

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 3

AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 8, 1775–Dec. 31, 1775

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1775–Jan. 31, 1776

AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1776–Feb. 18, 1776

Part 7 of 8

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11 Feb. (Sunday)

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Montreal 11th Feby 1776

This Letter will be delivered you by Mr [Thomas] Walker and Mr [James] Price two Gentlemen whose Friendship and Attachment to our Cause is well known and to whom the United Colonies are under many Obligations. – As they are the best acquainted with this Province of perhaps any two Gentlemen in it and as there are many Transactions of great Importance to be determined concerning it, I have requested them to wait upon the Congress that you may know from them fully every thing necessary for your Information.

I have permitted the Merchants in this Place Trading to the Upper Country to chuse a Committee to profer a Petition to the Honorable the Congress concerning their Indian Trade, you will hear from them and from Messrs Walker and Price what can be said for and against it, and your Determination in that and every other Matter I shall strictly attend to – Besides the Operation of War there are so many Civil & Political Affairs that require the greatest Care and most Delicate Management that I could wish a Committee of Congress might be sent into this Province.

General Arnold has in a most surprising Manner kept up the Blockade of Quebec & that with half the Number of the Enemy he is now so well reinforced that I apprehend but little Danger from a Sortie should they make one. I intend to Join him as soon as this place can be left with Safety & necessaries properly Provided for forwarding the Troops as they arrive from the Colonies. I fear we shall meet with Difficulty in taking the place for want of proper Artillery, Amunition, &c but every thing possible will be done. Unless we keep up a greater Force in this Province from the Colonies than should be brought against us in the Spring, I fear we can place no great dependance upon the Canadiens & in that Case it might be attended with very unhappy if not fatal Consequences – How great a force the Ministry will send here is uncertain yet many Imagine they will make this Province the Seat of War. I hope we shall be able to keep the Field against them.

I enclose you Copies of several Letters to General Schuyler with a couple of his to me – He writes me that he has observed to Congress that I had wrote him with unbecoming Subacis I think he might have pointed out to me the Exceptionable parts of my Letters before he made his Observations to Congress. It gives me Pain that I am obliged in my own Defence to trouble you with Examining & Determining which of us has the greatest reason to Complain of ill Treatment. I am Conscious that my Conduct will bear the Strictest Scrutiny. I have ever studiously avoided entering into any Altercation with him fearing that the Public Interest might suffer by it, he began to Insult me immediately on my Joining the Army as you will see by his Letter of the 23d Octo last though I know no reason under heaven why he should treat me thus Cavalierly but merely to Indulge his Capricious Humour which in the Course of the last Year he has dealt out very liberally upon many of the Officers who have served in this De-

partment complaints of which have frequently been made to me. happy would it be for him and for our Cause if he would learn to Bridle his Passions. The Letters between him and me will speak for themselves I shall send him a Copy of this Letter and also Inclose with this a Copy of my Letter to him of this Date – No Personal Ill treatment will ever prevent my steadily and Invariably continuing to pursue those Measures which shall appear most Conducive to the Public Good and I shall think myself happy if by doing every thing in my Power I can be in the least Instrumental in maintaining and preserving the Rights and Liberties of my Country. I am [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 265–66, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP
SCHUYLER ¹

Sir

Montreal Feby 11 1776.

Your Letter of the 26th Ulto I have received In Answer to which give me Leave to observe to You, that I also claim a Right to be treated with the Respect due to me as a Gentleman and an Officer intrusted with a Command from the Honorable the Representatives of thirteen Colonies; Why Sir, are these positive Mandates? Have I ever disputed your Orders? Since I have been in the Army I have exerted every Faculty to promote a Union among the Officers and have carefully avoided Every Thing that might have the least Tendency to cause Jealousies, In short Sir I have steadily and invariably pursued those Measures that appeared to me conducive to the true Interest of our Country. How ungenerous therefore is It that an Advantage should be taken of my conciliating Disposition, Yet You will pardon me If I misjudge; I cannot account for your Imperious Conduct towards me, upon any other Principle, You will remember your Letter to me while I was at St Johns founded in Falsehood and which You could have no other Motive for Writing but to insult Me, I thought It at that Time not worth answering & shall at present take no further Notice of It, I shall however send a Copy of It to Congress & of your last Letter together with Copies of my own, Except the one You observe was wrote with unbecoming Subacity, that is somehow mislaid & I shall be obliged to You If You will forward It. – I can remember Nothing in It either disrespectful or Subacid and being confident Nothing of that Nature was intended, I presume the Congress will find that It is not expressed. – As You have already complained to the Honorable the Congress, I have thought It my Duty to shew them what has passed between Us and they will judge which of Us has the greatest Reason to complain of Ill Treatment. – For the present let the Matter rest: They will doubtless do Justice. This is no Time to altercate, the whole of our Time is little enough to attend to the Operations absolutely necessary for the Defence of our Country. –

You will give me Leave to inform You that the Commanding Officer who is with this Army is to give out Orders & is the Only competent Judge of what is proper & what Not for the internal Regulation of the Army & for the immediate safety of this Country, Since the Death of the Worthy and brave General Montgomery (with whom I had the Happiness to serve in the strictest Harmony &

Friendship & who ever treated me like a Gentleman) the Command devolves upon me & I shall give out such Orders as appear to me necessary for the Public Good; And shall send out of the Country all Prisoners & such Persons as may be thought dangerous to our Cause as soon as It can be done with Convenience.

The Returns of the Army shall be made out & transmitted to You. I shall also take Care that Your Orders to General Montgomery are executed as far as is possible. – I shall do Every Thing in my Power to carry into Execution every Resolve of the Congress. –

Mr. Jordan has accepted the Bills for five hundred Dollars, when It is paid I shall Credit the Public.

I mentioned to You in a former Letter that I thought It very necessary that an Artillery Company as well as Artillery Stores &c^a should be sent into this Country, should be glad to hear whether they can be spared from the Colonies or Not & what Assistance of what Nature we may expect. I shall send a Copy of this Letter to Congress & shall also inclose with this a Copy of my Letter to Congress, If there are any Misrepresentations You will have an Opportunity to correct them. – I am Sir [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster

P.S. I will just Observe further that I think It would have been much more Generous in You to have pointed Out to me the Exceptionable part of my Letters before You complained to Congress.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 556–58, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Die Solis, 10 HO. A. M. Feb. 11th, 1776.

This Committee observing that the cannon and military stores on and near the battery are now under removal to other parts of the city, and knowing that this transaction, both in its design and execution, is without the consent of this Committee, and even without their knowledge, otherwise than as discovered from the transaction itself; and as, perhaps, such a removal may bring on a firing upon the city from the ships of war in this port, which may greatly endanger the public records of this Colony, this Committee is fully of opinion that the publick records ought to be immediately removed to a place of greater safety than that in which they now are: Therefore,

Ordered, That the said public records of this Colony, together with Saml. Bayard, Junr. Esqr. the Deputy Secretary of this Colony, be forthwith conveyed, under a proper guard of the militia of the city of New-York to the dwelling house of Nichs. Bayard, Esqr. alderman of the out ward of the said city, and be there securely kept under such guard until further order of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, or of this Committee of Safety. And the said guard are hereby expressly required to permit the said Saml. Bayard, Junr. Esqr. to have continual access to and the direction of the said records, except that he and every other person be prevented from removing them, or any of them, from the place where they are

hereby ordered to be deposited, until the further order of the Provincial Congress or of this Committee. And,

Ordered, That Col. [John] Lasher be requested to furnish a proper guard, and see this order executed.

Ordered further, That Col. Lasher fix on such officers and company of his regiment for this and any other duty that may be directed, as he shall think proper, and report the same to this Committee, the Committee hereby giving assurance that provision will be made for the pay and subsistence of such company equal to the Continental establishment while continued in service.

3 ho. P.M. February 11th, 1776.

Col. [Abraham] Lott came to the Committee and informed that the *Mercury*, sloop of war, and the two transports which sailed with her, are anchored near Staten Island; that he met several suspicious persons passing from Powle's Hook toward Killvankull ferry; that he was informed by a person near Killvankull that he apprehended that the ship of war and transports will commit depredations on the stock there. The Committee are of opinion that the most effectual measures to prevent such depredations, is to [write to] the committee of Elizabeth Town to request them to send a parcel of men to protect the stock on Staten Island from depredations.

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, Feb. 11th, 1776.

Gentlemen – The *Mercury*, ship of war, with two transports under her convoy, are departed from this city this afternoon, and we are well informed, that they are anchored near Staten island.

We are apprehensive that they intend to commit depredations on the stock on Staten island. We applied to the Provincial Congress of your Colony yesterday, requesting that Col. Herd [Nathaniel Heard] with some of his troops should be sent to the island for a few days, and sent that letter by Col. Herd. We are apprehensive that Col. Herd will come too late to prevent any attempt that may be made to take off the stock. We, therefore, earnestly request you, on receipt hereof, to despatch a part of your militia to such parts of the island where it is most likely any attempts of that kind may be made, to guard the island until the said vessels are gone off or Col. Herd can arrive to their relief.

If their design should be such as we suspect, they may perhaps be able to land about 200 men.

Please to inform Col. Herd of this intelligence, and your proceedings in the premises.

We are, respectfully, gentlemen [&c.]

By order of the Committee.

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee, Elizabeth Town.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted by express.

¹ *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 291.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[New York] Sunday 11 Feby [1776]

The whole Town was alarmed with the Removal of all the Cannon from the Fort and Battery to the Fields – Carts were employed for the Stores & Ammunition & the Cannon drawn by Hands with an astonishing Uproar & shouting & the Work continued all Day long with an almost intire neglect of all public Worship. The Multitude expected every Moment a Firing from the Ships. The Wind was at West and the Tide flowing up till the latter Part of the Afternoon so that the Ships could not come round till the Ebb when a Tender fell down took a View and returned & with a speaking Trumpet informed the *Phoenix* that they were removing the Cannon and 3000 Men were at Work. This was a Finess for their laying quiet all the Morning tho' the Eastern Docks were lined with Soldiers & the Noise undoubtedly heard. The *Asia* & *Phoenix* now unmoored & the *Mercury* with General Clinton & two Transports put out to Sea, but the Wind rising at North West the two Station Ships let go their Anchors in the same Ground. – About Midday Lord Stirling stepped into my House & boasted of his having the Conduct of this Business & applauded himself for transacting it in open Day at least alarming to the Inhabitants but I withheld my Confidence in the Message from Mr. Tryon & let [f]all no Reproaches for distressing the Town at such an intemperate Season because found the attempt to perswade People to continue at Home was ill taken by the Committee.

Mr [William] Axtel informed me yesterday that he hinted to Mr Tryon a Design of removing the Cannon and knew his Resolution to bear it [John Tabor] Kempe came into the Cabbin & on hearing the Conversation exulted with a then the Ball will begin, expressing great Pleasure in the expected Attack. Axtel turned upon him with a Reproof of his Inhumanity – I am surprised Sir to see you pleased – You may be safe but there are 16000 Souls in that Town in Danger who can neither prevent the removal nor firing of the Cannon – He went all silent and ashamed – I was shocked says Axtel at the Cruelty of the Fellow who was as gay at the Thought of an Attack as a giddy Girl at the Invitation to a Dance. – These Times try all Characters!

The Day after Mr. [Henry] Clinton arrived there was a Conference on Board of the *Dutchess of Gordon* between him the Govr. [Hyde] Parker [George] Van-deput [James] Drummond and [Andrew] Elliot and as they have now born patiently the levying of Men seizing Stores & will bear the Erection of Works I imagine it is from a Perswasion that Administration mean to save the accessible Towns till their Overtures are Tried. And that if Clinton has not communicated the Intelligence they rely upon Lord Drummond's suggestions – I saw this Company collect from the Coffee House Bridge & knew from [James] Jauncey Junr. that Elliot was sent for before he came down there where he waited some Time for Ld Drummond.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 264–65.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

New York Febry the 11th 1776

Sir As the North River is now intirely clear of ice I thought it imprudent to suffer the cannon and other stores to remain any longer upon the Battery and in yards at the very water edge from whence the Ships of War Might have convey'd [th]em at their pleasure, as it would have been impossible to have obstructed their Manoeuvres almost within the Very [muz]zles of their guns – this day therefore I ordered the whole to be remov'd to the ground before the upper Barracks it was effected without the least opposition or shew of opposition from the Ships – indeed I even consider'd their menaces to fire upon the Town as idle gasconades – inclosed is a list of the Pieces and their appurtenances – the *Mercury* Frigate, the Transport and Brig, are saild, if your Fleet was out They must certainly fall into your hands . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 158, I, 17, NA.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

No. 33.

Ship *Dutchess of Gordon*

My Lord

off New York 11th Febry 1776

The enclosures are on the Subject of the Seizure made by Lord Sterling of the Transport *Green Mountain Valley*² [John Hamilton] Dempster Master. – By the Mates Deposition, and the Masters staying with a fair Wind for Boston, Twenty four Hours longer on the Coast than he had agreed upon with the Mate, and afterwards suffer his Vessel to be boarded and Seized by several Boats, when he was Seven or Eight Leagues off the Jersey Shore, carry's the appearance of carelessness, if no more. The Mate and Master had the benefit I hear of their private Venture's each, Cheese and Bottled Porter. The Master treated with kindness and respect by the Inhabitants of Elizabeth Town, where His Vessel is laid up. – The Mate is kept Prisoner on Board the *Asia*. I am with the greatest Respect My Lord [&c.]

W^m Tryon

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1107, 363.

2. Tryon mixed his mountains and his colors, the transport was the *Blue Mountain Valley*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.¹

February 1776

Moor'd in the East River Abreast the Town of New York

Sunday 11

Modt Breezes & Clear with Frost in the latter part P M Saild hence His Majesty's Ship the *Mercury* with the *Kitty* Transport and a Brig. Cast off all our fast's hove up the Sheet Anchor and hove off on the Best Bower into the Stream and moord Ship with the Bower abreast of the Fly Market. Unbent the Cable from the Spare Anchor.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

February '776

Moor'd in the East River

Sunday 11

Light Breezes & Frosty Wr Sail'd hence His Majesty's Ship
Mercury with two Transports. Unmoor'd & hove off to the
 Outer Anchors.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON ¹

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 11th Febr'y 1776

I have got a waggon made, have purchased four good Horses and expected to have sent them off on yesterday but when I went to examine the Powder in the Magazine I found to my surprise there was none but Cannon powder and that very coarse & orderly not fit for musketry knowing the greatest part that is wanted for our province ought to be musket powder I thought it best to detain the Waggon till such could be obtained, Seven Tons of such I hear is in a Vessel below and will be up as soon as the Ice will suffer anything to pass I hope in a few days to get the Waggon away, the horses come pretty high, two of them \$50 each, the other two 35 each, they are all bays & young

Our friend Hooper has taken an Opprty when he could be best spared from Congress to fly to the Camp at Cambridge to see his mother who has lately got out of Boston he has been gone about ten days and will return as soon as possible he desired me to put his name to any letter I should write to the Provincial Council I believe he would not wish they should know he was absent

Late last night I received a letter from him dated at New York the 6th he seems greatly alarmed at the intelligence he had received there and urged very pressinglly the necessity of sending of[f] an express to you, the substance of the information he gave and what has been recd since he left it you will find in our Letter to the Council which you have herewith, the Anxiety of my worthy friend for the safety, honor & happiness of our Province, and for his dearest connections there I imagine has induced him to paint things in the strongest colours to me however I wish there may not be too much truth in his suggestions, all are from England seem to agree that we shall have a dreadful storm bursting on our heads thro' all America in the Spring, we must not shrink from it we ought not to shew any simptoms of fear, the nearer it approaches and the greater the sound the more fortitude and calm steady firmness we ought to possess, if we mean to defend our liberties our dearest rights & privileges against the power of Britain to the last extremity we ought to bring ourselves to such a temper of mind as to stand unmoved at the bursting of an Earthquake - altho the storm thickens I feel myself quite composed I have furnished myself with a good musket & Bayonet and when I can no longer be useful in Council I hope I shall be willing to take the field, I think I had rather fall there than be carried off by a lingering illness, in this I am nearly of the same opinion of the French General who Confined a long time by sickness to his bed, on hearing the Duke

of Berwick was killed by a Cannon Ball, he exclaimed, great God, how unfortunate I am, Berwick was always a lucky fellow

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAAH. Letter continued February 13, 1776.

Andrew Doria JOURNAL ¹

Sunday At 10 A M Cast off from the Pierse in Company
Feby 11th with all the Fleet, and on Tuesday the 13th was Join'd, by the Sloop
Hornet Schoner *Wasp*, Arm'd Vessels from Baltimore, Within Cape
Henlopen, where all the Fleet Anchor'd in Holekill road where we
lay till the 18th

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL FLEET ¹

[Delaware Capes, February 11] ²

Ship *Alfred*

Dudley Saltonstall	Commander
John Paul Jones	1st lieut
Benja Seabury	2nd do
John Fanning	3rd do

Ship *Columbus*

Abram Whipple	Commander
Rhodes Arnold	1st lieut
Joseph Olney	2nd do
Ezekiel Burroughs	3rd do

Brigt *Andrea Doria*

Nicholas Biddle	Commander
James Josiah	1st lieut
Elijah Warner	2nd lieut
Jno McDougall	3rd do

Brigt *Cabot*

John B Hopkins	Commander
Hoisted Hacker	1st lieut
Thomas Weaver	2nd do
Danl Vaughan	3rd do

Sloop *Providence*

John Hazard	Commander
Jonathan Pitcher	1st lieut
John Rathbun	2nd do

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAAH.

2. The date is arbitrary. Rathbun was assigned to the *Providence* on February 10, 1776. According to the Journal of the *Andrew Doria*, the fleet sailed from Reedy Island on the morning of February 11, 1776. From the same source, it appears that the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, from Baltimore, joined the fleet within the Delaware Capes on February 13, 1776. Hence, the date could not have been prior to February 10, nor later than February 12, or otherwise the officers of the two vessels from Baltimore would have been listed.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM SPEAR ¹

No 13.

[Annapolis] Feby 11th 1776

Sir We are sorry to hear of the Seisure of the Vessels you mention in your's of the 7th, however we hope the Report about [William] Neil's Schooner may not be true — ² as we may probably think of giving some further Instructions to your Captain, we shall take it as a Favor, if when he comes down, you will accompany him.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

2. The schooner *Nancy*, seized off St. Eustatius.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,

[Charleston] Sunday noon, Feb. 11th, 1776.

Capt. Joseph Turpin having attended according to order, and been conferred with respecting the command of the brigantine *Comet*,

Resolved, That Capt. Joseph Turpin be appointed to the command of the colony brigantine *Comet*.

And a commission was made out accordingly, signed, dated this day, and delivered to Capt. Turpin.

Ordered, That Capt. Turpin do immediately take the command of the brigantine *Comet*, examine and make a return to this Board of her state and condition, and use the utmost diligence in fitting her for service.

Capt. Simon Tufts, commander of the colony schooner *Defence*, returned yesterday from a cruize, attended, and made a report thereof.

Ordered, That Capt. Tufts do take on board two months provisions, and kept his vessel in constant readiness to put to sea.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 255–56.

12 Feb.BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Dear Sir,

Camp Before Quebec, Feby 12. 1776

My last was of the 1st of Feby since which nothing has occurred worth Notice, except Several Desertions from the Garrison, who are much Distressed for Fuel, and must soon burn their houses and Shipping; — they are at short allowance of Provisions, and obliged to mount guard every Other Night, which has made great uneasiness Among the Seamen, who are the Principal part of the Garrison. —

I have Just received the Resolves of the Honble Ct Congress, as late as 10th of Janry and Beg leave to present them my respectful Compts and sincere thanks for the Honble mark of esteem they have been pleased to Confer on me, which I shall study to deserve.² —

The multiplicity of Accounts which daily arise here, and many which originated In the life of Genl [Richard] Montgomery, together with those of the Commissaries & Quarter Masters, (which in my Opinion ought often to be adjusted) as well as those of Colo [James] Livingstons Regt and many Others, (which are Intricate) and do not immediately Fall under any particular Department, renders It imposable for a Commanding Officer to pay that attention to them which they deserve and at the same time do his duty as a soldier, I have therefore to request that the Honble C. Congress, would take into their Consideration, the Directing the Paymaster to Adjust those Accounts, or appointing a Committe for that Purpose, who, I make no doubt, would find full employment, prevent Many Frauds, and greatly accelerate the Publick business

We have been reinforced with Only One hundred & seventy five Men, our whole force is about Eight hundred effective Men, we have about two hundred, Sick & unfit for Duty, Near Fifty of them with the Small Pox, the Canadians, in most of the Parishes, inocu[late] For their Own Safety. – I am with great esteem, Dr Sir [&c.]

Bened^t Arnold

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 64–65, NA.
2. Congress promoted Arnold to Brigadier General on January 10, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

Febry 1776

Remarks &c in Quebec

Mondy 12

Fresh Breezes with hard frost p m the Rebels sent a flag of Truce to the Wall with Letters for the Governor who would not receive them the thanks of the Governor to all the Officers & Men of the Garrison for their strict Attention to the duty of the Garrison this severe Weather –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MONTREAL, DATED FEB. 12.” ¹

Quebec is enclosed by a considerable body of forces under Brigadier General Arnold: They hope to avoid storming, and thereby prevent effusion of blood on both sides. The Garrison consists of the seamen belonging to two frigates, and the merchantmen that winter at Quebec, two companies of wretched emigrants raised from the outskirts and suburbs, the dependants of Government, and a few citizens whose exposed effects obliged their remaining to preserve: In the whole we estimate from 12 to 1300 men capable to bear arms; a body not sufficient to do the daily duty of guards only. To this may be added the want of wood to that degree that by a deserter just escaped, without destroying the houses there remains not fuel for five days. These circumstances we flatter ourselves will engage General Carleton (out of humanity) to offer terms before the season becomes so advanced as to oblige the continental army to force their admittance.

1. *Essex Journal*, March 15, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NOVA SCOTIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ¹

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 12th day of February 1776

Present

His Excellency the Governor	}	Counsellors. –
The Honorable Charles Morris		
Richard Bulkeley		
Henry Newton		
Joseph Gorham		
Arthur Goold		

The Governor laid before the Council the Memorial of Mr Butler setting forth, that although in the proceedings of the preceeding Day, the 8th Instant on which the Council had been held, he had been Acquitted of having held any kind of Correspondence with the Rebels, – Yet as being a Member of His Majesty's Council for this Province, and Commissary for Provisions, he conceives himself under greater Necessity of Clearing his reputation from any Suspicion whatever; Therefore praying that a Day may be Appointed for hearing him in Council, – together with such persons as he may think, proper to produce and Question for his further Justification. –

And Mr Butler Attending together with Mr Higgins, Mr Calbeck [Phillip Calbeck] & Mr Harris, the Persons called on by the Memorialist, the following Questions were put by him to Mr Higgins – Vizt
Question

1st As you denied on your Examination on Thursday Evening having said the Words in my Parlour which Mr Harris mentioned in his Declaration, which were these, Vizt Sir, it is your Interest, had not your letters flown about at the [Provincial] Congress and at Cambridge I should not have seen You here. – You will please to declare what were the Words you did Make use of at that time –

Answer It was not through the interest of your Letters flying about at Cambridge –

Question 2d What letters were they you referr'd to, to whom directed, & what was the Contents

Answer Letters directed from Mr Butler to Mr Calbeck, reflecting on the Rebels in Strong Terms –

Question 3d Do you remember that the Lieut Governor said Sir, “Is it Mr Butler's Letters in England you Mean”

Answer Yes, Mr [Michael] Francklin Used those Words, and I replied No Sir, Mr Butler's Letters at Cambridge –

Question 4th What do you think he Mean't by that Expression –

Answer That he did not think any letters of Mr Butler's could be at Cambridge. –

Question 5th What do you think was the reason that the Lieut Governor said, “You don't want this Person any More.” (Meaning Mr Harris)

Answer He looked on him as being One of my Hands, & did not appear as an Officer of a Man of War. –

Question 6th Did you know, or hear of any other Letters or Papers of Mine being at the Congress or Cambridge, and what were their Contents. –

Answer I heard General [Charles] Lee say there were several of Mr Butler's Letters at Cambridge, & further said he was damn'd Fellow, & so said Mr [Horatio] Gates Adjutant General of the Rebel Army. –

Question 7th Was not your Mate sent for to prove the Butter brought to me as Agent Victualler, and that he saw it, deliver'd the Kings Troops, out of my Stores. –

Answer Yes, he was sent for, for that purpose, but he did not Arrive, –

Question 8th Have I any concerns with you in Trade, or had I any heretofore –

Answer No, not any

Question 9th Did you ever hear or know of my being disloyal to my Sovereign –

Answer, No – On the Contrary Mr Butler said that if the Rebels were to come here, he would Turn out with the Regiment of Militia and Fight them as long as he could stand, and prove himself to be an Englishman. –

Then Mr Calbeck was Questioned by Mr Butler as follows, Vizt

Question 1st Sir, you will please to declare to the Governor and Council the purport of the Letter I wrote you last Fall, and which you declared on Thursday last Fell into the Hands of the Rebels, and was carried to the Congress at Cambridge –

Answer Being in the Administration of the Government of the Island of St Johns by the Absence of Governor Patterson, a Scarcity of provisions being there, I wrote to Mr Butler for a supply, And Also to give me information of News from Europe, to which Mr Butler signified his Willingness to give any relief; – But he was unable, as he expected there would be an extraordinary demand on him, for the King's Troops, that reinforcements for the Army and Navy were expected from Europe, and further expressed himself to the purpose I related before the Council the other Day –

Question 2d Was that Letter returned to you. –

Answer It was, among other Papers by the Rebel Secretary, –

Question 3d What became of it,

Answer I destroyed it fearing I might be Searched by the Country People, and Ill treated on that Account

Question 4th Did you hear of any other Letters or Papers of Mine being at the Congress or Cambridge, what were their Contents and to whom directed. –

Answer Yes, a Letter you had Wrote as Contractor for a supply of Pease to be obtained in this Province, which had by some Means been intercepted by the Rebels. –

Question 5th Did you ever hear of my being disloyal to my Sovereign. –

Answer No – But the Contrary –

Mr. Newton was Questioned by Mr Butler Vizt

Question, Sir, you will please to inform the Governor and Council what Conversation passed between you and me at my Accompting House the Morning of Mr Higgins Arrival from Winter Harbour

Answer. – Hearing of the Arrival of Mr Higgins in the Schooner *Lively*, I went to enquire of Mr Butler what News he had brought, Mr Butler informed me that no great Judgement could be formed of what he said; as through a Fatigue from his Voyage and joy at his escape, his Mind seem'd disturbed: But, Mr Butler said he understood that himself had got into a scrape, as a Letter of his had been intercepted by the Rebels, in which he had talked roughly; and that if ever they came here, and were able to do any thing, he would be the first to Suffer –

Mr [Thomas Am] Harris was then Questioned by Mr Butler Vizt –

Question 1st You'll please repeat the conversation that passed at my House, the Morning you called upon Mr Higgins, as expressed in your declaration of Thursday last

Answer, This Question was Answer'd to the same purpose with his declaration on the 8th Instant in Council –

Question 2d Who was in my Pa[r]lour when you first came in. –

Answer Mr Higgins & a Short lusty person in a Lac'd Coat

Question 3d Did you make any Report in Consequence of hearing the Conversation, and to whom did you make it, and When

Answer. – I made it the same Morning to Capt Bromwich [Hugh Bromedge] on board the Ship –

Question 4th What Answer did Captain Bromwich make in consequence of Your report

Answer. – He said it was very well –

Question 5th As you heard no More of this Matter for more than five Weeks. – What inducement had you to give the information to the Governor on Thursday last, who were the Persons. –

Answer I Informed an old Ship Mate of Mine who is Now an Officer in the Governor's Regiment who asked if I had any Objection to his mentioning of it to the Governor, to which I said No –

Question 6th Did not Mr Higgins appear to be in an Elatted and Confused State of Mind, when you first saw him on Board, And Also when speaking at my House –

Answer I do not know, I had never seen him before –

Question 7th Did you ever hear any report concerning my Loyalty to my Sovereign, or that it was under any doubt or Suspicion before the Arrival of Mr Higgins –

Answer None whatever, that I remember. –

On all which the Governor and Council were unanimously of Opinion that Mr Butler had given the fullest satisfaction in regard to the whole enquiry, and had Clearly Acquitted himself of any imputation whatever respecting his Loyalty, Fidelity, and Attachment to the King. – ²

1. Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.

2. See footnote to the Council meeting of February 8, 1776.

LOSS CLAIM FOR BRIG *Sally* AND CARGO¹

Dr. The loss sustained in the Brige *Sally* & cargo, owned by Saml Cutts, from Tortola, Saml Stacy Mastr drove upon the Rocks at Edgertown, July 11th 1775 by two Tenders, as pr Protest.

1775 July. To the Brige <i>Sally</i> & appertenances as appraised by	
Messrs. Purcell, Wentworth & Clap	£600. 0. 0
To the Cargo on board as pr Invoice, viz.	
19 hogsd of light Muscove Sugr wt 187c:0:1 at 55	514: 5:0
12 hogsd of Rum, only 85 gals, lost 3s 3	13:16:3
7 Bales Cotton saved	0: 0:0
To the charge of saving the Intr	39:10:4
To the charge of transporting the Part saved	10: 0
To the Protest	0:15
	<hr/> £1178: 6:7

Cr.

1775 July. By a Cable & Anchor & part of the Brige & sails saved	
valued at	40
Balle being the real loss in the Brige <i>Sally</i> & Cargo	1138: 6:7
Lawful money	<hr/> £1178: 6:7
Portsmouth, Feby 12th 1776, Errors Excepted	

Sam^l Cutts.

Portsmo Feby 12th 1776. We the subscribers were well acquainted with the Brigt *Sally*, Saml Stacy master, lately drove ashoar at Edgerton by two British Tenders as by the Capt. & Peoples Protest, are of opinion that said vessel was worth, when she sailed from hence last April, Six hundred pounds Lawful money.

G. Purcell Josh^a Wentworth Supply Clap.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 393.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope*¹

February 1776	Remarks &c on bd the <i>Hope</i> in Manchester Road
Sundy 11th	Fresh Gales and Squaly at ½ Past 6 AM Weigh'd and Came to Sail at 8 AM Cap Ann NEBN 3 Lgs at 10 Closs Reeft the Topsails at ½ Past Handed the Topsails at 11 AM Set the Fore Topsl At Noon Cap Ann S B W½W 6 Leagues
	Hard Gales and Squaly
	at ½ Past Saw a Sail to the Eastward, Made Sail and Chaced the Chace Set T-G-Sails and Steering Sails at 3 Fired 3 four Pounders Shoted at Do Vessel at ½ Past 3 Came up with the Chace, found hir to be a Brigg from Piscatuay Loaded with Fish and Lumber, Named the <i>Frendship</i> , it Blowing hard Could not Board the Prize.

Mondy 12th Do Weather at 1/2 Past [4] Wore and Stood to the Noward
 [at 6] Wore and Stood to the Westward
 [at 8] More Modt Sent the Boat on Bd and took Charge of the
 Prize, Sent the Sailmaker on bd to Repair hir Main Topsl ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. While the *Hope's* log on February 15 records the prize arriving in Boston, it is not included in any of Shuldham's prize lists.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Cambridge 12th Feby 1776

I Laid your Letter of the 10th instant before his Excellency, he was much Surpris'd at your fresh demand for 2000 dollars, indeed So was I, there is now upwards of 10,000 dollars advanced upon these armed vessels, & very few Accounts yet brought in – it is his Excellencys will, that you Send in yours as Soon as possible – Let the Owners of the Schooners make out Abstracts for their vessels from the time of their being engaged in the Service, to the 31st of december, for amount of which warrants will be given them, inclosed is a form for their government – by this means you will not want money to pay them & when you Send your accounts if money is necessary, it will be given you –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, February 12, 1776.

Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to consider the Account of Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, reported:

That by examining said Obryan's Account they find the whole of the provision, &c. for Billeting the men under his Command, amounts to no more than *Five Shillings and Six Pence* per Week each, and as said Capt. OBryan has no other Vouchers, the Committee are of Opinion, that his Account is just; said Account being *Three Hundred Seventy-one Pounds*, and the Account for Cordage, Tallow, Iron, &c. belonging to the Vessels, by said Obryan's Account, is the further Sum of *One Hundred Twenty Five Pounds, Five Shillings*, . . . out of which sum he, the said Obryan, has received the Sum of *One Hundred and Sixty Pounds*, which leaves the Sum of *Three Hundred and Thirty Six Pounds, Five Shillings*. The said Committee therefore, report the following Resolve, viz.

Read and accepted.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony to the said Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, the Sum of *Three Hundred and Thirty Six Pounds Five Shillings*, in full discharge of said Accounts.

Further *Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony to Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, his Officers and Seamen, under his command since the 21st Day of August, 1775, on board the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, and the Schooner *Diligent*, the Sum of *Eight Hundred and Four Pounds, Four*

Shillings and Two Pence, in full discharge for their Services on board said Vessels, until the first Day of February, 1776.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1776

Watertown, February 12.

We hear "that as Capt. [John] Manley was coming out of Plymouth, Jan. 30, an armed brig¹ (which went from Boston for the purpose of taking him, as is supposed) gave him chase; upon which he ran his vessel on shore, a little South of the North River in Scituate. The brig came to anchor, and fired not less than 400 times upon the privateer; but, very remarkably, no man was even wounded. One ball entered the stern, and passed but about six inches from Capt. Manly, who was confined by sickness in his cabin. The next day, 130 balls were found upon the adjacent shore."

Besides the above, which is from a correspondent near where the affair happened, we hear, that after the brig ceased firing she manned her boats, boarded Capt. Manley's vessel (the people being ashore) and endeavoured to set her on fire; but seeing our people coming upon them, they were glad to get off without effecting their design. She has since been got off, is refitting, and nearly ready for another cruise.

1. H.M. Brig *Hope*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion*, CAPTAIN RICHARD BRAITHWAITE¹

February 1776	Moored in Nantaskett Road.
Monday 12th	At ½ past 12 AM Deserted with the Long Bt Robt Sebastian, Jno. Hanson & Gilbert McCarty, Sent the Boats in Search of the Boat & Men at 4 the Boats ret'd without being Able to gett any Intelligence of them, At 7 Saw the Long Bt on shore at Puttocks Isld, Sent all the Boats Mann'd & Armed Under the Command of Lieut Despard to Bring Her off, with the Boats from the <i>Renown</i> . Modt with a Sharp Frost, pm Came onbd the Boats with the Long Bt, . . . Hauled the Long Bt up on Georges Isld to repair, She Being Buldged

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT¹

Febry 1776	Cape Cod SE 3 or 4 Leagues
Sunday 11th	at 7 AM spoke a Brig from St Eustatia to Boston ordered the Vessel to keep Company, at 8 Cape Cod SSE 3 leagues – at Noon the Brig in Company – at 4 PM fired 3 Guns shotted to bring too the Brig; sent an Officer and 9 Men on board her, being informed the Master had just fell overboard & was drown'd ½ past the Boat ret'd with 7 of

the Brigs People, hoisted the Boat in & bore away to the So wd of Cape Cod; at 6 anchrd with the small Bower in 16 fathoms and veerd to a whole Cable;

Monday 12th

At Single Anchor Cape Cod NW 3 Leagues
at 2 PM sent the Brigs People on board their Vessel – ours ret'd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Feby 12th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment –

Voted. That Coll Wm Russell, Mr Sylvester Bowers & Major [Benjamin] Tolman give Lists of the Names of all the Carpenters that are at Work in the Ship yards and that they affix the price that each man is to have P Day according to their several abilities as Workmen and make Report to the next meeting

Voted. That Messrs Clarke & Nightingale deliver Nine Tons of Pig Iron to Thos Arnold, Daniel Thornton & James Appleby [illegible] on the Acct an Resque of the Continent.

Voted, That Mr Manly agree with Mr Lee for all the Sparrs he has on hand on the best Terms he Can.

Voted. That Mr John Brown write a Letter to Mr. Hezekiah Sabin Merchant in New Haven and Request him to purchase for the use of the Continental Ships Two Hundred & Fifty Barrels [of] Poark and one hundred & fifty Barrels of Beef the price of the Poark to be at 54/ and the Beef a 40/ P Bbl at New Haven, that if it cannot be procur'd at the above prices, that he write to Mr John Brown on the same subject immediately, that he be allowed Two & an half P cent for doing the Business, and tha[t] Mr John Brown Draw on Messrs Jos. Dolb, Russell and Nicks Cooke to pay to the said Mr Hezekiah Sabin the Sum of three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, to pay for the same, and that he purchase Two Hundred Bushels of Beans & Pease, that a Majority of the Committee sign the Order. –

Voted. That we send a Messenger to Connecticut to procure Draught of the Ship to be Built there immediately. –

Reckoning 28/6 paid by [blank]

Meeting Adjourned to Wednesday evening 6 o'clock.²

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

2. Meeting held on February 14 and 16 showed no business transacted with reckonings of 20/ and 17/ respectively with the payees blank.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Enterprise* ON A VOYAGE TO THE WEST INDIES ¹

Known all Men by these presents that we Nicholas Brown, Joseph Russell, William Russell and Gideon Young all of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said



Curacao, Dutch West Indies.

Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals Dated the Twelfth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said Nicholas Brown, Joseph Russell, William Russell and Gideon Young have equipped the Sloop *Enterprize*, burthened about Seventy five Tons whereof James Westcott is Master and have obtained Permission of the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony for him the said James Westcott to proceed with the said Sloop and her Cargo to any of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other Military Stores. Now therefore the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said James Westcott shall well and truly lay out the whole proceeds of his Cargo on board the said sloop in Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Sulphur, Duck or Arms and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America the Danger of the Seas and of the Enemy only excepted and also further excepting that in Case the said James Westcott shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Coeti Candles in the Articles abovesaid that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Paper Ozenbriggs, Ticklenburgh, Lead, Flints, Twine Steel Jesuits Bark, Rhubarb, Cotton, Linnen, or Woolen Cloths, and shall also upon his Return to this Colony lodge a true account or Manifest of his Cargo in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony; and further shall not go to any Port or Place in the British West-Indies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force ²

Sealed and Delivered }
in the Presence of }

George Benson Rufus Hopkins

Nich^o Brown

Jos & W^m Russell

Gideon Young

James Westcot

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

2. See Nicholas Brown's instructions to Westcott, February 13, 1776.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SETH WARNER ¹

Sir.

Albany Feby 12th 1776.

As many of the Men that you raised in Consequence of my Orders of the 14th January last, were not marched by the first of February and as I informed you in my Letter of the 25th Ult: that I would not allow any Bounty except to such as were marched by that Day and as you now inform me that many more are marched than what you have received the Bounty for, I will supply you with a further Sum on Condition that such as were not marched by the first of February but are since marched do engage to remain in the Service in Canada or procure others in their Stead for the ensuing Campaign unless sooner discharged. You are therefore to make me a Return of the Names of all such Men as were marched before the first Day of February and also another Return of all such Men as are since marched.

As soon as you arrive in Canada you will try what Number of Men you can get to remain in Canada out of those that you have sent and send me their Names –

All such as will remain for the Campaign you will form into Companies agreeable to the Continental Regulations – If any of the Men that are gone under Major [Jeremiah] Cady will remain you are also to send me a separate List of them perhaps there may be a sufficient Number out of both Corps to form a Regiment – These Returns should be sent me immediately that I may not be at a Loss to arrange the Army. I am &c
Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 538, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.
Feby. 12th, 1776.

Mr. Nichols. Low came into the Committee and informed the Committee that he desires to go on lading the brig *New York*. The Committee informed him that they think he may proceed to lade the said brigantine. Mr. Low also requested a permit to lade the schooner *Polly*, Wm. Montanje, master, on account of Mr. Nichols. [*sic*] Gouverneur with flaxseed and lumber. Thereupon a permit was given him in the words following, to wit:

“Mr. Nichols. Low is hereby permitted to lade the schooner *Polly*, Wm. Montanye, master, with flaxseed and lumber on account of Mr. Isaac Gouverneur.”

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 291–92.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1776

New York, February 12

Last Sunday Week [February 4] his Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, Capt. Graham [Alexander Graeme], of 24 guns, arrived here from Boston, having General [Henry] Clinton on board, and a light Transport Brig under Convoy: The Arrival of these Vessels alarmed the Inhabitants of this City very sensibly; and last Friday the Transport Ship *Ketty* [*Kitty*], with 200 Soldiers on board, came into Port; 'Tis said she sailed from Boston in Company with the *Mercury*, and is supposed to be Part of the Fleet that lately left that Place destined for the Southward.

In Consequence of the above Manoeuvre, his Excellency the Earl of Stirling, arrived here from New-Jersey, with about 1000 Men, 2000 are daily expected from Pennsylvania; 1000 from Dutchess County, in this Province; and 2000 from Connecticut; so that we may this Week have an Army of near 8000 effective Men.

NARRATIVE OF SIR HENRY CLINTON ¹

[January 6 to February 12, 1776]

Defensive Situations are at all times unpleasant. But ours in Boston & on the Heights of Charles Town was accompanied with some mortifying Circumstances, which heightened the Satisfaction I felt at finding myself released from it by an order from Sir Wm Howe to take upon me the Command in the Southern District, and to proceed to Cape Fear River to meet an Armament coming from Ireland, in order to support the Loyalists & restore the authority of the Kings Government in the four Southern Provinces. For it seems the Governors of those

Provinces had sent home such sanguine and favorable Accounts of the loyal Disposition of Numbers of their Inhabitants (especially in the back Country) that Administration was induced to believe "that nothing was wanting but the appearance of a respectable Force there to encourage the Kings Friends to shew themselves, When it was expected they would soon be able to prevail over those, who having contrived to get the Sword into their hands had hitherto kept them in awe & effected their rebellious purposes without Controul."

This Force the Commander in Chief was told would be sent from Corke by the first of december, so as to arrive on the Carolina Coast sufficiently early for operations in that Climate; and to finish the Services expected from it in Time for its joining the northern army before the Campaign opened. He was accordingly directed to instruct the General officer, who should be sent thither, "to leave each Colony, as it should be reduced to Obedience, to the Support & Protection of the well affected Provincials, that might take up Arms in the Kings Cause, and to join him with the whole of the regular Troops as soon as the Navigation of the Northern Coasts of North America became practicable."

Instructions conformable to these Commands were delivered to me by Sir Wm Howe on the 6th day of January; and as soon as the Ships could be got ready I embarked in the *Mercury* Frigate, and sailed from Boston on the 20th in company with two Transports and a Store Ship having on board the light Companies of the 4th and 44th Regiments, and a few officers for a Corps intended to be raised among the Highland Emigrants in North Carolina. It had been Part of my Instructions to call at the different Ports in my way to the Southward, that I might have an opportunity of picking up Pilots, consulting Governors & other officers of Government, and Collecting Intelligence. We consequently put in to Sandy Hook, where we arrived on the 4th of february and immediately ran up to N York through the Ice. Here we found the *Asia & Phoenix* Men of War, lying in the East River, and the Governor (Tryon) residing on board Ship; none of them very pleasantly situated. For tho' they had been hitherto regularly supplied with fresh Provisions from the Shore, the Tumult of the Times rendered it rather dangerous for any Person to venture from them into the Town; the Inhabitants of Long & Staten Islands having been disarmed a little before our Arrival by a Detachment of Jersey Militia under Lord Stirling – and New York being kept in awe by a Body of those from Connecticut, who were also just joined by General [Charles] Lee from the Rebel army before Boston.

Having been detained by contrary Winds, it was the 12th of February before we could sail from Sandy Hook;

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME ¹

Feby 1776 Sandy Hook Light House WSW diste 5 Miles
Monday 12 at 6 A M weighed & came to sail *Kitty Glasgow Packet Three Sisters* in Co. 11 A M Discharged the Pilot. . . . *Three Sisters* parted Compy being for England.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, February 12, 1776

A letter from Major General Lee, dated 9th February, was presented to Congress and read, wherein he informs that a transport with troops was arrived there at New York, that more might be expected, and, therefore, that a farther reinforcement was necessary to secure and defend that place: Whereupon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New Jersey, immediately to send detachments of the minute men equal to a battalion, under proper officers, to New York, there to put themselves under the command of Major General Lee:

That it be also recommended to the committee of safety for Pennsylvania, immediately to send detachments of the four battallions of associators in this city [Philadelphia] equal to a battalion to New York, there to put themselves under the command of Major-General Lee.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send to New York, one ton of the powder belonging to the United Colonies, and that the same be delivered to the order of General Lee.

Resolved, That the said committee be empowered to purchase what powder and arms arrive belonging to private persons, on the best terms they can, for the use of the United Colonies;

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 127–29.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday 12 Feb. our Comee sent to N York made Report of their Proceedings – A Letter from Gen. Lee by Express,² it appears that he will have soon above 5000 Troops & Militia at New York, Debates whether to send Him more Force and from whence . . . Hewes made a Report which was accepted, on the Mode of getting Naval Stores conveyed from N Carolina to the Northern Colonies – ³

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. Lee's letter of February 9, 1776.

3. The mode of conveyance of naval stores from North Carolina was not passed in Congress until the next day.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE TO LANDON CARTER ¹

My Dear Colonel,

Philadelphia Feb. 12 1776

I intended to have devoted yesterday to answer your kind Letters by last monday's post; but unexpected business intervened, which prevented me and this day I find my obligation increased by the receipt of yours of the 1st Inst – I must now content myself with assuring you that I am very sensible of your Friendship, and acquainting you with the occurrences in this part of the world; the only return in my power for your kindness. Genl Washington having intelligence that Genl Clinton with a body of troops had sailed from Boston, & suspecting their intention was to make a lodgment in N.York; dispatched Genl Lee, to prevent it.

Lee arrived there last week with 1100 men; & on the same day in pops Clinton, who had been seperated from his fleet in a snow storm. finding Lee there, he & Tryon assured the town upon their honor that the troops were not destined for N York & nothing hostile was intended agst them. Lee knowing the cue of the Ministry & all their agents, continued to call in more forces. this day he sent us an e[x]press that one of the transports full of soldiers was arrived & several others seen at the hook. however as Lee had 4000 men, it is immagined Clinton will comply with part of his honorable engagement, & attempt nothing agst N.York; but proceed to Virga which place, some Gentlemen (in pretended confidence) were assured, was the original destination of the fleet so that perhaps old bess will not long remain lean. Clinton's pretended rendezvous is at Hampton road, where he is to be joined by a fleet from England with 5 Regiments. his present force is supposed to be 6 or 700 men. I fear your want of Arms & good Genls will make this little army very formidable to you. We have not yet apply'd to Congress for yr Genl Officers, nor do we know where they will be got; those that are good for any thing seem to have their hands full to the North & Eastward. whenever they are appointed, you may be assured I will not fail to put in a good word for my young friend Landon. Had we not been deceived in our intelligence respecting the 30 tons of powder, Boston in all probability, wou'd now be in our possession; but alas! for want of that necessary, the favorable season has passed away, without anything being effected; & now the nest must remain probably till next winter. however we have now in hand 117 tons of saltpetre, 13 of powder & 300 stand of arms; the utmost dispatch is using to manufacture the Saltpetre, which will soon enable us to answer all demands, wch are now very great from all quarters; but we expect in the present scramble for the 13 tons, to get one or two for Virga Our affairs in Canada are in as a good a situation as we cou'd expect since our unfortunte attempt upon Quebec. we have no doubt of having a sufficient force there to render a good acct of Carlton before he can be reinforced. Capt Manly of the *Lee*, now of the *Hancock*, is daily taking some of their supply transports; in return for which two Ships loaded by the Congress to procure military stores, have fallen into the Enemy's hands.

I find Ld D[unmore] is endeavouring to perswade the settlers on the Rivers to remain quiet, & not remove their stocks & provisions. no doubt till he is enabled to come & ease them of them all. tis strange that this monster, & the rest of his infernal tribe shou'd expect to be credited by a single person; after the innumerable instances of cruelty, rapacity, & perfidy, fresh in every ones mind, which they have exhibited in every part of the world. The Minsterial scheme agst [Stephen] Sayre & others was this. The workmen leaving the docks, demanding higher wages, applying to the American friends to supply them with money to convey them out of the Kingdom; was all under the direction of Ld Sandwich, in order to bring the Americans under the penalty for inveigling the King's workmen out of the Kingdom. It was about to take effect when One more honest than the rest of his fellows, disclosed the whole affair to the Alderman² - This failing, their next plan is, to make one Richardson a native of this City whome they have made an officer in the Guards, swear away the life of Sayre, & it is apprehended

[of] the other also. Is it possible that any one can expect any thing good from such abandoned Villains? from them & [all] their hellish plots Good Lord deliver us. Our best respects to sabine Hall, & believe me Dear Col. [&c.]

Francis Lightfoot Lee

To Col. Landon Carter of Sabine Hall
Richmond County Virginia

1. F. L. Lee Letters, VHS.
2. William Lee, brother of the writer, and an alderman in London.

SAMUEL SWAINE TO JOHN BOSLEY ¹

[Extract]

Philada Feby 12th 1776

. . . This City I think is pretty secure, we have thirteen Row Gallies which carry one Gun a Ps from 18 to 32 Pounders, besides Swivels & Small Arms, & these can go into Creeks & Shoal Water where the Men of War cannot follow them, we have also a Floating Battery of 10 Guns nearly finished, besides a Number of Sheveaux de Frize sunk in such a Manner as will certainly annoy Shipping very much, add to these we have a long, crooked, narrow, intricate Channel, which perhaps is as great a Security as all the Rest; you no doubt have been told that the Quarrel on this side, has been Fomented by a few Factious Men but I assure you this is not the Case, the People throughout the Colonies are as generally for the Measures pursued, as we can suppose such a Body of People to be, for we know that in all Matters done for the Publick Good, some Individuals are affected in their Property in a greater or less Degree, who never fail to cry out against the Measures, with all the Family & other Connections they can Muster, & in the unhapy Troubles now subsisting, there is a striking Instance of the City of New York, where I believe there are more Opponents to the Measures pursued here, than in half the Country besides, owing in my Opinion, to that City's having been for a Series of Years the Head Quarters for the Navy & Army, the supplying of which with Provisions Stores &c. &c: must have been Lucrative employments for a Number of the Citizens of New York, besides which a Number of Officers both Civil & Military have intermarried with the Inhabitants of that Province & all these have their Connections, I am therefore no way surprised when I hear there is some Opposition given to the Measures from a few Persons in that Province – You have heard too I dare say that the Americans are aiming at Independance, what they may be drove to aim at by & by I don't know, but can it be supposed that a People destitute of Arms & Ammunition cou'd have such a thought as with-standing the Force of Great Britain, I may be mistaken, but I am of Opinion that there were not six Men in America, if there was one, who entertained an Idea of the kind, & though I have no pretentions to the Secrets of the Cabinet, yet I have had an Opportunity of conversing with Gentlemen of a Number of the different Provinces, who have a great share of Public Esteem: when I say the Americans were destitute of Arms & Ammunition, I mean that there were none belonging to the Public, or next to it; but the Case is different now 3000 Stand of Arms are come in in one vessel & 1500 in another, besides small Quantities that are daily arriving, add to this that in this single Province there have been

made Weekly for six Months past 200 Stand of Arms; Powder & Salt Peter have also been got in, in considerable Quantities, & very handsome Cannon are now casting.

To Mr John Bosley at Mr Benjamin Bower's Mercht Manchestor

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1776

[Philadelphia] February 12, 1776.

For JAMAICA, The Brigantine *George* William Pennock, Master, Will sail on Thursday, weather permitting. For passage (only) apply to said master on board, at Huddle's wharf.

"A LIST OF SHIPS AND VESSELS FITTED OUT BY THE REBELS AT PHILADELPHIA TO CRUIZE AGAINST THE ENGLISH WHICH WHERE READY TO PUT TO SEA ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY 1776. —" ¹

Ships	Names	Masters	Names	Guns	Men
<i>Alfred</i>	Ezekl Hopkins } Commodore }			32	100

A Ship with a Man head, Yellow painted sides Square and Taunt rigged without quarter Galleries

<i>Columbus</i>	Jno Whipple ²	32	100
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A Ship without a head, black all over and resembles a Collier, excepting that of being Square and Taunt rigged. — The above Ships carry Guns between Decks, but so Crank, that in Sailing down Delawar river with their Ports open, they shipp'd a considerable quantity of Water. —

<i>Cabbert</i> [<i>Cabot</i>]	Bittle ³	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 14 \\ \text{or} \\ 16 \end{array} \right.$	70
---------------------------------	---------------------	--	----

A Brig with a Woman head, yellow painted sides with white drifts on her Quarters; Taunt and Square Rigged. —

<i>Andw Doria</i>	Hopkins } Commodrs Son }	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 14 \\ \text{or} \\ 16 \end{array} \right.$	70
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A Brig a black with no head. Square and Taunt Rigged.

<i>Providence</i>	Hazard	10	[cut off]
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A Sloop, all black, low and long with Crane Irons over the Quarters for Oars. —

<i>Fly</i>	Hacker	2 &	30
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A Sloop, scraped sides paid with Tar as a Tender to the rest.

Of their Colours

An Union Jack in a Canton with a [cut off] consisting of 13 Stripes, red and White or blue &c

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240; enclosed in Barkley to Gayton, March 21, 1776.

2. Abraham Whipple

3. Nicholas Biddle was captain of the *Andrew Doria*, while John Burroughs Hopkins, the "Commodrs Son" was captain of the *Cabot*.

WILLIAM NEIL TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

Sir.

Baltimore 12th Feby 1776.

Before this no doubt you have heard of ill fate of the schooner *Nancy* at St Eustatia, I have as yet no letters from my Capt or supercargo I daily expect to hear from them – as soon as I do shall advise you – as to the vessels being taken that account is confirmed different ways which I am sorry for – I have provided a Cargo of flour some time ago expecting the Schooner in and had no doubt of her bringing ammunition which would have got me a permission to have loaded her out on my own accot – I have a good deal of money due me from St Croix a Dennish Island near St Statia. if your honourable Council would give me liberty to send a Schooner I now have here, to that place where I have a number of Correspondence which I know to be true friends to our cause and will go any lenth to serve us with such things as we may want I would load her with 3 or 4 m Red Oakstaves some flour and Indian meal and corn and send her immediately to St Croix, where my Capt with the assistance of my friends there, would get all the powder that could be got in that Island – and could go over to Statia leave my vessel at St Croix, purchase such goods as I wanted order powder &c if to be got and take it to St Croix in a small craft where it might with great safety be put on board my vessel – the money that is due me there and the Cargo I would send out would I think buy near 2000 £ value of a back Cargo – so eligible is this plan to me that I have laid before you that if you give me permission I will risque it all on my own accot and will give all the arms ammunition &c I may get in, the first offer of all to the Council of Safety – should you be afraid that by granting me this premiton you would be troubled with many other applications it need not be known to any but that she goes on accot of the province.

Sir. you will please excuse me troubling you as your the only gentleman of the Council I have the honour to be acquainted with – pray favour me with an answer by the first oppty and you will much oblige Sir your [&c.]

William Neill

To the Honble Charles Carroll a member of the Council of Safety

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Monday 12 Feby 1776 – The Committee met –

Application being made by Captain Daniel Adams of the Schooner *Hawke* for Liberty to take in a Cargo of Flour for Beverley or Newbury Port in New England, it was granted to him on his producing a proper Certificate from the Committee of Beverley in Essex County in the Massachusetts Bay –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* ¹

Febry 1776	Remks & ca on board [H.M.S. <i>Roebuck</i>]
Thursday 8	[at noon] Vrd 2 reef Maintops Sound 18 fa brown sand and small Pebbles Fresh gales & fair [P. M. at] 2 Saw the Land from W N W to W S W [at] 7 Anchord in 5½ fath Cape Henry bearing W b S 1½ Mile ½ past 10 weighd and made & turnd within the Cape
Friday 9	[at] 9 His Majestys Sloop <i>Kingsfisher</i> & three Tenders joind us Do Weighed & made sail & got a Pilot out of the <i>Kingsfisher</i> [at noon] turning thro the Narrows First and latter parts mod. & cloudy Middle heavy squalls & rain P M at 2 Anchord in 13 fath Point Comfort West ¾ of a Mile . . . begun to fire the evening & Morning Gun
Saturday 10	at 10 weighd and made sail Moderate and fair at ½ past 1 Anchord in 6½ fa Sewel Point S E b S 1½ Mile Point Comfort
Sunday 11	A M employd in getting up & starting Salt water Moderate and fair
Monday 12th	A M at 4 Anchord here a Brig from Dominica A M at 9 Moord the Ship Little wind and fine weather P M at 6 The Earl of Dunmore came on board. ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965. The master keeping the log was James Holroyd.

2. *Ibid.*, the Virginia governor visited on board until February 15, when the *Roebuck* "Saluted the Earl of Dunmore on his going out of the Ship with 13 Guns."

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Monday, Feb. 12th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. [Alexander] Gillon, of this date.

Ordered, That the committee at George-Town do deliver fifty pounds weight of the public gunpowder in their custody to Capt. Gillon

In the Council of Safety,
Feb. 12th, 1776.

Permit Capt. Charles Morgan to lade, under your immediate inspection, twenty-one hogsheads of tobacco, and one hundred and ten barrels of rice, on board the sloop *Swift*, himself master, in Stono river; but not to sail before calling on the Council of Safety to report his load, and to receive a certificate for his departure.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee of James Island.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 256-57.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Monday, February 12, 1776.

Ordered, That Col. Gadsden, Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, and Capt. [Alexander] Gillon, be a Committee to examine a ship now on the stocks, at Capt. [Robert] Cochran's; and to report whether it is a proper Vessel to be purchased and armed in the colony service.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 27-28.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE ¹

February 1776 Laying in Savanna River
 Friday 9 (AM) sent an Officer with a Corporal and 18 Men up to 4 Mile point to fill the Water Casks
 First and Latter moderate middle fresh gales with hard rains Came in and Anchored here the *Symmetry* an Armed Ship wth Troops from Boston
 Saturday 10 (AM) Manned and Armed the Long boat and sent her on board the *Scarborough*, Came down the Sloop wth water and a Schooner with Damaged Rice on board which she took ²
 First middle and Latter mode breezes and fair Came on board the Long boat
 Sunday 11 (AM) Armed Do again and sent her on board the *Scarborough* Empd getting Water out of the Sloop
 First middle and Latter mode and fair
 Monday 12 (AM) sent the Boats Wooding Came down from Town Sir James Wright with his Family, and went on board the *Scarborough* Saluted him with 15 Guns The Captns Signal on board the *Scarborough* Answered it Sailed the *Hinchinbrook* Schooner at 12 Anchd here the *Whitby* Transport with Troops from Boston with the above Schooner

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

2. The schooner *Jane*, William Mills, master, from Sunbury to Savannah, cut out of Augustine Creek. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Feby '76 Moored in Savanah River Georgia
 Monday 12th at 9 AM came on board Govr Sr Jas Wright & Family with several of His Council for protection from the Rebels saluted him with 15 Guns, made the *Tamer*, *Raven* & *Cherokee* Sigls for Captains; sail'd hence His Majys Schooner *Hinchinbrook*, Got the fore & Topmts . . . Rigging up, at 1/2 past 11 saluted His Excellency Govr Sr James Wright with 15 Guns at his going out of the Ship, sailmaker empd repairing the Jibb, paid the sides with Tar.

Do Wr PM Anchd here H: Majys Schooner *Hinchinbrook* &
Whitby Transport,²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. *Ibid.*, another of the transports, the *Symmetry*, had arrived February 9, and H.M. Schooner *Hinchinbrook* on February 6. H.M.S. *Scarborough* and her convoy had been separated in a storm on January 6, 1776, the second day out of Boston.

PETITION OF JOHN KENNIDY TO EDWARD WEBLEY¹

Jamaica ss To His Honor Edward Webley Esquire Chief Justice of this his
Majestys Island of Jamaica –

The Humble request of John Kennidy of the Parish of Kingston in the County of Surry in the said Island Gentleman on the behalf of William Clarke Mariner John Werden Mariner and James Young Merchant now Prisoners in the Custody of Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire and so detained by him on Board his Majesties Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command in the Harbour of Port Royal –

Humbly Sheweth That the said John Kennidy on the behalf of the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young did between the Hours of Eight and Ten of the Clock in the forenoon of the Ninth day of February instant apply personally unto the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire at the Admirals Pen in the Parish of Saint Andrew and demanded from him a Copy of the Warrant of Commitment and Detainer of the said Prisoners

That the said Admiral Clarke Gayton did then acknowledge and declare that the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young were the Prisoners in his Custody and detained by him on Board the said Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command and that he did so detain them in his Custody by Virtue of his Orders or Instructions or to that Effect: But positively refused to deliver to your Petitioner any Copy of such Orders or Instructions or of any Warrant whereby he detained the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young Prisoners as aforesaid as by the Affidavit hereunto annexed more fully appears.

The said John Kennidy on the behalf of the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young doth therefore hereby humbly request your Honor to Order and Grant his Majesties Writ of Habeas Corpus upon the Statute of the Thirty first Year of King Charles the Second to be directed to the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire returnable immediately before your Honor to have the Bodies of them the said William Clarke John Werden and James Young before Your Hono[r] together with the Day and Cause [of] their Caption and Detention to the End that your Honor may examine the Legality thereof and do there w[?] to Justice and Right sha[ll] appertain

John Kennidy

Witness James Munro Ja^s Hall

A True Copy

[Endorsed] Let Writts of Habeas Corpus issue directed to Admiral Clark Gayton returnable immediate

Edw^d Webley 1776 Feby 12

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

EDWARD WEBLEY TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Jamaica ss George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and of Jamaica Lord Defender of the Faith and so forth To Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of our Fleet on the Station of this Island of Jamaica Greeting We Command You that the Body of James Young Merchant (now in your Custody on Board our Ship the *Antelope* as it is said) under safe and secure Conduct together with the day and Cause of his Captain and Detention by whatsoever Name or Names he May be therein named or called You have before our Chief Justice of the Island of Jamaica immediately at his House situated in the Town of Saint Jago de la Vega then and there to do Submitt to and receive all such Things as shall be Considered of by our said Chief Justice in this particular and have then there this Writ hereof fail not at your Peril Witness The Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Judge of our Supreme Court of Judicature and Chief Justice of our said Island at Saint Jago de la Vega the 12th day of February in the Sixteenth Year of our Reign

Edw^d Webley

William Singer C[C] Corona.

1776

February 12th

Per Statutum tricesimo primo Caroli secundi Regis

Expences bringing to Spanish Town

£ 1 . . 0 . . 0

returning if remanded

1 . . 0 . . 0

Let Security be given according to the Statute in

50 . . 0 . . 0

E W

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Similar writs were issued the same day for William Clarke and John Werden, mariners.

13 Feb.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Sir:

Montreal 13th Feby 1776.

I received your Letter of the 2d Instant with the inclosed Resolves of Congress and observe the Contents and shall attend to the Instructions.

Mr Hare shall be used with every Civility – a Return of the Names of Commissaries in Canada shall be sent you when I can get a Return from General Arnold.

I am inform'd there is great plenty of Salt in this part of Canada more than sufficient for a twelve Month.

I will enquire and find out what Quantity of Cloth fit for Tents can be procured in this Country but dont expect to find much, I inclose you a Return of Tents and Nails &c that are in the Stores in this place. As a Number of Gondolas will be greatly wanted in the River St Lawrence and as we have a Quantity seasoned Timber & Plank – and you will see by the inclosed Return a Quantity

of Spikes and Nails and as it will be difficult to get such as are built on the Lake, and perhaps dangerous, if they are any Ways large down the Rapids of Chamblé – Will it not be well to build them here, yet the Articles of Pitch Tar, Turpentine & Oacum must in that Case be sent from the Colonies, as there is none of either in the province, – some Master Carpenters would also be much wanted – good Workmen – poor ones are to be had here.

A proper person shall be appointed to frank the Army Letters – A Return of Ordinance in this province is already sent you – The Addresses are & shall be published.

I shall send you by this Conveyance General Montgomery's papers except the Accounts of Disbursements which must be first copied. Capt Van Renselour [James Rensselaer] is at present gone to Quebec to muster the Troops there, when he returns I shall direct him to proceed on to Albany.

With Regard to the two Regiments to be formed out of the broken Corps now in this province I hardly know what to say, I rather imagine it would be very difficult if not impossible to persuade but very few of them to engage for a longer Time than their present Inlistments – Yet I should be sorry that those Officers who are willing to continue in the Service should not have an Opportunity – The plan you propose though calculated to prevent Jealousies between the provinces I fear will be impracticable; besides the Difficulty of placing younger Officers before older ones they will never consent to serve together in Companies as that arrangement will place them – Suppose Sir that the Troops from [New] Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut should form one Regiment and the different New York Battallions another and the Officers be ranked according to Seniority from some Conversation I have had with several of the Officers – I am persuaded the other plan cannot be effectuated – I shall therefore be obliged to you for your Thoughts upon this and am in Haste [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 560–61, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir,

Montreal Feby 13th 1776 –

Since writing the Letter to Congress enclosed with this – I have been considering of the force intended by Congress to be sent into this Country – perhaps I may be mistaken, but I can not but be of opinion that the Ministry will send a great force into this province in the Spring and our every thing depends upon our having a force upon the Spot superior to them – In that case we shall keep the Canadians in our Interest, otherwise we may depend upon their being our Enemies – They will think it necessary to exert themselves against us, in order to make their peace with their former Masters – I need not mention to you the almost infinite importance of keeping this province Mr Walker & Mr Price will tell you what dependance is to be placed in the Canadians – I would wish that Ten thousand men might be pushed into the Country by the first of May, which will be a respectable Army – Much depends upon the good or ill success of the first encounter should there be any – I hope Sir that vigorous exertions for keeping

this province will be properly represented to Congress – Quebec must be taken before May – Yet we have neither proper Artillery nor Amunition. However a sufficient number of Men of Resolution I hope will effect it – I am Sir [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster

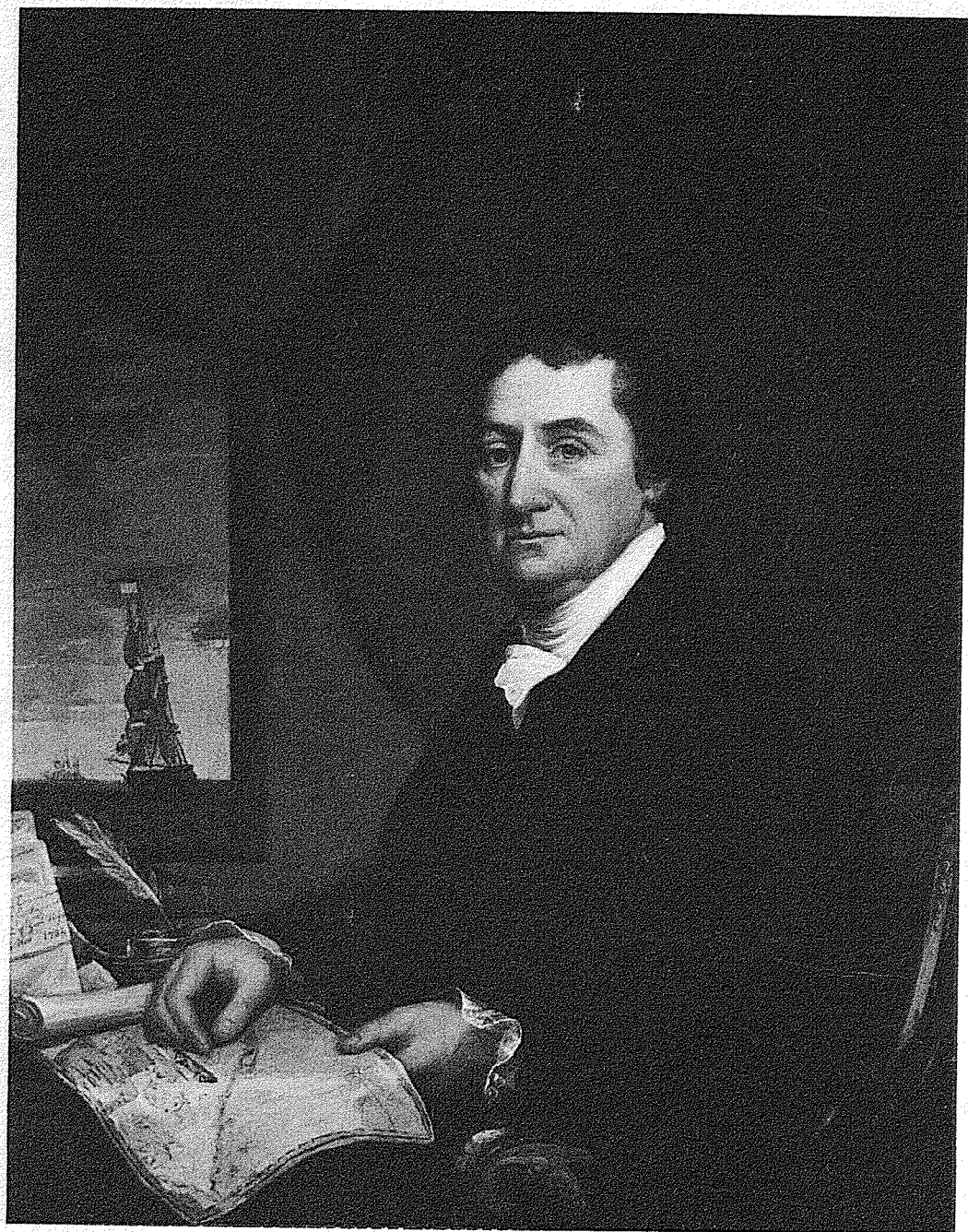
1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 297–98, NA.

ELIAS HASKET DERBY TO NATHANIEL SILSBEE ¹

Salem 13 Feby 1776

I Received a Letter from you by Capt [Wyatt] St Barbe, acquainting me that you was Ready to sail with Both Vessells for Dominica which I am somewhat sorry for, as I fear you will meet with some difficulty at Domin[ica] or in your sending your Sloop Back, I at Present think it Prudent if you can Confide in Mr Collins to Order him to sell the Vessell & Cargo & to Keep it in his hands for my or your Order hereafter & I would have you write him unless you have given any other Orders & have not time to alter it, if I have any opportunity I shall write him to that affect but it is uncertain

You write me you are surprized that I have not wrote you, but you must be a judge of the Risque, I once wrote you my mind very fully by Capt [Nathaniel] Nowell of Newbury & sent Abel Tree on Purpose to take care of it, but he got into Boston, in that Letter I wrote you the danger of comeing home again till Spring, Takeing all affairs into Consideration I must conclude it not safe or Prudent for me or you to Venture such an interest on this Co[a]st, so late as you must Provided you thought of comeing but in your Letter you think as I do about it, if this Letter should meet you at the Mole you may ship me by any Vessels bound to Cape Ann, Newbury, Ipswich, or near to it, some Cotton Cocoa, Sugar, Molasses, Duck, Cordage, Powder, or any other Article you think will answer; as I make no doubt but any goods will make at least 100 pc & for y[our] government I have set the Prices here & no doubt they will be much higher if times holds as they do at Present, but do not send any Indico as it is Contrary to the [Continental] association, but any fren[ch] Goods you have a Rite to bring, I do not mean at this time to Rite any Posetive Orders as affairs may alter in the Spring, but at Present it appears to me to be best to sell both Vessells & Cargo (tho it is much against my will to sell the Vessells) and to Settle all your affairs that is left unsettled, & either Tarry yourself in Jamaica or leave the whole stock in the hands of Messr Dolbears in Cash for my or your Order – If you had Rather I have no objection to your comeing home & leaveing the Interest as above, but I think the times cannot last long [as] they now are & belive you had better tarry some time at least, the N[ort]h side as it is more Healthy then at Kingston, & you need not be under any conceirn about your Familys wanting for any thing, there is many diffieculties in carrying on business at this time & should be sorry to hear of your going back to Halifax, or of your doing any thing however small Conterary to the Assosiation of the Continent, Another Reason is & you may depend on it that if the Present dispute should Contineu the next summer that there will be not less then one hundred sail of Privaters out from the Continant – & I suppose the Interest of yours as Jamaica or Halifax Property, must share the fate of others if taken, but may the Almighty



Elias Hasket Derby.

dispose of all things [and] Order the Councill of the wicked administration to come to nought, if you have any oppertu[nit]y write me by way of Philadelphia, under Cover to Messr Cabot & Goodhue Merchants there & write me as often as you can & keep all your affairs settled as Clear as you can so that if any accident should happen to you I might know how to settle the Voyage.

Coppy by Cape Ann

from yr Friend

Elias Hasket Derby

Good Sugar	£25 – none here will be soon £30
Common Rum	35/.
Cocoa	£45 –
Cotton	28/ to 30/.
Molasses	20/, none at market
Cordage	25 to 27 P[er] 112 lb & will be £30 –
Russ [ian] Duck	£40 – p[er] Bolt and small Duck in that Propor.

Worsted stockings & Middleing Linen is at Present worth at least 150 pct more than formerly, but they must be bought at the Mole as the Committees & one & all are very wachfull in all affairs of that kind, some few Boxes of Pins as those that used to be sold at 5/. the Paper is now sold at 30/. the Paper & good writeing Paper is likewise much wanted

1. Elias Hasket Derby Papers, vol. 10, 5, EI.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Sirs

Cambridge Feby 13. 1776

I take the liberty to Inclose you a letter which I received a few days ago from Captain William Wood ² upon the subject of his parole & confinement to the Town of Gloucester – As some of the Captains who have been taken by the Continental armed Vessels have been & are allowed a greater Indulgence than what he is, he seems to be uneasy & hopes that your Honourable Court will permit the Committee to Enlarge his parole – I have been long & Intimately acquainted with Captain Wood and in justice to him beg leave to Inform you, that I think him exceedingly worthy of any favours that you can do him consistent with the Good of the Great cause we are embarked in, and that any further Indulgences you may Incline to grant him, he will gratefully acknowledge & not abuse – he would wish to have the liberty of going to some of the Other Towns where some of his Acquaintances are – If Sir[s] It shall not be Incompatible with any determination of your Honourable body I could wish his request to be complied with – I shall be much Obligated by a Line from you that I may give him an answer, and pray as this application is founded in principles of Humanity, that you will excuse It. I am Sirs [&c.]

Rob H: Harrison

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 17th 1776 Read & ordered that the said William Wood be admitted on his Parole to pass & repass at Pleasure from & to Cambridge and Newbury Port – Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 247–48.

2. Master of the ship *Jenny*.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

[Extract]

Watertown Feby 13th 1776

Dear Sir I have receiv'd your Favor of the 30th of January Am obliged to you for the Intelligence it contained, & hope you will Continue your Favors & particularly Inform me, as far as you consistently can, what is doing at Congress ? how they are disposed since the reception of the Kings Speech ? & whether they are like to get any Powder ? an Article much wanted here, pray forward it to the Camp as fast as possible. . . . you cannot well conceive how much every man in [General] Court, any ways capable of Business, is crouded with it. we have hardly time to Sleep eat or drink. The settling of our Government, the Appointment of civil & military Officers & other Provincial matters are amply sufficient to Employ the Whole of our Time, What Can you think must be our Situation then, When the General Court are obliged to take upon them, as it were, the department of a Quarter Master General to the Army, There is hardly any thing wanted for the army but we are obliged to Sup[ply] it If Men, Money, Guns, Blanketts, Wood or Hay are wanted the General immediately Applys to the Court for them & the Members Are Appointed upon Committees & sent thro'out the Province to procure them. This I hope will serve as an apology for us, if we do not write so frequently & particularly as you might other ways expect –

Mr [John] Adams & Mr [Elbridge] Gerry will deliver you your Appointment & Instructions.² The General Court have passed a Militia Act Which I inclose you, They are about repealing the Act they lately passed with respect to Admiralty Matters & passing one Conformable to the Resolutions of the Congress – They have Resolved to Build Ten Sloops of War of about one hundred & fifteen Tons & have appointed a Committee to put this Resolve into Execution . . . I can get the Heavy Cannon for the Ships³ cast by Mr Aaron Hobart of Abington, but must have the Pig Iron from Philadelphia. The Furnace at Providence will not be able to Cast more than is wanted for Rhode Island Government – I remain with respect [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. His reelection to the Continental Congress.

3. The two Continental frigates building at Newburyport.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SCHOONER *Catharine* ON A VOYAGE TO PHILADELPHIA¹

Know all Men by these Presents, that I Robert Stevens of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with my Seal Dated this Thirteenth Day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Thomas Cotterell Master of the Schooner *Catharine* burthened about Fifty five Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke

Esquire Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Schooner with Fifty barrels of Oyl from this Colony to Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such that if the said Thomas Cotterall shall proceed to the Colony of Pennsylvania and there discharge his Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his Cargo and bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of the said Schooner and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of

Rob^t Stevens Jur²

Henry Ward Esther Ward

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, on the same day Stevens took out a bond for the sloop *Diamond*, 45 tons burden, John Morris, master, on a voyage in ballast to New York.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN JAMES WESTCOTT¹

Sir

Providence Feby 13th 1776

You being Master of our Sloop *Enterprize* Our Orders are that you proceed to Rhode Island and Clear your Vessel at the Custom House, and then Imbrace every Good Wind to gain your Passage to the Granards, and there Sell your Cargo to the Best Advantage for Our Interest Not to Trust out Any of Your Cargo but to sell for Cash only, and lay out the Nett proceeds In such produce as you May Judge Will best Answer, Excepting Sum Oil for our Table Use, Sum Sweetmeats, & a few pounds of Dunford pins for Famaly Use & then proceed home with all possable Dispach – Your Commissions for doing the Buisness is to be Five pCent for Sales and Two & a half pCent for Returns, and Ten hhds Priveledge Home – If any thing should happen that you should do Otherways than well your Mate Mr Colvin, is to take the Command & follow these Our Orders –

We are your friends & Owners

Nich^o Brown

for himself & Owners

N B, you are not to speak with Any Vessel during the Voyage if you Can help it –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Head Quarters Rhode Island 13th Feby 1776.

Hond Sir. I take this Opportunity to acquaint You Colo Wanton is returned to Head Quarters upon his Parole, being set at Liberty till the Sitting of the Genl Assembly; at the first Sight of Him my Blood felt warm & continued so for some Time in every Vein in my Body. I can truely Say with Job, had he “been sent back by my Enemies I could have born it;” but for Men, from whom I expected

the greatest Protection, to set so lightly by me, my Officers & Men as to think it not worth while to detain such a Gentleman as Colo Wanton a few Days at Providence until I could be heard on the Matter: When I reflect on the Subject, and see my Enemies exulting, my Officers & Men dejected, & the grand and glorious Cause we are engaged in so much injured by it, am much put to it to bear up under my Burthens. Had not Colo Wanton been a Man well known to be an Enemy to his Country by every Person who has had the least Acquaintance with him, should not have taken it so hard. Had Colo Wanton been Commander in Chief in this Colony, & I had treated him & his Men in the same Manner he hath treated me & my Men, I should have been put in Irons & confined in close Gaol; as long as there are so many Compliments paid to our inveterate Enemies because they are Men of Fortune, not considering their Connections are so much more extensive, & have it in their Power to do us vastly the more Mischief, which is the present Case; in my Opinion we shall make but poor Progress in the Cause of Liberty: I thank God, that he hath endowed me with Spirit & Resolution to discharge the Trust reposed in me with an honest Heart, & that I have the Testimony of a good Conscience on that Account – However I may be censured by my Superiors, I must say, when Men's Lives are threatned for endeavouring to perform their Duty, when at the same Time they are obliged to do it, that a Person who hath been evidently guilty of all this, should be permitted to return where he can prosecute his traiterous & murderous Designs is astonishing to me –

I had much rather go into the Field with one Hundred Men & engage with Two Hundred of Capt [James] Wallace's Men, & fight four Hours, than undergo the Feelings I have felt for an Hour past, looking upon myself as a Subject of Ridicule for my Enemies, and of the Disregard of those whom I have always taken to be my best Friends. As I remain here seemingly only as a Cypher, I desire to be called from this office as Commander in chief here, as soon as possible, as I have no Desire of tarrying where I can be of no Service to the Government, or the grand Cause we are engaged in; & sincerely wish some Person may be appointed in my Stead, who will fill the Station with Honor & Fidelity, & a Person who will have some Notice taken of him.

Capt. Devol whom I sent to conduct Col. Wanton to Providence, is Just returned but not a Line sent me from the Governor; it seems I am a Person not worth writing to.

Capt Devol informs me Colo Wanton complained much to you, of my harsh & ill usage to him, & that I would not allow him to come before me & treat upon the Matter, & that General [Charles] Lee did not use him as I had done; I would just say a Word or two in Answer to that, it so happened that I was in Company with Genl Lee when he first sent for Colo Wanton, who came immediately, offering no Threats against the Person sent to him, not requiring an armed Force to bring him, but came immediately on the first Notice, & when he was before the General, gave him no Challenges, but treated him with Deference & Respect. – When General Lee ordered him to be sent out of Town, He sent Him to me at Head Quarters, gave Orders that I should take Charge of the sd Wanton, which I accordingly did, sent him to Mr Irish's, & ordered him to be Supplied with every Necessary he wanted; the Colo then said he was well treated by me.

I shall now give You a short Account of the Usage Col Wanton hath recived from me in taking him up this Time; A Day or two before he was taken, He came with a Complaint to me, against the Troops Stationed on Jamestown, of their burning the [torn] &C. on his Farm there, committing great Waste, upon which I immediat[e]ly Sent over or[ders] to Colo Hoxsey [Gideon Hoxie] not to Suffer any Waste to be committed on sd Island, always treating Colo Wanton as a Gentleman. After his insulting me, as you may see by the Papers I sent You, I in a genteel manner sent a Serjeant to him with a Billet, ordered him to take his Horse & Chaise & come to Mr George Irish's, which he refused to comply with, in a very Haughty Manner, Scrupling my A[u]thority. I then Saw plainly I must try whether I had any Authority or not, & accordingly sent an armed Force into the Town of Newport, which I was very loth to do, for many Reasons without the greatest Necessity: When the Col was brought out of Town, I ordered him to be conducted to mr Irish's, & sent to Mr Irish requesting him to let the Colo have every thing he wanted to make him Comfortable as to Lodging Diet, &C. About 7 oClock next Morning I sent him a Billet informing him I was about to send him to Providence, and that he must set off at Ten of the Clock, & if he wanted any Thing from Home for his Journey, he might send for them so as to be ready by that Time; this Billet He also treated with Disdain, never sent me a Scrip in Answer, nor ever asked to come before me: A Number of his Friends came to vizit him, on the Occasion, some of them came to me and desired to know if there was no Way the Affair could be settled, I told them he must go to Providence; Much more might be added, but lest I should tire your Patience I forbear. If I have said any thing amiss in the above Epistle I humbly ask Your Honor's Pardon, and at the same Time assure You I only mean to Communicate to you my Sentiments freely as to a Friend – I am with Respect [&c.]

W^m West

N:B. Since I finished this, Yours of the 14th Inst. I've recieved P Lieut Riggs, by which I find You take Col Wanton's bare Word Rather than all I wrote you, with all the positive Evidence I Sent You – Ever since I came here, the greatest Concord & Unanimity hath existed both with the Officers & Men, so that we have been very happy on that account, and notwithstanding they are all greatly Chagrin'd by Col Wanton's being Sent Back, You may be assured I will use my utmost Influence that Peace & Harmony may still remain among the Officers & Soldiers Col Wanton's Return operates more on our Friends in the Town of Newport than Elsewhere; Twenty Men have been kept as a Watch in the Town, (being all Inhabitants of Newport,) their Business is to patrole the Wharves Night & Day, that Nothing may go on Board the Ships, who think they are now in great Danger of being kill'd or taken on Board the Ships in a private Manner. – Yrs as above

W:W

WILLIAM APLIN TO THE SOUTH KINGSTON, RHODE ISLAND, COMMITTEE OF
CORRESPONDENCE ¹

Gent

So Kingston Feby 13th 1776

Agreeable to your requisition of Yesterday I now sit down to give you a faithful & true narrative of my proceedings in Point-judith. —

On Saturday the fourth instant I went upon a Visit to Mr Stephen Hazard's at Point-judith & stayed at his House the Night following, on Sunday Morning I went from Mr. Hazard's with some Company to the House of Mr Stephen Champlin who is in the Neighbourhood of Mr Hazard's soon after I arrived at Mr Champlin's the Fleet from Newport was descried steering Southward from the Light-House, the Company I was in made many conjectures concerning their destination, most of the People imagining their destination was for Block-Island; none I believe thinking they were a going to Land in Point-judith, until We observed that one of the Ships wch I beleive was the *Rose*, stood in for the Land, upon wch the Women & Children, who were present were very much affrighted & began to screech & Cry, wch much affected me to see their distresses, and I proposed that it would be proper for some Person to go down upon the shores & see if Capt Wallace could not be prevented from spreading destruction & devastation through the Point, (as there were no Armed Men present to oppose him, & the distance of the People one from another are so great that it would take a very considerable time to collect any force to Repel the Enemy) I then not seeing any Person to go down to the shore, went myself, & got upon the Point of Land just as Capt Wallace was Landing, I called out & asked for Capt Wallace upon being told where he was, I Requested that he would not Land his Men, & frighten the defenceless Women & Children, — and asked him his demands, he said he wanted two Loads of Hay, & then asked me for a Team, & said if he could have the Hay Carted down to the Shores he would pay for the Hay, & the use of the Team — I told him the Hay belonged to Mr Niles who lived upon the Farm, upon wch he said he should be glad to see Mr Niles, & requested that I should desire Mr Niles to come down to him — upon wch I told him that as soon as the alarm spread thousands would come down & prevent his taking the Hay he replied he would have the Hay at the risk of his Life I then left him & went to Mr Niles's in order to consult the People that might be assembled whether it would not be better to give the two Loads of Hay than to have the Neck ravaged; upon my going to the House I could see not any Person whoever & I then went to Mr Stepn Champlins in order to see if Mr Niles was there & not finding him I went to Mr St: Hazard's, & at Mr Hazard's I saw not any Person saving Mr. Hazard & some part of his famely. Mr Hazard had then got a Horse saddled with a Pillion on in order to go as he said for a Midwife, the fright Mrs Hazard had received he said he apprehended would be attended with bad consequences, as she was not in a state to be moved, upon wch seeing my Brother Joseph Aplin's Horse there I mounted him & rode down to were Capt Wallace was in order to let him know that I could not see Mr Niles, upon my coming up to Capt Wallace I told him I could not see Mr Niles he said he is here upon wch I

then replied I am dismissed he said No you are to stay one Quarter of an Hour – I then discovered Mr. Jos. Aplin Doct Gleeson, Mr. Silas Niles & Mr Robert Hazard but did not hear any Conversation that passed.

I can assure you Gent that I acted from [mo]tives of compassion for the defenceless Women & Children & did not intentionally mean to give the least offence to any Person, whatever, & If my conduct has been Wrong, the Error was undesigned – for I have at almost every Alarm shouldered my Musket & Marched with my Neighbours in defence of my Country & when I found that there was no person to oppose Wallace I thought I was acting for the Public good if I could be any ways instrumental in saving my Neighbours Houses goods &c – Upon the whole Gent I beg you will pass this matter over & think, as I really did act from principles wch I thought was then best. I am very sorry that my Conduct has given the least offence, & the whole was done through my not thinking it would be construed into a Wrong. I am Gent [&c.]

William Aplin

[Endorsed]

Questions asked Wm Aplin by the Committee

Question was you asked by any Person or Persons to go to Capt Wallace, when he was Landing at Point Judith, & by whom?

Ansr I am not certain, as to that,

Question was you there before Capt Wallace Landed or not,

Answer, before he, or any of his men Landed

Question Did you inform your brother Joseph Aplin that you had been at the Point with Wallace, before your sd brother had been down, & when did you inform him

Ansr Yes & the same Evening that Wallace Landed being with my brother at Stephen Hazard's –

William Aplin

The aforesaid William Aplin, being before sd Committee, this 13th day of February A D. 1776 Declared that the aforegoing Declaration by him given, & the aforegoing Answers by him made, to the aforegoing Questions, are the Truth.

Witness J Peckham Clerk of sd Committee

To the Committee of Corrispondence in Southkingstown

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R. I. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH KINGSTON COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Correspondence held by adjournment in South Kingstown the 13th day of February A D. 1776 –

This Committee having received information that William Aplin of sd Town, was in Company with Capt Wallace, at the Time of his Landing at Point Judith, On the fourth day of this Instant, upon which this Committee immediately caused the sd William Aplin to appear before them, to answer to sd Information, who declared he was with sd Wallace at sd Time & place, & that he had conversation with him, agreeable to a Narrative, this day delivered to this Committee, by him

subscribed with his Name Upon due Consideration It was thereupon ordered by this Committee, that the Clerk of the Committee, immediately transmit a Copy of the proceedings of this Committee, in the Premises, together with the sd Narrative of sd William Aplin, to his Honour the Governor of this Colony, and this Committee appoint Mr Thomas Hazard Potter, to convey the same, as soon as may be, to his Honour the Governor –

A True Copy extracted from the Minute Book

Witness J Peckham Clk of said Committee

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

J. PECKHAM TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

So Kingstown Feb. 13th. 1776

It appearing to the Committee of Correspondence of this Town, upon recollecting the Examination of John Patterson the Deserter from Capt Wallace at Point Judith 4th Feb. Instant, That a Person prior to Mr Joseph Aplin, Doctr Gleason, Silas Niles & Robert Hazard, had been to the Shore singly & conversed with sd Wallace previous to his Landing – Upon interrogating Mr Joseph Aplin last saturday, He declared to the Committee, that he knew nothing of any Person going to Wallace, before himself, together with Doctr Gleason, Niles & Hazard aforesd, The Committee thought it their duty to make the strictest enquiry into sd Matter, & was soon informed that the Person alluded to by the Deserter was Mr William Aplin, brother to the aforesd Joseph, & who upon Examination proved to be the Person, & the sd William declared before the Committee, the whole affair (as he says) of his going to sd Wallace, & declared that he told his sd Brother at Mr Stephen Hazard's in the evening of sd 4th Instant, that [t]he sd William Applin had been down to sd Wallace, & conversed with him, previous to his sd Brother Joseph's going to Wallace, on the same day, I here inclose Mr William Aplin's relation of the affair, with some Questions asked him by the Committee & his Answers thereto,² knowing your Honours most fervent Zeal in the Grand Cause of Liberty, The Committee have not the least doubt, but your Honour will immediately, do everything in your Power, that the truth of this unhappy affair, may very soon appear, all which is submitted for your Honour's Consideration, By order & behalf of sd Committee by Yr Honours most Obediant and Humble Servt–

J Peckham Clk of sd Committee

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

2. See William Aplin to the South Kingston Committee of Correspondence, February 13, 1776.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Lebanon Feby 13. 1776

As I have received a most pressing Request from Genll Washington to forward to Him all the Powder we can possibly spare, I have therefore concluded to send Him what We have lying at Providence supposed to be about 6000, weight. as it is in the common Cause, You will I dare add to your other Favors, in ordering the Powder You was so kind as to send for to Bedford in Dartmouth to Genll

Washington as speedily as possible, in secure Packages, the Charges of transporting these, with the others arising on that Powder, You will be so good as to transmit to me with your Order thereon which will be readily answered.

The Intelligence We have from Canada is at present favorable. Brigr Genl Arnold keeps up the Blockade of Quebec, expects to hold out 'till reinfor[ce]ments arrive, some Companys from the northward had passd Montreal, others on their march near there & many others hard following on, so that we have great ocason to hope he will very soon be sufficiently reinforced. Such ready Support in the depth of Winter by the march of our Troops at so great a Distance over those bleak Lakes & uninhabited Shores into the frozen Regions of Canada, must astonish our Enemies & will not have a parallel in History. I have the pleasure also to inform You that Genll Lee has at length obtained free admission into New York, where He is determined to gain a firm footing & possession with its Environs. Lord Stirling with his Jersey Battalion has also joind him. about the same Time Genl Clinton arrived at New York & finding Himself defeated in his Plan gives out that He had no Design of landing Troops there, but is bound further southward.

thus Providence seems in every way to operate for the Salvation of a too ungratefull People, & to the Confusion of our Enemies. I have transmitted to you inclosed a Copy of my last from Genll Lee, for your perusal, & in consequence of it have orderd the Regiment as requested. and am with sincere Respect & great Esteem [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

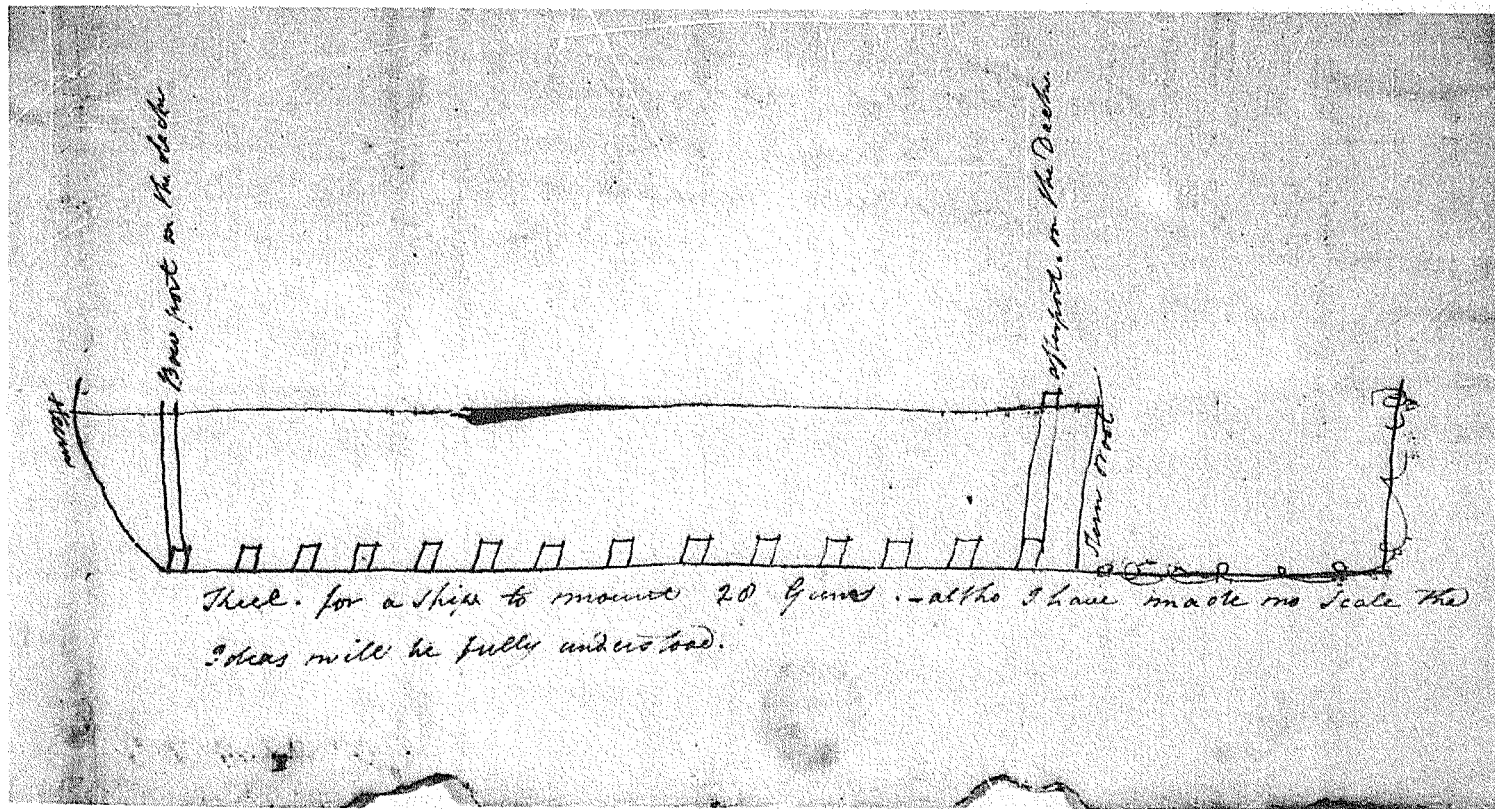
Albany February 13th: 1776.

Sir Mr. Macarty who is just arrived from Canada delivered me the inclosed, he is capable of giving Information to Congress which has confirmed me in my opinion of the Necessity of sending immediately a Committee into Canada.

The New York Congress have sent me twelve thousand five hundred Dollars to raise a Regiment in this Quarter for the Canada Service; I have already too much Business on my Hands without this addition but as the General Committee of this County meet on Thursday, I will lay the Request before them and if they think it can be complied with I will do my Endeavours.

I have an Infinity of Trouble with those people to whom I promised a Bounty to march into Canada. Inclose a Copy of a Letter which I yesterday delivered Col. [Seth] Warner - I hope what I have here recommended will meet with the approbation of Congress. If he should be able to form a Regiment out of the people mentioned the Number of Troops in Canada will notwithstanding be less than what Congress intended, as the two Regiments cannot by any Means be raised out of the other Troops now in Canada - It will besides save a very considerable Expence which must necessarily accrue by his Men coming away and others being sent in Lieu.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 532-34, NA.



Colonel Alexander McDougall's "ruff Diagram" of a keel for a 28 gun ship, included in a letter to John Jay, February 13, 1776.

COLONEL ALEXANDER McDougall to JOHN JAY¹

Dear sir

Newyork Feby 13th 1776

Yesterday we made a Convention. I have the pleasure to inform you it will be a full one in a day or two. They have such a Spirit as will maintain the reputation of the Colony and the Common Union. When Mr [Silas] Deane was here in the Course of the winter, on the business of the Navey; I suggested to him the Propriety of getting a Copy of Lieut O Brien's Naval evolutions, to be reprinted. He approved of it, but I could not then obtain a Copy. I have Since procurd one and Sent it this morning by Col [Lewis] Morris to Congress which I beg them to accept. As this is the only tract on this Subject, in our language, and but one other Copy of it in this City, I think it Should be reprinted at Public expence. If this Should be the opinion of Congress, great care ought to be observed in the work. The Copy Should be corrected, by the Errata before its begun, for if the work is not clear, as those for whose use it is designed are not the most intelligent, the end of the republication will not be answered. From the diminsion transmitted to Newyork for the building the Ships in our Colony, I fear the Construction of them will be improper for the force designated for them. All the modern Frigates English as well as French, which carry Nine or Twelve Pounders, have their Ports Seven feet distant in the Clear from sill to sill of the Ports, and each Port from 2 feet to 2 feet three inches clear, and the Bow gun Stand in its proper Place not farther forward than the Scarf that is not over the Strait part of the Keel. And the aftermost Gun, is generally the distance of one port, from the Scag, that is from the aftermost part of Keel. From whence it will necessarily Follow, that the whole length of the Keel Should be equally to the dimensions of the Ports and their distance for the Number of the Guns a ship is intended to Carry on the Lower Deck. This will be Clearly understod by the ruff Diagram, on the other side.² My Solicitude for the reputation of the united Colonies, is the motive that induced me to make this hasty address in Convention, which I hope will plead my excuse. I am with great truth and regard [&c.]

Alex^r M^cDougall

1. Manuscript Collection, No. 161, USNAM.

2. See illustration opposite.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, February 13, 1776

The committee on the petition of Stacey Hepburn, brought in their report, which was agreed to as follows:

That the said petitioner be permitted to load the sloop *Dolphin*, with the produce of these colonies, (live stock and lumber for making casks excepted) and to transport the same to Hispaniola, he promising to use his utmost endeavours to remit the amount of such cargo in military stores, into some port of this continent, as soon as possible.²

The Committee appointed to prepare a resolution for the exportation of naval stores, brought in the same, which was agreed to as follows: ⁸

Resolved, That when navel stores shall be wanted in any of the United Colonies, the assembly, convention, or committee of safety of such colony, may entrust a proper person or persons to import the same, taking sufficient security of him or them, that they will faithfully use their best endeavours to import the same into such port or ports as the said assembly, convention, or committee of safety shall direct, and, as much as possible, to avoid all British men of war and cutters; giving him or them, a certificate or certificates of the naval stores wanted, and also of his having given the said security: And that it be recommended to the convention, council of safety, and committees of observation and inspection of North Carolina, upon receiving such certificates, to permit the person or persons producing the same to export the naval stores wanted by the colony applying for the same to such colony.

That it be further recommended to the said convention, council of safety, and committees of inspection and observation in North Carolina, to give permission to such vessels as may have arrived in that colony, for those articles, or such of the vessels belonging to that colony, as they may think proper, to export naval stores to any of the United Colonies, they taking security as in the other cases above mentioned.

A petition from Mr. Bernard Romans, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New York, to pay Mr. Bernard Romans up to the 9th day of this month.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 129-34.

2. Hepburn's memorial was presented on February 9, 1776, and referred to a committee of three: Thomas McKean, Thomas Nelson, and John Penn.

3. The draft from which the resolutions were drawn is not in the Papers CC, but in the Hayes Collection, NCDAL, and is apparently in the handwriting of Joseph Hewes.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 13 [February]. [Samuel] Chase gave Notice that he would move tomorrow for Orders to Admiral Hopkins to seize all Ships of Great Britain & to recommend to all the Colonies to fit out Privateers – agreed to continue the Pay of Capt Bernard Romans during his Stay in Philada on public Business

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

"PRIVATE INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA 13TH FEBY 1776." ¹

1776

January	8th	Forty Ton of Salt Petre Arrived from Saint Croix.
	17	Fleet saild to Reedy Island and Seventy Hands arrived from Rhode Island to help them.
	20	Twenty two of the Cheveaux de frizes drove by the Ice from their Moorings. –
		Eighty hands more for –

February 12th

Fleet sailed in the Morning under old [Esek] Hopkins from Reedy Island, destination a Secret.

Four Frigates on the Stocks, the Keels 140, 136, 124 and 120 Feet – to carry they say from 36 Guns to 28 Do but not quite Certain –

A Guard Ship on the Stocks of 18 Guns, to be launched in about three Weeks, to be Stationed just below the Cheveaux de frize.

The Deserters that are here would very willingly return to their Duty, if they were sure of a Pardon, and could be informed when they would be received; and it is believed would bring many with them –

Copy/

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shulldham's letter of March 8, 1776 to Philip Stephens.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen.

Philada Feby 13th 1776.

be pleased to pay unto Messrs Saml Purviance Junr, William Lux, & David Steward or their Order three hundred pounds Common Money for Value received of them, being so much Money belonging to them & which We received to be applied for the purchase of Guns for the *Defence* –

Sam^l Chase

R. Alexander

W^m Paca

[John] Rogers

[Endorsed] Received the Amount of the Within Order in full £300

David Stewart

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Honorable Gentlemen

Philadelphia 13th Feby 1776.

We received information from Genl Washington about ten days ago that the *Mercury* Ship of War and several Transports with General [Henry] Clinton and a number of Soldiers on board had sail'd out of Boston harbour and that he was informed they were bound to New York, in consequence of this intelligence he had sent of[f] General Lee to take the Command of such forces as could be immediately marched into that City for its defence. General Clinton arrived before the Town in the Man of War on the same day that General Lee marched into it, we are this day informed that one of the Transports full of Soldiers has got into the harbour, it seems to be doubtfull wether Clinton intended to land in New York had he arrived there in time, some think he is to proceed to the southward, his going in there has occasioned much Speculation, it is generally believed by those who get the best information and we have not the least doubt of the fact, that he is on his way to North Carolina and that he called at New York to confer and

advise with Governor Tryon respecting the situation of our Colony, the Number & temper of the people, and in what manner he might best attack them with a probability of success, the particulars as far as we have been able to obtain information of them are these: that seven Regiments were to embark from Great Britain about the first of december and proceed to Hampton Road in Virginia, there wait till Genl Clinton Joins them with the troops from Boston, settle the plan of opperation with Lord Dunmore and proceed to make impressions into North Carolina and the adjacent Colonies in such places and Manner as may best suit their purposes by dividing their forces, We thought it absolutely Necessary that you should be informed of these matters that your best efforts may be exerted to defeat the purposes of them, should Governor [Josiah] Martin supported by a body of these troops, introduce himself amongst the highlanders and Regulators the Consequences might prove fatal to our Colony,

We recommend it to your consideration whether it will not be prudent to call a meeting of your Congress early in April or sooner if it can be done with propriety, will it Not be proper to appoint several General officers to command the Militia in case large bodies of them should be called forth? Seven Regiments of 680 Men each with the Accession of Tories and perhaps Negroes will be a very formidable force and will require your greatest abilities to oppose, you will see by Lord Norths Motion in Parliament on the 20th of November what the Colonies have to expect from that quarter, we earnestly hope our Colony will stand firm and oppose the Tyranny of that Corrupt Parliament to the last extremity,

we wrote to you three days ago when we expected to have sent off[f] the Waggon, but meeting with a disappointment in the powder (that in the Magazine being all Cannon powder very coarse and ordinary) we Judged it improper to send any till the best kind can be got, we are obliged to detain the Waggon a few days 'till a Vessel arrived in the River (with Sixty Tone of Saltpetre Thirteen Tons of powder and 1300, Arms) gets up to Town, a copy of that Letter with sundry papers therein referred to we now enclose, we shall be glad to know the time you fix for the meeting of your Congress, and are with the utmost respect Honble Gentlemen [&c.]

The honble Corn[eliu]s Harnett Esq and the
other members of the Council of Safety of No Carolina

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON¹

[Philadelphia, February] the 13th

I mentioned to you some time ago that a Vessell was arrived here with near Sixty Tons of Salt Petre on board and that several quantities of powder had been brought in, a few days since another Vessell arrived in this same River and is now kept below by the Ice She has Sixty Tons of Saltpetre, 13 Tons of Powder & 1300 muskets on board, These supplies appear considerable and yet we find by experience they are quite trifling when compared with our demands. Powder Mills being scarce the manufacturing goes on very slow and powder wastes exceedingly in a large Army even where little is fired away, the Cartouch Boxes get wet,

Soldiers are careless and much is lost in dealing it out in small parcels – notwithstanding all our Supplies we now find both Powder & Arms greatly wanted at our Camp at Cambridge, by our army in Canada, by the Troops in New York, in this Province, Maryland & Virginia, give us powder or we perish is the language of all applications are made every day to Congress for powder & Arms, it is astonishing to think what pains the British Court has been at to prevent every Nation in Europe from supplying us with these articles, Several person who have lately come from France, Spain, Portugal & Holland say every Port every Town and almost every public house has spies from England to watch the motions of the Merchants so that scarcely anything can be brought away even by a Circuitous Voyage but they find it out, by the ingenuity of some dutch & French smugglers a little is sometimes brought away so that we meet with more difficulty in our supplies than could be expected, Americans ought to be more industrious in making these articles at home, every family should make salt Petre every Province have Powder Mills and every body encourage the making of arms.

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDH. Continuation of February 11 letter.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON ¹

Dr Sir

[Philadelphia, February 13, 1776] ²

The Bearer Mr Goddard intending to go as far as Georgia to establish A Continental Post office under proper regulations thro the Southern Colonies I embrace the opportunity to entertain you with a line or two on politicks

By Numbers of Letters from Great Britain & Ireland the Colonies [are] threatened with inundations of Roman Catholick, Hanoverian, Hessian and Russian Soldiers, from the best accounts we have been able to procure (for we have nothing since the Parliament met) a plan has been formed by Administration to send over 20 m Russians early in the Spring, the *Empress of Russia* it is said does not chuse to hire them as she dont expect one of them would chuse to leave the rich fertile Fields of America and return home to the frozen Mountains of the North, but is willing to Sell them to great Britain for a certain Stipulated Sum, this is to be agreed too and they are to be conveyed by a British Fleet into these Colonies, some say into Pennsylvania first as being the most fertile, best improved and richest Country and to punish its inhabitants for entering to deeply in [to] the present Rebellion wherever they Land they are to have such parts of the Country as they can Conquer and to become British Subjects, if those formidable Savages should enter America they will not possess much of it without a severe contest having very little hopes of a reconciliation we are endeavouring to make all the defence in our power against this dreadfull Storm we have ordered 53 Regemts to be raised in the different Colonies each to consist of 728 men including Officers, many of them are now compleat and they will all be so early in the Spring, you may add to this Double the number of Regiments of well regulated Militia who no doubt will struggle hard for those rights & privileges which they consider as their birthright Gen Lee in a Letter to Congress recd. yesterday says he expects a large Number of British Troops will be sent to

New York as early as possible that he intends to Fortify the City in the best manner he can & calls for more Troops, wishes to have a Battalion of the Philada militia that they might be instructed in Pilage Fortification, camp duty, &c. & his desire was immediately made known to the City, the Colo of the four Battalions instantly applied to Congress for the command of the detachment should one be sent, the Pennsylvania Farmer on Duty being the first Col.^s insisted on his right and will have the command the four Battalions were this day drawn out when it was proposed that two companies from each should turn out for that Service so as to make a compleat Battalion from the whole, they did it with great chearfullness it was diverting enough to see both officers & men soliciting to be employed on the Service, some of the Companies will march to Morrow – today I might say for the watchmen are this moment saying past one oClock the express will call on me at eight. [William] Hooper in Camp gone & [John] Penn not very well I intended to have wrote Mr. [James] Iredale & Mr. [Wiley] Jones, I am much fatigued and cannot do it, excuse me to them, they have my best wishes.

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

2. The date is set by the Journal of Congress for February 12, 1776.

3. John Dickinson.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia Feby 13th 1776.

. . . The draft ² goes this day with the money to the Camp at Cambridge.

As to your being further impowered, I have took the opinion of many of the Committee separately (for there has been no meeting since I rec'd yours) and they are all of opinion that you are already authorised to build, rig, equip and fit for sea the ship to be built in our Colony and that you will do it according to your discretion, except where you have particular orders: what orders are sent to you are the same that are sent to the other builders and where any thing cannot be supplied in the Colony they will inform the Committee by a letter to the Chairman. Hemp and cordage you say are high; as to that I would inform you that Mr. [Francis] Lewis has procured a considerable quantity: Russia hemp at 65s and this country do from 56s to 58s per hundred York money so you will see whether it is best to buy with you or send to New York

I expect the Committee will meet tomorrow evening; when they meet I will try to procure an order for more money to be sent you and hope to send it off this week and will enquire concerning the length of cable and weight of anchors – as for cannon I believe a Committee of Congress have contracted for them.–

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. Draft of the frigate to be built in New Hampshire.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO THE VIRGINIA
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Philadelphia, Committee Chamber, Feby 13th, 1776.

Agreeable to a resolution of the Continental Congress, we, the subscribers, by them appointed as a Comm'ee of Secrecy, do hereby authorize and empower

Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia, Esquire, to load the Brigantine *Fanny*, Capt. —
 [William Tokeley] Master, with the produce of that colony and to export the same.

Sam. Ward,
 Thomas McKean,
 John Alsop.
 Josiah Barlett,

Robt. Morris,
 Joseph Hewes,
 Francis Lewis.

To the Comm'ee of Safety or Comm'ee of Inspection and Observation of the Colony of Virginia.

[Endorsed] I do hereby certify that the subscribers to the above order are a quorum of the Commit'ee of Secrecy appointed by Congress, and have full power and authority to issue the above order by them subscribed John Hancock, P.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 125, 126.

BENJAMIN HARRISON TO EDMUND PENDLETON ¹

[Extract]

Philada Feby 13th 1776

I left New York on Wednesday last [February 7], Genl Clinton was then there and I beleive on his way to Virga to meet a fleet which he expected from England, he gave out that he was to go to the Southward but you must prepare for him, for I think he will most assuredly Stop with you, as he certainly intends to Hampton Road to wait for his Troops which are to Rendezvous there, should he land them God knows what will become of you even if you have your 9 Battalions Raised, for I understand you have not Arms for a Quarter part of them, the Congress have done every thing in their Power to procure them with out Effect, and this will forever be the Case as long as we carry on this war and no War, we shall Start at Shadows till we are undone, and shall never see our error till the Shackles Gingle on our Feet and awake us out of our Fatal Lethargy, I could fill a Volume on this subject but it will avail nothing, the sooner, I conclude therefore the better.

1. PML. Harrison was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY ¹

[October 23, 1775 to February 13, 1776]

On my arrival at Balt[imore] I found the whole country had taken up arms against the Injustice of England, my heart soon caught the flame; there was then fitting out at Philadelphia a small Squadron of Vessels under Commodore [Esek] Hopkins & orders had been given to fit out two small Vessels from Balt. one a sloop of ten guns called the *Hornet* commanded by Capt Wm Stone (a Bermudian by Birth) I immediately offered myself & was received as Master's Mate,² a few days afterwards the American Flag was sent from Commodore Hopkins for our Sloop, early the next morning I put it on a staff, & with drums & fifes beat up for Volunteers & in one day engaged the crew for our Vessel, this was the first flag of the U States & the first time it was seen in the State of Maryland & which I had the honour of carrying.³ The latter end of Novr 1775, we sailed in company with the *Wasp* Schooner to join Comr Hopkins in the Delaware⁴ & proceeded to Sea without seeing any thing of the Enemy, who were laying in

Hampton Roads we, in a few days joined the fleet then at Anchor at the mouth of the Delaware, consisting of the *Alfred* of 30 Guns, the Comr Ship *Columbus* of 30 Guns, the *Cabot* Brig, of 16 Guns, the *Andrew Doria*, Brig of 14 Guns, the *Providence* Sloop of 12 Guns, The *Fly* tender, our Sloop *Hornet* of 10 Guns, & the Schr *Wasp* of 6 Guns.⁵

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.
2. As in most autobiographies written long after events recalled, there is a discrepancy in dates as well as a tendency to anticipate occurrences. It was not until December 2, 1775, that Congress instructed the Naval Committee "to confer with Captain Stone and engage him and his vessel, &c." Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 395. Hence, it was after that date Barney was signed on as master's mate.
3. The flag Barney used for recruiting was the Grand Union – thirteen alternating red and white stripes with St. George's cross in the canton. This was the flag of the United States until the adoption of the Stars and Stripes in 1777, although it began as the flag of the thirteen United Colonies.
4. Instead of sailing from Baltimore late in November 1775, the *Hornet* and *Wasp* did not clear port until after January 13, 1776, as indicated by a letter of that date given Captain Stone to deliver to Hopkins. See William Wall to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 13, 1776.
5. According to the *Andrew Doria* journal, the *Hornet* and the *Wasp* joined the fleet in Delaware Bay, February 13, 1776. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

WILLIAM LUX TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 13 Feby 1776.

Capt Charles Wells of the Pilot Boat *Chatham* has applied to me to be excused from taking onboard the Flour which he had engaged to take in on Accot of the Province, as the Gentlemen who are Concerned in the Adventure, are afraid it might subject the Vessel to a Seizure, in case a Tender should happen to meet her, either here, or going into Statia. The Flour is Purchased by us, & has been ever since you were here, and we have been waiting every day for his order to send it down. We cannot undertake to grant the Indulgence without your directions, And he now waits on you for that purpose.

If you can allow us to load the Sloop I mentioned, this Flour may be a part of her Cargo, in case you permit Capt Wells to leave it out. And I shall be glad to have your Answer by him. I am most Respectfully [&c.]

Will^m Lux

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

CARGO MANIFEST OF SHIP *John*¹

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Condition'd, by [Jenifer & Hooe on Acct and risk of the Province of Maryland]² in and upon the good Ship called the [*John*] whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, [Francis Speake] and now riding at Anchor in the [River Potomack] and by God's Grace bound for [Martinicoe] to say, [Six hundred and forty one barrells of flour] being mark'd and number'd as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of [Martinicoe] (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto [Mr

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Condition'd, by *Temple & Horn*
on and risk of the Province of Maryland
in and upon the good Ship called the *John*
whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, *Francis Quaker*
and now riding at Anchor in the *Port of Annapolis* and by God's Grace bound for
Hartimicoe to say, *Six hundred and*
only one barrel of Flour

being mark'd and number'd as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order
and well Condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of *Hartimicoe* (the Danger
of the Seas only excepted) unto *Andrew Hammon*

or to *his* Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods *as if Agreement*
with the Council of safety
with Primage and Average accustomed. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said
Ship hath affirm'd to *3* Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which
3 Bills being accomplish'd, the other *2* to stand void. And so God send the good
Ship to her destin'd Port in Safety. Amen. Dated in *Alexandria 13th Feby 1771*

J. Quaker

Richard Harrison] or to [his] Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods [as P Agreement with the Councill of Safety] with Primage and Average accustom'd. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirm'd to [3] Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which [3] Bills being accomplish'd, the other [2] to stand void. And so God sent the good Ship to the desir'd Port in Safety. *Amen.* Dated in [Alexandria 13th Feby 1776]

Fr^s Speake

1. MdHS.

2. This is a printed form, with the inserted handwriting between brackets.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

[On board the *Dunmore* off Norfolk]

[No. 34]

February 13th

The Ship not yet having Sailed, I am desirous to give your Lordship by this opportunity (as I doubt it will be the last) every information in my power; a Brig arrived here a few days ago, which was boarded by one of our Tenders, the Master denied having a Single letter on board, but being the Brother of a Noted Rebel in this Country, I had her very strictly searched, and found concealed in the lining and different parts of the Vessel, a vast quantity of Letters, all of which I have opened and examined; those of a public Nature that I thought of any importance I here inclose to your Lordship (Nos 24, 25, 26, 28, and 29) your Lordship will see by comparing the interliniations of No 28 with the hand of No 27 that they are from the same person and that person I beleive is no other than Doctr Arthur Lee.

I have also to inform your Lordship of the Arrival of Captain Hamond in His Majesty's Ship the *Roe Buck*. The Tenders are every day bringing in Vessels from the New England Colonies, sent here for Grain and Flour; if we can but prevent them from being supplied with that most essential Article of Life, thousands of them must inevitably perish or return to their duty.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher* ¹

In consequence of Orders from Vice Admiral Graves. You are hereby required and directed to observe and punctually obey and follow his additional Orders and directions, during the present Rebellion, or untill you receive contrary Orders from me, or any other your Superior Officer Vizt.

You are to Seize (see those Additional orders from commodore Arbuthnot &ca[.]) Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* at Virginia the 13th February 1776 –

1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

No Carolina *Scorpion* Sloop of War in
Cape Fear River Feby 13th 1776.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th of January by Captain Evelyn, signifying your appointment to the Command of His Majesty's forces intended to act in the Southern Colonies; and I beg leave Sir at the same time to offer you my congratulations on your nomination to this important Command, and to assure you that I receive the intelligence of it with the greatest pleasure, in the firm hope that it will prove as honorable, and glorious to yourself, and to the British Arms, as advantageous to His Majesty's Service and the Publick interests – I have only to lament that the measure of sending succour to these Provinces was not adopted sooner; before the power of Rebellion had bec[ome] established in system, and before the good Spirit that existed among the friends of order and Government in them had been broken, and subdued by a series of Oppressions, checks, and discouragements; when the Success of it would have been certain.

In obedience to His Majesty's Commands signified to me by the Earl of Dartmouth, I have taken every measure in my power to exhort and prepare The King's loyal Subjects within this Province to join the Troops in expectation immediately on their arrival; and calculating that to happen about the middle of this month, I appointed them a Rendezvous in this neighbourhood on the 15th instant: but from the remoteness of those People, from whom I expect most aid, I hardly believe they will appear so soon; which I shall rather think fortunate, as neither troops, or arms, are yet arrived; and that there is some reason to apprehend a Contretems, from Captain Evelyn's account of the decampment of Mr Lee, with a body of the Rebels from Boston.

Pursuant to Instructions I have received from His Majesty's Secretary of State, I have, by the aid of the Commanders of the King's Ships here, made every possible provision of Pilots; some of whom are now arriving in the *Syren* Frigate for the Men of War and Transports expected on this Coast, and Captain Linzee of the *Falcon* to whom I have communicated your wishes with regard to this important object, is making every further arrangement in his power, for their safe conduct to this Port; where I shall impatiently expect the honor of kissing your hand.

I have received the highest satisfaction in the acquaintance of Captain Evelyn, and consider myself exceedingly indebted to his politeness and intelligence. I have the honor to be, with great respect, and regard, Sir, Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

Jo. Martin

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Tuesday, February 13, 1776.

A petition of Henry Aitkin, master of the ship *Port-Henderson*, and Nathaniel Russell, of Charles-Town, merchant, was presented and read.

Ordered, That the said petition be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Ordered, That Mr. [Daniel] De Saussure, Col. [John Lewis] Gervais, and Mr. [Francis] Salvador, be a Committee to extract such parts, as they shall judge proper to be made generally known, from the intercepted letters lately taken from Moses Kirkland, and laid before this Congress on the 3d inst. and also from a letter formerly written by John Stuart, Esq; to the Committee of Intelligence, dated ———, 1775. And that the Secretary do cause copies of such extracts, certified by him, to be forthwith printed and published.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 29–30.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday Evening, Feb. 13th, 1776.

Capt. [Joseph] Turpin attended; and having requested an order for certain articles wanted for the brigantine *Comet*, and for the return of the seamen lately removed from the said brigantine *Prosper*.

Ordered, That the seamen lately removed from on board the colony brigantine *Comet* into the ship *Prosper*, be now returned on board the said brigantine, under the command of Capt. Joseph Turpin

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake do supply Capt. Turpin, with such sails and other articles as shall be necessary for completely fitting and equipping the brigantine *Comet* for the sea, with all possible expedition.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 258–59.

HENRY LAURENS TO ARCHIBALD BULLOCK ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina
13th february 1776.

Colonel [Christopher] Gadsden lately coming from Philadelphia in one of our Pilot Boats was driven on Shoar on the Coast of North Carolina by a Schooner tender to a Man of War in the offing supposed to have been the *Syren* ² himself his eldest son the Master of the Boat & all the Crew escaped with all papers of consequence & many other articles but the Boat was hove off by the Enemy & carried to Sea Colo Gadsden brought with him a pamphlet lately published in Phliadelphia & which has already gone through three Editions, a Copy of which "Common Sense," you will receive by this conveyance & that Gentleman begs your acceptance of it.—

By order of the Council of Safety
[To] Archd Bullock Esqr for the Provincial Congress or Council of Safety at Savanna

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 87–88.

2. See journal of H.M.S. *Syren* for February 5, 1776.

GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO THE COUNCIL AT SAVANNAH¹

On his Majesty's service.

To the Hon. James Mackay, Esq; and the rest of the members of his Majesty's Council at Savannah.

On board his Majesty's ship *Scarborough*
at Cockspur, February the 13th, 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen, After using my best endeavours for upwards of 3 weeks, to prevail on those in whose hands the present ruling powers are, that the commanders of his Majesty's ships here might obtain assurances that they might come to town, and have a free intercourse with me, without receiving any insult from the people assembled in and about the town, also that the King's ships might be supplied with provisions, on paying the full price or value of it; and finding that the last message relative to these matters, which I desired the representatives of the town of Savannah to deliver to the persons exercising those powers, was so lightly treated and so little regarded, as that, although delivered on Tuesday morning the 6th instant, yet I received no kind of answer to it for five days, nor did I understand whether it was meant to give me any answer or not; and well knowing it was essential to his Majesty's service, and the welfare of this province, that I should have an interview with the King's officers here; for these reasons, and many others which you were made acquainted with, and approved of, I determined, at all events, to attempt coming down here, where I arrived safe at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. And after having examined, and duly weighed and considered, my several letters from England, and General [William] Howe at Boston, and after having had a full conversation with his Majesty's officers here, I have the greatest satisfaction to be able to affirm, from the best authority, that the forces now here will not commit any hostilities against this province, although full sufficient to reduce and overcome every opposition that could be attempted to be made; and that nothing is meant, or wanted, but a friendly intercourse, and a supply of fresh provisions. This may be entirely relied upon; this his Majesty's officers have an undoubted right to expect, and what they insist upon; and this I not only now solemnly require in his Majesty's name, but also as (probably) the best friend the people in Georgia have, advise them, without the least hesitation, to comply with, or it may not be in my power to insure them the continuance of the peace and quietude they now have, if it may be called so.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant me leave to return to England, and (whatever may be thought) my regard for the people and province is such, that I cannot avoid (and possibly for the last time) exhorting the people to save themselves and posterity from that total ruin and destruction which (although they may not yet) I most clearly see it at the threshold of their doors; and I cannot leave them without again warning them, in the most earnest and friendly manner, to desist from their present plans and resolutions. It is still in their power, and if they will enable me to do it, I will (as far as I can) engage to give, and endeavour to obtain for them, full pardon and forgiveness for all past crimes and offences; and this I conjure them to consider well, and most seriously of, before it is too late. But, let things happen as they may, be it remembered, that I this

day, in the King's name, offer the people of Georgia the olive branch, that most desirable object, and inestimable blessing, the return of peace and happiness to them and their posterity.

Captain Barclay has desired me to notify, that he is willing and ready to give every assistance in his power to the Captains of all such merchant ships as may be legally cleared out to enable them to proceed on their respective voyages. I am also to acquaint you, that the detention of the schooner on Friday or Saturday last proceeded entirely from a mistake by the officer who commanded the armed sloop, and that, if the owner will send down, the schooner will not only be delivered up, but any reasonable price paid for the damaged rice that was on board, part of which had been used to feed hogs and poultry; or they may take it away again. I am also to mention, that the same armed sloop will be sent up tomorrow to Four Mile Point, in order to get fresh water, and for no other purpose.

This letter, which I consider of the utmost consequence and importance to the whole people of Georgia, I must desire you will be pleased to communicate to the Congress, if sitting, and if not, to those who are called the Council of Safety, and especially to the inhabitants of the town and province in general, and acquaint them that I shall expect their full and clear answer to every part of it in a reasonable time. I am, with perfect esteem, Gentlemen [&c.]

James Wright.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, April 6, 1776.

MARTIN JOLLIE TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN¹

Copy of a Letter from Mr Jollie

Sir

St Mary's 13th February 1776

I am just arrived from Savannah and fully intended waiting upon your Excellency with the utmost Dispatch, but Matters of the last consequence to my little Settlement lays me under an absolute necessity of being here a few Days.

The Governor and Council of Georgia have been under Arrest (by orders of the present Rulers of the Province) these five Weeks past and I had it in charge from the Governor to acquaint you of his Situation; he bid me present his Respects to your Excellency and he would have wrote to you by me, but he saw no likelihood of a Letter's getting safe to your hands through any Channel whatever: This violent Step of these deluded people has made every prudent thinking Man withdraw from the Party. They expect the Kings Troops now every Day and which is a cruel Circumstance and makes the Governors Situation as well as the Gentlemen of the Council much to be lamented is that these petty Tyrants have already declared that they mean to carry these Gentlemen into the back Country the Moment the King's Troops have got footing in the Province. A Division of His Majesty's Forces from hence, would therefore be attended with the worst consequence to these Gentlemen; the Business as far as I may be allowed to Judge should be done at once and effectually, and if it was possible to get up some Troops as far as Augusta the safety of Governor and Council might be easily effected.

I had an Opportunity of being in company with some of the heads of the Party. Their Colonel Lieut Colonel &c &c and as I was formerly pretty well

acquainted with most of them, I spoke my Mind to some of them very freely: I find they are bent on making an Excursion into this Province; they heard they said, that Your Excellency intended making them a Visit in Georgia but they would save you that trouble by giving you the Meeting on your own Ground, and one with whom I had been particularly intimate for some Years past bid me in confidence look to myself, for it had been absolutely determined in their Councils that East Florida should be attacked – Indeed a Mr [John] Rutledge one of the Charlestown Delegates on his arrival from Philadelphia expressed great Surprise that Augustine was not taken and truly could not conceive what their Southern Army had been doing. – I mention these Matters to Your Excellency in confidence it is indeed my Duty to do so: But I must intreat they may not go farther for the present at least, for Reasons which I shall acquaint your Excellency with when I have the honour to wait upon you in Town.

Tho' I do not believe the Georgia Rulers will find Men to compose their Battalion of which the Officers have been just appointed; Yet I have do [no] doubt but some Villians from the Altamaha will come this way soon and give us on this River a great deal of uneasiness perhaps much Mischief: I should hope therefore that your Excellency will be of the Opinion that some protection should be afforded us without delay. – If Captain [John] Graves or any other Officer of the Navy was round here in any of the King's Sloops they could with great ease and without running the Risk of losing a Man range up and down the River for 20 to 25 Miles, this would make the lower Settlements perfectly secure and a common rough Stockade Blockhouse which might be run up at a mere Trifle of Expense and in a few Days to be built near the Ferry or thereabouts would with a prudent, sensible Officer and twenty five or thirty Men make the upper Settlers easy and quiet and at same time serve for a tollerable Barrier for the whole Province. If something of this kind is not immediately gone upon, I would not be answerable for one Settler remaining here a few Weeks hence. I have not been able to secure a single Barrel of Rice or Bushel of Corn tho' I made every attempt that I thought any way practicable. Savannah is the only Mercat for Corn in this Province, but the Avenues to and from the River are all so well guarded and looked after that no Provisions of any kind are allowed to come this way – Some may find its way here by stealth, but at the utmost Risk of the Exporter and Master of the Vessel. –

The Bearer Captain Mowbray from Grenada was with me part of the way to Savannah – I beg leave to introduce him to your Excellency, he has been bred in the Navy and can inform you what we saw doing at Frederica and other places, and with what facility a very small Tender, or even a Man of War's pinnace may at this very time scour the whole inland Navigation from this to Savannah River— If this was attempted we might have Rice at least in abundance with which we might make a Shift untill we are relieved by the arrival of the King's Forces. I have the honour to be &ca

(Signed) Martin Jollie

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonym's of 16 Feby 1776 (No 39)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. JOHN'S IN ANTIGUA, DATED FEB. 13." ¹

. . . An act of Parliament arrived here the 10th instant, by a ship from London in four weeks, which prohibits all connection with the United Colonies under very severe penalties; all vessels and cargoes for the future are to be legal prizes, that are found trading to or from those Colonies, till the rebellion, so called, is at an end. — No vessels can have a clearance from the custom house for any part of America, not even to those colonies that do not oppose government, without liberty from the Admiral, and giving such security as he shall require. And all North-American vessels and cargoes, wherever found, that did not leave America before the first day of January last, under certain restrictions, will be lawful prizes, so that the communication is entirely cut off between us. — Capt Kirby, who was taken in the ship *Sally*,² is still here, having given a very large security for his appearance when called up.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 18, 1776.

2. The *Peggy*, not the *Sally*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG ¹

February 1776	West end of Martinico NE dist 3 Leagues
Monday 12	11 A M Fired 3 Swivells to bring a Brig and Sloop too, found them to be Americans and seized them as Prizes, sent on board the Sloop an Officer and 5 Men and on Board the Brig an Officer and 7 Men, and took their Crews on board us ² Fresh breezes and Cloudy at 5 P M fired a Swivell Shotted to bring too a Brig at 7 Spoke her — from St Kitts bound to Barbadoes —
Tuesday 13	Light breezes and Variable at 3 P M urning in Prince Rupert Bay at 5 Hove too, hoisted long boat out and sent her on shore, half past Boat returned, Sent the Prizes to Antigua, and made Sail —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Brig *Dolphin*, Hugh Smith, master; and sloop *Diamond*, Peter Wilney, master, both from Philadelphia.

14 Feb.

DEPOSITIONS OF CREW MEMBERS, H.M. BRIG *Gaspee* ¹

I the Subscriber being of lawful age, do testify and say that a Gentleman known by the Name of Colo. [Ethan] Allen was brought on Board the *Gaspee* Man of War, then lying before the Town of Montreal some Time in the Month of September one thousand and seven hundred and seventy five and pursuant to the Orders of Capt Ryall, who then commanded said Ship, I put a pair of Irons on said Allen's Legs, which he wore for seven or eight Days, during which he was kept by the Boatswain's Cabbin, afterwards the Irons were taken off his Legs in the Morning and handcuffs were put on his Hands; which was the practise for some considerable Time, then only one Leg was Ironed in the Night and Handcuffs in the Day farther saith not.

W^m Bradley Midshipman on board the *Gaspee*.

Sworn before me at Head Quarters in Montreal this fourteenth Day of February one thousand seven hundred & seventy six.

David Wooster, B: General.

I the Subscriber being of lawful age do testify and say that on or about the 24th of September 1775 being on Board the *Gaspee* Man of War, I see Colonel Allen with a pair of Irons on his Legs and a Century standing before him with a pistol in his Hand. Dated at Montreal 14t February 1776.

Levy Solomons.

Sworn before me Montreal Feb 14t 1776.

David Wooster B. General.

I the Subscriber being of lawful age do testify and say that some Time in the Month of October 1775, being on Board the *Gaspee* Man of War I saw Colonel Allen (as he was called) with a pair of Hand Cuffs on his Hands and farther saith not. Dated at Montreal this 14t February 1776

James Morrison

Sworn before me Montreal Feby 14t 1776

David Wooster B.General.

[Endorsed] Copy Depositions relative of Colo: Allen's Treatment

1. HUL, HM 1510.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax*¹

Feby '76

Sambro Light House N 40° E Diste 28 Lgs

Wednesday 14th Modr Breezes and Cloudy Weather

at ½ past noon saw a strange sail standing to the Eastwd and Gave Chace cleared for Action at 3 the Convoy bore NNE came on thick Snow, fired several shott at the Chace at 4 Brt to the Chace out Yawl and sent Her on Bd she proved to be the Schooner *King Solomon* Danl Turner Master from Cape Persue laden wt salt Fish bound to Bilbo – made a prize of her not having any papers from the Custom House or a pass from the Governor at Halifax took the Master and people out and sent a Midd and 6 Men on Board at ½ past 6 made sail prize in Company²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

2. The *King Solomon* had 850 quintals of fish as cargo, and was sent into Halifax. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

Cambridge February the 14 1776

Through you I beg leave to lay before Congress, the Inclosed Letter from Lord [James] [Dr]ummond to General [James] Robertson, which came to my hands a few days agoe in order to be sent into Boston.²

As I never heard of his Lorships being vested with power to treat with Congress upon the Subject of our Greivanc[es] nor of his having laid any propositions before them for an Accomodation, I confess It surprized me much, and led me

to form various conjectures of his motives, and Intended application to General Howe & Admiral Shouldam for a pasport for the safe Conduct of such Deputies as Congress might appoint for Negotiating Terms of Reconciliation between Great Britain and us. – Whatever his Intentions are, however benevolent his designs may be, I confess that his Letter has embarrassed me much, and I am not without suspicion of Its meaning more than the Generous purposes It professes – I should suppose that If the mode for Negociation which he points out, should be adopted, which I hope will never be thought of, that It ought to have been fixed and settled previous to any application of this Sort, and at best that his conduct in this Instance is premature and Officious, & leading to consequences of a fatal and Injurious nature to the rights of this Country. his zeal and desire perhaps of an amicable & constitutional adjustment's taking place may have Suggested & precipitated the measure, be that as It may, I thought It of too much importance to suffer It to go in without having the express direction of Congress for that purpose, and that It was my Indispensable duty to transmit them the Original to make such Interpretations and Inferences as they may think right – .

Messrs [Aaron] Willard & [Moses] Child who were sent to Nova Scotia in pursuance of the Resolve of Congress, have just returned and made their Report, which I do myself the honor to Inclose you. they have not Answered the purposes of their commission by any means, as they only went but a little way into that Country, and found their Intelligence upon the Information of Others – You will see the reasons they Assign in excuse or justification of their conduct in the Report Itself.

Last night a party of Regulars, said to be about Five hundred, landed on Dorchester Neck and burnt some of the Houses there, which were of no value to us, nor would they have been, Unless we take post there; they then might have been of some service. A Detachment went after them as soon as the fire was discovered, but before It could arrive, they had executed their plan and made their Retreat.

Inclosed is a Letter for David Franks Esqr, from Mr [Daniel] Chamier in Boston, upon the Subject of victualling such of the Kings Troops as may be prisoners within the Limits of his Contract, which I beg the favour of you to deli[v]er him, and that proper agents may be appointed by him to see that It is done – I could wish too that Congress would fall upon some mode for Supplying the Officers with such Money as they may really stand in need of, and depute proper persons for that purpose & furnishing the privates with such Cloathing as may be absolutely necessary; I am applied to and wearied by their repeated requests – In some Instances I have des[ire]d the Committees to give the prisoners within their appointments what they should judge absolutely necessary for their support, as the only means in my power of relieving their distress – But I imagine that If there were persons to superintend this business, that their wants would be better attended to, and many exorbitant charges prevented and saved to the Continent, & the whole wou'd then be brought into a proper account, I am Sir [&c.]

G^o Washington

PS.

I send a Return of the strength of the Regiments –

[Enclosure – Report of Aaron Willard and Moses Child]

We the Subscribers being appointed by his Excellency general Washington agreeable to an order of the Continental Congress to Repair to the Province of Novia Scotia for the following purposes Viztt to Inquire into the Disposition of the Inhabitants of Sd Province Towards the common Cause of america. The Condition of their Fortifications Quantity of warlike stores the number of Soldiers and Salors and Ships of war.

We beg Leave to Report as follows that agreeable to the above order, we did Repair to a place Called Campobello about Twenty or thirty miles into the Province aforesaid, but could not cross the Bay of Funda for no Vessel could be hired or procured Except we purchase one as Every Vessel Even to a Boat that Crossed the Bay was seized as soon as they came into Port Except cleared from Hallifax and we could not Travel any further into the Country By Reason of governor Leggs Establishing Martial Law in Said Province and Isuing Several proclamations one Bea[r]ing date July the 5 1775 which is as follows I do therefore with the advice and consent of his Majesty's Council publish this proclamation hereby Notificing and warning all Persons that they do not in any manner, directly or Indirectly aid or assist with any Supplies whatever any Rebel or Rebels nor hold Intelligence or Correspondence with them nor Conceal harbour or protect any Such offenders as they would avoid being deemed Rebels and Trators and be proceeded against accordingly also a proclamation dated december the 8 1775 forbidding any Strangers to be in Halifax more than Two hours, without making his Business Known to a Justice of the Peace upon the pain and Peril of being Treated as Spies also forbidding any person Entertaining any Such Stranger for more than Two hours without giving Information on the penalty aforesaid, from our own Knowledge and the Best Information from others about Eight parts out of Ten of the Inhabitants on Novia Scotia would Engage in the Common Cause of america Could they be protected there are no Fortifications in the Province only at Halifax and those much out of Repair but they are at work on them they have Piquitted the Town in and have about one hundred and fifty peaces of cannon not mounted and about Twenty or thirty peaces mounted in the Town there was at Halifax about Two hundred Soldiers the Beginning of January 1776 which were all that there was in the Province at that Time but we are crediably Informed that there are Two Regements arived there Since that time there was only one Ship of war of 60 guns at Halifax and one of 14 at annopolis [Royal] at the Time aforesaid

Aaron Willard

Moses Child

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 485–88, 495, NA.
2. Lord Drummond's letter of February 5, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, February 14, 1776.

An engrossed Bill for encouraging the fixing out of armed Vessels to defend the Sea-Coasts of *America*, and for erecting a Court to Try and Condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the same:

Read, and *Resolved*, That it pass to be enacted ²

On one of the Petitions of Col. [James] Cargill, read Feb. 9th, *Resolved*, That he be allowed to detain the Schooner therein mentioned till further Orders of this Court, and be Accountable for her Earnings when required.³

Afternoon

Ordered, That a Message go to the Hon. Board to desire them to send down Capt. Obryan's [Jeremiah O'Brien] Muster Roll, if they have not passed upon it.

Jedediah Foster, Esq; brought it down accordingly. And it was re-committed to Capt. Epes, Capt. [Joshua] Hathaway and Capt. [George] Partridge.

1. *Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.*
2. The Massachusetts Council, the same day, read the act a second time and concurred with the House resolution that it be enacted, *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 34.
3. The schooner *Dolphin*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

Febry 1776

Gurnett Head WbN. 3 Leagues

Wednesday 14th Light Breezes & hazey with Snow
 at 2 P M saw 5 Sail to the Soward – out all reefs and gave Chace, at 4 shortned Sail & brought too – spoke H. M. Brig *Hope* with another Brig (Prize) in Company; at 5 spoke the *Tryal* Schooner & 2 Prizes – sent 6 Men on board the *Tryal* and took 8 do from one of the Prizes – at 6 made Sail to the So wd the *Hope Tryal* & Prizes to the No ward ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.
2. The *Tryal*'s prizes were the *Peggy*, John Lothrop, master, and the *Grampus*, John Brackett, master, both from Baltimore for Barnstable with flour. The *Hope*'s prize is not identified, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MAJOR ENOCH HALLET TO JAMES OTIS ¹

Hond Sir

Yarmouth Feby 14th 1776.

this may Inform you that, Last Satorday Morning a Vessell from the Mole was Cast on Shoar Neer the Herring River and Neer the House of Wm Chase [illegible] her Lading Consists of about one Hund Hogsheads Malasses, and One of sugar, with a few small articles on being Informd of it the Committee of Yarmo with Zenas Winslow and Joseph Nye Esqrs of Harwich met to Consult what to Do with regard to the affair, and on making Strict Inquiry, and Diligent Search, the Best Intelligence that we are able to obtain is that One Seth Pinkham of Nantuckt was master, (if they Could run Safe to Nantuckt[]) but if they Should be

in Danger of an English man of war then they had a French Capt both of which Capts with 2 of the Crew Left Said Vessell abt 9 Days Past, and in a boat made for Nantuckt which we hear got safe there, before they left her they had lost both of their Anckors Riding to the Eastwd of Nantct & their Sails almost all Blown away and She Leakt very Much – the French Capt we Understand is the Owner of Vessell and Cargo. the Cargo we have Landed, the Vessell I believe will be Lost, as she is very old and weak. the Capts we Expect over to Day – in said Vessell Came Passengers a Gent from Germini [Germany] with a Waiter both of them we Propose to send to your Honr with this Letter, we have met with a good Deal of Difficulty to Understand his Business, and Could not git any Interpreter, till last Eveng when Luckily Mr Youst Came hear and Can talk and Conver[se] with him without Difficulty, the Gent has got with him a Numr of Letters for Doctr Franklin and says he is acquainted with him (for further Particulars I Shall Refer you to Mr Youst) – the Gent it seems is bound to Philledelphia, – you will Do as you think Propper with him, I Suppose he is no Less than a Knight by a Gold Star which he has &c the Immige of which he wears on his Left Brest – the Gold Star he has shewn us &c – ² we have found a Pockt Book with an English Regr and we Suppose a french One and Several other Papers which we Suppose to [be] a Clearence &c and Capt Pinks Journal to Sunday before last. we Propose to take of them, and when they Come over, to make Strict Inquiry and if we find they were on a bad Diseign to send them altogether to your Honr to Examn – (if you think it Necessary Pleas to give us further Directions) I most think their wont be much Difficulty but if their Should we Shall Emmedately apply to your Honr – I am Sr [&c.]

Enoch Hallet

Honl James Otis Esqr Barnstable

P:S: Sr Since I wrote the above we have been Informd by Mr Yost: who was Converssing with the sd Gent in another Room whilst I was writing that the said Capt Pinkham, and the french Capt or Owner, were within four Days after their Coming out fully Determind to go to Boston, and it appeard so also by their having Divers Chances to go into Harbours from Cape May hear, but always tryd to avoid it, and he also says that they would have been Glad to meet with a man of war and he took it that they Endeavord to Do it, and Put themselves in their way, but Unluckey for them Could not meet with any; – I hope and believe now, that we shall soon know the Truth, as I am this moment Informd that a Vessell is Coming its supposd to be Capt Downs who went to Nantuckt for the Capt & Owner, – this Gentn says the frenchman was Owner but Pinkham Commanded at Sea, – it seems the Gentn was Loath to Discover any thing about the affair untill he by Conversing with Mr Yost was Sattisfid that we were not friends to Government, but is now free to Discover all that he knows Concerning it Sir I am [&c.]

Enoch Hallet

1. Otis Papers, CUL.

2. The gentleman was the Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke.

AGREEMENT TO HIRE SLOOP *Enterprize*¹

Providence Feby 14. 1776

Memorandum Of Agreement Between Messrs. Jos. & William Russells, & Nicholas Brown, on the one part, and Mr Gideon Young on the other part Witnesseth, That the said Young Doth frieght Letten the Sloop *Enterprize*, burthen about seventy five Tons (but subject to be Measured on her return which is to Determine her bigness) on a Voyage to the foreign West Indias, and back to Providence James Westcoat Masr Permitted by his Honour the Governor—the hire to begin from the fourth Instant at five Shillings lawful Money per Ton, Risqued as follows – One Quarter by said Young, Three Eighths by said Russells, & three Eighths by said Brown at Eight Hundred Dollars in Case of Loss by any means, no Hire Money to be paid, but the Interest to be paid on the Eight Hundred Dollars from the Time of her being in Pay as aforesaid till said sum valued at is paid by the Hirers in proportion as Risqued aforesaid, said Young is to be at the sole Expençe of keeping the Vessel sails &c in suitable repair & Procure for her in the West Indias suitable small sails at his Expençe – As Witness our Hands –

Gideon Young Nich^o Brown Jos & Will^m Russell

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCB.L.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN JAMES WESTCOTT¹

Sr

Providence Feby 14. 1776 –

You being Master of the Sloop *Enterprize* with Our Cargo on bord Bound, As p his Honr the Governors Permit to Any of the Foreign West India Islands, Our Orders Are that you proceed with all Dispatch, Wind & Weather Permitting May Touch first at St Loucie Martineco, or Guardiloope, and at Any of these places to Dispose of your Cargo & lay out the neet proceeds in Any of the Articles Mentioned in your Bond & hereto Annexed as You May think will best Ansr And you have liberty to get for Accot Mr [Gideon] Young who is Owner the Vessel Any Small Sails that May be Wanting, The Amount of which or Any Other Necessarys You May get to keep the Vessel in proper Repair is to be Chargd to him the sd Young & be settled as so Much towards his Q[uar]ter part of the Nett proceeds of the Cargo – You have full Liberty to Touch at Any of the Foreign Islands for Trade, and by all Means to keep a Constant look out so as to Eskape the Enemy – And On your return Home to be very Carefull to get Good Information before you Come into this Colony We advise your keeping a Number of Small Arms well fitted for Defence against An Enemy, If you Should fall in to the Westward May Touch at East Hampton on long Island & there Discharge your Cargo if you Should by Good Information find it very Difficu[l]t geting in here, or May go into Sag Harbore Sto[n]gtown or Norwich

But we think it May be as safe to Come into the Eastward Vizt Bedford or any Harbore Eastwd of Secunet & know the state of the Times here before you Come in & we think secunet way May be the safest – What Linnens (if you get Any) for your Candles Must be all of the Cours Kinds Cutlasses, pistles & Swivels

we Consider as within the Meang of your permit but small Arms we think will Neet More Profit than Powder, You Will Balist your Vessel with Brimstone if to be had German Steel is Much Wanted now here & What Cotton you Can get to half a Doz Baggs as part of the Proceeds of the Candl[e]s, if the Other things first Mentions Is not to be had

Upon the Whole We rely upon Your Judgment & Prudence to take every Means in your Power for the Good of the Voyage – Your Commissions is to be five p Cent for Sales & Two & a half for Returns –

If any thing Shod happen that you should do Other ways than well Your Mate Mr Colvin is to take the Command & follow these Our Orders – Wishing a Good Voyage & safe Return We are your friend

Nich^s Brown

[Endorsed] The foregoing is a Copy of my Orders which I Shall Indeavour to perform to the best of My Judgmt

James Westcot

[Appended by Nicholas Brown]

A list of those Articles permitted As Contained in the Bond Given in Secrey Office Vizt

Gunpowder

Sulpher –

Salt Peter

Duck of all Kinds

Arms, In which is Included

Brass field Pieces

Small Arms, Blunder bus[s]es & Wallpieces

Pistles –

Cutlasses, Swords & Hangers Steel

In Case the whole cant be laid out in the Above The proceeds of the Candles, is permitted to be laid Out in

Paper –

Jesuits Bark

Ozenbrigs, or Ticklingbourg

Rhubarb

Lead

Cotton

Flints

Linnen or Wollen Cloths

Twine

Not permitted to go to any British West Inda Isd P S. Memo[ran]dum Your Owners Will each want a Case of Good Florranc Oil, a Chest of Clarrot & a Ceg of the best Brandy & some [T]ancerins a Bottle or two of Capers, and perhaps as some [of] the Ventures May be Laid Out in the Stipulated Articles wch Amount May be supplyd In [several] Necessarys –

If Brimstone Cannot be got, but would Advise your sending to Domineco, or wherever it is & get it, if possible, as suppose sum Small Craft May be got Amongst the French to Fetch it but if it Cannot be got I would Advise to Balast with salt if to be had, without going to the ponds After it I am in behalf of your Owners Yrs N B

Feby 17. 1776

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

NORWICH COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO WATERTOWN COMMITTEE OF
CORRESPONDENCE ¹

Gentm

Norwich Feby 14 1776

A sense of the trust repos'd in Us, A Love of our Country, and the Duty We owe to Mankind – forbid a Neglect on our part of giving the earliest & best Intelligence of every Matter appearing to effect the Publick – How far the Publick may be affected by the Conduct of the Person who wrote the Letter of which the Inclos'd is a Coppy – and the Original in the Hands of the Bearer at your Service for the Purpose of making what Use of it you please You are the Judges,² You have the best Advantage to Call the Writer to put such reasonable Construction as He can on the Intent and Design He had in writing in a Stile so peculiar & why so cautious – Inclos'd also is a Stating of Facts & Circumstances attending the Lading Sailing & Capture of the Schooner in New York – commanded by Cap Howland about which the Letter is conversant – These Things compared wth the Letter render it (in our Opinion) Our Duty to notify you & as soon as could be authentically done – that a satisfactory Account may be had from the Owner of the Schooner & Author of the Letters why such Orders were given and how they can bear the Complexion they do & still be consistent with the honest Heart of a true Friend to the American Cause – A fair and reasonable Account of these Things will be for the Honour of the Writer & will most agreeably satisfy Gentlm [&c.]

Christ ^r Leffingwell	} Committee of	
W ^m Hubbard.		Correspondence for The
Benj Huntington		Town of Norwich

1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

2. See Jason Swan to John Howland, January 25, 1776.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

New York, Feby the 14th 1776 –

. . . The Governor and Capt of Man of War had threatend perdition to the Town if the Cannon was remov'd from the Batteries and wharfs, but I ever considerd their threats as a *Brutum fulmen*, and even perswaded the Town to be of the same way of thinking – We accordingly conveyd them to a place of safety in the middle of the day, and no cannonade ensued – Capt [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] publishes a pleasant reason for his passive conduct – He says that it was manifestly my intention and that of the N England Men under my command to bring down destruction on this Town so hated for their loyal principles but that He was determin'd not to indulge us, so remain'd quiet out of spite – The People here laugh at his Nonsense – and begin to despise the Menaces which formerly us'd to throw 'em into convulsions – to do 'em justice the whole shew a wonderfull alacrity – and in removing the Cannon Men and Boys of all ages work'd with the greatest zeal and pleasure – I really believe that the generallity are as well affected as any on the Continent – the Provincial Congress have order'd in fifteen hundred Minute Men – a Num[ber] equal to two Battalions are coming from Pensy[la] and the Jerseys – Lord Stirlings Regt is already here but not compleat – when the Major part or a sufficient number arrive We shall begin our works – my inten-

tion is to pull down that part of the Fort on the Town side to prevent its being converted into a Citadel for the Enemy – and to erect a Battery on a traverse in the S W to prevent their Makg a lodgment in it – a redoubt and battery at the pass of Hell Gate will prevent their Ships and Tenders passing and repassing to and from the Sound – We have fixed on a Spot in Long Island for a retrenchd Camp . . . the batteries on the pass of Hudsons River will be secur'd as soon as possible, some of the heavy Cannon from here must be sent up for the purpose –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M.

Feb. 14th, 1776.

Messrs. Murray, Sansom & Co. sent in a request by Mr. Robert Murray, for leave to send provisions and certain other articles in their request mentioned, on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon*.

The Congress consented that part of the said provisions be sent on board, together with the other articles. Thereupon,

Ordered, That Messrs. Murray, Sansom & Co. be permitted to put on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon*, 5 barrels pork, 5 barrels beef, 1 box candles, 1 coil of 3 inch rope, some blocks, 1 bolt of canvas, No. 1, and 2 cords of firewood, for the use of the said ship and her crew.

Joseph Outen Bogert informed the Congress that the sentinels of the port guard have prevented him from supplying to His Excellency the Governor and the people on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon*, the ordinary supplies of fresh provisions. Thereupon,

Ordered, That Joseph O. Bogert, butcher, be permitted to supply the ship *Dutches of Gordon* with a sufficient quantity of fresh provisions; and that the said Joseph O. Bogert do furnish Capt. Wm. Mercier with an account from day to day of the quantity of provisions so supplied by him, and that a certified copy of this order be given to the said Joseph O. Bogert.

Die Mercurii, 3 ho. P.M. Feb. 14th, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. [Leonard] Lisenard be permitted to supply and put on board of the ship *Dutches of Gordon*, beer for the use of the said ship.

A letter from Major-Genl. Lee, respecting a report of a fleet at the Hook, was read and filed, and is [in] the words following, to wit:

February 14th, 2 o'clock, P.M. 1776.

Sir – I would humbly propose to the Congress not to lose a single instant in despatching a whale boat to the Hook, to reconnoitre the fleet whether they are friends or enemies, for should they be the latter, and intend a visit to this place, we should make an awkward figure, unless we are prepared for their reception.

I am, sir [&c.]

Chas. Lee.

To the President of Provincial Congress
of the Colony of New-York.²

A copy of the answer which had been immediately returned to the general by the President and Col. [Alexander] McDougall, informing that proper care has already been taken on that subject, was read and approved of by the Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 298, 299, 300.

2. The original of this letter is in the collection of the late Frederick R. Kirkland, Philadelphia.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

A Council [New York] Wed: 14 Feby 1776

Since Sunday last [February 11] the Intercourse to all who had not the Congress's Permit was interdicted by General Lee but Mr. Mayor having yesterday adjusted all Obstacles we proceeded to the Dock apprehending no Difficulties from the Guards – A centinel forbid the Clerk of the Council to set his Foot in the Boat upon which we retired & I went Home – The Congress took the Alarm apprehending that if we did not meet the Governor there would be no Prorogation & a Dissolution would follow – Within Half an Hour their Clerks sought for the dispersed Members & assured us there would be no further Obstruction & importuned us to repair again to our Boat urging it as an Apology that due Care had been taken to facilitate our Intercourse but that the Officer of the Guard had expected an Application to him from the Centinel upon our Approach – We met at the Coffee House Bridge & found at the Wharf with the Soldiers one of the Clerks of the Congress and no words were spoken to us on the second Attempt, of all which we informed the Governor.

At this Council there were present – [Charles Ward] Apthorpe [William] Smith [John Harris] Cruger [William] Axtel & [James] Jauncey.

The Govr. proposed us to return from the Hall after the Prorogation & dine with him.

He told me that he would have revealed General Clinton's Intention of sailing Southward if the Citizens had not injuriously suspected his Veracity in the Message by the Mayor, so that he was not apprized – what every Body supposed, – Mr. Clinton was gone to Virginia.

After Dinner we had much Conversation & the Colonies were charged by [John Tabor] Kempe & [Cortland] Skinner the two Attorney Generals with a fixed Resolution to set up Independency. I grew warm in the Debates upon this Subject. I charged the parliamentary Vote of the 20 Feby was a studied concealment of a Design to give up the Claim of taxing the Colonies as a great Fault on the Side of Administration dangerous to the general Interest of both Countries. Tryon who had not interfered before catchd Fire at this and said he was sorry to hear an Officer of the Governmt say so. I turn'd to him and insisted upon my Remark I appealed to himself whether the Minister had not informed him that the Taxing Power was given up. To which he answered, yes. I demanded the Evidence of it in any written explicit Declaration & he confessed that he would have declared the surrender with more Liberality – [Hyde] Parker and [George] Vandeput were present and the latter who sat by my Side declared that if he believed the Colonies intent only upon an Exemption from Parliamentary Taxation he thought them on the

right Side in the present Controversy and seemed pleased with the Resistance I made to the Intemperate Partialities of the two Attorney Generals, occasionally supported (tho' with good sense & more Decency) by Mr. Paymaster Barrow who also betook himself to the Packet on the 10 of October. The Train I took was a Defence of the Continent from the Charge of aiming *ab Initia* at severing the Empire, admitting that the Congress had countenanced the imputation in 1774 & faulting Administration in listning to Misrepresentations & concealing the ultimate Terms to which they would yield for preserving the Union & thro' the whole Debates I indulged now and then a little Asperity at the Refugees to abate the Governor's Confidence in their Suggestions – The Rest of the Council said nothing but in the Boat after we had left the Ship at Night signified their Approbation of the Part I had acted and bore patiently some Censure for their Silence.²

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 266, 267–68.

2. The Council meeting and the subsequent dinner were held on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, where Governor Tryon had taken up residence the previous October.

JACOB WATSON TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN¹

Respected Friend

New York 2d Mo 14th 1776

Yesterday I returnd from the Contenental Congress We presented a Memorial requesting they'd Either give posative Orders to the Committee of Norwich to let the Ship proceed on her Intended Voyage or give us leave [to ship] the Amot of the Wheat in produce from here or Philadelphia to Ireland or the English Islands in the West Indies and give thy Ship Imployment If agreeable to thee rather then come here to take another Cargo,² the Affair was long debated in Congress at last all we could Obtain was an order that the Ship must proceed without any alteration of her destined Voyage the Committee only to Approve the Master, but the time of her Sailing is out of their Controul.³ We therefore desire the Ship may be got Rig'd with the Outmost dispatch Should thou Incline my Son should have the Command of her wod be very agreeable to him and I believe wo'd be very Satisfactory to thy Self, he is weary of Staying at home. I will be answerable for his Conduct. I have wrote my friend Clements to propose him to the Comm[ittee] at Norwich If he is so recomended by our Committee or Provencial Congress whether they wo'd Approve him. As thy Ship will touch at Falmouth thou can have her an English bottom, pray let me hear from thee Imediately and prepare the Ship, we Shall Wait on Capt De St Croix to do the Needfull with him the Charter party being only in his name If my Son gos in her I shall use my Interest at Every Port she gos to to procure her afreight. I forwarded duplicate of Protests & C. I am &c.

Via Philadelphia

Jacob Watson

1. Christopher Champlin Papers, Ms. 628, NYSL.

2. The ship *Peggy*, Captain William Barron, which had put into Norwich, Connecticut, in distress, but under suspicion of having a cargo intended for Boston, or to deliberately fall into British hands. She was owned by Christopher Champlin, of Newport, Rhode Island, and the shippers were three New York firms, Murray, Sansom & Co., Jacob Watson and Frederick's Rhinelander.

3. See Journal of Congress, November 15, 1775, February 7, 8 and 9, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, February 14, 1776

Application being made by some of the master carpenters employed in building the continental frigates, to some members of this house, informing, that about fifty of their journeymen and apprentices had engaged as volunteers to march with the batallion of associators for New York, and that their zeal for the public service is such, that they cannot be persuaded to desist by any arguments or influence of said builders.

Resolved, That the spirit and zeal of the said journeymen and apprentices is highly approved of by Congress, but, nevertheless, it is the opinion of this Congress, that the public will be more essentially served by the said associators continuing at their work on the said continental frigates; and that, therefore, all the carpenters, journeymen, and apprentices, employed as aforesaid, be requested to remain in that service, as there is no doubt but other associators will compleat the number wanted.

The Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the committee on the regulations and restrictions under which the ports shall be opened after the first of March next; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the Committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired leave to sit again.

Resolved, That the Congress will, to Morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration, the report of the committee on the regulations and restrictions of trade after the first of March next.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 147, 148.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 14 Feb. Application was made from the Shipwrights at this Place in the Continental service praying Interposition of Congress to stop their Servants and Apprentices whom they cannot hinder from going on the Expedition tomorrow to N York accordingly a Recommendation took place to that Purpose . . . most of the Day passed in Grand Comee on Trade

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

Dear Sir

Philadelphia Feb. 14. 1776

I Shall inclose to a Lady of my Acquaintance all the News Papers which have been printed in this City, since my arrival, by which you will See, to what Point the Tide of Political Sentiment, Setts. – Scarcely a Paper comes out, without a Speculation or two in open Vindication of opinions, which Five Months ago were said to be unpopular. – A vast Majority of the People, indeed, I very well knew Secretly entertained the same Perswasion then, but injudiciously avoided Speaking out. The Restraint however, is now taken off. –

I expect to hear the New England Papers very soon chiming in with the Concert. –

I have written to Mr [William] Sever that Congress have ordered Ten Tons of Salt Petre to the Council, to be made into Powder and requested him to communicate it to the Court. I hope every Nerve will be exerted with the Utmost Vigour to sett up Powder Mills, compleat them, and procure Persons skilled in the Manufacture of Powder. I am not without Apprehensions that such Persons will be wanted.

I apprehend however, that there are Persons who are poss[essed] of the necessary Knowledge of the Composition and Proportions of Ingredients. Even Mr Reed of Weymouth I conjecture would be able to instruct others. The same Rule, which has made a small Quantity in a Family Mortar, applied to a large Mill will make a larger Quantity. – No Expence No Industry ought to be Spared.

Dont fail, my dear Friend, to inform me, of every Step in the Progress of the Manufactures of Sa[lt] Petre and Powder.

Measures are taking to make Cannon both of Brass and Iron – Some Experiments have been made in Maryland, Philadelphia and New York, with success. – I will acquaint you with Particulars as fast as I can. I am your Friend. –

Shall We be able to get Seamen to man our Navy when our Trade shall be opened? Will they not be all better employed?

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 250–51.

JOSEPH HEWES' CONTRACT WITH THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ¹

This Charter party made the 14th day of Feby in the year 1776 – Between Joseph Hewes Esqr of North Carolina Mercht one of the Owners of the Brigantine *Fanny* Captain [blank] of the Burthen of 150 Tons or thereabouts now lying in York River Virginia, the said Jos Hewes being now present in the City of Philada of the One part And Saml Ward, B. Franklyn, Thos McKean, Josiah Batlet [Bartlett], Jno Alsop, Francis Lewis, Robt Alexander & Robt Morris Esquires a Secret Committee appointed by the Honble the Contintal Congress, of the other part Witnesseth, That the said Jos. Hewes for the Considerations herein-after mentioned, hath hired & hereby doth hire & let to Freight the sd Brigantine unto the Secret Committee aforesaid, for a Voyage to be by her performed in the Service of the United American Colonies, from York River in Virginia aforesaid to any Port or Ports, place or Places in Europe & from thence back to some Convenient Port in the United Colonys, and the said Jos. Hewes Esqr doth hereby agree that the said Brigt shall be Tight, stiff, Strong & Staunch, well & sufficiently fitted, found, Victualed & Manned for this Voyage & that the Owners of sd Brigt shall pay all charges & expences accruing or arising on said Brigt during this Voyage except such Port Charges as shall be hereinafter Specified to be paid by Said Freightors, also that the Master, Mate & Mariners shall at every Port & place give the customary assistance in taking in or discharging Goods & otherways perform the Duties of their respective stations with proper dilligence & dispatch And it is further agreed by the said Jos. Hewes Esqr That the said Brigt shall receive onboard in Virginia aforesaid a full Loading of Tobacco & other Produce of that Colony from the agent or Factor of sd Secret Committee & when loaden therewith the Master shall set sail & proceed with said Brigt & Cargo for such Port or Place in Europe as the said agent or Factor may direct & there deliver the said Cargo to

the Consignee mentioned in the bills of Loadg which the Master is to sign for the Cargo, unless sd Consignee shall direct him to proceed to some other port or place to deliver the same, which orders he is bound to obey & fulfill, and further when the said Cargo of Virginia Produce shall be so delivered, the Master of said Brigt shall receive onboard the said Brigt any Goods, Wares, Merchandize arms, & ammunition that the Agent or Factors of the said Secret Committee or any other persons on their behalf, either at the Port where the outward Cargo is Landed or at any other Port or place in the World that may be ordered & the said Master is to Ballast his Vessell If required & Proceed therewith to any Port or Ports, place or places to receive such par[s]ells of Goods as may be ordered onboard even to the full Loadg of sd Brigt the said Master to grant bills of Loadg for all Goods he receives onbd and when dispatched by the Agents or Factors of said Committee he is to set sail & proceed with all Care & dilligence for this Coast of North America, getting as soon as can be into some safe Port or place between Connecticut and North Carolina agreeable to such instructions as will be given the sd Master by sd Committee their Agent or Factors. In Consideration whereof the said Saml Ward, B.F., Thos McKean, Josiah Bartlet, Jno Alsop, F.Lewis, R.Alexander & R Morris Esquires do in behalf of the United Colonys Covenant and agree that they will pay or cause to be paid unto the said Jos. Hewes Esqr His Heirs, Exrs or assignees, the Monthly hire or freight of four hundred Spanish Dollars for every Month the said Brigantine shall be employed in this Voyage which said hire shall Commence on the day, when the said Brigt first begins to receive onboard her Loadg in Virginia which shall be ascertained by a Certificate jointly signed by the Master & Agent or Factor employed to Load her & shall Continue untill the day after said Brigt shall have delivered her homeward Cargo in some Port or place of the United Colonys or if she returns in Ballast untill the day after her arrival in such port or place unless the said Brigt shall happen to be lost, sunk, taken Seized or destroyed before such arrival & in that case the Monthly hire shall Cease on the day such loss, sinking, taking Seizure or destroying happens – and Further the sd Secret Committee do agree to pay all Port Charges that may accrue or arise on said Brigt at any & every Port or place she may be ordered to, except in Virginia the Port of Loading, and her Port of discharge in Europe, likewise is excepted her discharging Port on her return to America –

It is also mutually agreed that said Brigantine with all her Tackle & apparel Boats &c shall be valued and she is hereby valued at the sum of Four thousand Six hundred Spanish milled dollars which sum the said Committee do hereby insure to the said Owners against any Capture or seizure of the said Brigantine that may be made by the Enemies of the said united Colonies or in any other manner whatsoever, agreeing to pay them the said Owners over and above the said monthly hire the said Amount of Four thousand Six hundred Spanish milled dollars if it shall so happen that, the said Briga is Seized or taken as aforesaid

For the true performance of all and Singular the Covenants & agreements aforesaid, the said parties do mutually bind themselves each to the other in the

Penal Sum of three thousand Pounds Pennsylvania currency to be paid by the party defaulting to the party complying.

In Witness

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 14th Feb'y, 1776.

Upon application of Francis Wade for a Sum of Money, an order was drawn in his favour on John Nixon & others, the Committee of Accounts, for £ 300, being towards the payment of Provisions Supplied the Boats & Artillery Comp'y.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 484, 485.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS' SIGNALS FOR THE FIRST CONTINENTAL FLEET¹

[Off Cape Henlopen, February 14, 1776]²

Signals for the American Fleet by Day –

For Sailing – loose the Fore topSail and Sheet it home

For Weighing and coming to Sail – loose all the TopSails and sheet them home

For the Fleet to Anchor – Clew up the Main topSail & hoist a weft in the Ensign –

For Seeing a strange Vessel – hoist the Ensign and lower & hoist it as many times as you see Vessels allowing two Minutes between each time

For Chaceing – For the whole Fleet to Chace A Red Pendant at the fore top Mast head –

To give over the Chace – A white Pendant at the fore topMasthead

For the *Columbus* to Chace – Strike the broad Pendant half Mast to be answer'd by aweft in the Ensign and making Sail

To Chace to Windward – hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time if to Leeward not – To give over the Chace a white Pendant at the Fore top Masthead & if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time – this may serve for any of the Vessels to give over the Chace and return into the Fleet –

For the *Andrew Doria* to Chace – A dutch Flagg at the Fore top Masthead – To Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time if To Leeward not To give over the Chace a white Pendt at the Fore top Masthead and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time –

For the *Cabot* to Chace – A white Flagg at the fore topMast head to Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time – if to Leeward not – To give over the Chace a white Pendant at the fore top Mast-head, and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time –

For the Sloop *Providence* to Chace – A St Georges Ensign with Stripes at the Mizen peak – to Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign, lowering the Pendant at the same time if to Leeward not – To give over the Chace a White Pendant at

- the fore top Masthead, and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time –
 For a General Attack, or the whole Fleet to Engage – The Standard at the Maintop
 Top Masthead with the striped Jack & Ensign in their proper Places
 To disengage and form into a Squadron A white flagg at the Ensign Staff & the
 same into a Weft for every Vessel to make the best of their way off from the
 Enemy for their own preservation –
 For all the Captains to come onboard the Commodore – A red Pendant at the
 Ensign Staff –
 To Speak with the *Columbus* – A white Pendant at the Mizzen top Masthead –
 To Speak with the *Andrew Doria* A dutch flagg at the Mizzen top Masthead
 To Speak with the *Cabot* A weft in a Jack at the Mizzen top Masthead
 To Speak with the *Providence* – A white flagg at the Mizzen top Mast head –
 For any Vessel in the Fleet that want to speak with the Commodore – A weft in the
 Ensign and if in distress accompanied with two Guns
 To fall into a Line abreast A red Pendant at the Mizzen Peak
 To fall into a Line ahead – A white Pendant at the Mizzen Peak
 For Meeting after a Separation A weft in an Ensign at the Main top Gallt Mast-
 head – to be answered with the same and Clewing up the Main top Gallt Sail
 if they have any sett
 To Speak with the Sloop *Fly* A dutch Flag at the Ensign Staff
 For the Sloop *Fly* to Chace A dutch flag at the Main top Gallt Masthead – to
 Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign Lowering the Pendant at the same time –
 if to Leeward not – to give over the Chace & return into the Fleet a white
 Pendant at the Fore top Mast head & if at a great distance fire a Gun at the
 same time
 For the Sloop *Hornet* to Chace A red Pendant at the Mizzen top masthead, to
 Chace to Windwd hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same time –if
 to Leeward not To give over the Chace a white Pendant at the fore top Mast-
 head & if a great distance fire a Gun at the same time
 For the Schooner *Hornet* [*Wasp*] to Chace A dutch flagg at the Mizzen Peak – to
 Chace to Windward hoist the Ensign lowering the Pendant at the same
 [time] – if to Leeward not to give over the Chace a white Pendant at the fore
 top Masthead and if at a great distance fire a Gun at the same time

Signals in a Fogg or thick Weather

- When it comes on foggy and the Commodore will continue the same Sail & Course
 fire a Gun every half hour
 To bring too on the larboard Tack
 fire two Guns
 To bring too on the Starboard Tack
 fire three Guns –
 Any Vessel in the Fleet discovering an Enemy of Superior force shall fire four
 Guns and shall be answered by every Vessel in the Fleet with two Guns &
 then endeavour to Speak with the Commodore, And upon hearing one of the
 Fleet Engage an Attack must be made by the whole in the best manner
 possible

For the whole fleet to Anchor –

fire five Guns –

To haul upon a Wind on the Starbd Tack

fire six Guns –

To haul upon a Wind on the Larboard Tack – fire seven Guns –

To bear up or go before the Wind

fire eight Guns –

Any of the Vessels in the Fleet discovering Land or Danger – fire Minute Guns until the danger is over –

Signals by Night

To Weigh and come to Sail

three lights in the Mizzen Shrouds abreast of each other – to be answered by each Ship with one light in the Main Shrouds –

To put about & stand upon the other Tack –

two lights upon the Ensign Staff to be answered by the other Vessels with one

To Ware and Stand upon the other Tack

three lights upon the Ensign Staff, to be answered by the other Vessels with two –

To Ware & Stand before the Wind –

two lights at the Mizzen Peak, to be answered by three lights at the Ensign Staff –

For the Fleet to heave too with their Starboard Tacks onboard –

a light in the Starboard Main Shrouds with one Gun 1

To heave too with their Larboard Tacks on board a light in the Larboard Main Shrouds with two Guns – 2

For discovering strange Vessels –

A Light upon the Ensign Staff with a false Fire, and as many false Fires as Vessels discovered –

For discovering Land or Danger –

Show a great Number of Lights and fire Guns which is to be Continued untill every Vessel in the Fleet answer it by firing a Gun each –

For the Fleet to Attack or Engage the Enemy

fire a Gun, and as many false Fires as there is Ships in the Fleet –

For Meeting after a Separation

two false Fires – to be answered by the Same –

For the Fleet to Anchor

A light at the Main top Masthead to be answered by a light in the same place when safe at Anchor

1. RIHS, Mss., vol. 8, 4. There are also two copies with identical text but slightly different arrangements in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. The date is established by Hopkins' instructions to his captains. Undoubtedly some of the signals were set, if not distributed, while the fleet lay at Reedy Island in the Delaware between January 17 and February 11. One of the copies is headed "January," but it will be noted that instructions for the *Fly*, *Hornet* and *Wasp* were added later. The two latter vessels joined the fleet on February 13, according to the *Andrew Doria* journal. It is evident that signals for them would hardly be prepared before they joined, since there was no knowledge that they would rendezvous at Cape Henlopen. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Sir
You are hereby Ordered to keep Company with me if
possible and truly observe the signals given by the Ship
I am in. But in case you should be separated in a
Gale of Wind or otherwise - You then are to use all possible
means to join the Fleet as soon as possible. But if
you cannot in four days after you leave the Fleet
You are to make the best of your way to the Southern
Part of Abaco one of the Bahama Islands and there
wait for the Fleet fourteen days. But if the Fleet does
not join you in that time You are to Cruise in such
place as you think will most Annoy the Enemy - And
You are to send into Port for Trazal all British Vessels
in Property, or other Vessels with any Supplies for the Muni-
cipal Forces who you may make Yourself Master of to
such place as you may think best within the United Colonies
In case you are in very great danger of being Taken
you are to destroy these Orders and your signals -

Ship Alfred Feb^y 14th. 1776

Esek Hopkins Com^d

To Rich^d Biddle Esq^r
281
Commander of the Brig Andrew Doria

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

Sir You are hereby Ordered to keep Company with me if possible and truly Observe the Signals given by the Ship I am in – But in Case you should be Separated in a Gale of Wind or otherwise – You then are to use all possible Means to join the Fleet as soon as possible – But if you cannot in four days after you leave the Fleet You are to make the best of your way to the Southern part of Abacco one of the Bahama Islands, and there wait for the Fleet fourteen days – But if the Fleet does not join you in that time You are to Cruise in such place as you think will most Annoy the Enemy – and You are to send into Port for Tryal all British Vessels or Property, or other Vessels with any Supplies for the Ministerial Forces who you may make Yourself Master of to such place as you may think best within the United Colonies

In Case you are in very great danger of being Taken you are to destroy these Orders and your Signals—

Ship *Alfred* Feby 14th. 1776—

Esek Hopkins Cmr Cheff

To Nichs Biddle Esqr Commander of the Brig *Andrew Doria*

1. This letter in the Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP, and another, addressed to Hoysteed Hacker in the Harbeck Collection, HUL, seem to be the only originals of the form letter which Hopkins sent to all captains of the fleet. The draft, undated, is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS, and is endorsed, "Orders given the Several Captains in the Fleet at Sailing from the Capes of Delaware Feby 1776."

"A LIST OF NAMES RUN FROM ON BOARD THE BRIGANTINE *Andrew Doria* AND LIKEWISE THE TIME OF PEOPLE'S ENTRY SINCE THE 4TH. JANUARY 1776." ¹

6 January	Thomas Harwood	}	Run 6th Janry
	John Harwood		
	John Gordon	}	Run 12th Janry
	Arthur Dancey		
	Samuel Moore		
	Robert Floreman	}	Run 15th Janry Heath Returnd 26th Janry
	James Heath		
	John Webb Gunners Mate.		Run 15th Janry
	William Green Carprs Mate		Run 10th Feby ²
	Benjamin Simpson Yoeman		Run 28th Janry
	Edward Barrett		Discharged 6th Janry not fit for Duty
	William Darby Boatswain		turned over to the Sloop <i>Providence</i>
			12th February 76

People who Entered since the 4th January 1776

Barnard Garland	}	Entered the 14th January 1776
James McGuire		
William Hughes		
George McKane		Entered 16th Janry

George Kelly	}	Entered 18th Janry	came on board the
John Moize		26th Janry	
John Chisnell		Run 28th January	
James Willson		Entd 4th Feby	
John Swenney	}	Boatswain	
Joseph Cheels			
Timothy O harrow		Entrd the 12th February	
William West			
Joseph Elding	}		
John Patten			
Jeremiah Mahaney		Entrd the 14th Feby	
John Dennis –			

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

2. See Biddle to Lydia McFunn, February 15, 1776.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd Feby 14. 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Accot of Ship *Defence* one Months pay being Three pound Seven Shillings & Six pence Benjamin Simpson becomes Security for the same Witness my Hand

£ 3.7.6

James Heastie

Recd Feby 14. 1776 of Capt James Nicholson of the Ship *Defence* One Months pay being Three pound Twelve Shillings & Six pence Witness my Hand –

£ 3.12.6

Benjamin Simpson

Recd Feby 14. 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Acct Ship *Defence* Twenty Three pounds Six Shillings & Six pence for Six Days Work of Six Carpenters on sd Ship & Two do Eight Days & Half Each One do Nine days & Two do five days Work on the Barges

£ 23.6.6

Joseph Cavely

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 14 Feb. 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Mr Robert Craig five hundred Pounds common money to be lodged in the Hands of Col. John Veazey, to be by him laid out in the Purchase of a Ton of Gunpowder.

Copy of Letter No 18 sent to Col. John Veazey.

Mr Robert Craig agreed with the Council to load the Brig *Blanche* with Country Produce for the Importation of Salt agreeable to a Resolution of [the Continental] Congress. Copy of the Agreement filed.

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 158, 159.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher* ¹

Roebuck at Hamton [Hampton] Road in Virginia 14th Feby [17]76

Sir In return to your letter of this days date enclosing Several demands for Provisions and Stores; I send you a list of the only Articles and quantities which are in my power to spare you from the Ship under my command: vizt

To be had of the Purser – Bread	-----	1500 pounds
Pease	-----	8 busls
Shoes	-----	50 pair
Gunner – Powder	-----	5 Barls
Papr Cartdges 6 Prs	-----	100 No
Match	-----	28 lbs
Carpentr – A few Nails, some Tin & Leather		
I am yours [&c]		

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1771–1777, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr
commander of his Ms Ship the *Roebuck*

You are hereby required and directed to use all possible dispatch in completing his Majesty's Ship under your command for Sea, and having so done to proceed without loss of time down to Hampton Road, and waite there for further Orders.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the
Roebuck at Norfolk in Virginia the 14th February 1776

1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

Febry 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia.

Tuesday 13 AM sent the Marines under Arms and 30 seamen with part of the 14 Regiment and a Larg Body of Volunteers to throw up an Intrenchment to Secure the Watering Place from the Depredations of the Rebels –

modr and fair at 6 AM returned the people with 4 Prisoners
Wednesday 14 at 6 AM fird a Gun and made the signal for the Volunteers to repair on Shore – sent the marines and seamen to work at the intrenchment

Do Wt AM Returned – the People ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. *Ibid.*, on February 15 and 16, 1776, the shore parties continued to work on the entrenchments and were withdrawn at nightfall.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

February 1776

Cape Fear West 5 or 6 Leagues

Tuesday 13

AM at 5 Exercised small Arms & fired at a Mark –
 Light Breezes – P M at 1 saw a Sail to the Et gave Chace, ½
 past 2 fired a Shot & bro't to a Schooner from Nantasket bound
 to Charles Town, Sent a Petty Officer & 3 Men on board to carry
 her to Cape Fear, at 4 saw a Sail to to So ward: bore away for
 her, a 6 (having but 7 Fath's aback of the frying pan) TKd &
 stood to the N Et

Wednesday 14

A M at 5 TKd & stood in shore at 7 saw a schooner to the
 WNW; bore away after her, at 8 Wore & stood off the Chace
 having gone into Cape Fear, at 10 punished John Draper
 (Seamn with 12 lashes) for striking the Boatswns Mte Employed
 working up Junk Sailmakers repg Sails Carpenters repg Boats –
 Various Soundings

Do Wr with Rain.

P M at 1 set the Topmast Rigging & single Reeft the Tsls at 4
 dble reef the TPSls & struck Top Gallt Yards, at 6 TKd Ship,
 at 11 wore Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday, February 14, 1776.

Read a letter from the Committee at Beaufort, dated Feb. 11, 1776, relative
 to the shippers of the cargo on board the brigantine *William*, Capt. Mercier, de-
 tained there.

Ordered, That the said letter, with the papers that were inclosed, be referred
 to the Council of Safety; and that they do report thereon.

On motion, The following resolution was unanimously agreed to:

Whereas the Continental Congress, on the first day of November last, pro-
 hibited exportation from the United Colonies, until the first day of March next:
 And whereas by reason of the distance of several of those colonies from Philadel-
 phia, the resolution of the said Congress, relative to exportation after that day, may
 not be known for some time: And it may be injurious to the common cause
 of America, if exportation should be permitted in any colony, before such resolu-
 tion shall be known there,

Resolved, That the said prohibition shall continue, and be of force in this
 colony, until the first day of May next, unless an authentic account of the determi-
 nation of the Continental Congress, relative to exportation, after the said first day
 of March, shall be sooner received and published by the Council of Safety.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be forthwith printed in hand bills
 and made publick.

Ordered, That Mr. President do transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution
 to the Conventions of Georgia and North-Carolina, recommending, that those
 colonies do pass one similar thereto; and to our Delegates at Philadelphia, desiring

them to give the Council of Safety the earliest intelligence of the proceedings of the Continental Congress on this subject.

Ordered, That Mr. President's Letter to Georgia be forwarded by a Committee of two gentlemen, to be delegated to make all possible representation to induce that colony to come into a similar resolution.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 29-34.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday Evening, Feb. 14th, 1776.

Mr. [Alexander] Elsinore, and Mr. [Benjamin] Stone, two of the pilots for this port and harbour, attended, and reported their proceedings, in consequence of the orders of the board of the 6th inst.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 260.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

Savannah (in Georgia) Feb. 14.

His Excellency the Governor, with his family, left this place last Sunday night [February 11], and went on board his Majesty's ship *Scarborough*, lying at Tybee.

Last Thursday [February 8] Capt. Wright arrived at Tybee, in a schooner from Grenada. And the next day a large transport ship arrived with soldiers, from Boston. Lord William Campbell is on board his Majesty's ship *Syren*.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO LIEUTENANT FRANCIS L'MONTAIS, R. N.¹

By Clark Gayton Esqr Rear Admiral of
the Red; & Commander in Chief; of
His Majestys Ships & Vessels Em-
ployed, & to be Employed, at & about
Jamaica, & in the Gulph of Mexico,
from the River Mississippi, to Cape
Florida -

Whereas I have received Intelligence, from Cape Francois, in the Island of Hispaniola, which I think of such Importance, to this Island; that the earliest Oppertunity should be embraced of communicateing it, to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty

And as I have no Ship or Vessel, under my Command, that I can send with this Intelligence, I have given directions to the Naval Storekeeper, to Purchase a Schooner, for this Service & have order'd her, to be Mann'd out of His Majestys Ship *Antelope*.

And by Virtue, of the Power & Authority; unto me given, I do hereby nominate & appoint you, to Act, as Lieutenant & Commander of the said Schooner, Willing; & requiring you, to repair forthwith, onboard of her, and there take upon you, the Charge, & Command, as Acting Lieutenant & Commander, in her accordingly, Strictly Chargeing, & Commanding, all the Officers, & Company;

of the said Schooner, to behave themselves Jointly & Severally in their Respective Employments, with all due Respect, & Obedience, unto you their said Acting Lieutenant & Commander, and you likewise to observe & execute the General Printed Instructions, as well, as all such orders, & directions; as you may receive from time to time, from me, or any other your Superior Officer for His Majestys Service, Hereof nor you, nor any of you; may fail as you will answer the contrary at your Peril

You will use all possible Dispatch, in getting His Majestys Schooner, under your Command ready for proceeding with the Express and in order to facilitate the same; I have given directions; to the Officers of the Yard, & the Captain of His Majestys Ship *Antelope*, to give you every Assistance

I have likewise given directions to the Storekeeper to take an exact Account of the Schooners Furniture & Stores in order to their being Deliverd into your Charge, and to the respective Officers, to Supply you with what Stores, may be wanting to fit you, for a Voyage to England, for all which, as well as what Provisions may be requisite to compleat you, for three Months of all Species, at whole allowance, for your Complement of Twenty Men, you are to give proper Receipts, & charge yourself therewith; taking care; that the utmost Frugality; is observed in the expenditure of the Stores, as you are to be accountable for all, that may be unnecessarily expended

And when you have put these Orders into execution, & are fitted for a Passage to England, you are to inform me thereof immediately, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand Onboard His Majs Ship *Antelope*, in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica this 14 Feby 1776

Clark Gayton

To Mr Francis L'Montais Acting Lieutenant of His Majestys Ship *Antelope* Hereby Appointed to Act as Lieutenant and Commander of His Majestys Schooner *Lady Keith*

By Command of the Admiral Wm Whytth

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Feby 1776

Moor'd in St John's Roads Antigua

Wednesday 14 P M Sent a Sloop in Chace of a Ship that was working in, but on Seeing us, bore away at 6 brought in the ship *Chester* belonging to Philadelphia detained the said Ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN THE WEST-INDIES TO HIS FRIEND IN THIS CITY [PHILADELPHIA], DATED FEB. 14"¹

We have just heard that a brig and a sloop from some part of America, laden with lumber, are taken by one of the English cruisers close in with St. Pieres, Martinico. This conduct enrag'd the French General, who immediately gave

orders for one of his frigates to cruise and protect every American vessel within their limits.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 11, 1776.

PIERRE BEGOZZAT TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

St. Pierre, Martinico, February 14, 1776.

Gentlemen – As I never considered the American affairs otherwise, but the endeavors of tyranny against the Libertys of Mankind; & looking upon the North America as the sacred Asyle contrived in this age by the Divine Providence against the Despotic power who filled the three parts of this world with Misery & Poverty, I think i am honoured by being imployed in serving so Noble a Cause, it is in these Principals, Gentlemen I take the Liberty to write you by the oportunity of Capt. Robert Parker to offer my service to your Committee. You may be Certain that Nobody will serve your interest with so much zeal as I.

I gave Capt Robert Parker a very short expidition. I intend every Day to send away Captn Peverly, these two vestles will carry away ten thousand of Gun Powder. I am loading Now two vestles which I hope will depart very soon. We are expecting every Day a vestle departed from old France with about twenty thousand of Gun Powder; & I am in hopes that what we will Receive from france this Month will amount to 60,000. I'll advise you Every month the Quantity expected. Warlike Provisions are not common as they ought to be, on the account they have Rumoured in Europe that the Affairs of America would be stilled this Winter. Some Vestles brings no Amunition, but by letters Departed the 20th of January last, Advising the war continuing this year in America, there will be Plenty in the Months of May & June.

Ammunitions are not the only Articles wanted by the Americans. Woolen & Linen Cloaths, Drugs, Russia Ducks, twine, a great Quantity of goods at the most Necessary in Private use of life are wanting greatly, & you may be provided of these Articles here. The Designe of this Letter is to desire that you may send the Patterns of every thing wanting to you here, & I'll send them to old France, & our Markets will be well Provided with them in four or five months time. I sent a Memorial to the French ministry concerning the trade we can settle with New England; but as your Articles we usually consume here, viz. fish, Lamp oil, Spermacity, Candles, Pork, beef, Staves, boards, and Hoops, cannot amount to a great sum of money, I asked in my Memorial to ship from hence to old France, Potashes, beaver, lamp oil in casks of 60 gals, well hooped to goe to old France: these Articles added to these that Martinico consume Will produce a sufficient sum of money to Maintain your exchange here.

In the Southern Colonies I have asked that Virginy Tobacco of which we consume thirty or forty million pounds every year, be introduced to France by the way of Martinico. This article is very valuable & will pay here a great Quantity of goods wanting in America. Carolina Indigo will find likewise a great advantage in french trade. You may be certain Gentlemen that Continental Vestles will always find good Protection in our ports. you will se by the Report I send you of the frigate *Argus* ² wiling to visit a Continental vessel loading, by me, with gunpowder.

Any Continental Vestle coming here will be safe. If you have any Particular a [or] secret Demands to our Government send them to me. I do promise to return you a Positive Answer.

I think proper to advise you that the Sloop *Molly*, Capt. Conway master Loading with Flower, coming from Mery-land on the account he was Pursued by an English Man-of-war, not only obtained [permission] to anchor here, but to sell his Cargoe. Give your Vestles a letter for me, & I'll procure you all that they will want, or to be introduced, or to sell, or to Purchase their goods.

You may assure your Country men they Have good friends in this Country. We think that the sacred fire of Liberty stands no where else now but in the North America, & that the Brave people to whom the Divine Providence hath trusted it, will continue it alive for the Future Generation. I am, Gentlemen [&c.] To the Honourable Committee of Safety Providence of New Hampshire

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 74-75.

2. The *Argo*. See Volume 2.

15 Feb.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

Febry 1776

Remarks &c in Quebec

Thursday 15

Fresh Gales with Snow pm the Rebels fired a Shot from their Battery into the Town and set fire to a House in St Johns & to some Vessels in St Roque which did not burn they being prevented from perfecting their Work by our seeing them & firing on them -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 60.

Halifax February 15th 1776.

My Lord I wrote you a few days since inclosing therewith several Memorials from the Inhabitants of Cumberland, from which it will appear to your Lordship, the Disposition of the Inhabitants, and how little dependence can be relied on from thence, for the Security and defence of this Province, which Disposition is become more General, and Spreading over all the Settlements, that are principally compos'd of Americans.

I was inform'd by Advice received yesterday that the Inhabitants of Cumberland have had several Meetings, and are entering into Associations of a Treasonable & dangerous nature, no less than inviting an Army of Americans into this Province, and they give out, that Canada is in their possession, and that an Armament will come from thence, and land in this Province, in that part of the Country bordering on the Gulph of St Lawrence.

I have laid these matters before His Majesty's Council, and a Copy of their proceedings thereon, together with several Intelligencies receiv'd is herewith Transmitted, it being their Unanimous opinion that the Fort at Cumberland shoud as soon as the Season will possibly permit, be Garrison'd with at least three hundred men. I shall accordingly make application to General [Eyre] Massey to supply the Troops necessary for that purpose.

I beg leave to observe to your Lordship, That if Quebec is in the Enemies hands, they will thereby become possess'd of One Frigate, one Sloop of War, and the *Gaspee* Brig and that it will require a number of Frigates to be early in the Spring in the Gulph St Lawrence to disconcert such an Expedition, and shall accordingly write to Admiral Shulden [Shuldham] by a Vessel that Sails tomorrow. That he may have it in his power timely to disconcert such a measure.

We have had no Intelligence from Boston this six Weeks which may have been owing to that Harbours being block'd up with Ice, as we have had a very Severe Season, this Harbour was shut up for a day or two, but is now open and clear of Ice.

The Importance and Critical Situation of this Colony I have represented to our Lordship, and woud only Suggest at this time, that as in all probability Troops will be sending to Boston to reinforce the Army, as they must all pass by this Port, within a few Leagues, shoud they be order'd to call in here, in their passage, they may be a means of saving this Province out of the Enemies hands for from every Intelligence, I find the Rebels will most surely attempt us early in the Spring. I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, Nova Scotia Papers, DAC Photocopy.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Copy

Halifax 15th February 1776.

Sir, Yesterday a Corporal belonging to the 65th Regiment arrived here express from Cumberland and brought an Account addressed to Brigadier General [Eyre] Massey from Lieutenant Barron of the King's Regiment, lately wounded at Boston; and Obtained General [William] Howe's leave to pass the Winter with his Father who lives at that place.

He says that Cumberland and its Neighbourhood have formed themselves into a Committee, the same as the other Rebellious Meetings, in which they are joined by the Acadians, and the Majority of the Country people in general thereabout; for what they call the preservation of Liberty.

They have resolved to kill all the Bullocks, that remain in those parts, which have been purchased for the use of the Army and salt them for the Subsistence of the Rebels, by whom they say they are to be joined as soon as the Season breaks.

I have not the smallest doubt but the Rebels intend to make an Attempt upon this Province, the moment the Weather will permit, and I am no less confident that they have the hearts and good Wishes for Success, of by much the Major part of the People; under those Circumstances, I should presume it becomes a Serious consideration, how this Province is to be preserved; (with its present force:) I pronounce it impossible, barely five hundred, fit for Duty at this moment out of Nine hundred Men upon Paper, as I hear.

The *Cerberus*, alongside the Wharf for to be cleaned, the *Orpheus's* Masts I hope to get in the beginning of the Week, and shall lose no time in refitting her; and you may rest Assured that we will not be Surprised with the *Cerberus* dismantled, because, we will soon get her Guns in and put her in a State of defence, but what then! two Frigates commanded by all the Heights about this place.

The Yard has had a Scaffolding erected round the Walls for Men to stand upon to fire over, but where are they? I have a Lieutenant and thirty Marines which Captain [Edward] Le Cras left behind, by Order of Vice Admiral Graves; this is all I can reckon upon for I am sure Brigadier Massey can spare none, neither will the State of the Frigates admit of any Assistance of consequence.

I hope you will therefore excuse my repeating my Opinion, that Two, two Deck Ships are much wanted, for the defence of this place; And if the Nature of the Service is such that no Addition to our force can be spared; I mean to put the Stores at present in the Yard, into such Transports and Vessels as I can find, for their Security; which I hope you approve of.

I could wish also, Sir, that you will procure a Vessel, for the business of my Sending you the earliest Account of our State; if you have none, here is a small Schooner, belonging to Captain Maltby, which can be purchased for 100 pounds that will do, as I am told she sails well.

I must likewise pray you will Order, a list of the Ships you mean to have cleaned this Spring, that I may prepare for them.

You will find in a Letter to Admiral Graves a remark respecting Messrs Grant issuing broken Species, such as Pork, Flour, &c and the rest are to be supplied out of the *Fortitude* Transport, by which you will perceive by the State of the said Ship herewith inclosed, that she has no more than Nine Puncheons of Beef left, and therefore I must request that you will Order a supply of Beef to this place, or cause the Ships to be Victualled before they leave you; for I cannot answer the Demand of the two Frigates at this place, when you may have commands for them. I am with the greatest Deference. Sir, [&c.]

M^t Arbuthnot

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN ON BOARD THE [H.M.S.] *Orpheus*,
DATED HALIFAX, 15 FEB. 1776." ¹

We arrived here after a Passage of eleven Weeks from Plymouth, and almost one continued Storm; the Ship much shattered, and most of the Men down in the Scurvey. However, we shall soon be fit for Sea again; all our People are recovered, which we attribute to the Spruce Beer, the common Drink on board the Men of War here, and at Boston; for though they have Plenty of good Rum or French Brandy on board of every Ship, yet they never make use of them when they can get Spruce Beer, as they find by long Experience that it keeps the Men healthier than any other Liquor. Every Sort of Provision is very dear here from so much being sent, and daily going, for the Use of the Army, the Navy, and Inhabitants in Boston.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, March 19, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

On the Muster-Roll of Capt. Jeremiah Obryan [O'Brien].

Resolved, That there be allowed and paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony, to Capt. Jeremiah Obryan, his Officers and Seamen under his Command,

or their Order, the several Sums set against their respective Names, in the first Muster-Roll, amounting in the Whole to the Sum of *Seven Hundred and Sixty three Pounds, six Shillings* and a *Penny*, in full Discharge for Services on board said Vessels to the first Day of February Current.

Afternoon.

John Taylor, Esq; brought down a Letter from James Lyon, Chairman of the Committee of Machias, praying Directions with respect to some Goods taken in the Schooner *Diligent*, with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, February 15th, 1776.

Read and committed to Benjamin Lincoln, Esq; with such as the Hon. House shall join

Read, and concurred, and Col. [Solomon] Lovell and Col. [John] Bliss are joined.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

In the House of Representatives: Resolved, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this Colony. to Captain Jeremiah Obrien, the sum of seven hundred and sixty-three Pounds, six Shillings and one Penny, in full of said Obrien's Muster-Roll, to the 1st instant.

In Council: Read, and concurred.

Memorial of James Cargill, of Newcastle, in the County of Lincoln, setting forth to your Honours: "that the schooner *Dolphin* was, by order of the honourable Court, committed to his care; and that your memorialist fitted her with two new masts, also, with carpenter and smith's work to fit her for use; and, also, ordered Andrew Reed, Jun., to coast in said schooner to Portsmouth and Newbury, in order to get rigging for her, which she was very scant off. Said schooner was ordered to proceed on business the 1st of January last. You memorialist would be glad of your Honour's directions concerning said schooner.

In the House of Representatives: On the Petition of James Cargill, Resolved, That Colonel Cargill be allowed to detain the abovesaid Schooner, till further order of this Court, and be accountable for her earnings when required.

In Council: Read, and concurred.

1. Force, comp. American Archives, 4th, IV, 1306-07.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM'S PASSPORT TO THE SLOOP *Rainbow* ¹

Permit the Sloop *Rainbow* Samuel Perkins Master with his Crew, consisting of Two Hands, to Pass from the Harbour of Boston to Damascotay in Ballast.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* off Boston
15th February 1776 –

M: Shuldham

To The Respective Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America

By Command of the Admiral – Edw^d Bragge/.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 254.

JAMES OTIS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Barnstable February 15th 1776

Genlemen of the Council it seems on Saturday Last [February 10] a French vessel Ran on shoar on the south side of the Cape with an Hundred & Odd Hogsheads of molases and some Other small Articles and one Hogshead of sugar She Had a French master and one Pinkham of Nantucket the English master their Papers are all In French so I Can say But Little about them: there was on Board sd vessel one Mons[ieu]r Dela baron ² a German who Took Passage on Board with a Design to Go to Philadelphiah who has Large Packets with him for Doctor Franklen, a Letter for the Secratary of the Continentall Congress & for Divers Other Gentm at Philadelphia he appears Much of a Gentm says he Was In the King of Prussias service more than twe[n]ty years I have wrote By him to General Washington who no Doubt will Examine Into his Bisness he says the French & English Master[s] Talked of Going Into Boston But they Deny it on The whole I Thought Best to acquaint your Honrs as to this Matter and as the Goods are Taken Into Custody By Major Hallet & Others they will waite The Courts Direction in this Dillicate Point. I am [&c.]

James Otis

1. James Otis Papers, CUL.

2. Otis had the German's title only; the name was Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1776

New-York, February 15.

The sloop *Macaroni*, Capt. Hunting, is arrived at the east end of Long-island from the West Indies: About 16 days since the sloop overset off Cape Hatteras, by which accident the Captain and one of the men were drowned; the whole crew were overboard, but all of them except the two before mentioned recovered the vessel again, when she soon righted.¹

Capt. Lowndes from St. Croix, informs us, That several of the transports that lately arrived at Antigua, received so much damage on this coast, that they were obliged to go to English Harbour to refit.

The arrival of the *Mercury*, of 24 guns, with General Clinton, alarmed the inhabitants of this city very sensibly; and last Friday [February 9] the transport ship *Kitty*, with 200 soldiers on board, came into port: 'Tis said she sailed from Boston in company with the *Mercury*, and is supposed to be part of the fleet that lately left that place destined for the southward.

[Advertisement]

For Barbados, And the Leeward Islands, The Schooner *Sally*, Robert M'Intosh master, lying at Cruger's Dock, will sail on Sunday next. For passengers, apply to the said Master on board.

1. The *Macaroni*, the property of Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., of New London, was returning from the West Indies with a cargo of gunpowder and arms.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New Brunswick] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

The Committee appointed to draught an ordinance for erecting a Court of Admiralty in this Province, reported, That they had consulted William Livingston, Esq., one of our Delegates in Continental Congress on the subject, and proposed to him, whether it would not be of manifest advantage to the Colonies, if that Congress should, by one general ordinance, institute the powers and mode of erecting a Court of Admiralty to be adopted by all the Colonies: That Mr. Livingston agreed thereto, and said he would take the first opportunity of proposing this matter to Congress; and added, that as they had already given directions for the disposition of the transport lately carried into Elizabethtown,² no injury could ensue to the public from the New Jersey Congress deferring the erecting a Court of Admiralty in this Province, until they are informed whether the Continental Congress will direct a general ordinance for the purpose: And the Committee submit it to consideration of the Congress, whether it will not, for the above reasons, be expedient, that the said Committee should for the present defer further proceedings in the business to which they were appointed.

The Congress taking the said report into consideration.

Ordered, That further proceedings of the said Committee be deferred accordingly.

1. *New Jersey Provincial Congress*, 369, 370-71.

2. *The Blue Mountain Valley*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, February 15, 1776

Information being received that General [Henry] Clinton was gone from New York, the Congress came to the following resolution:

The Congress have a proper sense of the spirit and patriotism of the associators of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, in cheerfully offering and preparing to march, in order to assist in the defence of New York; but, as the danger which occasioned an application for their service, is at present over,

Resolved, That their march to New York be suspended.

That a committee of three on the reports of the committee of correspondence (two of whom to be members of Congress) be appointed to proceed to Canada, there to pursue such instructions as shall be given them by Congress:

The members chosen, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Mr. S[amuel] Chase, and Mr. Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.

Resolved, That Mr. Carroll be requested to prevail on Mr. John Carroll to accompany the committee to Canada, to assist them in such matters as they shall think useful:

Resolved, That this Congress will make provision to defray any expence which may attend this measure.

The committee, to whom the letter from the committee of safety of New York of 3 January, and the letter from Governor Trumbull of January 6, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration:

Resolved, That no farther works be erected on Martler's rock, but, that those already erected there, be supported and garrisoned:

That a fascine battery, to mount not exceeding eighteen heavy cannon, be thrown up on the Gravel Hill, eastward of Martler's rock, marked in the draught LL, so as to command the west point, the reach down the river from the west point, and part of the reach up the river: and that a convenient road be opened from this battery to the barracks on Martler's rock:

That a redoubt of earth and fascines be built on the eminence on the east side of the river, opposite to the west point marked in the draught A, to mount 30 guns:

That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to forward the battery at Pooplopen's kill; and that the said battery be made of earth and fascines, and to mount a number of guns, not exceeding forty guns:

That such of the continental troops as are or may be stationed at the afore-said places, be employed in erecting these works and batteries, under the direction of the engineer:

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow Morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of the trade of these colonies after the first of March next.

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means to procure Cannon, be empowered to enquire what quantity of brass can be procured, and to contract for the same.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 150-53.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 15 [February] - A Letter being recd from Gen. Lee ² the Associators were countermanded going to N York - A report was made & agreed to about the Mode of fortifying Hudsons River - some Gentn were selected to go into Canada viz - Dr [Benjamin] Franklin, Saml Chase & Charles Carol of Carolton Esqrs together with the Rev. John Carol . . . 5 Ton of Powder said to be arrived at Egg Harbor and gone thro [New] Brunswick to New York,

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. Lee's letter was dated February 11, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 15th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Robert Whyte & John Nixon be directed to apply to Simon Shurlock, and in their name to request him to finish the Ship now building

for this Province, with the greatest expedition, and to employ an additional number of Men for that purpose.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 486.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1776

Philadelphia, February 15.

On Tuesday last Capt.— from Fyal and Lisbon arrived here. He left Fyal the middle of October, at which time two English men of war were cruising off there and had taken and made prizes of seven sail of whalers. He left Lisbon the nineteenth of November, and informs, that the night before he sailed, there arrived a packet from England, and it being reported that she had orders for seizing all American ships in that port, the Captain made sail early in the morning, to escape their clutches. — By the above, we have reason to believe Lord North despatched orders to seize our property long before he asked leave to bring in a bill for that purpose.

The ship *Rose*, from this port for Ireland, is cast away in the English channel; the vessel and cargo lost.

The English men of war have taken the brig *Greyhound*, Capt. [William] Stevens,¹ from this port for the West-Indies, and the ship *Peggy*, Capt. Davidson [Samuel Davison],² also from this port for Europe, both of which they sent into St. Kitts.

By the New-York post, which arrived this afternoon, we learn that the *Mercury* man of war, with General Clinton on board, and the two transports sailed from New-York last Sunday afternoon [February 11], at 4 o'clock, and the next day they left the Hook.

1. Stevens took command of the *Greyhound* in May 1775, and was on his third voyage when captured.

2. Davison had been given leave of absence from the Pennsylvania row galley *Warren* on November 28, 1775, to make a voyage in the service of the Continental Congress.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO HIS SISTER, MRS. LYDIA McFUNN¹

(A Sp[eech]) of N:B. Before the County Court held at Lewis town
Feb: 14 1776 N:B: The Sheriff was afraid of being acctble for the
debt and desird the Court to indem[nify] him.

I was this Morning inform'd that one [William] Green who had deserted from me was last evening, on that account, taken up and put in your Goal. As it was very common whilst we lay at Reedy Island for the Good People about New Castle to apprehend deserters, and either send them on board or keep them in Goal till we sent for them, I thought I had nothing more to do than to send an Officer to pay his Goal fees and take him out. But it seems that after he was put in Goal for desertion a writ has been served on him for a debt in consequence of which the Sheriff has Refused to deliver up My Man

This Man May it please the Court and you Gent. of the jury was put in Phila: Goal for Raising a Mutiny in the Gallies² and I Obtained an Order of the Committee to take him out. Provided he entered into the Continentel Service? and on no other terms would he have been Released. I beg the favoir of the

Court to Read a Resolve of Congress Respecting the arresting of Men entered into their Service which is directly in point. And which I hope you will allow aught to Supercede all other Laws whatever, (the Resolve) ³ by this Gent[n] you see the de[b]t must be attested on Oa[t]h before a writ can be issued. In this Case no oath has been Made, Neither before nor since the Arrest.

I know not the Particular laws of Your County. But will Venture to say that if you make a d[i]stincktion between the Goal and Goal Yard, and that it [is] against Law to arrest in the Goal and not in the Goal Yard Your Laws differ from those of the Rest of the World. They are both equ[a]lly Places of Confinement. I again say such Procecdure is without Precedent in any other Laws & derectly against those of the Congress. It is most strongly Recommended by the Congress to Abate as much as possible the Rigours of the Laws in such Cases. In the Present it is stretched far beyond its bounds. I should be very sorry to have the least Cause to Suspect this County of want of firm[ness] in the Cause. But Really this Conduct seems Calculated to counteract their Measures. I shall only add that it is in your Power to give Me the Man as you plainly see that He is not nor cannot be Legally detain'd. If I am not to have him Let me know the Men by whose power & Authorety he is kept in Order that I may transmit their Names to the Congress, And let them take order in the Matter. We will send for his Creditors and talk with them – What!!! Whenever I Ship a Man I must send through the Provinces or Continent to know to whom he is indepted and whether or not tis agreeable to them I should have him. Oh [dam]n. I believe you may take him –

twas near five Oclock before I got ashore and what with turning Orator and Breaking the Goal Door made it so late that I did not see My favoirite McCorm[an]

Four Raskels stood on their defence Barricad[e]d their Room door which Obliged me to force it. Tell Cousin Clemmy ⁴ I must owe him a letter till I can find Something worth telling [I] am Very happy in haveing Sam N[i]cholas in the fleet ⁵ If he wants any news in the small ware way, tell him [to] come to you, that I write you ten times as [much] as you can have patience to Read. Give my Love to Mother Charles and all Friends I am Yours Affy

N: Biddle

[On the covering sheet]

Capt Haz[ar]d A Stout Man Very Vain and Ignorant – as much low cunning as Capacity

C: Hacker of the *Fly* an Active Smart Seaman

C: Stone A Very Stout and Very Good kind of Man

C: Saltonstal a Sensible indefatigable Morose Man

C Hopkins A Good Naturd Man

C B “ a Mighty good Young Man ⁶

To Mrs Lydia Mcfunn

in third Street Philadelphia

1. While the salutation is missing, the letter was dated February 15, 1776. This is indicated by the comment of James Biddle in his list of letters from his brother, “1776 Februry 15 *Andw Doria* at the Capes – 1 Lre to me and one to Lydia His Speech to the Court at Lewestown – and account of his getting a Deserter by forcing the Gaol door – His farewell,” Nicholas Biddle Letters, Nos. 279, 280, 325, HSP.

2. Green, a former member of the crew of the Pennsylvania galley *Congress*, had been jailed on November 17, 1775, by the Committee of Safety for mutinous conduct.
3. Resolve of January 30, 1776: "That it be recommended to all creditors, whose demands against any person who is inlisted, or shall inlist, in the continental service, shall not amount to the value of 35 dollars, not to arrest any such debtor till the expiration of the time for which he is inlisted." Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 103.
4. Clement Biddle.
5. Captain of Marines on board the *Alfred*.
6. His character delineations were of John Hazard, of the sloop *Providence*; Hoysteed Hacker, of the sloop *Fly*; William Stone, of the sloop *Hornet*; Dudley Saltonstall, of the ship *Alfred*; John Burroughs Hopkins, of the brig *Cabot*, and a humorous reference to himself.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO HIS BROTHER, JAMES BIDDLE ¹

My Dear Brother

Andrew Doria Feb:15th 1776

I have the Pleasure to inform you that since I wrote to you we have Received a Reinfor[c]ement of 120 Men from Rhode Iland and have also [i]ncreased our fleet with a Sloop of ten Guns and 70 Men and small Schooner of 8 two pounders from Maryland.² I now muster 109 Men in the Whole, and am in every Respect well equipt. have by great odds the fastest sailing Vessel in the fleet. except a Small Sloop calld the *Fly* and the Schooner from Maryland with wh[ic]h I have not had a fair tryal. Tis now twelve Oclock & we are now lying at Anchor in Old keel Road at C: Henlopen waiting for wind. tis quite calm and like a Summers day. Fare you well My Dear Brother May the Mercifull God who has upheld Me in all My Dangers and Difficulties Preserve you and Proteckt you from all Evils. May He who has Mercifully led me through the World keep My dear Brothers Cheek from ever being staind with a Blush for Me. I well know the Glorious Cause I am engaged in. And if ever I disgrace it May My Kind father who gave me being instantly Blast me in Mercy to me. I mean not to be deperate beyond measure. But to do my duty to the utmost of My Ability. If in spite of my best endeavour I should be taken, If Fortune Should frown on me I hope I shall bear up against it with that Fortitude Patience and Resignation which I usually found Myself Possessd of, Which has hitherto been sufficient for my purpose And that they ever will be proportionable to my wants Whilst I am Conscious of having disc[h]arged my duty I cannot doubt. I am thank Heaven in Good health and Spirits. And Never in my Life was better pleased with a trip I was going to take than I am with this.

I beg you to give my Sincere Love to My dear Sister Fanny to My Mother and all the Family and believe me to be Most Affectionately Yours

N:Biddle

Feb: the 16th I forgot to tell You that all the Officers and Men of the Fleet have Signd an agreement to Share all Prizes that may be taken in Case of seperation the same as if the Whole fleet were together and concernd in taking Such Prizes.³ Tis a fine evening and at the turn of the tide I hope to sail To James Biddle Esqre

in Walnut street Philadelphia

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

2. The sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*.

3. See Articles of Enlistment for the Continental navy, January 20, 1776.

Andrew Doria Feb. 15th 1776

My Dear Brother

My Dear Brother
I have the Pleasure to inform you that since I wrote to you we have Received a Reinforcement of 120 Men from Rhode Island and we have also increased our fleet with a Sloop of ten Guns and 70 Men and small Schooner of 8 two pounders from Maryland. I now master 109 Men in the whole and am in every Respect well equipt. have by great odds the fastest sailing Vessel in the fleet. except a small

for me. I well know the gloom, cause I am engaged in. And if ever I despoil it May my kind father who gave me being instantly blast me in Mercy to me. I mean not to be desperate beyond measure. But to do my duty to the utmost of my ability. If in spite of my best endeavours I

I cannot doubt. I am thank Heaven in good health and spirits. And never in my life was better pleased with a trip I was going to take than I am with this.

I beg you to give my sincere love to My dear Sister Fanny, to My Mother and all the Family and believe me to be Most Affectionately Yours W. Biddle

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COLONEL JOHN VEAZEY¹

No 18.

Sir In Consequence of a Letter received this Day from Mr John Thompson dated 1st Feby the Council of Safety have determined to purchase the whole of the Gun Powder imported by Mr Nathaniel Rumsey in Partnership with a Gentleman of Philadelphia – or if that cannot be done, then so much as you can agree for, and request you would make the Contract for the Use of the Province – they have sent by Captn Craigg £500 Currency, to pay for the Ton already engaged. – but do not intend the whole Ton for the separate Use of your County; ² they will take Care, you shall be plentifully supplied in Proportion to other Counties. – You will purchase upon the most reasonable Terms – the Price we expect will not exceed £25 Currency pCt unless the Committee of Philadelphia should give more. – The Balance of Cash shall be immediately paid to your Order, as soon as the Powder is landed, & put into our Custody or Power.
[Annapolis] Feby 15th 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

2. Veazey commanded the militia of Cecil County.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Thursday 15 Feb. 1776.

Mr Robert Purviance engages with the Council of Safety to return to them the 424 yards of Canvas delivered to Mr Lux, also the 165 yards delivered for the [Continental] Sloop *Hornet*, and the 143¼ yards delivered Mr Hugh Young.

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 161–62.MINUTES OF THE NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

15th Feby 1776 –

The Members present taking under Consideration the defenceless State of the Town and Neighbourhood of New Bern, and having received Intelligence from Cape Fear that a Vessel has been lately fitted out by the Ships of War on that Station, drawing but Eight and a half feet Water, and being under some Apprehensions that such armed Vessel may be destined to attack the Town, therefore thought it necessary & expedient for the Safety and Protection of both, that one hundred Men exclusive of Officers of the Militia of Craven County be stationed at New Bern,

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Thursday, February 15, 1776.

Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, from the Committee to examine a ship now on the stocks at Capt. [Robert] Cochran's, reported, That having examined the said ship according to order, they found her every way unfit to be equipped, as a ship of war, in the colony service.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to consider and report the best means, and an estimate of the expence, of building, with the utmost dispatch, two frigates, for the service of this colony, each to mount thirty-two guns on one deck: and also to consider and report the expediency of stationing armed vessels to protect the navigation of Beaufort and George-Town harbours.

Ordered, That Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, Capt. [Alexander] Gillon, Col. [George Gabriel] Powell, Mr. [John] Edwards, Doctor [Benjamin] Farrar, Major [James] Mayson, and Capt. [John] Joiner, be a Committee for the above purposes.

Read a petition of John Sigell, steward to Lord William Campbell, of this date.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to the following Committee, viz. Mr. Jacob Motte, Capt. Benjamin Huger, Capt. Hammond, Mr. Elias Horry, and Mr. John Parker: And that the said Committee do also consider and report, what may be proper to be done with the effects of Lord William Campbell, and a trunk of books belonging to James Trail; both having withdrawn themselves from this colony on board the *Cherokee* ship of war – the latter, after having been enjoined, by the General Committee, not to go out of the limits of Charles-Town.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 38–40.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHARLES-TOWN, DATED FEB. 15.”¹

Lord William Campbell is still on board a man of war in the Harbour. Our town is well fortified. The following is a list of Forts, Batteries, and ships of war at South Carolina: – Sullivan’s Island, 26 guns, 18 and 32 pounders; Fort Johnson, 21 guns, 18 and 32 pounders; Hadd[r]al’s Point, 6 guns, 18 pounders; Fort William Henry, 12 guns, 32 pounders; Wilkin’s Fort, 23 guns, 9, 12, 18, and 32 pounders; Littleton’s Fort, 11 guns, 18 pounders; Craven’s Fort, 7 guns, 18 and 32 pounders; Granville’s Fort, 5 guns, 12 pounders; Gadsden’s Fort, 7 guns, 32 pounders; Gibbs’s Wharf, 9 guns, 18 pounders. Ships, *Prosper*, 26 guns, 12 pounders; Brig *Comet*, 18 guns, 6 pounders; Schooner *Defence*, 12 guns, 6 pounders. Two Regiments of Provincials, one Regiment of Artillery, six Regiments of Militia, and one Regiment of Riflemen.

1. *Lloyd’s Evening Post and British Chronicle*, April 17 to April 19, 1776.

THOMAS HARRISON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON¹

Sir

[Kingston] Feby 15th 1776

Mr Smith has delivered me your letter of the 14th instant, informing me of the sevl Actions brought agt you.

Doubt not but your conduct will on this & every other occasion be approved by the Crown; & it will give [me] the utmost pleasure, whenever honoured with your [?]lication & confidence, to become instrumental in justifying it to the Publick.

The maxim of the Law that mentions, “The King can do no wrong” does by necessary consequence exempt him from suits; these can only be brought against his servants. Till the Crown therefore, from a knowledge & approbation of the Proceedings of its Offices, makes their Causes its own; they remain personal & must be personally conducted. – You may command, Sir, my best services to the

extent of my professional department, I mean as Counsel; but as I never act as Attorney, it will be necessary for you to employ one. The just distrust of my own Competency in matters of such arduous concern makes me solicit you also to associate a gentleman of the Bar with me. I am, Sir [&c.]

Tho: Harrison

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Harrison was Advocate General of Jamaica.

CAPTAIN ROBERT KEELER, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

Sir *Experiment* English Harbor Feby 15th 1776

Hearing you Intend to Send the *Lynx* to England Early in the Spring, I beg you will permit me to Change with Capt [Alexander] Scot[t] into her, In Order to get my health Reinstated which has been bad Ever Since I left England, but worse Since I Came to this Country, your Compliance will Oblige Sir [&c.]

R Keeler

[Endorsed] No. 4: 15th Feby 1776. – Captain Robert Keeler of His Majesty's Ship *Experiment*, requesting leave to exchange into the *Lynx*, in Order to go to England for the recovery of his health.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. Captain Scott, Keeler's successor in H.M.S. *Experiment* fared none too well by this transfer. He lost a hand in the engagement off Charleston a few months later.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES,
H.M. Sloop *Viper* ¹

(A Copy)

Notwithstanding my Order of the 9th Instant.

You are hereby required and directed to receive the Sundry dispatches sent you herewith, (brought express by His Majesty's Sloop *Hawke*) and immediately proceed with them to Boston, in His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* under your Command, and on your arrival, are to deliver the same to Rear Admiral Shulldham, or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at that Port; – You are now to take under your Convoy to that Place the *Layton* Victualer only; but should you find she retards the *Viper's* passage, and you should happen to fall in with any other of His Majesty's Ships on the Coast of America; You are to make known to the Captain of such Ship this Order; and my directions that He is to take the *Layton* Victualing Transport, under his Care and protection, and to Convoy her forthwith to Boston; and you are to make the utmost haste you can with the aforesaid dispatches to the Commander in Chief: for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English
Harbour Antigua; the 15th February
1776. –

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

English Harbour Antigua, 15th February 1776.

Dear Sir Since my dispatch to you and General [William] Howe of the 10th Instant, the *Hawke* Sloop Captain Cooper; arrived here in distress; (having lost all her Masts and Guns in bad Weather) and delivered me the accompanying Government dispatches, and the Secret Orders inclosed herein; as it is altogether impossible the *Hawke* Sloop can carry them into execution, and all the Ships under my Command, are at Sea on different Cruizing Stations. I am obliged to transmit them to you by the *Viper* Sloop which has been delayed by the Victualers losing their Men at the time they were to Sail; I have therefore now Ordered Captain [Samuel] Graves to take only the *Layton* Victualer along with him; and make the utmost dispatch in his power to join you at Boston; hoping thereby both Services which appear to me to be of the utmost importance, may in some measure be executed; at least it is the only means I can adopt that carries any appearance of performing their Lordships Instructions: I most ardently wish it may effectually do so; and I am with great regard Dear Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

16 Feb.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG ¹

February 1776	Pearl Rock SE $\frac{1}{2}$ E off shore 4 or 5 Miles
Thursday 15	at half past 9 A M Fired a Gun Shotted to bring too a Schooner, found her to be from New York – at 9 Do [sic] made Sail First part fresh breezes and fair, latter little Wind and Rain at half past 3 P M fired a swivel Shotted to bring too a Schooner from Nova Scotia, sent an Officer and 5 Men on board her and at 9 Do sent her into Rosseau Bay and made Sail ²
Friday 16	Fresh Breezes and fair at 1 P M Saw a Schooner to So ward at 4 Do Fired a Swivell and brought her too found her to be the Schooner from New York we spoke on Thursday sent the Gunner and 5 Men on board her and took her Crew on board us. ³ St Pierres East 4 or 5 Miles –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. *Ibid.*, the Nova Scotia schooner was released by Young when he entered Rosseau Bay on February 18.

3. Schooner *Bumper*, Hillary Moseley, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

WILLIAM TYNG TO ——— ——— ¹

[Stroudwater Falls, Maine] Feby 16. 1776

On the 18th Octor last a Fleet under the command of Capt [Henry] Mowatt burnt the Town of Falmouth as you've undoubtedly heard by Mr F ——. Your House Barn Out Houses, Fences & Office are all in Ashes We had so few Hours

notice of our Destruction, that we had no Time nor Team to Save either your Furniture or mine – I was obliged to flee for my Life – I knew not where but a Quaker offered me a lodging in his House, which had not a finish[e]d room in it – However I was obliged by the Offer – and my Wife & I were forced to foot it with large Bundles on our Arms about 6 or 8 Miles & abused as we passed the Road What little time I had was employed in throwing my Furniture into the Garden, from whence a good deal was stole and the most of the remainder broken or torn in pieces – The Church is also burnt but not the Meeting House – All below Doctr [Edward] Watts' except a few Houses in Back Street and Bradburys & Mrs [Elizabeth] Ross's two Houses are clean gone – The upper End of the Town supposed to be about one third of the whole, is standing among which is the House I lived in by reason of that fortunate Event, I saved some of my Furniture – but am still in the Woods, where if I cant get off either to London, Boston or Hallifax, I intend to remain till Peace be restored to this infatuated, this distracted Country – Capt Mowatt was so kind as to offer us (those I mean who had formerly fled to him for Protection), a Passage to Boston, but it was impracticable for us to get on board – tho we wished to, for had we been discovered in the Attempt, we shou'd have been shot from the Shore by the Rebels – nor could we have carried the least Article with us supposing we cou'd have got off ourselves, that alone however wou'd not have stayed us – I am now at Stroudwater Falls at Mr Geo. Knights – Son to the Lieutt – With me (besides Knights and Family) are Mr [Joseph] Dommetts & Doctr Coffins' Familys to the number of 23 Souls in a single-Story Farm House – We are obliged to have three Beds in the same small Room where we eat and drink – but still not at Peace – for we are constantly alarmed – & Days fixed upon for a Mobing – Judge how miserable we must me, but indeed it is almost beyond Description or Conception – Mr Domett was not able to save any of his Furniture except his Clothes and a Bed or Two – I am told that whilst your House was on Fire a Band of Thieves got into it & have taken a good deal of your Furniture

This I mention, that as you are on the spot you may form some Estimate of the Value of your Houses & Furniture for I have no doubt, but Administration mean to make good to the Friends of Government all Losses sustained in consequence of the present Rebellion – indeed it will be but Justice – You may depend that Mr D and I did every thing in our Power to preserve your Interest, but all we were able to do, was to save your Papers that were in a white Trunk –

I have had no Opp[o] since Sept'r to send a Letter in – it is eight Months since I had a Letter from my Father – I think as a faithful Subject & one who has been imprison'd & otherwise sufferd & still Suffering by the Rebels on Account of his Loyalty & has lost some hundred by the destruction of the Town, has some Claim on Govt for a Provision –

I will make you acquainted with the Story of my Imprisonment – After Capt Mowat had gone off, I mov'd into Town again, hoping to spend the Winter quietly there, but the *Cerberus*, Capt Simons [John Symonds] came in Novr & demanded Sheep & other Cattle of the Town's People, which they positively refused, & sent a Committee on board to tell him so – Capt Simmons thought proper to keep the Committee Prisoners till the Town complied. Upon this

Mr D & I were immediately seized upon and a guard set over us – and we were ordered to write to Capt Simmons to acquaint him of our Imprisonment, and that we were to be held as Hostages till those he had on board were set free – Capt Simmons was so good for our sakes to set them at liberty which procured our enlargement, otherwise we shou'd have been close Prisoners at this Day –

1. Col. Wm. Tyng's Memo Book, MeHS.

MINUTES OF A COUNCIL OF WAR HELD AT CAMBRIDGE ¹

At a Council of General Officers held at Head Quarters in Cambridge 16th Feby 1776

Present. His Excellency Genl Washington

Major Generals – [Artemas] Ward – Puttnam [Israel Putnam] –

Brigadier Generals –

[John] Thomas

[William] Heath

[Joseph] Spencer

[John] Sullivan

[Horatio] Gates

His Excellency the Commander in Chief informed the Council that in Consequence of the Resolution of two Councils of War held at this Place on the 16th & 18th ult. he had applied to this Government, Connecticut, & New Hampshire for the Regiments then voted –

That those Regiments were come, and coming in, and if complete would amount (Officers included) to 7280 Men – that the Regiments of the United Colonies at those Incampments by Saturday's Return amounted to 8797 Men fit for Duty besides Officers, and 1405 Men on Command which might be ordered to join their respective Regiments immediately – that our Stock of Powder was so small as to afford but little Aid from Cannon & Mortars – and therefore that small Arms must be our principal Reliance in any Event till a Supply could be obtained – that in the State Boston Harbour had been all this year and now is, a Bombardment might probably destroy the Town without doing much Damage to the Ministerial Troops within it, as there were Transports wooded & watered with a View more than probable to take them in upon any sudden Emergency – Consequently that might not produce the desired Effect, if those Transports were sufficient for the Embarkation of the Army – that from the best Intelligence which had been procured the Strength of the Army in Boston did not much exceed 5,000 Men then fit for Duty – that considerable Reinforcements were expected, and when arrived they would undoubtedly endeavour to penetrate into the Country, if their Strength should be sufficient, or remove to some other Part of the Continent, if not, and thereby greatly harrass and fatigue our People by constant marching and countermarching, for which in the present Situation of Affairs, they neither would or could be provided – therefore that a Stroke well aimed at this critical Juncture might put a final End to the War, & restore Peace & Tranquility so much to be wished for – for these Reasons, and under these Circumstances, & as Part of Cambridge & Roxbury Bays were so frozen as to admit an easier Entry into the Town of Boston than could be obtained either by Water, or through the Lines on the Neck, the General desired to know the

Sentiments of the General Officers respecting a general assault upon the Town –

The Question being put & their Opinion demanded –

Resolved that an assault on the Town of Boston in the present Circumstances of the Continental Army, is for the following Reasons judged improper.

Because it is the Opinion of this Council that the King's Forces in Boston comprehending new raised Corps and armed Tories amount to a much larger Number than 9000 furnished with Artillery, assisted by a Fleet, and possessed of every Advantage the Situation of the Place affords – the Officers in Proportion to the Number of Men are so many, that the Troops there may be said with Propriety to be doubly officered.

Because our Army at present is very defective in the Numbers this Council declared to be sufficient for the Purposes of offensive War, and also deficient in Arms to the Amount of 2000 Stand – The Militia ordered and expected here by the first of the Month, are not more than Half arrived, so that to assault the Town of Boston guard the Works & Stores there remain only 12,600 Men, Militia, commissioned & non-commissioned Officers included, a Force not more than sufficient to defend the Lines and maintain the Blockade

Because it appears to the Council by the Report of a Majority of the Generals commanding Brigades that upon discoursing with the Field Officers of their respective Regiments, upon the Subject of an Assault, they in general declared a Disapprobation of the Measure as exceedingly doubtful –

Because if an Assault shou'd be found practicable & expedient at any Time, it was declared highly necessary that it should for some Days be preceeded by a Cannonade and Bombardment.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief then required the opinion of the Council whether it would be adviseable to begin a Cannonade & Bombardment with the present Stock of Powder.

Resolved that a Cannonade & Bombardment will be expedient & adviseable as soon as there shall be a proper Supply of Powder, and not before, and that in the mean Time, Preparations should be made to take Possession of Dorchester Hill with a View of drawing out the Enemy, and of Noddle's Island, if the Situation of the Water & other Circumstances will admit of it.

Copy.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 160–63, LC; enclosed in Washington to Hancock, February 18–21, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Friday, February 16, 1776.

It was *Moved*, That the Committee appointed by the Court to build Ten armed Sloops, be directed to suspend the setting up more than Half that Number, if in their Judgment they think there is no prospect of procuring Rigging, Iron or other Materials.

And the question being put, it passed in the affirmative.

And Mr. Batcheldor was directed to bring in a Resolve accordingly.

Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to bring in a Resolve to suspend the building one Half of the Ten armed Sloops voted by this Court to be built, reported.

Read, and accepted.

Resolved, That the Committee lately appointed to build, rig, and fix ten armed Sloops be, and there hereby are empowered to suspend contracting for more than five of that Number, until upon making full Enquiry they shall have a probable Prospect of obtaining necessary Materials for rigging and equipping the same, and instead thereof said Committee are hereby also authorised to purchase, rig, and fix five suitable Vessels already built for the Purpose of Defence, of any other Denomination and Dimensions than those specified in a former Resolve, according to their best Discretion. And said Committee are further impowered to import at the Risque and Expence of this Colony, any Materials they shall find necessary for rigging, and fixing any of the aforesaid Vessels, as they shall judge best, not infringing upon any Resolve of the Continental Congress.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] In Council Feby 16th 1776

Read & ordered that W Spooner & T Cushing Esqs with such as the Hon House shall join be a Comee to take the foregoing Letter into Consideration, & report – sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton D Secy

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Feby 16. 1776

Read and concurr'd and Collo [Azor] Orne, Brigadier [Samuel] Thompson, and Mr Brown of Boston, are join'd

Sent up for C

William Cooper Speaker Pro Tem

The Committee to whom was referred the Consideration of the foregoing Letter have Attended that Service & beg leave to report that Capt Robert Cockran be allowed to Enlist a number of Sea Men for the purpose mentioned in the Letter & that the Council of this Colony give him a permit for that purpose

all which is Submitted

W Spooner by Order

In Council Feby 16th 1776 Read & Accepted & thereupon Resolved that Capt Robert Cockran be permitted by the Major part of the Council to Enlist a number of Sea Men for the Defence of South Carolina not exceeding three Hundred men out of the Inhabitants of this Government, excepting such as are employed in the Continental Army, in the Armed Vessels fitted out either by this Colony or by any of the Inhabitants thereof or in the Forces raised by this Government for the defence of the sea Coasts. ^A

Sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton D Secry

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Feby 16 1776

Read and concurred with the amendment at A. viz at A add "of whom none are to be enlisted"

Sent up for Concurrence
William Cooper Speakr Pro Tem

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 196, 97, 98.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE MACHIAS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Watertown, February 16, 1776]

Gentlemen Yours of the 29 of Janry last by Capt Willard to the President of the Council, is now before us – The subject matter thereof hath been duly considered – Altho' we could wish that the plans in possession of Lieutenant [John] Knight had been detained, yet We are far from censuring the inhabitants of Machias for not doing it – We are informed they are now in his hands – Some steps will be taken to secure them – We Approve the measures you have taken with regard to Lieutenant Spry's goods – You will safely retain the whole in your possession untill the further order of this Court.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 261.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE NORTHAMPTON COMMITTEE OF
CORRESPONDENCE ¹

[Watertown, February 16, 1776]

Gentlemen We are informed that Lieutenant Knight, confined to the Town of North-Hampton, hath in his possession some valuable and important plans, which, if they should fall into the hands of our enemies, would not only deprive us of an actual survey of our own Sea-Coast; but enable them with more facility to annoy and distress us – You will therefore take all such plans minutes & Sketches which he may have relative thereto into your possession, and safely keep them untill the further order of this Court. And Advise the Council & Court of your doings –

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 16th 1776 Read & accepted & ordered that the first Letter herein mentioned [to the Machias Committee of Safety] be signed by the Secy by order of the General Court, & be sent to the Comee of Safety at Machias – and that the last recited Letter be signed by the Secy by order aforesaid – & be sent to the Comee of Correspondence of Northampton – sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton D Secry

[Second endorsement] In the House of Representatives Feby 17th 1776 Read and concurred – William Cooper Speakr Pro Tem

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 261–62.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir,

Boston, 16th February 1776.

I am favored with Copies of Captain [Hugh] Bromedge's Letter, and an account of the Cargoes on board the Ships *Nicholas*, and *Boston Packet*, the Properties of Thomas Boilston and William Denny of this Town.

Admitting it should appear that the Laws of Trade have not been infringed, yet the probability of these Stores being smuggled away to the Enemy if not prevented, makes me think it highly proper that they should be detained: I am more particularly led to this, William Denny having been guilty of notorious Treason, and Thomas Boilston's Principles of Loyalty much to be doubted.

Your superior Judgment in affairs of this Nature, coming more particularly under your own Department, does not require this Intrusion of my private Opinion, which I flatter myself you will excuse, as proceeding from that Regard and Esteem wherewith I have the Honor to be [&c.]

W:Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

RICHARD LECHMERE AND ALEXANDER BRYMER TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir,

Boston 16th February 1776.

Having already had the Honor of Acquainting you of our appointment, by Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White, to be Agents or Factors for selling such Vessels and Cargoes as have been brought into this Harbour by His Majesty's Ships of War, and are either deemed Rebel Property, or wanted for the use of the Garrison, and having laid our whole Proceedings before you, which we flatter ourselves have met your approbation; we now beg leave to furnish and inclose you the State and Condition of the Vessels and Cargoes in our charge, and to request that you would be pleased to have Reference to Admiral Graves's Order to us on that head, which empowers us not only to take charge of the Vessels mentioned in it, but likewise of such others as we may find in the Harbour, not owned by People residing in this Town, Agreeable to which we have Added, all that have come to our knowledge in the List now presented.

And as he empowers and Orders us discretionally to sell Vessels or Cargoes that are liable either to perish or to be embezzled, and as we humbly conceive the Inclemency of the Weather has opened the Seams of the sides and Decks, that most or all the Cargoes, are Subject to perish, and as most of the Vessels have been Stript of their Sails, Cables, Anchors, and small Stores, and in general have not Sufficient Ground Tackle to Moor them, this Added to our Inability to procure a Sufficient Number of Men to take care of them, makes it difficult to Secure them; we therefore think it incumbent upon us to acquaint you therewith, and to pray your directions for our future Conduct respecting them, And to offer it to your Opinion, whether it would not be better, under their present Circumstances, that the Cargoes that are in danger of suffering be sold, for the benefit of Government

or whoever may be proved to be the Proprietors. We have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Signed { R^d Lechmere
Alex^r Brymer

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon] Friday, 16 February.

At a Meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety

On motion that Cap. [Jonathan] Lester, builder of a row-galley at Norwich, has bo't of Constable Hough a quantity of provision to support his workmen, and Hough owing the money to the Treasurer &c., and that an order may be given to pay it that way &c. (Order given, to Col. [Jabez] H[untington].)

Voted, That an order be given on [the] Pay-Table for £100 for said Lester, so as to be allowed and discounted with said Hough by the Treasurer and accounted for by said Lester on account of building said galley for the Colony.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 240, 241.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1776

New-London, February 16.

By a Vessel from the West Indies, we learn, that the Effects of Non-exportation from this Continent, begins to be severely felt in the Islands, where the most ordinary Beef sells from 7 to 8 l. per Barrell, ordinary Flour at 6 l. per Barrel, Currency, and but little to be had at any Price. The Islanders (not believing there would be a Scarcity) have, till lately, kept the Produce of the Colonies very low; but finding a Scarcity likely to take Place, the Price suddenly rose. — They are under terrible Apprehensions from the Negroes, whom they are obliged to pinch in their Allowance.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 HO A.M.

Feb. 16th, 1776.

A letter from Gen. Lee, bearing date this day, on the subject of shutting up the port, was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

New-York, February 16th, 1776.

Sir — I have received intelligence that Mr. [William] Tryon has been guilty of most grossly abusing the indulgence shown to him; that he has inveigled some of the gunsmiths on board his ship; and that he is endeavouring to seduce as many as he can, with a view undoubtedly of distressing us in the article of arms. I could wish, as it has been thought proper to furnish this gentleman with provisions and other necessaries of life, that he should be obliged to give some security that he will not intrigue, cabal, machinate mischief of any kind, to the Continent or Province. This business of the gunsmiths is the reason

that I have, *pro tempore*, interdicted all communication with the Governor's ship, a measure which I hope will be approved by the Congress. I am [&c.]

Charles Lee.

Ordered, That Abm Lott, Esqr. Treasurer of this Colony, send to this Congress a particular account of the provisions he had supplied to the ship *Asia*, and other of His Majesty's ships in this port since the order for that purpose first made by the late Provincial Congress of this Colony.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 302, 304.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, February 16, 1776

The Committee appointed to make an estimate of the cannon wanted for the defence of the colonies, and to devise ways and means for procuring them, &c. brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of the trade of the colonies after the first of March; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, but not having come to any conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to Morrow Morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of trade after the first of March next.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 154–55.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 16 Feb. After various Subjects were discussed & decided upon 4 or 5 Hours were spent in Grand Comee on Trade, [Benjamin] Harrison offered some Propositions in Lieu of the Report heretofore delivered in from a Comee on the necessary Regulations, Wyth [George Wythe] also offered Propositions whereof the first was that the Colonies have a Right to contract Alliances with Foreign Powers, an Objection being offered that this was Independency there ensued much Argument upon that Ground, a leading Question was given Whether this Proposn shall be considered by the Comee it was carried in the Affirmative 7 Colonies to 5 – then it was debated and postponed, afterwards the Regulations of the Trade were handled & finally whether it shall be opened or not and when, upon this Head [Samuel] Chase spoke largely against carrying on Trade at present and [Benjamin] Harrison and E[dward] Rutledge vehemently for it – there was no Determination

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

ROBERT ALEXANDER TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gent I send you inclosed copies of the instructions & private Signals of the several men of War & transports on the American Station – ² as these may be of essential service to the different armed vessels now fitting out in America, copies by order of Congress have been transmitted to the different Colonies, and I am ordered by Congress to acquaint you, that as they have bound themselves to secrecy, so it is expected that you will consider yourselves under the like tie, and the Copy you deliver to the Capt of your armed vessel, be under seal inclosed, to be opened after his sailing – The public papers will communicate all the intelligence We have, except the arrival of 20 Tons of powder and 3000 stand of small arms in Connecticut – We shall send forward some powder & arms to your province but I am sorry to say if we rely on foreign arms & they are not better than the sample we have, our dependance will be like a broken reed, as I think if used, they will kill more of our troops than the enemy, what those imported for our province cost I know not a parcel imported here on a private adventure, have been purchased by Congress at £3.25, every thing of this kind is exceeding high powder £17.10 PC much of this business passes through a Committee of which I am a member, patriotism sinks before private interest and I find many men here who rank themselves in that Class, generally exactg the most from the necessity of their country hence the publick is plundered – We have sent off 10–6 pounders for the ship – & shall purchase 2 more.³ Congress have appointed a deligation to Canada, the persons are Doctr [Benjamin] Franklin, S[amuel] Chase & Mr [Charles] Carroll of Carrollton – I wish you would erect a powder mill in your province, I could procure you salt petre. Y[ou]r Lets of the 1, 8, 9 & 10 Inst are come to hand & the contents shall be observed – I am with Respect Gent [&c.]

R. Alexander.

Phila 16 Feby 1776

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch. Alexander was a Maryland delegate in the Continental Congress.
2. An intercepted circular letter from the British Treasury, enclosing private signals established by the Admiralty. The letter is dated October 19, 1775, and the signals, September 22, 1775. See Volume 2, 727, 765.
3. Cannon for the ship *Defence*, outfitting at Baltimore.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 16th Feb'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Hugh Montgomery, at present first Lieut. to the Armed Boat *Congress*, be appointed Captain to the Armed Boat *Effingham*.

That Thomas Houston, at present first Lieutenant to the armed Boat *Franklin*, be appointed Captain to the armed Boat *Experiment*.

That Isaac Rotche, at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Hancock*, be appointed first Lieut. to the armed Boat *Franklin*.

That John Christie, at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Dickinson*, be appointed first Lieut. to the Armed Boat *Chatham*.

That Michell [John Mitchell], at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Chatham*, be appointed first Lieutenant to the armed Boat *Ranger*.

That Francis Gilbert, at present Second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Washington*, be appointed first Lieutenant to the said armed Boat.

That Robert Hume, at present second Lieut. to the armed Boat *Ranger*, be appointed first Lieutenant to the said armed Boat.

That William Brown, be appointed Captain of Marines on Board the Provincial Ship now building.

Resolved, That the Captains of the Provincial armed Boats be desired to meet together, and inquire into the Merits of such Persons who have applied to be appointed 2nd Lieutenants in the said Boats, and such others as may be properly qualified for that station, that would be willing to engage in that service; and to Report to this Board the Names of thirteen of them, who may be most deserving in the Opinion of a Majority of the said Captains.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 487-89.

INTELLIGENCE REGARDING THE NAVAL FORCE AT PHILADELPHIA ¹

Philadelphia, February 16.

The following is a list of the privateers fitted out here by order of the Congress last January, with the commanders names and their force. They sailed about the middle of February last on an expedition which is kept a profound secret, viz.

[Esek] Hopkins Commander in Chief.

The <i>Alfred</i> , Tatterson, ² of	32 guns, — 300 men.
The <i>Columbus</i> , [Abraham] Whipple,	32 ditto, — 300 ditto.
The <i>Andrew Doria</i> , [Nicholas] Biddle,	16 ditto, — 200 ditto.
The <i>Sebastian Cabot</i> , [John B.] Hopkins,	14 ditto, — 200 ditto.
The <i>Providence</i> , [John] Hazard,	12 ditto, — 150 ditto.

A list of the row-gallies in the river Delaware, with the Commanders Names, &c.

The <i>Washington</i> (104 feet in keel)	Doughty ³ Commander In chief
The <i>Dickenson</i>	[John] Rice
The <i>Chatham</i>	[Charles] Alexander
The <i>Camden</i>	[Richard] Ears [Eyes]
The <i>Burke</i>	[James] Blear [Blair]
The <i>Effingham</i>	[Allen] Moar [Moore]
The <i>Bulldog</i>	[Alexander] Henderson
The <i>Franklin</i>	[Nathan] Boyce
The <i>Congress</i>	[John] Hambilton [Hamilton]
The <i>Experiment</i>	[Benjamin] Thompson
The <i>Ranger</i>	[James] M'Gomary [Montgomery]
The <i>Hancock and Adams</i> ⁴	[Thomas] Moore
The <i>Warren</i> (no master when Capt.	[William] Meston sailed.) ⁵

The Congress have ordered 13 frigates to be built with all expedition, of 36 guns each, at Maryland, Philadelphia, and Rhode-Island, four of which were on the stocks at Philadelphia when Captain Meston sailed. Likewise one floating battery of 105 feet in keel, which is to mount 18 eighteen-pounders, row fifty oars, and carry 300 men. Also 30 fire rafts. — They have sunk 50 cheveaux-du-frize in the river to prevent the English ships from going up; and built a strong fort at the mouth of it.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1776], II, Part I, 364.
2. Dudley Saltonstall.
3. Henry Dougherty was senior captain, but not commander in chief.
4. The galley was named the *Hancock*. The *Hancock and Adams* was a merchant ship.
5. The snow *Dickinson*, William Meston, master, sailed from Philadelphia in January 1776, for Nantes, with a cargo of flour, staves, beeswax and spermaceti candles, proceeds of which were to be laid out in gunpowder and arms to the account of the Continental Congress. Learning of the purpose, the mate and crew seized the snow and carried her into Bristol, England, on April 8, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 16 Feb. 1776

Instructions and sailing Orders were given to Capt. Francis Speake of the Ship *John*.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1776

Williamsburg, Feb. 16.

We have undoubted intelligence, that the man of war lately arrived in Hampton road is the *Roebuck*, of 44 guns, capt. Hammond, lately from England, but last from Halifax, in Nova Scotia. She landed at that place Marriott Arburthnot, esq; formerly commander of the *Garland* ship of war, on this station, who is appointed commissary of the king's stores, and commodore, at Halifax. She brings intelligence of things being in a train of accommodation at home, every one seeming heartily disposed to forward so benevolent and desirable a purpose, by placing us as we were at the end of the last war. It is to be hoped, likewise, should the ministry be really in earnest to *sheath the sword*, that they will, without hesitation, (having been the *aggressors*) *pay costs*, or grant an *equivalent*.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE,
H.M. SLOOP *Otter* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr Captain of his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* and commanding officer in Virginia.

In consequence of the application you have made to me by letter of this days date, setting forth that Tobias Verdin Boatswain of his Maj's Sloop under your command, who you had some time since suspended for neglect of duty, has lately shewn great courage and alacrity on several occasions in subduing the Rebels, and had received a dangerous wound on that Service; Likewise enclosing a letter from

him, expressing his Sense of his Error, & promise of future good behavio[u]r, You are hereby required and directed to restore the Said Boatswain to his duty.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship the *Roebuck*
off Norfolk Virginia the 16th Feby 1776

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

February 1776

Moored in Elizabeth River Virginia.

Friday 16th

Fine pleasant weather, at 6 in the morning weighed and made Sail up Elizabeth River, the *Kingsfisher* in Company, at ½ past 11 She Anchored by Signal, and at Noon Anchored with the Best Bower in 4 fathoms, about one Mile Below Norfolk, found her[e] the *Liverpool* and *Otter* Several Transport Vessels, and a great many others, with the inhabitants of Norfolk before it was burnt, under the protection of the Ships, and his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore, the Governor: Gave the Purser an order to Supply the *Kingsfisher* with Provisions.

Ditto weather

In the afternoon moored Ship, at 4 Ordered alongside a Sloop which I named the *Lord Howe*, and began to fit her out for a Tender.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME ¹

1776 February

Moored in Hampton Road Virginia

Friday 16

fired a Gun & made the Signal for the Convoy to Tack At Noon saw the Land Bearing from W½N to N W diste 5 or 6 leags

at 4 Came on board and took Charge a Pilot ½ past 6 fired 2 Guns as Signal for Anchoring at 7 Brot too with the B B in 6½ fm veered to ½ a Cable Convoy in Co fired a Gun and made the Signal to weigh & come to Sail fired 2 Guns to Anchor ½ past 10 Anchd with the B B in 11 fms veered away and moored a Cable each way at ½ past 10 fired a Gun to bring too a Brig sent her to Norfolk

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Friday Evening, February 16, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the Congress, the following copy of the letter which he had written and sent express, by their order, to the colony of Georgia.

South-Carolina,
Charles-Town, February 15, 1776.

By Authority of Congress.

To the Honourable the Congress of Georgia.

Gentlemen,

I Have the honour to inclose to you the copy of a resolution of Congress, extending the resolution of the Continental Congress on the first of November last, prohibiting exportation from the United Colonies; and I have it in charge to recommend to you, in the strongest terms, that your colony should form a similar resolution.

It is thought so absolutely necessary for the welfare of America, that Georgia, form a similar resolution; and we have this point so much at heart, that the Congress have delegated the Hon. Rawlins Lowndes, Col. Parsons, and Thomas Savage, Esq; to repair forthwith to Savannah, to make all possible representation to induce your co-operating with us in so salutary a step.

These gentlemen mean to set out to-morrow or next day, and their speedy departure renders it unnecessary for me to add any thing more, to give weight to the recommendation in question.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servant,
William-Henry Drayton, President.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 40-42.

HENRY LAURENS TO THE GEORGIA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Charles Town 16th february 1776.

We beg leave to refer you to what we have already written by this bearer – Your favour of the 12th reached us last night & we heartily thank you for the advices contained in it – time will not permit us to be very particular in our reply & it is the less needful as three members from this Board will wait on you by order of our provincial Congress within forty eight hours after you receive this. – from these Gentlemen you will receive repeated assurances of our Resolution to persevere in measures for our mutual defence & protection, we must & do expect a good deal of rough work from the Men of War very Soon & we also must & do resolve to make them Suitable returns & although we may Suffer many losses & be driven to great inconveniences yet we have no doubt of getting through & rising with advantage.

We blush for Governor [James] Wright's perfidy, & could wish that the Member of your Honourable House may be brought to think that it will be now no more than fair reprisal to enlarge a Secret for the benefit, perhaps the Salvation, of both our Colonies & the preservation of many Lives —

By order of the Council of Safety

Arch. Bullock Esqr. for the Honble. provincial Congress Savannah

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 92-93.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOSEPH BROWN, GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA ¹

[Charleston] 16th february 1776

. . . by advice just received from Savanna we learn that an immediate attack upon this town is intended by the

<i>Syren</i>	28.	Guns	190	Men
<i>Scarboro</i>	20.	—	145	—
<i>Tamar</i>	18.	—	100	—
<i>Raven</i>	18.	—	100	—
<i>Cherokee</i>	10.	—	50	—

three Armed Vessels — & an uncertain number of Troops just arrived in a Transport —

I pray God to protect us all . . .

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston], Friday, 16th Feb., 1776.

The following orders were drawn on the colony treasury — to pay:

To Capt. Joseph Turpin, to be changed to account of
the Brigantine *Comet*, £250 00 00

Capt [Edward] Blake and Capt. [Thomas] Tucker attended, and were conferred with upon the practicability of obstructing the passage into Hog-Island Creek.

Ordered, That they proceed to sounding the said passage tomorrow.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 261.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 TO FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, 1776

Charlestown, February 16.

We hear from Georgia, that the *Scarborough* Man of War, of 20 Guns, lately arrived in Savannah River, with a Prize Schooner, having 4000 lb. of Gunpowder on board.¹ Probably the *Scarborough* was the Ship that was seen off Georgetown Bar, about a Fortnight since, and which took the Pilotboat mentioned in our last.²

The following is the best Account we have been able to obtain of the Georgia Squadron: *Syren*, Capt. [Tobias] Furneaux, 28 Guns; *Scarborough*, Capt. [Andrew] Barclay, 20; *Tamar*, Capt. [Edward] Thornbrough, 18; *Raven*, Capt. [John] Stanhope, 18; *Cherokee*, Capt. [John] Fergus[s]on 10; with some armed Schooners and Tenders.

We are informed that Sir James Wright, and his two Daughters, lately went privately on board one of the above Men of War.

1. The sloop *St. John*, Gilbert Harrison, master, taken February 4, 1776.

2. The pilot boat was taken February 5, by the *Syren*, not the *Scarborough*.

COLONEL LACHLAN MCINTOSH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Sir, My Country having Honour'd me with the Command of the Continental Battalion ordered to be raised by the General Congress for the Protection and Defence of this Colony (tho' I fear too partial to my poor Abilitys) it becomes my duty to inform your Excely of the State of our Province as far as it concerns the Service, as well as of the Troops to be immediately under my Command. —

Our Province has a front along the Sea Coast of above One hundred Miles, covered by a Range of Islands, divided from each other by eight Rivers from the Main Land, which makes as many good Inlets & Harbours, most of them capable of receiving any Frigate, & as some Say much Larger ships. — Our settlements extend back to the Northwest above two hundred Miles, in other parts to the southward not above Ten, and very thinly Inhabited, indeed this large Space of Land altogether has not more than three thousand Men, chiefly in the back Country, and many disaffected & doubtful in our Cause, especialy the Men of the greatest property among us. — Our slaves will be above Fifteen 15 m thousand Souls, mostly within twenty Miles of the Sea Coast, and makes above 35 m Tierces of Rice Annually besides many other articles of provision which with our fine harbours makes the Security of this Colony tho' weak in itself, of the Utmost Consequence to the whole Continent of America. — And we have every reason to think our Enemys intend to make it a place of general Rendezvous & Supplys. — We are bounded south by the Garrisoned Province of East Florida who have now, as I am well informed five hundred regulars in St Augustine & 1000 more expected there daily from Europe. — On the West of us is the Province of West Florida, the Numerous Nations of the Creek, Chactaw, & Cherokee Indians besides lesser Tribes Supposed to have at least Ten thousand Gun Men, brave, intrepid & eager for war, whom [we] will have the Utmost difficulty to keep at peace with us, as we want every article of their Usual supply, and now furnished them in great plenty from the two Floridas. — Our Metropolis is Situated in the North Corner of the Province upon a Bluff or Sand Hill thirty feet high or more above the Water and fifteen Miles up the river Savannah, from the Inlet of Tybee where five ships of warr, the *Syren*, the *Scarborough*, the *Raven*, the *Tamer* & *Cherokee*, besides Tenders are now Lying & two large Transports having, it is said, above 300 Men on board & expecting more in daily, with what design, whether for this Colony only, or Carolina, or both together, we are not yet informed. Our Province has declared itself in a State of Alarm, and resolved not to Supply the Men of warr with provision, and ordered a draft of half the Militia to the Town of Savannah to oppose the Landing of any troops. —

Savannah, in Georgia 16th Feby 1776

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Duplicate/No 38.

My Lord In Letter No 18. private of 18th December 74 [*sic* 1775], I had the honour to mention to Your Lordship, that I had appointed Mr [William] Panton to manage the Indian Trade. I beg leave now my Lord to enclose the Copy of a Letter I received from Mr Panton lately.² He informs of his difficulties. The disappointment to me is very great, as its absolutely requisite, a Trade should be supported in those Provinces, which have not been wrested from the British Empire. I hope Your Lordship will think it a right Measure, and be pleased to give Directions that Orders may be sent to Messrs Greenwood and Higginson to ship for Mr Panton such Indian Supplies as he may require and to be forwarded to St Augustine to my order, to be deposited in His Majesty's Magazine for Mr Panton, for the Sole purpose of carrying on a Trade with the Indians. When these supplies are sent, I hope the Ship they are in will take the Opportunity of sailing under convoy of some of His Majesty's Ships that may be coming for America at the same time. If this My Lord be approved of, I hope there will not be any Delay as we are truly distressed for want of supplies for the Indians there having been lately so much Occasion for them.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, My Lord [&c.]

Pat. Tonyn

St Augustine 16. Feby 76

[Endorsed] St Augustine 16th Feby 1776. Governor Tonyn. (No 38)

R/22d August. (Dup – origl not reced.) (1 Inclosure.) Entd

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 249–50, 252.

2. See William Panton to Governor Tonyn, January 18, 1776.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Duplicate/ No 39

My Lord/ About a Month ago Mr [Martin] Jollie who I had the honour to inform Your Lordship was admitted of His Majesty's Council desired to go into Georgia on Some private affairs. I took the Opportunity to desire him to make all the observations he cou'd of the disposition and State of matters there, for which reason I have taken the Liberty to inclose to your Lordship a Copy of a Letter I have just now received from Mr Jollie.²

In consequence of this Account I have sent for all the Seminolie Indians and shall fix them at proper stations between this place and St John's River, and from St John's River to St Mary's River.

I have also wrote to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Troops to be ready to march at a moment.

You will naturlly think My Lord I am in the utmost anxiety to hear from General [Henry] Clinton in answer to the Plan laid down in my last Letters.

If measures were once put into action I shou'd not doubt of the success of that plan. But if my hands are tied up for want of Information of the Operations intended to be put into Agitation; the Tables may be turned upon me in the interim, I have on this Account sent a Copy of Mr Jollie's Letter to Gen-

eral Clinton, and to Lord William Campbell desiring to have every requisite Information of the System to be adopted.

Because My Lord there is a most Material difference between being the Attacker and the Attacked, especially with the sort of People we shall have to assail, who will have no Spirit but what they wou'd derive from the first mentioned Situation.

The last Letter I had the honour to receive from Your Lordship is dated the 5th July 75. No 9.

Captain [John] Graves in His Majesty's Schooner *St Lawrence* sailed from hence the 15th January last in order, as I have before informed Your Lordship to carry provisions to His Majesty's Ships with Lord William Campbell and to bring any dispatches his Lordship may have for this Province; Your Lordship wou'd observe in my former Letters that many difficulties and obstructions to the *St Lawrence* sailing at a more early day, to my great disappointment Capt'n Graves returned the 14th Inst and the *Diligence* Packett a few days before him. His Majesty's Ships having left Charles Town harbour. We have since heard of them at Savannah, the *St Lawrence* I directed to sail directly for His Majesty's Ships at Savannah and to find Lord William Campbell, but she is detained along with the Sloop that the superintendent is on board by a Contrary wind.

The *St Lawrence* being the only Vessel I cou'd send to Sea, has been a great distress to us, but she was all the force I cou'd obtain last year from Boston, I have now applied to General Clinton for a few small Vessels to guard our Rivers, I hope to obtain them for that and other purposes: But I shou'd be sorry to require more than they can spare, according to the Nature of the service, and degree of employment which they may have been intended for, I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, My Lord [&c.]

Pat. Tonym

St Augustine 16. Feby 1 1776

[Endorsed] St Augustine 16th Feby 1776 Govr Tonym. (No 39) R/22d Augt D[uplica]te Origl not recd. (2 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 257-60.
2. See Martin Jollie to Governor Tonym, February 13, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ¹

I Clark Gayton Esquire in the Annexed Writ of Habeas Corpus named do certify and return that James Young in the said annexed Writt also named before the obtaining and issuing the said annexed Writ to wit on the Twenty Eighth day of January last past was taken by one of his Majestys Ships of War under my Command as he the said James Young was coming out of the Port of Cape Nicholas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in and on board of a Schooner or Vessell belonging to the Inhabitants of the Colony of North Carolina in North America of and in which Schooner or Vessell he was a Mariner or one of the Crew and was then on his Voyage in the said Schooner or Vessell going with a Cargoe of Molasses and Coffee which he had laden [and] taken on board the said Schooner or Vessell at Cape Nicholas Mole aforesaid for and to trade in the said Colony of North Carolina – in North America aforesaid And that I have taken



Vice Admiral Clark Gayton.

the said James Young and have entered his Name on the Books of His Majesty's Ship of War the *Antelope* before the issuing and obtaining the said annexed Writt by Virtue and in pursuance of His Majesty's Order and Instructions signified to me by the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their Secretary acting under their Authority. And that I do detain the same James Young by virtue and in pursuance of the said Orders and Instructions and an Act passed in the sixteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty entitled an "Act to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virgi[nia,] North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia during the continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively for repealing an Act made the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty to discontinue the landing and discharging lading or Shipping of Goods Wares and Merchandize at the Town and within the Harbor of Boston in the province of Massachusets Bay And also two Acts made in the last Session of Parliament for the restraining the trade and Commerce of the Colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned And to enable any person or persons appointed and authorized by his Majesty to grant Pardons, to issue Proclamations in the Case and for the purposes therein mentioned" To which said Act I refer. And this is the Cause of the Capt[ion] and Detention of the said James Young whose Body at the Day and place in the annexed Writt mentioned I have ready as by the annexed Writt I am required, Filed the 16th ffebruary 1776.

Clark Gayton

[Endorsed by Edward Webley]

Jamaica ss	}	February 16th 1776.
Saint Jago de la		The Body of James Young in the annexed Writt of
Vega		Habeas Corpus named being this day brought before
		me by virtue of the said annexed Writt of Habeas
		Corpus And the same together with the return
		thereof being filed and read I do remand the said
		James Young And He is remanded accordingly.
		Edw ^d Webley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. John Worder, master of the same schooner, and William Clarke, master of a schooner bound for Connecticut, were also remanded the same day under like procedure.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES, R.N.¹

English Harbour Antigua, the 16th February 1776.

Sir The dispatches you will now receive for Admiral Shuldhham being of the utmost importance to Government, I am to desire you will take especial care the same do not fall into the Enemys hands, and therefore direct you will cause those Dispatches marked No 1 & 2 to be put into a Bag with a Shot slung thereto: and in case of imminent danger to throw them overboard into the Sea. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

Samuel Graves Esqr Commander of His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* St John's Road, Antigua

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

17 Feb.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO JOHN ANDERSON, ST. JOHNS RIVER ¹

Sir.

Secys Office Halifax 17th Feby: 1776.

I have receiv'd your letter signifying the present disposition of the Indians on St Johns River, which I laid before the Governor, who is well satisfied with the account, and relies on you for preserving them in the same good temper, and to assure them, that they shall have every necessary of which they shall stand in need, on their arrival here. before this time I suppose you will have receiv'd dispatches by Couriers who left this the 21st last Month.² I am Sir &c

(Sign'd) Rich^d Bulkeley

1. Council Letter Book, 234, N.S. Arch.

2. See Bulkeley to Anderson, January 20, 1776.

JOHN LANGDON TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gent:

Portsmo, Feby 17th, 1776.

I've just Recd a letter from Philada, Informing me of one of the vessells belonging to the Continental service, havg arrived with sixty Tons of salt petre, thirteen Tons of powder, 1300 stand of good arms; on which important news I have the honor to congratulate you. My letter is dated the 3d Instant; the vessel arrived the day before.

I am with all due respect [&c.]

Jn^o Langdon.

57 Tons Sal. Petre,	1st time.
60 Do. Do.	2 do.
117 equal to - say	150 Tons powder
	33 Tons before.
	13 now.

196 Tons - no small qt with which to scare away that frightful Independence.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 73.JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, February 17, 1776
Afternoon.

In Council, February 17, 1776

Read and concurred.

Samuel Holten, Esq; brought down the following Vote of Council, viz.

Whereas Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq; was appointed one of the Committee of this Court for building sundry Sloops-of-War, and as his Attendance at the Council is necessary for the Dispatch of the Important Business of this Colony, on which Account he has desired to be excused from the Service of building the said Sloops:

Therefore, *Ordered*, That Richard Derby, Junr. Esq; be appointed on said Committee for building the said Sloops, in his Room.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN ROBERT COCHRAN¹

Colony of the }
Massachusetts Bay } The Major Part of the Council

To Robert Coc[h]ran Esqr Greeting –

By Virtue of a Resolve of the great & general Court of this Colony, pass'd the sixteenth instant, You are hereby permitted & impowered to inlist a Number of Seamen for the Defence of the sister Colony of So Carolina, not exceeding three hundred Men, out of the Inhabitants of this Government, except such as are employ'd in the Continental Army, in the armed Vessells fitted out either by this Colony or by any of the Inhabitants thereof, or in the forces raised by this Colony for the Defence of the Sea Coasts, any of whom you are Not permitted to inlist; for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant –

Given under our hands, at the Council Chamber in Watertown, the 17th Day of Feby A Domini 1776 – By their Honors' Command

Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 265.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Kingbird* BOUND ON A
VOYAGE TO PHILADELPHIA¹

Know all Men by these Presents that we Nicholas Brown and John Brown both of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants in Company are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony To which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves, Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Seventeenth Day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas John Hathaway Master of the Sloop *Kingbird* burthened about Sixty Eight Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop from this Colony to Philadelphia with Five Hundred Bushells of Barley. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said John Hathaway shall proceed with his said Sloop to Philadelphia and there land his said Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop and further shall not proceed to any Port or

Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.²

Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of }

W^m Tillinghast Simon Smith

Nich^o Brown

John Brown

John Hathaway

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

2. Four more bonds were subscribed for the same day, as follows:

Zephaniah Brown and Christopher Whipple, for the the sloop *Triton*, 40 tons, Christopher Whipple, master, for any foreign West India Island, for a cargo of arms and ammunition.

Joseph Belcher, for the sloop *Industry*, 30 tons, George Coggeshell, master, with three hogs-heads of rum and three of molasses, to New York or Connecticut.

John Cooke for the sloop *Tryal*, 25 tons, Jonathan Sheldon, master, in ballast, for Connecticut.

John Cooke, for the sloop [blank], Thomas Dennis, master, in ballast, for Connecticut.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

Providence, February 17.

Capt. Frazier, from Antigua, informs, that a Number of American Vessels have been taken by the ministerial Cruizers, several of which were carried to St. Kitts, particularly a Ship, belonging to Samuel Mifflin, Esq; of Philadelphia, having on board 2000 Barrels of Flour.¹ – Capt. Campbell, bound from St. Croix to New York, had been taken and ordered to Boston; but meeting with bad Weather off the Coast, was obliged to put back, and had arrived at Antigua.²

Capt. Frazier also informs, that 6 Transports from Engnd, that had put into Antigua, and a Snow of 16 Guns, laden with Wine, were to sail from thence for Boston by 20th of January, under Convoy of the *Argo* Frigate of 20 Guns. – The Transports were laden with live Stock, and other Provisions; they had also on board a few Troops, some of which were to be landed at St. Augustine.

On Thursday last nine Sail of the ministerial Fleet, which had been several Days lying at Hope-Island, came further up the River, and paid another Visit to the Island of Prudence. The Inhabitants had some Time before evacuated the Island and brought off their Provision, live Stock, &c. Yesterday the Enemy landed and burnt a Wind-Mill, and five or six Dwelling and Out-Houses.

It is reported, that a Vessel is arrived at Stonington, in Connecticut, from France, and brings Advice that the French Court has made a Demand on Great-Britain of Forty Millions of Livres, by Way of Compensation for the Captures made of their Vessels previous to the last Declaration of War. If this should prove true, the British Ministry must either dishonorably admit the Demand, or relinquish the American project.

1. The ship *Peggy*, taken December 9, 1775 by H.M. Sloop *Viper*.

2. The snow *Chetsworth*, taken December 5, 1775 by the same sloop.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[New York] 17 Feby 1776

The *Phoenix* fell down this Morning to the Narrows & the *Asia* ran aground opposite to Whitehall in the Afternoon in retiring with the *Dutchess of Gordon*

below the Town. She got off before the Preparations for attacking her were completed, for [Charles] Lee and [William Alexander, Lord] Stirling had so resolved & many of the Cit:zens were hastened in their Flight to the Country.

Yesterday we heard of a Motion of Lord North's of 20 Novr to cut off all Interchange with the Colonies & make Prizes of our Vessels But this Evening we learn that a Ship Master arrived at Philadelphia from Cadiz reports that Govr. Hardy our Consul had a Letter of 27 Novr. from Lord Weymouth informing him that Lord [Richard] Howe Captain [Samuel] Barrington and others were to be sent to America as Commissioners to the Continental Congress which Intelligence produced some Abatement of the popular Irritation, especially as it was also asserted that the Boston Port Act and those restraining our Commerce & Fishing were to be repealed.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 268.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati 10 HO. A.M.

Feb. 17th, 1776:

Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart and Mr. Beekman reported that they, according to order, had waited on Major-Genl. [Charles] Lee, to know the source of his information, that Govr Tryon was procuring gunsmiths from this city, on board of his ship; that Genl. Lee having given them the particulars of his information, they had pursued the inquiry to every person of whom any information could reasonably be expected, and found that it arose from the circumstance of two journeymen gunsmiths having some time ago left the city, the one in the last packet for England, and the other now said to be in some part of the Jersey[s].

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 305.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

New York Feb'yry the 17th 1767 – [sic 1776]

Sir –

I think it my duty to inform you that the *Phoenix* and Governor Tryons Ship are already out of the harbour and that the *Asia* is under sail – They most probably have had intelligence of the danger which threatens their Comrade the *Mercury* and General [Henry] Clinton from your Fleet, and are saild with an intention of attacking it – as it may be thought prudent to apprize your Fleet of the circumstances I must repeat that I thought it My duty to send an express on the Subject – The *Asia* ran aground opposite the exchange as the tides are low We were in hopes she woud not have been able to have got off this Flood, in these hopes We are preparing Cartridges for some pieces of Cannon, (which is not here from want of method a very short operation) and flatter'd ourselves that We shoud have been able to have destroyd or much damag'd her – but She is now unfortunately afloat. I am, Sir [&c.]

Charles Lee

1. *Papers CC (Letters from General Officers)*, 158, I, 21–22, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, February 17, 1776

The committee to whom sundry letters from Brigadier General Arnold, Brigadier General Wooster, Major General Schuyler, and Major General Lee, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration; On motion made,

Resolved, That Major General Lee be directed immediately to repair to Canada, and take the command of the army of the United Colonies in that province:

That Major General Schuyler be directed to repair, as soon as his health will permit, to New York, and take the command of the forces, and conduct the military operations there: and that the president inform him by express of this arrangement, and the reasons that led to it:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to supply General Lee with a quantity of suitable cannon, not exceeding twelve, and one or more mortars, if to be had, with balls, shells, and other necessities for the siege or assault of Quebec; and that they assist him in forwarding the same with all possible expedition.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of trade, after the first of March next.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 156–60.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO OLIVER POLLOCK, PHILIP FRANCIS & JAMES WILLING ¹

Gentn

Pha. Feby. 17th. 1776

As the present unhappy Contest between Gr. Britain & the No Am: Colonies has the Appearance of lasting some time, during which the Intercourse with your part of the World must become less frequent than formerly and our Interest on the Mississippi being Considerable, we think it necessary to appoint attorneys to superintend & take Care of it for us, the long Friendship & Connection which has subsisted between each of you & us point you out as the proper persons to confide in & we flatter ourselves you will most chearfully undertake & execute the Trust

You will therefore find inclosed herein our Power of Attorney executed in presence of Capt Bethell [Robert Bethel] who will prove it before a Magistrate in West Florida and you'll please to have that done, that it may be valid – We have an exceeding good Opinion of our Manager Mr Alexr Henderson & hope he will always merit the Continuance of it, however our Design is that you should overlook his Conduct & Controul it whenever you think necessary, he must obey your Orders & submit to your directions

We have informed him of this & doubt not his ready Concurrence, we have encouraged him to compleat the necessary Buildings & get our Estate into the best Order, also to raise the most valuable Articles he can, such as Indico Tobo Provision Stock Staves &c and deliver them to Mr Pollock for Export[atio]n but if we have erred in any part of our Orders to him you may correct our Mis-

takes & he will shew the Orders for that purpose – It is impossible for us Gentn to adapt instructions for your Conduct, suffice it then to say that we firmly believe you all to be our Friends, that you are warmly attached to us & will be glad to save & serve our Interest under these Ideas we most chearfully submit our Estate to your Direction without reserve, assuring ourselves that it will under your Auspices be conducted to the best Advantage & we remain most sincerely your Friends &c –

1. Morris Papers, Bank of North America Collection, HSP.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday 17 Feb. Wyth[e] made a Report on the Letters from the several Generals which was gone thro – it was determined that Gen. Lee shall command in Canada . . . Gen. Schuyler ordered down to N York.

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday Feb. 17. 1776.

This Measure of Opening the Ports, &c. laboured exceedingly, because it was considered as a bold step to Independence. Indeed I urged it expressly with that View and as connected with the Institutions of Government in all the States and a Declaration of National Independence. The Party against me had Art and Influence as yet, to evade, retard and delay every Motion that We made.²

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers*, Series 1, *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams* (Cambridge, 1961), III, 364–65.

2. The subject of opening the ports had been referred to a committee which reported on February 6, 1776. Debate upon it was postponed daily thereafter. The action which displeased Adams had been a further postponement.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

Philadelphia, February 17.

Last night Capt. [John] Souder arrived here from Grenada. On his passage he spoke a vessel from Cork, the master of which informed him, that twenty-five transports, with four thousand troops on board, had sailed from Cork for America. Capt. Souder says, that before he left Grenada a London paper arrived there, of the thirtieth of November, in which was a list of the thirty-nine Commissioners appointed to Treat with Congress, among whom were Lord [Richard] Howe and Governor Johnson [George Johnstone].

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore Feb: 17th. 1776

In pursuance of your Orders to mount the Cannon fit for Use at this Place, We have engaged a Number of Workmen in making Wheels & Carriages for the Purpose, it being the general Opinion of all who have a knowledge of such Matters that it is best to Mount them as Field Peices, which purpose the Guns now here will be very suitable for as they are all light, say 2, 3, & 4 Pounds, to the amot of 20 peices besides 6 of 9 Pds & 2 of 12 Pds belonging to Capt

[William] Stone. We had the whole of the Guns examnd by Mr Geo Mathews who has pronounced them good. – The Commee have desidrd Me to apply to you for Orders to provide a parcell of Shot suitable to the Guns. – Mr Danl Hughes is very anxious to have Some Person appointed to go to Antitem to prove the Guns which his Brother has cast. I apprehend Capt Fulford is the best quailfied to do it of any Person here, it may be of Consequence how soon it is done, as those if they stand Proof, might be speedily got down here.

We have abt 50 Hands at Work on a Battery since Tuesday at Whetstone, And near 200 more employed in providing Timber, Logs, Smiths Work &c for the Boom. I hope we shall have part of our Battery ready to mount some Guns before the end of next Week, – Mr [Robert] Alexander writes me that Mr [Robert] Morris had promsd our Delegates part of some Powder wh was arrived at Philada & which they wd immed[i]ately forward to this Town, I am with much Respect Gentlemen [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 17th February, 1776.

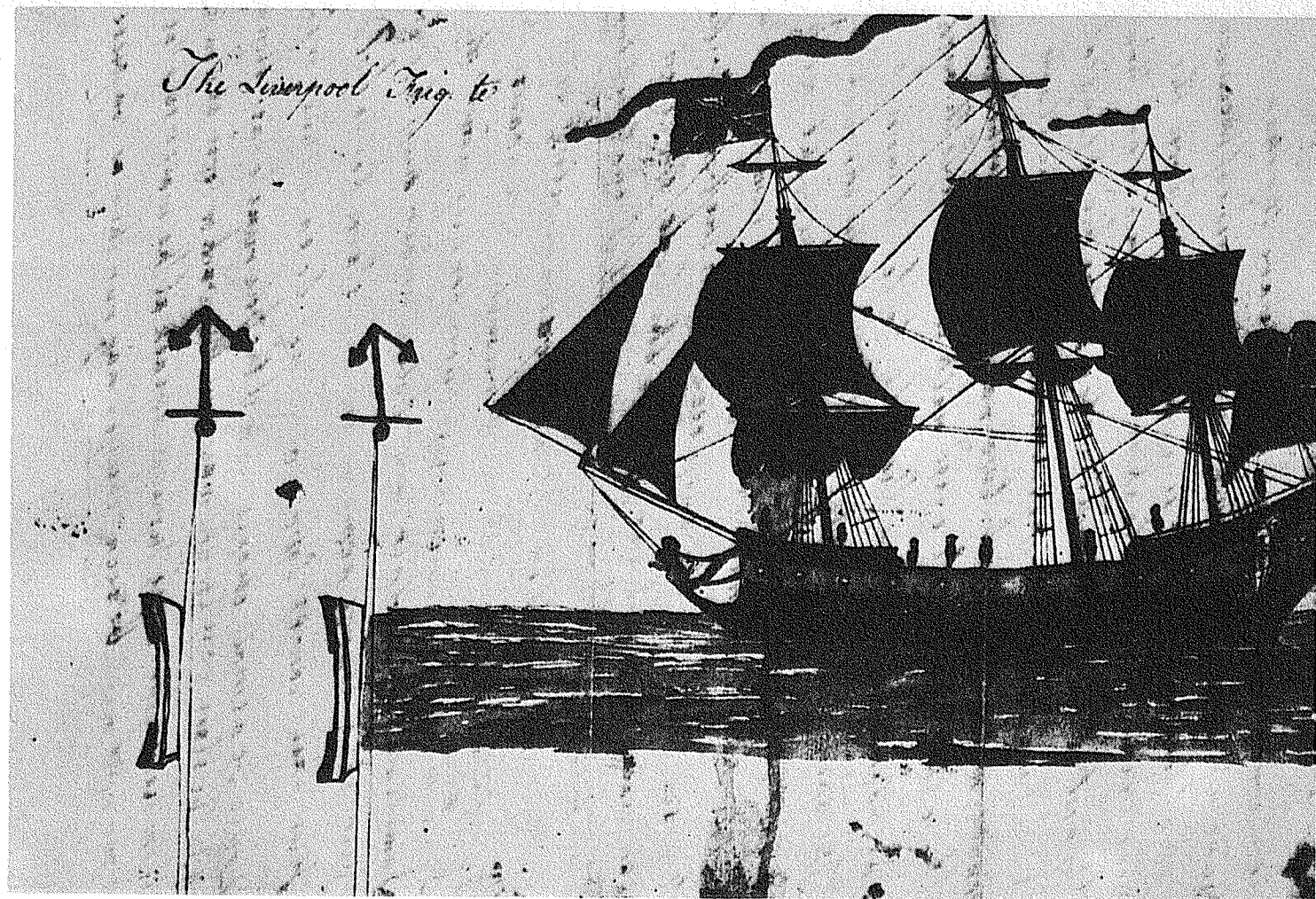
Ordered, that John Craig deliver to Colo. Fielding Lewis or order what Pork or beef he may want for the vessells employed in the Pub. service and the workmen employed in building them.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 86.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN ON BOARD THE *Liverpool*, NORFOLK HARBOUR, VIRGINIA, 17 FEBRUARY, 1776.” ¹

We have been pretty quiet here since the burning of Norfolk. On General [Henry] Clinton's Arrival with a small Party of Men, the Rebels retired about twelve Miles up the Country, burning the Houses, and driving off the Cattle as they went. We now get Plenty of Provisions brought us both for the Officers Tables and the Ships Companies, but dearer than usual. I am well informed by the Gentlemen of the Country, who have taken Refuge on board the King's Ships here, that we shall have all Sorts of Provisions in great Plenty, as soon as the Forces arrive; that the People in the lower Counties are very weary of their new Masters, and will join heartily in driving them back to the Mountains, whenever a few Troops are landed to enable them to make head against the Rebels; and that they will be able to supply not only the Ships and Troops that may come this way, but likewise the Army and Navy at Boston with Flour, Pork, Pease, Butter, Corn, &c.&c. and have Cattle and Stock of all Kinds, and Horses and Carriages, if they should be wanted to the Northward, in any Number there can be a Demand for, all at a very reasonable Price.

By the last Accounts we had from Boston both Parties remained inactive; the Winter was severe, and most of the Rebels had gone home to their own Habitations to keep themselves warm. There was Plenty of salted Provisions in Boston, and likewise of fresh Meat, chiefly from Nova Scotia; but the last Article was



Sketch of HMS Liverpool by Jeremiah Riley.

dear. Both the Seamen and Soldiers are remarkably healthy, which they attribute in great measure to the Scarcity of Rum and other Spirits; for where they can be come at cheap, Soldiers and Sailors will always make beasts of themselves.

Very few of the Store Ships from England had got in, and scarce any of the live Stock had got safe; one half a Dozen out of three hundred of any Kind. The *Liverpool*, *Roebuck* and *Otter*, are here at present. A Sloop of War and a Tender are gone to Delawar River to go in since other Ships appeared to block up the Harbour of Philadelphia. The *Mercury*, with two Transports, is gone to the Southward to Charles-Town and Georgia. Captain Lindsay² has been some Time cruising off Cape Fear for Sir Peter Parker's Fleet.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, April 9, 1776.

2. Captain John Linzee, of H.M. Sloop *Falcon*. Clinton did not sail from the Chesapeake until February 27, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU¹

February 1776	At Single Anchor off Lambert Point
Thursday 15	At 8 Saw 4 Sl At Anchor off Point Comfort Weighed & Stood down to them At 10 Came too in 10 fm found the above Vessels to Be The Tender wth A Brig from St Eustatia ² & the <i>Liverpools</i> Tender with A Schooner at 11 The Tenders Sailed on A Cruize at 2 PM Weighed & Came to Sail Empd Turning in to Hampton Rd in Co wth Brig & Schooner At 5 Anchored in Hampton Rd wth Bt Br in 10 fm
Friday 16	At 10 AM Weighed & Came to Sl in Co wth the <i>Roebuck</i> At 11 Anchd wth the Bt Br PM Recd Wood & Water
Saturday 17	AM Arrived & Anchored in Hampton Rd H:M:Ship <i>Mercury</i> & some Transports. ³ at 2 PM Arrived here the Tender wth A Brig

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The prize was the *Molly*, Waters, master, from St. Eustatius for Baltimore, with rum.

3. The transports *Kitty* and *Glasgow Packet*, with troops, accompanying Sir Henry Clinton in H.M.S. *Mercury*, bound for North Carolina.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*¹

Feby 1776	Remks on board His Majesty's Ship <i>Roebuck</i>
Friday 16	[A.M.] at 10 weighed & made Sail up Elizabeth River at ¼ past 11 the <i>Kingsfisher</i> Anchord above Cranny Island and at Noon we Anchord with the best Br about a Mile below Norfolk in 4 fath water First part fresh gales and fair latter Moderate & rain PM Moord small Bower to the [?] in 4 fa Do the <i>Lord Howe</i> Tender came along side which the Carpenters began to fit Made the <i>Liverpool's</i> Signal for a boat Long boat watering
Saturday 17th	First part fresh gales and rain latter moderate & cloudy P M Anchored here the <i>Kitty</i> Transport from Boston, . . . sent the

Carpenters to repair some damage the above Transport had receivd

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

Februr 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Saturday 17 Fesh Gales and cloudy PM empd. Watering arvd here our Tender from a Cruize ² with a schooner taken from the Rebels,³ ariv'd also in Hampton Roads His Majesty's Ship *mercury* with Two Transports under her Convoy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.
2. *Ibid.*, the tender *Edward* had sailed on her fifth cruise on February 11, 1776.
3. The schooner *Joseph*, John Hill, master, Jonas Smith, owner, from Salem for Baltimore, with a cargo of salt, taken off Cape Charles. Shulldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN SCOTLAND, DATED NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, FEBRUARY 17, 1776" ¹

All the well-affected to Government betook themselves to the shipping, where they are in great safety, and well provided. Lord Dunmore, having forseen the event, had laid plentifully in of all sorts of provisions. He has given orders to fortify Tucker's Point, where bake-houses and mills are fast erecting. Several vessels are taken from the Rebels, loaded, from the northward, with salt, flour, and grain. The *Roebuck*, with General Clinton, and a tender, are arrived safe.² The tender is to proceed for Cape-Fear, in North-Carolina, in order to raise volunteers, thousands of whom are ready to join the King's troops on being properly accoutred, and provided with arms and ammunition. The Rebels are in the deepest distress, being divested of clothes, ammunition, and lodgings; and, from their not keeping themselves clean, they are overrun with vermin, which, in the Summer season, must breed much sickness. Great numbers of them are already in their hospitals; and, at the least calculation, seven hundred of them are killed, wounded, sick and taken prisoners. They are, however, desperate to the last degree, and intrenching themselves backward to secure their retreats. The back settlers would, willingly, supply Lord Dunmore with fresh provisions, but have no means of conveying them, except what the negroes forage in the night time. All the Highland emigrants are most friendly to Government.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 1166, from an unidentified British newspaper.
2. The writer has confused two arrivals. H.M.S. *Roebuck* reached Hampton Roads several weeks before Clinton came in H.M.S. *Mercury*.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Saturday, February 17, 1776.

Mr. [Thomas] Corbett, from the Committee to whom was referred the petition of Capt. [Henry] Aitken and Mr. [Nathaniel] Russel, delivered in a report.

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 40-42.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, 17th Feb., 1776.

The Council issued orders for the following payments:

To Grossman Franks, for rafting Palmettos to Charles-Town,	23 15 00
To Capt. Simon Tufts, to be accounted for him, for the schooner <i>Defence</i> ,	1100 00 00

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 261-63.

HENRY LAURENS TO CAPTAIN THOMAS SMITH ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Jan. [*sic* Feb.] 17th, 1776.

Sir — You are to get the pilot-boat *Hibernia* of which you are commander, in readiness immediately for sea, and to go over the bar and cruize for friendly vessels bound into this port, and bring in such as you may speak to. There is a brigantine expected from Philadelphia, a particular account and description of which Capt. [Simon] Tufts will deliver you, and also a letter for the master, which we recommend to your attention. We need not repeat to you the necessity for extreme caution against decoys by men-of-war or their tenders. Deliver the inclosed to the commanding officers at Fort Johnson and Sullivan's Island, and you will be permitted to pass and repass without bringing to. We expect you will go to sea every morning, and come in towards evening or night when wind and weather will permit.

By order of the Council of Safety
Capt. Thos. Smith.

Henry Laurens, President.

[Enclosure]

In the Council of Safety,
17th Feb., 1776.

Sir —

Capt Thomas Smith, of the *Hibernia* pilot boat, is ordered to go over the bar every day when the weather will permit. We desire you will give him signals to make from day to day to be renewed at proper times, in order to procure the speedy passage of the boat, without stopping each day and avoid imposition.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

To the commanding officers
at Fort Johnson, and Haddrel's Point.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 261-62.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

Copy of a Letter to General Clinton

Sir Give me leave to enclose a Copy of a Letter from Mr [Martin] Jollie a Member of the Council of this Province, he went a few Weeks ago to Savannah on private Affairs. I desired him to make all the Observations he could. I am now more anxious for the Return of Mr [John] Stuart, and an Answer to the Plan I propose.

You know Sir there is a most material difference in the Effect which will work upon the Minds of the People we have to oppose us, in being attacked or the Attackers.

Last Summer I could only obtain the Assistance of the *St Lawrence* Schooner from Boston as a maritime Force, the General could do no more; I therefore was contented to do as well as I could in that Situation.

You know now Sir, a tollerable Idea of our Situation, if you reject the Plan I have sent you, it will give me pleasure because I shall be confident you have adopted a better, but I wish at the same time to have pointed out to me wherein I can be of Service; as I have nothing so much at heart.

Then Sir upon Ideas that the Plan may not be useful, You will give me leave to solicit that some armed Vessels may be sent to this Province, for the protection of our Rivers, and that as little time may be lost in doing it as possible, I hope this will not interfere with the Measures which you may have concerted —

Upon this Intelligence I have sent for the Seminolie Indians. — I shall station them between this place and St John River, and from St John River to St Mary River. —

The King's Troops are too few to be seperated I trust the God of Victory will Crown His Majesty's Arms with success and that you Sir will ride in safety in the Whirlwind I am &ca

(Signed) Pat. Tonym

St Augustine 17th February 1776

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonym's of 16 Feby 1776 (No 39).

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 265–66, 268.

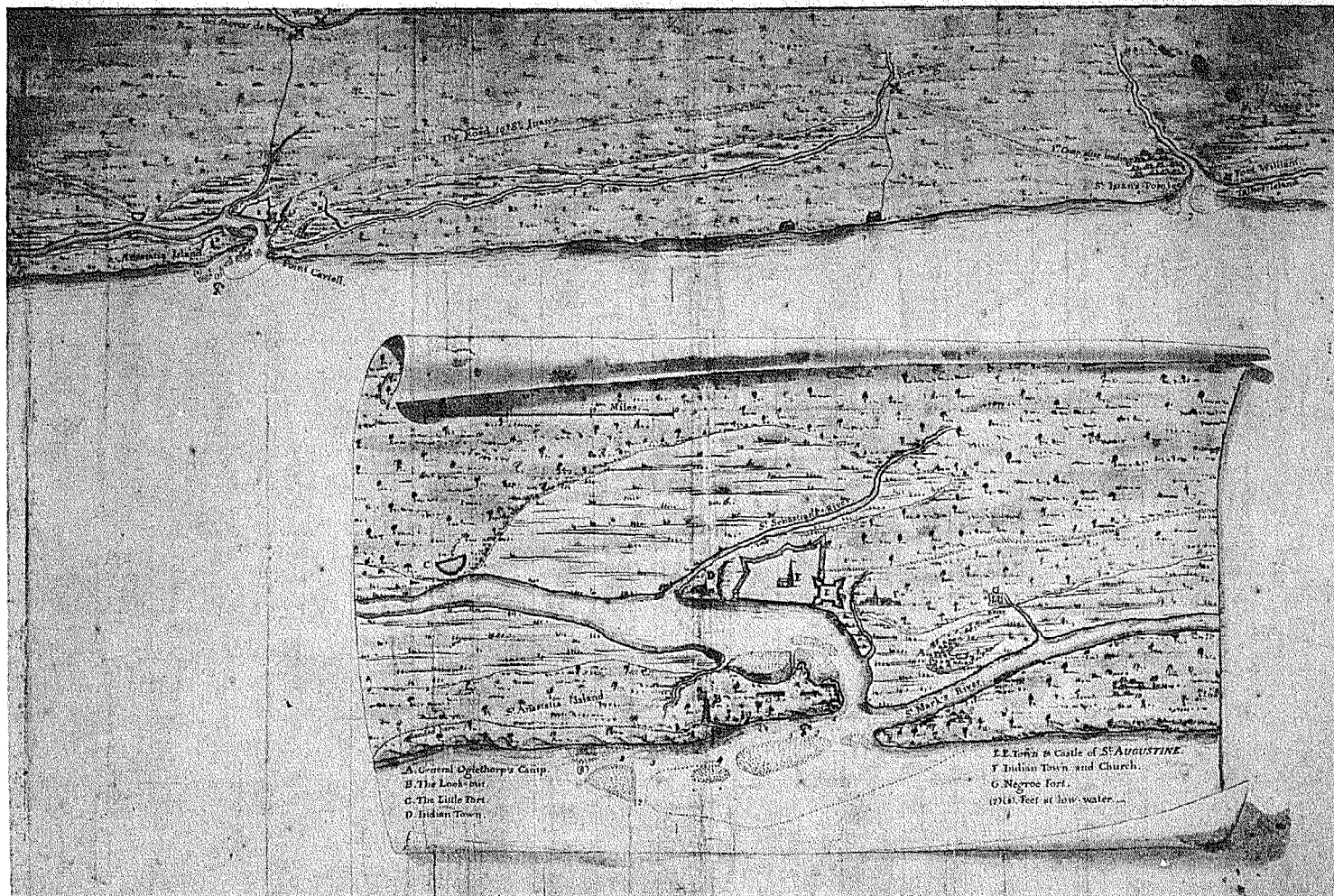
JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Feby 1776

Running down to Old Road St Kitts

Saturday 17 at 11 AM Fired a gun as a Sigl to Unmoor Unmoord & hove into ½ a Cable on the best bower Found the Small bower Much Rubbed in two places
Fresh breezes & Cloudy
at 5 PM Made the Sigl to Weigh Do Weighed & Came to sail
Layton Transport under Convoy at 10 Made the Sigl & brought too

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.



Detail from a map of the coast of Florida with an inset of St. Augustine area.

18 Feb. (Sunday)

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sunday, Feb. 18th, - . . . They send on board the *Senegal* for the Doctor I hear the King's vessel, mentioned above,² is the schooner *Halifax*, Capt Quorme [?], from Boston, and the prize from Cape Resue,³ Capt. [Daniel] Turner. I am informed that they bring news from Boston that the American army at Quebec is totally defeated, General Montgomery killed, Col. Arnold wounded and taken prisoner, and the whole army either killed or taken. That the army at Cambridge are deserted all to six thousand men. That Lord Dunmore has burnt the town of Norfolk, in Virginia, and that Capt. [George] Dawson has sunk one of the American armed vessels, a brigantine.⁴

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, 112.

2. Perkins had commented that two topsail schooners were beating into the harbor on the 16th, but had not yet heard their identity, although one was supposed to be in the King's service, and the other a prize.

3. The prize was the schooner *King Solomon*, with 850 quintals of fish, bound to Bilboa. Perkins says she was from Cape Resue; Shulldham's Prize List notes, Cape Bisore, and the journal of the *Halifax* says Cape Persue. The port from which she hailed was probably Cape Rosier, in Penobscot Bay.

4. Lieutenant George Dawson, in H.M. Brig *Hope*, had attacked and driven Washington's schooner *Hancock* into the North River, at Scituate, where she ran aground, but subsequently was restored to the service.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir,

Cambridge Feby 18th 1776.

The late freezing Weather having formed some pretty strong Ice from Dorchester Point to Boston Neck, and from Roxbury to the Common, thereby affording a more expanded, and consequently a less dangerous Approach to th[is] Town, I could not help thinking, notwithstanding the Militia were not all come in, and we had little or no Powder to begin our Operations by a regular Cannonade and Bombardment, that a bold & resolute Assault upon the Troops in Boston with such Men as we had (for it could not take many Men to guard our own Lines at a Time when the Enemy were attacked in all Quarters,) might be crowned with Success; and therefore seeing no certain Prospect of a Supply of Powder on the one Hand, and [a] certain Dissolution of the Ice on the other, I called the General Officers together for their opinion (agreeably to the Resolve of Congress of 22d Decr)²

The Result will appear in the enclosed Council of War, and being almost unanimous, I must suppose to be right, altho from a thorough Conviction of the Necessity of attempting something against the ministerial Troops before a Reinforcement should arrive, and while we were favoured with the Ice, I was not only ready, but willing and desirous of making the assault, under a firm Hope, if they Men would have stood by me of a favourable Issue, notwithstanding the Enemy's Advantage of Ground, [Art]illery &c.

Perhaps the Irksomness of my Situation may have given different Ideas to me, than those which influenced the Gentlemen I consulted, and might have inclined me to put more to the Hazard than was consistent with Prudence. If it

had, I am not sensible of it, as I endeavoured to give it all the Consideration that a Matter of such Importance requird. True it is, I cannot help acknowledging, that I have many disagreeable Sensations on Account of my Situation; for to have the Eyes of the whole Continent fixed with anxious Expectation of hearing of some great Event, and to be restrain'd in every military Operation for Want of the necessary Means of carrying it on, is not very pleasing; especially as the Means used to conceal my Weakness from the Enemy, conceals it also from our Friends and adds to the Wonder.

I do not utter this by Way of Complaint. I am sensible that all that the Congress could do, they have done, and I should feel, most powerfully, the Weight of conscious Ingratitude, were I not to acknowledge this. But as we have Accounts of the Arrival of Powder in Capt [Thomas] Mason,³ I should beg to have it sent on in the most expeditious Manner, otherwise we not only loose all Chance of the Benefits resulting from the Season, but of the Militia, which are brought in at a most enormous Expence upon a Presumption that we should long er'e this, been amply supplied with Powder under the Contracts entered into with the Committee of Congress.

The Militia, contrary to an express Requisition are come, and coming in, without Ammunition. To supply them alone with 24 Rounds, which is less by $\frac{3}{5}$ ths than the Regulars are served with, will take between 50 & 60 Barrels of Powder, and to complete the other Troops to the like Quantity will take near as much more, and leave in Store not more than 60 Barrels besides a few Rounds of Cannon Cartridges ready filled for Use. This Sir, Congress may be assured is a true State of Powder, and will I hope bear some Testimony of my Incapacity for Action in such a Way as may do any essential Service.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 158-60, LC. This letter was continued on February 21.
2. The resolution read: "*Resolved*, That if General Washington and his council of war should be of opinion, that a successful attack may be made on the troops in Boston, he do it in any manner he may think expedient, notwithstanding the town and the property in it may thereby be destroyed." Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 444-45.
3. Mason arrived at Philadelphia, February 2, 1776; see his Journal of that date.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Solis, 10 HO. A.M.

Feb. 18th, 1776.

The Congress were informed by a member, that as the ships of war are removed out of the East river, Major-General Lee thinks this is a favorable time and opportunity to stop the channel of the East river, between the city and Nutten island, so as now to admit line of battle ships, if it is practicable, which, if it can be done, may save at least the east part of the city. That Genl. Lee desires the advice of this Congress in the premises. Thereupon,

Ordered, That the committee of war attend on Genl Lee, and confer with him on the practicability of stopping the channel in the East river; and that the said committee of war report thereon to this Congress at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The members present were charged from the chair to keep secret the subject matter of the last order, and every argument, matter and thing mentioned relating

to stopping up the channel; and the several members engaged on their honours respectively to keep the same secret.

Die Solis, P.M. Feb. 18th, 1776.

Mr. Van Zandt requested a permit to finish lading the ship *Rosamond*. Thereupon a certificate was given to him in the words following, to wit:

Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt was formerly ordered by this Congress to lade a vessel with wheat, &c. he is hereby permitted to lade the ship *Rosamond* accordingly, with wheat and flour, &c.

To be shewn to Messrs. Robert Ray and Evert Bancker, and to be delivered to Capt. William Mercier.

Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart, from the committee of war, who were directed this morning to confer with Genl. Lee, verbally reported, in substance, that in obedience to the order of Congress, they had conferred with the general, and examined the plans of the city and harbour, with him and his engineer and some other officers; that the general informed them that he has given orders to take a survey of the vessels now in port; that this evening the depth and breadth of the channel, at the most proper places, is to be sounded and taken; that Genl. Lee thinks it of great importance to obstruct the navigation of the East river against line of battle ships, and seems to have it much at heart; that Genl. Lee, on being asked how the west side of the town could be protected, allowed that a ship might come to the west of the city and annoy the city, but seemed to think fortifications might be erected in the city, which would greatly protect the side of it; that Genl. Lee is of opinion that if the *Asia* should depart the harbour and bay, that the most proper place to obstruct the navigation is farther down, or between the banks; that Capt. Smith, the engineer, said that the fortifications to be erected near Hellgate will command the East river down to, or below Blackwell's island.

Mr. Hobart reported farther, that on the whole, nothing certain as to the practicability of obstructing the navigation of the East river was yet determined on.

Mr. Hobart farther informed Congress, that they had some conversation with Genl. Lee on the subject of preventing persons having permissions from the Congress, or the Committee of Safety, to go on board of any ship in this harbour, from being obstructed by the port guard; and that they had intimated to the general that perhaps it might be proper to place a proper person near the sentries to give information and directions concerning such persons as may have such permissions as above-mentioned.

The Congress then went into the consideration of that matter, and thereupon,

Agreed unanimously, That it is impracticable at present, totally to cut off all communication of the inhabitants of this Colony with the ships of war now in this port, and with the ship on which his Excellency Govr. Tryon resides.

And whereas, though it is in the opinion of this Congress, impracticable at present totally to cut off all communication of the inhabitants of this Colony with the ships of war now in this port, and the ship on board of which his Excellency

Govr. Tryon resides, yet it appears necessary to confine such communication to certain particular objects, to the end that the public service may not be injured by a free and unlimited intercourse between them and this Colony. It is therefore

Ordered, That all communication between the said ships of war and all the inhabitants, be and is hereby prohibited, except upon special permits, to be obtained from this Congress or the Committee of Safety, and also except for supplying them, the said ships of war respectively, with necessary provisions from time to time, for the use and consumption of their respective crews only, under the following restrictions and regulations, to wit:

That no provisions shall be supplied for their use and consumption by any other persons than their respective agent-victuallers in this city, upon permits to be obtained by them respectively, from time to time for the purpose, from this Congress or the Committee of Safety; which provisions shall not in any case, be put on board any boat for such supply as aforesaid, at any other place than the ferry stairs near the Exchange in this city, and that in the presence of a port master to be appointed by this Congress or the Committee of Safety, who shall carefully inspect the same, and compare the provisions with the permit, and keep an exact and particular account of the same, to be reported by him to this Congress or the Committee of Safety from time to time, when called for.

Ordered further, That Elias Nexen be, and he is hereby appointed port master for and during the pleasure of this Congress, with an allowance at and after the rate of $18\frac{1}{3}$ dollars per month, for so long time as he shall continue in the said service.

Ordered further, That all communication between the said inhabitants and the said ships of his Excellency the Govr. be and is hereby prohibited, except with respect to his Honor the Lieut. Govr. the members of His Majesty's Council, the Surveyor-General, the Deputy Secretary of this Colony and his necessary clerks, and such other persons as shall from time to time have particular permits for the purpose from this Congress or the Committee of Safety; and except also such intercourse as may be necessary for supplying the Governor with the necessary provisions for himself and his family; which supplies shall from time to time be sent from the said ferry stairs, and no other place, and that in the presence and under the inspection of the said port master, who shall keep exact and particular accounts of the same, to be reported as aforesaid; and except also that the brewers supply the said three ships with beer as usual, 'till further order of this Congress or the Committee of Safety.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 307-09.

HERCULES COURTENAY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

Sir. Mr [William] Spear shewed me a note which Mr Purviance brought him from The Council of Safety; Whereby its probable you may have occasion to see Capt Martin, therefore have given him orders to wait on the council of Safety with Mr Spears Captain, should you have occasion to employ the Brig *Friendship* Capt Martin back here with such returns as you may have ordered, I shall have no

sort of objection, providing you insure her at one thousand pounds, this money, and allow a sufficient Freight for such goods as she may bring back; Tho Captain [William] Stone intended she shd bring some property of his lying in the West Indies invested, in salt rum &c. with her freight money out; The vessel is a prime sailor & has a Bermuda Register, & manned with negroes save the Capt & mate which may probabl[y] be a cloak for her against the late resolution of the Parliament to seize all American vessels, I am satisfied you cannot employ a vessel more fitting then, the *Friendship*, & sd you determine on this Capt Martin will take your orders respectg the Homeward voyage, & I shall be glad in such case that you Will please write me a few lines in conformity to the above proposal; as I am acting only as an Agent, for Capt Stone and am With all respect. Sir [&c.]

Her^s Courtenay.

Balto 18th February 1776.

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

ISAAC VAN BEBBER TO BENJAMIN RUMSEY, ANNAPOLIS ¹

Dear Sir

Balt. Feby 18th 1776

as my Brig is now out on acct of the province, should the Counsel See proper to Order any remittances or back freights in any of the Vessals now out, – I should hope that my Brig might S[erve] as well as any other as I [am] told She Sails very fast Since I made a Brig of her –

I make them an offer of the use of the Brig back, put what they will in her for which I will ask no freights only to be insured back £800, which is not above three-fourths of her Value, – provided they do not detain her long in taking in her back freight and if She is detained in taking the Same in, to be paid only the wages and Expences of the brig 'till She Saile[d] wt it, – if them Terms may answer a line from you to the Consigned in the westindies will be sufficcent, I am wt all Esteem [&c.]

Isaac Van Bebbber

favr W. Spear

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

Andrew Doria JOURNAL ¹

Sunday At 1 PM Weigh'd & put to sea in Company with all the Fleet, having Feby 18th on board One Hundred & four Officers & Men.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]
[No. 34]

[On board the Ship *Dunmore* off Norfolk]
[February 18th, 1776]

This Moment General Clinton is arrived, and to my inexpressable Mortification find he is ordered by Your Lordship to North Carolina a Most insignificant Province, when this which is the first Colony on the Continent, both for its riches and power is tottally Neglected, had North Carolina been your object, policy in

my poor opinion ought to have induced your Lordship to have ordered your Army to have randevoused here, for many reasons, first because this is a Safe Harbour both for access and Rideing in, where Pilots are to be got, the other very difficult of access even for Vessels of Small Burthen, and not a Pilot to be had, and when in, a very unsafe Road Stead, besides this, any little knowledge I have of Military operations has ever induced me to think it prudent to conceal as long as possible your real intentions from your Enemy, which cannot happen here, because it is impossible to expect that force coming from so many different quarters can all arrive at the same time, or even near it, therefore the Enemy will have time to collect and prepare themselves.

To see my Government thus totally neglected, I own is a Mortification I was not prepared to meet with after being imprisoned on board a Ship between eight and Nine Months and now left without a hope of reliefe either to myself, or the many unhappy friends to Government that are now afloat suffering with me, but I have done. . . .

[Endorsed] Ship *Dunmore* off Norfolk, Virginia, different dates from the 6 Decr 1775 to 13 Feby [sic] 1776, No 34 Earl of Dunmore R 4th April ½ pt 7 AM. (32 Inclosures) /Entd

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO ALL NAVAL CAPTAINS IN VIRGINIA ¹

Mem[oran]dum

Roebuck off Norfolk the 18th Feby 1776

A Court martial will be held to morrow morning at Eight oClock on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*
To The Respective Captains
of his Majesty's Ships the

Liverpool
Mercury

Otter
Kingsfisher

1. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NORFOLK (VIRGINIA) DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1776, ON BOARD THE *Unicorn*, CAPT. HUTCHINSON, TO HIS OWNERS IN WHITEHAVEN." ¹

We have some hopes of relief out of a distress which this fleet has so long laboured under. The *Roebuck* frigate of 44 guns arrived here a few days ago, and last night two men of war and two transports with troops, but what number I know not, as they are yet lying in Hampton-road. We have suffered the greatest distress for want of provisions, the Provincials having destroyed the country on Norfolk side for many miles round, by setting fire to the houses, driving back the cattle, and every thing that might be of use to us. Our ship is changed from an hospital ship to a smith's forge. I have been on shore these last six days with all our people and negroes, intrenching a small neck of land, to preserve a watering-place, and any necessaries it will admit of.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 20 to April 23, 1776.