel, which no Doubt is deemed one of their fast sailing Privateers. Consequently if we had been fortunate Enough to have had her in a Direction to have chased off the Land, instead of on it in one Hour more she would have been a Prize to the *Constellation*.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 1 February 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Moderate Breezes and cloudy at 3 Answ^d the *United States* signal for all Boats. Sent two Boats to assist in Towing her to Anchorage. at ½ past 4 Answ^d her Signal for all Captains to clear Ships for Sea. Transported the Sheet and Waist Anchor 9 feet further forward. Ships Draft Aft 22 feet. 8 In. forward 21 feet 2 Inches. James Meader Boy. Departed this life At 7 Committed his Body to the Deep @ 9 Unmoored Ship with the Small Bower. getting in Readiness for Sea.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 1 February 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] First part Squally, Cloudy weather Got on board one boat load of ballast & 6 Casks of water
At 3 PM the Commodore got in & came to anchor —
Middle part Cloudy weather & Squalls of rain —
At 10 A M unmoor'd & took in the boats & hove short
Arriv'd here — an English Ship
Latter part pleasant weather
[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 1 February 1799

Arrived, in prince Ruperts Bay

[NA.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department February 2^d 1799

Commodore JOHN BARRY

West Indies —

SIR The Congress have a bill before them which will pass, for adding 6.74 Gun Ships to the Navy. — and for augmenting the Pay of Commanders of Frigates, to 100 Dollars per Month — and an allowance of double Rations, when commanding a Squadron. — They are disposed to do more for the advantage of the Navy, but are afraid of going too fast, wishing Public opinion to go along with them.

It is very certain however, that Public opinion is getting more and more in favor of the Navy. —

I pray you to give me as early as possible, your opinion of the Officers, including Midshipmen, deserving promotion. —

The Ship *Baltimore* being ordered to join Truxtun, having no Captain, will be commanded by Truxton's first Lieutenant Rogers — as Lieutenant — It is meant to promote some of your Lieutenants at the same time that Rogers is promoted, — they need not therefore be uneasy. —

When I speak of Officers including Midshipmen, I mean all under your command, in the different Vessels. — I am extremely anxious to get a Letter from you, dated in the West Indies — You will receive herewith Letters from M^r Barry.—

I have the honor &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy

[U. S. S.] *Ganges* AT SEA 2^d Feb^r 1799

Lat^d 20.30 N Long^d 65° W

P^r Schooner *Anna* }
Capt^r Ingersoll } via New York

SIR Having had the honor to address you circumstantially, under date of 27th Ultimo, and 1st ins't; by the Brigs *Nancy* Capt^r Dougherty and *Mercury* Capt^r Kuhn — both for Philadelphia and now in company — I shall only observe to you, that, agreeably to intimations therein I sail'd from St Thomas's yesterday with ten sail of American vessels, which number are now in view — We are now about 50 Leagues from the Island, & no strange sail in sight; I consider therefore these vessels clear of danger from french cruizers, and purpose leaving them to pursue & regain my destin'd station, which being attain'd unless there is greater probability of actual service for the *Ganges*, I shall continue there very few days, ere I proceed for the Chesapeake

I have the honor &c &c

T. T. [THOMAS TINGEY]

Hon^{ble} BENJ^r STODDERT

[NDA. Tingey LB, 1798-1800.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Saturday, 2 February 1799

As soon as we appeared before the Harbour of Saint Pine, discovered them making Preparation for our Reception at the Fort. I however stood on to the southernmost Point, and then tacked and stood before the Harbour to the Northward, when they hoisted their Colours, and commenced a well directed Fire at us. This Insult I returned to the Fort with double the Number of Guns, and then gave Chace to seven Sail that hove in Sight to the S. S. W. and at 4 PM spoke the Headmost Ship, which was the *Elliot*. from Martinica bound to Liverpool armed with 24 Guns, and two of the Others were of the same Force; the Rest were Americans bound to the United States, under their Convoy.

Stood off and on between Antigua, and Gaudaloupe the Remainder of the 24 Hours.

While we were before the Harbour of Saint Pine, the Wind was very baffling and light, scarcely two Minutes from any one Point of the Compass, and the entrance dangerous of Access. There appeared to be two Privateers in the Harbour, a Lugger, and a Swedish Schooner.

Carried away the main top Sail Yard at 8 AM in hoisting it up.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 2 February 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] fine W^t Painting the Ship & black^d her Bends. at 3 Weigh'd & Made Sail in C^o wth [George] *Washington* *Merrimack* wth 7 Sail Merch^{ts} under convoy of the [George] *Washington* at 4 Bassaterre Roads (Gaudaloupe) bore E. b. S. 4 Leagues. at 9 hauld our Wind & parted C^o with Fleet Middle part Gaudaloupe bore E. S. E. 7 Leagues Dist

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 2 February 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] First part fresh breezes & pleasant Weather —

At 4 PM. the Commodore made signals for the fleet to get underway — Weigh'd our anchor & made sail in Company with the *United States*, Commodore Barry, *Constitution* & [George] *Washington*, Ships of war & 7 sail of Americans bound home under Convoy of the [George] *Washington* —

At 6 PM parted from the Commodore — Dominico bearing E b S 4 leag^s

At 8 PM the saints bore N E 3 leag^s

At 8 AM parted from the fleet

at 9 saw a Sail, which prov'd by signals to be a British Frigate —

At Mer^{dn} the North part of Guadalupe bore N E 4 leag^s, the fleet still in Sight —

Ends pleasant.

[Latitude observed 16.02 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 2 February 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Sailed in Company with the *Constitution*, [George] *Washington* & *Merrimack* with some Merchantmen.

[NA.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP, *Constellation*
BASSATEERE ROADS, S^t CHRISTOPHERS
Febr^y 3^d 1799 — — —

DEAR SIR, I have this Moment anchored in these Roads, having returned from off Gaudaloupe, where I cruized for Several Days, after leaving a Convoy to the Northward of the Dog Passage, bound Home. On Friday last, I chased a french Privateer into a little Harbour, near Englishman's Head (Saint Piere) this Harbour is covered on each Side by a Fort, and a Battery in the Bay; as soon as I came within Gun Shot, a Fire commenced on me, altho' I had the United States' Colours flying, I however returned them double the

Number of Guns with Round and Grape, and afterwards bore down, and spoke three English armed ships bound to Liverpool from Martinica.

Yesterday I spoke Murray and saw the *Constitution* and *Miramack*, some Distance a Head of him. By Captain Murray I understood, you was off Deseada; I am extremely sorry I did not meet you to Windward, as it was one of my great Inducements to stretch under Gaudaloupe the third Time since I have been on this Station.

I submit to your Judgement, whether it would not be better for you (on Many Accounts) to collect a Convoy to Windward, and send them under one of your Ships to join me here and then for the Ship to return to you at Dominica &c. and I will send a Vessel or two from hence to see the Convoy clear of the Passage. It appears, Sir, to me, that the Service will by this Plan, be made more agreeable to all Parties, otherwise your Ships will have a long Distance to run down, if they go to Saint Croix, and Saint Thomas's, and beat up again; on the other Hand, the Vessels with me, will only have to proceed from here to Saint Croix and Saint Thomas's, and back again, after going through the Passage a proper Distance, and it will then be unnecessary for them to go to Windward of this Island, to collect any Merchantmen in future, but be on this Station the 1st and 15th of every Month to receive your Convoy.

If you wish an Interview, and will appoint any Time, I will beat up, and meet you, wherever you think proper; Address your Letters to me under Cover to M^r David M Clarkson, Merchant, Bassateere, Saint Christophers, and I shall be sure to get them. I wrote you the 21st Ultimo, by Admiral Harvey's Tender, but lest that Letter should not be at Hand, I send you a Copy.

I have the Honor to be, Dear Sir,

Your Obedient hble Servant

T. T[RUXTUN]

Commodore BARRY

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-1799.]

[3 February 1799]

Extract from a letter from an officer on board the Frigate *United States*, concerning capture of French Privateer *L'Amour de La Patrie*

AT SEA, ON OUR PASSAGE FROM BARBADOES, TO MARTINIQUE, WITH
A CONVOY, FEB. 13, 1799.

"I wrote you some time past from Demarara, since which nothing material has occurred except the capture of a French privateer from Gaudaloupe on a cruize; the particulars are as follow:

"On Sunday the 3d inst. to windward of Martinique, at 8 A. M. gave chase to a schooner, and at 3 P. M. came within two gun shot of her, when, to the astonishment of all hands, she attempted by short stretches to get to windward of us directly under our battery, but in this she failed, for we soon brought her too, our third shot having gone effectually through her, and in a few minutes she filled with water, upon which they hauled down their sails, and set up the

most lamentable howl I ever heard; and though its said they have abolished all religion, they have not forgot the old way of imploring the protection of the omnipotent, with gestures, professions and protestations.

"Our boats were immediately sent to their relief — I was in the first, but when I came near, and found the crew all stript and ready for a swim, I thought it not safe to go on board, but told them the only chance for their safety, was to run along side the ship, which they did, and in a few minutes after the schooner went down. The whole of this piratical crew were saved, amounting to 60 men.

"This famous schooner proves to be the *Le Amour de la Patrie* and has ran for four years with great success, in capturing numbers of our vessels — she was commanded by the infamous Williams, who was some years ago in your town. During his last cruise she captured the schooner *Margaretta*, belonging to Norfolk.

"Our ship outsails every vessel we meet. In six hours we run the *Constitution* hull under."

[LC, Conn. "Connecticut Courant" 25 March, 1799.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Sunday, 3 February 1799

Passed by Saint Pines at the Commencement of this Day, and observed the Lugger, and Schooners mentioned in Yesterday's Transactions, were still remaining at an Anchor, but the Swede had left the Bay. Stood on along Shore, and passed near to Fort [space] where the Cannon were manned, and pointed at us, but they did not think proper to fire.

At 1 PM saw a Fleet to the Southward, gave Chase; at 2 made the British Signal for Saturday, which was answered by the *Montezuma*. Sometime after a Ship hoisted her Colours, which proves to be the United States Ship *Merramack*, she was in Company with the *Constitution*, which Ship shewed no Colours, but made a Signal which did not answer to any Signal of ours, either American, or British. At 3 PM spoke the *Montezuma*, when Captain Murray informed me that the Vessels to Leeward were under Convoy of the [George] *Washington* bound to Saint Christophers, and that the *Norfolk*, one of my Squadron, he had parted with on Friday, and that she had gone to Saint Christophers. Made Sail, and passed Redondo, then run under an easy Sail, and at Day Light abreast of Nevis, and at 8 AM anchored in Bassateere Road in ten Fathoms Water, the Body of the Town bearing N.N.W. one Mile Distance. Veered out a whole Cable, the Wind blowing very fresh with frequent Squalls of Rain. Found in the Road an American Brig dismasted in the late bad weather, which we have experienced on her Passage from Monserrat to join Convoy and a British Ship bound Home, which had lost her foretopmast, and otherwise much injured.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 3 February 1799

Beating to Windward between Gaudaloupe & Monseratt. Fresh Breezes and Cloudy

At 3 P.M. Saw a Strange sail bear^e E.S.E. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 Spoke the U.S. Sloop War *Montezuma* 18 Guns on a Cruize @ 4 Saw the Convoy bear^e W.b.N. Made the Private Signal to an American Man of War Suppos'd to be the *Constellation*

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 Saw a Small Sail bear^e W.S.W. bore up & gave chace which prov^d (after firing two guns.) to be an English Sch^r f^r Antigua bound to Martinico at 6. fill'd and made Sail.

at 10. Perform'd Divine Service.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 3 February 1799

First part pleasant weather & light breezes.

At 2 PM spoke the U. S. Ship *Montezuma*, Alex^r Murray Com^{dr}

At 5 PM saw Antigua bearing N N E 8 leag^s

At 6 saw a Schooner to leward

At 7 Came up with her, the *Constitution* sent a boat on board. She proving to be an English Vessel let her go — Montserat bearing N b E 2 leag^s made sail & hal'd our wind, in Company with the *Constitution*.

At 8 AM Guadaloupe bore East 6 leag^s Montserat N W b N 5 leag^s

Latter part fresh breezes & squally with rain 2 sail in sight in under the Island of Guadaloupe.

[Latitude 16.21 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*, Saturday, 3^d February 1799

Moderate breeze and clear Weather exercis'd Great Guns and Small Arms — Commenc'd firing Morning and Evening. Gun Capⁿ Preble being the Senior Officer in port. Anchor'd in the Roads near us the — U. N. S. Ship *Herald* Charles Russell Esq^r Commander Veer'd out on the small bower 15 fms hove in on y^e best Bower. Cloudy — Anchor'd near us a Brig^s inward bound.

Moderate and cloudy.

Came on board M^r benj^s Hillar as 1st Lieutenant in the room of M^r Jn^o Davidson late first lieu't — now appointed to 2^d Lt of the *Herald* — Rec^d on board sundry pursers Stores as p^r Mem^s Masters Mates & Logg —

Moor'd in Nantaskett Roads

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

BASSATEER S^t CHRISTOPHERS 4th Feby 1799

DEAR SIR, Since my Arrival on this Station, every Exertion has been made to facilitate, and render safe the Commerce between the United States, and these Islands. Three Convoys have sailed from hence, of Vessels loaded here, and collected from the Windward Islands, to the Number of 50 Sail. On Sunday next I have given Notice, that another Convoy will be furnished to such Vessels as may be ready, and I'm told there will be about 15 Sail assembled at least.

I have given such Assurances to the Merchants, of our Intention and Determination of protecting the Trade to the United States, (Whether under the American, or British Flag,) that there seems to be a general Satisfaction defused in every Countenance, particularly as they find we perform as well as promised.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday last, I was under Bassateer, Gaudaloupe, within Gun Shot of their Works, and in fair View of a 44 Gun Frigate (the *Volunteer*) and a 20 Gun Corvette, and altho' no Ships were in Sight, or any other Vessels (those under my Command being employed to Leeward) they thought proper not to come out, notwithstanding they were all ready for Sea.

On Friday I chased a french Privateer, that I fell in with near the Land into Saint Peire's, the N.W. Part of Gaudaloupe, where she got under Shelter of two Forts, and a Battery, and of the Forts situated on the Starboard, and the Other the Larboard Enterance of the Harbour, and the Battery in the Center of the Bay.

As soon as I had run the Privateer well under the Guns, they commenced a well directed Fire at my Masts, Spars &c. when I immediately returned at least double the Number of Guns (with Round and Grape) at the Fort, and on a national Lugger that was at Anchor with the Privateer I had chased in; and then bore down on three Ships that hove in Sight in the Offing which I soon brought to; they proved to be Letters of Mark mounting 24 Guns each, and from Martinica bound to Liverpool.

On Saturday I again looked into Saint Peire's, and found the Lugger and Privateer still remaining snug in their strong Hold. A Number of Vessels heaving in Sight immediately after, I gave Chace, and soon discovered one of them to be the *Montazuma*, and two of the Others to be the *Constitution*, and *Miramack*. I spoke Captain Murray, and passed the former. Murray informed me, that the Vessels to Leeward was the [*George*] *Washington* with several Merchantmen. I then proceeded here to join the *Norfolk*, and *Richmond*, which I expected had returned from the Service they had been sent on, and on Coming to Yesterday in these Roads, I found the *Norfolk* at Anchor, and the *Richmond* beating in, so that I shall get Underway, and sail again in two Hours from this Time (10 AM) and hope to meet the Enemy in the Route I intend to take.

The frequent Convoys I have afforded, has been severe Service for our little Squadron, I therefore anxiously look for the *Baltimore*, and one or two Others, and hope they will soon join me.

I have been obliged to supply Provisions out of my own Ship to the Others, I therefore also hope the Store Ship will soon be with us at this

Island. I am told Nicholson fell in with a very valuable English Ship, Prize to the *Insurgeant* loaded with dry Goods, bound to one of these Islands, and as she was not armed, suffered her to proceed, and the Vessel has since arrived at Gaudaloupe to the great Mortification of all the Merchants here. I have no Doubt, but there were Instruments of a Warlike Nature sufficient to have warranted a Recapture, as is the Case with most Vessels, but as I do not know the Particulars, I will say but little on the Subject. I think however if I had met her, she would now have been at Bassateer, Saint Christophers, instead of Bassateer, Gaudaloupe, which would have been an agreeable Thing to the People here, and I believe it is our Interest, and sound Policy, to cultivate a good Understanding with them, as they see the Policy of being on the most friendly Terms with us. In Fact the Connection is natural.

I have not a single Man in the Surgeon's List at present, which is very remarkable indeed, considering the Variety of Climates we have been in for the last six months. I have the Honor to be, Sir, with great Respect

Your very Obedient and hble Servant,

T. T.[RUXTUN]

HON^{ble} BENJAMIN STODDERT.

Secretary of Navy.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxton's LB, 1798-9.]

To William Pennock, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Feb. 4th 1799.

W^m PENNOCK Esq^r Norfolk

SIR I have your favor of the 26th— I am very sorry that so improper Spirit should prevail among some of the Officers of the *Baltimore*, I shall immediately send on two Lt and I before requested you to look out for some Midshipmen. I find a Master will also be wanted — pray endeavour to select a proper Character for this appointment, let him go on board under your appointment. Send me his name, & he shall be confirmed by the President. — Act in the same way, as to any other officer who may be wanted. —

I have the Honor & C.

[NDA, GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Josias M. Speake, U. S. Navy, from C. W. Goldsborough, for Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 4th Feb 1799

Lieu^t JOSIAS M. SPEAK

SIR I enclose you the Private Signals to be used between American Vessels of War; and those in use between American & British Vessels of War, — for the use of the Commanding Officer of the *Baltimore*

I have the Honor to be &c

C. W. GOLDSBOROUGH
for

Secretary —

[NDA, OSW, Vol. 1.]

Extracts from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
4 February 1799, Monday, and 5 February 1799, Tuesday

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] At One PM I went on Shore, and made the necessary Arrangements for the Dispatch of another Convoy on Sunday next, and then came on Board; but finding the Main Yard sprung I was obliged to have it fished, and of Course to postpone Sailing untill to Morrow; forwarded my Letters to the Secretary of the Navy, under Care of M^r Amory to M^r Hollingsworth, Philadelphia. Repairing Sails, and Rigging &c:&c:&c:

TUESDAY THE 5th

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] Captain Barron of the *Richmond* having stated to me, that the Checks of his Foremast was in a very insecure State, I ordered my Carpenter on Board to examine them, and by his Report found it necessary to give Orders for the Brigs foremast to be stript, and the Checks properly secured, which will prevent her proceeding on a Cruize with me immediately. I have however given Captain Barron Orders that as soon as his Vessel is ready for Sea to repair to Saint Bartholomew's for a short Cruize, but to be in the Roads of Bassateer, Saint Christopher's by Saturday Night next, so as to proceed with a Convoy to the Northward on Sunday. I have given similar Orders to Captain Williams of the *Norfolk*, and for him to return to me here, as soon after as possible (See Letter Book).

At 9 AM made the Signal to the *Norfolk* to get Underway when we both weighed, and Captain Williams proceeded to Leeward as ordered, and I stretched to Windward. The Wind more moderate, and the Weather much more pleasant, than it has been for several Days past.

At Noon abreast of Nevis, Wind East, and Ship close hawled on the Larboard Tack. Discharged John Alling for disorderly and mutinous Conduct; this Man acted as a Boatswain for a While, but was too infamous to be continued in that Station.

Apprehended and confined William Hackett, a Seaman (who had run from the Pinnacle Yesterday) after a general Search among the Sailor Houses at Bassateer, and by seeing a Constable for the Purpose.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 4 February 1799

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 Saw 2 Sails under Gaudaloupe. Tack'd and gave chase at 1 P.M. Observ'd them to be close under a French Fort upon which we gave over chase. at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 \mathcal{K} to the Northw^d at 6 Hen^r Kirk Seaman fell from the Main Top gallant yard over B^d and was lost. $\frac{1}{4}$ past 6 \mathcal{K} to the Southw^d Johnsons point Antigua bore N. b. W. 7 Miles Dist

Middle part fresh Breezes & Cloudy at 4 Saw the Islands of Monseratt and Gaudaloupe.

Later part Squally

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown,
U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 4 February 1799

First part Cloudy squally weather

At 4 PM let 1 reef out of the topsails & set T G sails.

At 5 PM Guadaloupe bore S E 7 leagues,

at 6 the East part of Antigua bore N E 7 leagues, Montserrat
W S W 4 leagues

Middle part fresh breezes, Reef'd the Topsails — At 2 AM the
East part of Guadaloupe bore South 1½ leagues tack'd Ship to the
Northward

At 11 AM saw a sail to windward — Hoisted signals & was
answer'd by her at 11½ lay by at Mer^d boarded her the U. S. armed
Schooner *Diligence* John Brown Commander

Ends with squally W^t

[Latitude 16.28 N]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 4 February 1799

[To windward of Martinique.] Sunk *L'Amour de La Patrie* Cap^t
Peter Salemias, the People all saved. —

[NA.]

To Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 5th February 1799.

STEPHEN HIGGINSON Esquire *Boston*

SIR Of the 12000 Dollars I promised to remit you in my Letter of
the 31st Ult^o only 5000 have gone — the residue shall follow quickly —
in the meantime, I hope you will be subjected to no inconvenience —
I have not had it in my power to do better. — As I have once or
twice observed, you should get your advances on account of the
Pickering returned by General Lincoln. — There is an awkwardness
in the situation of the Revenue Cutters, which I hope Congress are
about removing — but until it is done, no part of the appropriations
for the Navy can properly be applied to their support. —

I am very sorry for the resignation of Captain Chapman. — what
he asked, could not possibly be complied with — and he was so for-
ward, and there is so great a prospect of some who are above him,
quitting the service, — that I think he might have been satisfied —
The Congress too are about making some addition to the Pay of the
Captains — and doubtless must make other provision for the ad-
vantage of the Officers if they expect to retain good Men — indeed
a strong disposition seems to prevail to do every thing proper on the
subject. — and next Session there will be more leisure to attend to
it. — If Captain Chapman should consent to continue, and take
the Command of the *Boston*, his Commission shall be returned — but
this ought to be determined soon — I have a Letter from M^r Alline
Purser of the *Herald*, — he has no warrant, indeed the Letter men-
tioning his appointment escaped my notice. He complains of the

reduction of the Vessel, and the degradation of his rank, in consequence — It is a strange Idea. — I send his Commission for the chance of meeting him at Boston. —

As Soon as Congress pass an Act to determine what the Navy shall be, the whole appointments must be made. — It is wrong that men should be kept in a state of suspense — with a view to this object, I should be much obliged for your opinion of Men at Boston, Salem, and Newbury Port, fit for Lieutenants. — I do imagine half a dozen Lieutenants will be wanted from Massachusetts — besides the Officers for the *Boston*, & the Frigate at Salem. —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Josiah Fox, Naval Constructor, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Feb. 5th 1799.

Mr JOSIAH FOX

Naval Constructor Norfolk

SIR The Ship *Niger* now lying at Norfolk has been offered to the Public, and I wish to be informed very minutely with respect to her, — As you must be a good judge, I wish you to examine her & inform me the Result — It is said that she was Copper bolted in London in 1795 — you will ascertain whether this, and the Sheathing has been securely and properly done; in fine you will make a minute Investigation, and give me with your Report, your Opinion whether this Vessel by Stopping some of the Ports, opening others, or by any other alteration can be made a suitable Vessel to carry Eighteen Guns; — She is said to be 92 feet Keel, 30 feet Beam, & 7 feet between Decks, & to have been built of Cedar at Carthagena in 1793. —

I am Sir,

Your Most Ob^t &c.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Thomas Williams, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*
BASSATEER ROADS SAINT CHRISTOPHERS,
Febry 5th 1799.

SIR, As I have promised the Merchants, and Masters of American Vessels a Convoy on Sunday next. It is scarcely worth my While to take you with me to Windward at present.

You will therefore go round Sandy Point, and from thence cruize from Saint Bartholomews' to St. Martins, taking Care to be in this Road on Sunday Morning, when you will in Company with the *Richmond*, take all the American and British Vessels, that are ready, under your Convoy, and proceed with them as far as the Latitude of 20½° North, and then return to me here; Should you receive information of any french Cruizers, being further Northward, than the above Latitude, you are at Liberty to proceed as far as the Latitude of 23½° North.

I wish all the Expedition made that is possible, and hope to see you here by the 16th or 17th Instant. Should you meet neutral Vessels of any Description, treat them with Respect and Kindness, we have no Business with them, or their Lading be it what Property it may; but should you meet the Enemies' Cruizers use every Means that is possible, with the Force you have to bring them in, as also to retake any British Vessels in Possession of the French, if they have even a Pair of Case Knives on Board, those will be Arms sufficient. You will go into no Port or Bay, untill you return here, unless in Distress; and you will not inform any Merchant, or Master of a Vessel, how far you intend to convoy the Fleet, on any Account whatever. Be particular in your Signals, and have them made out ready for to deliver each Vessel, before you appear off the Road next Sunday, as I presume you will have no Occasion to anchor.

You will make all the necessary Communications to Cap^{tn} Barron, and as one of you will lead the Van, so the other must bring up the Rear. This is the Port to send Prizes to. I wish you Success, & am
Your Obed^t hble Serv^t

THOMAS TRUXTUN.

Cap^{tn} T. WILLIAMS
U. S. Brig, *Norfolk*.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

Extract from Journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 5 February 1799

Fresh Breezes & Squally @ 12 Saw a Strange Sail bear^g S.E. at 1 fired a Gun at her and brot her too prov'd U.S. Cutter Sch^r *Diligence* from N^o Carolina bound to Prince Ruperts Bay Dominico Fill'd and made Sail to the Northw^d

At ½ past 4 TK.d to the Southw^d Johnsons Point N.W. 4 Leagues & English Harbour N.E. 4 Miles

At 5. Beat to Quarters

At 9. Squally. @ ½ past 9 the Extreme end of Antigua bore N.b.E. 6 Miles Dist

English Harbour W.N.W. 4 Miles Wash'd & fumigated between Decks.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 5 February 1799

First part Squally weather & fresh breezes, the *Constitution* in sight to Leeward,

At 6 PM Grandterre bore S E 4 leag^s Distant

Middle part fresh breezes & squally

At 8 AM the North part of Antigua bore N W b N 4 leagues distant the *Constitution* in sight about 5 leagues to leeward Shook out a [reef] from the F & M Topsails & set F & M T G Sails

At 10 AM Grandterre bore S S E dist 5 leag^s —

Latter part fresh breezes & Cloudy Weather — *Constitution* under our lee about 6 Leagues

[Latitude 16.41 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To General Alexander Hamilton from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 6th February 1799.

Gen^l ALEX^r HAMILTON

New York.

SIR I have the honor to inclose a paper containing the circumstances connected with the relative Rank of Captains Truxton, Talbot and Dale. —

It appears to me that Talbott and Dale, cannot now be placed above Truxton, but by dismissing the latter from the service. —

Dale who has permission to make an East India Voyage, is reconciled to what he conceives unavoidable, to rank after Truxton. —

Entertaining a very high opinion of Talbott — I am anxious that he should also acquiesce — From conversation with him, I judge it is in your power alone to satisfy him. —

The error was in not selecting the three Senior Captains, for the three Frigates continued in service — The President I conceive had no power to continue more Captains than Frigates. —

If Talbott will continue, only Barry, Nicholson and Truxton, will be above him — Nicholson cannot be long in his way — Barry is old and infirm, and not satisfied that he is not made an Admiral — It is more than probable, Truxton and Talbott may not be on the same service. —

I wrote you Some days ago respecting M^r Henry Seton — I ought to have waited long enough for an answer — but his appointment was so much pressed — He was so well recommended I was so well satisfied, a story which I had heard, was without foundation, — and a Lieut. being instantly wanted — He is appointed — I wish he may turn out well. — I am anxious too that Daubenay should continue to deserve your good opinion — They are both ordered on immediate service. —

I have the honor &c^s

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Loyd S. Daubenay, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 6th Feb. 1799

L^t LOYD S. DAUBNEY

New York

SIR You will receive herewith letters for L^t Speak, Commander of the *Baltimore*, which ship you will join without delay — with L^t Seton if he is prepared to proceed with you, otherwise you will go alone, tho I should be mortified, if M^r Seton should not be ready — The Ship is at Hampton Road and waits only for Officers — don't therefore delay proceeding as fast as you can; I hope both you and M^r Seton will do all in your power to make yourselves agreeable to the Officers & Crew, and to cultivate a Spirit of Discipline and Harmony on board the Ship —

I am &c^s &c^s

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Lieutenant Josias M. Speake, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA.]

Navy Department Feb 6th 1799

L^t JOSIAS M. SPEAK
Com^d of the *Baltimore*

SIR Having before sent you your Instructions, Signals, &c and having requested M^r Pennock to select a proper Character for Master; — and several for Midshipmen, I presume you will be ready to proceed to join Cap^t Truxtun, as soon as L^t Daubney & Seton join you — who will deliver this. —

I have desired M^r Sullivan who has been some time appointed a Midshipman to join you from Balt^o It is likely however, he may not be in time. —

M^r Wells will be the Surgeon — his rank and emoluments as such will go on from this time, but I cannot get his name through the Senate, in time to send on his Commission before he sails; this is not material, M^r Pennock I hope will furnish a Surgeons Mate. — M^r Douglass will receive his Warrant as Midshipman. M^r [Charles] Morris as Purser. — So that I hope you will have no difficulties — your men particularly ought to be highly satisfied with the attention of Government to their rights. — It was because Cap^t Phillips call^d all hands to be examined by the British Officer — and because he so tamely gave up his men, that he was dismissed, — and it was that conduct that produced the order of the 29th Dec. that the men who enter on board under the protection of our Flag, are to be protected as long as the Flag can be protected. — Congress are making arrangements for the benefit of the Service — & those who engage in it, & conduct themselves with propriety will meet not only the thanks, but the rewards of their Country. — wishing you great success & honor. —

I am Sir Y^r &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 6th Feb. 1799

Cap^t THOMAS TRUXTUN
Ship *Constellation*

SIR The *Baltimore* has been delayed by the resignation of Officers, in consequence of the dismission of Phillips — who was not dismissed because the British took his men, but because he was active in sub-mission. He never should have descended so low, as to call all hands, because he was ordered to do it by a British L^t on board of his own Ship. You have his narrative and are capable of Judging on this subject.

The power of dismission without Trial, resides in the President — but it is a power not to be exercised, except on extraordinary occasions. — Phillips has lowered himself more in my estimation by causing, as I suppose he did, letters to be written from Baltimore by the Friends of the Officers, urging them to resign. — The Congress

have as yet done nothing decisive on the subject of the Navy. They have voted 6 Ships of 74 Guns, & 6 Sloops of war — the bill has not yet passed — They have the rules for the Gov^t of the Navy before them and a proposition which will succeed, for increasing the pay of the Com^{dr}s of the Frigates to 100 Dol per month — & doubling the Rations on separate command. They are disposed to do more, but say they must go on by degrees, and take the public mind along with them. — Dale has leave of absence for an E. India Voyage which reconciles him to the Service & his Rank in it — Talbot I expect will also acquiesce

I pray you to send me as early as you can the names of any of your Midshipmen who are fit for L^{ts} — our navy will increase faster than our ability to officer it well, especially if Commerce is flourishing — I look with much hopes to the Midshipmen — I say nothing about the West Indies having before said all I had to say.

It is probable the intercourse may be opened with Hispaniola. —

I have the Honor &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

[6 February 1799]

Letter to Mr. Russell, Editor of the "Connecticut Courant", concerning capture of the Schooners *Appollo* and *Venus* by a French schooner

WISCASSET, March 5, 1799.

MR. RUSSELL,

Sir, Having a vessel arrived from Nevis, which has been taken and re-taken, I have thought proper to state the particulars to you, that the world through your paper may be convinced that two Americans are equal in bravery to six Frenchmen.

The schooner *Appollo*, of Wiscasset, William Clifford, jun. master, laden with rum and molasses, sailed from Nevis, the 1st of Feb. bound for Wiscasset. After being out five days, this with the schooner *Venus*, Capt. Bartholomew Lasdell or Lassel of Kennebunk, were captured by a French schooner mounting 10 guns, with 95 men, from St. Domingo, being then in lat. 24; — who took out all the *Appollo*'s crew, excepting Capt. Clifford and Mr. Trask one of the men, (who finding themselves sick were left behind) put on board a prize master and five hands, and ordered the *Appollo* for Currocoa. The next day after being captured, Capt. Clifford found himself well enough to go on deck, and observing the prize master's pistols and cutlass lying in the binnacle, watched his opportunity, when the prize master was talking with the prize master of the *Venus* (being close on board each other) and handed the pistols down the gangway to Mr. Trask. — He then seized the cutlass, and ordered the man at helm to put the helm hard down. The prize master seeing this, sprang for his pistols, but not finding them, he called on the schooner *Venus* to fire on the *Appollo* with some small arms they had on board. Capt. Clifford ordered Trask to blow the prize master through, if he did not countermand those orders, which he immediately did. Trask drove the 4 Frenchmen that were forward down the fore-scuttle, while Capt. Clifford secured the prize master and the man at helm, and afterwards confined in the lower hold, all but the prize master, who they

locked in the cabin. A few days after, they fell in with an American schooner bound from Philadelphia to Jamaica, on board of which Capt. Clifford put two of the Frenchmen; — the others he brought into this port, where they arrived last Thursday. Three were immediately committed to goal; — the prize master remained at the Marshal's house, a prisoner. — But the citizens throughout the country were so much enraged at the treatment of the French to our countrymen, that they threatened to burn the Marshal's house, if the Frenchman was not immediately sent to prison: Accordingly he was conducted thither last night, although his feet were very much frozen.

[LC, Conn. "Connecticut Courant", 18 March, 1799.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Wednesday, 6 February 1799

Very squally, hazy, and dirty Weather, and no very remarkable Occurrence. Passed two neutral Vessels out of Saint Christophers, and seen none of any other Kind.

Overhauled all the Store Room, and trimmed the Ship by the Stern by shifting Forty three Barrels of Beef and Pork, out of the Forehold into the Afterhold. Ordered William Hacket to his Duty as usual, but have not pardoned him. At Noon the West Part of Montserrat bore East, one League Distance, and Redondo N. W. about two, and a half Leagues Distance.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 6 February 1799

Moderate W^t In Standing from Antigua to Gaudaloupe we find a Strong Current Setting to the S. W. At 6 $\overline{\text{K}}$ to the Northward Antigua Point South extreme of Grandterre bore S. E. 6 Miles we Steer'd 15 Miles N. b. E. & at 10 $\overline{\text{K}}$ to the Southw^d

at 7 A. M. Saw the east end of Antigua N. W. 4 Leagues Found our Jibb Boom was sprung Swayed up the Fore Yard $\overline{\text{K}}$ to the Northward Antigua S. W. b. W. 8 Leagues Dist

[NDA.]

[7 February 1799]

Protest of Seaman John Briard of the Ship *Concord*, captured by French Ship
Le Prudent

By this Public Instrument of Protest be it made known and Manifest that on this fifth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Ninety nine, Before me Clement Biddle Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania duly commissioned and Qualified dwelling in the City of Philadelphia personally came and appeared John Briard late a Seaman on board the Ship *Concord* of Philadelphia whereof John Thompson was Commander and being duly Sworn on his Oath Deposes and Says that he Sailed in said Ship

from this Port of Philadelphia for Canton in China, and that the Ship being fully loaded and in compleat order she sailed from Canton and left Wampoe the twenty seventh of November last bound for this Port of Philadelphia and proceeded on the Voyage without any Material occurrence until the Seventh day of February last when being about midway between the Isle of France and the Cape of Good Hope they discovered a Ship at day light in the morning which gave chase to and came up with them about 10 oClock A. M. and fired one Gun and brought them to, she proved to be the French Republican Ship *Le Prudent* of forty four Guns from the Isle of France which kept them in Custody and on the ninth made Prize of and took possession of the *Concord* sending Sixteen of their Crew (including Officers and part Malayes) who took charge of the *Concord* leaving Captain Thompson the Supercargo and twelve hands of the *Concord* on board and took the remaindor Eighteen in number on board the *Le Prudent*, they continued in Company on said day the ninth about half after eight A. M. When they discovered a Sail and stood for her and about 10 oClock discovering her to be English they bore away and ordered the *Concord* to proceed for the Isle of France, the appearer then remaining on board the *Le Prudent* — About half after twelve at noon they came up with the Ship they had discovered in the morning (the *Concord* being then out of sight) and they engaged the English Vessel about an hour and five Minutes when having lost thirty five Men killed and a number wounded and the french Ship greatly damaged, she struck to the English Ship which proved to be his Britannick Majestys Frigate *Dedalus* of forty four Guns rated for thirty two Guns Commanded by Captain Ball who took possession of the *Le Prudent* and proceeded with her the *Dedalus* towing the *Le Prudent*, until they arrived at the Cape of Good Hope on or about the nineteenth having been well treated by the British Commander and were set at Liberty at the Cape, And the appearer procured a Passage in the Ship *Eliza* Captain T Folger for Boston and arrived here yesterday and now desires to Protest requiring an Act of Me the said Notary to avail him when and where it may be needful and necessary.

Signed in Appearance book

JOHN BRIARD

Whereupon I the said Notary at the request aforesaid have Protested and by these Presents Do Solemnly Protest against the said French Republican Ship *Le Prudent* for the Capture of the said Ship *Concord* and Cargo that all Losses Costs Charges Damages Breaches of Charter party and Bills of loading suffered or to be suffered and sustained thereby that the same may be Submitted unto suffered and bound by those to whom of right it shall or may belong —

Thus done and Protested before me said Notary —

Quod Attestor

[SEAL]

CLEMENT BIDDLE

Not Pub

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Thursday, 7 February 1799

Wind and weather pretty much the same as Yesterday. Employed repairing Rigging and Sails &c: &c: &c: Cruizing between Antigua and Nevis, it being the Tract of Vessels bound to and from Gaudaloupe to the neutral Island of Saint Bartholomew's.

At 10 AM the Southern Part of Antigua bore S. E. seven Leagues Distance, and Nevis S. W. about the same Distance.

At 11 Ditto saw a Ship in the N. W. gave Chase, and on being near Enough made the Signal for a British Frigate, which she proved by answering it.

Latitude observed 17°.30' North

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 7 February 1799

Working to Windward.

Moderate Breezes & Clear W^t Jacob Phelps Seaman Departed this Life in consequence of a Bilious Fever @ 10 Committed his Body to the Deep with the usual Ceremonies as perform'd at Sea.

Swayed up the Main Yard & Rove New Top Sail Tyes.

@ 11 bore up & Spoke the English Arm'd Schooner *Scourge* from Antigua bound to Barbadoes. Tack'd as Necessary to work to wind^d

[Latitude 16.37 N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown,
U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 7 February 1799

First part moderate breezes & pleasant weather all Drawing sail set on a Wind.

At 2 PM saw the *Constitution* under our lee, At 7 squally with rain took in T G sails & stay sails At 10 PM set T G Sails, pleasant a smooth sea.

Latter part pleasant weather

At 9 AM saw Deseada bearing South Dist. 5 leagues

At 11 AM saw a sail to the North^d Tack^d Ship & gave Chase, in Company with the *Constitution*

[Latitude 16.30 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 7 February 1799

Sent information to the Americans laying in Barbadoes that a convoy would be given them —

[NA.]

To Robert G. Harper, Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means, from
Secretary of State

[PHILADELPHIA]

Department of State Feb^y 8th 1799

The Honorable ROBERT G. HARPER Esq^t

SIR. The four enclosed documents, respectively marked A. B. C. and D. contain accounts of all the impressments of American seamen, returned to me in pursuance of the "Act for the relief and protection of American seamen," since my last report to Congress on the same subject, dated on the 27th February last.

I have the honor, Sir, to be,

With great respect,

Your most obed^t Servant

T. PICKERING.

NOTE.—Document A is herewith recorded.

B. was a copy of the Return of the Collector of Perth Amboy dated 1 April 1798

C. was the Returns of the Collector of New York for the year 1798; and

D was taken from the foot of Return of Registered seamen, made by the Collector of Providence, on the 1st October 1798. — — —

[Documents B, C, D were not available for copying.]

[SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 11.]

[Feby 8, 1799]

Abstract of all the Protests or Affidavits of Masters of Ships and Vessels of the United States, Transmitted to the Secretary of State in pursuance of the 5th Section of the "Act for the Relief and Protection of American Seamen" and received by him since the 27th February, 1798 the date of his last Report to the House of Representatives.

N ^o of Protest	Date of Protest	Name of American Vessel	Where belonging	Masters Name	Names of People Impressed	Of What Country	By Whom Im- pressed	When Im- pressed	Whether they had Protections
1	20 th August 1798.	Ship SMALLWOOD		Dennis John- ston.	Gates Isburn.	United States.	British Frigate A M P H I - TRITE.	20 August 1798.	does not appear
2	28 June 1798.	Ship GEO' WASH- INGTON.		" "	James M ^c Cormick. John Anderson.	D ^o D ^o . Denmark.			
3	5 August 1798.	Snow ROVER.		James Sampson.	Thomas Pine.	United States.	British Brig ^t EUGENE.	2 June 1798.	does not appear, but he was re- leased
4	15 August 1798.	Ship HURON.	New York.	Wilson Jacobs.	John Thomas.	Ireland.	British Ship DRIVER.	9 May 1798.	{All having Protec- tions, but Peters & Williams.
				Eli Brown.	Moses Burnham. William Little.	{United States.	British Frigate GARLAND.	{30 June 1798.	
					John W Reader. James Peters.				
					William Williams. William Newhall. Richard Hankins.	United States.			
5	10 Decembr 1798.	Ship HOPE.		Elijah Clark.	Hugh Christie.	D ^o .	British Brig ^t D I L I - GENCE.	1 Aug ^t 1798.	having a Protec- tion; this Man afterwards made his Escape —
6	22 Novemb ^r 1798.	Ship POLL CAREY.	Edenton.	James Williams.	Abialhand Clark.	D ^o .	British Sloop THORN.	14 Sept ^r 1798.	— does not ap- pear —
7	16 Novemb ^r 1798.	Schooner HANNAH.	Newbury Port.	William Remick.	John Lewis.	Canada.	British Frigate M A G I C I - ONNE.	5 Aug ^t 1798.	
8	21 Novemb 1797.	Ship ACTIVE.	Philadelphia.	Alex ^r Rose.	John T. Cutt [or Hutt].	{United States.	British Frig ^t TOPAZE.	19 Novemb. 1798.	does not appear
9	Octb. 1 1798.	Sloop FRIENDSHIP.	Baltimore.	"	Francis Jackson.		D ^o .	British Ship QUEEN	
10	16 Septem 1797.	Sloop PROVIDENCE.	East Green- wich R. Is- land	P G Arnold.	John Godfrey.	D ^o .	French Privateer name un- known	15 Septem. 1797	does not appear

11	26 Augt 1798	Ship EXPERIMENT	Philadelphia	Benjamin Jenne [?]	Samuel Richards	United States	British Ship YORK	26 Augt 1798	{The four first only had Protections —
				D ^e	Henry Hutchins				
				D ^e	Nathan Carpenter				
				D ^e	John Burket				
				D ^e	Thomas Jones				
				D ^e	Thomas Carlett				
				D ^e	John M ^d Dougall				
				D ^e	Benjamin Wilcocks				
				D ^e	Thos Thistlewaite				
				D ^e	William Megret				
				D ^e	John Long	Unknown	British Sloop LARK	17 June 1798	had no Protection
12	27 Augt 1798	Brig ANN	Newbury Port	William Huse	Jeremiah Pearson	United States	A British Ship name unknown	3 Sept 1798	had Protections
13	12 Octob 1798	Brig SALLY	D ^e D ^e	Paul Simpson	Paul				
"	D ^e	D ^e	D ^e D ^e	"	William Jefferson	D ^e	British Ship L'OOISEAU	7 Feby. 1798	had none
14	1 Septem 1798	Ship BELISARIUS	Salem	John Crowninshield	Francis Murray				

[SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 11, 1798-1799.]

[8 February 1799]

Extract of a letter from Captain Stephen Decatur, (senior) U. S. Navy, commanding *Delaware*, concerning encounter with the Ship *Solebay*

"GULPH FLORIDA, Feb. 12, 1799.

"On the 8th inst. at 6 P. M. saw a large ship to the northward, standing after us; at the same time discovered several sail running down; we made sail to cut them off from the land, which we soon did, and in the course of half an hour beat the ship astern hull down. The fleet proved to be the two cutters *Governor Jay* and *General Green*, with the ship *America*, with provisions for us, and four other smaller vessels, bound to the Havanna. While we were under easy sail, waiting for them, the first mentioned ship came up and fired several shot among the fleet. I immediately hoisted my colours and went along side with all hands to quarters, when the captain hailed me to know where I was from; I answered, from a cruise, and that my ship was the United States ship *Delaware*, that the sloop and schooner upon my larboard bow, were vessels belonging to the United States, and that the black ship was a vessel loaded by the government with stores for the use of the ships upon the station. He then informed me that his orders were to examine all vessels for the Havanna, for contraband goods, but that he meant to give no trouble or detention. I told him if I was of equal force he should not, examine one of them. I then pointed out the ship and the cutters. She proved to be the *Solebay*, 44 guns, commanded by captain Rowid. While the lieutenant was overhauling a sloop and schooner, hurt at seeing the flag over my head insulted, bore away, and the rest of the fleet followed me, and he did not think proper to detain one of them."

[LC, Mass, "Independent Chronicle", 25-28 March, 1799.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*, Friday, 8 February 1799

Very squally disagreeable! Weather all these twenty four Hours with Rain, and a Head Sea. Standing on our Tacks, between Barbuda, and Saint Bartholomew's, and occasionally as far to the Northward as the Latitude of Sambrero, without seeing any Sort of Vessel. At Noon Saint Bartholomew's bore North West, Distance seven Leagues; no other Land in Sight.

Latitude observed 18°.10' North

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 8 February 1799

Fine Wea^r Tack'd as Necessary to Work to Windward

Deseada East Extreme S. S. E. 4 Miles Dist

At 6 Deseada. South 3 miles

At 8 Saw a Strange Sail bear^e N^o Made Sail and gave chace.

At Merdⁿ chace bore N. b. E. 7 Miles

bowed in the Lee Guns to trim the Ship.

[Latitude 17° 01^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown,
U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 8 February 1799

First part moderate breezes & pleasant Weather.

At 1 PM spoke the *Constitution* S. Nicholson who inform'd us that he had spoke the aforementioned sail, that she was a packet from Antigua bound to Barbadoes —

At 6 PM Deseada bore S E b S dist. 6 leagues —

Middle & latter parts squally weather with rain took in & made sail as occasion required

No obsⁿ

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. B. C. Brig *Pickering*.
Thursday, 8 February 1799

Fresh breeze Accompanied with dark gloomy Wea^r 2 pm Exercis'd great Guns and small arms &c Manoever'd Top Men and Marines

5 pm 2 Brigs Anchor'd in the Roads 6 pm Launch'd Top Gall^t Mast and lower'd lower Yards half Mast down —

Midnight Strong Gale and Rain 6 am Struck Top Mast as did the *Herald* — Veer'd out 20 fm^s on each Cable and put Leather Service in the Hause — Close reef'd the Topsails and double reef'd the Main Sail and had the Fore staysail clear in order to make sail instantly in case the Cable should part

Noon Strong Gales and Thick Weather

Seamen and Marines variously Emp^d

Moor'd in Nantaskett Roads

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

To Col. Josiah Parker, Chairman of Committee on Navy Business,
House of Representatives, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department February 9th 1799. —

Col^o JOSIAH PARKER

Chairman of the Committee of the
House of Representatives on the Navy business

SIR The Emoluments of Captains in the Navy, especially those commanding the large Vessels, are not I believe equal to the expences to which they are exposed. — It is a Custom in the Navy for Captains to entertain, and frequently their Officers; — and when in port, the principal people of the place — the Commanders of Squadrons, the Officers of all the Vessels under their Command. — It is not necessary for me to point out the good Effects, to be produced by this friendly and frequent intercourse, between the Commanders and inferior Officers, including Midshipmen, on the manners and spirit of the Navy. — If a Captain of a Frigate, happens to be a man of fortune, he may afford the expense to which his situation subjects him; but even in this case, it is a hardship, that a Gentleman should give up more than his time to his Country, which no doubt is well able to reimburse his actual expenses — A poor man, however great his merit, must from necessity seek more profitable employment

in private service — Several instances have already occurred in proof of this opinion — and they will become more frequent, as the ebullitions of Patriotism have time to subside. —

The Commanders of our Frigates have at all times as great a charge upon their hands, and are subjected to as much expense as Brigadier Generals; — when they command Squadrons, their situation becomes at least as important, as that of Brigadier Generals, on separate command. — View the great difference in their emoluments. — There is really no good reason, why there should be this difference, or any difference to the disadvantage of the Naval Officer. — The Pay of a Brigadier General is 104 Dollars per month — and 12 Rations per day — and 16 Dollars per month for forage — and when on separate command, the Rations are doubled. — The Pay of a Captain of a Frigate is 75 Dollars per month and six Rations per day. — A Brigadier General will seldom command more than his Brigade; & seldom indeed more than his Brigade, if employed on a separate Command. —

A Captain of a Frigate, will frequently have the Command of a Squadron on separate command. — Under the present Laws, the Captains of all our Ships are entitled to the same Emoluments, and in all situations. —

If the Bill passes for 6 Ships of 74, and 6 of 18 Guns, our Navy may be conveniently made to consist of the following description of Vessels, and without incurring expense for alterations:

- 6 Ships of 74 Guns
- 9 Large Frigates, 36 Guns & upwards
- 3 Smaller ditto 32 Guns. —
- 12 Ships 20 to 28 Guns. —
- 9 Sloops of War under 20 Guns —

besides such of the Revenue Cutters as may be found proper to be added to the Navy. — and 9 Gallies, or Vessels not exceeding 10 Guns. —

I have taken the liberty to enclose the form of a Bill, which without burthening the public with greater than the present expense, would I presume satisfy the Officers; — those of lower rank, having something to hope, would be content to look to the time of advancement, for higher reward; and those of highest rank would be better enabled to meet the expense to which they are exposed. —

I have the honor to be &c —

[Enclosure]

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that all the Vessels in the Navy service of the United States, mounting 20 Guns and upwards, be commanded by Captains — those not exceeding 18 Guns (except Gallies, which are to be commanded as heretofore provided by Law) by Lieutenant Commandants, and by Lieutenants, according to the size of the Vessel, to be regulated by the President of the United States. —

And be it further Enacted, that the Pay of Captains commanding Frigates of 32 Guns and upwards, be One hundred Dollars per month

and eight Rations per day — of Captains commanding Ships of 20 Guns and upwards, Seventy five Dollars per month, and six Rations per day — Of Lieutenant Commandants Sixty Dollars per month, and five Rations per day, and of Lieutenants who may command the smaller Vessels, fifty Dollars per month, and five rations per day. —

And be it further Enacted, that whenever any Officer as aforesaid shall be employed in the Command of a Squadron, or separate service, the allowance of Rations to such commanding Officer, shall be doubled during the continuance of such command, and no longer, — except in the case of the Commanding Officer of the Navy, whose allowance, while in service, shall always be at the rate of Sixteen Rations per day. —

[NDA. Con. LB, Vol. 1.]

To Midshipman Robinson, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*

9th Febr'y 1799.

SIR, The very improper Behaviour of some Midshipmen, the Coxswain, and several of the Pinnacemen, has hitherto been unprecedented in naval Discipline. I shall forbear at present to say more on so painful a Subject; as every Neglect, every Impropriety, and every Fault alluded to, is too well known to make further Observations necessary.

It is to you, Sir, I now commit the Charge of my Boat in future (that is the Pinnace or Barge, whichever I may go in from Time to Time) and I hold you accountable for the Behaviour of the Crew in every Particular; they have been selected with Care, and I hope will be found to answer the Purpose. You have their Names at foot.

It is now a good Oppertunity, while I have Occasion to address this Note to you, on the Subject of the Boatmen to state the great Necessity of prompt and minute Attention to all Orders, and to remind you, that good Discipline is considered by all who know any Thing of Service, as the vital Part of a Ship of War; and you will remember, that there are but a small Proportion of the Officers employed in any Service, that ever become conspicuous, and the Cause must be obvious, to every Eye, and every Mind, that can see, and think; this being the case, if you ever wish, or expect to become one of those Sort of Men, that are always meritoriously distinguished and esteemed by the better Orders of Men in Society (tho' perhaps not by the worthless) you must Night and Day think of your Duty, be expert on all Occasions, and in fact be laboriously industrious and active, in whatever appertains to your Duty, and respects Order, and good Discipline, and not loose the golden Moment, that Chance and perhaps good Fortune has thrown in your Way. This is the Advice of a Friend, consider it such, and act accordingly —

Yours &c

M^r ROBINSON

Midshipman.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To John Granbury, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Feb. 9th 1799.

JOHN GRANBURY Esq^r Norfolk.

SIR I am honored with the Receipt of your letter of the 27th Ultimo; with its several enclosures, which are delivered to M^r Winder the Accountant of this Department, who after examination will have prepared the Certificates of Six Per Cent Stock, agreeably to the list you have furnished. —

It was certainly proper that you should charge a Commission, for the very particular Attention you have paid to the Object, and which has been effected, so much to the Advantage of the United States; who by this means are furnished with a Valuable Vessel, on Terms of great convenience, and at a very moderate Cost. — With regard to that part of the Subscription which remains uncollected, if the Parties can make the payment with Convenience, it may be adviseable to apply to them, in which case you will please to do so; but if on the Contrary they cannot conveniently comply with their Subscription, it appears to me that as the Object has been effected, it would be unnecessary to trouble them on the Subject. — The Gun Carriages you mention may be delivered to M^r Pennock. —

I have the Honor &c.

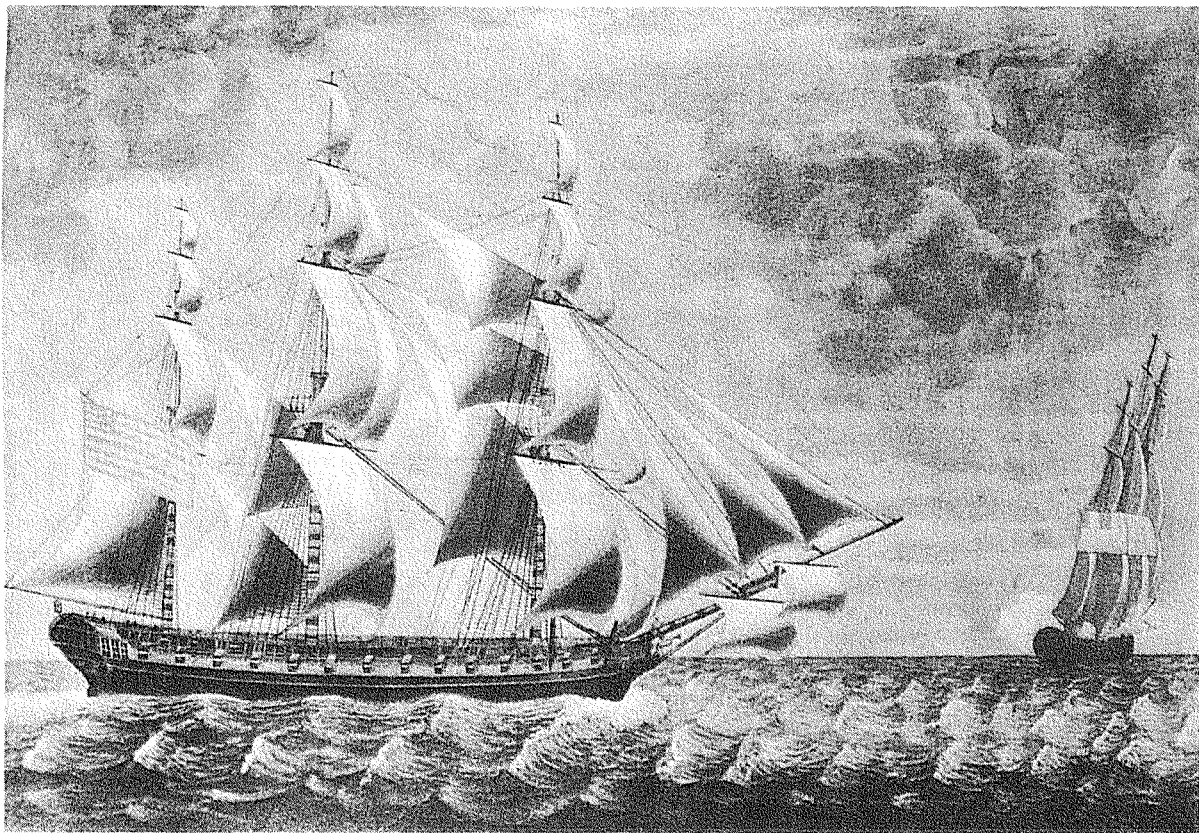
[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[9 February 1799]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation* IN SIGHT OF THE
Island of Saint Christophers' 10th February 1799

DEAR SIR, I wrote you on the 4th Instant to which I must beg leave to refer, and soon after weighed from Bassateer Road, Saint Christophers, and proceeded to Sea, having made the necessary Arrangements with the Merchants, & Masters of Vessels, for a Convoy to Sail on this Day for the United States, under charge of the *Norfolk* and *Richmond*, which Vessels I directed to cruize in the mean Time near Saint Bartholomews', and Saint Martins, so as to be at Hand to proceed with the Convoy at the Time appointed. As soon as I left the Road of Bassateer (which I did solus) I stretched under Montserrat, and towards Gaudaloupe by the Wind, and from thence under the Lee of Antigua, and Barbuda; in this Route, I only met two Merchant Vessels and a British Frigate; I therefore thought it best to change my Ground, which I did, and run down towards the Island of Nevis, and on the 9th Instant at Noon, that Island bearing W.S.W. five leagues Distance discovered a large Ship to the Southward, on which I bore down. She hoisted American Colours and I made our private Signal for the Day, as well as that of the British, but finding she answered neither, must confess that I immediately suspected her to be an Enemy, and in a short Time after found, that my Suspicions were well founded, for she hoisted the french national Colours, and fired a Gun to Windward (which is a Signal of an Enemy) I continued bearing down on her, and at 1/4 past 3 PM. she hailed me several Times, and as



THE CONSTELLATION CHASING L'INSURGENTE OFF THE ISLAND OF NEVIS, FEBRUARY 9, 1799.

soon as I got in a Position for every Shot to do Execution I answered by commencing a close, and successful Engagement, which lasted untill about half after 4 PM, when she struck her Colours to the United States Ship, *Constellation*, and I immediately took possession of her;[*] she proves to be the celebrated french national Frigate, *Insurgente* of 40 Guns, and 400 Men, lately out from France, commanded by Monsieur Barreaut, and is esteemed one of the fastest sailing Ships in the french Navy. I have been much shattered in my Rigging and Sails, and my fore top Mast rendered from Wounds useless; you may depend the Enemy is not less so; I intend to get into Bassateer Roads, Saint Christophers if possible, with my Prize, but the Wind being adverse and blowing hard, I much doubt, in the crippled State of both Ships (without a Change) whether I shall effect it, and if not I must make a Port to Leeward. The high State of our Discipline, with the gallant Conduct of all my Officers, and Men, would have enabled me to have compelled a more formidable Enemy to have yielded, had the Fortune of War thrown one in my Way; as it is, I hope the President and my Country will for the present be content, with a very fine Frigate being added to our infant Navy, and that too with the Loss of only one Man killed, and three wounded, while the Enemy had (the french Surgeon reports) Seventy killed, and wounded; several were found dead in her Tops &c., and thrown overboard, 18 Hours after we had Possession of her. I must not omit in this hasty Detail to do Justice to Monsieur Barreaut for he defended his Ship manfully, and from my raking him several Times, fore and aft, and being athwat his stem ready with every Gun to fire, when he struck his Colours, we may impute the Conflict not being more bloody on our Side, for had not these Advantages been taken, the Engagement would not have ended so soon, for the *Insurgente* was completely officered, and manned.

I have the Honor to be, Dear Sir, with great Esteem,
Your most Obed^t & very hble Serv^t

P. S. Be pleased to write M^{rs} Truxtun a Line at Perth Amboy, and tell her I am well, for I have not Time. The *Insurgente* left Gaudaloupe the 8th Instant having returned from a short Cruize a few Days before, in which she took 5 valuable English Ships, and got 4 of them Safe in, the Other the Captain says had not arrived when he sailed. The french Captain tells me, I have caused a War with France, if so I am glad of it, for I detest Things being done by Halves.

HON^{ble} BENJAMIN STODDERT
Secretary of Navy.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[*NOTE.—Although in his above official report, to the Secretary of the Navy, Captain Truxtun gives no further details of his taking possession of the *Insurgente*, the following information on the subject appears in *The United States Naval Chronicle*, published in 1824, by Mr. Charles W. Goldsborough, who served as Clerk to the Secretary of the Navy from 1798 to 1802, and as Chief Clerk of the Navy Department from 1802 to 1813: "John Rodgers (Present commodore Rodgers) first lieutenant, was sent with midshipman Porter (Present captain D. Porter) and eleven men, to take possession of the prize, and superintend the removal of her crew to the *Constellation*. The wind blew high, and occasioned so much delay in removing the crew, that before it could be effected, night set in, and it came on to blow so hard as to separate the ships, leaving one hundred and

seventy-three prisoners on board the *Insurgente*, to be guarded by lieutenant Rodgers, and his small party.

"The ordinary means of securing prisoners, and the gratings having been thrown overboard by the crew of the *Insurgente* soon after she struck, left lieutenant Rodgers in a most embarrassing and perilous situation. The *Insurgente* resembled a slaughter house; her decks not having been cleared of the dead or dying; her spars, sails, and rigging, cut to pieces, and lying on deck. The navigating her in this situation, in a gale of wind, by two officers and eleven men, who were at the same time charged with the duty of guarding one hundred and seventy-three prisoners, without handcuffs or shackles, and hatches all uncovered, was a service not to be envied by the boldest man living.

"Under these circumstances, lieutenant Rodgers immediately secured all the small arms; ordered the prisoners into the lower hold of the ship, and placed at each hatchway a sentinel, armed with a blunderbuss, cutlass, and brace of pistols, with orders to fire, if any one of the prisoners should attempt to come upon deck, without having previously obtained his permission. In this situation, he was placed for three nights and two days, during which time, neither he nor midshipman Porter could take the slightest repose, being compelled to be constantly on the watch, to prevent the prisoners from rising upon them, and re-taking the ship, which their numbers would have enabled them to do, with ease, but for the precautions taken, and the vigilance practiced by lieutenant Rodgers and his party. One moment's intermission thereof would have lost the ship, as the prisoners had manifested a disposition to re-take her, and were incessantly upon the watch for a favorable moment to accomplish their purposes. She was, under these circumstances, safely conducted into St. Kitts, at which place the *Constellation* had previously arrived.

"During the action with the *Insurgente*, midshipman Porter, then eighteen years of age, was stationed in the foretop of the *Constellation* — an eighteen pound ball from the *Insurgente* struck the foretop mast, just above the cap, and the mast was tottering and about going. Discovering this, midshipman Porter hailed the commodore, and gave him the information; but no person being immediately sent to his assistance, he, himself, with great presence of mind, judgment and gallantry, went up amidst a shower of ball, cut away the slings, let down the yards, and thus saved the mast."']

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Saturday, 9 February 1799

Fresh Breezes, and squally and unpleasant Weather with a Head Sea. At 4 PM saw two Sail in the S.W. gave Chace, and at half past five ditto, spoke a Sloop from Antigua bound to Wiscasset out Eight Hours, informed the Vessel to Leeward was a Brig bound to Norfolk, which came out in Company with her. Stood as per Column of Courses, and at Day Light seeing no Vessels between Barbuda, and Saint Bartholomew's, bore away to pass between Nevis, and Redondo. At Noon saw a Sail standing to the Westward, gave Chase. I take her for a Ship of War.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

[9 February 1799]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Sunday, 10 February 1799

Continued chasing the Sail seen the preceeding Noon, and at One PM made the private Signal of the Day for a British Ship of War, which was not answered, but American Colours were hoisted, I then ordered the private Signal hawled down, and made the Signal for an American Ship of War, which was not noticed, when I had no Doubts respecting the Chace being a french Frigate, and had every Preparation made accordingly for Action. Shortly after the Chace hawled

down the American Ensign, and hoisted the french national Colours, and fired a Gun to Windward, but at the same Time standing close hawled, with a View to gain the Wind of me, a heavy Squall soon came on, in which she carried away her main top Mast, and bore before the Wind; I followed on under a Press of Canvass, and at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 3 PM, being well prepared, run close under her Larboard Quarter; they hailed me, but I returned no Answer, untill we were in a Situation to make the Shot from every Gun do complete Execution, being not more than half Cable's Length from her, I then gave the Orders to fire in Rotation, the whole Broadside, which was returned from the french Frigate, this commenced an Engagement with various Manuvering, that lasted one Hour, and a Quarter, when the Enemy struck her Colours to the *Constellation*, having been raked fore, and aft several Times, much injured, and lost seventy Men killed, and wounded by the french Surgeon's Account. I immediately took possession of her, exchanged the Prisoners, and commenced the necessary Repairs in Order to gain to Windward so as to get into Bassateer Saint Christophers. Altho' the Enemy lost so many Men, and had 40 Carriage Guns, and 409 men, and our Force being only 38 Guns and 316 Men, we had but 1 Man killed, and 2 wounded. The Prize Frigate proved to be the celebrated *Insurgeant* [*L'Insurgente*], commanded by Monsieur Buriaut [Barreaut], 8 Hours from Gaudaloupe on a Cruize. At Noon Saint Eustatia bore N.N.E. five Leagues Distance.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

[9 February 1799]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP, *Constellation*,
Bassateer Roads, St Christopher's February 14th 1799.

SIR, When I had the Honor to write you the 10th Instant, I expected every Moment to have met the *Norfolk* and *Richmond* with the Convoy I ordered to Sail on that Day, agreeable to my Letter to you of the 4th Instant; they were however detained untill the 11th and when I fell in with them, it was blowing so fresh that I directed the Convoy to proceed; as we should have lost perhaps as much Ground by heaving too, and putting a Letter on Board one of the Vessels as the Ships would, in their crippled State, have gained again in half a Day's hard Beating, and as I was anxious to get them to an Anchor in Bassateer Roads, St Christophers, I desired Captain Barron to state to you, by some of the Vessels of the Convoy, that we had captured the *Insurgente*.

On the 13th after the greatest Exertions having been made, we gained these Roads with both Ships, and anchored them safe about Noon. It is impossible for me to state to you the Joy demonstrated by the Inhabitants on this Occasion, the Ship was filled with Gentlemen of the first Dignities in the Island, and a Salute requested, in Order that it might be returned which was complied with on my Part, particularly as it came from a Member of the King's Council (M^r Tyson) an Old Friend of mine of many Years' Standing.

I have just received a polite Letter of Congratulation from the Commander in Chief, who offers me every Service in his Power, and

I have directed all the Wounded from the *Insurgente* to be immediately landed, and sent to the Hospital. The following is an accurate Return made me this Morning by Lieutenant Rodgers, commanding the Prize taken from the examining Officers, of the killed and wounded on Board the *Insurgente* to Viz:

Killed.....	29
Badly wounded.....	22
Wounded more slightly.....	19
Total killed and wounded.....	70

We had as I wrote you before only one Man killed, and two badly wounded, one of which is since dead, the Other is a Midshipman (M^r McDonough) who lost his Foot. An Ordinary Seaman was after discovered to be slightly wounded, this is the whole Number lost and injured on Board the *Constellation*. I shall proceed to repair the Damages sustained to both Ships as speedily as possible, and untill the Pleasure of the President of the U. S. is known, I intend to give Lieutenant John Rodgers an Order to command the *Insurgente*, he was one of the first Lieutenants appointed, has a Claim to being among the first Promotions, but a very strong one for behaving well, and being the first Lieutenant of the *Constellation*, at the Capture of the first Governmental Ship of any Consequence ever made by the Arms of the U. S. at Sea, since our being known as a Nation, the other Officers I shall appoint in the same Way.

I have not had Time to examine into the State of the Provisions and Stores of the *Insurgente*, but shall do it as speedily as possible, and direct the Purchase of no more than is necessary (should the Store Ship not arrive) for her cruizing in Company with me, untill I leave the Station for the U. S. in May or thereabouts —.

My Gun Deck is divided into 3 Divisions, the first of 5 Guns & opposite superintended by the 1st Lieut. M^r Rodgers. The 2^d of 5 Guns & oppo: by the 2^d Lieut: M^r Cowper. The 3^d of 4 Guns and Oppo: by the 3^d Lieut: M^r Sterett. The Zeal of these 3 Officers in performing their Duty, and complying strictly with my Orders cannot be surpassed, but I must not in Praise of them be silent as to the good Conduct of M^r Shirley, the Master, and M^r Archer the 4th Lieut. who acted their Part near my Person on the Quarter Deck, and who are also deserving of Notice, but for the Honor of our Nation I must declare that it is impossible for Officers and Men in any Service to have behaved better, than my People generally did on this Occasion, it must therefore not be understood because I have mentioned the Names of a few of the principal Gentlemen, that those of an inferior Grade in their Stations are less deserving. On the Contrary, to the latter I always feel myself most indebted for their Exertions in the Hour of Battle, as they have generally much less at Stake, than those in higher Stations, and consequently less Inducement to display their Valor.

As much has been said by the french Officers of what the Nation, and particularly General Desfourneaux, will do in Consequence of the Capture of the *Insurgente*, insinuating that they will now capture every Vessel without Distinction, I have thought it proper to send you these Dispatches by Express, which will be attended with Expence.

Should Congress be in Session, or the President have it in his Power, and be disposed to direct the Seizure of all french Property (find it, where we may) some handsome Things might possibly be

done, but at present the Neutrals cover, and carry on all the Trade, and those we examine, & let pass, the British capture. I shall hope to hear from you fully by the Return of this Vessel, and I shall be obliged by your sending me 5 Tons of Cordage from 7 Inches down to Ratline Stuff in regular Proportion, and about 20 Bolts of Sail Cloth with a Proportion of Twine. These Articles shall be charged to the *Constellation*, or *Insurgente*, as they may be applied, & receipted for. If the Store Ship arrives we shall be enabled to prolong our Cruize, so as to return about the 1st of June; but should she not come out, I must return sooner, or sail the Ships at a very great Expence by provisioning of them here. But whatever I do, Sir, in any Event, will be for the Good of the Service, and I hope and trust for its Honor too. I am just dispatching a Cartel to General Desfourneaux agreeable to a Copy of the enclosed Letter to him, the Result you shall be advised of in due Time.

With Sentiments of high Respect, and Esteem,

I am, Sir,

Your most Obed^t humble Servant.

Hon^{ble} BENJAMIN STODDERT,

Secretary of Navy.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[9 February 1799]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP, *Constellation*,
Bassateer Roads, S^t Christophers, 16th Feby. 1799 —

MY DEAR SIR, I have wrote you several Times, but know not whether my Letters have reached you. I have lately wrote our Friend John Gay at Martinica, and have requested you to give him Extracts. I offer my Opinion in that Letter, which you will consider no Doubt, and adopt similar Measures, to what I have done here, or not, as you shall think proper. I am actuated by the Good of the Service, in all my Actions and Advice, and I trust you, as well as all Others, who know me, think so. I have not been idle since my Arrival in the West Indies; I have been 3 Times under Gaudaloupe, besides passing to Martinica, in the first Instance with the Schooner *Thetis*, having the Lady on Board from Alexandria. I have made one Cruize between Anguilla, and Barbuda, another off S^t Bartholomews; and through the Sambero Passage, and down towards Anegada and the Virgin Garda. I have dispatched three Convoys (went with one myself) have taken the *Insurgente* Frigate, with no Vessel in Company at the Time, and am now here refitting. The News Papers of Saint Christophers, under Yesterday's Date, will give you a correct Account of our Engagement, as it is an Extract from our Log Book, or the Purport thereof.

I am dispatching an Express for the Secretary of the Navy, and have already sent up a Cartel to Gaudaloupe, with the Captain, and 51 Officers and &c. and have written General Desforneaux, respecting an Exchange &c.

I have taken Pains to open a free Communication with you, and you know, there is no other Man in the Service, that I as much wish to have a clear Understanding, and open Intercourse with, as yourself.

I have appointed Lieutenant Rodgers to command the *Insurgente*, untill the Pleasure of the President is known, and have wrote the Secretary accordingly, and I hope with the Exertions that will be made, I shall be enabled soon to have her cruizing with me; If you can aid me, by a Draught from each of your Vessels, of about ten Men, it will do me a great Favour, and essentially serve the Country, for it is a great Object to get speedily so fine, and swift a Frigate at Sea; besides it will add Respectability to my little Squadron.

Below you have Copy of the Paragraph of my Letter to M^r Gay, and which I requested him to give you an Extract, to Viz^t "For your Information, and Satisfaction, I now inform you, that I have long since determined to capture all french Vessels, and retake any that may be in Possession of their Cruizers, if they have only two Cases or Jack Knives on Board, and let our Judges after determine whether they come under the Laws for making Reprisals or not, and I have given all the Captains in my Squadron Orders to this Effect." As to Neutrals, I shall treat them politely, and in a friendly Way, should I even meet them having french Cargoes on Board, and documented as such. The french Captain says, he is surprized at America declaring War against France, when the Difference might have been settled without, I told him, America had not declared War against France; pardon me says he, your taking me with the Ship of the french Nation is a Declaration of War; then said I if the Capture of a national Vessel is to be considered as a Declaration of War, your taking the *Retaliation* which belonged to the U. S. was certainly a Declaration of War on the Part of France against America; here ended this Conversation, which was the last I had with him, before his Departure in the Cartel (a Subject that he had frequently introduced before) with this further Observation from me; that be it War, or be it Peace, I should certainly take every french Frigate I met, and other french armed Vessels, and this Determination he would be pleased to communicate to General Desforneaux.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your sincere Friend & humble Servant.

Commodore JOHN BARRY.

P. S.

Insurgente's WEIGHT OF METAL.

4 Cannon 36 Pounds

2 ditto. 24 ditto

2 ditto. 18 ditto

24 ditto. 12 ditto

8 ditto. 6 ditto

40 ditto, and 409 Men, per last Examination to Viz^t

52 Officers &c: dispatched in Cartel 14th Instant

180 in Prison Ship. (some slightly wounded)

100 in Jail in Bassateer

34 in Hospital

29 Killed and died of Wounds

14 Now on Board the *Constellation*, & *Insurgente*, which I expect will enter.

409 Men Total

Constellation mounts 38 Guns, and had on Board (including Officers)

316 Men. —

A true Copy.

J. POMERY, Capt^s Clerk.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[9 February 1799]

To Jeremiah Yellott, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Captain Thomas Truxton,
U. S. Navy; capture of the French Frigate *L'Insurgente* by the United States
Frigate *Constellation*

BALTIMORE, MARCH 9.

UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constellation*,
Basseterre roads, St. Christopher's, 16th February, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR,

I enclose you a newspaper that gives a very accurate account of my capture of the *Insurgente*, French frigate with this difference only, you must read 409 men as at foot, being her compliment instead of 360. I have not time to add; I wish you health and happiness, and am, with sincere esteem, your obedient humble servant,

THOMAS TRUXTON.

P. S. The *Insurgente*, of 40 guns, viz.

24 cannon of 12 pounds.
4 do. of 36 do. brass.
2 do. of 24 do.
2 do. of 18 do.
8 do. of 6 do.

40 guns with 8 brass swivels.

Number of Men, Viz.

52 officers sent to Guadaloupe 14th inst. 180 men in prison ships in
Basseterre roads, seven of whom slightly wounded.

100 put in jail at *Basseterre*.
34 wounded in hospital.
29 killed in action.
14 detained on board *Constellation*.

409 total on board when the action commenced.

JEREMIAH YELLOTT, Esq.

[Enclosure]

FROM THE ST. CHRISTOPHERS' PAPER ABOVE ALLUDED TO.

BASSETERE, Feb. 15, 1799.

On Tuesday last the American frigate *Constellation*, of 38 guns, com. Truxton, brought in the French national frigate *L'Insurgente*, of 40 guns, captain Bureau which she captured on the 9th inst. off the south side of this Island. The following are the particulars of the action with which we were this day favoured:—

On the 9th inst. at noon, a large ship was discovered by the *Constellation*, standing to the westward to which she immediately gave chase; and at first the commodore supposing her to be a British ship of war, ordered the signal for that day to be hoisted, which not being answered, he then directed the signal for an American ship of war to be displayed, which also was not noticed, but the American ensign run up at the mizen peak of the chase.

As neither of the above signals were answered, the commodore observed that he suspected the chase to be an enemy; and scarcely had he expressed his opinion, when the American ensign was hauled down, the French national flag hoisted, and a gun fired to windward. A croud of canvas was then spread on the *Constellation*, and every

preparation made for action; at half past two P. M. the main top-mast of the chase went by the cap; the wreck was however soon cleared and the ship put before the wind — at a quarter past three, Nevis bearing W. S. W. about six leagues distant, the *Constellation* ranged up along side of her, when the capt. hailed several times, but commodore Truxton thought proper to answer him only with his guns, and as soon as they were brought to bear, commenced the engagement by giving the first broadside, which was instantly returned by the Frenchman; but in the course of one hour and a quarter she struck her colours, after being raked fore and aft three times, with the loss of 70 of her men killed and wounded, and very much shattered in her hull, masts, rigging and sails. She proves to be *l'Insurgente* French frigate, of 40 guns, and 360 men, exclusively of officers commanded by citizen Bureaut, and is one of the ships lately arrived at Guadaloupe from France.

The *Constellation* had only one man killed & three wounded, though much injured in her rigging and sails, &c. aloft. — Her commander observes that his officers and men behaved extremely well, and not one single instance occurred of a want of exertion and firmness on the occasion. — She had 407 men, including officers.

A Cartel sailed yesterday evening for Guadaloupe, with about 60 of the crew of *l'Insurgente*.

[NYHS "Greenleaf's New York Journal & Patriotic Register", March 16, 1799.]

[9 February, 1799]

To David M. Clarkson, U. S. Agent, St. Kitts, from Captain Thomas Truxton,
U. S. Navy

MY DEAR SIR, I have been fortunate since I left you last Tuesday in falling in with the french Frigate *Insurgente*, which yielded to our Flag, after an Action of one Hour, and a Quarter. I have written your Governor, and left the Letter open for your Information, but I request you see it before it is delivered, and that you will be pleased to bring me a Reply &c. as speedily as possible. My Compliments to M^{rs} Clarkson, and all the Ladies &c. &c. &c.

DAVID M. CLARKSON Esq^r

U. S. Ship *Constellation*, Bassateer Roads

St^t Christophers 12th Febr'y 1799

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxton's LB, 1798-9.]

[9 February 1799]

From Lieutenant Andrew Sterrett, U. S. Navy to his brother, regarding capture of French Frigate *L'Insurgente* by U. S. Frigate *Constellation*

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. ANDREW STERRET, A YOUNG GENTLEMAN OF BALTIMORE, 3D LIEUTENANT OF THE FRIGATE *Constellation*, TO HIS BROTHER.

"UNITED STATES FRIGATE *Constellation*,
St. Kitts, Feb. 14, 1799.

"DEAR CHARLES, I have taken up my pen to inform you of our successful cruise: — On the 19th [9th] instant we saw a large sail standing down before the wind towards us. We took her to be one of the

English frigates; — at half past meridian she hauled her wind to the northward. We hoisted the signal for the American and English ships for that day, but they were not answered, and the chase hoisted American colours. We hauled our wind to stand athwart her — she then made more sail, which induced us to think she was a French frigate; — about half past 4 [1] P. M. she hoisted French colours, and fired a gun to windward, to bid us defiance, and at 3 P. M. she carried away her main top mast — a pleasing sight to all of us — We came along side about a quarter of an hour before 4 P. M. and gave her a broadside, which she returned, and the action became general and pretty warm — but we had the satisfaction of compelling her to strike to us. She proved to be the French national frigate *Insurgente*, of 40 guns, and 410 men. I have the satisfaction to inform you that we received no damage except in our rigging, and only one man killed and two wounded.

“One fellow I was obliged to run through the body with my sword, and so put an end to a *coward*. You must not think this strange, for we would put a man to death for even looking pale on board *this* ship. — The *Insurgente* had 29 killed and 41 wounded. The action lasted but one hour and a quarter.

I send you a list of killed and wounded on board of our ship.

A. STERRETT.”

J. M'Donerigh, midshipman, wounded.

John Andrews, ordinary seaman, do.

Thomas Wilson, do. Since dead.

Neal Harvey, killed for cowardice.”

[NYHS, “Greenleaf’s New York Journal & Patriotic Register”, March 16, 1799.]

[9 February 1799]

From Captain Thomas Williams, U. S. Navy to the Secretary of the Navy

CAPTURE OF L’INSURGENT.

(Official.)

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. THOMAS WILLIAMS, COMMANDER OF THE UNITED STATES BRIG. *Norfolk*, TO THE HON. BENJAMIN STODDERT, ESQ. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, DATED ON BOARD THE *Norfolk*, OFF SANDY POINT, ST. KITTS, 11TH FEB. 1799.

SIR, Captain S. Barron and myself, received a fleet of American vessels of 14 sail under our convoy, while we were waiting at Bassaterre Roads, St. Christopher’s for the fleet to come out, saw two sail in the offing. I sent Capt. Barron to reconnoitre them and speak them, if friends, and join me off St. Eustatia, which he did. The two sail were commodore Truxton and his prize, the French frigate *L’Insurgent* of 42 guns and 250 men, which Commodore Truxton captured, on the 9th inst. after a close action of 55 minutes. *L’Insurgent* had 50 men killed; the *Constellation* had only 3 men killed. I understand that *L’Insurgent* made a running fight for some hours before she came to close action; but could not get away from the *Constellation*. No other ships were engaged but those two nor any others in sight. *L’Insurgente* is the same ship that capt. Barny had with him so long

in Virginia. The French ship lost her mainmast in action and some of her topmasts. The *Constellation* seems to have lost the head of her fore and mizen topmast, and her fore yard seems to be a jury yard, but her mainmast, topmast, and top gallant mast are all well. I am now in sight of both ships, say not more than five miles distance. His flag is flying at his main top gallant mast head, and *L'Insurgent*, with the American ensign over the French, under the *Constellation's* quarter. On Captain Barron's asking Commodore Truxton if he wanted any assistance, he answered no, that his ship sailed as well as before, and he had got the prize in a good condition that he would soon be in the road of Bassatterre St. Kitts, which they are now beating up for. His officers are all well and unhurt. My crew are very healthy, but Mr. M'Rea, who is at sick quarters, on shore, and has been sick ever since he arrived here.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS WILLIAMS.

[LC, Conn. "Connecticut Courant", 18 March, 1799.]

[9 February 1799]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Lieutenant John Rodgers, U. S. Navy

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE FIRST LIEUTENANT OF THE
Constellation.

ON BOARD THE PRIZE FRIGATE *L'Insurgent*,
St. Christophers, 15th Feb. 1799.

Major STODDART,

DEAR SIR, It is with pleasure I inform you of the victory we have gained over the cursed violators of our peace. At meridian on the 10th inst. Nevis bearing W. S. W. distant 5 or 6 leagues, saw a large ship to the southward, bore away and gave chase. Our brave commander, who well deserves the appellation, ordered the ship cleared, and every thing got ready for battle, according to our established rule on board the ship.

At 2 P. M. the chase carried away her main top mast, and bore away before the wind for a short time, after which, finding we continued the chase, she hauled up within 8 points of the wind on the starboard tack. At a quarter past 3 P. M. it blowing extremely hard, and our ship being rather crank, we ran close under the enemy's lee, for the sake of working our guns with more facility.

As soon as we got abreast of the enemy, she hailed several times, but no answer was given. The Commodore ordered myself with the other lieutenants commanding divisions, to fire directly into the hull, as soon as we could bring our guns to bear, and to load with two round shot principally during the action. All the orders being complied with, we raked her several times in the course of the action, which went on to our most sanguine expectations.

At a quarter past 4 P. M. the enemy struck, at the time she struck we lay directly athwart her stern, and should certainly have sent her to the infernal regions had we fired whilst in that position.

When she struck I was ordered to board and take possession and to send the captain and first lieutenant on board the *Constellation*, which was done, and an exchange of prisoners immediately took place.

Although I would not have you think me bloody minded, yet I must confess the most gratifying sight my eyes ever beheld was seventy French pirates (you know I have just cause to call them such) wallowing in their gore, twenty nine of whom were killed and forty one wounded.

This action of only one hour and a quarter has given to the arms of the United States at sea one of the fastest sailing and finest frigates in the French navy, and that too with much less injury to the *Constellation* than is usual in captures of this sort, and without much blood being spilt on our side, having only one man killed, and two badly wounded, with two slightly wounded.

Knowing that you have the success of our infant navy at heart, and are particularly attached to the *Constellation*, I have been induced to give you this particular detail.

Though I am not in the habit of boasting yet I candidly tell you I should feel happy with the same officers, and same men on going along side of the best 50 gun ship the all conquering French Republic have — at any hour.

JOHN ROGERS.

[LC, "Massachusetts Mercury", Boston, 22 March 1799.]

[9 February 1799 and
2 February 1800]

Case of William Brown, Powder Monkey, Aboard the U. S. Frigate *Constellation*

County of Cumberland State of Maine S.S. On this first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and forty four personally appeared before me Freeman Bradford a magistrate duly qualified to administer oaths William Brown commonly called Billy Brown a Coloured Man who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration * * * he is at least sixty years of age and that he was brought up at Baltimore by one Capt. Chase of Baltimore who lived at what is called Fell's Point at that time. He the said Brown says that he enlisted and entered on board the *Constellation* at Baltimore in 1798 under the command of Commodore Truxtun and served in her about two years in the capacity of Powder Monkey. In the month of February, 1799 the *Constellation* being upon her cruising ground off St. Kitts one of the English West India Islands she fell in with the French Frigate the *L'Insurgente* and captured her. In this engagement he the said Brown was wounded by a musket ball from the enemy's top in the left foot from which wound he has never recovered. The said Brown further declares that after he was wounded he was taken below and had his wound dressed. The prise was taken into St. Kitts.

The said Brown continued in the Service after his wound was partially healed and continued to do the duty of Powder Monkey as aforesaid in the *Constellation* under Commodore Truxtun and in the month of February 1800 was again in the engagement between the

Constellation and the *La Vengeance* another French Frigate which escaped in the night and the *Constellation* went in to Jamaica to repair damages. * * *

his
WILLIAM X BROWN
mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written by the said William Brown before me

FREEMAN BRADFORD J.P.

[VA. Old War Inv. File No. 19562, William Brown.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Gibbs & Channing, Navy Agents, Newport, R. I.

NEWPORT February 9 1799

A number of the principal Inhabitants of this Town, observing by a Resolution of Congress, that a Dockyard, was to be established in one of the Eastern States; and being impressed with the opinion, that this harbour, had superior advantages for such an object, and presuming it would be acceptable to you, to have those advantages detailed and pointed out, have requested some Gentlemen well acquainted with the Harbour &c to draw up a statement to forward to you. In the interim they desire us to advise you of the same, and to offer our opinion on this subject — We therefore take the liberty to observe — That at all seasons of the year, the entrance too and passage out of this harbour is easy, safe, and subject to no detention by Contrary Winds, and when the strong North Westerly Winds prevail, this is the only harbour to the eastward of the Capes of Virginia that can be entered; the Anchorage is good, and the harbour so well land locked, that with ground tackling, Vessels ride with safety in the strongest gales of Wind from any quarter — There is no ice that forms or runs here [to] obstruct or injure — The Island on which Fort Wolcott is erected, we consider very advantageously situated for Naval Arsenals — Wharves may be built at a small expence to where the water is nineteen feet at low tides and a soft muddy bottom, and there is a commodious place for building Ships, and within a short distance of the Island, is a Cove secured on all sides, sufficiently large for docking Timber. There is the best water on the Island, which is only a short distance from the present wharf, and may be conveyed by troughs, to fill the Casks in the boats — There are several Islands or places contiguous to the above that appear to us, very eligibly situated for the establishment of a Marine Hospital. Considerable quantities of the best timber, which grows in the Eastern States, may be procured from the various parts of the Country lying on the bay or river, and from some Islands at the entrance [to the] Sound. And we are of opinion Timber from Georgia could generally be brought here at a less freight, than to Philadelphia or New York — from the facility of coming to this port, and the Number of Coasting Vessels that belong to all the Ports in this bay, that are obliged to go to the Southern Ports for employ — Supplies in provisions, may be always collected here, on as good terms as at almost any Port — by

having seasonable notice — The health of the crew of a Ship, after long cruises, would derive great advantage from the salubrity of the air, and the abundance of Vegetables that may be always had here; Fresh provisions and Vegetables are cheaper here than at any of the Capitals in the United States —

We are

G & C

Hon^e BENJAMIN STODDERT

[Newport HS. Gibbs & Channing LB, 1799.]

[9 February 1799]

Case of William Palms, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*

I entered into the Service of the United States at the time of the first disturbance between France and America on board of the U. S. Brig of War *Eagle*. Capt Camel. [Captain Hugh George Campbell] 1st Lieutenant Latmore and 2 lieutenant Decatur — after a cruise of 6 or 8 months we captured the Schr *Eliza* — Capt Wheland bound to S^t Thomas from Philadelphia. A conspiracy had been formed by Baker, Brous & Peterson with the intention of being pirates — they killed the Mate supercargo and a seaman — We delivered the prisoners on board of the ship *Ganges* — she was going to sail to Philad^a. The mutineers were put in irons, tried convicted and hanged on Wind Mill Island opposite the City soon after I left the Brig

I then entered the Service on board of the Ship *Constellation* — Commodore Truxton I remained for more than a year in her — We fell in with the French frigate *L'Insurgente* of 40 guns & 400 men — our frigate carried 36 Guns — after a desperate battle — we were victorious. We then sent her to Norfolk — Feb^y 1800 [1799] — In this combat I was wounded in the head — neck — legs & belly — and I remained in the Hospital about a year or fourteen months. Soon after I started for New Orleans, where I met Commodore Porter * * *

WILLIAM PALMS

[VA. Old Act Navy Inv. Rejected 728, William Palms.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 9 February 1799

Fresh Breezes & Squally at ½ past 12 Tack'd in the wake of the chase & pursued her under a press of Sail observed She was a Schooner Suppos'd a Frenchman

At 4 $\overline{\text{K}}$ to the Northw^d

At 5 $\overline{\text{K}}$ to the Southward

At 6 Shortend Sail and gave over chace after pursuing her 79 Miles found She gaind much to the Wind^d of us.

At 2 $\overline{\text{K}}$ to the Southw^d

At 6 Deseada S.b.W. 4 Leagues $\overline{\text{K}}$ to the Northw^d

@ 12 Deseada S.b.W. 6 Leagues.

[Latitude observed 16° 43^m N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 9 February 1799

First part pleasant weather fresh breezes & a rough head beat sea

At 2 PM saw the *Constitution* on our lee bow under full sail in chase of a Schooner to windward, out reefs & set F & M T G sails & gave chase to the same — (At 5 PM the East part of Deseada bore S $\frac{1}{2}$ E dist 7 or 8 leagues) Night coming on lost sight of our Chase

At 6 PM in T G sails & reef'd topsails

Latter part fresh breezes & rough sea

[Latitude observed 16.42 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Friday, 9 February 1799

Strong Gales and Thick Weather, all hands employ'd in getting Sheat Anchor in the Fore Chains bent large Cable pass'd over all forward and clench'd the end round the Main Mast on deck — Cut 8 fathoms 3 Inch Rope for Stoppers

6 pm More moderate sway'd up yards and T. Mast

8 pm Watch as Usual —

Midnight Fresh Gale clear and Cold

Strong Gale clear and Cold severall Vessells pass'd us outward bound — and a Brig & Schooner Anchor'd in the Roads

Moor'd in Nantasket Roads

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

[10 February 1799]

Protest of William Ward, Master of the Schooner *Nancy*, captured by
French Privateer *Rencountre*.

Jamaica SS —

William Ward Master William Brooks Mate and William Mills Seaman of and belonging to the Schooner *Nancy* of Boston who being severally sworn make Oath and say that they sailed from Boston on the twenty second of January in the present Year bound to St Iago in Cuba, being perfectly tight staunch strong and in every respect sea Worthy and fit for the prosecution of their Voyage, and having on board a Cargo consisting of Brandy, Beef, Port, Cod fish, Butter, Lard, Cheese, Raisons, Beans, Rice, whale Oil and sundry other Merchandize. Say that they saw the East End of Cuba on the ninth of the present month of february, bearing West, and were proceeding for St Iago aforesaid, when on the day after, about Six Leagues to the Eastward of it, they saw a Sail bearing West, and soon after they discovered it was a Schooner rowing towards them, they having then a Calm; and shortly after came up and proved to be a French Privateer mounting two four pounders one nine, one swivel and having on board Fifty five Men, she was called the *Rencountre* Andrew Caste Master and belonged to Cape Francois, as they were told — Say that a number of armed Men came on board and ordered the Master and Supercargo on board the Privateer with all their Papers, which they refused to return, allowing only the Supercargo to take a List of them, on the eleventh the aforesaid Privateer rowed the *Nancy* in a small River called Watenamo in Cumberland Bay, there they broke open the Hatches and

took out sundry articles of Merchandize, such as Beef, Pork, Raisons, Butter, Hams, Gin, and one Trunk of Goods belonging to the Super Cargo and a Barrel belonging to the Master, and put them on board the Privateer, where they were both detained, on the twelfth they discovered two Brigs and one Schooner in Cumberland Bay, when the Privateer towed the *Nancy* some distance further up the River, and several other Articles of Merchandize were plundered, on the day after they were again towed further up and a Boat was sent from the Privateer to convey the Super Cargo and Master some distance up and threatening to put them on Shore, that several Shot were exchanged between the Privateer and the aforementioned Schooner, which returned down the River, on which Day a Barrel of Shoes belonging to the Master was taken, say that the Master and Super Cargo were ordered to return to their Vessel, and all the French Men were taken out, that they demanded their Papers and were told by the Captain of the Privateer that they were up the River in his Trunk, on the fourteenth the two Brigs began to proceed up the River, and at eight A. M. of the same day the Frenchmen came on board the *Nancy*, and took out two Iron and four wooden Guns and carried them on Shore with all their Powder, and erected a small Fort, that they again demanded their Papers and received the same Answer as before, on the fifteenth one of the Brigs being nearly within Gun Shot of the Privateer, the Captain of her ordered these Depo- nents to haul the *Nancy* further off the Shore, as he was going to set fire to his Vessel, which was accordingly done, and they went on shore and again demanded their Papers, and was told that they were still up the River but should be sent them by a Spaniard — Say that they dispatched two Men for them in company with some of the French men, who were told they were burned on board the Privateer by the neglect of the Clerk not taking them out, a short time after several Boats came from the Brigs and Schooners, which proved to be the Brig *Swallow* commanded by Archibald M^{re} Vee, the Brig *Argonaut* commanded by Raymond Bayonne, and Schooner *L'Amitié* Anthony Ferand Master, who took possession of the *Nancy*, and began to haul her down the River, and told them they were to be sent to Jamaica, on the eighteenth some People from the Brigs came on board and towed her into the Bay where a Prize Master and some Men were put on board, and the Super Cargo, the Mate and three of the Crew ordered on board the *Argonaut*, leaving the Master and two Men on board the *Nancy* and about two oclock A M of the nine- teenth they all sailed together from Cumberland Bay bound to Kings- ton in this Island, and on the twenty first of the same month arrived at Port Royal, where the Pilot run the Schooner on shore, as they were going in to Kingston, that she has since been got off and anchored at Kingston aforesaid on the twenty third, but do not know what Damage she has received — Say that the aforesaid Schooner *Nancy* is still in possession of the Recaptors —

WILLIAM WARD
WILLIAM BROOKS
WILLIAM MILLS

Sworn before me (being first duly stamped) this 25th of february
1799

W^m SAVAGE.

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 10 February 1799

Fresh Gales & Squally at 3 P.M. found the Bowsprit to work very much owing to the Badness of the Bobstays. & Gammoning Set the People to Secure it by getting the fore Runners & belly Stay forward. and Passing a 7 Inch lashing round the Bobstays and Bowsprit @ ½ past 5 Shorten'd Sail & down T. G^t Yards At 10 Wore to the Southw^d

Deseada S.b.W. 4 Leagues.

At 11 Pass'd Deseada 4 Leagues to Wind^d Parted Company with the *Merrimack* She could not fetch by the Island Marigalante W.S.W. 5. Leagues Dist. Deseada W.N.W. 5. Leagues Dist
[Latitude 16° 08^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*. Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 10 February 1799

First part pleasant Weather fresh breezes & rough sea —

At 2 PM squally with rain. Reef'd the Topsails & took in M Sail, the *Constitution* under our lee —

At 7 PM took in Mizzen T sail & F Sail Close Reef'd F & M T Sail —

At 10 set F Sail & wore Ship to the South^d & set Mizzen T sail —

Middle part squally & rain

At 10 AM set M Sail

At Meridⁿ out reefs of T Sails — S W part of Deseada bore South 3 Leagues dist.

Latter part D^r weather

[Latitude observed 16.27N]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*, Saturday, 10 February 1799

Strong Gale accompanied with dark cloudy Weather

5 pm came on board Capⁿ Preble came on board Unmoor'd Ship Unmoor'd Ship Weigh'd small Bower and hove in short service on the Best Bower

Moderate breeze and clear Weather

Anchor'd near us 2 Brigs

At day Light Fir'd a Gun and beat off — At Sun Rise Fir'd a Gun hoisted Broad pendant, sent up Top Gallant Yards and loos'd Fore Top sail (signal for sailing) Seamen and Marines variously employ'd in getting every thing ready for Sea Strong Gale and Cloudy

At Single Anchor in Nantasket Roads

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

To Col. Josiah Parker, Chairman of a Committee, Navy Business, House of Representatives, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 11th February 1799

Col^o JOSIAH PARKER

Chairman of a Committee

of the House of Representatives

SIR The Marine Corps as now established by Law, consists of 1 Major, 4 Captains, 16 first Lieutenants, 12 second Lieutenants, 48 Serjeants, 48 Corporals, 32 Drums and fifes and 720 Privates.

But as this Corps is not sufficient to furnish all the Marines for all the Vessels which will be in service during the present year — the estimate of the expense of the Marine Corps for one year, contained in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, included two additional Lieutenants, and Fifty six Serjeants Corporals and privates, presuming they would be added to the establishment. —

If six Vessels not exceeding 18 Guns, should be added to the Navy, a further addition to the Marine Corps of two first, and four second Lieutenants, six Serjeants, six Corporals, six Drums and fifes, and One hundred & fourteen privates, will be requisite. — This Marine Corps, is of amphibious nature — it is sometimes to do duty on Land, sometimes on Water — at this moment part of it is employed in guarding the Magazines — To charge the whole expense to the Navy Department, would be to burthen the Navy service with more expense than belongs to it — under this impression, the estimates for the expense of the Vessels, have included only the expense of Marines on board of Ship. —

The expense while on board of Ship, of part of the necessary augmentation, being included as has already been observed in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury — and of the other part in the estimates of the expenses of six Vessels not exceeding 18 Guns, the estimates I have now the honor to enclose, only shew that part of the expense of the augmentation, more properly belonging to the land service. —

But will it not be best in order to avoid perplexity and confusion, to appropriate separately for the whole expense of the Marine Corps? — If so, the paper marked A will shew the sum necessary to be appropriated for the whole expense of the Marine Corps on land and water — And the paper B will shew, how much may be deducted from the estimates for the Navy service for one year, if the appropriation should be separately made for the Corps of Marines. —

I have the honor to be &c.

[NDA. Con. LB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Monday, 11 February 1799

Squally as before, carrying all the Sails on our Tacks to Windward possible for the Ships in their present Situation.

At 10 AM spoke the *Richmond* with the Convoy that ought by my Orders to have sailed Yesterday for the United States. I however

desired Captain Barron to inform the Secretary of the Navy of my Capture of the *Insurgente*, as it blew fresh, and we should have dropt to Leeward, had I hove to, to put Letters on Board for him. At Noon, Bassateer, Saint Christophers bore N.N.E. six Leagues Distance.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 11 February 1799

Moderate Breezes & Cloudy

At 1 P. M. Up T. G. Yards.

At 3 Saw a Strange Sail bear^d S. S. W.

At 4 Made the Private Signal which answe^d by an English Ship of War.

At 6. Deseada bore N. W. b. W. 4 or 5 Leagues Dist. Marigalante W. b. S. 9 Leagues Dist Dominico S. W. b. W. 12 Leagues. At 8 ~~AK~~ to the Southw^d

At 10 Deseada W. N. W.

At 12 Deseada W. b. N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. 12 Leag^s

[Latitude 16° 08^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 11 February 1799

First part fresh breezes & squally with rain —

At 4 PM saw a sail to the South^d Made sail for the same —

at 5 PM Dominico bore S W 4 leagues — South part of Mariegalante W b S 4 leagues Deseada N N W 6 leagues —

At 6 PM finding the above sail was standing for us, hall'd up our Courses & got all ready for Action, at 7 she came along side of us & prov'd to be a british frigate spoke us & stood to the North^d, a Ship in sight to wind^d suppose it to be the *Constitution*

At 6 AM parted the M. T. S. tie — At 7 saw Martinico bearing S b E 12 leagues, kept away for it, at 9 out all reefs — At Mer⁴ⁿ the East part bore S S E 4 leagues, North part W by S 4 leagues —

Ends pleas^t

[Latitude observed 14.50N]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Friday, 11 February 1799

Fresh Gales and pleasant weather Seamen & Marines Broach'd 2 Casks of Water. Remains on board 39 Casks full 2 Empty

Down Top Gallant Mast

Moderate breeze clear and cold

6 am up Top Gallant Mast Secur'd the Barge by preventer lashings — Secur'd the Guns fore and aft excep the 2 Bow Guns which were left as Signal Guns — Seamen employ'd in reaving new purchase fall for weighing the best Bower Anchor

At Anchor in Nantasket Roads

[LC. EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 11 February 1799

Anchor'd in Carlisle Bay, Saluted the Fort, which was answered by
the Fort, Gun for gun

[NA.]

To Robert Thomson, Commander in Chief of H. B. M. Islands, from Captain
Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. S. SHIP, *Constellation*, 12th FEBRUARY, 1799.
Bassateer Roads, S. Christophers.

SIR, I have the Pleasure to inform you, that I fell in with one of our
Enemy's Frigates (the celebrated fast sailing Ship, *Insurgente* of
40 Guns, & 360 Men) to the Eastward of Nevis about 6 Leagues on
the 9th Instant, and about 3 Hours after discovering her, commenced
a close Action for one Hour, and a Quarter, when she struck her
Colours to the United States Ship, *Constellation*, having upwards of
50 Men killed and wounded by the french Surgeon's own Account.
I had only one Man killed and two wounded, tho' much injured in my
Spars, Rigging, and Sails which will prevent my Proceeding to Wind-
ward to land the Prisoners at Barbadoes, or Martinica. I must there-
fore pray you to suffer me to confine them in your Prisons untill I
can dispose of them otherwise, and to be pleased to furnish with the
necessary Papers for a Flag of Truce to take up the Officers on Parole
to Gaudaloupe. I wish you to send the Flag merely at my Request
as commanding the American Squadron in this Station, and I will for-
ward a Letter to Desfourneaux by the Captain of the *Insurgente* on the
Subject of an Exchange &c. I am much incumbered with these Officers,
and want to get rid of them. I therefore pray you to accommodate me as
speedily as possible. I have the Honor, Sir, to be with great Respect.

Your very Obed^t humble Servant,

To the Hon^{ble} ROB^t THOMSON Esq^r
Com^{dr} in chief of his B. M. S. Islands &c. &c.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Ameziah Jocelin, Navy Agent, Wilmington, N. C., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 12th Feb. 1799 —

AMEZIAH JOCELIN Esq^r
Wilmington N. C.

SIR I rec^d a few days past, your letter in relation to the two French-
men, who have been so improperly treated by the American Captain, —
your conduct in the business has been perfectly proper; but our laws
will not Justify their detention as prisoners. You will please there-
fore, let them know as soon as possible, that they are at liberty to
proceed where they please, giving them up without examination all
their papers — & it will be but humane & consistent with the char-
acter of the American people & Government, to give them the best ad-
vice in your power, how to proceed to obtain justice from the Captain
who so improperly broke faith with them, & detains their property. —

I have the Honor to be &c.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Tuesday, 12 February 1799

Squally as before, with frequent Showers of Rain. Continued beating to Windward with the Prize, and at Noon anchored both Ships in Bassateer Roads, Saint Christophers, near to the Fort to the Northward of the Town. Depth of Water 7 Fathoms, and Distance from Shore Quarter of a Mile.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 12 February 1799

Moderate Breezes & Cloudy

At 6 Deseada bears N^o 17 .20 W. dist 9 Leagues Marigalante S. 63. 40" W. dist 10 Leagues Wore & Tack as Necessary to keep our Station

At 5 Saw a Strange Sail bear^s W.b.S. wore Round & gave chase

At 7 Shortend Sail and brot' too Spoke the American Brig — — — from Carolina bound Grenada.

At 8 fill'd & made Sail

At Merd^s Deseada W.b.S. 10 Leagues Dist

[Latitude 16.08 N.]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 12 February 1799

First part Moderate & pleasant weather —

At 4 PM set T G Sails

At 6 hall'd up Our courses & in Top Gall^s Sails & the Second Lieu^t went on shore at 9 the Boat return'd Lay by under the three topsails off S^t Pierres

Middle part light breezes & pleasant — Laying off on —

At 8 AM the Cap^t went ashore

at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 Came too in S^t Pierres with the best Bower Anchor in 17 fath^s Water

Ends with pleasant Weather

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. E. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Tuesday, 12 February 1799

Fresh Gale and cloudy. 3pm call'd all hands up Anchor hove in Short service of the best Bower $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 loos'd Fore Top Sail and fir'd one Gun (Signall to prepare for Sailing) 4 Sheated home the Top Sails and fir'd 2 Guns a Signall to get under weigh. When we were on the point of triping our Anchor. The Store Ship shew a Signall of distress her Ensign at the Miz^s peak revers'd — Cap^s Preble Judg'd the reason of this signall was that they could not purchase their Anchors on which he hail'd the *Herald* and Order'd men on board to their assistance — The men were sent into the attending Lighter — but

it being near dark Cap^a Preble concluded best to remain till Morning — Veer'd away Cable 6 am Moderate and Cloudy. 10 am loos'd the Topsails — 11 am Weigh'd in Company with the U N S Ship *Herald* C. Russell Esq^r Commander — Store Ship *Polly* Will^m Southern Com^r and 2 Brigs names yet unknown to proceed in Compan^y and under our Convoy at Noon abreast of the Light — Convoy a Stern. here commences the 13th and the Remarks and result of the days Work will be included in this Viz^t 2 past One pm *Herald* hoisted a R^d & W^t Flagg & W^d immediately Ans'd 2 pm *Herald* hoisted N^o 5 and N^o 1, Ans'd ½ past 2 Spoke the *Herald* and was inform'd she had carried away one of their Main Trussle Trees but would be refitted in course of 2 Hours — Spoke the Store Ship and Ordered them to Keep under our Stern during the Night — 5pm Short'ned Sail and Sounded 35 fathoms fine Sand White & Black Specks

NOTE x The result of this days Work was enter'd by Mistake hence I have included the particular remarks of the 12th & 13th in one and the Log of the 13th Courses Winds &c in the Margin

9 pm 13 Cape Cod Light bore N W B N distance 5 Leagues

[Lat. Observed 41° 15' N]
[Long. Observed 69° 8' W]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 12 February 1799

The Commodore dined with the Governor, at his entrance of the Governors house he was saluted with 13 Guns —

Sailed with a fleet of American vessels (14) & 3 English all bound to America —

[NA.]

To Col. Josiah Parker, Chairman of a Committee, Navy Business,
House of Representatives, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 13 Febry 1799

JOSIAH PARKER Esq^r

Chairman of Committee &c.

SIR I have the Honor to enclose the Copy of a Report from the Accountant of the Navy Department, of the expense of the French Prisoners to the 17th January. —

The Laws of Congress direct that the prisoners shall be reported to the Collector of the Port at which they may arrive, and be delivered over to the Marshal for safe keeping at the expense of the United States, but no appropriation has been made for the Payment of the expense. —

The Ration allowed the prisoners consists of One Pound of Bread, half a Pound of Meat, and a Pound of Potatoes or other Vegetables equal in Value, and being naked they have been supplied with such Articles of coarse Cloathing as humanity made indispensable. —

I have the Honor to be
&c.

[NDA. Con. LB, Vol. 1.]

[Enclosure]

Estimate of the expence incurred by prisoners of War from the first landing of thos taken in *La Croyable* to the 17 of January 1799.

For Subsistence.....	2770.02
Clothing.....	1544.47
Medicine & attendance.....	170.21
Rent of houses & Goals, expence of wood, candles, kitchen and Utensils, fitting of births and other conveniences, pursuing and taking up some who had escaped transportation compensation to Marshals, Gaolers &c.....	1991.18
	6475.88
For Pay Subsistence & incidental expences of Guards.....	2665.80
	9141.68

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Accountant Office 25 Jan 1799

SIR The above estimate of expences incurred for prisoners of War is computed from Accounts lodged in this office for settlement: but not being finally adjusted I do not offer the estimate as correct.

Yours &c

W. W. [WILLIAM WINDER]

BENJAMIN STODDERT esq^r
Secretary of the Navy.

[NDA. LB Acct, 1798-1800, page 58.]

To William Pennock, Navy Agent, Norfolk, Va., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 13 Feb. 1799.

Wth PENNOCK Esq^r Norfolk

SIR I have directed a remittance to be made you of 15000 D^{rs} & will if possible have it sent on in orders of the Collector. — The Guns & Anchors for the Frigate I will have provided in time — But if any of the proper kind of Anchors should fall in your way, that is to weigh 44 C^t of good quality, you may buy them, if the price should not exceed 13 Cents p^r Lb. — If you buy any let me know immediately, that I may stop the making of so many.

As to Cordage I have heard great complaints of that made at Norfolk; have contemplated to have it made at other places and sent to you, — And the public have on hand, hemp enough for this purpose. But as it will be a convenience to have it made on the spot, I consent that you engage it of M^r Plume & M^r Nicholson, or whoever else you please — on these conditions, that there be 20 yarns to a strand of 3 Inch rope — & so in proportion for all kinds wanted; and that, the rope be of a quality to be approved of by yourself, if there should be no Captain appointed to the Frigate, when the rope is delivered — but if the Captain should be appointed, the rope must be approved of by him, — As to the price you must make the best bargain in your power, not exceeding £. 4.10.0 Virg^t c^r — but the hemp must be well topped before it is made up — Should this experiment turn out ill, We shall not again depend on Norfolk, —

The public have Canvas enough on hand for the sails — shall it be sent to Norfolk to be made up into sails — or shall they be made and sent. — In the latter case, M^r Fox must send the dimensions. — If the former, let me know how many bolts, and the kinds, will be wanted. — I hope you have advanced to the crew of the *Baltimore* one Months pay — and that that Vessel will have got to sea before the rec^d of this. —

I am Sir &C.

What has become of the Cutter — Cap^t Bright?

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[13 February 1799]

Protest of Jacob Stone, Master of the Schooner *Maria*, captured by
French Privateer *Adolphus*

No. 6

PROTEST

One hundred & Thirty Six Maravedis
Seal the Third. One hundred &
Thirty Six Maravedis: Year One
Thousand Seven hundred Ninety Nine.

In the City of Algeciras the Fourteenth day of February One Thousand Seven Hundred & Ninety nine. Before me His Majesties Notary Public &c. & the underwritten witnesses appeared, who with the assistance and through the medium of M^r Patrick Mallony Vice Consul of America in the Capacity of Interpreter of the English language in the said City to whom Full Faith is given — Declares that He is called Jacob Stone & was Captain of the American Schooner called the *Maria* and that she sailed in good condition from Newbury Port in America on the eleventh day of January of this year with a Cargo of Coffee & Sugar all in good condition bound for Leghorn, the weather was Favourable until the Seventeenth, when he experienced so violent a gale from the N. E. that he was obliged to *lie too* in great danger & hazard, that a Sea struck the vessel and threw her nearly on her beam ends — At 2 P. M. they shipped a Sea over the Stern quarter which nearly buried her when the vessel received a large quantity of water in the Cabin — At 6 P. M. the weather was favourable and so continued without any thing remarkable until making Cape S^t Vincents — On the 10th of this month saw and was boarded from an English Seventy four, who Forbid our entering the Port of Cadiz upon any pretence whatever, under penalty of being made prize. — On the 12th inst. entered the Straits with a moderate North Wind — On the 13th at 2 P. M. Saw three Sail upon the Coast of Spain, they gave chase & commenced Firing upon the Schooner, who returned the fire — the Combat continued until 4 P. M. when three other Sail was discovered to leave the Spanish Coast, who gave chase & commenced Firing upon the Schooner. About which time finding the vessel surrounded by Six French Privateers and they of Superior Force — the smallest carrying From thirty to Forty men — the principal one of which is called the *Adolphus* Cap^t — they boarded the Schooner, Seized her Papers and Plundered

Money, Cloathing &c &c whatever they could lay their hands on — they manned the Schooner and conducted her into this Port — and immediately after the Captain was permitted to come on Shore he presented himself and made this manifestation, which he declares in due form is correct & true — and in proof presented as witnesses three men — who by medium of said Interpreter are named Ralph Flanders — Moses Rogers — and Samuel Call — Mate & Seamen of said Schooner — who being informed of the foregoing declaration by the said interpreter—declared & Swore under Solemn Oath according to law the Foregoing Statement to be true and correct in all its parts — that they saw & were present at the occurrence as individuals on board to which I testify — declaring their respective ages to be as follows Twenty eight, Twenty three & Twenty one, years. The said Captain through the medium of the Said Interpreter Protests (with all the Solemnity which by right is given) against the Sea and Winds for whatever average or Proportion of damage may have accrued to his vessel or Cargo — that it may not be placed to his account — and further with the same Solemnity he now Protests against the Privateers their Commanders & crew and against whomsoever it may of right belong — For the damage or detriment to the Voyage thus far and likewise for the Costs and Expences which by this detention they have already caused or may cause to the said Vessel and Cargo and to all therein concerned —

Declaring the foregoing at this time that, he may have Power to act, plead, ask for & reclaim at all times and in all places as per the appearance of this Public instrument for which he himself asks this Testimony — to the which his Vice Consul and interpreter Swears, conformable to the Law, and to whom good faith is due — having complied faithfully to his office in this interpretation In presence of Don Juan de Serra. Don Sebastian de Aquilan y Rocha and Don J Garcia & Chica Vecinos of this City — Jacob Stone — Ralph Flanders — Moses Rogers — Samuel Call — Patrick Mullony — Antonio Agredano — Notary as Witnesses

Copy of the Original which is Registered in current Protocol of publick writings in my Power and Office, to which I give full faith and to which I refer and at the request of the aforesaid detained Captain I give the present in a sheet of Paper of the Third Seal — which is Signed and Sealed in this City of Algeciras — the day, month and year above written

ANTONIO AGREDANO
Notary Public

Quarenta Maravidis Sello Quartro —,
forty Maravidis One thousand Seven
hundred Ninety nine

Patrick Mulony Agent Consul for the United States of America in this City of Algeciras — Do certify that the foregoing Protest signed by Antonio Agredano is the Real Notary Public of this place to whom all credit is given in and out of Courts.

Given under my hand & Seal of Office in Algeciras 3^d March 1799 and Independence 23^d

PATRICK MULLONY

Washington 6th May 1822 I certify that at the request of the hon. Jeremiah Neilson I have compared the within translation with the Spanish copy of the Protest of Cap^t Jacob Stone and that, with the corrections made therein by myself, it is faithfully made.

J. WATKINS

[SDA. Spol. Cl. S. C. 1819. Vol. 54.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Wednesday, 13 February 1799

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] Saluted the Fort with 13 Guns, which was returned with an equal Number. Received the Congratulations of the Commander in Chief, and the Visits of the Council, and other respectable Gentlemen on the Occasion of taking the *Insurgente*. Landed the Sick, and wounded of every Description from both Ships, and disposed of the Prisoners, some on Shore, and Others on Board a Hulk.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 13 February 1799

Moderate Weather

at ½ past 12 bore away for Deseada At 3 Saw a Strange Sail bear^w West & Stand^e S.W. at 4 Answerd the Private Signal of one of the Ships of war At 4 Saw 3 Sail bear^w W.N.W. At 5 Observ^d a Cannonading between the Ships to Leeward bore up & made sail At ½ past 6 found the above firing to be the Customary Compliment to the Comm^o upon a Strangers Joining the Fleet hauld our Wind & Tack'd Occassionally Daniel Shuteswell Seaman Departed this Life at 4 Committed his Body to the Deep with the Usual Ceremonies At Daylight Deseada N. W. 10 Leagues Dist

[Latitude 16.17. N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 13 February 1799

[St. Pierre, Martinique.] First pleasant Weather

Middle part Squally with rain

At 8 AM gave out our Signals for the Merchant vessells to get under way & join the Convoy — got under way & lay off and on waiting for the fleet — The United States Ship *Montezuma* & a Schooner, Beating into the harbour

Ends pleasant

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Midshipman Thomas Robinson (junior), U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constellation* BASSATEER ROADS
St Christophers' Febr'y 14th 1799.

Mr THOMAS ROBINSON,

SIR, I have nominated you to the Governor of this Island as the Flag Officer to the Cartel, now about to sail for Bassateer, Gaudaloupe, called the *Eclips*, Capt^a Burt. On your Arrival at that Place, you are to wait on General Desforneaux, and deliver him the enclosed Letter from me. The General will no doubt dispatch you and the Cartel immediately to me at this Place. You are to inform him that it is my Wish to have a Vessel sent down immediately to take up the french Prisoners, and to send me down all the Americans held as Prisoners at Gaudaloupe, and to authorize some Person to give me a Receipt for the Balance which he must send to this Place as soon as possible. General Desforneaux must supply the necessary Funds to pay the Expence of this Cartel, the provisioning the Prisoners, and the Expence attending the Sick, and wounded. You may inform him that the *Insurgente* had Seventy Men killed and wounded, some of them mortally, Others only slightly. I expect he will treat you politely, and in a hospitable Way, as I have done his Officers, and you will furnish him with a Copy of this Letter, and give Assurances that Humanity will be observed to all the Prisoners. You are not to remain forty Eight Hours or more in Gaudaloupe on any acc^t whatever, but demand his Passport to sail. You may inform him, that I have the command of a Squadron of several Ships of War on this Station, and that Commodore Barry is on the Dominica Station that our Commands are separate, but either will communicate with him on the Subject of Prisoners from Time to Time, as Circumstances may make it necessary on our respective Stations. Bring me the General's Answer, and assure him, that I regret the Occasion that has caused the present Misunderstanding between our two Nations, which I however hope will soon be accommodated. I am, Sir,

Your most Obed^t humble Servant

List of Papers delivered to Mr Robinson

To Viz^t

- A Letter from me to General Desforneaux
- A Letter from Governor Thomson to General Desforneaux
- A List of fifty-one Prisoners to be receipted for
- A Commission for Flag of Truce
- A Letter of Instructions to Mr Robinson —

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To General Desfourneaux, Commander in Chief of the Island of Guadeloupe
from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*, BASSATEER ROADS
St Christophers February 14th 1799

SIR, Having taken the french national Frigate *Insurgente*, commanded by Monsieur Barreaut on the 9th Instant, after a manly Defence being made by him, I am induced from Motives of Humanity, and to

lessen the Calamities incident to Captivity to send to Gaudaloupe by the Flag of Truce Schooner called the *Eclips* Cap^{tn} Burt the Captain, and Officers per List at Foot, they having given me their Parole of Honor, that they will not take up Arms, or serve in any Way against the United States of America, or any of the Nations now at War with France, untill exchanged or the Differences between the said United States and the french Republic are terminated, and the Intercourse between the two Countries is opened by Consent of Parties which I hope may soon be the Case; in the mean Time, Sir, I will release the remaining french Prisoners in my Possession here on your sending down a Vessel for them with all the Americans, that are Prisoners, or Captives with you, and you will at the same Time be pleased to authorize a Person to give me a Receipt for the Balance that may remain in our Favor, which Balance I request may be sent me to this Island, as soon as you have it in your Power, and this humane Mode of Exchange of the unfortunate, I shall always be happy to see encouraged on both Sides.

Lest the Instructions of the President of the United States to the Commanders of our Ships of War should not be understood by you, I take the Liberty to inform, that the Law and Instructions issued, only goes to the Capture of Ships, equipt for War, and other armed Vessels, and these Instructions will be strictly adhered to by our Commanders. I have the Honor to be, Sir, with great Respect

Your most humble & Obed^t Servant

His Excellency General DESFOURNEAUX

Governor & Commander in Chief of the Island of
Gaudaloupe &c. &c.

P. S. It is necessary to observe that it will be expedient for you to send down Money from Gaudaloupe, or take proper Measures with some Agent here to defray all the Expence attending the flag Vessel & Prisoners, before they can be sent from hence. I have understood, that you have lately sent Home American Prisoners to Philadelphia, if this is the Case, we have the Crews of 3 french Privateers, which will no Doubt be sent you in Return, which will still leave a Balance on that Account in our Favour.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[14 February 1799]

Parole of French Officers taken aboard the *L'Insurgente* prize of
U. S. Frigate *Constellation*

We the Subscribers being the Captain and Officers &c. of the late Frigate, *Insurgente* in the Service of the french Republic, and taken by the U. S. Ship *Constellation* under the Command of Commodore Truxtun, who having suffered us to return to Gaudaloupe on our Parole of Honor do hereby each of us solemnly promise on our Words of Honor to adhere strictly to the Rules common among Nations in Cases of Officers being admitted on Parole, and that we will not untill regularly exchanged, or the Differences between the U. S. of America, and the french Republic are terminated, and the Intercourse between

the two Countries opened, take up Arms against the said U. S. of America by Sea or Land, or act in any Way against them, or any of the Powers, that are now at War with France, or hereafter may be at War with France previous to the Difference being terminated as aforesaid between the U. S. and France, and that we will return from our said Parole to the U. S. of America or elsewhere, when ordered. Given from under our Hands on Board the U. S. Frigate *Constellation* in the Road of Bassateer, Saint Christophers, this 14th Day of Feby. 1799.

N. B. I engage for the remaining forty three Persons now on Board the Cartel Schooner *Eclips* that they shall comply with the Terms and Conditions of the above Parole Signed Barreaut.*

Captain Barreaut, late Commander of the french national Frigate, *Insurgente*, captured by me in the *Constellation* Frigate, in the Service of the U. S. of America, and having signed his Parole of Honor to go to Gaudaloupe, & not to serve against the United States of America, or any of the Powers now at War with France, or may hereafter be at War with France, previous to the Differences being terminated with the said United States of America and France, or being first regularly exchanged, has my Permission to go to France, if he thinks proper, and to take with him any of the Officers now on Parole, but it is to be understood, that should any Officer whatever, deviate from the Condition of his, or their Parole in other Respects, or abuse the Indulgence granted by the same, such Officer, or Officers will hereafter be treated as Prisoners, under such Circumstances as are by the Laws and Customs of Nations, and in future no Parole will be granted. And it is hereby clearly to be understood, that the said Captain and Officers are always to be in Readiness to return from his or their Parole to the U. S. of America or elsewhere when demanded or ordered.

U. S. Ship *Constellation*

Bassateer Roads, St Christophers 14th Feby, 1799 —

*Signed the first nine Officers in the List of Prisoners, including the Captain.
[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798–9.]

[14 February 1799]

To Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy, from Captain Barreaut of the *L'Insurgente*

SIR, I received your obliging Letter, I repeat that I am very sorry to see our two Nations at War, but since I, unfortunately have been vanquished, [*] I felicitate myself, and Crew upon being Prisoners to you.

You have united the two Qualities, which characterize a Man of Honor, Courage, and Humanity, receive from me the most sincere Thanks, and be assured, I shall make it a Duty, to publish to all my fellow Citizens, the generous Conduct, which you have observed towards us.

I am with perfect Consideration.

BARREAU[T].

[*NOTE.—See Maclay's *History of the Navy*, Vol. I, pp. 183–186, for Captain Barreaut's report of the engagement.]

[HS of PA. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798–9]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate *Constellation*,
Thursday, 14 February 1799

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] Employed all Hands at making various Repairs in Rigging &c:&c:&c: Completed my Dispatches for the Secretary of the Navy, and dispatched a Cartel to Gaudaloupe with the Captain and Officers &c: of the *Insurgente* on Parole, making in all 52 in Number.

Fresh Breezes as before; ordered a Search made in the Road for an American Vessel, on eligible Terms, to take my Dispatches to Government; M^r Parker, who first offered his Services, being too extravagant in his Terms.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 14 February 1799

Fine Weather

At 4 hove an Empty Cask over Board for a Target run 1 Mile to Leward & brot' too with the Main Top Sail aback exercized the great Guns & Small Arms Discharged the Larb^d Guns at the Target & Secur'd them at 6 fill'd & Made Sail

Saw 4 Sail to Lew^d Suppos'd to be the American Squadron Station'd off Deseada

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 Deseada W.N.W. 5 Leag^s At 8 bore away for Deseada being to Wind^d of our Station At 11 hauld our Wind At Merd^s Deseada W.b.N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

[Latitude observed 16° 09^m N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 14 February, 1799

[Off St. Pierre, Martinique.] First part pleasant Weather

At 1 PM the fleet got out Consisting of 19 Sail, gave out signals to make sail for Prince Ruperts Bay, saw 2 Brigs to leeward from Fort Royal, went on board them with the Signals —

at 6 PM Dominico bore N E $\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 Leagues —

At 11 PM saw 2 strange sail bearing down upon the fleet, hall'd up the M Sail & bore away for them, found them both to be arm'd Ships Shew them signals & was answer'd by them At Mer^{dn} spoke them the one an English 20 Gun Ship, the other a transport mounting 12 guns bound to Antigua — finding the fleet so far to leeward & mostly dull sailers Bore away for Montseratt

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. E. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Thursday, 14 February 1799

Moderate breezes & Cloudy at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 P M the *Herald* hoisted a Red & White & a White Flag which was immediately answerd, at 2 P M the *Herald* hoisted Flags N° 5 & 6, answerd, at same time made Signal to speak the Store Ship, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 spoke the *Herald*, informd

us they had carried away their main trussle trees, bore away to speak the Store Ship at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 spoke with her, and orderd her to keep under our Stern, double Reefd the main Sail, Reef'd F. T. M. St^r S^t at 5 handed M. S. S^t Sounded 35 Fathoms White & black Specks. At 10 P M moderate and cloudy Weather an heavy Swell from the S. S. W. made & shortend Sail Occasionally Launch'd T G^a Mast, at 5 A. M. Set M^a S^t & M^a T. St^r S^t light Airs & Cloudy. All hands put on allowance of 2 Quarts of Water pr Man for 24 hours. Unbent the Cables & Stowed the Anchors

At Noon Moderate breezes with a heavy Swell

Distance per Log—84 Miles

[Lat. Observed 40 — 54 N.]
[Long. Observed 67 — 14 W.]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 14 February 1799

Lay off & on to collect the vessels ready for convoy at St Pierre.

[NA.]

To John Gay, U. S. Agent, Martinica, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP, *Constellation*,
Bassateer Roads, St Christophers 15th February 1799. —

MY DEAR FRIEND, I wrote you Yesterday a Line in Haste by a Man who told me, he was a Doctor, and intended to settle at Martinica. Since which I have had the Pleasure to receive your kind Favour of the 5th Instant, and believe me, when I tell you, Nothing could have given me more Pleasure, than your short Epistle, because I found by it, an old, and sincere Friend was in the Land of the Living, and well; a Friend, who I had heard was in bad Health.

I have a beautiful Seat at Perth Amboy, a few Hours Ride from New York (28 Miles) a Place, where Sickness is scarcely known, for altho' the Inhabitants in the City, and Vicinity are numerous, a Physician cannot get Bread by the Calls of Patients. Now, suppose, my old Friend you step on Board a Vessel for New York, and go, and spend the Summer with M^r Truxtun, who will be glad to see you, and where you will be amused with my little Brats, and we have an admirable Society; Judge Patterson in the Neighborhood, General Walton White, Judge Rattoon, William Taylor Esquire, an eminent Lawyer, retired from Practice, and a Number of other worthy Gentlemen, and I must not forget our old Friend, John Angus, who is wealthy, and at his Ease, having Nothing to do, but attend to his Functions as an Alderman. Here too, you will be entertained with a Number of charming Girls, and elegant Ladies. If you will accept this Invitation, you will make me very happy. What signifies your labouring under the Muzzle of the Sun at this Time of Life, you have no Children, and I trust you have Enough to make you comfortable all your Life.

I wrote you before I had captured the *Insurgente*, a Ship that has done much Mischief in these Seas. A very circumstantial and correct Account, is published in this Day's Paper of the Action, which I

send you for your Perusal, and by which you will say Monsieur has trifled, and insulted the American Flag long enough, and that he had better now be easy.

The *Insurgente* captured 5 of your last Convoy from England, one of which I am told Nicholson fell in with, and would not retake; the late Captain of the *Insurgente* tells me that Vessel and Cargo sold for two Millions of Livres at Gaudaloupe.

Had I been fortunate enough to have met her, she would now have been at Bassateer, Saint Christophers, instead of Bassateer, Gaudaloupe.

My Command on this Station consists of 7 Vessels of War including the *Constellation*, but several of them are not yet arrived from the United States. I shall endeavour to refit the *Insurgente* here, and add her to the Squadron; she is a remarkable fine Frigate, and the Officers all say, by far the fastest sailor in the French Navy, mounts 40 Guns, and is full of Men.

For your Information, and Satisfaction, I now inform you, that I have long since determined to capture all french Vessels, and retake any that may be in Possession of their Cruizers, if they have only two Cases or Jack Knives on Board, and let our Judges after determine whether they are armed sufficient to come under the Law for making Reprisals, and I have given all the Captains in my Squadron Orders to this Effect.

I have wrote our old Friend Barry several Times, but whether my Letters have reached him, or not I cannot say. Will you inform him of my Determination, with Respect to Captures. I hope he will act, and give Orders to his Captains similar to what I have done to mine, for rest assured, it is conformable to the Wishes of the Government, that we should distress the Enemy, protect Commerce, and strain our Construction of the Law and President's Instructions, as far as possible, in Favour of Seizures, but not to touch any Neutrals whatever, be their Lading even the Property of French Subjects.

If you will inform Admiral Harvey also of my Determination, I shall be obliged, so that he may know, what Lengths, I am determined to go, and that I am clearly warranted by my Instructions. I am just now dispatching a Vessel to the Secretary of the Navy with the Account of my Success, and have appointed Lieutenant John Rodgers to command the *Insurgente*, untill the Pleasure of the President of the U. S. is known.

Yesterday I sent up to Gaudaloupe in a Cartel 52 Officers (including the Captain) from the Prize. I have written General Desforneaux to send me down all the Americans he has, and Money to pay the Expence of his Men here, I hope I shall soon get rid of them all by Exchange, and collect a Crew for the *Insurgente*, which was the best officered, and manned Ship I ever saw in the Service of France, but among them I discovered a Sett of treacherous Scoundrels as ever existed.

The Captain says, he is surprized at America declaring War against France, when the Difference might have been settled without. I told him America had not declared War against France, pardon me, says he, your taking me with the Ship of the french Nation, is a Declaration of War, then said I, if the Capture of a national Vessel, is a Declaration of War, his taking the *Retaliation* commanded by

Lieutenant Bainbridge, which belonged to the U. S. and regularly placed in our Navy was certainly a Declaration of War on the Part of France against the U. S. here ended the Conversation, with this further Observation from me, that be it War, or be it Peace, I should certainly take every french Frigate I met, and other french armed Vessels, and this Determination he might communicate to General Desforneaux.

I have given you a full Detail now of every Thing of any Consequence respecting the Capture of the *Insurgente*, omitting only what the Printers have collected from my Ship, and saved me the Trouble of doing, and have touched upon such other Matters, as I considered of Importance to your Trade to be known. I am extremely happy, none of my little Squadron was with me, when I met this terrible Citizen, who says, he never would have struck to an Englishman.

Write me often, and put your Letters under Cover to David M. Clarkson, who you must have known in Saint Eustatius.

God bless you, and Adieu. —

P. S. If you will furnish Barry as soon as possible at Dominica, and the Admiral wherever he is with a Copy of this Letter and a Newspaper, I shall be obliged. I have been told by some of the King's Officers, that the Admiral has been uneasy, not knowing how far we intended to go. —

JOHN GAY Esquire
Martinica.

[HS of PA. NDA Photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[15 February 1799]

To Lieutenant John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

LIST OF OFFICERS FOR THE PRIZE. TO VIZ:

Lieutenant Rodgers to command the *Insurgente* for the present; untill the Pleasure of the President of the United States is known.

Lieutenant Archer, second in Command.

M^r John Macrea, Lieutenant of Marines.

M^r Davis, Midshipman.

M^r Sinclair, Ditto.

M^r Henry, Surgeon's Mate.

M^r Smith, Master's Mate.

Twenty-five Seamen, and Ordinary Seamen.

SIR, The above making Thirty one in Number, are all the Officers and Men I shall spare from the *Constellation*, the Others must be entered from the Shore, and got from Gaudaloupe &c. &c. &c. I shall leave the Number and Grades to be allowed hereafter. It will therefore be necessary for you to exert yourself as much as possible to man, and refit the Ship, for which Purpose this is to be considered as your Order.

Artificers, and Artizans must be got from the Shore, and such Materials as are absolutely necessary. I request you to loose no Time in completing this Ship for Sea, and at the same Time to be as

frugal as possible in the Outfit, for Character is always concerned in the Expenditure of public Money; In Fact when the United States value the Ship, we shall have to pay perhaps our Proportion of her Outfit. I am Sir

Your Obed^t humble Servant

UNITED STATES SHIP, *Constellation*
Bassateer Roads, Saint Christophers'

Febry 15th 1799

Lieutenant RODGERS.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Secretary of State from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 15th February 1799.

SECRETARY OF STATE

SIR I have a letter from Captain Tingey of the *Ganges* — dated 2^d February — Latitude 20° 30 N. Long. 64° W. — teaching me to expect, he will be quickly at Norfolk. —

I write to day, expecting my letters may meet him there, to take in provisions, and hold himself in readiness for immediate service. —

I have the honor to be &c

[NDA. Sec. State LB, 1798-1824.]

To Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 15th Feb. 1799

Cap^t THO^s TINGEY

SIR I am honored with your letter of the 2^d Feb. but have not rec^d the one referred to, of the 27th January. — It will give me great pleasure if this letter finds you at Norfolk. — When you arrive there you will please apply to W^m Pennock Esquire Naval agent at Norfolk, for such supplies as may be necessary for a Cruise of four or Six Months, if you can take so much provisions on board. —

Your Services will be immediately wanted, on more important Service. — Should the Crew of the *Baltimore*, be in disorder, you will apply the proper remedy, of which you will be able to judge, on the Spot —

M^{rs} Tingey, and your family I hear are well —

I have the Honor to be &c^t

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Secretary of State, from David Humphreys, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain

MADRID *February 15th 1799*

(N^o 184)

SIR, The armed vessels which sailed some time ago from Ferrol, as mentioned in one of my former letters, were destined to convoy a body of Troops to the Canary Islands. Having accomplished that service, they have returned.

I have been much alarmed by a report circulated here a few days ago, that the yellow fever from the United States had been introduced at the Port of Gijon with a Cargo of Codfish. This report, which if founded would have been extremely disadvantageous to us, I have now reason to believe originated from an epidemic disease which has made its appearance in that and some other places in its vicinity. In this Country nothing new of moment occurs in the political line. There are several late arrivals of vessels in different Ports from the United States. In that of Alicante are nine armed Merchantmen, carrying in the whole one hundred & twenty Guns. The affairs of Italy seem decided. The capture of General Mack and his Staff is among the principal events you will see in the French Gazettes, w^h are forwarded to you herewith as late in date as to the 5th instant.

With sentiments of great respect and esteem,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

D. HUMPHREYS

The four last

Nos of the French Gazettes

are forwarded to you by

way of Lisbon — Ehreinbreitstein has surrendered.

The SECRETARY OF STATE, &c. &c. &c.

[SDA. Disp. Spain. Bk. 4. Humphreys.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 15 February 1799

Clear W^t Working to Windward At 6 Wore to the Northw^d
Dominico S. W. 8 Leagues & Marigalante N. W. b. N. 12 Leagues dist
Saw a Strange Sail bear^d N. W. b. W. bore up & gave chase

fired three Guns at the chase prov^d an English Sch^t from Norfolk
bound to Martinco

at [space] Wore to the Northw^d & Made Sail Fumigated between
Decks

At Merd^s Deseada N. W. W. N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N 12 Leagues Dist

[Latitude 16° 09^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 15 February 1799

First part pleasant weather & Moderate breezes —

At 4 PM saw a sail & hall'd our wind for her but she standing into
Bassterre, gave over chase — hove out signals for the headmost
Ships to shorten sail that the dull sailing Ships might come up with
the body of the fleet —

At 6 PM Guadaloupe bore East 4 leagues —

Middle part D^r weather —

At 6 AM saw Montseratt bearing N N W 4 leagues — At 7
boarded a Sloop that came into the fleet found her to be an American
gave them the signals for the fleet &c

Latter part pleasant — Montseratt Bay bore N N E 2 miles the Lieutenant went on shore — found a Schooner Ready for sea who wish'd to join the fleet &c.

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA Photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Friday, 15 February 1799

Fresh Gales with a heavy Sea — — —

A 4 P M up Top Gall Masts

at 5 fresh Gales & Cloudy, Reef'd the F. Sail & F T St^r Sail, at 6 shew the Top lights

at 8 the Convoy a Stern 4 Miles distance cleu'd up the Main Top Sail

at 10 Set Main Top Sail Fresh Gails & Cloudy at Midnight

at 5 A M set F Sail & F Top. M^r St^r Sⁱ

At 7 Saw a ship on our Starboard Q^r Steering to the Eastward

At Noon Moderate & Cloudy With Rain

Distance per Log — 125 Miles

[Lat. By D R 39 — 45 N.]
[Long. Observed 64 — 59 W.]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 15 February 1799

Came to anchor in Prince Ruperts Bay, found the Schooner *Deligence*, Cap^t Brown from N. Carolina the convoy in the offing beating in —

[NA.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy

U. S. SLOOP OF WAR *Merrimack* OFF S^t KITTS,
Feb^r 16, 1799

Commodore BARRY

SIR I Rec^d Yours of Y^e 15th Instant & mark the Contents, You would have met with me at Prince Ruperts Bay had not my Convoy got so far to Leeward in comeing from Martinico, that they could not beat up, notwithstanding my perticuler orders to keep close in with Land, at 9 O'Clock in Y^e morning I thought best to beat in myself & fill my Water, & leave Letters for your Honour, & join them again at Sun sett, but att Eleven when I had almost gaind the Bay, two strange Ships appeared, bearing down into the Rear of my Convoy, I immediately bore away and clear'd Ship for action, not doubting the British Ship in the Road would slip to my assistance if they were Enemies & by that means to save my Convoy, but when within about two Gun shotts, I hoisted Y^e Signal for the day, which was answered by the headmost Ship which was a British Ship of eaquel force to my Ship, the other a Transport pierced for 22 Guns on one

Deck, but mounting only 14 on her upper Deck, full of Troops for Antigua. After speaking them & collecting my Convoy found it impracticable to get into the Road, I made the best of my way according to Your Instructions. Our Countrymen want Convoy but pay no attention to keep with it, and such Tubs as some of them are under my Convoy I never saw, & they are sure to spread each Night, as far as it is possible to see them.

I have now the pleasure to be in sight of the American Flag, flying over that of the National on Board the *Insurgeant* Frigate, prize to the *Constellation* in Bassater Road, as soon as I have got my Convoy to Ancor, and given them Instructions shall proceed to old Road to fill my Water and be ready to proceed as soon as join'd by the *Mountazuma*.

Have the Honour to be Sir Y^t

Most ob^t Serv^t

M[oses] BROWN

[NHSC, NYHS.]

Extract from log of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Samuel Nicholson, U. S. Navy, Saturday, 16 February 1799

Moderate breezes and cloudy, employd as nessasary carpenters employd as occasionally, Sailmakers repairing the Spanker. at ½ past 12 Tackd to the Southw^d

P M at 5 Tackd to the Northward, Made and Shortnd sail as nessasary to keep our station at ½ past Muster'd at Quarters. at 8 Wore to the Southward at 12 Moderate breezes and clear weather Middle part light Squalls and rain employd working up Junk Washing and fumigating between decks Got out the flying Jib boom and bent the Sail. At 12 Desceada W N W ½ W 5 or 6 leagues, Saw a strange sail steering to the N W

Latitude Observed. — — — 16 . 08 North

Longitude Observed. — — — 60 . 44 West

[NHS Col, NYHS.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 16 February 1799

First part pleasant — laying off and on with the Convoy waiting for the Schooner.

at 5 PM she came out — another Schooner & a Sloop came into the fleet gave them the Signals & Bore away —

At 8 D^o saw a strange Sail, gave her a Shot & brought her to & Boarded her — She proved to be an English Schooner from Montserat bound to S^t Kitts —

Middle part pleasant w^t

At 7 AM the bay of Nevis bore N E 1 mile the first Lieu^t went in the boat to see if any Americans were ready but finding none return'd on board & bore away for Basseterre in S^t Christophers at 10 came too in the Road with the fleet in 10 fathoms of water where we found the *Constellation* with her prize a french frigate *L'Insurgent* of 40 Guns —

Ends pleasant

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Saturday, 16 February 1799

Fresh Wind & Squally, all hands variously employ'd, at 2 P M. reefed Foresail, balanced reef the Mainsail, an heavy on, at 3 handed Main Top Sail, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 up Fore Sail, heavy Gales from W.N.W. with Squalls of Rain & Hail

At 8 clear'd the Cranes of the light Sparrs and Secured them on Deck

at Midnight heavy Gales.

At 6 A.M. Saw the *Herald* a head and Convoy a Stern — at 7 hoisted Signal N° 7 for Convoy to make more sail at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 hove too for the Convoy at 10 past the *Herald* lying by for Convoy

Distance per Log — 163 Miles

[Lat. Observed 38 — 14 N.]
[Long. Observed 62 — 35 W.]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 16 February 1799

Sailed from Prince Ruperts, the Americans under the directions of Cap^t Murry.

[NA.]

[17 February 1799]

Private Armed Vessels of United States to whom Commissions were issued from
9 July 1798 to 17 February 1799

5TH CONGRESS.]

[3d Session.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, MARCH 2, 1799.

Gentlemen of the Senate and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

Judging it of importance to the public that the Legislature should be informed of the gradual progress of their maritime resources, I transmit to Congress a statement of the vessels, with their tonnage, warlike force, and complement of men, to which commissions as private armed vessels have been issued, since the 9th day of July last.

JOHN ADAMS.

MARCH 2, 1799.

364 NAVAL OPERATIONS; NOVEMBER 1798-MARCH 1799

Statement of the vessels, with their tonnage, warlike force, and complement of men, to which commissions as private armed vessels have been issued by the Secretary of State, and by the Collectors of the Customs under his direction, from the 9th day of July, 1798, to the dates respectively noted below.

State.	District.	Number of Vessels.	Tons. 95ths.	Warlike Force.	Number of Crews.	Time to which statement relates
New Hampshire.	Portsmouth.	1	186.	6 car'age guns	10	Jan. 22, 1799.
Massachusetts.	Portland & Falmouth.	2	319. 21	6 do	20	Aug. 24, 1798.
	Marblehead.	6	562.	26 do	50	Jan. 24, 1799.
	Plymouth.	1	90. 18	2 do	8	23,
	Bath.	1	575. 42	16 do	50	26,
	Biddeford & Pepperell-boro.	2	430. 23	9 do	23	24,
	Gloucester.	4	396.	14 do	38	26,
	Newburyport.	3	625.	13 do	37	21,
	Boston.	60	11, 162. 37	487 do	1, 156	19,
	Salem and Beverly.	34	6, 018.	178 do	510	21,
Rhode Island.	Providence.	5	1, 298. 49	42 do	132	18,
	Newport.	4	485. 87	27 do	62	18,
Connecticut.	New London.	5	1, 129. 10	54 do	138	22,
	Middletown.	1	180. 6	8 do	20	18,
	New York.	67	11, 899. 56	551 do	1, 284	31,
Maryland.	Baltimore.	61	10, 383. 74	437 do	1, 076	31,
Pennsylvania.	Philadelphia.	64	13, 785. 61	497 do	1, 562	Feb. 15,
Delaware.		1	104.	6 do	15	14,
Virginia.	Alexandria.	3	511. 58	22 do	54	17,
	Bermuda Hundred.	3	937. 49	40 do	80	[Jany] 31,
	Norfolk.	10	1, 630.	65 do	109	Jan. 1, 1799.
North Carolina.	Newbern.	1	202. 45	6 do	20	Oct. 2, 1798
South Carolina.	Charleston.	24	3, 202. 30	197 do	356	Jan. 31, 1799
Georgia.	Savannah.	2	604. 59	14 do	28	Feb. 1,
		365	66, 691. 60	2, 723	6, 847	

RECAPITULATION.

Vessels armed	365
Their tonnage	66, 691 ⁶⁰ / ₁₀₀
Number of their guns	2, 723
Number of their men	6, 847

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, March 1, 1799.

[Am. State Papers, Page 71.]

To Lieutenant John McRea, U. S. Navy, acting as Marine Officer, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*, BASSATEER ROADS,
St. Christophers 17th Febr'y 1799.

SIR, This you are to consider your Order to act as Marine Officer on Board the *Insurgente* under the Command of Lieutenant Rodgers, untill further Orders. I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant —

M^r JOHN MACREA.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[17 February 1799]

Extract of a letter from Captain William Penrose, Master of the schooner *Skjoldbrand* (one of Algerine fleet) concerning his voyage

ALGIERS, February 17, '99.

"I have met with an opportunity of informing you of my arrival at this port, by a Swedish frigate, which put in here last night. I had a very good passage from the Delaware, though a very wet one, being perfectly under water all the time. We made the run in 30 days, which was ten days less than capt. Maley, five days less than capt. Smith, and six days less than capt. Geddes; and was fortunate enough to fall in with no cruisers that we were afraid of. In the Streights of Gibraltar, 6 large gun boats rowed off to us in a calm, under French and Spanish colors, but after firing a few shot they thought it prudent to retire. They then went and attacked two large ships and a schooner, about 6 miles from us — we were then laying becalmed: one of the ships and the schooner they took, but the other ship got clear, which proved to be the *Five Brothers*, capt. Philips, of and from Boston, bound to Leghorn, carrying 12 six pounders and 40 men. Capt. Philips informed me that the ship which had struck was from Boston also, bound to Leghorn, mounting 16 guns, but could not learn the captain's name. The schooner which was captured, was the *Experiment*, capt. Bender, of and from Philadelphia bound to Gibraltar. The Algerine fleet which sailed from Philadelphia, are all safe arrived, except the ship *Hero*, capt. Robinson."

[LC, Baltimore "Federal Gazette & Baltimore Daily Advertiser" 18 June, 1799.]

Extract from Journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 17 February 1799

Pleasant Weather At 1 P.M. Saw a Strange Sail Wore to the Southw^d and hauld our Wind at 3 Answerd the Signal of the U.S. Sloop War *Portsmouth* of 20 Guns. @ 5 Spoke the *Portsm^o*. & parted C^o

At 7 Deseada N.W. ½ N. 6 Leagues Mariagalante Middle part W.S.W. 10 Leagues.

At 8 K to the Northw^d

At 10 K to the Southw^d

At 7 Saw a Strange Sail wore to the Southw^d & gave chase

At 9 Spoke her prov'd an English Sch^r f^m Barbadoes on a Cruise

At 10 filld & made Sail to the Northw^d Performd Divine Service.

[Latitude 16° 33^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 17 February 1799

[Basseterre Roads, St. Christopher.] First part begins with pleasant Weather — at 1 PM got under way & made sail for Old Roads, to water

At 2 PM came too hoisted out the boats went ashore & fill'd 33 Cask of water & got them on board & stow'd part of it —

Middle part pleasant

At 7 AM in boats & Stow'd the Rest of the Water, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 D^o got under way for Basseterre

Latter part Light breezes & pleasant

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 17 February 1799

I was sent for the shore with a letter for the Governor of Gaudaloupe about 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the shore a signal was made for me to return, the moment I obeyed the signal, they the French, fired from the shore 2 shot which fell about 100 yards short of the boat. We had then colours flying that constitute a Flag of Truce.

[NA.]

To John Yeiser from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*,
Bassateer Roads, St Christophers 18 Feby 1799 —

DEAR SIR, You will be pleased to proceed in the Schooner *Caroline* to the Chesapeake, and as soon as you arrive at Cape Henry, hire a Pilot Boat, and proceed up to Baltimore, and deliver the Packet I gave you, covering Dispatches for the Secretary of the Navy, to Jeremiah Yellott Esquire, to whom it is addressed. You will request Captain Yellott, to forward it by first Post. You will also be pleased to deliver the Letter I sent you, to M^r James Barry.

Captain Yellott will on your delivering him this Letter, pay your Passage in the *Caroline*, and the Hire of the Pilot Boat, from the Capes of Virginia up to Baltimore; and be assured, Sir, that I consider myself much obliged for your Politeness, in undertaking this Service, and shall mention it with much Pleasure.

As the Dispatches are of great national Importance, I pray that the God of the Winds &c. may favour you, with auspicious Gales, and fine Weather.

I am with high Consideration,

Your very Obed^t humble Servant.

P. S. Request Capt^s Yellott to forward my Dispatches by first Mail without Fail —

To M^r JOHN YEISER.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy

[U. S. S.] *Ganges* AT SEA 18th Feb^r 1799.

SIR: Presuming that you are in possession of my correspondence from St Thomas under date of 27th ult^o & 1st ins^t by the Brig^t *Nancy*: capt^s Dougherty — duplicate by Brig^t *Mercury* capt^s Kuhn: and probably of that with which I had the honor to address you the following day by the schooner *Anna*, capt^s Ingersol for New York, copy of

which N^o 3 is herewith enclos'd. — Notwithstanding however the intention intimated in the conclusion thereof; I ultimately left the West Indies, some few days earlier than I had determin'd on.

Having left the little fleet to pursue their course, except one schooner, the *Four Sisters*, capt^y Young, bound to Cuba — whom I had promis'd to protect as far as our courses reciprocally should admit — I steer'd for the east end of Hispaniola — On the evening of the 4th being to leeward of Monte Christo, and not wishing to pass Cape Francois in the night — we hove too and kept by the wind — the schooner making the best of his way for his port — Next morning we look'd into Cape Francois, and saw about 8 sail at Anchor in that port, two of which appear'd to be ships — the residue small vessels but of what nation, we had no means to learn — Nought was to be discover'd under sail, but British cruizers one only of which we spoke — he had just come up through the windward passage from Jamaica; but had not seen or heard of any thing like the vessels I expected from Charleston

We kept to the windward next day and the ensuing night — and on the 6th steering to leeward, look'd into Jean Rabel and Cape Nichola Mole — to the latter of which we were very close in: but at neither of these places was there a single solitary mast to be seen — we proceeded on our way till opening the bight of Leogane, & continued there during the night. At day light on the 7th we had nought in view; except indeed one small Periagua, close in with the land, which, by the direction of the wind we could not come near — We stood some short time to the SE and having no better prospect, I determin'd on crossing the passage under easy sail, intent on going down to the coast of Cuba, and looking into Baracou — Having rather pass'd mid-passage and gain'd somewhat north of Cape Nicholas, the wind in the ENE began to blow very heavy, rendering it imprudent to go too near Cuba on the lee. — We haul'd our wind to the Northward under a press of sail to keep to the windward, expecting at evening it would lull again: but in this we were disappointed, after sun sett it rather encreas'd — we put now to the southward intent on endeavoring to fetch once more under the west end of Hispaniola — pursuing our course till midnight the wind gaining force, had back'd rather southward of east rendering it doubtful whether we should gain to windward of the east end of Cuba — prudence of course dictated to stand again to the northward which was put in effect — and continued till noon on the 8th — The wind blowing violent in squalls — the sea extreme heavy and irregular — and being oblig'd to carry a stiff sail — the Ship labour'd more than was pleasing — At $\frac{1}{4}$ past noon consulting on the time when we should stand again to the Southward, we discover'd the shoal banks call'd the Hogsties, a very little distance on our weather bow — appearances in the weather being no better, I order'd the course for the entrance of the passage by Crooked Island which having made & enter'd just at Night-fall: I now determin'd to pursue my course for the Cheseapeak as, to have waited the return of easy weather, and then to spend time in regaining my station — where I saw not, nor had seen any prospect of success — I conceiv'd it only wasting the time for which the Ship was fitted to Sea —

I experience Sir: no small degree of chagrin that the *Ganges* has thus far made a maiden cruize: nor should I in conformity with the letter of my instructions, hold myself justifiable in thus early quitting the station assign'd me — but in addition to the reasons heretofore enumerated: If I did not misunderstand your verbal communications, after I had received my orders — I was at liberty to return to the Cheseapeak for fresh instructions, if I found nothing effective to be done on my station.

One circumstance occur'd during the cruize of the *Ganges*, which I conceive you ought to be acquainted with, and the reasons why I omitted communication thereof in my correspondence from St Thomas; may perhaps be thought to require explanation. — In the first place it was a subject: I did not think right to inform of, by a conveyance wherein there might be the least risque of its falling into improper hands — and secondly, I saw by American papers at St Thomas, that an actual case in point was before Congress — I mean the right which some of the British Commanders conceive they had, to search our public ships for their seamen

One of the Frigates I fell in with, sent an Officer on board to enquire on this subject, observing at the same time that my assurance would be sufficient to prevent an officer being sent to examine the protections of my crew — I did not hesitate to say I consider'd all my Crew Americans born or adopted — but I told the Officer farther, that I did not believe there was one single protection in the Ship — The only one we carried in our public ships being our Flag — This business subsided here. and the residue of our intercourse was friendly.

But as I had declar'd to my Officers, that I would fall at my post, rather than submit to an investigation and afterwards pledged myself to my Crew, that not a man of them should be taken from me, by any force whatever, while I was able to stand at my quarters. It is incumbent to know how far I should be justified in repelling force by force on such an occasion

ELIZABETH RIVER 20th Feb^y 1799

The foregoing was pen'd on approaching the coast as per date preparatory for sending off by any safe conveyance that might offer up the Bay, quicker than the Post — but none such presented — About 10 in the morn' of the 19th we made the land: in the afternoon obtain'd a pilot, and at 10PM came too in Lynnhaven bay — where we were detain'd part of this morning by thick weather, which clear'd however e'er noon sufficient to proceed; and are now — at evening — mooring here — I shall hasten every preparation for the Ship putting to Sea again, as soon as your orders shall arrive only deferring to receive additional provision; for your determination, as to time or quantity — There will indeed be little to do; some trifling matters in the rigging, and main topmast to refit — some articles of Carpenters stores to be got, for we had not one spare foot of Oak Plank on board, of any sort whatever — also to receive yet a few tons more of shingle ballast, all which shall be done without delay.

I enclose you the pursers account of expenditures & stores remaining — a detail of those of the other warrant officers, shall be forwarded in my next

► The *Ganges* during the cruize has continued staunch and firm; although with very few intermissions we have experienced an almost

continued scene of heavy weather, nor has there been any sensible complaint in the hull, except when under a press of sail the day we made the Hogsties, when it was perceiv'd she leak'd a little, and which has continued till we came into smooth water — neither has her rate of sailing been such as to complain of: except when very close to the wind and against the sea: which however may be attributed in some measure to her being too light — a circumstance I shall take care of to obviate ere she proceeds again —

I can now only repeat that I shall be ready promptly to obey your orders — to resume my former station or elsewhere — 'tis true I cannot but think it a total waste of time to proceed there again, but if I may presume to advise, I think something might be effected between the Islands of Tortola, St Croix & St Thomas — and thence down to the North side of Porto Rico as far as the city of St Johns — for not a day passed while we lay in St Thomas, but one or more French vessels came in or went out, major part of which were arm'd, though only one I believe (who I before inform'd of) bore a commission for cruising. —

I beg leave to remind you that I went to sea, one lieutenant (M^r Hamilton) short of the number you order'd — as also M^r Dan^l Hughes appointed Surgeons mate did not join the Ship

I have the honor to be

&c &c

T. T. [THOMAS TINGEY]

Hon^{ble} BENJ^t STODDERT

Secretary of Navy.

[NDA. Tingeys LB, 1798-1800.]

To Major Commandant W. W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from
Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 18th Feb. 1799.

Major BURROWS.

SIR There is a quantity of powder on board the *Retaliation* I understand; It is difficult to ascertain, to whom it belongs; but as it may be dangerous to leave it on board, I have the honor to request, that you will have it deposited in the Magazine near the Schuylkill, as the property of the United States — taking a receipt for the quantity, so deposited. —

I have the Honor to be &c.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 18 February 1799

Fine Weather At ½ past 12 Bore away for Deseada at 5 brot too with the Main Top Sail aback At 8 Deseada W.N.W. 7 Leagues. At 7 A.M. Saw a Strange Sail Stand^g to the Southw^d bore up S.W. & at 9 answerd the private Signal of the U. S. Sloop *Portsm^o* Up T.G^t Yds At 10 A.M. Spoke her —

Wash'd & fumigated between Decks. *Portsm^o* in C^o

Deseada W.N.W. 7 Leagues.

Dominico W.S.W. 10 Leagues.

[Latitude 16° 09ⁿ N°]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 18 February 1799

First pleasant weather & fresh breezes

At 2PM came too in Basseterre in 9 fath^r water, where we found the *Montezuma* had arrived with 20 sail of Americans to join the fleet — Arriv'd here an English frigate with her prize, a french Corvette of 16 Guns — —

At 6 AM hoisted Signals for the fleet to get under way —

At 9 got under way & lay off and on for the fleet at 11 made sail with 42 Sail of Merchantmen bound home —

Ends with pleasant W^r

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To the Secretary of State, from David Humphreys, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain

(N^o 185)

MADRID February 19th 1799.

SIR, The enclosed Paper, being the copy of a letter from Mess^{rs} Grivegnée of Malaga respecting the arrival of the Ship *Washington* at Algeciras after an engagement with three French Privateers, will shew the protection afforded by the Spanish Gun Boats and the friendly dispositions of the General of Marine at that place. I flatter myself the French will have been discouraged from attempting to get possession of the vessel by force, as I have heard nothing from M^r Mullony of such an attempt.

From the other enclosed paper, which is copied from a letter of M^r Morphy, you will perceive that the captain and crew of the *Diana* (captured by French Privateers and condemned as a good prize by the Consul at Malaga) have been liberated, and are about returning to America in a vessel which the Captain has purchased.

A Courier extraordinary, dispatched by the Spanish Charge des Affaires at Naples, has brought a relation of the most unparalleled disorders and horrible Murders committed in that Capital between the time of the flight of the King and the arrival of the French. In the Gazettes forwarded herewith you will see the Message of the Directory, announcing the entrance of the French troops into the city of Naples, and the conversion of that kingdom into a republic.

Our commerce in Cod fish is likely to suffer a considerable diminution in the sale of that article not only in Italy, but likewise in this country — since by a late Bull of the Pope the permission for eating meat in lent has been greatly extended.

With sentiments of high consideration and esteem,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obed^t and most hble. Servant
The SECRETARY of STATE, &c. &c. &c.

D. HUMPHREYS

[SDA. Disp. Spain. Bk. 4. Humphreys.]

[Enclosure No. 1.]

To David Humphreys, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain, from
Grivegne & Co., Malaga

MALAGA 6th february 1799.

SIR, We are informed by Mr Mullony, the American agent at Algeciras that the Ship *Washington* commanded by Francis Roberts, after making a vigorous defence against three French privateers near that place, joined several Spanish gun boats that were coming out of its harbour w^h she entered safe under their protection, that the French, tho' before they had not been able to overpower her at sea, had since attempted to take possession of her in the very port, which the General of Marine there had resisted, expressing he would never permit unless he received positive orders f^r court to that effect; as the vessel was just arrived and in quarantine when Mullony wrote us he could give no further information, so that in answer we could only instruct him to represent immediately to the said General that in consequence of the treaty subsisting this country was obliged to the protection granted, and the vessel must be set at liberty, in case it had not been done before the receipt of our letter, and if he refused to comply with this demand, to transmit you a copy of the petition with a statement of all that has passed, in order that with a full cognizance of this affair you might dispose the application you held convenient, either to the Minister of State or Marine, to obtain an order for the release of the *Washington*. She belongs to our friends Mess^{rs} Higginson and Parsons of Boston, and having a perishable cargo of fish on board we entreat you to make use of the most speedy and warmest efforts to bring it to an immediate conclusion, and whatever may be the issue we hope you will have the goodness to acquaint us thereof, to write our friends accordingly.

We are sir, & c.

(signed) GRIVEGNEE & C^o

[SDA. Disp. Spain. Bk 4. Humphreys.]

[Enclosure No. 2.]

To David Humphreys, U. S. Minister to Madrid, Spain, from Michael Morphy,
U. S. Consul, Malaga

MALAGA 13th February 1799

SIR, By this post I am favored with your esteemed letter of the 8th instant whereby I note you are acquainted with the capture made on the *Diana* Captain Freeman from Boston bound to this Port — this vessel and cargo has been since condemned a good prize to the French captors, and the said Captain and crew are here perfectly well on board another vessel purchased by Captain Freeman, with whom they are to proceed back to Boston; they were lucky in not having a man hurt in so long a defence as they made against the French who have behaved very honorably to them.

I am, &c.

(signed) MICHAEL MORPHY

The Honorable DAVID HUMPHREYS, &c.&c.

[SDA. Disp. Spain. Bk 4. (Madrid).]

Extract from log of U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, Captain Samuel Nicholson, U. S. Navy,
Tuesday, 19 February 1799

Moderate breezes and Rain at times, made and Shortnd Sail as
nessasary to keep our station, at $\frac{1}{2}$ p^t 12 bore up and ran down
towards Desceada, Employd working up Junk

P M At 5 brou^t too Main Topsail a back

At 8 Desceada W by N Six leagues

At 12 Midnight Moderate breezes and clear weather Desceada
W N W. seven leagues

At 4 Moderate and clear

A M at 7 Saw a strange sail standing to the Southw^d bore up S W.

At 9 Answerd the private Signal of the United States Ship *Portsmouth*. Up T G Yd^s — At 10 Spoke with the *Portsmouth*, employd
washing and Fumigating between decks At 12 Moderate and clear
Portsmouth in company Desceada N N W. 7 leagues Dominico W S
W 10 leagues

Latitude Observed.	— — —	16 . 09 North	{ Land in Sight all the 24 hours
Longitude Observed.	— — —	60 . 50 West	

[NHS Col, NYHS.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Tuesday, 19 February 1799

First part pleasant Weather took in & made sail as occasion re-
quired. At 4 PM past S^t Eustatia bearing N N E 6 leagues at
6 PM Saba bore N b W 5 leagues — took in Courses & reef'd top-
sails — the fleet Close under our Stern —

Middle part pleasant W^t

At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 AM saw a strange sail gave chase to her fir'd 3 Shott
at her 6 boarded her she was an English privateer Brig of 14 guns —

At 7 AM saw a Ship to leward made sail & gave chase to her found
she was under English Colours show'd signals but she not answering
them got ready for action fir'd several guns which she answer'd
some to leward & some to windward, at 10 AM Came up with &
spoke her, his Britanic Majesty's Ship of War the *Perdrix* on a
Cruise —

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photosta.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. E. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Tuesday, 19 February 1799

Fresh Gales, and Cloudy with Rain and a heavy Sea, Brig labours
much and Ships much water

Made and Shortend Sail occasionally

at 9 P M got top Gallant Mast an end

Moderate & Cloudy at Midnight

Ditto Wind and Weather at 4 A M

all hands variously employd

Pleasant at Meridian

Distance per Log — 94 Miles

[Lat. Observed 34 — 32 N]
[Long. Observed 59 — 47 W]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

To Lieutenant Joseph Strout, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

N Department 20th Feb. 1799 —

Lieu^t JOSEPH STROUT

Salem

I have received your letter of the 7th Inst. In consequence of information from Boston that after Cap^t Sever resigned the Command of the *Herald*, the other Officers declined continuing in their Stations, and that new appointments must take place, I immediately made arrangements for that purpose, as the good of the Service required a prompt decision. — It appears from your letter that on this occasion injustice has been done to you, which certainly was not intended, and which I regret. —

It will not however be necessary for you to resign. Your rank shall be preserved, and you will hold yourself in readiness for Service on, board some other Ship, respecting which I will advise you hereafter —

I am Sir &c &c

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 1.]

To Regis Leblanc, Envoy of General Desfourneaux and Special Agent of Executive Directory at Guadeloupe, from Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Philad^a Feb^y 20th 1799

M^r REGIS LEBLANC.

SIR. I have received your letter of this date in which you are pleased to style yourself the *Envoy* of General Desfourneaux, special agent of the Executive Directory at Guadeloupe.

The Bearer of Letters from the Governor of a little Colony, you have assumed the title of a Minister of a Sovereign State, and claimed an audience of the President of the United States. A moment's reflection will convince you of the impropriety of such pretensions — — an impropriety which is aggravated by your manner of enforcing such groundless claims.

M^r Bunel who delivered me a letter from General Touissaint to the President of the United States, requesting that a commercial intercourse between them and S^t Domingo might be opened, desired the favour of seeing the President, and he saw him. If another French gentleman, the bearer of a letter from General Desfourneaux to the President desiring an exchange of prisoners also wishes to see the President, — — I do not know that he will be refused. If he should be refused, it must be ascribed to General Desfourneaux's own conduct, in charging him with bundles of printed letters to be distributed in the United States for the like insidious purpose for which thousands have been sent from France — — —

I am Sir, your obed^t Servant

TIMOTHY PICKERING

[SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 11.]

[20 February 1799]

To Secretary Benjamin Stoddert from Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy

ON BOARD THE *Montezuma*, AT SEA,
lat. 22, 30, long. 63, February 20, 1799.

DEAR SIR, I have so frequently trespassed upon you, with my long details, I am loath to trouble you any further at present, but as I deemed it necessary to proceed a little way with the convoy under the *Merrimack*, from St. Christopher's, where I arrived in 24 hours from Prince Rupert's Bay, and as Captain Truxton expressed his desire that I should give the schooner *Caroline* a good run off, from the Islands, I have taken in tow, she being charged with his dispatches, which are of great moment, and I make no doubt will give you great joy.

I have likewise turned over to the *Insurgente*, 14 of my men, which I think will promote the naval service, should he succeed in manning so fine a ship.

I parted with Commodore Barry off the Road of Basseterre, Guadeloupe, where he sent his boat with a flag to endeavor to negotiate an exchange of prisoners he took up from the privateer he had sunk off Martinico, which he will inform you of, but the fort fired on them and would not let them land. I only saw the circumstance, as I had no opportunity of speaking to him afterwards, not deeming it prudent to leave my fleet.

It seems to be Captain Truxton's particular desire, that I should return to him, after I have dismissed my present charge, and shall comply with his wish, if he thinks my services can be better applied, in any objects he may have in view, than those I have planned — I have no object, as I entered into the service with a pure zeal of doing the best in my power to serve my country.

I cannot conclude without expressing my astonishment at the flourishing situation of the trade of America. When I see our numerous fleets constantly passing these islands, it looks as if our vessels sprung out of the forests, ready equipped, and to use a simile, like Cadmus's soldiers, the men seem to spring up out of the ocean instead of the earth.

There are now upwards of 40 sail under this convoy, which is the sixth since I have been on this station; a good proof, that America is quite adequate to the support of a navy, equal to most of the powers in Europe.

Sir,

Your most obedient
Humble servant,

A. MURRAY

BENJ. STODDERT, Esq.

Secretary of the Navy of the U. States.

[LC, Conn. "Connecticut Courant", 25 March, 1799.]

[20 February 1799]

To Monsieur Beauvarlet, one of the Administrators of Guadeloupe, from
Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

SIR Should I have occasion to send a Flag of Truce into Basseterre, Guadalupe, — or wish to communicate with General Desforneaux respecting future arrangements of Prisoners, or on other public business; the *Constellation* will be known, when off the Road, by her American Ensign at the Mizzen Peak, her broad Pendant at the Main top Gallant Mast head, & a French Jack at the fore top Gallant Mast head — on hoisting these Flags a Boat coming out, as a flagg of truce will be respected

I am

Your very Obed^t Serv^t

(signed) THOMAS TRUXTON

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*

Bassaterre, S^t Christophers 20th Feb^r 1799

[To] MONS^r BEAUVERLET —

[NHSMss 264, NYHS.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 20 February 1799

Squally W^t at 12 Cap^t McNiel of the *Portsm^o* [*Portsmouth.*] Sloop War came on B^o & informd Cap^t Nicholson that they were 3 Arm'd Vessells at anchor under Marigalante and the *Portsm^o* not being in a proper State of Defence he requested convoy, down to Prince Ruperts Bay.

at ½ past 12 bore away made & Shortend Sail as Necessary to keep Company with the *Portsm^o*

at 3 P. M. Samuel Bailey Seamⁿ Departed this Life at 4 Committed his Body to the Deep

Haul'd our Wind and parted frm the *Portsm^o* Prince Ruperts head S. W. b. S. ½ S. 6 Miles Dist at 8 Saw 4 French Vessells at Anchor under Marigalante Supposed Privateers At Midnight Mari-galante N. E. 4 Leagues Dist

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy commanding, Wednesday, 20th February 1799

First part squally weather & some rain At ½ past 1 PM the town of S^t Croix bore SW b S dist 3 leagues, Laid the Main T Sail by the mast & the first Lieutenant went on shore. at 2 PM saw S^t Thomas' bearing N b W 7 leagues at 4 D^o boarded an English Luggar of 10 guns

Middle part pleasant at 8 AM saw a Brig belonging to the fleet who paid no attention to our Signals fir'd 3 shott at her she then hove too the 2nd Lieut^t went on board of her —

Bore away & Came too in S^t Thomas Road in 7 fath^r Water

Ends pleasant — — —

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photosat.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*, BASSATEER ROADS
St Christopher's 21st Febr'y 1799.

DEAR SIR, I had the Honor to enclose you in my last Dispatch, by the *Caroline*, the Copy of a Letter I had written on the 14th Instant, to General Desforneaux, Commander in Chief of the Island of Gaudaloupe, and it's Dependencies, his Answer you will find herein, and my Reply to him in Consequence thereof Dated the 19th. I also take the Opportunity of furnishing you with a Copy of a Letter from Monsieur Barreau, the late Captain of *La Insurgente*, in Reply to my Offer to exchange prisoners, should Monsieur Desforneaux be disposed. This Letter is an Acknowledgement from that [1 line obliterated] very different to what our worthy Tars have experienced from Victor Hughes, other Governors in the french West Indies, and the Captains of their Cruizers; tho' General Desforneaux has written to me in a Style, that would lead many to suppose, my Conduct had been Cruel, but I shall not alter it, (on Account of his Insolence) to those, who the Fortune of War have made Prisoners to me. —

Whenever I receive a Reply from the Government of Gaudaloupe to my last Letter of the 19th above mentioned I shall communicate the same to you, with whatever may be the Issue of my Correspondence on the Subject of an Exchange of Prisoners.

I have the *Constellation* completely refitted, and ready for Sea again, and hope in a Short Time to sail on a Cruize taking with me the *Insurgente*, that Ship being also far forward in her Repairs.

Be assured, that I am, Dear Sir, with high Respect & Esteem

Your very Obed^t humble Servant.

Hon^{ble} BENJAMIN STODDERT }
Secretary of the Navy. }

P. S. I should not have given myself the Trouble to have explained any Part of my Instructions to the Particular Agent of the French Directory at Gaudaloupe, but I understand there are now thirteen Vessels in the Ports of that Island belonging to the Citizens of the U. S. & by letting him know, that we are not instructed to molest unarmed french Vessels &c: it is possible he may suffer the Masters now with him, to depart with the Effects they have in Charge, for there is no calculating on the Policy, and Finess of this insidious Man.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostats. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[Enclosure No. 1.]

[17 February 1799]

To Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy, from General Desfourneaux,
Commander in Chief, Guadeloupe

Translation (made by an Interpreter of Languages, at Saint Christophers) of General Desforneau's Letter to me, in Answer to my first Letter to him Dated 14th of February 1799. Thomas Truxtun —

DEPARTMENT OF GAUDALOUPE.

LIBERTY, LAW, EQUALITY.

PORT OF LIBERTY THE 29th PLUVIOSE, SEVENTH YEAR OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC.

Constitution Article 156, the particular Agents will exercise the same Functions as the Directory, and shall be subordinate to them.

Etienne Desforneaux, General of the Division of the Armies of the french Republic, and particular Agent of the Executive Directory for the Windward Islands. —

To Monsieur TRUXTUN, commanding the American Frigate *Constellation* at Saint Christophers.

SIR, After the Loyalty, with which the Americans have been treated in this Colony, since the Time in which I began to govern it, I have not seen without Astonishment, and Indignation, an American Vessel take a french Frigate.

You demand Prisoners of me, and offer me in Exchange Frenchmen, are you unacquainted, that the Title of Prisoners cannot be applied to Allies and that since my Arrival, the Citizens of your Nation, have been at Liberty to go, when they were willing; that to assist them in the Means of returning to their Country, I have furnished them with two armed Government Vessels, at the Expençe of the french Republic.

These two Vessels sailed together in concert with the Schooner of the United States, *Retaliation* armed with 22 Guns, and commanded by Lieutenant William Bainbridge, who fell in with a Division, which chased, and which perceiving herself inferior in Force, run away; she has been delivered up from the Moment she was known to be an American.

The Officers have been treated with Distinction, and the Crew have received generous Attention, and Assistance.

In Contra-distinction to this Generosity, you fell in with a french Frigate, which was absolutely ordered to respect your Flag, you ought to have taken Notice of it, at the Time that Captain Barreaut informed you, that France, and the U. S. were not at War, but you answered him with a Broadside.

You were the Aggressor, and Citizen Barreau in his Defence, acted according to the strict Order he received from me, to cause the Flag of the french Republic to be respected.

It is in Vain you refer to your Instructions as an Excuse, they cannot give you the Right of Assassinating Allies; they do not authorize you to take the Frigates of the french Republic; and how is it,

that you interpret them one Way, and Mr. Barry in another? the latter fell in with an English Prize, made by the Frigate, *L'Insurgente*, and let proceed on her Voyage after having examined her.

I request you in the Name of the Republic to deliver up immediately the Frigate, *L'Insurgente*, as the Property of a Nation in Amity with Yours, taking notwithstanding, the necessary Precautions, that she arrives without running any Risk on the Side of the Enemy.

If you refuse me this Satisfaction, I make you responsible for the Measures, that I shall take in Respect to the Citizens of your Nation, and their Property, which is here very considerable.

If you do not act according to this Demand, I will confiscate all American Property, which is in this Colony, and consider the Americans, as Prisoners.

My Letter will be delivered to you by an Officer, which I send for that Purpose.

DESFORNEAU.

(Copy) On Board the *Constellation*, in the Road of Bassateer St Christopher's, the 25th Pluviose, seventh Year of the french Republic, One & Indivisible. —
Barreaulate Commander of the Frigate, *La Insurgente*,
to Commodore Truxtun, Commander of the
United States' Frigate, *Constellation* —

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[Enclosure No. 2.]

To General Desfourneaux, Commander in Chief, Island of Guadeloupe, from
Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

76 Copy of My Reply to the foregoing Letter of Gen^l Desforneaux
to Viz^t

U. S. S. *Constellation*, BASSATEER ROADS,
St Christophers, 19th February 1799. —

SIR, By Monsieur Beauvarlet, one of the Administrators of the Colony of Gaudaloupe, I received your Letter of the 29th Pluviose, answering to the 17th Instant.

It is totally unnecessary for me to reply to your very extraordinary Demand, and all the Observations contained in your Letter, it being sufficient for me to say, that as my Instructions have hitherto governed my Conduct, so they shall continue to do, as Long as I am acting on the Theatre of public Life.

Whenever I have it in my Power, I shall most unquestionably take every armed Vessel commissioned by the french Republic, or the Agents of the french Republic that I meet at Sea, untill ordered to the Contrary by the President of the United States. But as my Instructions do not at present warrant my seizing unarmed french Vessels, or Neutrals having French Property on Board, such Ships will consequently pass unmolested by me.

I, like my Government, and Countrymen in general, wish Peace with France, and all the World on fair, and honorable Terms, but on any Other we disdain it, Yes Sir, we spurn at the Idea.

I shall be happy to make an Exchange of Prisoners, as offered before in my Letter of the 14th Instant, and to lessen the Calamities incident to Captivity, and have made the Overture; It is therefore for you now to say, what shall be done, as my Ultimatum is given, and it will be inconvenient for me to remain idle in these Roads, more than a few Days for your final Answer. I have the Honor to be, Sir, with great Respect.

Your very Obed^t & humble Servant,

His Excellency Gen^l DESFORNEAUX

Com^{dr} in Chief of the Island of Gaudaloupe.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[Enclosure No. 3.]

[19 February 1799]

To Midshipman Joshua Herbert, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

SIR, You will proceed to Gaudaloupe, and deliver the accompanying Letter to Gen^l Desforneaux instantly on your Arrival; receive his Answer and return to me immediately with all the Americans, he may order on Board the Flag.

You will go to Bassateer, or Point Petre, as Mons^r Beauvarlet may advise for to expedite the Business of your Mission. You have no Questions to ask, or answer to make, as General Desforneaux will reply to me by Letter.

I am

Your very Obed^t Servant,

U. S. Ship *Constellation*

Febry 19th 1799. —

M^r JOSHUA HERBERT.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB 1798-9.]

To David Clarkson, U. S. Agent, St. Kitts, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation* —
Bassateer Roads S^t Christophers 21st Febry 1799.

DEAR SIR, I send to my God Son, John Williams Truxtun as the first Mark of my Attention, a beautiful Plume, which you will take Care of, and present to him in my Name, when he arrives at a proper Age, it being a Trophy I have preserved, having received the same as a Part of the Battle Array of Captⁿ Barreaut, late Commander of the french Frigate *La Insurgente* of 40 Guns, and 409 Men, taken by me in the above Ship, mounting 38 Guns, and having 316 Men, on the 9th of February 1799 in Sight of the Island of Saint Christophers, after an Action of one Hour, and a Quarter, with the Loss of one Man only killed, and three wounded, whereas the Frenchman had 70 Men killed and wounded.

I am D^r Sir,

Your very Obed^t humble Serv^t

DAVID M. CLARKSON, Esq^t

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*

BASSATEER ROADS, S^t CHRISTOPHERS

21st Feb^r 1799. —

SIR I wrote you by the *Diligence* the 16th instant, and dispatched her Master, in one hour after I received your letter, desiring I would send you one of the Brigs destined for my command on this Station.

The *Richmond* and *Norfolk* having just arrived from convoying a Number of American Vessels, I as speedily dispatch the former, as I did the *Diligence*, and have ordered Captain Barron, to look for you agreeable to your desire to Windward of Marigalant, where I hope he will soon find you. —

I now enclose you Copy of my Instructions, [*] and that part of Your Instructions, which have been incorporated into Mine, as was intended by the Sec^r of the Navy, to become a part of my orders. By these Instructions, You will see, the independent powers vested in me on this Station, and which M^r Stoddert repeated to me over and over again, was to be strictly adhered to, and not to be deviated from, except in case of such a force coming out from France, as to make the Uniting My forces with yours indispensably necessary: but You have Rank above me, and be the Consequence what it may, from my being weakened on this Station, I have obeyed Your Commands, for I am determined to be governed by discretion and prudence in all my publick acts, and endeavour to meet the real intentions and wishes of the Government, in every particular, and when I do this, I shall put my enemies at defiance, and receive the reward due from My friends.

I have taken great pains to Communicate with you, since I have been on the Station, and to Nourish and Cherish a good understanding with You, Not only as an Officer, but as a private Gentleman, for no difference has ever existed between Us, in an acquaintance of upwards of twenty years.

I have not only wrote you several letters, which has been sent up by Admiral Harveys tender, but lest they should miscarry, I have desired our Mutual friend, John Gay, to forward to you extracts from my letters to him, and this has been done I repeat from the best intention, in order that you should be apprised, of the line of Conduct, I intend to pursue, and in order that I should know exactly from your answer Whether your measures were similar. —

I have been pestered about convoys and I have acted an Open part, which I do on all occasions, and have at all times, when it has been asked what you would do to Windward assured the Merchants, that as I was well acquainted, with Your kind & obliging disposition, I had no doubt, on an application being made to you for convoys, that you would Grant them, but since I came out here, I have only received a Single letter from you, and that merely demanding one of my vessels from this Station. — Captain Murray of the *Montazuma*, has Agreed to remain under my command here, untill you return me the *Richmond*, or another vessel of at le[a]st her force, and then he will go off Curracoa, where there are several pirates. Murray I must say very politely agreed to my request, for tho' I was his superior officer, I would not have desired him to have remained with me, against his consent, except in some case, where his uniting his force

to mine, was indispensably necessary, because he was not put in Squadron with me, but on the contrary, received independent Instructions, from the first Source, the Sec^y of the Navy.

The Good of the Service, the protection of Commerce in addition to our former good understanding, induces me to write you freely: and I expect you will do the same, Whenever you do write; I always was particular in my business, and shall always endeavour to be regular, consequently I forward copies of all my letters on publick business to the Sec^y of the Navy, and of all those I receive. —

The Number of vessels at Surinam, makes a convoy from that Coast necessary, I should have supposed the *Merrimack* and *Diligence* would have answered; the *Diligence* to have run in and given notice and the *Merrimack*, to have remained on the Coast particularly as I wanted to have sent the *Richmond* in Search of some little pirates I have information of. —

I have a correspondence with General Desfourneaux, on the subject of my capture of the *Insurgente*, which Frigate, he has demanded, and sent down one of the Administrators — which I have sent back with the letter as on the other side: [†] and I am determined not to yield an inch to him; When I have settled the business of Exchange of prisoners, which is not yet agreed on, I will take the first Oppertunity of informing You: in the mean time, I have fixt with the Administrator Mon^s Beauvorlet, to the following effect — that whenever I shall want to communicate with General Desfourneaux on the subject of Exchange of Prisoners, or to let him know (should I hear) of the arrival of his flags at Phil^a &c.

I will stand in to Bassateer road Gaudaloupe with my Ensign at the Mizzen Peek, a Broad blue Pendnant at the Main top Gallant Mast head, and a French Jack, at the fore top Gallant Mast head, and send my boat as a flag of truce on shore, if they do not send a flag off: and it is promised that due respect shall be paid, and no attempt made to fire on me: and I have told Mon^s Beauvorlet, that I would make this communication to you, and he has agreed, that if you have occasion to communicate with the Government, and stretch in towards the roads, in a Similar manner, with Similar Colours, hoisted, in the Same way, every respect shall be paid to you & your flag, if they should not send off one. — I have determined however, not to stretch too near the road, lest they should break their faith. —

I have in great haste put you in possession of every information or matter of any moment that respects our affairs here. You will observe by my letter to General Desferneaux, that I mention, we are not at liberty to seize unarmed vessels, or molest neutrals, but you will I am sure think with me, that we have a right to put our own construction on what constitute armed vessels. I have however made the above statement to General Desferneaux, in hopes he will not seize the American vessels now in Gaudaloupe. In very great haste, for I have not suffered the *Richmond* to anchor, Remain with due respect

Your obt s^t

THOMAS TRUXTUN

P. S. I shall send off another Set of dispatches to the Sec^y of the Navy in two or three days. I have mentioned already Your sinking the Privateer. —

T. T.

(For Copy of Letter to General Desferneaux [†] look at the end of Instructions from government. T. T.)

JOHN BARRY Esq
&c. &c. &c.

[NOTES.—[*] See letters dated December 8th, 10th, and 13th, 1798, from Secretary of the Navy to Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy.

[†] See Enclosure No. 2 in Captain Thomas Truxtun's letter of 21 February 1799, to Secretary of the Navy.]

[Photostat, original in NYHS NHSMss 264.]

[21 February 1799]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

DEAR SIR, You will proceed to Windward of Marigalante, and deliver the accompanying Packet to Captain Barry of the United States' Frigate, who you will find cruizing there, or thereabouts. Be sure to find him. I am

Yours with Respect

U. S. SHIP *Constellation* BASSATEER ROADS

S^t Christopher's 21st Feby 1799 —

Captⁿ BARRON

of U. S. Brig *Richmond* —

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

Extract of a letter from an officer of the U. S. S. *Ganges*, dated Norfolk, February 21, 1799

"An officer of the *Surprise*, an English frigate of 44 guns, boarded us off Cape Nichola Mole, and demanded all the Englishmen on board, also to examine the protections of the American seamen. Captain Tingey's answer was manly and noble.— 'A PUBLIC SHIP CARRIES NO PROTECTION BUT HER FLAG, I DO NOT EXPECT TO SUCCEED IN A CONTEST WITH YOU; BUT I WILL DIE AT MY QUARTERS BEFORE A MAN SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE SHIP'— The crew gave him three cheers, ran to quarters, and called for Yankee Doodle. The *Surprise* upon hearing our determination, chose rather to leave us than to fight for dead men!"

[LC, Com., "Connecticut Courant," 18 March, 1799.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 21 February 1799

Cloudy W^t & Steady Breezes.

At 3 P.M. Saw a Strange Sail bear^t N.E.b.E. @ 4 Answerd the Signals of *United States* Com^d Barry. Spoke her and made Sail in Company. @ 7 Up fore Sail and hauld our Wind Prince Ruperts head S.S.W. 4 Miles. Wore as Necessary between Dominico and the Saints at 5 filld and Made Sail for Prince Ruperts bay in Comp^t with the *United States* Unstow'd the Anchors and at 9 came too in 17 f^m in Company with the *United States*

Cap^t N. waitd on the Comm^d

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 21 February 1799

[St. Thomas Road.] First part pleasant Weather at 1 PM the Cap^t went on shore all hands employ'd at Ships duty

At 8 PM 3 french Letters of Marque arrived here laden with Coffee from Guadaloupe —

Middle part squally with rain

At 9 AM a Danish frigate sail'd

Latter part Squally with Rain —

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. E. C. Brig. *Pickering*, Thursday, 21 February 1799

Moderate & pleasant, employd Setting up the Rigging Fore & aft Made & Shortend Sail occasionally Spoke the Brig [space] George Halliburton Master inform'd him should take the first opportunity of Sending the Convoy instructions & Signals on board of him —

Light Airs and Rain at Midnight, the Convoy a Stern

At 6 A M made Sail all hands variously employ'd

Distance per Log — 82 Miles

[Lat. Observed 32 — 30 N
Long. Observed 58 — 35 W]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 21 February 1799

Arrived at Prince Ruperts Bay in C^o with the *Constitution* found the *Portsmouth* & Schooner *Scammel* there.

[NA.]

To Secretary of State, from James L. Cathcart, U. S. Consul, Tripoli

ALGIERS Feb^y 22nd 1799

Hon^{ble} TIMOTHY PICKERING Esq^r

Secretary of State —

MY DEAR SIR The enclosed of the 15 ins^t I intended to have sent by the Sweed Frigate which M^t Skjoldebrand arived here in, but I could not get it on board — I now send it under cover to M^t Smith at Lisbon by the way of Spain with M^t Ingrahams acc^t cur^t from Feb^y 97 to Aug^t 1798 as also a copy of his letter to M^t OBrien dated Oct^r 26th 1798 by which you will be able to determine whether my suspicion of his integrity is well or ill grounded —

Enclosed is a copy of a Statement relative to Tripoli I have made objections to it and proposed amendments which are not yet adopted but I believe will they are to the advantage of the U S — I have not time to send you a copy of my observations on the subject as they are long & the courier sails at 12 oClock for Spain it was 10 before I heard that she was to sail to day —

In mine of the 15th inst^t I inform'd you that the arival of the arm'd vessels here had fully establish'd our credit, it is a fact — but for that reason we must not conclude that the Jews likes to lay long out of their money, they will credit the United States on emergency's but they expect to be reimburs'd as soon as the nature of the business will permit — I wish we could do without them —

The Cruisers were deliver'd up to this Regency on the 18th inst^t I believe on the following terms said sum to be placed to the credit of the United States in lieu of maritime & military stores M^r OBrien will inform you of the particulars —

	<i>Dollars</i>
The <i>Hassan Bashaw</i> was valued at.....	49, 000
The <i>Skjoldebrand</i> D ^o	28, 000
The <i>Lela Aiesha</i> D ^o	21, 000
	\$98, 000

I am much afraid the ship *Hero* is lost as we have not heard a syllable about her yet —

We have not paid our respects to the Dey or Grandees yet as is customary for what reason I have not been able to determine but it is probable we may see his Excellency this afternoon or tomorrow —

I remain Sir with respect & esteem your very Humble Serv^t

JAMES LEA^t CATHCART

P S I do not imagine we will leave Algiers before the last of this month —

[SDA. Tripoli. Vol. 1, 1796-1799.]

To Secretary of State, from William Eaton, U. S. Consul, Tunis, & Richard OBrien, U. S. Consul, Algiers

ALGIERS 22^d Feb. 1799 —

SIR, On the tenth instant I had the honor to communicate information of the arrival, in this port, of the Brigantine *Hassan Bashaw* — the Schooners *Skjoldebrand* and *Lala Eisha*, and the United States brig *Sophia*; also Capⁿ Maley's report of his having parted with the Ship *Heroe* on the American coast. Of this Ship we have yet no account — She must be either captured, gotten into some port in distress, or lost at Sea —

On the 18th the Officers, appointed by the Dey for the purpose, took formal possession of the vessels; and this morning Consul Gen. OBrien informed me that he had just now concluded a Settlement of all accounts between the Dey and the United States, which he desired me to sketch in the following cypher [Translation of coded message]

The whole of our stipulation for naval and military stores I have entirely done away and paid our stipulated annual tribute with this regency up to two years and one half from the date of the treaty

He has been assiduously employed in the business since the arival of the vessel: particulars will be reserved for a more certain conveyance —

I can state nothing with certainty on the affairs of Tunis — M^r Famin has formed flattering expectations of the consulate, and has artfully secured the friendship of the Bashaw and principal officers of the government by having procured, at the expense of 19 or 20 thousand dollars, and distributed among them the customary presents. The Bashaw has declared that he will receive no other consul from the United States — and did, in fact, discriminate him from the general mancipation which involved his countrymen on the declaration of War — Whether this respect was paid to the *Citizen* Famin, or to the *American Agent* is problematical — But the same argument, which established him, will undoubtedly induce his friends to transfer their attachment — The Sapatapa must be gained by this inducement —

The *Sophia*, being reinforced with the crew of the *Skjoldebrand*, will proceed to Tunis in a few days with M^r Cathcart and myself — It has been thought most proper to wait here until after an adjustment of our affairs with this Regency, in order to avail ourselves of the *friendly* interposition of the Dey and his ministers — or, in the language of Cap^t O'Brien "To get out an anchor to windward."

The crews of the *Hassan Bashaw* and the *Lala Eisha* will return to America in a polacre, purchased by the Agent of the United States, in this place.

M^r Ingraham has exhibited an account current against the United States commencing Feb. 1, 1797 up to Aug. 1, 1798, exclusive of Salary, amounting to the enormous sum of *twelve thousand* one hundred & fifteen 53/100 dollars — and he has conducted the business in such a manner that it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the United States to evade payment.

The french are said to have taken possession of Naples — Buona-parté has established himself in Grand Cairo, planted his generals in the government of the principal provinces of Egypt, and reinforced his army with Arabs and Christians. Is it not possible that he will turn his eye towards the treasures of Algiers*, and the empire of Morocco — project the conquest of the Barbary States — imagine himself fixed in a strong position on Ape's hill, near Ceuta, and disputing the streights of the Mediterranean with Gibraltar —? May not the declaration of war, by these states, countenance the measure and facilitate the event? If the Moors & Arabs could dispense with their religious stupidity, or could place full faith in the accommodating religion of the french Renegade, they would attach themselves to his banners — They sigh for liberty with an ardor which they do not affect to disguise — They say they consider themselves only as *free slaves* — The Arabs of the mountains do not hesitate to murder the Turks whenever they can find opportunity and retreat — The Dey is considered, by all classes of his subjects, but the successor in form to Hassan Bashaw, the late Dey —

The principal ministers of State have not a perfect understanding among themselves — The Jews, who hold the purse strings of this Country, are clandestinely, though manifestly, in the interest of the french — All these circumstances invite and could probably encourage the enterprise, if the obstacles, which nature has opposed by land, and the British navy by sea, could be surmounted — All the resources of the country can present nothing formidable to a Buona-

parte — It is Christian policy and not Mehametan strength which has so long supported the existence of these piratical States —

I have the honor to remain
with great respect, Sir, your
Most Obe^d Servan^t

WILLIAM EATON
RICH^d OBRIEN

HON^{ble} SEC^y OF THE UNITED STATES

* The *public treasury* of Algiers is supposed to contain eighty million of dollars!
[SDA. Tripoli. Vol. 1, 1796-1799.]

To Major Commandant W. W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from Lieutenant of Marines, Anthony Gale

NORFOLK February 22nd 1799

SIR On the 20th Instant we arrived from our cruise I haste to give you a state of the men under my Command.

On our cruise the Capt finding the Ship was to light went to St Thomas's; on the second day of our arrival Capt Tingey proposed to me that two or three of the Marines, could go ashore to the watering place, and wash the rest of the mens dirty cloths, I immediately ordered the Corporal to get three of the men most fit for the business, and go along with them, the first day they did not finish, on the following day I sent the Serg^t as I thought the Corpl did not make them do their duty, the Serg^t got drunk and as I am told quarrel'd with the men [word illegible] Brown and Weldon they might go about [words illegible] the men immediately went off every exertion was made to find them but to no purpose the Governor promised Capt Tingey he would have them secured after the Ship sailed as we heard that they were lurking about the suburbs of the Town till the Ship went to sea. With your permission I will recruit two men in their place at Norfolk. Some of them has not got their full allowance of clothing for the year, I wish Sir you would adopt some method by which they may get them, likewise for the men which may be recruited here if you give permission I will likewise try to list a Drummer & Fifer as they are very much wanted, One of the men (McMullen) is very unfit for service he being old and very unfirm and think it would be better to discharge him and get another man in his place. The men has not got any money since they come on board, some are owed fifty dollars, they were not paid a Dollar since I paid them at Marcus Hook M^r Lewis says he has got no orders to pay the Marines, Capt Tingey says he will have them paid if the Secretary of the Navy orders him. I think the Serg^t is very unfit for the place he holds and expect the Cap^t will have him tried I would wish to have your opinion on the subject.

I Have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most Ob^t &
Hbl Serv^t

ANTHONY GALE
Lieut Marines

I thank you Sir for an exact acc^d of the money I rec^d from you since my appointment on acc^t of pay I gave receipts for the different

sums as I dont know exactly likewise what was done with respect of the rations and what we are allowed for them each. inclosed is an Inspection return and a list of what articles that is due the men.

A G.

W. W. BURROWS

*Maj^r Commandant of the
Marine Corps*

[MCA, LR, 1799.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Captain Daniel McNeill, U. S. Navy

Copy

SHIP *Portsm^o* [*Portsmouth*]

Feb^r 22. 1799

SIR As the Schooner *Scammel* has sprung her Bowsprit I have ordered her back into Prince Ruperts bay to refit and as I am going alone have taken out of him on board ship *Portsmouth* twenty hands — I have a full compliment on board but no Seamen

As I mean to sell the Ship *Portsmouth* for her full value I have taken twenty men from her and shall proceed as per your orders alone which I hope you will approve

I am Sir with great Respect
your hum^o Servant

DAN^l McNEILL

Cap^t JOHN BARRY

[Ford Col. J. P. Morgan, NYPI and NDA, Area 7, Feb. 1799.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 22 February 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Fine & pleasant W^t all hands employ'd Watering the Ship Gammond the Bowsprit & set up the bob Stays. Unbent the fore Sail

Latter Part fresh Breezes. cleard Ship for Sea

The *United States* Weigh'd & Saild. M^r Ellery an American Gent^l came on board with Orders f^m Commodore Barry to Land him at Antigua.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy commanding, Friday, 22nd February 1799

[St. Thomas Road.] First part squally with rain

At 4 PM a brig arriv'd from Baltimore 12 days passage —

Middle part D^o Weather —

At 6 AM hove up & got under way — fir'd a Salute of 17 Guns which was answer'd by a number of Americans, in honour to General Washington it being his birth day. — at 8 the fleet got out Consisting of 43 Sail

Ends Squally

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Friday, 22 February 1799

Moderate & Pleasant weather, all hands variously employ'd at ½ past 2 P M a boat from the *Herald* came along side with a Midshipman, who brought a letter from Capt Russell, to Capt Preble, shortly after Spoke the *Herald*, Capt P requested Capt R, to come on board, which he did & returned again in about half an hour. at same time Capt Halliburton came on board from the Brig *Betsy*, and received his instructions, for continuing with the Convoy at Mid-night light airs and pleasant Weather

At 10 A M Got top Gallant Y^{ts} up & Set the Sails, bent all the light Sails Made & shortend Sail Occasionally the 24 hours at Meridian Moderate & pleasant, the Convoy about 3 Miles a Stern

Distance per Log — 69

[Lat. Observed 31 — 40 N]
[Long. Observed 58 — 5 W]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 22 February 1799

Sailed from Prince Ruperts Bay Hove to off Bassatterre I went on shore returned with the Secretary of Gaudaloupe Sent the prisoners on shore.

[NA.]

To Robert Goodloe Harper, Chairman, Committee of Ways & Means, from
Secretary of State

[PHILADELPHIA]

Department of State February 23^d 1799

ROBT GOODLOE HARPER Esq^r

SIR. Herewith I send you a statement of the expenditures relative to our treaties with the Mediterranean Powers, and of monies drawn out of the Treasury for the purpose, from which it will appear that the following sums remain to be provided for — Viz

	Dolls.	
Balance due Tench Francis Purveyor, Pr his acct.....	28, 421. 22	
due ditto for sundry purchases for the Algerine Brig ^a and two schooners pr ditto.....	10, 000 —	
due ditto for advances to Mr Foxall Cannon founder pr d ^o	25, 886. 88	
due ditto for sundry articles received by ditto from the Public Military & Naval stores to be replaced pr ditto.....	12 983. 20	Dolls.
		77, 291. 30
Also for this sum due the House of Bacri & C ^o Algiers....	40. 987 —	
From which deduct the Cargo of the <i>Sophia</i> now on her way to Algiers.....	16, 968. 93	
		24. 018. 7
For the fulfilment of our stipulations with Algiers as per Estimate (besides the freight).....	73. 072 9	
Freight of such bulky articles at least 50 pr Cent.....	36, 536	
		Dollars.. 210, 917. 37
From which deduct the cost of the three armed vessels built for Algiers, now probably arrived there, to be paid for by the Dey....	68, 674. 15	
To be provided for.....	Doll ^s . 142. 243. 13 ³ / ₄	

But it is hoped that our Consul General will be able, if those armed vessels arrive safely, to cancel the demands for the large masts and other cumbrous and very expensive articles and reduce the claims of Algiers more than the amount of the cost of the vessels.

I should observe that the number of large masts remaining to be furnished is set at 39 only. This is certainly an error in the Purveyors statement; for I have heard of but three or four yet sent; but others of a smaller size have been forwarded, and these have been deducted from the original stipulation as if of the stipulated size.

I should further observe, that money only has yet been paid to Tunis: the furnishing of the stipulated stores (which will cost upwards of a hundred thousand dollars) has been suspended, until an essential alteration in one article of the treaty shall be effected, and on which our consuls are instructed to negotiate with that power. If they succeed, they are to endeavour to substitute something less burthen-some than masts and timber & other maritime stores.

In the original estimate presented during the present session, my object in proposing an appropriation of 100,000 doll^r — — was not to provide for all that must eventually be furnished: but to discharge some balances of debts incurred, and to enable the Purveyor to forward some additional supplies. By the foregoing statement it appears that my estimate was too low; and that it will be expedient to make it up to about 140,000 doll^r or 150,000 dollars, the latter in preference, seeing that in the course of the present year the value of 10,000 dollars, may probably be necessary for Tripoli. Expecting too, a favourable conclusion of the further negotiation with Tunis, it would seem expedient to provide at least for a partial fulfilment of the original stipulations, — — say to the amount of 50,000 dollars, which would build one or two armed vessels (according to their size) and cancel the demand of upwards of 100,000 dollars. But if instead of armed vessels the new stipulation should be for *money*, this can hardly be expected to fall below the original stipulation for masts, timber, and maritime and military stores. And considering that nine months will elapse before the next meeting of Congress, it would be *safest* to provide for such a conclusion of the negotiation — — say 100,000 dollars. — —

A state[ment] of former appropriations and payments and estimate of the sum wanting to discharge claims relative to the S^t Croix boundary accompanies the documents relative to the Barbary affairs herewith presented.

I am very respectfully

Sir Your obed^t Servant

TIMOTHY PICKERING

[SDA. Dom. L., Vol. 11.]

To Secretary of the Navy from Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy

NORFOLK 23^d February 1799

SIR Since my last of 20th ins^t I have visited Norfolk, and advis'd with M^r Pennock relative to the supplies necessary for the *Ganges*: and have determined with him to replenish all her stores of provisions and water, to about 4 months expenditure, which I expect weather permitting will be accomplish'd e're the termination of the ensuing week.

As before intimated her wants in every other line are trifling as to value—let it suffice that every necessary shall be effected with all possible expedition

In my letters from S^t Thomas I touch'd on a subject of trade, running in my opinion counter to the laws of our country — my attempts to investigate particulars were obviated, by the delicacy of those who could have satisfied me; excusing themselves from becoming (as they thought) obnoxious to the odium of being accounted informers.

Previous to my entering S^t Thomas' harbour; I sent an Officer on shore, to the Commandant, requesting liberty of the port — and proposing to salute their Flag on proviso only of a return of Gun for Gun. He wish'd to have made a small difference, but on information that I was decided, it was agreed to: and I saluted their Fort with 15 Guns, which number was duly and promptly returned. On going on shore the Commandant expres'd to me much satisfaction on this point — wishing, as he said, by those marks of attention to cement a lasting friendship between the two Governments.

I have seen with much pleasure (in the public papers) your circular to the commanders in the Navy — relative to any attempt to take men from on board our Ships — which, had I known prior to my last letters, would have precluded the necessity of a few lines therein.

The health of the Crew of the *Ganges* continues as heretofore perfect, with some trifling exceptions: the most material of which is the pursers Steward who has been displac'd from that Station — and as it appears to me certain, he never will be of the least use in any other on board — I mean to grant him his discharge, which I hope you will approve.

I have the honor to be
&c. &c.

T. T. [THOMAS TINGEY]

Hon^{ble} BENJⁿ STODDERT
Sec^y of the Navy.

[NDA. Tingey LB, 1798-1800.]

To Joseph Waters, Agent for Ship building at Salem, Mass., from
Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department February 23^d 1799.

M^r JOSEPH WATERS
Salem

SIR It being necessary that a person of Character and Judgement should be appointed to Act as the Agent of the Public in superintending the equipment & of the Ship building at Salem by the patriotic subscriptions of your Citizens, and as you have been particularly mentioned to me for that purpose by the Committee, you will be pleased in future to Act in that Capacity, and I shall address you from time to time on the subject of that Vessel, and shall expect to hear from you as to her progress —

I shall send you Lists of Military Stores, Provisions &c which will be wanted; The Water Casks may be preparing and it will tend much to advantageous stowing as well as prove a great convenience on board to have them made generally of a large size.

A supply of Water for 220 Men for six months ought to be calculated on, but our Vessels generally in their construction, do not admit of as much room for Provisions and stores as is necessary, which perhaps may be the case with this Ship — You may therefore calculate on a supply of 4 Months at one Gallon p^r day for each Man — this will require 26400 Gallons, and Casks of the following sizes ought to be procured if practicable. —

20 of 300 Gallons.....	6000
60 of 200 " ".....	12000
40 " 150.....	6000
20 " 100.....	2000
	<hr/>
	26000

These should be made of Staves proportionably thick, and bound with Iron Hoops — If Staves sufficiently large cannot be had, you must be governed by circumstances, and have the casks made as large as the Staves will admit of — They should be well soaked and rinsed, and when filled should have a small quantity of lime put in them — It is of importance to attend to this, as inconveniences have arisen from the water turning sour, and smelling in New Casks. — I have the Honor & C.

P. S. If you will commence this business immediately a remittance shall be made you for the purpose. —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[23 February 1799]

To Acting Lieutenant Samuel B. Brooks, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

SIR, From the first Day of March next ensuing, you are to consider yourself as a Lieutenant in the Navy of the United States, and act on Board this Ship as such, for which you are to consider this as your Order, untill a Commission is procured for you.

You must prepare yourself with the Naval Dress as a Lieutenant; Join the Gun Room Mess, conduct yourself in all Respects as becoming a Gentleman, and Officer, and at the Hazard of your Life, aid your Superiors at all Times in executing the Orders of the Ship, and supporting the Honor & Dignity of the Flag of the United States. If you want a little Money to give you an Outfit, the Purser shall furnish it. I am with every Consideration,

Your Obed^t humble Serv^t

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*
Bassateer Roads, St. Chris[tophers,]
23^d Feby 1799

M^r SAMUEL B. BROOKS.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[23 February 1799]

To Midshipman Enoch Brown, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

SIR, Having known your Father intimately for many Years; and considering your Youth, and hoping that you will so correct your Conduct, as yet to become a useful Member of Society, I give you the Opportunity of a fair Trial, by appointing you a Midshipman on Board the *Insurgente*, commanded by Lieutenant Rodgers. You will therefore repair on Board that Ship, on the 1st Day of March next ensuing, from which Time you will Commence the functions of a Midshipman & Your pay will at the Same time be augmented accordingly.

Your's with Consideration

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*
Bassateer Roads, S^t Christophers
23^d Feby 99. —

M^r ENOCH BROWN.

P. S. Lieutenant Rodgers is to place William M^r Hatton on the *Insurgente's* Books as Midshipman, and he is to receive Pay as such from the 1st Day of March next ensuing. A Master, and another Master's Mate will be provided as soon as eligible Characters are found, as well as all other necessary Officers.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[23 February 1799]

To Lieutenant John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

SIR, By my Account you have now the following on Board the *Insurgente*, including yourself, and all the Officers; and Men, to Viz; —

32 from *Constellation*
14 " *Montazuma*
13 " *Norfolk*

—
59
10 Frenchmen
—

69 total the 23^d February 1799. —

You must visit the Prison Ship, when at Leisure, and every Spaniard, Portuguese, Italian, and in Fact Person of every Nation (Frenchmen, and french Negroes excepted) report to me, as I will detain, and oblige them to do Duty for being in the Service of France, fighting against the U. S. of America, contrary to existing Treaties. Let me know if above Account agrees with your List.

Your Obedient Servant —

Lieutenant RODGERS
Commanding the *Insurgente*

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]



COMMODORE JOHN RODGERS, U. S. NAVY.

[23 February 1799]

To Lieutenant John Rodgers, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun,
U. S. Navy

An Account of Officers, and Seamen &c. turned over, from the
United States Ship, *Constellation*, Thomas Truxtun Esquire, Com-
mander, into *La Insurgente*, commanded by Lieut. John Rodgers,
15th February 1799 to Viz^t —

Lieut. Rodgers, Commander	
Lieut. Archer, 2^d in Command	
M ^r Davis, Midshipman.	
M ^r Sinclair, Ditto.	
M ^r Henry, Surgeon's Mate	
M ^r Smith, Master's Mate	
Francis Donel [or Dorrell], Seaman	5 th March
William Hacket,	Seaman
Alexander Addams,	D ^e
Nathan Brown, —	D ^e
John Phillips,	D ^e
John Finley —	D ^e
Robert Johnson —	D ^e
William Young —	D ^e
William Armstrong —	D ^e
Thomas Chisley	D ^e
Matthew Rawlings	D ^e
John Ballett —	D ^e
John Jones —	D ^e — 3 ^d March
William Taylor,	Ordinary
Charles Malon.....	D ^e
Thomas Dennis.....	D ^e
Conrad Baxter.....	D ^e
Jacob Elsworth.....	D ^e
Spencer Grayson.....	D ^e
James Ash.....	D ^e
John Rawlings.....	D ^e
James Coyle.....	D ^e
Henry Allen.....	D ^e
William Howell.....	D ^e
W ^m M ^r Hatton (Midship ⁿ)	D ^e
Samuel Brown.....	D ^e
1st Mate Enoch Brown,	Midshipman
Joseph Atkinson }	Boatswain
John Light }	5 th March
John Ponsonby, Q. Master }	
John Evans, Midshipman }	9 th March
[One name obliterated]	

Lieut. RODGERS,

SIR, You will find the Number and Grades per above List agree-
able to my Order of the 15th which you have in Writing. Every other
Man belonging to the *Constellation*, on Board your Ship, you are to
return immediately by M^r Sterett.

I am,

Your Obed^t Servant.

U. S. Ship, *Constellation*

23^d February 1799 —

[about 23 February 1799]

Memorandum of Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy, regarding personnel for
L'Insurgente

List of Officers & Men for the *Insurgente* when in regular and complete order for any Cruise Expedition.
Commission, with all the Arrangements made finally by the Presid^t of the U. S. confirming, or rejecting the present temporary Appointment.

One Captain
Three Lieutenants
One Master
One Lieutenant of Marines
One Surgeon
One Purser
One Surgeon's Mate
One Boatswain
One Gunner
One Carpenter
One Sail Maker
Eight Midshipmen
Two Masters Mates
Two Boatswain's Mates
Two Gunner's Mates
Two Carpenter's Mates
One Boatswain's Yeoman
One Gunner.... Ditto
One Carpenters... Ditto
One Coxswain
One Sail Maker's Mate
One Master at Arms
One Armourer
One Captain's Clerk
One Cooper
One Ships, or Purser's Steward
Nine Quarter Gunners
Eight Quarter Masters
One Ships Cook.
One Loblolly Boy
Two Serjeants
Two Corporals
One Drum
One Fife
Thirty Marines which are as many as are necessary for a mere Cruising.
Ship of this Sort. —
One Hundred Able Seamen
Ninety Six Ordinary Seamen, and Boys
Total Compliment
200 200 Men
~~three hundred men~~

Temporary Appointments for the *Insurgente* made by me —

Lieutenant Rodgers, Commander
Lieut: Archer, second in Command

Lieut: Macrea, of the Marines
Isaac Henry, as Surgeon
Mr Davis
Mr Sinclair } Midshipmen
Mr Brown
Mr M^r Hatton }
Mr Joseph Shippen Smith, Master
Mr Evans, Midshipman.
Joseph Atkinson, Boatswain.
John Light.
John Ponsonby } Q^r Masters

As eligible Persons are found the blanks of temporary Officers will be filled up. —

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 23 February 1799

[Prince Rupert Bay.] Fresh Breezes. Bent the fore sail and hove Short at ½ past 6 P. M. weigh'd and came to Lea.

At 12 came by Gaudaloupe At 5 Englishmans head bore East 3 Leagues.

Saw 3 Sail Stand^t to the Northw^t made Sail & gave [chace] Saw the chace run into Monseratt at 10 Tack'd to the Southw^t Punished Jn^r Dade Seaman & Joseph Baker Seaman each with 12 Lashes for fighting cleaned between Decks at 12 Antigua west extreme N.E.b. N. 7 Leagues distant Monseratt W. N. W. 2 Leagues.

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 23 February 1799

First part light wind & pleasant weather — at 4 PM the SW part of St Thomas' bore SE b S Dist. 6 leagues from which I take my Dep^t it being in latt 18.25 North and long. 64.41 West from London. Made Signals for the fleet to Close & keep with the Convoy before night — Reef'd the top Sails

Middle & latter parts pleasant & Steady breezes.

[Long'de ob'd. 64.53 W.

Latt'de ob'd. 19.45 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*, Saturday, 23 February 1799

Light breeze & pleasant weather, all hands variously employ'd, the Convoy about 2 Miles a Stern, at 3 Exercised the Great Guns and Small Arms and muster'd all hands to their Stations in taking and veering Ship manoeuver'd them till 5 P M

Made and shortend Sail occasionally

At 5 A M got the short Gibb Boom in & rigged out the Long one Gunner & his mate employd fixing double headed shot to the shot Lockers.

Meridian Moderate & pleasant, Convoy 2 Miles a Stern

Distance per Log — 60

[Lat. Observed 30 — 38 N
Long. Observed 56 — 52 W]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mallowny, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate *United States*, 23 February 1799

Spoke the Sloop of War *Richmond* Cap^t Barron.

[NA.]

[About 24 February 1799]

To Lieutenant William Bainbridge, U. S. Navy, from Regis Le Blanc, Envoy of General Desfourneaux, etc., concerning his treatment while prisoner at Guadeloupe

FROM THE AURORA.

SIR, I request you, to insert in your next Gazette a copy of a letter which I handed to you two days ago, containing considerations on certain letters, the wrong impression of which ought not to be suffered to remain.

R. L.

TO WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE, Commander of the Schooner *Retaliation*.

SIR, I have read in Mr. Brown's paper of the 15th inst. an extract of a letter said to be written by you, when in Guadaloupe, to a friend of yours at St. Bartholomew's. The apprehensions manifested in it that you expected to receive from general Desfourneaux in answer to the letter you had written to him, an order for being put in close confinement. — The terms in which this article is expressed do not coincide with the terms of that very letter which you directed to him, and very little I dare say, with the treatment you have particularly received from him.

You will permit me to make use of the same mode to remove, if possible, the impression which your extract has probably made on the minds of many of your fellow-citizens, already and unhappily too much prejudiced against the French nation. You will not deem it improper that I should here compare the letter written by you, to your friend, at St. Bartholomew's, with the letter written by you to general Desfourneaux, to communicate to him some reflections, relating to a request made him to take again the command of the schooner *Retaliation*, to return her to the government of the United States, as a simple and friendly restitution.

"After what you told me yesterday, general, (this is your letter) "it appears, that your intention is to reestablish me in the command of "the schooner *Retaliation*. I take the liberty to lay before you some "reflections I have made on that subject, which proceed from my "duty as an officer, and from my gratitude for your politeness.

"Being established in my command, (added you) I cannot avoid "obeying the orders and instructions which I received from my "government. These instructions prescribe to me to seize all French "vessels. In not doing it I expose myself to be dismissed the service "of the United States, or to receive any other punishment which "may be inflicted by a court martial.

"On the other hand (such are still, or very near your own expressions) can I permit myself after the treatment I receive from you, "in going out of your harbour, and especially after having given you "my parole of honor not to do it, can I permit myself to seize your "vessel; on the contrary honor and humanity will not permit."

You concluded by telling him the way of conciliating every thing, that is to say, what your duty required from you and gratitude for his politeness, which was to send back the *Retaliation* as a Cartel.

This is very near, I dare to affirm it, the contents of your letter, which I am ready to acknowledge, does honor to you in acting according to the dictates of your duty. Your frankness produced on general Desfourneaux, a very different effect from what you apprehended, an effect which it ought to produce on a man, who in knowing his own duty as an officer, could not but perceive what was the duty of another officer. You were perfectly free when you wrote that letter, I will do you the justice to think and say, that nothing forced it from you; it ought, therefore, to be considered as the free expression of what you felt then, as the expression of truth.

It has been publicly reported that you had been in close confinement during forty or fifty days, that you had been treated in common with the sailors. Is there one word of truth in these reports? I appeal to your own testimony, did you stay more than ten or twelve days on board the frigate *la Volontaire*? Were you not treated as an officer by captain St. Laurent and his officers? Did you not obtain from general Desfourneaux after the application made to him by captain St. Laurent and myself, the perfect liberty of going on shore and there to take lodgings? did not general Desfourneaux invite you several times to dine? did we not dine twice with him together? did he not offer you a seat at his table wherever you thought proper? did he not offer to supply you with what money you might be in want of? did he not in fact lend you some? did he not repeat frequently to you, that he did not consider you as an officer of a nation with whom we are in war, but as a friend and ally? did not his conduct throughout uniformly prove his sincerity, when you acquainted him that lieutenant Geddes had been confounded with white and black sailors, and he did not testify to you his astonishment and his regrets? did he not deliver you at the instant an order, prescribing to the director of the hospital to treat him as officer, and to put him consequently in a private room? has not Mr. Geddes been treated from that instant according to the order? He has frequently repeated to me since that time that he had no cause to complain; he is here, let him be questioned, he is a young man of honor, and I believe incapable of speaking otherwise than the truth, let him speak.

Among the American captains detained in Guadaloupe, had there been a single one put in prison, since the departure of Victor Hugues? Captain Bingham, and Mr. Miler, supercargoes, both of this city, who came passengers with you, have they been in confinement a single day? How many vessels were condemned since the departure of Victor Hugues? Did you not learn from general Desfourneaux, a few days before we left the island, being myself the interpreter for you and him, that knowing of an American vessel being taken, and sent to Point a Petre, by the frigate *l'Insurgente*, to have her trial, he had given immediate orders to set her free, and only invited the capt to exchange his cargo, which consisted of salted provisions, for sugar and coffee. These, Sir, are not suppositions; these are facts, these are convincing proofs of the change which has taken place in the government of Guadaloupe according to the orders of the French Directory, which shews their friendly disposition.

The American citizens, it is said have been detained several days, after the departure of Victor Hugues; this is true. But political reasons rendered that measure necessary: It was thought very essential to conceal from the British division cruising before our harbour, the departure of the frigate *la Volontaire*. The general feared with reason, that if some of them were once free, they might steal a boat, and take refuge on board the British vessels, and give them information of what was passing in our port. The flight of three American sailors, who stole out at noonday the boat belonging to the vessel

in which they were employed, and took refuge on board the British sloop of war cruising there, fully justified the measure employed by general Desfourneaux; it being impossible in an island which has no settlement but on the sea, to send the detained people in to the back country, as is commonly practised on the continent; you have, Sir, a full knowledge of the above mentioned facts.

Again, is it not true, that several days before our departure, 27 of your captains, of whom a list has been sent to your government, went to St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's, with passports, of which General Desfourneaux granted them, at their *first* request, I made and presented for six of them at eleven o'clock in the morning, a petition for that purpose, and at four in the afternoon they got them; these are facts — they are this day on the continent, and may attest the truth of them.

Is it not also true, Sir, that when complaints were made by you to Gen. Desfourneaux, interpreted by myself, of the ill treatment your men suffered under the goaler, that he sent for that goaler, and menaced him in your presence, to dismiss him if his future conduct should be the same — what he did then, I ask you could he have done sooner? was all this made known to him before? So much employed as he was, and you can have no doubt of it, in appeasing movements of insurrection which were manifested in the different parts of the island. So much employed in endeavoring to prevent dreadful events with which the colony was threatened; sick in bed during ten or twelve days, will they look upon it as a crime, not to have entered upon the direct details of his administration, such as that of goals, or a criminal tribunal; we must begin by extinguishing the fire which burns our house before we think of setting order in it; is it possible to organize a colony in one day? it requires a space of time to prepare that work, it requires another one for to settle at his post every public functionary.

These reflections will diminish, in the impartial and unprejudiced minds, the supposed wrongs with which Gen. Desfourneaux is charged in your late papers.

I am convinced, sir, after the principles of honor I think you possess, that the people who sent to be printed the pieces which have appeared, and especially the extract of a letter of St. Bartholomews, did not receive their instructions from you. I render to you the justice to believe that you would have said to them, when I wrote that letter to Gen. Desfourneaux I apprehended the reception it would meet with, my fears were ill grounded, my letter proved successful, my proposition was accepted.

This is, sir, a very long letter, but the essential details it contains, and on which I could not be silent did not permit me to abridge it. I owe them to the loyalty of Gen. Desfourneaux, I owe them still more to truth, if there is in the contents of it a single fact contrary to it, I solicit you to deny it in the face of the public.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

REGIS LEBLANC.

[LC, NY, "ARGUS, or Greenleaf's Daily Advertiser", 26 Feb., 1799.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 24 February 1799

Moderate Weather Made and Shortend Sail as Occasion Required
Muster'd Ships Company and read the Articles of War.

At 7 Monseratt W.S.W. 5 Leagues Antigua South extreme E.b.S.
9 Leagues.

At 9 Wore to the Southward off English Harbour and bro't too wth
the Main Top Sail Aback Sent an officer & boats crew to land M^r
Ellery the Gent^l rec^d on b^d at Prince Ruperts Bay. At 10 performd
Divine Service.

[Latitude observed 17° 04^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy,
commanding, Sunday, 24 February 1799

First part pleasant Weather & Steady moderate breezes

At 3 PM saw 2 sail ahead — Made sail for them at 4 D^o fir'd a Shott
& brought one of them too sent the Boat on board The Brig *Harriett*
of Charleston W^m Cook Master — the other a Schooner from N York
both bound to S^t Thomas'

Middle part pleasant

Latter part D^o weather & light winds

[Long'de ob'd. 65.01W.]

[Latt'de ob'd. 21.17N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

[25 February 1799]

An Act for the augmentation of the Navy

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That under the orders of the President of the United States, and in addition to the naval armament already authorized by law, there shall be built within the United States, six ships of war, of a size to carry, and which shall be armed with not less than seventy-four guns each; and there shall be built or purchased within the United States, six sloops of war, of a size to carry, and which shall be armed with eighteen guns each, or not exceeding that force; all which ships and vessels shall be procured, manned and employed as soon as may be, for the service of the United States: And in part of the necessary expenditures to be incurred herein, a sum not exceeding one million of dollars, shall be, and is hereby appropriated, and shall be paid out of any monies which shall be in the treasury of the United States, not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby authorized to augment, at his discretion, the force of any ship or vessel, now in the service, or building for the service of the United States, by allowing an additional number of guns and men therein, beyond the established rate, and according to the respective size and capacity of such ship or vessel: And a sum

not exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars, shall be, and is hereby appropriated to defray the expense of such augmentation, and shall be paid out of any monies which shall be in the treasury of the United States, not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States shall be, and is hereby authorized to place on the naval establishment, and employ accordingly, all or any of the vessels which, as revenue cutters, have been increased in force, and employed in the defence of the sea-coast, pursuant to the act, intituled "An act providing a naval armament"; and thereupon, the officers and crews of such vessels, may be allowed, at the discretion of the President of the United States, the pay, subsistence, advantages and compensations, proportionably to the rates of such vessels, and shall be governed by the rules and discipline, which are, or which shall be established for the navy of the United States.

Approved, February 25, 1799.

[Statute III. Page 621.]

[25 February 1799]

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

SIR, I gave M^r Clarkson a Paper a few Days ago, containing Terms for entering Seamen, and requesting him to write to some Gentleman at Saint Thomas's to procure me all the Men possible for the *Insurgente*, as I was unacquainted at that Island, and he accordingly wrote to a Gentleman, and forwarded the Letter to him immediately.

You will call on M^r Clarkson for an Introduction to his Friend at Saint Thomas's, and in Conjunction with him on your Arrival there procure me all the Seamen, and Landsmen, Boys, &c. possible.

Able Seamen.....	17 Dollars per Month
Ordinary.....	10 — ditto
Boys.....	6 — ditto

As soon as you procure all the Men that is possible at Saint Thomas's, return with them here, and I hope to see you early next Week.

I am Sir, very respectfully

Your Obed^t humble Servant,

P. S. Enter all you can for 12 }
Months, and so down to three Months }
as you can get the Men to agree — — }

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*

Bassateer Roads, S^t Christophers —

25th February 1799 — — — — —

Captⁿ SAMUEL BARRON

U. S. Brig, *Richmond*.

[HS of PA. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

[25 February 1799]

To Monsieur Beauvarlet, one of the Administrators of the Colony of Guadeloupe,
from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

SIR, On your Compliance with my Letter of the 14th Instant to General Desforneaux, I will release the french Seamen, captured on Board the *Insurgente*, and all the Officers, the latter to continue on Parole. You will observe that I leave you at Liberty, to use the Term, Prisoners, Captives, or Americans, as you may think proper.

I wish much to settle this Business with as little Difficulty as possible, but I cannot yield to the Arguments or Dictates of any Man, which are contrary to my own Judgement.

I am, Sir,

Your very Obed^t Servant —

U: STATES' SHIP, *Constellation*
Bassateer Road 25th Febr'y 1799.

MONSIEUR BEAUVERLAT

One of the Administrators of the Colony of
Gaudaloupe.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Samuel Church, Joseph Allen, and George McLellan, Masters of American
Sailing Vessels at Guadeloupe, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

UNITED STATES SHIP *Constellation*,
Bassateer Roads, St Christopher's 25th February 1799 —

GENTLEMEN, I have received your Letter of the 23^d Instant. I am told you are not considered as Prisoners, but on the Contrary, you are at Liberty to leave Gaudaloupe, whenever you please. In my official Capacity, I must consider the real Interest of my Country, and in doing which, my Instructions form the Basis of my Conduct. I am certain your Situation, by being kept in a State of Suspence (with Respect to your Property) must be truly disagreeable, but I cannot relieve you, as you think proper to remain in Gaudaloupe to wait the Issue of your Trials. All the Americans that join me here, shall be provided for, and a Conveyance found them to the U. S.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obed^t Servant

To Messr^s

SAMUEL CHURCH	} Master of American Vessels
JOSEPH ALLEN	
GEORGE MCLELLAN	
	Gaudaloupe —

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

Presumably to Rufus King, U. S. Minister, London, from Elias VanderHorst,
U. S. Consul, Bristol, England

BRISTOL Feb^y 25th 1799

DEAR SIR. Since my last of the 1st Ult^o I have been honored with yours of the 23^d Inst. covering two Letters for Philadelphia, which I

have delivered to Cap^t Martin of the American Snow *Ranger* bound to Baltimore. She is a very complete Vessel, Copper-bottomed, mounts 14 Carriage Guns and Sails remarkably fast — this Vessel & the *Planter* (of which I before advised you) intend sailing in Comp^y and to run it — they are both now in King-Road but should you wish to write farther by them I think your Letter in [illegible] of Post would be in good time. — I am sorry you were not before advised of the *Ranger* — my being absent from Home for the last fortnight † was the cause. I therefore hope your goodness will excuse it, especially as you may depend I shall take care to guard against the like in future. — The Vessels noted below are the Only Americans now here besides those I have already mentioned, but these will all Sail together under the first Convoy for the U States. I remain with great respect & regard

Dear Sir,

Yours very Sincerely

ELIAS VANDERHORST

Ships *Venus* } for
Nonparel } New York. }

†I returned Home yesterday

[SDA. Bristol, Vol. 1, 1791-1799.]

[25 February 1799]

Protest of Captain John Johnson, Master of the Schooner *Betsey*, captured by the French Privateer *La Republicain*

[Translation]

Before the undersigned Notaries public in the Island Guadaloupe residing at Basseterre, appeared John Johnson master of the American Schooner *Betsey* of New York who being assisted by the Citizen Bernier sworn interpreter in the English Language (called for that purpose) and through whose means after having made oath before said Notaries Declared that having been detained in the Prison of this City of Basseterre from the moment of his arrival here until the fourteenth of this month, Corresponding with the 4th of March 1799 Ancient style, he hath not been able till this day to make his protest against whomsoever it may belong or in any wise concern for the Causes hereafter explained as follows —

That the appearer made sail in said Schooner *Betsey* under his command from said port of New York bound for the port of Laguaira on the Spanish main with an assorted Cargo — That on the fourth of february last he left sandy hook, the wind being from the westward — the Seventh of said month he had a heavy gale of wind which obliged him to keep under reefed sails but seeing that the sea had become very high and breaking on Deck, and had stove in the stem of his boat he had layed to under reefed mainsail, the sea continually striking on deck, and by such quantities as to carry away part of the railing of the Larboard side pumping every hour, the winds from the westward — That on the eight of said month of february the wind moderated and he made sail and continued his voyage, nothing extraordinary having occurred until the 24th of said month, when being in Longitude 59 Degrees 58 minutes & in Latitude 17 Degrees 27 Minutes he discovered a sail which he thought to be a Cruiser

That the Deponent tacked ship and stood to the northward and Eastward, at four oClock in the afternoon it began to rain, at six oClock he lost sight of said sail, tacked about and stood to the South East On the next day about seven oClock in the Morning he saw a sail to the Eastward, standing to the westward, at eight oClock he crowded sail on her and steered course to the South west, but having discovered that she was a Cruiser, the Deponent ordered that every one should keep his quarters — at ten she distinguished her colours which were english, that he then hoisted his on the mizen peek and the pendant on the head of the mainmast, at Eleven oClock the vessel being within Cannon shot; fired at the schooner *Betsey*, to which she answered by firing two shots, that afterwards attacking him, she took down her english Colours and hoisted french colours, and all at once gave the *Betsey* a broadside, which he answered by his, and after that a General battle followed — But the Deponent perceiving that she was of superior force to his schooner and had above eighty men on board, struck to the privateer the *republican* Captain Bandin [or Baudin] of Besseterre Guadaloupe; it being then past twelve, this privateer had in fact 10 Guns six pounders, and ninety five men in Crew, with a Compleat set of small arms which did much Damage to the sails and rigging of the *Betsey* the Deponent himself having been wounded in the right leg — the twenty sixth of said month of february the Deponent came to anchor in the road of Basseterre, from whence he and his crew were brought on shore, and all confined in the prison kept for Criminals, on the next day they were carried and transferred to that of prisoners of war, the fourth of the above said month of march, the Deponent and his Super Cargo were taken out — that the people of the privateer had taken from the Deponent his watch a quadrant books and other effects together with all the Ships papers & have likewise taken from the Super Cargo a gold watch and other articles — On their arrival here the Deponent, his officers and Crew were brought before the Minicipality — The Deponent observed above all that after he had struck the privateer fired on his vessel upwards of fifty musket shots, For reason of all which circumstances and Dependencies the Deponent declared to us to protest, as in fact by these presents doth firmly protest, for all what he may protest lawfully in such cases, reserving in consequence to provide himself thereof, when he may choose proper and in time and place against whom it may belong, Act of which to him granted by said Notaries at his request to serve as need may require it — Done and passed it the Study [?], the Sixteenth day of the month of ventose, seventh year of the french republic one and indivisible, before noon, and the Deponent signed with said Notaries, and the said Citizen Bernier sworn Interpreter, on these presents, the minutes of which remain in possession of Vanchelet, one of them, after perusal of the same by them, first made and this interpretation by said interpreter, to said Deponent who declared to comprehend and understand the whole, thus signed to the minutes, John Johnson Bernier Interpreter with Serane Notary & Vanchelet notary undersigned

Collated

VANCHELET

Not

I Canut Robinson president of the Municipal administration of Basseterre Guadaloupe, Certify to all to whom it may belong that

the above signature is that of the Citizen Vanchelet Notary public in this Colony, that full faith shall be given to it in Judicature and there-out. In Testimony whereof I have signed these presents which are Countersigned by the Secretary Register and sealed with the seal of the tribunal — Certify besides that the Controll & Stamped paper are not made use of in this Colony — Given at the town house the 27th Ventose 7th Year of the french republic one and indivisible —

L.S.

ROBINSON

L ROUNE

*presid^t**Sec^t Reg^t*

[Ct of Cl. French Spol. Case No. 1110.]

[25 February 1799]

Extract of a letter from Captain William Malcolm, late master of the Ship *Carolina*, dated Paimpol, 10 May 1799, regarding her capture by the French privateer, lugger, *Courageux*

"Before you receive this you must be acquainted of my capture on the 25th February, five weeks out, the Start Point distant four leagues, I was attacked by the French lugger privateer the *Courageux* of six guns and fifty men, when after an action of two hours he boarded and carried me with thirty men; having but a slender force to oppose with, which was weakened by two of my men being severely wounded in the early part of the engagement. I defended the property as long as there was a possibility of resisting, and now acquaint you I am detained here as a prisoner of war, and can form no idea when I shall be released; my people have been marched about 200 miles into the country. On writing to the Consul General at Paris he promises to demand my release, and if refused, to solicit my absence on parole."

[LC, Charleston, S. C., "Coliseum Museum & Savannah Advertiser", 10 Sept. 1799.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 25 February 1799

Fine Weather Stand^d off and on English Harbour (Antigua) filld & made Sail to the Southward

at 5 A to the Northward

at 7 N.E. end Grandterre bore S.S.E. 7 leagues. the S.E. end Antigua N.E.b.E. 4 Leagues.

at 5 N.E. end Grandterre bore S.S.E. 4 Miles

At Merdⁿ Antigua N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 7 Leagues distance.

East End of Grandterre S.b.E. 5 Leagues distance

[Latitude 16. 46 N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 25 February 1799

Pleasant weather & moderate breezes throughout these 24 hours 33 sail in Company, some of the fleet having bore away & left the Convoy —

Under short sail some of the fleet sailing very dull. —

Latter part all hands employ'd washing the vessell out between Decks &^e

[Long'de ob'd. 65.28 W.]
[Latt'de ob'd. 22.19 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*, BASSATEER ROAD
St Christopher's 26 February 1799 —

DEAR SIR, After referring to the several Papers here enclosed, which principally relate to the Business of the Frigate *Insurgente*, and my Correspondence with General Desforneaux, together with the final Arrangement made with Monsieur Beauvarlet, the Officer he authorized, and sent to effect an Exchange of Prisoners with me, I hope to find that all I have done will meet the Approbation of the President of the United States.

We are in Want of various Stores, but trust I shall soon hear of a Transport being arrived, and that I shall also find my Force augmented; for be assured, Sir, the immense Commerce from the United States to these Islands, makes frequent Convoys indispensably necessary. During the short Period, I have been in these Seas, near two hundred Sail of Vessels have sailed under the Protection of our Flag from this Island, bound to different Parts of the Continent, and I have now a Petition before me, from a Number of Masters of our Vessels at Antigua for a Convoy which I shall give, as soon as any of the Vessels of my Division (now out on Service) arrive, or I am enabled to leave this Road myself, whichever may first happen.

Admiral Harvey's good Disposition and that of the Commanders of all the British Ships of War on this Station towards our Men of War, and armed Vessels, is fully manifested by their polite, and friendly Conduct on all Occasions, and it has been no less my constant Study to cultivate a lasting, and social Intercourse with them, than it appears to be the Wish of all Descriptions of People here to see harmony and I shall continue to observe an Uniformity of Deportment towards every English Officer, and Subject I meet, as long as their Conduct shall be correct towards us.

I have dispatched the *Richmond* to Saint Thomas's, and have given Orders to Captain Barron, to procure immediately for the *Insurgente* all the Men Possible at that Place; at the same Time Lieutenant Rodgers her Commander, will use all the Exertions in his Power to enter American Seamen here. In Hopes soon to hear from you in Reply to this, and my other Dispatches (forwarded by the *Caroline*) I have the Honor to remain with great Respect, and Esteem,

Your most Obed^t humble Servant

HON^{ble} BEN^t STODDERT

Secretary of Navy.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Captain Richard Derby, U. S. Navy, from C. W. Goldsborough, for Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

N Department 26th Feb. 1799

Cap^t RICHARD DERBY *Salem*

SIR The President of the United States, by and with the advice and Consent, of the Senate, hav^t appointed you a Cap^t in the Navy: I am instructed by the Secretary of the Navy, to make the communication to you; —

You will be pleased to communicate your acceptance or non acceptance of this Appointment. In the event of your acceptance, you will take the enclosed Oath and forward it to this office. — It is intended that you shall superintend the Construction of the Frigate building at Salem — you will therefore be pleased to give every necessary attention to this object.

I have the honor &c

C. W. G[OLDSBOROUGH] for
B. S[TODDERT]

[NDA, OSW, Vol. 1.]

To William Nicholls, Marshall of Pennsylvania, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 26th Feby. 1799.

WILLIAM NICHOLLS Esquire

Marshal.

SIR Please to direct ten of the Prisoners at Lancaster, to be sent to this place — They are wanted to put the *Retaliation* in order for her return — and should be sailors — The Captains of the Privateers will write to an Officer among the Prisoners, to select the men — If they are furnished with Rations for four days, it may be sufficient to bring them to Philadelphia — A guard I presume will not be necessary. —

I am &c

[NDA, GLB, Vol. 1.]

To Major Commandant W. W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from First Lieutenant John Hall, U. S. Marine Corps

ON BOARD THE BRIG *South Carolina*

26th Feby 1799

Maj^r WILLIAM W. BURROWS

SIR I have neglected writing for some time past on account of my not being able (before now) to give you any information in what manner the detachments were to be stationed, not knowing that L^t James was to return to the Northward I concluded (and so did M^r Simons) that he wou'd take Command of the first detachment, but he sais it was not your orders for him to do so, that they extended no further than to deliver the detachment you sent forward to me & for him to recruit in Charleston. I wrote him a Letter on the subject & now inclose you Copy of his answer, & hope I have not done wrong in so doing. I have taken Command of the first Detachment myself on Board of the *South Carolina*. Capt. Pain, who sails tomorrow on a Cruise to the Southward & do not expect to return under Two Months. I took the liberty of drawing a sett of Bills on you in favour of M^r Simons, the men being so much in want of a few little necessities as well as myself before we went out that I cou'd not avoid doing it. I now inclose you a receipt Roll, the pay Roll being already forwarded by M^r S: — you will then be able to judge how much we were in want of the detachment you sent forward, it is almost an impossibility for to Recruit men in this Country. Capt^a Huger of the Artillerist

& Engineer is in the same situation with ourselves though he gives a large Bounty.

Lieut. Maine will take the Command of the 2nd Detachment on board of the *General Pinckney*, which vessel will be obliged to go to the Northward for the purpose of getting men, as it is impossible for her to get them here. Our Frigate will be Launched the 1st of May & shou'd be extremely obliged to you if convenient to let me have a Command on board of her as I am particularly acquainted with Capt. Cross & am convinced he will be able to give me a number of instructions that will be of infinite service to me — I remain

D^r Sir

Yours sincerely

JOHN HALL
1st Lieut. Marines

[MCA. LR, 1799]

[26 February 1799]

Capture of the schooner *Amity* of Columbia, Maine, by French privateer, *La Zaboa*.

FRENCH GENEROSITY

Arrived at Gloucester on Thursday last, ship *Industry*, Sweat, 32 days from the bay of Honduras. Passenger, Capt. *Nathan Clark*, master of the sch. *Amity*, of Columbia, (Maine,) who relates the following: — That the said sch. was from the bay of Honduras, bound to Charleston, and that on the 26th of Feb. Cape Antonio, bearing N. E. 6 leagues distant, was captured by the French privateer *La Zaboa*, of Cape-Francois, but last from the Havannah, and that Capt. C. supposes the vessel was sent to Campeche, a Spanish port; that the Frenchmen robbed the whole crew of every thing except what they had on; that the crew were obliged to leave their vessel, and come on board the privateer; that on the 6th March, the picaroon was captured by the English frigate *Maidstone*, and ordered for Kingston, and on our arrival there, the American Captains on hearing of our misfortune, politely gave us every assistance we stood in need of. On the 31st March, Capt. C. took passage in the sloop *Brilliant*, Kellog, of Nantucket, for Savannah, who in two days after leaving port, was again captured by the French privateer sch. *Prudent*, of 10 guns, who plundered and then sunk the *Brilliant*, and also burnt the sch. *Betsy*, Capt. Barney, of Rhode-Island, who was then in co. The privateer had taken the ship *Betsy*, Drysden, of Wilmington, and after destroying the two vessels, gave up the *Betsy*, and put all the Americans on board of her which was about 40, without any more provisions than what was then on board. On the 13th of April, the *Betsy* fell in with the ship *Industry*, Capt. Swett, of Newburyport, bound here, in co. which vessel Capt. Clark and Kellog got on board and arrived safe at Gloucester. ~~As~~ Capt. C. returns his most grateful thanks to his fellow countrymen, for their assistance, while in distress, and assures them, their humanity will ever be dear to him.

Arrived, at Newport, sch. *Sally*, Parsons, of Boston, 13 days from New-Providence. — Left there, *Two Brothers*, Eastabrooks, of Boston, sch. *Lydia*, Lumber, of Truro; and several southern vessels.

[LC, Boston, "Columbian Centinel", 4 May, 1799.]

[26 February 1799]

Letter regarding capture of the British Ship *Cicero* by French Privateer *Democrat* and recapture by the U. S. Frigate *United States*

[From our Philadelphia Correspondent.]

For the following INTERESTING Letter from a Young Gentlemen of this city, belonging to the Frigate *United States*, Commodore Barry, we are indebted to the politeness of an obliging Correspondent:

ST. PIERRE, MARTINIQUE — SHIP *Cicero*,
March 9, 1799.

"I HAVE been here in this ship about 10 days, as prize-master — she belongs to Liverpool, was captured by the French privateer schooner *Democrat*, and re-captured by the frigate *United States* and sent in here. Her cargo consists principally of live stock, such as oxen, jack-asses, horses, &c. and is valued at about 30,000 dollars, of which I suppose one eighth will fall to us — She is a fine ship of 430 tons, mounts 20 nine-pounders, and carries 50 men, or rather 35 men and 15 boys. The privateer mounts 12 nine-pounders, and had 100 men. They fought two hours and an half, and after the French had boarded her, fought on the deck three quarters. Out of 50 hands on board, the captain and three men were killed, and 26 wounded. Could I but give you a description of the scene this ship presented when we first took possession of her, it would make your heart shudder. Never were men more inhumanly mangled, and much of it done too after they had given up. A little boy, who was a favourite of the captain, was ordered by the Frenchman to go aloft and haul down the colours—he cried, and said, he could not, which was the fact — The Frenchman immediately up with his cutlass and cut his arm almost off, and otherwise wounded him in several places. The Englishmen, there can be no doubt, fought like men; everything on board proves it. The French had been in possession of her about 36 hours before we recaptured her, during which time not one of the poor fellows who had been wounded, had been dressed, nor a single bucket of water thrown on the deck. They were in a perfect gore of blood, insomuch, that when the ship would roll with the heave of the sea, the blood in the cabin run from side to side in a perfect current.

The capture of this ship ought to be a serious lesson to our merchants, how they fit out the vessels. They put on board 10 or a dozen guns with twice the number of men, at the utmost, and then think she is able to cope with any thing she may possibly meet with. This is a great mistake. It is incredible how these Frenchmen fight, when driven to desperation. Having nothing to lose, and every thing to gain, wherever they see any thing that looks like plunder, nothing will deter them from attempting the most daring enterprize. The *Democrat* has taken two or three other ships of equal force, and carried them into Gaudaloupe. We found 30 Frenchmen on board this ship, who were put on board the frigate.

[LC "Connecticut Courant" 22 April, 1799.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 26 February 1799

Cloudy Weather At 4 Saw a Strange Sail bear^e E.S.E. another S.E. at 12 Squally with Rain.

at 5 Saw a Strange Sail bear^e E.S.E. made Sail and gave chase

At 9 Answerd the private Signal of the U.S. Ship *Geo. Washington* Wash'd and fumigated between Decks.

At 11 A.M. Saw 2 Sails bear^e S.S.W. 12 Miles observ'd one to be in chase of the other Made Sail gave them chase.

At 12 the S.E. end of Deseada S.b.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 7 or 8 miles.

[Latitude observed 16° 08^m N°]

[NDA.]

To His Excellency, General Desfourneaux, Commander in Chief of the Island of Guadeloupe, etc., from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constellation* IN THE ROAD OF BASSATEER,
Saint Christophers 27th Feby 1799 —

SIR, I had the Honor to receive your Letter of the 22^d Instant (5th Ventose) and having finally made an Arrangement with Monsieur Beauvarlet for an Exchange of Prisoners, as per his Receipt of this Date, I gave immediate Orders, that all the french Seamen, (except a few, that it is necessary for me to send to America,) should be put on Board your Cartels, which will be respected by all the Ships of War of my Nation. You have demanded formally, that I liberate those Officers, who I permitted on Parole, and are now in your Island; this Demand, Sir, I cannot comply with, but Mess^{rs} Petit Peire, and Devers, as well as the Surgeon, and Monsieur Burand, [?] [or Benand?] who was wounded, and cannot proceed by the present Oppertunity, I release intirely, and leave them at full Liberty; I shall expect in Return, that you will not be backward (should an Occasion occur) in showing the like Generosity. The Americans now with you, and those that the Fortune of War may hereafter put in your Power, I shall expect here according to the Agreement made with Monsieur Beauvarlet, and on a full Reliance of an Observance of good Faith on your Part. —

I leave for the present our two Governments to settle all Matters of Expençe respecting Prisoners, in Consequence of Monsieur Beauvarlet's Assurances, that the Cartels sent to the United States from Gaudaloupe were dispatched at the Expençe of the french Republic, and that no Reimbursement is immediately demanded, or expected in America.

As long as the Misunderstanding exists between our two Governments &c; it will afford me Satisfaction to find moderate, and humane Measures adopted by both Parties; and on this Account I have waived noticeing several Expressions in your Correspondence, that ought not to have dropt from an Officer of your high Station, especially one, who professes a conciliatory Disposition towards the U. S.

No high toned Expressions, or Threats will ever make an American swerve from his Duty; he takes his Post, when his Country calls upon him, and will there execute the sacred Trust reposed in him of defend-

ing the Honor of his Nation's Flag, and preserving her Interest. I am, Sir, with Respect, and great Consideration,

Your very Obed^t humble Servant

To His Excellency Gen^l DESFORNEAUX
Com^{dt} in Chief of the Island of Gaudaloupe
& it's Dependencies &c. &c. &c. —

[HS of Pa. NDA Photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-99.]

[27 February 1799]

Substance of a Conversation and Negotiation between Monsieur Beauvarlet (one of the Administrators of the Government of Guadeloupe, sent by General Desfourneaux) and Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy, respecting an Exchange of Prisoners

On Monsieu Beauvarlet's Arrival here from the Seat of the Government at Gaudaloupe, and delivering me General Desforneau's second Letter, he declared, that there were only about 25 Americans now on that Island, and that they were at Liberty to join me here, or go to Neutral Islands, as they pleased, but on this Offer being made to them, they thought proper to remain with their Vessels, in Preference to leaving Gaudaloupe, and gave as a reason, that they would wait the Decision of the Government, respecting the Acquittal, or Condemnation of their Ships. Monsieu Beauvarlet added, that the particular Agent did not consider the Americans, as Prisoners, and consequently could not admit of the Term being used, nor could he force them away. — I told him, that it was strange such a Doctrine should come from them at this Day, when for upwards of two Years past, Hundreds of our unfortunate Seamen had been confined in the Prisons of Gaudaloupe, and Prison Ships of their Ports, and that many of them had been treated in the most barbarous Manner, and further that General Desforneau in his Letter to the President of the United States had absolutely used the Term, which I showed him in one of their own printed Copies: But notwithstanding all this I considered it immaterial, what he called them; that he was at Liberty to use the Term, Prisoner, Captive, or American as he thought proper, so that the Men were delivered to me here. He replied, that it was impossible under existing Circumstances to do it, but that I ought to release the *Insurgente's* Crew at all Events, in Consequence of their liberal Conduct towards our Men lately sent to America. I answered, that as I had made up my Mind, and saw no Reason, why I should alter my first Determination, I would write him a few Lines, which should put an End to all Argument, as he then would only have to comply immediately with my Proposal or not as he thought proper. ("For Copy refer to the 5th Page back.") [See letter to Gen. Desforneau dated 27 Feb. 1799.]

After the Receipt of the foregoing Letter, Mon^r Beauvarlet agreed to my Terms (with this Exception only) that as they had been at the Expence of sending two Cartels with our Seamen to America, and had neither demanded, or expected any Reimbursement from the United States at present, and had also brought down to this Place two Cartels for their People, he insisted upon my bearing the Expence

(but to be settled in Account between the two Governments hereafter) of the Flags I had sent up to Gaudaloupe, and that of the Crew of the *Insurgente*, while detained here, which, finding no better could be done, I finally agreed to, and he gave me a Receipt (copy of which I annex) for all their Men released including the Officers, and Others now on Parole. * * *

List of the Crew of the Frigate *Insurgente*, delivered to Monsieur Beauvarlet, amounting to Two Hundred, and ninety-seven Officers and Men, exclusive of the Captain, and fifty-one Officers, and Others sent to Gaudaloupe on Parole, which fifty two Persons are to adhere strictly to the Conditions of this Parole, to Viz:—

On Board the Cartel, <i>Indent</i> two Officers, & 131 Men — Total —	133.
On Board the Cartel, <i>Africa</i> various Officers, & Men.....	136.
Detained in the Hospital, not being in a Condition to be sent on.....	18.
Detained on Board <i>La Insurgente</i> to Viz:	
Michael Jarry, Boatswain	}
Lewis Lee Nagente, Gunner	
John Francis Nagent, Carpenter	
John Michael Jarry	
Francis Depray	
John Basile	
Isadore	
Bernard Toman	
Joseph Colvinan	}
Pierre, a Negro	
Officers on Parole as above mentioned.....	52
Total delivered including those on Parole.....	349

U. S. Ship *Constellation*, Bassateer
Road 27. Feby 1799 answering to the 9th
of Ventose of the 7th Year of the french
Republic.....}

Signed. BEAUVARLET. Witness. ANDREW STERETT

N. B. 349 { Prisoners delivered, including all the wounded, but some
of them still remain in Hospital as p^t List, being in a
Situation not to be removed at present.
19 Foreigners detained
41 Killed, and since died of Wounds.

409 Total on Board the *Insurgente* at the Commencement of
the Action.

[HS of PA, NDA Photostat, Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To the Officer having the care of the French prisoners at Lancaster from
Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

The Officer having the Care of
the French Prisoners at Lan- } N. Department 27th Feb. 1799 — —
caster

SIR An order will shortly be given for removing the Prisoners now in your Charge to this place to be sent to Gaudaloupe, but the Vessels in which they are to embark are not yet ready, one of them is now preparing, under the direction of a French Captain who requires the Assistance of ten Seamen to get her equipped.

I consent therefore to your liberating that number, and one of the Officers who is written to by the French Captain above mentioned will select them. —

Major Nichols the Marshal whose duty it is to attend to the business is now absent, and will not return for some time; I must therefore request that you will supply them with four days provision which will be sufficient to last them till they arrive here, and let them set off as soon as possible. —

I am Sir &c

P. S. Please to take a list of their names and enclose it to me —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 1.]

[27 February 1799]

Letter to the Printers of the "Norfolk Herald" from Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy, concerning the transaction between HBMS *Surprise* and the U. S. Ship *Ganges*

NORFOLK, February 28.

To the Printers of the Norfolk Herald.

GENTLEMEN, EVER an enemy to misrepresentation, I must beg you to correct the statement, of the transaction between his Britannic Majesty's ship *Surprise* of 32 guns, and the United States' ship *Ganges* under my command.

It is true, that captain Hamilton of the above ship did send an officer on board, requesting information, whether any Englishmen were in my crew; observing that my assurance would be sufficient to prevent an officer being sent to examine their protections, I did not hesitate to say I considered all my crew Americans by birth or adoption — But I also observed to the officer, that there were no protections on board to my knowledge — the only one we carried in our public ships being our flag. This business terminated here. It is not true that the officer demanded a sight of my commission; but during his stay behaved with much politeness, and was in return, treated with all the civility I was capable of. Nor did I, as I have heard it represented, say any thing about my guns being a protection, if my flag was deemed insufficient.

As soon as the boat put off a second time to come on board the *Ganges*, being on the quarter deck with my officers, I declared to them my determination to fall there, sooner than suffer an investigation, or permit any man's name to be called over.

When the boat came along side again, it was with the surgeon; and with a polite message from captain Hamilton, requesting to assist him with some medicine he was in need of. But no apology was made for the message sent by the Lieutenant; nor was the subject thereof even mentioned by the doctor or myself.

Apprehensive that a similar circumstance might occur on a future day I thought it incumbent on me, to let my people know what they had to trust to. At evening, therefore, I caused all hands to be called, and when assembled, did pledge myself to them, that not a man should be taken from me, by any force whatever, while I was able to stand at my quarters — which declaration they received with three cheers, and high spirits.

THOMAS TINGEY.

NORFOLK, Feb. 27, 1799.

[LC, Conn. "Connecticut Courant", 25 March 1799.]

[27 February 1799]

Engagement with French Privateer, by the Brig *Chatham* and the Brig *Lucretia*EXTRACT FROM THE LOG BOOK OF THE BRIG *Chatham*, ARRIVED
YESTERDAY FROM JAMAICA.

On the 27th Feb. at the S. W. end of Cuba, a brig hove in sight, which proved to be the *Lucretia*, of Boston, from Kingston, bound to Norfolk; — she hove too for us; immediately after we saw two schooners, whom we supposed to be both privateers, from their manœuvres. We consulted the captain of the brig, and he agreed to give us all the assistance he possibly could, as he was unarmed; we therefore hoisted out our boat, and got four men from the brig. At half-past 9, A. M. we were all ready for action. We saw the smallest of the two soon after, which appeared to us to be an American built vessel, captured by the enemy. At 10, A. M. the other hoisted French colors, and laid by for us, which as soon as we perceived, we hoisted our American ensign, upon which she gave us a heavy shot, when the action commenced, and lasted until 12 o'clock; we found our six-pound shot did not reach her till we got close in with her; when our shot reached her, she bore away for the shore, within the bar: we then lay too for her, till she came within shot of us, with her bloody flag at her fore-top-mast, and renewed the action, which continued about two glasses, when she bore away from us again. — At half-past 2 P. M. she again put after us with a man hoisted at the fore-yard-arm, and renewed action, with her bow-chases, which were very heavy guns, and we returned the compliment with our stern-chases. We supposed our shot did considerable execution, as there appeared to be great confusion on board the enemy. We were determined to defend ourselves to the last man, and bravely die at our quarters, sooner than be taken by this *Hellish* crew. We kept up a smart fire with our stern-chases till half-past 4 P. M. when she hauled her wind, and ceased firing, and we stood on our way to New-York, not thinking it prudent to chace her, our ammunition running short.

We had six 6's, and the enemy four 6's and 24, and a swivel, and 75 men, which the captain of the brig *Polly*, of Providence, from Kingston, bound to Providence, informed us next day, whom she had detained five days, and treated the captain extremely ill, beat the men unmercifully, and let her go, after plundering her of almost all her provisions, and every article they could lay their hands upon. The captain, second-mate, a man from the *Lucretia*, and cabin-boy, were slightly wounded.

[LC, Boston, "Columbian Centinel", March 23, 1799.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 27 February 1799

Fine Weather in Chace to the S.S.W. At 3 Shortend Sail & Spoke the U.S.Schooner *Diligence* who Inform'd us the Sch^r under Desada was a French Privateer with whom she had exchanged Several Shott but the Frenchman running under the fort prevented his taking him. Phillip Paine Seaman fell fth Mizzen top Sail yard and was Drowned. @ ½ past 4 fill'd and made Sail to the Southw^d

At 7 East end Deseada N.b.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 5 Leagues. Dominico S.W.b. W. 12 Leagues. Tack'd as Necessary to keep our Station, @ 12 Deseada W.b.N. 7 Leagues Dist
[Latitude $16^{\circ} 05''$ N $^{\circ}$]

[NDA.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*,
Wednesday, 27 February 1799

Moderate breeze & pleasant weather, all hands variously employ'd
At 7 P.M. dark and Squally with heavy Rain down Mainsail, lowerd the Topsails on the caps

At Midnight light Airs inclining to Calm

At 4 A M, Set Mainsail, Convoy about 3 miles a Stern

Made and shortend Sail occasionally

At Meridian moderate & pleasant

Distance per Log — 68

[Lat. Observed $29^{\circ} 10'$ N.]

[Long. Observed $53^{\circ} 5'$ W.]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mulloony, U. S. Navy, U. S. Frigate
United States, 27 February 1799

Recaptured ship *Cicero* of Liverpoole she was Taken by the *Democrat* chased the privateer night came on & being so near *Maria Galant* — the Commodore tho't prudent not to chase her, we were then very close to the land.

[NA.]

To Master Robert Wells, U. S. Navy, to act as Lieutenant, U. S. Navy, from Captain
Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

U. S. SHIP *Constellation*, BASSATEER ROAD,
St Christopher's 28th February 1799 —

SIR, You will repair on Board the *Insurgente*, commanded by Lieutenant Rodgers, and perform all the Duties and Functions, belonging to the Station of a Lieutenant, in the Navy of the United States, and I will require a Commission for you as such. I am, Sir, with great Respect

Your very Obed^t Servant

MR. ROBERT WELLS.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat. Truxtun's LB, 1798-9.]

To Secretary of the Navy, from Captain Thomas Tingey, U. S. Navy

NORFOLK 28th Febr 1799

SIR I am duly honor'd with yours of 15th instant and in conformity with the orders therein shall use every possible expedition in preparing the *Ganges* ready for your commands, which will now be speedily accomplish'd — when she will wait only for Your instructions.

I shall be able I expect in my next to transmit you a complete account of the provisions &c &c on board. — I have enquir'd into the state of the Crew of the *Baltimore*: and understand from Lieut^s Speake, that all is quiet and peaceable — he will probably sail this day, or on the morrow, wind and weather permitting.

I have the honor &c

T. T. [THOMAS TINGEY]

HON^{ble} BENJ^s STODDERT

[NDA. TingeY LB, 1798-1800.]

Extract from journal of James Pity, U. S. Frigate *Constitution*, 28 February 1799

Pleasant Weather People employ'd as Necessary. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 wore to the Southw^d under double reefd Top Sails Deseada W. b. S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. 9 Leagues dist. Saw a Strange Sail bear^t N. N. W. bore Up and made Sail @ 10 Answ^d the private Signal of one of the U. S. Ships War. Employ'd Triming & painting the Ship.

At 11 Shortend Sail and wore to the Southward brot too & boarded the [George] Washington At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 fill'd and parted company.

Saw Deseada S. W. b. S. 10 Leagues.

[Latitude 17° 01^m N^o]

[NDA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship *Merrimack*, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 28 February 1799

First part pleasant & light Wind, At 2 PM saw 2 strange sail, some of the fleet bore away to the Westward.

Middle part pleasant & light breezes.

At Mer^{an} hoisted signals for the fleet to make the best of their way. — hall'd our wind to the N & East^d & made sail

Ends pleasant

[Long'de obd. 66.22 W.]
[Latt'de obd. 24.15 N.]

[HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of J. Ingraham, U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*, Thursday, 28 February 1799

Moderate breeze and pleasant weather, all hands variously employd

Made and shortend Sail Occasionally, for the Convoy, about 2 Miles a Stern

At 8 P M. Squally with Rain

At Midnight, Pleasant

At 5 AM, Pleasant Weather got the Cables on Deck, clean'd the Orlop Deck & Sprinkled it with Vinegar, Numberd Seamens Ham-mocks Bedding &c.

At Meridian Light Airs inclining to Calm

[Lat. Observed 27 — 28 N.]
[Long. Observed 53 — 5 W.]

[LC, EPP, 1799.]