

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 4

AMERICAN THEATRE: Feb. 19, 1776–Apr. 17, 1776

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Feb. 1, 1776–May 25, 1776

AMERICAN THEATRE: Apr. 18, 1776–May 8, 1776

Part 3 of 7

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the line and frigates were waiting, all prepared for an expedition, but their destination was kept a profound secret.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 3, 1776.

17 Mar. (Sunday)

JOHN LANGDON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sr

Portsmo 17th March 1776

This moment Arrived a Small Vessell from the West Indies, with abot Six Thousand wt powder belonging to the Continent, – and as I tho't it might be wanted at Headquarters, have Dispatched Major Gains with this information, to your Excellency and should it be wanting, (in part, or all) I shall immediately forward it, on Receiveg your Direction ² – The Bearer will inform what intelligence the Capt Brings, who I should have sent up, had it not been Necessary to keep him on board his Vessell – The Capt informs that at Martinico, and Gaurdaloupe, there is at Least Ten Thousand french Troops, makeing great preparations for War, this he says May be Depended on – Yesterday we had a Small parcel of powder, abt five thousand wt Arrived, belongg to the Colony – We have Several Vessells more at St Lucia, who are takeing in powder –

Please to Accept of the best Wishes of [&c.]

John Langdon

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Washington replied on March 19 requesting that the powder be immediately forwarded to camp.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

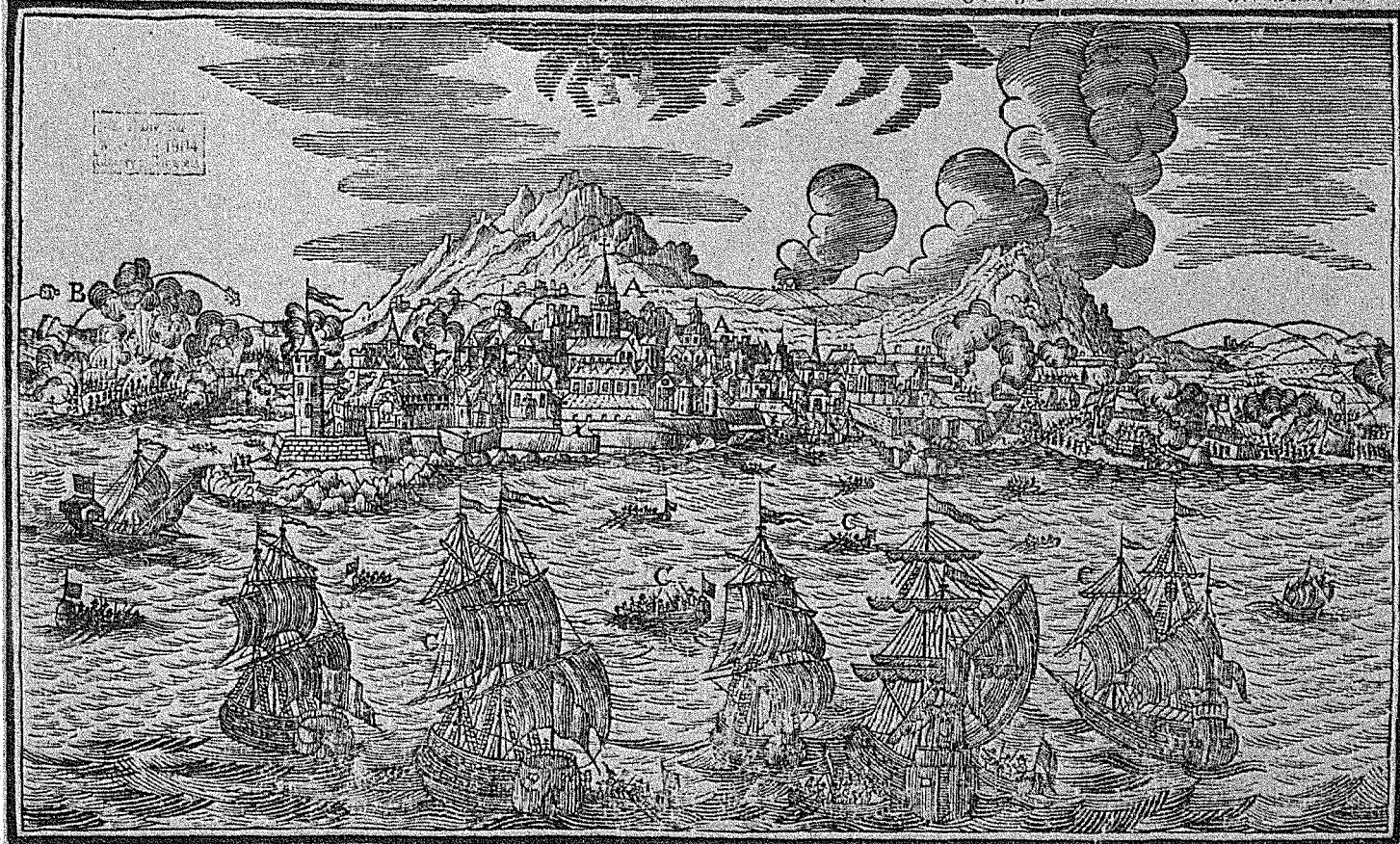
Sir

Cambridge March 17th 1776.

I have the Pleasure to inform you, that this morning the Ministerial Troops evacuated the Town of Boston, without destroying it, and that we are now in the full possession; upon which event, I beg leave to Congratulate you, and sincerely wish if the Ministry persevere in the same unconstitutional and despotic measures, which too long have marked their conduct, that our opposition and resistance, in every Quarter, may be crowned with the Success they have been here.

Where their destination is, or what plans they have in view, is altogether unknown; most probably the next attempt will be against New York, or some more Southern Colony. However, I should think, tho' I do not believe they have any design against Rhode Island, that it will be adviseable to keep a strict lookout; and submit it to you, whether it may not be proper, against the time you apprehend they might arrive, to call in a Number of the Militia and have them posted in proper places. I do not mean to direct

Nichtige Abbildung der von den amerikanischen Prokintialisten belagerten und wiedereroberten Hauptstadt und Festung Bost'n in Amerika, im Monat März 1776.



A German view of the British evacuation of Boston.

the Measure, but only to mention It for your Consideration; to me it appears worthy of attention. I am &c

G Washington.

N.B. March 19th,
the Fleet is still in King and Nantasket Roads.

G W

1. Washington Papers, Varick Transcripts, LC.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[Cambridge] 17th [March].

In the morning the British evacuated Boston; their rear guard with some marks of precipitation. A number of cannon were left spiked, and two large marine mortars, which they in vain attempted to burst. . . . The troops on the Roxbury side, moved over the Neck and took possession of Boston; as did others from Cambridge, in boats. On the Americans entering the town, the inhabitants discovered joy inexpressible. The town had been much injured in its buildings, and some individuals had been plundered. Some British stores were left. The British army went on board their transports below the Castle. A number of American adherents to them, and the British cause, went away with the army.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 35–36.

DIARY OF ENSIGN HENRY SEWALL ¹

Sunday, 17th [March]. At Lechmere Point –

a general alarm throughout the camp about eight o'clock. Before this, saw the enemy leave Bunker Hill. Saw Gen. [John] Sullivan, with a party take possession of Bunker Hill without opposition. Saw also the shipping in Boston get under sail, the wind blowing fresh northwest, and making down the harbor. Could discover no regular sentinels as usual on the back of Boston on which concluded the enemy was gone. About eleven o'clock a party of our army who had had the smallpox landed and patrolled Boston without the least shadow of opposition.

1. "Diary of Captain Henry Sewall, of the Army of the Revolution, 1776–1783," *The Historical Magazine* (Morrisania, N.Y., 1871), 2nd series, X, 129.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JABEZ HUNTINGTON ¹

Hon'd Sir

Roxbury Camp 17th March 1776

This Morning we had the Agreeable Sight of a Number of Ships leaving the Town of Boston with a large Number of Boats full of Soldiers, about ten of Clock several Lads came to our out Céntries and informed us that the Troops had intirely left the Town and that the Selectmen were coming out to see us soon after we had the Pleasure of seeing Messrs. [Samuel] Austin, [John] Scolly, [Thomas] Marshall etc. they had an interview with the General and gave him the best Intelligence they could concerning the state of

the Town and the Intentions of the Enemy. the Enemy are now all laying between the Castle and Light House in full View from the Town and make a very formidable Appearance. we shall keep a sharp look out till they are out of Sight at least. the Talk of the Town is that the Troops are gone to Hallifax. the Country ought to be well on their Guard in every Place where it is likely they will make a Descent. I expect most if not all the established Regiments will be ordered from this Station as soon as the Enemy are gone from the Bay. where my Destination will be I know not I hope it will give me an Opportunity of seeing Norwich. my Love and Duty to Mother and all and remain Your dutifull and affectionate Son,

J. Huntington

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 34.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO ANDREW HUNTINGTON, NORWICH
MERCHANT¹

[Extract]

Roxbury Camp 17 March 1776

Dear Sir Never was Joy painted in higher Colours than in the Faces of the Selectmen of Boston & other of the Inhabitants of that distressed Town when we first had an Interview this forenoon – I have been in several Parts of the Town – there seems to be much Mischief done out of mere Wantonness – saw several Holes where the Canno[n] Shot from our Lines at Roxbury had passed – two 13 Inch Shells from Cobble Hill fell just over Mr Sherburnes House a little above Kings Chapple – I just stepped into Mr [John] Hancocks to see what Damage he had suffered expecting to see every Thing laid waste but found it much otherwise – All his good Furniture Family Pictures &c are preserved & but little Hurt done to the House or Gardens – one of his Dependants told me Mr Phillips House had been improved by Mr Winslow & was left in good Order – I intended to have gone to Mr Masons but had not Time . . . I imagine some Hulks will be sunk in the Channel which together with our Forts & Batteries I hope will secure to us the Possession of the Town where the Enemy will get another such Foothold I know not . . . the oppressed Town is once more freed of its cruel Masters – I hope it will see good Days according to the Days wherein it has see[n] Evil –

J. Huntington

1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] Sunday Noon [March 17]

. . . I find the firing was occasioned by our peoples taking possession of Nook Hill, which they kept in spite of the Cannonade, and which has really obliged our Enemy to decamp this morning on board the Transports; as I hear by a messenger just come from Head Quarters. Some of the Select Men have been to the lines and inform that they have carried of [every] thing they could [po]ssibly take, and what they could not they have [burnt],

broke, or hove into the water. This] is I [believe fact,] many articles of good Household furniture having in the course of the week come on shore at Great Hill, both upon this and Weymouth Side, Lids of Desks, mahogona chairs, tables &c. Our People I hear will have Liberty to enter Boston, those who have had the small pox. The Enemy have not yet come under sail. I cannot help suspecting some design which we do not yet comprehend; to what quarter of the World they are bound is wholly unknown, but tis generally Thought to New york. . . . I feel glad however that Boston is not destroyed. I hope it will be so secured and guarded as to baffel all future attempts against it. - . . .

From Pens Hill we have a view of the largest Fleet ever seen in America. You may count upwards of 100 & 70 Sail. They look like a Forrest.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 357-61. Continuation of letter begun March 16.

SAMUEL COOPER TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN¹

[Extract]

[Boston, 17th March, 1776]²

. . . You will hear before this reaches you that the British Troops and Fleet have left Boston: They have retir'd with Disgrace from before the General & Forces of the united Colonies. I congratulate you on this Honor to our Country. Should the War continue, prepar'd as we now are, we should have been well contented they had remain'd here - The Bombardment & Cannon[a]ding from our Lines, reaching all Parts of Boston, was unexpected, and troubled their Host; our taking Possession of Dorchester Hills in so judicious & masterly a Manner compleated their Consternation, & left them no Time to deliberate: They embarqu'd with Trepidation; & most of them I am just told sail'd this Morning - Where they are bound remains a Secret; whether to Hallifax, or the Southward, or to both in Divisions. Boston stands, to the Surprize of Many, but much plunder'd - I am a Sufferer among a Multitude of Others. My House was let to a Capt Cockran of the British Army upon written Engagements - He had the Use of all my Furniture, but has not left a Bed, Coverlid, Sheet, or any Pewter, China, or Crockery - many other Things of great Value carried off or destroy'd - but This is a small Specimen of the Perfidy & Villainy of British Officers & Soldiers - I esteem it however an Honor in such a Cause to suffer with & for my Country - Shall we have a Nego[tia]tion this Summer - Must we return to the mild & gracious Governm't of Britain? - How is *Common Sense* relish'd among you; it is eagerly read and greatly admir'd here. The Inability of our Enemies to subdue us by Force is more & more apparent; I doubt not our Councils will avail themselves of this and evr'y Circumstance. I am dear Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Cooper.

Dr. Franklin

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 82½, APS.

2. The date is established from the contents of the letter.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Chatham King Road, Boston

Sir,

Harbour 17th March 1776.

Since my last to you of the 8th, the Fleet and Army have been busily Employed in Embarking the Ordnance and other Stores belonging to the King, in which the Rebels have given us little or no interruption, tho' their Cannon and Mortars have not been totally unemployed, and this Morning the Embarkation of the Troops was completed without the loss of a Man, and the Transports proceeded to, and Anchored at this place, but I find a considerable Quantity of Ordnance and other Stores are rendered useless, and left behind by the Army for want of time, as well as Shipping to carry it away, tho' the Troops are allowed but one Ton a Man in the Transports, and the extreme want of Provisions will not allow us to wait, I have therefore Appropriated a Transport (the *Francis*) to take on board all the Naval Stores I could collect, which the *Adventure* Storeship could not contain, and have the pleasure to inform you as little will be lost in our Department as could be expected in so sudden and unprepared-for an event; I have also appropriated the *Richmond* Transport to the use of an Hospital Ship, 'till the Arrival of one from England for that Service.

Of the Ships taken up by the Commissioners of the Victualling, a List of which you transmitted to Vice Admiral Graves, accompanying your Letter of the 28th of September, those in the Margin² are not arrived, nor have I any Account of them, by which Disappointment, and the Necessity I have been under of Supplying the Army, there is but a small Quantity of any Provision remaining, especially Beef and Pork, proportionate to the Squadron, as you will please to observe by the Agent Victuallers Account of Remains accompanying this.

Nantasket Road at the Entrance of this Harbour being at too great a distance for my observation of the Occurrences constantly passing there, I Ordered Captain [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* to Superintend and Command the Necessary Duty at that place, and as he is the Senior Captain at present under my Command, and an Active Officer, to hoist and wear a Distinguishing Pendant, except in the presence of a Senior Captain.

I informed you in my Letter of the 26th past of the number of small Vessels detained at this Port by Order of Vice Admiral Graves, several of which, that I could refit and Man, I have taken with me, and the others, either Sunk or destroyed, to prevent their being of use to the Rebels, among which are two Vessels of Three hundred Tons belonging to the Notorious Rebel [John] Hancock, which were upon the Stocks.

As the *Chatham* and *Centurion* drew too much Water to be moved from their Station before the Town, except with a particular Wind, and at a Critical time of tide, as soon as our retreat was determined on, I ordered their Captains to take the first favorable opportunity of moving those Ships down to King Road, and Ordered Captain [George] Montagu in the *Fowey* up to Boston to Defend the Embarkation of the Troops and Transports, and

Cover the retreat, which he has done with the greatest propriety and Officer-like Conduct; Captain [John] Raynor had the Command and Regulation of the Embarkation on Shore, in which He, and the Officers under him, acquitted themselves with equal Propriety, and in the disposition formed in concert with the General, shewed themselves Active, Attentive, and Intelligent Officers; I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the greatest Unanimity and Harmony subsists between His Majesty's Fleet and Army, each party endeavouring to emulate each other in giving the strongest proofs of their Zeal and forwardness in the Discharge of their mutual trust and duty to His Majesty and the important Cause we are Engaged in. I am Sir [&c.]

M:Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The transports *Resolution*, *Layton*, *Manners* and *Killingsworth*, which had been driven by contrary winds into Antigua.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU¹

- March 1776 At Anchor off Boston N W off shore $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile to
Cover the Troops Embarking.
- Monday 11. at 7 AM weighed And came to off Hancock's Wharf in 5
fm to cover the Embarkation of his Majesty's Forces.
- Tuesday 12. Light Winds AM Veered to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable and got out the
stream Anchor to steady her, and a party of the Artillery
came on board & mounted two Howitzers on the Quarter
deck to Cover the Embarkation
First and Middle parts do Wr latter fresh breezes,
reced Amunition & Shells for the Artillery & Coals for the
use of the ship.
- Wednesday 13. AM sent the Carpenters to scuttle & destroy some useless
Vessells, weighed the stream Anchor And hove in to $\frac{1}{3}$
of the Cable, the boats of the fleet tending to Embark the
Troops.
- Thursday 14. Light winds & hazey boats as before.
- Friday 15. Do Weather sent the boats on shore to Attend, And got
up Topgallant Yards.
- Saturday 16. First part light breezes Middle fresh gales latter light
Airs
At 1 AM prepared for Embarking the Troops at 2 the
Wind veered to the Eastward, & struck the Topgallant
Yards.
- Sunday 17. Moderate & Clear at 5 AM the boats attended at 8 the
Troops were all embarked, and the Transports got under
sail at 10 they being abreast of the Castle we got under
weigh at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 came to in King road in 13 fm towed
to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, found riding here the *Chatham*, *Gen-
turon* & Transports at Noon Saluted the Admiral.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR¹

- March 1776 Moor'd in King Road
- Sunday 10 during the Night heard a Constant Canonading at Boston
A M little wind Inclina-ble to Calms. Cleard Hause -
Mode & Cloudy wr
P M Sailed for Boston H M Ship *Fowey*. Came down &
Anchord here the *Lord Hyde* Packet & several Transports
at 7 Came on board a Captain 2 Lieutenants & 103 Privates
belonging to H M 43 & 47th Regiments, sent all the Boats
up to Boston with 13 Officers & 129 Men by ordr of rear
Adml Shuldham
- Monday 11 at 5 A M Hoisted rear Adml Shuldham's flag. Departd this
Life Edwd Gulliver Seaman, recd on board Several species
of Provisions & ca Do Wr at 1 P M Came down and
Anchor'd here a transport & Several small Vessels at 7 the
Canonading began & Continued all the Night
- Tuesday 12 Fresh Gales & Cloudy Wr P M Anchor'd here H M Ship
Centurion and Several Transports, one of the Ships in
Sailing past us Carried away our Ensign Staff, Poop Lant-
horns, & Stove in the Larboard Quarter Gallery, recd 8
poop Lanthorns from the *Centurion*, during the Night
heard the report of several Great Guns from Boston
- Wednesday 13 A M fir'd a Gun & made the Signal for a Boat the Carpen-
ters Employ'd fixing the Poop Lanthorns & repairing the
Quarter Gallery
- Thursday 14 Little Wind & clear
A M fresh Gales & hazey with rain the Carpenters Em-
ploy'd as before -
Fresh Gales & hazey
P M Sent the pinnace away to assist a Ship that was on
Shore on Bird Island
- Friday 15 A M More Mode & Clear got the Ship off Came to an
anchor the Pinnace Return'd.
- Saturday 16 Little winds and Cloudy A M Sent a party of Seamen to
assist in rigging a Ship Made Coats for the Main & Mizen
Mast & a Tarpaulin for the Main Hatches. -
Do Wr & Rain at ½ past 11 P M the Canonading began
at Boston & Continued till
- Sunday 17 8 A M at 9 Observed all the Ships at Boston to be under
sail at 11 they all Came to an Anchor here. Came on
board Major General Howe, Earl [Hugh] Percy, General
[Róbert] Pigot & several other Officers & Saluted them with
15 Guns at 12 H M Ship *Fowey* Saluted with 13 Guns
retd 11 Guns. All the Officers & Seamen Retd on board &
Sent the Officers & Men belonging to H M 43 & 47th Regi-

ments to their own ships. —

Do Wr P M Saild from hence H M ship *Fowey*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

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

March 1776 Moored in King Road

Sunday 17 AM the Troops Embarked onbd the Transports & came down here with His Majesty's Ship the *Fowey* & 3 Arm'd Vessels, the Officers & Men sent to assist at the Embarkation returned on bd their respective Ships.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE¹

March 1776 Porpus Quas Point NEbN Mount Hope ENE

Sunday 17 AM observ'd the Rebels on Rhode Island breaking ground & fortifying a Hill near Newport at 11 AM hove short Modt & Cloudy at ½ past noon weigh'd & Came to Sail at 4 Anchor'd on the Et Side of Prudence

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

LORD STIRLING TO SAMUEL TUCKER¹

Sir

New York March 17th 1776

As a large number of the Inhabitants of the province of New Jersey are now called upon to assist in Fortifying and defending this City, which by the Accounts received from General Washington by express and this day confirmed by the post, is certainly the Object of the enemies Intentions; And as I am informed that many of the Inhabitants of the province are Intimidated from leaving the province by an apprehension of their own private affairs Suffering by the Common process of the Civil Law; I must therefore Submit it to your Committee of Safety whether it is not at this time of Eminent danger Absolutly necessary to Suspend the Operations of the Civil Law; at least untill the destination of the Army at Boston is more Certainly known. By the last Accounts it appears that five thousand men were actually embarked and the remainder preparing to get on Board as fast as possible And it is General Washingtons Opinion they intend to make a Sudden push on this place I am Sir [&c.]

Stirling,

To Samuel Tucker Esqr president of the Committee of Safety of New Jersey at Trenton

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 724, Box 1, HCL.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 17 March 1776

Dear Sir, I received your account of the retaking Hudsons ship and the flight of the enemy with great pleasure — I hope you will make wise use of

the opportunity to render the avenews to yr flourishing Town inaccessible to the enemy I think you have the means of doing this most effectually, and sure it ought not to be neglected. I suppose the *Defence* and her Tender will now be employed in keeping your Bay Coast as far as Potomac clear of Sloops and Tenders from our Enemies – I am sure Capt. Squires will not interrupt your Trade so long as he knows Capt. Nicholson is with you, and as for larger Ships, if they should come, which is not very probable, it will be no difficult matter to get out of their way by retiring to shallow waters . . .

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 17. March 1776.

. . . I think it will be a good way for you to forward a particular list of such articles as will be wanted for the ship that cannot be procured there and I will do my endeavors to have them sent you as soon as possible: it would give me great pleasure to hear that the *New Hampshire* ² is the first ship at sea. . . .

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 103, LC.

2. Despite Whipple's identification, the frigate built in New Hampshire was eventually named the *Raleigh*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

[Annapolis] 17th March 1776

Pray send us an Account of the Continental Pay of the Officers and Men in the Navy, we are informed there have been some alterations lately made in them by Congress and shall be glad to see them – they will be useful to us in settling the Wages for the *Defence* –

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Sunday, March 17th, 1776

Ordered that the whole adventure on board the Brigg *Liberty* be taken for the use and on account of the public. That Capt. Thomas Lilly repair to Cumberland Town and take charge of the s'd Brigg and procure her cargo to be brought to the city of Williamsburg, either by unlading it into Flatts at Cumberland, to be sent to the Capitol landing, or by bringing the Brigg to the mouth of Queen's creek and engaging Flatts to bring her cargo up the creek from thence, as he shall judge most prudent and safe, the cargo to be delivered to the comm'y of prov's for the public use.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 126, 127.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, MARCH 17." ¹

I embrace this opportunity of informing you of the present state of our affairs, and beg you'll communicate the same to Captain M—I, having waited

here ever since October last for a cargo either to Tobago or England, find our hopes quite fruitless from the Congress's proceedings of the 4th instant, to set fire to and consume the merchant ships in this port, in consequence of the men of war demanding the release, and using means of compulsion; before the tenders could cover the shipping, the Provincials devised methods and consumed a brig belonging to Liverpool, and a ship to London, the *Inverness*, Masilberry, master, the rest of the shipping found retreat from being light, and we narrowly escaped by remaining still, and expeditiously cutting from along side the vessels on fire in the same tier with us. We are now prisoners of theirs, the Captain has been under confinement ever since the sad catastrophe, and yesterday marched into the country unknown to us where, but generally supposed to Philadelphia. We are to remain on board till further orders, and agreeable to their desire have unshipt our rudder, and sent the running rigging ashore, to prevent our escaping. This is a melancholy circumstance to all of us, nor do we know how to extricate ourselves, no person can fly from the town either up or down the river to prevent intelligence. There are several other vessels which share the same fate with us, particularly the *Georgia Planter*, Capt. Inglis, who accompanies Capt. Wardell both in the character of prisoners, and I must confess are both genteely and honorably treated; there was a slight skirmish near this place between a party of the King's troops and a smaller one of the Americans, when three of the latter were taken prisoners, who are now on board the men of war.² I should transmit the particulars of all the proceedings here, but am pushed for time by an expeditious and secret conveyance of this to one of our packets down the river at Cocksborough, where the men of war lye, and per first convenient opportunity will give you the particulars as near as possible; we have none killed or wounded, though we have taken up on our decks near a hundred small shot. I imagine the Chief Mate will send Capt. M—I as minute an account of the ship as time will permit of, Capt. Wardell being deprived of that privilege. We know not the fate yet either of the ship or the rice, being about 700 barrels, not being allowed to discharge it or move the ship, on pain of being burnt immediately. Most of our people have left us, and the boy Sam is run away, and is now in the Provincial service, from on board the ship *Unity*. Yours,

F. F—n.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, May 15, 1776.

2. The three men on board the men of war were Captain Joseph Rice, who had been sent by the Council of Safety to execute their order to dismantle all ships in the harbor and had been forcibly detained; Captain Raymond Deméré and Lieutenant Daniel Roberts who had gone under a flag of truce to demand the release of Captain Rice.

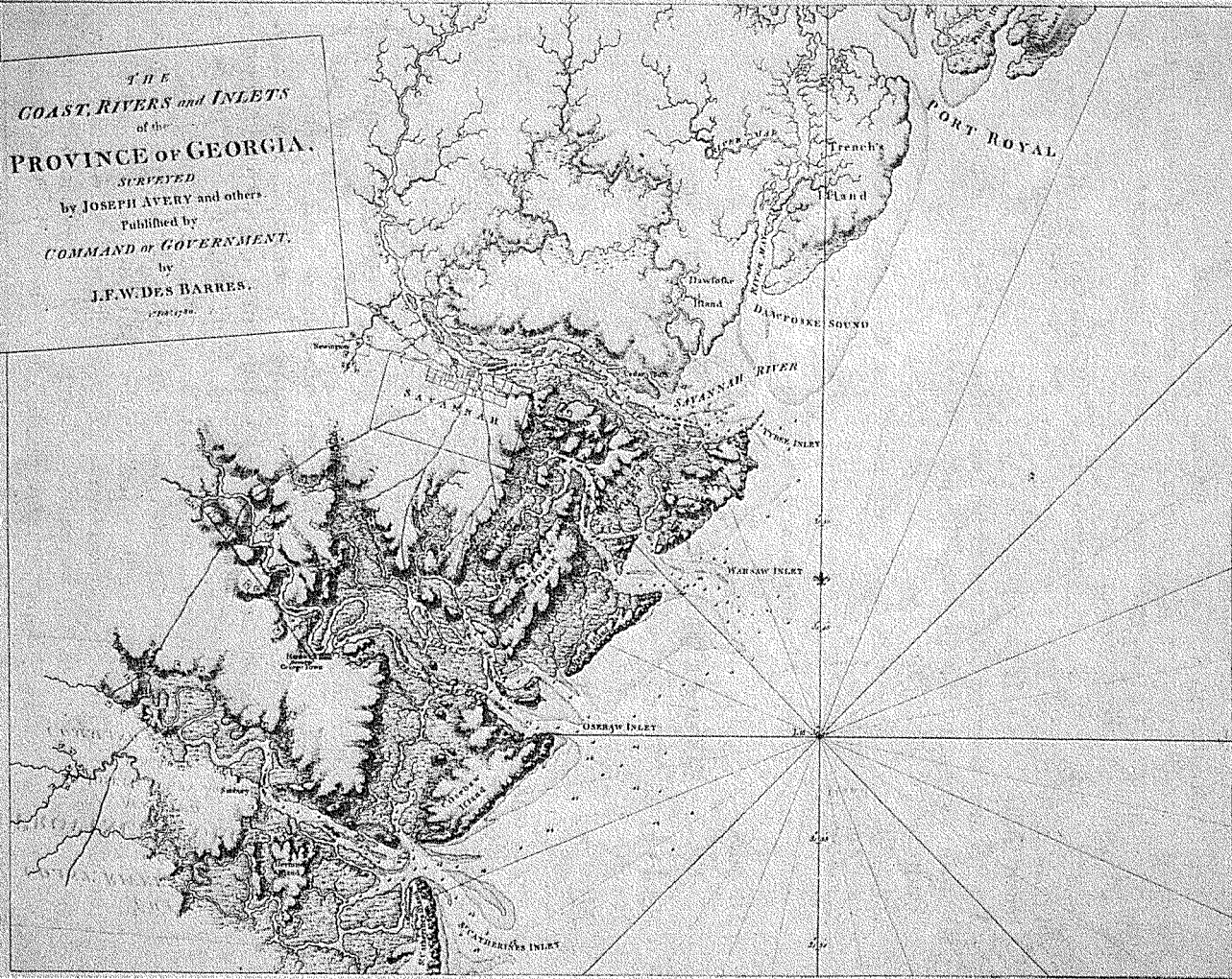
GOVERNOR MONTFORT BROWNE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

My Lord I am now a close Prisoner on board the *Alfred* Frigate belonging to the Americans and prudence in my present distressed situation will not allow me to say more at present, than that I have been tore away from my family at a moment's notice, — I refer your Lordship to Mrs. Browne and to Mr. Chief Justice [Thomas] Atwood for the particulars of what has happen'd

THE
COAST, RIVERS and INLETS
of the
PROVINCE of GEORGIA.

SURVEYED
by JOSEPH AVERY and others.
Published by
COMMAND of GOVERNMENT.

by
J.F.W. DES BARRES.
1765.



to this Colony, my person as well as his Majesty's Garrisons and Stores (Powder only excepted) has been shamefully betrayed to the Enemy; —

I have requested the Chief Justice and Mrs. Browne to forward without loss of time the minutes of Council, etc. to your Lordship; I write in the greatest haste and dread that these few lines may be intercepted, as I have innumerable Senterys over me.²

I am My Lord Your Lordship's [&c.]

From on Board the *Alfred* }
frigate March 17, 1776 }

Montfort: Browne

P.S. I have been cruelly treated by a few here. I have saved his Majesty's Powder by sending it at the nick of time to St. Augustine

[Endorsed] R. 15th June

1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XLIX, 366. Browne was governor of the Bahama Islands.

2. 'Trevett's Journal, NHS, reads: "I kept him [Governor Montfort Browne] safe until our Fleet ready for sea. Then I had orders to wait him down to the barge, and we brought him to New-London with 2 more gentlemen, passengers, who were prisoners."

18 Mar.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

Halifax 18th March 1776

No. 61

My Lord. As by the last Intelligence from Boston, the General Informs; That there was great probability, that the Rebels woud attempt the Reduction of this Province, early in the Spring, I thought it an essential Duty in me, to use my Utmost Endeavours, to collect all the Force that could possibly be Muster'd, within this Province to oppose their attempts. . . .

The number of Families from the Continent hath been much fewer than I expected, it seems, the Rebels took every Method to prevent their coming, by Stopping all their Vessels, and Seizing their Effects so that the Friends of Government among them, have in amanner been Totally ruin'd, those who came here early took the opportunity, and bringing with them their Vessels and Effects, have most of them been Employ'd in the Fishery, and in Trade, so that their demands on Government, have been trifling, not above three Families have applied for Relief, which I have Order'd Agreeable to His Majesty's Instructions, and have not as yet drawn for more than One hundred pounds on the Treasury; but the last letter from General How[e], informs me, that two hundred Families will Embark from Boston to this place, among whom are many necessitous, which will distress us greatly, as Provision is not to be, purchas'd on any Account, the small Supplies we have had for the support of the Town, has been from Boston and the West Indies; I hope therefore the Provision I wrote for to be sent here in my Letter No 52, wherein I have more fully explain'd the Circumstances of this Province, has been thought an essential Measure, and that it will soon arrive, and relieve us from that Scene of Distress, which is likely soon to take place here.

I inclos'd in my Letter No 58 Several Memorials from the Inhabitants of Cumberland, and other places; by Advices since receiv'd from thence, We are inform'd, that the Inhabitants there, have had Meetings and Consultations of a very treasonable and alarming nature, that there has been persons among them from the Continent, and that about fourteen of the Inhabitants had gone to New England, suppos'd with an intent to Invite the Rebels into this Province, these matters I laid before the Council, and it was by them advis'd that application be made for three hundred Men to March into that District, to Support the Authority of the Crown and for the Security of such as were well attach'd to Government, this General [Eyre] Massey thought he could not Comply with, as it would be greatly lessening the defence of the Naval Yard, but has at last agreed to send a Captain with fifty Men, who are to Sail for that place, as soon as the Navigation of the Bay is Clear of Ice.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, DAC Photocopy.

JONATHAN JACKSON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.¹

Newburyport 18th March 1776

Immediately after the date of the beforementioned Letter, Capt Hodge who was the Bearer of it, set out for to deliver it, but met with some of the Council who informed him that the honble Board were adjourn'd upon which he returned home – the Committee after some Delay procured an Agent to supply Capt [Jeremiah] Obrien & he is now nearly fitted for Sea² – they wou'd still beg your Honour's Direction whether Capt Obrien shou'd depart hence without his full Complement of Men which it does not appear probable he can procure in this place –
P Order of the Committee

Jon^a Jackson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 302.

2. Captain of the armed sloop *Machias Liberty*, formerly the British tender *Margaretta*, taken by O'Brien and a sloop-full of men from *Machias* on June 12, 1775. See Volume 1.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM LITTLEDALE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.¹

William Littledale Commander of the Snow *James* from Whitehaven brot into this port sometime since by the Privateer *Yankee Hero*, begs of the honble Council the Liberty to transport himself & Son & four Apprentices, & the rest of his Crew to Great Britain, in a small Vessell he proposes to purchase for that purpose – This he is emboldened to ask of your Honours, as you have given the like Liberty to others in his Situation –

William Littledale

Newburyport 18th March 1776.

[Endorsed]

In Council March 22d 1776 Read & committed to Jas Prescott, Charles Chauncy & Joseph Palmer Esqrs – Perez Morton D Secy

In Council March 23d 1776 Ordered that the Petitioner have leave to withdraw his Petition – Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 209, NA Photocopy.

COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SANDWICH
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Sir I have it in Command from His Excellency the General, to tell you that the Men of War's Men at Sandwich, who are prisoners, had better be removed to Some Secure Goal where they may be taken Care of

Plimouth he is informed, is As Convenient a place as any, wherever you place them it will be right, that a proper watch be kept Lest they may escape I am Sir [&c.]

Cambridge 18th March 1776

Stephen Moylan ADC

1. PS.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

[Extract]

Watertown, March. 18, 1776 -

I received your Favor of the 6th Instant, am Glad to hear more Powder is arrived at Philadelphia . . . I am very sorry to Inform you that I cannot find that we have any Oar [ore] in this Province that will do to make Cannon - I applied some time ago to the Owners of the Furnace at Providence to make the Cannon for the Ships Building in this Province, but they sent me word that they could not supply me, as they had Engaged to make as many for the Colony of Rhode Island as they could possibly finish by the time they would be wanted, and Mr Durfy has been there lately to procure Some & finds those they have made prove to be bad; they have made some Since but have not as yet proved them, they hope they will answer. I can expect no Supply from that Quarter & therefore if pigs Cannot be sent from Philadelphia we must have the Cannon from thence, and therefore should be glad you would immediately Inform me Whether Cannon Can be had from Philadelphia New York or Maryland & how Soon - Mr [Aaron] Hobart is Building an Air Furnace but is so Slow in his Motions that I fear whether he will be able to make the Cannon Seasonably. he designs to use sea Coal in his Air furnace, he has engaged one hundred Tons, thro my interposition, at Plimouth which will be handy for him. People here think you are mistaken in apprehending that Pig Iron is not so good as Oar. They say Vast Quantities have been transported from America to Great Britain for the Purpose of making Cannon - our Ships are Going on very fast,² as many Men are Employed about them As Can possibly be of any Service - I have been very lucky in getting Hemp, as also a Number of large Anchors that weigh from 25 lb to 31 lb weight which our People have lately taken from the Men of Warr. The British Troops have evacuated the Town of Boston in great precipitation & in a very ignominious Manner but upon this subject must refer you to Mr Hancock, to whom I have wrote p this Conveyance - A Detachment of our Troops have gone into

Boston and this Day General Washington & his Suit[e] dined with Captain Erving – in great haste I remain [&c.]

T Cushing –

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. The two Continental frigates building at Newburyport.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Monday, March 18, 1776

a Bill for repealing an Act made & passed by the Great & General Court at their Session in February last, intituled an Act for encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coast of America, and for erecting a Court to try and condemn all Vessels [that] shall be found infesting the same–

Having passed the House of Representatives to be Engrossed–

In Council Read a Second time and passed a Concurrence to be Engrossed.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 663, 664.

WILLIAM WATSON to COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir

Plymouth 18 March 1776.

In obedience to His Excellencys Commands I have inclosed an Inventory of the stores belonging to the Continent taken from on board the Schooner *Harrison*, which stores are safely housed & shall be taken particular care of: –

I inclose also Mess [James] Hall & Grindale [Jonathan Grindal] Paroles, which hope will be agreeable; I had no form, & am perfectly unacquainted with matters of this nature, wish therefore that any Inacuracys in the draughting may be excused. –

Capt [Charles] Dyar will inform His Excellency that he has inlisted 36 men for the sea Service, and will wait on his Excellency for orders respecting them

I shall get the *Harrisons* account in order as soon as possible, & will when compleated transmitt them to Head Quarters. I have settled with Mr [Daniel] Adams the owner of the Schooner & have paid him the Ballance, after deducting the 156 dollars you mention I am Sir [&c.]

Will^m Watson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

Newport, March 18.

Last Tuesday [March 12] as a freight boat was coming from Updike's Newtown to this place, the ministerial fleet lying up the Bay, took out a quantity of butter and poultry, and the week before they took out of the same boat about 20 barrels of cider:

Last Wednesday some men from the ministerial fleet landed on the

Bonnet at North-Kingstown, where they killed 3 cows, big with calf, two of which they carried off, but a few men appearing, they were obliged to leave the other behind.

Last week a ship of three hundred tons, loaded with coals, potatoes, porter, raisins, dry goods, and 33 live hogs, was taken near the Vineyard, by a schooner and several whale boats, who lightened her of about half her cargo, and then carried her into Bedford: She had about 20 hands and was bound to Boston, but had been to New-York.¹

On Friday, as Messrs. Hubbard and Reed, of this town, millers, were coming down the river in a boat, with a quantity of corn for the use of the inhabitants here, they were taken by the ministerial fleet, notwithstanding the truce with this town.

In the late storm, a large sloop laden with naval stores, &c. from Virginia for New-York, which had been taken by the *Asia*, and ordered to Boston, was cast away at the Vineyard.

1. The *Harriot*, Weymes Orrock, master.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

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

March 18th, 1776.

Elias Nixsen, the port master, showed a list of articles to be carried on board of the ships of war and Governor Tryon's ship. He was informed that he might take them with him on board. He was also informed that he was permitted to bring on shore a list of all the letters on board in the mail for citizens of New-York, [and] any of the said letters which he might be requested by the citizens to bring on shore; but that he must produce all such letters as he may bring on shore to Mr. [Joseph] Hallett and Mr. [Comfort] Sands, for their inspection, before he delivers them out.

The petition [of] Mr. Bernard Romans, attending at the door, was read and filed, and he was called in. He assigns such reasons as he could give for his absence, and for the charges he had made in his account against this colony. After he was heard, he withdrew.

Ordered, That Mr. [John] Berrien be requested to attend here at 4 o'clock this afternoon. to give information as [to] the moneys by him charged as advanced for Bernard Romans.

A letter from John Chatfield, Esqr. chairman of the committee of East Hampton, was read in the words following, to wit:

Easthampton, March 11th, 1776.

Gent. — On Wednesday, the 6th instant, the ship *Sally* (that belonged to Mr. Samuel Franklin, of New-York, and taken by the men of war at New-York and sent for Boston) was driven on shore in a gale of wind at Montauk. The committee of Easthampton ordered the commander, vizt. Charles Smith, mate of the *Asia* man of war, and Mr. Young, of Philadelphia, Mr. Elder, and Mr. McDermott, who say they were passengers on board the ship,

and that they were bound to Boston to procure a passage home to England; also Mr. Woolcomb, who was mate of a transport lately taken at Amboy, and served as mate of this ship, and ten seamen that belong to the *Asia*; all which persons we sent to New-York under a guard commanded by Lieut. John Foster, in the minute service. We also send you by Lieut. Foster, all the letters and papers that we could procure from on board her. We have employed a number of men to endeavour to save as much of the sails, rigging, &c. as possible; her cargo, being salt, is all lost, and expect to save very little of the ship, as she lies upon rocks, with the surf continually breaking upon her. We are [&c.]

Signed by order and in behalf of
the committee of East Hampton.

The examinations of the prisoners, taken before the committee of East Hampton, were read, and are in the words following, to wit:

The examination of Mr. John Young, who saith that he was born in Philadelphia, has been in New-York about a week, took a passage in the ship *Sally* for Boston, in order to get a passage to London, and there were only ten muskets put on board the ship *Sally*; and that Capt. [Charles] Smith have a number of guns overboard after the ship got on shore, but don't know how many.²

The examination of Mr. Wm. Elder, who saith, he was born in Scotland, and came into this country about the first of May last, and that he had no recommendations to Rhode Island or Boston, and that he was on board the *Asia* about three weeks.

The examination of Mr. Wm. McDermott, who saith, he was born in Ireland, has been in America about five years; has been a lieutenant in the 47th regiment; had sold his commission about eighteen months ago; and that he was bound to Rhode Island or Boston to get a passage home.

The examination of Joseph Wolcomb, who saith, he was born in England; has been in this country about four years; came last mate of a transport taken at Amboy,³ and had been on board the *Asia* about a fortnight.

Thomas Lambo, Willm Hatch, Robert Craw, Wm. Philips, Rowland Walter, Hugh Hall and Patrick Pendergrass all say that they belong to the ship *Asia*, Capt. Vandeput.

The above examinations were taken before the committee of Easthampton

Attest.

John Chatfield, Chairman.

A number of letters taken from on board of the ship *Sally*, some from Governor Tryon, Captain Parker and others, to Genl. How and other persons at Boston, were transmitted by the said committee with the prisoners taken from on board of the said ship, were filed.

Die Lunae, 4 HO. P.M. March 18, 1776.

Mr. Oliver Templeton applied for liberty to go on board the ship *Phoenix*, to obtain leave of Capt. Parker for his vessel, laded by order of the Continental Congress, to go to sea.

An oath was administered to Mr. Templeton in the words following:

You do solemnly swear on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that you will not give an intelligence or information whatever to any person or persons on board of the ships of war in this harbour, or on board of Governour Tryon's ship, or the packet or any of them, relative to any fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony; and that you will not carry on board any or either of the said vessels, or deliver to any person on board of or belonging to the said vessels any letter or paper writing until you shall have read the same, and know that it does not contain any information relative to the said fortifications, or any of them: so help you God.

Ordered, That Mr. Oliver Templeton be, and he is hereby, permitted to go on board His Majestys ship *Phoenix*, with the port master, and to return, he having been previously sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

The committee took into consideration the case of John Young, brought from East Hampton, now a prisoner at the barracks, and the letters and examinations relating to him, and thereupon made the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That John Young, a native, and the son of a gentleman of Philadelphia, who, contrary to the will of his father, has entered as a volunteer into the ministerial service, and is now in custody in the barracks of this city, be safely conveyed to Philadelphia, together with certified copies of the several letters of recommendation found upon him in his passage to Boston; and the Right Honourable the Earl of Stirling is hereby requested to supply such guard and furnish such other necessary means for the safe conveyance of the said John Young to Philadelphia so as his Lordship shall think proper.

A draft of a letter to the committee at Philadelphia was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, New-York, March 18th, 1776.

Gentn. — The unhappy excursions of the son of any gentleman friendly to the general interests of America give us great pain. Upon the subject of Mr. Young, we thought the best thing we could do, would be, to secure his conveyance to your committee, not doubting that the good sense of the parent, cooperating with filial piety, will bring the young gentleman to a proper sense of his

T H E
S P E E C H
Of WILLIAM TR--N, Esq;

Who was executed on Thursday the 18th of March, 1776.

REBELS and TRAITORS behold me now, and take warning by this my deserved Death.---Had I but have tarried in my *Native Country*, when there last, I might, for a little while longer, have escaped this ignominious Death; but by the Persuasion of *Bute* and the *Devil*, I returned to America, to pursue my old Practice of shedding the Blood of the Innocent, the Fatherless and Widow.---But, alas, the *Devil* hath forsaken me, as he will all such Traitors; wherefore I beseech you *Gage*, *Burgoyne*, *Howe*, *Clinton*, *Dunmore*, and *Vandeput*, and many more of such like infernal Acquaintance, to quit the Steps you are now treading, and let my shameful End be the Means of turning you from following the damnable Advice of North and a cursed Ministry, or you will, when too late, curse the first Moment you ever listened to them. On Account of my innumerable Treacheries to this much injured Country, I cannot expect the Prayers of any good People; nor have I the least Hopes of my own Prayers being heard, so I die only in Expectation of meeting my before-mentioned Acquaintance, and some others of the same Kind, in a Hell only fitting for such infernal Wretches as they and myself.

duty. We enclose the papers necessary to elucidate his case, and are [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Safety.

To the Genl. Committee of Assn.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted; and the Secretaries prepare and enclose therein copies of the sundry letters and papers brought from East Hampton, which relate to the said John Young.⁴

Captain Wyncoop attended the Committee and informed that, in pursuance of the directions of the Provincial Congress, given to him on [March 16, 1776] last, he had called on Major [William] Douglass and delivered to him a copy of General Schuyler's letter of the [8th] instant, relating to the service on the lakes; that Major Douglass declined giving him any definite answer on that subject, and intimated that if he did undertake that service he would not be able to attend it sooner than two months hence.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to Major Douglass was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, New-York, March 18th, 1776.

Sir – A gentleman engaged in the public service should be always ready to determine upon any question of service submitted to his option. Mr. Wyncoop, we are informed, communicated to you the copy of a letter from Major-General Schuyler; from which it appears that the Continental Congress has reserved for you the office of commodore on the lakes, and designated Capt. Wyncoop for service under you in that department. The General has recommended Mr. Wyncoop to that command, in case of your refusal. Lest you should have forgot the contents of the general's letter, we enclose you a copy of it. We request your immediate answer. If you accept of the appointment, we expect you will stand ready at a minute's notice for the execution of duty, whenever the service requires it. We are, sir [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Safety.

To Major Douglass.

1. *New-York Provincial Congress*, I, 369–72.

2. *Ibid.*, II, 156–57, John Young writes:

A journal of the most important occurrences of my life; beginning in my nineteenth year, when I first commenced a citizen of the world.

Having long abhorred the new form of government erecting in America on the ruins of the Constitution of my country, and disdaining to submit to it on the 24th January, 1776, I set off, in company with my friend Mr. [Benjamin] Boynton, from Philadelphia, the place of our birth, for New-York, where two British men of war then lay. Having previously procured a few clothes and other necessaries, and hired horses, we mounted about 7 in the morning, with our portmanteaus behind us, and about £20 in our pockets; with all which we arrived safe the following evening at Powle's [Paulus] Hook ferry, on the North river, opposite New York, where we were obliged to leave our horses, the horse boats having been all pressed to transport the Jersey troops, who were then returning from disarming the Royalists on Long island. We got to Hull's tavern in New-York, about eight o'clock in the evening, where we passed the night. The next morning, after breakfast, we went to the Fly

Market ferry, and desired one of the watermen to put us on board the *Asia*, but he refused taking us unless we obtained a permit from the committee; We accordingly went to the house of the chairman, who was not at home. After this disappointment, we sauntered down upon one of the wharves, rather with a view to pass away the time till the chairman should return, than any thing else. While we were in this situation, a well dressed man came down to us, and asked us if we wanted to go on board the Governour's ship, (which lay opposite, moored astern of the *phoenix*.) we told him that we had a little business with the Governor and would be very glad to go, had we but an opportunity. He then informed us, that he was himself going on board, and that we might go with him. He immediately hailed the ship, and a boat being sent to us, we stepped in with joyful hearts, and were in a few minutes on board. This gentleman, to whom we were so much indebted, was Major [Robert] Rogers, who was then a prisoner in New-York on parol; He was so obliging as to present us to the Governor, who treated us with the greatest hospitality and politeness. We dined with him that day, and in the evening went on board the *Phoenix*.

3. The *Blue Mountain Valley*.

4. Including two pleading letters from his father, January 29 and 30, 1776.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

New-York, March 18.

By a Letter from St.Eustatia of the 22d of February, we learn, That Part of the Fleet of Transports that was blown off this Coast last Fall passed by that Island the Day before, under Convoy of the *Viper* Sloop of War; and that the Remainder, about 20 Sail, were to follow the next Day, under Convoy of his Majesty's Ship the *Experiment* of 50 Guns; that Provisions were very scarce and dear in the West-Indies, Flour being no less than 9d. per lb. at Coracoa, and all other Sorts of American Produce in Proportion.

A very fine, and almost new Ship, loaded with Salt, lately seized in this Port, by his Majesty's Ships on this Station, and ordered for Boston, was, on Wednesday, the 6th Inst. cast away on the Rocks on Montock Point, at the East End of Long-Island; the vessel is entirely bilged, and the Salt all run out; the People had great Difficulty to save their Lives; some of them being much bruised when taken out of the Water. There were 14 Men and an Officer on board who are all properly secured.¹

1. The ship *Sally*, John Bagley, master, originally from Alicante to New York, seized February 3 by H.M.S. *Phoenix*, PRO, Admiralty 51/693. She was the property of Samuel Franklin, a New York merchant.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

March 1776

Moor'd off Bedlows Island

Monday 18 A M Long Boat & Cutter Watering came on board Wm Phillips; Seaman & gave an Account of the Ship *Sally* being cast away on the East end of Long Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

[Advertisement]

To be sold at public Vendue in Elizabeth-Town,
On Monday the 18th instant, (by persons appointed for that purpose,)

the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, with all her tackle, apparel and cargo, consisting of a quantity of excellent New Castle coal, a quantity of London porter, beans, peas, bread, flour, beef, pork, cannon, powder, and a number of articles too tedious to mention, the vendue will begin at ten o'clock in the forenoon, when the conditions will be made known. — The coal will be first sold, and the vendue continue from day to day till all is sold.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday 18 March the Congress was again in Comee on the privateering Business, several Resoluts were come to after an able Debate — by the first, Leave is to be given to commission Privateers and Letters of Marque to cruize on British Property the Vote stood thus, For the Resolution New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, N York, Virginia and North Carolina, against it Pennsa and Maryland, the other Colonies not sufficiently represented to vote, Ireland was excepted & the other British Domins with the Consent of all but [Samuel] Chase & myself (it appearing to me very absurd to make War upon Part only of the Subjects & especially after the Irish Parl[iament] had declared decisively agt Us). Leave for the Comee to sit again on the same Affair

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a, 18th March, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Thomas Forrest be allowed a Drummer and Fifer to his Company of Marines, to be employed on board the floating Battery.

Resolved, That Commodore [Andrew] Caldwell order Capt. [Charles] Alexander, & Lieut [John] Hennessy on the Recruiting Service to New York, agreeable to the Instructions of this Board.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 519, 520.

ALEXANDER WILCOCKS TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philadelphia, 10th [*sic* 18th] March, 1776.

Gentlemen — The naval armament that is preparing for the defence of this Province requiring a considerable number of seamen, more than can be raised in this city, this committee has thought it advisable to send Capt. Chas. Alexander and Lieut. John Hennessey, two of the officers of our armed boats, to recruit a number of seamen for the naval service of this Province. The committee has been induced to take this measure in consequence of information it has received that there are a great many sailors in the city of New-York destitute of any employment by reason of the entire stop put to trade by the late act of Parliament, and that there is danger that

they may enter on board the men of war if means are not taken to engage them in the service of the Colonies.

This committee begs leave to recommend to your countenance the above mentioned gentlemen, and trust you will give them any assistance that may be necessary to enable them to execute the business entrusted to them.

By order of the committee [&c.]

Alex. Wilcocks, Chairman.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 149, where it is misdated by the editor March 10, 1776. Wilcocks was chairman of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract]

Ph[iladelphi]a 18th March 1776 Monday

... The Difficulties and objections to reconciliation & dependance are every day encreasing – the restraining bill, or rather the bill for confiscating american property, breaths such a Spirit of depredation & revenge, that I am satisfied peace with G.B. is at a great distance, & Dependence out of the question. These Colonies will never again be dependent on G B – neither side is as yet disposed to make peace, and the longer the war continues the greater will be the animosity of the contending powers, all affection will be eradicated; distrust & hatred will take place of former confidence & friendship: in short neither interest nor inclination will lead us to our former Dependence: such a dependence as heretofore subsisted cannot again subsist – we must either be totally independent, or totally dependent, or in other words entirely subdued and reduced to the condition of a conquered People to be kept under & made subordinate to G B. I am fully convinced G B has not the means of reducing us to this abject condition; if she is wise she will, before the war proceeds to greater lengths and enganders incurable hatred, she will I say adopt the advice of Dean Tucker,² declare these Colonies independent & guarantee their independance against all powers; such a step will induce the Colonies, added to other causes to trade principally with GB.

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

2. Josiah Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, England.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA DATED 18TH MARCH 1776.”¹

We are all hearty and in good Spirits. The People from the Country are coming in and enlisting daily. On the 16th February Francis Proctor with Seventy Montrosses Sailed for Carolina in a Brig.²

On the 17th Fleet Sailed from the Old Kill Road; the Pilot left them about three Leagues distance from the False Cape, Steering to the Southward.

On the 27th a French Tartan arrived with Arms and Powder, a Brig belonging to one Hodges of this place with 300 Stand of Arms 24 Tons of Powder and Linnen from Amsterdam.

Our floating Battery is Launched, she is to mount Eighteen 9 Pounders, 200 Men and 18 Oars to be Stationed at the Fort, where Two Piers is to be sunk to swing the Chain, A Brig and three New York Pilot Boats arrived with Powder, the Brig was a Sloop Lengthened at New York, she is purchased by the Congress to carry 110 Men and to Mount Sixteen 4 Pounders and 16 Oars.³ They have been trying the River to Sink Shiver De Frioux at Marcut's Hook. The association Act does not take the effect they expected, they talk of a Convention and lay aside the Assembly but it is opposed.

... There is a great many people who want to get on board His Majesty's Ships if they could tell how. they go on very brisk with their Frigates, the Guardship will be launched next week, she that belonged to New York is now called the *Lexington* Captain Barbut;⁴ I believe she will not be readily manned, if the people could get any encouragement to go into His Majesty's Service and be sure of a Discharge at the end of the Troubles, for a great many has engaged out of necessity, but are very unwilling. They have used the Prisoners very ill that was taken at Egg Harbour; put five of them in a Dungeon in Irons.

... They expect many Vessels and there is several going out to Sea. There is a great many New England Vessels here for Flour and other Provisions, which will be ready to Sail next week, I wish we could have a Cruizer or two to intercept them.

1. Enclosure No. 6 in Vice Admiral Shulldham to Philip Stéphens, May 20, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. "30th [March 1776] 250 Dollars a Bill of the Commee of Safety 17 Jany 1776 by Tho Lynch Chris Gadsden & E. Rutledge to Willing & Morris endorsed to John Dorsius being for expences of Mr. [Francis] Proctor with 35 Recruits for the Artillary-directed to be paid by the Treasurers," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 210.
3. The brig *Wild Duck*, James Tibbett, master.
4. Captain John Barry.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

Philadelphia, March 18.

By a gentleman from Annapolis we learn, that the *Otter* sloop of war, and five tenders went up to Annapolis in quest of provisions, which he requested by letter to the Governor, but was plumply refused by the people; that his arrival there had much frightened the women and children in Annapolis, so that the town was entirely deserted by them. — The *Otter* then proceeded towards Baltimore, and in her way fell in with a ship loaded with flour, bound out, which had run ashore, but not being able to get her off, the people of Baltimore pushed off their armed ship, retook the flour loaded ship, got her off, and brought her back. — The *Otter* and her five tenders lay in sight a great part of the time.

The sloop *Joseph*, Captain Raddon, from this port for Georgia, three days after leaving our Capes was taken by the *Gen. Gage* privateer from Boston, who, the next day took a sloop from Dominica for the northward, on board of which they put five seamen, and Mr. [James] McKnight, Capt. Radon's mate, and ordered her into Virginia; but Mr. McKnight stood for our

Capes, which missing, he ran the sloop on shore at Egg Harbour, where he delivered the five seamen into the hands of the Committee.

By Capt. Waterman from Dartmouth we learn, that Capt. [George] Dawson in an armed brig of 18 guns (formerly the *Sea Nymph* of this port, but since stolen and fitted out by our enemies at Boston)¹ came out in order to decoy our privateers, when two of them, a sloop and a schooner, from Plymouth, pursued her, on which a smart engagement ensued, which lasted upwards of an hour, when the sloop's powder being expended, and night coming on, they returned to port, without any loss, except a few holes through their sails, and two or three men slightly wounded – what damage the brig received is not known, but no doubt some, as she thought it most prudent to return to her den.

1. H.M. Brig *Hope*.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 18 March 1776 –

A Reply to the Address from this Committee to Capt Jas Nicholson was delivered in, and ordered to be printed in the Papers together with the Address –

Permissions were granted to John Abbott & John Martin Baker [t]o depart with their two Vessels N15 & 16 taken up for the Publick Use at Whetstone Point, they having produced Certificates, that said Vessels were not wanted –

Capt James Philips is directed by the Committee to superintend and oversee the compleating of whatever is wanting about the Cannon now mounting at Fells Point, & to employ whatever Carpenters, Blacksmiths, or other Trades People are wanting to compleat the said Business & collect the Account of all such Works, and deliver them into the Committee, for which Service Capt Philips shall be paid by the Committee –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

15th [March
to 18th March]

Having received information of several Vessels being up James River and a quantity of Provisions and Stock on a Farm, that were intended for the Rebel Army, I sent a party of Men on board one of the Prizes, which joined another fitted by the *Liverpool*, having also on board a party of the 14th Regimt and dispatched them upon that Service. The Wind and Weather at first getting out was very favorable but the Night proving Foggy they had the misfortune to run aground just under one of the Rebel Guard Houses and being ebb tide, only one of the Schooners could be got off, which they effected under a hot fire from the Enemy. They however took out all the Guns and Ammunition and set fire to the

Vessel, when they found they could not get her off, after which they proceeded up the River, took a considerable number of Cattle a Sloop and two Schooners, the former laden with different sorts of Merchandize and returned to the Fleet the 18th

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO THOMAS PARKIN¹

On Board the *Palliser* Transport
Cape Fear River the 18th March 1776

Thos Parkin Esqr Dy Commissary General

having been informed since my arrival that a quantity of Rice has been sent into this River in Vessels taken by His Majestys Ships & Cruizers upon the Coast, and as this Article will be much wanted for the use of the Troops under my Command – I am to desire, you will purchase the whole or such part thereof as can be had on the best terms you can obtain, acquainting me with Your proceedings herein I am &c

H Clinton

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Saint John Schooner St Augustine Harbour

Sir

18th March 1776

As the Snow *Elizabeth* Abraham Figtree sails immediately from this Port for London, I take the Liberty to beg that you will be pleased to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admty the inclosed Copy of my last Letter to the Admiral or Commander in Chief in North America, acquainting them with a most disagreeable Event on my Station, as the Packet was sailing on my arrival off this Barr with the Powder, I could not be more explicit on the Subject, I therefore beg leave Sir to Trouble you with a few occurrences on that Event.

On the Appearance of the Fleet off Providence I prepared for resistance and Stationed the *St John* in the Channel where they were expected to enter to approach the town, and by requisitions made by the Governor and Council, I removed the Schooner from that to several other Stations most likely to annoy and Gall their Troops on their March to Town, all our Guns loaded with grape & small Shot and moved within Pistol Shot of the only pass they could enter the Town; afterwards by the same request transported and Mo[o]red with her broad side to cover the Entrance of the Fort –

Upon the Rebels landing the Governor sent a Message to know their Business and received for Answer that they were come here to carry off the Powder and destroy the Kings Schooner which was their Orders and which they were determined to execute. The Governor and Council conceived the Rebel force to be considerable and the people of New Providence not to be depended on and were of opinion that under these circumstances the best

Step to be taken was to carry off the Powder with the Schooner which we effected with some difficulty. Upon my arrival at Saint Augustine I dispatched a Sloop immediately with intelligence of it to the commanding officer at Georgia and South Carolina and to Captn Buckly [Andrew Barkley] of the *Scarborough* then at Savannah as I am informed they saild from the Delaware in January and that they are destined either for Pensacola or some of the West India Islands to procure Powder.

It will be a particular happiness to me to be any ways instrumental in the distruction of the Rebel Fleet and armament – I have a just sense of your Favours and wish to be able to give you the strongest proofs of that esteem and regard with which I am &c

W^m Grant

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 51b.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS' SAILING ORDERS FROM NEW PROVIDENCE ¹

Sir You are to keep Company with the Ship I am in if possible – but should you Separate by accident you are then to make the best of your way to Block Island Channel, and there to Cruise in 30 fathom Water South from Block Island six days in order to join the Fleet.

If they do not join you in that time you may Cruise in Such places as you think will most annoy the Enemy, or go in Port as you think fit and acquaint me by the first Opportunity so that you may Receive further Orders.

Ship *Alfred* March 18th 1776

E.H. Cr in Chief

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT ELISHA HINMAN ¹

Sir

You being appointed Master of the Sloop *Endeavour*, you are to keep Company with the Fleet till further Orders – but if you should loose Company you are to use your best endeavours to get into Providence – if you cant get in there you are to go in on the East Side of Rhode Island, Howlands Ferry under the Fort, or into New London – And wherever you get in to port, you are to Land your Guns and Stores, and send to Governor Nicholas Cook at Providence, or Governor Trumbull for further Orders till you hear from me.

Ship *Alfred* March 18th 1776

E.H. Cr in Chief

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE DARTMOUTH COMMITTEE ¹

On board the *Alfred* March 18th, 1776

Gentlemen I understand by Captn Jennings ² that you was in want of Guns, and I have Sent by him two 9 lb Guns and some Shot which please to accept and make such use of them as you think best – And if Opportunity permits send the Shot he has onboard that are too big for your Guns to

Providence or Howlands Ferry and you will Oblige you[r] and Your Countrys Friend

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Probably master of one of the vessels which happened into New Providence during the American occupation. See journal of the *Wasp*, March 9. to March 16, 1776.

19 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE¹

March 1776 Remarks &c, In Quebec

Tuesday 19 pm saw a Battoe cross the River from Wolfes Cove to the other Side where they Erected a pier as we supposed to get a Gun out Launch'd 3 Batteaus one with a 3 pounder & Swivel & one with a 3 pounder & the *Lizards* Pinnacle & Cutter & sent them Armed up the River but they return'd after being about 3 hours not being able to gain the opposite Shore for the Ice

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Exeter] Tuesday, March 19th, 1776.

Voted, That Noah Emery Junr be and hereby is appointed forthwith to repair to the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, and request of the Honble Benjamin Greenleaf Esqr at Newbury Port, the Honble Timothy Pickering Esqr at Salem, or any other Gentleman furnished therewith, to Favour this Colony with copies of the Acts of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay lately made relative to the seizing & condemning Vessells infesting our Sea-Coasts; also Copies of the Commissions given to Judges and Registers of the Admiralty.

The Committee appointed to lay Capt. Eliphalet Ladd under proper restrictions, &c., made the following Report, viz:

Provided this Honble Court think it adviseable to give Capt. Ladd permission to Prosecute a voyage to the West Indias in a private capacity, we are of opinion that it is absolutely Necessary he should be laid under the following restrictions, viz:

1st That he shall Exert himself to the utmost of his Power to Procure Powder, Arms, Salt-Petre, Sulphur & German Steel.

2d That he shall proceed to no other ports but those that are Foreign, Beginning at St. Lucia and Ending at Hispaniola.

3d That if he will agree to comply with the first request, he may be permitted to load on board such produce as is not forbid by the Continental Congress, giving this Court or a Committee appointed by them sufficient bonds for his performing the abovesd voyage.

4th That he shall not be permitted to purchase with the Net proceeds of his Cargo, any of the Produce of the West Indies, If Powder, Arms, Salt-Petre, Sulphur & Steel can be had at any of the ports aforesaid; but if at the

first, second or third Island, he cannot sell his Cargo, and those articles can be had there and at no other port, he must Proceed from the Island he may sell at after he has received his Cash & purchase the same – he must leave no stone unturn'd to accomplish this End – and when Performed he must proceed home here and give the refusal of the same to this Colony.

Pierce Long, Joseph Wait, Ichabod Rollins.

Which Report being read and considered,

Voted That the same be received, and that Capt. Long, Mr. Rollins & Mr. [Samuel] Cutts be a Committee of this house to join a Committee of the Honble Board to take proper security of Capt. Eliphalet Ladd for his proceeding on the voyage mentioned in the above report under the second Restrictions therein mentioned.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 98, 102–03.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, JR. TO RICHARD DEVENS¹

Sir

Salem March 19. 1776

The selectmen of Salem this day delivered to John [Jeremiah] Obrien two hundred pounds of powder for the use of the privateers *Diligent & Machias Liberty* in the service of this colony, as will appear by the inclosed receipt. The said Obrien shewed us a letter from Francis Abbot written for you as Commissary General, to Richd Derby jr Esqr requesting him to furnish Obrien with that quantity of powder; but as the town had purchased the whole his vessel brought home, Obrien applied to us; and as the necessity appeared to be urgent we supplied him upon certain expectation of receiving the same quantity of you when requested, to be delivered at Salem without any expence to the town, or paid for at the price mentioned in the receipt, as the selectmen shd. chuse. Of all which they give you this early notice; & pray that provision may be made for replacing the powder on the shortest notice, if they should judge it necessary for the town's safety. I am, sir, [&c.]

By order of the Select-men

Tim Pickering jr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 294, NA Photocopy.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters Cambridge 19 March 1776

Sir It is with the greatest pleasure I inform you that on Sunday last, the 17th Instant about 9 O'Clock in the forenoon, The Ministerial Army evacuated the Town of Boston, and that the Forces of the United Colonies are now in actual possession thereof. I beg leave to congratulate you Sir, & the honorable Congress on this happy event, and particularly as it was effected without endangering the lives & property of the remaining unhappy Inhabitants. –

I have great reason to imagine their flight was precipitated by the appearance of a Work, which I had Order'd to be thrown up last Saturday



Obverse and reverse of medal awarded to General Washington by Congress to commemorate the British evacuation of Boston.



Night, on an Eminence at Dorchester which lay nearest to Boston Neck, call'd Newks Hill. – The Town, although it has suffer'd greatly is not in so bad a state as I expected to find it, and I have a particular pleasure in being able to inform you Sir, that your house has receiv'd no damage worth mentioning. Your furniture is in tolerable Order and the family pictures are all left entire and untouch'd. – Capt [Isaac] Cazneau takes Charge of the whole until he shall receive further Orders from you. –

As soon as the Ministerial Troops had quitted the Town, I order'd a thousand Men (who had had the Small Pox) under Command of General Putnam to take possession of the Heights, which I shall endeavour to fortify in such a manner as to prevent their return should they attempt it, but as they are still in the Harbour I thought it not prudent to march off with the Main Body of the Army until I should be fully satisfied they had quitted the Coast. – I have therefore only detach'd five Regiments, besides the Rifle Battalion, to New York, and shall keep the remainder here till all Suspicion of their return ceases. –

The Situation in which I found their Works evidently discovered that their retreat was made with the greatest precipitation – They have left their Barracks & other Works of Wood at Bunkers Hill &c all standing, & have destroy'd but a small part of their Lines. – They have also left a number of fine pieces of Cannon, which they first spik'd up, also a very large Iron Mortar, and (as I am inform'd) they have thrown another over the end of your Wharf. – I have employ'd proper Persons to drill the Cannon & doubt not shall save the most of them. – I am not yet able to procure an exact list of all the Stores they have left; as soon as it can be done I shall take care to transmit it to you. From an Estimate of what the Quarter Master Gen'l has already discover'd the Amount will be £25 or 30,000£. –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 537–38, NA.

LIEUTENANT HENRY EDWIN STANHOPE, R.N., TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS
COOKE ¹

Sir

Northampton March 19th 1776

No Opportunity having offered, of writing to Providence; I have not had it in my Power to return You my Thanks, for the Portmanteau You sent me up, & the Bearer of the letter did not perform his Promise, of calling on me, before he return'd I have sent You the enclosed from General Washington, for your Perusal (which I will beg the Favour of you to return) it is in Consequence of my Application to go to Providence, & from his Refusal, I am oblig'd to hire the Bearer to transact my Business I have taken the Liberty of enclosing some Letters to You, which I did, fearing the Jealous part of Mankind would have suspected some Plan; whereas I was sensible that your Name would be a sufficient Sanction for them.

I labour under a very disagreeable Circumstance in Respect of my boarding my Landlord being fearfull as I am sent up by you, whether he will be allowed the Dollar a Week, which is paid for the other Gentlemen;

therefore, to remove his Anxiety for the present, I have been obliged to pay him a Part of my Board, till you can be so good as to satisfy me in that Particular.

You are so obliging as to inform me that Mr Dyar has a Trunk for me, & by my Inventory I find there is a pr of Boots, & Shoes in it therefore, if not trespassing too much on your Kindness, have sent the Key, & should be glad, if you would send them pr Bearer, & the Trunk itself as soon as Convenient I imagine I should get it the sooner, if it was sent thro' Cambridge, as Mr Moylan no doubt will do me the Favour to forward it from thence With many Thanks for your Favour – I beg leave to subscribe myself, [&c.]

H.E.Stanhope ²

P S The letter directed for Mr Barns Treas desired to inclose to you by a fellow Prisoner who will be much obliged if you will forward it.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 307–08.

2. Stanhope, acting lieutenant on board H.M.S. *Glasgow*, was taken prisoner in Newport on November 29, 1775. See Volume 2.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Colony of Rhode Island &c
East Greenwich March 19th 1776

Sir The General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island &c acknowledge with Gratitude the timely Notice you have been pleased to give them of the late Movement of the Ministerial Troops. The necessary Orders have in Consequence thereof been given to the Militia of this Colony to hold themselves in Readiness should any Attack or Lodgment be made here by said Troops. But we must inform your Excellency that the great Number of Troops sent out of this Colony have considerably thinned our Numbers; that the Troops raised and stationed within this Colony have necessitated the Colony to take the Arms out of the Stands of a great Part of the Militia which hath made us greatly deficient in Arms. The singular Situation of this Colony will we hope excite your Excellency's immediate Attention, Rhode Island and the many other Islands in our Bays and Rivers with the extensive Sea-Coast renders it very difficult to defend ourselves against the present ministerial Forces. What our Situation must be if a large armed Force should make a Landing upon Rhode Island or any other Part of the Colony your Excellency may as easily suggest as we can describe. It will we are sure be your Excellency's great Concern to defend every Part of the Continent as far as possible. Should your Excellency see fit to order any Part of the Forces from the Vicinity of Boston to any of the Southern Colonies we would wish your Excellency to order their March through this Colony by the Sea Shore that we might have the Chance of their being present should the Colony be immediately invaded, and whether it may not be necessary that a considerable Force should be immediately stationed here till the Intention of the Enemy can be known. We also submit to your Excellency. We are extremely solicitous of all the Assistance your

Excellency can afford us consistent with the general Good; and doubt not but the utmost Attention will be paid by your Excellency to our peculiarly distressed and dangerous Situation.

At the Request and in Behalf of the General Assembly I subscribe myself [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany March 19th: 1776

On Saturday the 16th Instant two Sloops arrived here, – but that with the heavy Cannon & Shot is not yet come up altho' I desired that she might be brought up as far as the Ice would permit, to take the Advantage of the first fair Wind after the River opened.

The whole of the Batteaus I was ordered to build will be finished in eight Days as far as they can be for Want of pitch and Oakham, which is not yet arrived from New York. – I have however a Sufficiency to transport the Troops now here. . . .

[March 20]

The heavy Cannon arrived this Morning, and they will be moved with all possible Dispatch to Fort George, and from thence as soon as the Lakes are passable – Not a Sailor for the Vessels, nor any Artillery Companies are yet arrived here.

Apprehensive that Difficulties would arise in transporting the Cannon and Military Stores from hence by Land at this Season of the Year when the Roads are almost impassable, and frequently overflowed between this and Fort Edward, I caused ten Batteaus to be [sent,] and happy it is, as the Waters are now out, and many parts of the Road rendered thereby impassable – In the Transportation of these Stores only, considerable more than the Cost of the Batteaus will be saved, Even if the Water had not rendered the Roads useless, they being so very deep that Carriages at the very utmost can carry only half Loads – I hope to be able to venture a Ride to Fort George by the Time the Cannon are moving from here, that they may not be retarded on the Way or on their Arrival at that place should the Lake be open.

If no Sailors come up in Time, I will Man a sufficient Number of the Vessels with Men from the Troops for the present Occasion. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 57–60, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

March 19th, 1776.

Capt. [William] Mercier applied to the Committee of Safety for an order to take 25 water casks from the stores, for the use of a vessel purchased by the marine committee for an armed vessel. Thereupon

Ordered, That Capt. William Mercier have leave to take immediately twenty-five such water casks as he shall choose of those now in store, or yard, near Warren's wharf at Hudson's river, the same being for public use for one of the Colony armed vessels.

The Chairman and Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers informed the Committee that, in pursuance of the direction of the Provincial Congress, of the [11th] day of March instant, they had purchased a sloop to be made an armed vessel for the defence of the trade of this and the neighbouring colonies; that they had agreed to pay the sum of £430 for the said sloop.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay to Captain Anthony Rutgers the sum of four hundred and thirty pounds, to pay for the said vessel, and that the Treasurer take Mr. Rutgers' receipt for the same.

Abraham Lott, Esqr. agent victualler, and Thomas Horsefield, the brewer at Broeklyn ferry, at the door, were admitted. They stated the difficulties attending the sending on board beer to the ships of war, under the attendance of, and with, the port master only; as it happens at times that his other necessary engagements in his duty and going to the ships in the harbour, will not permit him to go at the hours they want his attendance. Mr. Lott and Mr. Horsefield withdrew.

The committee having considered of the said application, are of opinion and determine not to make any alterations in the mode fixed for supplying the ships, or either of them.

Mr. Horsefield was called in and informed of the determination of the committee.

John Murray at the door, was admitted. He requested a permission to send bread on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*. After having fully heard Mr. Murray, the Committee consented that Mr. Murray shall have a permit delivered to the port master, to send five hundred weight of bread on board the said ship, but that he shall not have any further permit until he produces an account of the provisions and stores on board of said ship, for ship's use.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 372.

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

March 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Tuesday 19th P M our Tender *James* brot up and Anchor'd here the *Mary* Brigg from St Kitts Loaded with Rum.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. Brig *Mary*, Anthony Shoemaker, master, John Ellis, owner, from St. Christophers said to be bound for Cork, with 172 hogsheads of rum, Shulldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, March 19, 1776

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the Brig *Lexington*, Captain Barry, with one ton of powder.

Resolved, That Mr. [William] Whipple be appointed a member of the Marine Committee . . .

Resolved, That the value of the passage boat, *York*, be made good to Michael Kearney, Junr the owner thereof; it appearing that she was impressed into the continental service, and employed in taking the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, and for that reason, afterwards seized and detained by order of Captain Parker, commander of the British ship of war *Phoenix*; and that Lord Stirling be desired to appoint proper persons to value the said boat, and report such valuation to Congress.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a member of the Secret Committee, in the room of Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, who is absent, and

The ballots being taken.

Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee was elected.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 213-15.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gent.

Phila March 19. 1776.

The Convention of Maryland voted a considerable Sum of Money to defend the Harbour of Baltimore Town the most considerable place of our Trade. Fortifications & Batteries are now erecting and every Means in our power to procure Cannon have failed. If your Colony can spare us four eighteen Pounders or eight Twelves or eight Nines, which shall be returned as soon as others can be procured, they will be of infinite Service in defending a Boom now or very nearly ready to be laid across the River. We are Gent. [&c.]

Th Johnson Junr Sam¹ Chase W^m Paca

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 20, HSP.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Gent. Capt Tibbit [James Tibbett] in a Brig from Statia, purchased & loaded by Abram Vanbebber for our Province, arrived here last Week,² the Capt applied to us for Orders agreeable to Directions, he had received for that Purpose from Vanbebber; We ordered the Cargo to be landed & stored, and the Hands to be discharged – a few Days since Application was made to Us, for the Sale of the Brig to the Congress, which We agreed to, and have delivered her up with the Guns Stores &c the Accts relative to her, will be settled in a few Days, & shall be transmitted – You have inclosed a List of the Goods imported, all of which, will be forwarded by the Stages, except the Duck, We have retained this, till your Orders, it is an Article very scarce & dear in this City, if you do not want the whole Quantity, We can sell it, at a Price that will leave a considerable Profit . . . We make no doubt you have heard various Reports relative to a Mr.[Robert] Temple,

who came passenger in the Packet & is now in this City, before his Arrival here it was asserted, that he was charged with Dispatches from the Minority to Congress, that Commrs were appointed with full powers, and that if on their Arrival in America, the different Assemblies refused to treat, they were to treat with Congress; Temple on his Arrival, delivered his Budget, which was truly Garnial, being only a Button of his Coat, in which was contained a Scrawl from Arthur Lee informing Congress, that Troops were to sail from Ireland, & for the Particulars, referring to Temple who could give Information, as he Lee had acquainted him with the State of Affairs & the Designs of Administration; We have now seen Temple, it is said, he is sick, some say he is mad, from his Conduct in taking this Journey to deliver such a trifling Letter, if this is his sole business, the latter Opinion seems well founded. – the Packet Letters are put on Board the *Asia* Man of War, the Post Master, it is reported has refused to deliver any Letters, unless the Postage of the whole is paid – We are in Expectation of an Express from Boston; Genl Washington took Possession of Dorchester Point which commands South Boston, it is said by the [receipt of] a Letter to Congress that Howe was embarquing his Artillery Stores &[c] in the greatest Confusion We are with Respect [&c.]

The Delegates of Maryland

Phila 19 March 1776.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

2. The *Wild Duck*; also referred to in some letters as the *Wild Dick* and *Wicked Dick*. She subsequently became the Continental brig *Lexington*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 19th March, 1776.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r., in favour of Charles Alexander ² for £150, being so much advanced him for recruiting Seamen to be employed in the Naval Armaments of this Province.

Resolved, that the Wages of the Pilots employed in the service of this Province, be ten pounds per month, to commence the 21st and continue for one Month.

Resolved, That John Hennessy, Lieutenant of one of the armed Boats,³ be appointed first Lieutenant to the floating Battery.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 520, 521.

2. Captain of the galley *Chatham*.

3. The galley *Effingham*.

Dunlap's Maryland Gazette, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1776

Baltimore [March 19].

The *Otter* sloop of war, commanded by the famous Captain Squire, and her tenders, who lately paid us a visit, is now prowling about the Bay, a few miles below Annapolis, and making prey of every thing that floats within their reach – among many others they took two poor industrious French

Neutrals, so called, as they were crossing the bay in a small boat, and robbed them of their all, being the hard earnings of ten years honest industry – The infamous [Bridger] Goodrich, the younger, commanded one of the tenders, and his father was in the *Otter* as Pilot – The violence and barbarity of the former towards the prisoners will hand down his detested name to posterity loaded with the curses of his ravaged and oppressed country – The other officers in general treated these and other prisoners not only with humanity but politeness; but this native barbarian, the reproach of his country, and basest of all Paracides, added brutal insult to his robberies – he tore from these poor people every thing that they had on board, even down to an old razor and a peck of meal, and picked their pockets of 97 l. the fruits of many years sweat and labour – We are told the Committee have taken the depositions of several of the prisoners relative to these matters, which it is hoped, will be published.

During the late alarm, and since, most of the people in town have moved their families and effects into the country, so that we shall not be so much moved at Capt. Squires' second visit with which he has threatned us, and which we expect in a few days, with double fury and double force – however, our Committee, with the spirit of men determined to protect their and the peoples lives and properties at all risks, are taking every precaution to repel the intended invasion; two batteries begun on Fell's Point is now compleately finished mounting 19 guns, another of 18 guns will be finished in a few days on Whetstone's Point, about two miles down the river, opposite to the narrowest part of the channel, where there are a number of vessels sunk to obstruct the passage: a strong boom will be laid across the river at the same place, in a very short time, and a schooner tender mounting ten guns with swivels, begun and finished in 8 days, is ready to attend the *Defence* mounting 20 guns, manned with 200 resolute men on any emergency – These defences together with the number and spirit of our people, we make [no] doubt, will be sufficient to protect the lives and properties of the inhabitants of this town against the wanton and unprovoked depredations of our most savage and cruel enemies – It must give pleasure to every lover of this country, and the glorious cause in which we are now engaged, to be told of the numbers and resolution of the country militia that flew to our assistance the moment they were acquainted with the impending danger – There are now in this town great plenty of powder, arms and all necessary military stores.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE MASON AND JOHN DALTON ¹

No 66

To George Mason and John Dalton Esqrs

Gent In Answer to your Favor of the 15th we have directed Colo [Joshua] Beall to deliver to your Order ten Barrels of Gun-Powder; ² We shall do

every Thing in our Power to promote the general Welfare, and for that Purpose are now encreasing our Marines.

[Annapolis] 19th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. Imported in sloop *Molly*, Thomas Conway, master.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

No 67

Gentn We have your Favor of the 9th of this Month and as we are convinced of the Expediency of constructing the Beacons in the Manner you propose, on the Points of the River Potowmack; we shall readily join you in any Expence, that may attend the Erection of them, & have appointed the Honble George Plater Esqr and Brigadier John Dent to act with the Gentlemen nominated by you, for the carrying that Measure into Execution.² – We shall acquaint them of their Appointment, and we are persuaded they will attend for that Purpose on any Notice, your Commissioners will be pleased to give them – We have heard little of the *Otter* and her Tenders since their leaving this River, except that they pillaged a small Island on our Eastern Shore. We are not without expectation of another visit from them and shall be extremely obliged for any Intelligence you may be pleased to communicate to us of their Movements.

[Annapolis] 19th March 1776

P.S. We have just received a Letter from Geo: Mason and John Dalton Esqrs requesting the Loan of ten Barrels of Powder, which we have supplied them with for the Use of your Colony. –

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, the Council notified Platter and Dent of their appointment the same day.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE PLATTER AND BRIGADIER
GENERAL JOHN DENT¹

No 68

[Annapolis] 19th March 1776

To George Platter Esqr & Brigadier General [John] Dent, severally

Gent In consequence of the inclosed Letter from the Committee of Safety of Virginia, desiring us to appoint Commissioners to cooperate with the Gentlemen nominated by them for erecting Beacons on the Shores of the River Potowmack, We have taken the Liberty to appoint yourself and Brigadier George Dent [*sic*] and we hope it may be agreeable to you to attend at any Meeting their Commissioners may desire for carrying the necessary Measures into Execution.

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

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW, R.N.¹

Roebuck at Hampton Road
in Virginia the 19th March 1776

Sir Captain Squire in the *Otter* being arrived from his Cruize, I think it

necessary to acquaint you that I am going to proceed in the *Roebuck* to the River Delaware; It was my intention that the *Liverpool* under your command should have accompanied me thither had I not lately been under the necessity of sending one of my Squadron to Boston; But from the earnest request made to me by his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore, and considering the present state of this Colony, I think it absolutely necessary that two Ships at least should remain here for its defence, and for the protection of the Governor and his Majesty's loyal and obedient Subjects of this Province, who have taken Shelter on board Ships now lying off Norfolk: It is therefore my desire that you take the *Otter* under your command and afford every protection and assistance in your power to his Excellency the Governor, to His Majesty's subjects in the Fleet at Norfolk, and to the entrenchment lately made there; Using at the same time every means that may occur to you of annoying and distroying the Rebels, and acting in every respect to the people of this Province as well as the other Twelve united Colonies, as to an enemy in time of open War.

And as I expect the *Kingsfisher* or some reinforcement, will very Shortly arrive here, You are in that case immediately to join me in the River Delaware, leaving Orders with the Senior officer to cooperate with and give every possible protection to Lord Dunmore and the Friends of Government on board the Fleet at Norfolk.

I desire you will employ the Tenders most diligently in order to prevent any supplies whatever from getting to the Rebels, and once in Ten days to send one of them round to me with an account of your proceedings, and any intelligence that may be necessary to communicate to me.

You are also to use your endeavours to procure Pilots for any part of the Coast of America in order to Supply them to any Ships that may be in want of them, which you are to bear on Supernumerary List for Victuals untill you have an opportunity of sending them to me. I am &c

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1776-1777, UVL.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

[Extract]

No 24

Cape Fear River 19th March 1776

A very unexpected opportunity offers of sending Your Lordship two lines. No Troops arrived, but as Sr P Parker probably sailed from Cork with seven Régiments about the middle of January we may expect them the latter end of this month, not sooner . . . Commissioners are certainly to be named to receive the submission of the different provinces but all this you will hear by your dispatches which are arrived in 9 weeks from Falmouth & to which I refer you - [Andrew] Barkley has made a stroke, 16 sail of Rice ships greatest part of their Cargoes gone to Boston - The Philadelphia Fleet gone to [New] providence, and from thence supposed to the Dutch Islands,

but for particulars I turn your Lordship over to the Commodore ² – believe me &ca

H: Clinton

[Endorsed] by the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet Sailed

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.
2. Captain Andrew Snape Hamond.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE
HAMOND, R.N. ¹

No 25

Cape Fear River 19th March 1776

We arrived here the 12th after a tedious Voyage hard Gales &c we met the *Syren* at Sea and by the accounts she gave us I did flatter myself that we should have found this Province armed in favor of Government; The attempt to arm tis true had been made, but what I dreaded, too much precipitated, the whole disaffected part of the Province was in arms to intercept them, as they were betrayed by the person sent by Govr Martin to assemble them, in short after a very trifling Action they were dispersed, one or two of their Leaders killed, and in general the rest taken, not above 1400 were assembled & of those not 800 armed, they got within 17 miles of Wilmington, and in attempting to force a Bridge they there received a check. I have not yet received Govr Martin's account of the whole Transaction, nor his opinion wheather affairs can, or by what means be restored. – I did intend to have detained the *Fincastle* till I could give you information of the arrival of the Fleet from England, or inform you what was likely to be the operations of this early part of the Campaign, but the arrival of the *Hinchinbroke* from Savannah with news of some importance for you to be acquainted with, obliges Capt Montagu to dispatch her; to his Letters I must refer You for particulars; From Europe, report says, all breathed fire and faggot, 7 or 8 Frigates are coming out with Sir Peter [Parker], 7 Regts 3 Companies of Artillery &ca &ca I rejoice much to find that my friend Lord Cornwallis is with them, he sailed by all accounts the 31st decr from Portsmouth, we may fairly give them a fortnight to arrive at & sail from Cork, and therefore do not expect them here before the end of this month – Commissioners are certainly to be appointed to receive the Submission of the seperate Provinces, but all this you will hear by your own dispatches which are probably contained in the Virginia Mail, from opening which I will not detain you longer than to assure you &ca

P S I am it seems to expect additional instructions by the Fleet – I wish to communicate with you by the Cypher – it will be un[inte]resting how I am pressed – too tedious, entre nous mais tres entre nous pouvons faire des belles choses ensemble – I depend on hearing from you

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

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

March 1776

High Lands of St Eustatia NW dist 2 Miles

Tuesday 19 at 7 A M spoke a Sloop from Antigua bound to Bermudas at

10 Do took possession of a Sloop from Antigua bound to St. Eustatia and sent her to Sandy Point [St. Christophers] Moderate and fair at 3 P M hove too and sent a boat on board the Sloop (we sent to Sandy Point Yesterday) with 4 Men and brought her people on board us and made Sail.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. *Ibid.*, on March 22 Captain Young cleared the sloop and returned her crew.

20 Mar.

COLONY BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATE ARMED VESSEL *Washington*¹

Know all Men by these presents That we Joseph Stockman Stanton Pr[e]ntice & Eliphalet Flint – in the Colony of the Massachusetts bay are held and stand firmly bound and obliged unto the Treasurer and Receiver general of the Colony aforesaid in the full and just sum of one thousand pounds lawful money to be paid unto the said Treasurer and receiver general or to his Successors in said Office to the true payment whereof we bind ourselves our heirs Executors and Administrators Jointly and Severally firmly by these presents Sealed with our Seals dated the twentieth day of March Anno Dom 1776

The Condition of the aforewritten obligation is such That whereas the said Joseph Stockman hath on the day of the date hereof received a Commission to command an Armed Vessell called the *Washington* burthened about Seventy five tuns to make reprisals of all armed and other Vessells that shall be found Supplying the enemy or acting counter to a law of this Colony entitled an Act for encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessells to defend the Sea Coasts of America and for erecting a Court to try and Condemn all Vessells that shall be found infesting the same

If therefore the said Joseph Stockman shall and do in and by all things well and truly observe and fulfill such Instructions as he shall receive from the Council of this Colony and shall in all respects conform himself to the directions given in and by the Act aforesaid then the abovewritten obligation to be Void otherwise to remain in full force

Joseph Stockman Stanton Prentice Eliph^t Flint

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of

Joseph Jackson W^m Holmes

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 298.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, March 20, 1776

Whereas the Judge of the Court of Justice for the Counties of Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex (appointed in pursuance of an Act of the General Court at their Session in November last, intituled an Act for Encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coast of America, and for Erecting a Court to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting

the same) has appointed certain days for holding his Court for that purpose, at Ipswich, viz the Eighteenth nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty First, Twenty Eighth, and Twenty ninth days of March instant, and it being inexpedient that those Courts should be held untill some further Regulation shall be made relative to the proceedings therein –

It is hereby Resolved and ordered that the Court aforesaid appointed to be held on the days aforesaid (which are not already Elapsed) be adjourned until Monday the First day of April next to be held at Ipswich in the County of Essex, and all Processes, Pleas, and every matter and thing whatsoever which might or could have been heard, considered and determined by the said Judge in Virtue of the appointment of those days for that purpose shall and may be heard and determined by him on the said First day of April next, and they are hereby continued accordingly. And all Jurors and Witnesses who have been summoned to attend in pursuance of the appointment aforesaid shall be hereby holden and are accordingly directed to attend said Court on the said First day of April next, and shall be liable to the same penalties for Nonattendance as if the said Court had been held on the days appointed for holding the same.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 667, 668.

WILLIAM JACKSON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

Nantasket March 20th 1776

May it please your Excellency

Having done the duty of a Subject in the detection & discovery of Persons concerned in fraudulently taken away the property of divers Merchants I claim no merit more than Honesty – I now Sir make you a tender of my best Services to the further preservation of said Goods and the property on board the *Elizabeth* under the care of Mr [Cread] Brush in case your Excellency should see cause to appoint any One to the same – I have served my term to that way of Life and in regard to my reputation it is well known to Major Sheriff, Mr Paxton & every Gentleman of the Town of Boston If Sir you should require any Security I make no doubt I can find the same for my fidelity I am Your Excellency's [&c.]

Will^m Jackson

[Endorsed] A true Copy attest Seth Loring Clerk in the Secys Office
No 44

1. The Revolutionary War Prize Cases: Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1776–1787, No. 2, "The *Elizabeth* and Cargo, Wentworth Appellant," NA.

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

[Providence] Wednesday Evening 20th March 17[76]

Meeting in being according to adjournment. –

Voted. That Daniel Tillinghast Account Amounting to Forty two

pounds Twelve shillings & Eleven pence be paid him out of the Committee's Treasury. —

Whereas. This Committee have purchased a Considerable quantity of Sparrs more than will be wanted for the Ships now building here.

It is Voted that they be sold to any persons that may want the same after the ships are supply'd at the following prices Viz for all sparrs under 8 Inches at one shilling P Inch for Topmast above 8 Inches and not exceeding 10 Inches at $\frac{1}{6}$ P Inch for Booms & Bowsprits as they may be for length & Bigness from five to Ten Dollars P piece, for Masts from 12 to 20 Inches Diametar to be from 6 to 9 shillings P Inch. —

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Fryday Evening. ²

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

2. No business was transacted at the Friday meeting.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Providence March 20th 1776

In Consequence of the Agreement made with You in Jany Last by John Brown to Import Warlike Stores in behalf of the Contenent we Dispatched a Small Sloop Capt B Comstock to St Estatia with a Cargo Amountg with the Charges to £[blank] L Money & we have now the pleasure of Adviseg you of her Safe Arivel at Howlands Ferry on the East Side of Rhode Island with 193 Bolts Roushie Duck 43 pcs Roushie Sheeting & a pr Swivel Guns 14 Small Arms with 12 C powder & 30 lb Ball to keep off a Barge, Capt Wallace with his Fleet now Layg between Bristoll & Prudence prevents the Sloops Comg up to this Town we shall take Care to Watch the Motions of the Enemy, So as to Secure the Duck &c here till we have Your Orders What to do with them, the Roushie Sheeting will be Usefull for the Lite Sails of the Ships buildg here, but the Committe havg procured 95 Bolts & Govr [Stephen] Hopkins Sent them 200 Bolts more of Heavey Duck from New York it will not be Wanted for these Ships, perhaps You may order it forwarded for the Ships buildg in the Other parts of New England, no Quantity of powder nor arms was to be bot but the Capt Informs us that a Large Quantity was Soone Expected their, we have with much Difficulty procured about 200 Tons of Oil being obloiged to Cart a Considerable part of it from Cape Cod to ship it with safety which with Other Valuable Articals Such as Sper Cands Walebone &c Shall Soone Ship for France & Spain one Vessel Directly from Nantuckett being now ready & one or Two from here So as to Compleate our Contracts You'l please to Acquaint the Navil Committe of the Arivel of this Duck &c and give us Such Orders Respecting the Same as You May think prop[er].

Capt Comstock was Chased Very Clost for 10 Hours from his Leavg St Estatia by a Small Armed Cutter but being will Fitted with Lite Sails & a prime Sailer Escapd being tacon, he Advises that a Brigg belongg to a Rich Jew had come up from Curraso a few Days before he arived & that She had

Saild for the Contenent, he beleaves for Philada or Verginna Loaded with Powder & arms to the Amount of £18,000 their we hope before You Receive this You'l have an Act of her Safe Arivel the Ministerial Troops havg. all Left Boston & the Fleet Dropt below the Cassell its Expected they take their Departure tomorrow mornng as the wind is now Shifted to N W The Common Taulk of their Distination by the people Left in Boston is Hallifax, we have the pleasure of adviseg of the Safe arivel of Six Thousand wt of powder & 400 Small arms at New london or Stoneington from the Cape belongg to Messrs Clark & Nightg & 30 Thous'd Wt of Pow[d]er with Abt 140 Arms, 11 m flints Lead &c With a Qty Rousian Duck Ozenbrg &c Imported by Our N B. from Curico – We apprehend You Omitted Lineing for the Clothg Mentiond in Your last Contract – As its proble. One of the Vessels May go to Hambbrg May it be agreebl to take Some Hemp for to fill up Where Other thing Wont so well Store – if this or the Linens are worth Notice you may probly give by Notices before the last Vessel Sails

To the Honorable Saml Ward

B Franklin, Josiah Bartlett

Robt Morris & Thos McKean Esqrs

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, A.M.

March 20th, 1776.

Abraham Lott, Esqr. Treasurer, attending, was admitted. He requested a permit to go on board the *Asia* and *Pheonix*, ships of war, to settle accounts with the pursers of each ship.

Thereupon, a permission was given to Mr. Lott, in the words following, to wit:

Ordered, That Abraham Lott, Esqr. be, and he is hereby permitted to go on board the ships of war in this harbour, (in company with the port master,) and to return, he having been sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of the city and Colony.

A certain William Powell sent a letter to the Committee requesting a permit to go on board Capt. Parker's ship the *Phoenix*, to solicit his consent to proceed to sea, that he may go the the West Indies.

The committee refused to give him a permit.

Die Mercurii, 4 ho. P.M. March 20th, 1776.

A certificate from the committee of New-London, in Connecticut, dated the 11th instant, was read and filed. They certify that Peter Vandervoort is requested to ship 100 barrels of superfine and 30 barrels of common flour, to Nathaniel Shaw, Junr to be shipped to the West Indies on account of that Colony, and that all prudent care will be taken to prevent its falling into the hands of their enemies.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That the general committee of the city of New-York, or the sub-committee for exports, be and hereby are at liberty to permit Mr. Peter Vandervoort to export to Nathaniel Shaw, Junr. in New-London, one hundred barrels of fine flour and 30 barrels of common flour, to be shipped to the West Indies on account of the Colony of Connecticut.

To Messrs. Ray & Hyer and to Mr. Wm. Mercier.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 376, 377, 378.

MAJOR WILLIAM DOUGLASS TO JOSEPH HALLETT ¹

Sir:

Brooklyn, March 20, 1776.

I this moment am honoured with yours of the 18th instant, and at present observe the contents. It appears, by Major-General Schuyler's letter, that the honourable the Continental Congress have honoured me with the command of the lakes, and that Captain Wynkoop should be employed under me. I am now upon furlough by Major-General Schuyler, which directs me to wait until I receive orders from the Congress or from the General respecting my destination. I told Captain Wynkoop what I now tell you, that, whenever I should receive orders from the Congress or the General, I was willing to comply, if my health would permit; and as Captain Wynkoop is desired by the General to get his men and go up, I beg you would assist and forward him, and, if I am not called upon, shall endeavour to serve my country in some station of as much importance as to command the lakes.

I hope you will excuse my not answering your letter before now, as it was not handed to me, but to a soldier, who laid it on my table with other papers, and did not acquaint me of it; and it was by mere accident that I found it this evening. I am, sir [&c.]

William Douglass.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 437-38.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gent. On the Arrival of Capt Tibbet we engaged a Boat, on Board of which was shipped the Powder & Arms, together with one Ton of Powder advanced by Congress & 1875 lbs returned by Congress for the Quantity borrowed by Col [Benjamin] Harrison, this Boat went to Christiana Bridge, from whence the powder was sent to Balt. in Waggon, of this Transaction, we advised you by the Return of the Express, that brought the Intelligence of the *Otter* & her Tenders arrival in Patapsco The Qty of Powder that was private Property in Tibbet was very small, part of it was owned by a Gent. in Accomack County in Virginia, the Residue about 6 or 8 qr Casks, Mr Bowley informs us, is the property of a Gentn in Balt. to whom it was sent - Powder is an Article that cannot be purchased in this City - Mr. [Thomas] Johnson [Jr.] had a Sum of Money lodged in his Hands by Col [Jesse] Hollingsworth of Cecil County to purchase a small Qty of Powder for

that County, the Money being raised by Subscription for that Purpose; this he could not accomplish; and at the pressing Instance of that City, We procured from Congress 5 Barrels which is sent down.— the Demand from the Eastward being very great, and our Magazine almost empty, prevents our making any further Application. We are [&c.]

Phila 20 March 1776.

R. Alexander for self & Colleagues

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 20th March, 1776.

Upon application of Capt. Falconer for a sum of Money for the use of the Committee appointed to fix Signals, &ca., in the Bay and River Delaware; By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in favour of Capt. Nathaniel Falconer for £ 300

Resolved, That Capt. Leeson Simmons be joined to the Committee for fixing Signals in the Bay & River Delaware.

Resolved, That Francis Feauss be appointed First Lieutenant to the Provincial Ship of War.

That Edward Yorke be appointed Second Lieutenant to the said Provincial Ship.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 521.

JOSEPH SMITH TO ELNATHAN SMITH ¹

(1st Letter.)

Baltimore, Maryland, March 20th, 1776.

My dear Brother Elnathan,

I was just on the point of returning to New England when the convention appointed me a Lieut. of Marines on board the ship *Defence*. She is a fine ship, and mounts 18 guns, sixes and nines, and is commanded by Capt. James Nicholson who is universally considered a brave man. The crew of the *Defence* are as fine a set of men as were ever seen on shipboard. After I entered the *Defence*, news was brought that a British sloop of war which mounted 20 guns, with two tenders, one of 8, the other of [4], was just below the town, and had taken a large ship valued at £ 14,000, and eight or ten small craft. Though unprepared, Capt. Nicholson gave orders to fall down the river. When the news arrived we had in but 10 guns, but we got in 8 more that night, though they were in very bad order. We went down the river in a fog with 220 men & had proceeded about ten miles when we discovered the enemy & the ship they had taken & the small craft within two miles. As soon as we saw them all hands gave three loud cheers that made the very welkin ring, but the enemy immediately made sail, and left all their prizes in our possession. Another vessel of the enemy lay four miles below, and we waited for them to come and give battle, as they had orders to take the *Defence*, or not return again to

Virginia. Though our ship was inferior to that of the enemy, we were much disappointed in not attacking them, for some time before night the British made sail & we have not seen them since. They have left the whole bay clear, but we hope to sail this week, unless we have orders to stay and guard the town. We received the thanks of the Council of Safety, Committee and County in general. Give my best love to my Father, Brother, Sisters and your family, and believe me ever most affectionately yours.

(signed). Joseph Smith

1. Edmund Kirby Smith Papers, UNCL.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 20th March 1776.

Ordered That all Vessels loaded with Country Produce on Account and Risque of this Province proceed as soon as may be on their Voyage agreeable to Contract.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO HUGH YOUNG ¹

No 70

Sir We should have answered your Letter of the 11th Instant by Mr. Smyth before now, but the Variety of Business before the Council has prevented us. We would have you send out the *Nancy* Capt. [George] Wise immediately under the Orders heretofore given, and finish loading the Schooner *Ninety Two* as speedily as possible and send the Captain to us for his sailing Orders.

[Annapolis] 20th March 1776

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

MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COMMITTEE ¹

Northampton County Virginia 20th March 1776.

In Committee. Capt Thomas Kell commander of the schooner *Dolphin* having put into Charriton Harbour being chased by one of the Tenders who have made several attempts to take possession of her since and the said Capt Kell having appeared for the committee and desired their opinion what part to act, and there appearing no probability of getting safe out, and thinking it would be attended with fatal consequences to suffer such a valuable cargo to fall into the hands of the enemy, Recommend to the captain to unload her without loss of time and run her up the creek, and wait the farther direction of the owners.

Drury Stith C. Com.

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

PROTEST OF CAPTAIN THOMAS KELL AND OTHERS ¹

Northampton County Virginia March 20th 1776.

Personly appear'd before me one of his Majesties Justices of sd

County – Thomas Kell master of the Schooner *Dolphin* off and from Baltimore Robert Bailey Mate & William Cuninghame Seaman and made Oath on the holy Evangelist of almighty god that on the 12th day of February 1776. they Sailed from Baltimore bound for the Island of Martinico, and on the 26th ult. being betwixt the horse shoe, and Cape Henry was Chased by two of the kings Row boats & one Tender, which caused them to bear away & Run into Cheristone for the safety of Vessel & Cargo, & thire wated for a favourable opportunity to run to see, & farther these Deponents Declares that on the 4th of March asloope Tender attempted to Come in to said harbour in Order to take them out but was prevented by Runing aground, & farther Declare that on the 18th Instant Sloop tender Came in & took perssession of said Schooner *Dolphin*, hove up heir Anchor and made Saile in Order to run her out & at the Esterne of the harbour they run aground, after which said Tender plunderd & took from said *Dolphin* salt & fresh provisions together with Cordage Cabben furniture &c, and on the 19 the said Tender Made an Other Attempt to Carry out the schooner *Dolphin* but was Repulsed & prevented by Two Companies of Minutemen, one Company of Regulars, & several of the Militia, and finding that Schooner *Dolphin* could not git out with safety and Consulting the Committee in the County of Northampton, which their advise was to land the sd Cargo & then for the sd Capt to Prosead up to the Owners for further Orders from Council of Saifety and the Deponents protests against the said Tenders & Row botes for ther Detention, Damages, &c which they and ther Owners have or may Sustain from the said Tenders & Rowboats – Given under my hand the Date above –

Henry Guy

1. Red Book, XXVI, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, 20th March, 1776.

The Comm'ee agree to take of Mr. William Holt the Sloop *Providence*, packett, with her rigging and apparel for so long a time as shall be thought proper to employ her at 15s. per day, to be appraised, and if taken by the Enemy while in public service, the appraisement to be repaid. If Samuel Simms agrees to serve on board her as pilot, 2s. 6d. p'r day to be added for his services and for prov's found him.

Ordered, that Capt. Younghusband be directed to purchase 500 bushels of Coal from Warwick, and to put it on board one of his armed vessels with orders for her to come down as soon as possible to the College Landing with her officers and men.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 131.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE¹

March	At an Anchor off Sharpe's Island
Sunday 10	at ½ past 11 A M weighed & came to sail, in company the Tender & Prizes.

- Little wind & hazy, at 8 P M anchored with the B Bower in 7 fam off Sharpes Island.
- Monday 11 At 7 A M sent the Pinnacle & Gigg in Chace of a Schooner
At 11 hove up & dropt lower down.
The first part little Wind & hazy, the latter fresh Breezes and cloudy. At 2 P M anchored with the B Bower in 6½ fam off the lower end of Sha[r]pe's Island. At 3 the Boats returned with a Schooner loaded with Tobacco & Oysters.
- Tuesday 12 At an Anchor under Point Lookout
Fresh Gales & squally At 2 P M weighed & came to sail, in Company the Tender & Prizes. At 10 P M anchored with the B Bower in 12 fam under Point look out.
- Wednesday 13 Point lookout bore N b E 2 Miles
At 6 A M weighed & came to sail. Fired two Guns as Signals for the Prizes to get under weigh, & 3 six Pounders to bring to a Pilot Boat. At 10 anchored with the Prizes in Co
Mode & cloudy. At 2 P M joyned Company the *Samuel* Tender with a Sloop Prize loaded with Corn. Opened a Cask of Pork, contents 110 pieces. Sent the *Samuel* & Prizes into St Mary's for Shelter.
- Thursday 14 At 8 A M fired 2 Guns for the *Samuel* & Prizes to come out.
At 9 weighed & came to sail. At 10 anchored with the B Bower in 11 fam & veered to ⅓ of a Cable.
- Friday 15 Light airs & hazy, joyned company the *Samuel* & Prizes & anchored by us. Departed this life John Resterich Seaman. The first part light airs & foggy, middle & latter moderate & fair.
- Saturday 16 At 2 A M veered to ⅔ of a Cable. At half past 11 A M weigh'd and came to sail, in company the Tender & Prizes. Little wind & cloudy. At 3 P M anchored under Smiths point with the B Bower in 7 fam as did the Tender & Prizes.
- Sunday 17 Gwins Island bore West 4 Miles
At 6 A M sent the Gigg in chace of a small Schooner crossing the Bay. At 10 do weighed & came to sail, in compy as before. Departed this life Jno Hunkhop [Seaman].
The first part squally with rain. The middle & latter little wind and foggy. Opened a Cask of Pork No 11 contents 110 pieces. At 5 P M close reefed the Topsails. At 8 anchored with the B Bower in 6½ fam off Gwins Island.
- Monday 18 At ½ past 11 weighed & came to Sail, the Prizes in sight. Little wind & inclinable to Calms; At ½ past 4 P M anchor'd with the B Bower in 6 fam off Cherry Stone Harbour. At 5 do weighed & came to sail, in company the Prizes. At 11 anchored off Welloughbys Spit with the B Bower in 5 fam the Prizes in Company.

- Tuesday 19 Do Wr at 7 P M weigh'd & drove up with the Tide & Boat ahead. At 11 anchored in 10 fathoms in Hampton Road
- Wednesday 20 At an anchor in Hampton Road
At 7 A M weigh'd & shifted further in. Found here H M S *Roebuck*. Point Comfort bore N E & Sewells point S S E. Distance off Shore 3 miles.
Little wind & fair the first part, the middle moderate & clear, the latter fresh Breezes & fair. The Lieut & People belonging to the *Roebuck* returned to their Ship.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. For the prizes brought down from the foray up the Chesapeake, see journal of the *Liverpool* of this date, and footnote.

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

- March 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia
- Wednesday 20 Arrived our Tender with 5 sail of small Vessels taken from the Rebels ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. These were the prizes taken by the *Otter* and her tender, the *Samuel* and the *Liverpool's* tender, *Edward*, in their foray up the Chesapeake. They were: *Philadelphia Packet*, from Elk River for Baltimore, with different goods; *Vulcan*, S. French, master, R. Evers, owner, from Elk River for Patuxent, with stone and iron; *Nancy*, J. Robinson, master, E. Carr, owner, from the Eastern Shore for Elk River, with tobacco and feathers; *Nancy*, L. Gallehugh, master, J. Taylor, owner, from Neabscoe for Baltimore, with Indian corn, and an unidentified schooner with "nobody on board her," Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

- March 1776 At Single Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia
- Wednesday 20th at 7 in the morning Anchored here the *Otter* from the Chesapeake bay, with 6 Sail of Sloops and Schooners taken by her and Tenders; at 8 Anchored here the *Lord Howe*, and Ship *Grace*, her prize in Ballast from Philadelphia.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Lord Howe* had gone out of the Capes on a cruise on March 15, 1776. The *Grace* was bound for Baltimore, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

- 20th of March The *Otter*, which had now been absent a fortnight longer than was expected arrived with the Tenders, and Six small Vessels, laden with Flour, Indian Corn, Tobacco and Groceries which they had taken in Chesapeake Bay. A Privateer of 20 Guns, attended by several small Armed Vessels, came out of Baltimore to attack her, and she happened to appear in sight when the *Otter* had unfortunately got aground, however notwithstanding this disadvantage she did not chuse to come within some Miles, and then hauled her Wind and went back again. The *Otter*, soon after got

a float, but for want of a good Pilot and the Channel being extremely intricate she could not follow her. The same day the *Lord Howe* Tender arrived, with a Ship in Ballast, which she had taken off the Delaware, but without any Success in regard to a Philadelphia Pilot.

I. PRO,Admiralty 1/487.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT ¹

Georgia

Cape Fear River 20th March 1776

Governor Wright

Upon my arrival in this River on the 12th I was honored with Your Excellencys Letters of the 21st of february and 3d March, and have since received that of the 10th by the *Hinchinbroke* armed Schooner – It is with the greatest concern I learn from Your Excellency the deplorable State to which the Province of Georgia is reduced by the Rebellious proceedings of the inhabitants – and I can only lament that it is not in my power to afford the least aid towards the protection of the Friends of Government and the Support of legal authority – The Troops expected from England and to be employed under my Command, are not yet arrived, and when they do, it may be doubtful whether I can direct that force or any part of it towards Your Excellencys province, having hitherto received no positive instructions upon the subject of the intended destination of those Troops; but as I am led to expect explicit orders upon the arrival of the Fleet I shall then be enabled to form a judgment if any, or what support can be given towards the establishment of good Government and order in the Province of Georgia, and I shall lose no time in giving Your Excellency the earliest information of it.

I had flattered myself from some intelligence I received previous to my arrival at Cape Fear, that I should have found a considerable number of people armed in favor of Government in this Province, but was greatly disappointed to hear that the attempt had been rendered ineffectual by too much precipitation – ² Govr Martin will doubtless inform Your Excellency of the particular Circumstances attending that transaction, I have therefore only to add that I am &ca

H:C –

[Endorsed] By The *Hinchinbroke* armed Schooner sailed 20th March

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

2. *Ibid.*, Governor Martin of North Carolina in a letter to Clinton this date wrote: "I have not been so much deceived in my expectations from the good disposition of People in the Country as I have been disappointed with regard to the arrival of His Majestys Troops which instead of being here as I computed, I hope reasonably, very early in February are not yet arrived."

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

N. Carolina, Snow *Peggy*
in Cape Fear River March 20th 1776

Sir As you have been pleased in consequence of the Communication I have had the honour to make to you of the Earl of Dartmouths letter bearing date the 7th day of November last to signify to me your wishes to receive, in writing my sentiments on the present posture of Affairs in this Province so far forth as may be necessary to enable you to form your own judgement of the practicability or impracticability of carrying into execution the King's intentions in sending Forces under your Command to this Province; I sit down with every desire to answer your expectations from me according to my idea of them.

The object His Majesty has in view as I conceive from the letter of Lord Dartmouth above referred to, is to accomplish the Restoration of Government with the assistance of the well disposed persons within this Colony, which my assurances encouraged His Lordship to reckon upon largely whenever their efforts should be called forth, and properly supported: and, you must be satisfied Sir from what you have learned since I had the honour of meeting you here that I have not been so much deceived in my expectations from the good disposition of People in the Country as I have been disappointed with regard to the arrival of His Majestys Troops which instead of being here as I computed, I hope reasonably, very early in February are not yet arrived.

I understand further Sir, by Lord Dartmouth's letter, that The King's Troops now in expectation are designed to act here on certain conditions and provisions; and that you, as His Majesty's General, and Commander in Chief of the Expedition, have alternative objects to pursue.

As I apprehend, in the present state of things, and while we have no communication with the Country it is altogether impossible without experiment to establish in certainty the points, on which it is expected you will determine to employ the Troops here or direct your attention to another object, I have only to offer my very humble opinions with regard to them.

The efforts lately made by the friends of Government within this Colony without the aid, or even countenance of The King's Troops, however ineffectual and much more feeble than I had every reason to expect, owing to causes which you have had more opportunity than I to learn from The Gentlemen you have seen from the Country are sufficient ground, as I conceive, for the best hopes on the arrival of the Troops and their cooperation. The check the Gallant Loyalists have received in a recent attempt of a small and ill armed body of men to force its way down here, very near succeeding, with the particulars of which you are acquainted by the written account presented to you, by the Gentlemen before alluded to, I do not imagine has lost us much ground of good expectation. I humbly apprehend it is still practicable to penetrate to Cross Creek, and to draw forth in redoubled strength all the aid of the brave and faithfull Highlanders, as well

as the other numerous friends to His Majesty's Government inhabiting the circumjacent Country; who will eagerly meet your wishes as I believe not only on my own opinion of the good disposition of those people, but on the better knowledge and assurance of those who have been latest among them.

I own myself much inclined to think that a body of Troops once landed even in this neighbourhood would draw numbers of the people of the Country to your Standard, and that the facilities to enable an army to penetrate into the Country would grow upon you continually; among which Carts and horses I have no doubt will be forthcoming.

Nothing yet I confess discourages me as to the Success of the expected Armament under your Command in its operation in this Country but the delay of its arrival and the hasty advance of the hot season, the inclemency of which I know by fatal experience Europeans cannot well endure in the lower regions of this moist Country after the month of May. Whatever is to be effected by British Troops here, not inured to this Hemisphere must be done at this time instantly, & immediately on their arrival or the Climate consumes them: but once arrived at the high ground of the interior Country they may be preserved in a state of health and vigour fit for action through all Seasons

The point once gained of carrying a body of Troops into the heart of the Country, I do verily believe a force might be collected and formed upon it out of its own people that would be competent to the maintenance of order and Government if it should be thought expedient to withdraw the regular troops after their restoration of which however it is to be wished a small part may be spared to be advantageously posted on or near the Sea Coast. The inducements I should lay before the Country people I am of opinion would be sufficiently powerfull to attach them to the side of Government by making it their immediate interest; for added to the power given me by The King to offer to them the pay of His Majesty's Regular Troops, I consider myself warranted by the Subsisting Militia Law of this Province to hold out the further encouragement of Two Shillings Currency pr. diem to privates, which I think will be an allurements of such effectual weight as to draw a number of Men to The King's Standard that would assure The Sovereignty of this Province to His Majesty, by its own internal Strength, if it should be judged adviseable, at the same time, to make a diversion on the side of Virginia.

Having now Sir, under a load of business that presses me on every side, given you my general ideas, on the practicability of carrying into execution The Kings views, for the restoration of His Majesty's Government in this Province; I will beg leave to add, that I shall be most happy, & heartily disposed, upon all occasions, to cooperate with you, in the manner that may best correspond with your own intentions for carrying on His Majesty's Service and if I have omitted in this letter any information that you wish for, or expect of me, I shall very readily hereafter fulfill your commands as far as may lie in my power. I have the honor to be with great respect Sir [&c.]

Jo Martin

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

March 1776

Moor'd in Cape Fear River North Carolina
Fort Johns[t]on N N W

Wednesday 20th A M: at 9 saw Land from Mast Head N Wt at 11 hauled up to Clear the [Frying] Pan –
Mode & Clear – P:M: at 1 saw a Schooner fired a Gun & hoisted our Colours, spoke the *Scarborough's* Tender from Cape Fear, at 6 run over the Bar ½ past Anchored with the Best Bower; Found here His Majesty's Ship *Mercury* & *Cruizer* Sloop with 2 Transpts 2 Pacquets & many Prizes.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday, March 20, 1776.

The Congress being informed of the arrival of a Committee from North-Carolina, to concert with a Committee of this Congress, a plan of measures for mutual defence and assistance.

Ordered, That the present members of the Council of Safety, together with Col. Gadsden, and all the other field officers of the several corps of regular forces of this colony, be a Committee to confer with the Committee from North-Carolina, and with them to concert a proper plan.

Col. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, from the Committee, to prepare proper rules and regulations for the government of the navy of this colony, delivered in a report;

And the said report being read.

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 82, 83.HENRY LAURENS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina
20th March 1776

We know nothing of the Continental Fleet except that the Sloop *Hornet* was on this Coast about a Month ago sent her Boat with two Warrant Officers & five Men on shore ² these are still here but we have heard no more of the Sloop ³ there was indeed at one time a glorious opportunity for disconcerting the whole plan of our Enemies, a time when, the Ships of War at Savanna as well as those infesting your River might have been totally destroyed. – we can only hope that some what of equal importance has been done . . . We are told the Enemy's Ships of War which were lately at Cockspur are all sailed if so you will soon hear more of them

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 206, 207.

2. *Ibid.*, 209, an order of March 26, 1776, from Henry Laurens to the Colony Treasurers, reads: "a Bill for £8- to pay Jeram Sharp for piloting the *Hornet's* Boat from Sante, the Bill is for £11. 7. 6-£8 supposed to be a full allowance charge to Continental Congress."

3. "The weather was excessively cold and tempestuous as the fleet approached the coast, and the nights were so dark and hazy, that even signal lights were invisible from one vessel to

another. On one of these black and stormy nights, the *Fly-tender*, 'ran foul of the *Hornet*,' and unfortunately carried away her mast-head and boom. By this accident, which was altogether irreparable on such a night, the *Hornet* was separated from the fleet, and the next morning was discovered to be almost a wreck, with not one of her consorts in sight. In this situation, it was the joint opinion of the captain and our friend Barney, that it would be prudent to steer for the nearest coast, and with such assistance as might be procured, repair the damages of the sloop, before they attempted to follow the course of the fleet. They reached the coast of South Carolina, but were for several days unable, owing to the boisterous state of the weather, to send a boat on shore; and when at last they effected it, so violent a gale came on before the boat could return, that they deemed it advisable rather to leave her and put out into the open sea, than encounter the risk of being driven ashore where all must have perished. They did all that was in their power under the circumstances, and were fortunate enough, after much labor, fatigue, and danger to arrive off the mouth of the Delaware." Mary Barney, ed., *A Biographical Memoir of the late Commoaore Joshua Barney*: . . . (Boston, 1832), 31-32. Hereafter cited as Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*. This account placed the collision with the *Fly* as taking place during the return from New Providence, whereas it occurred on February 21, 1776, a week after the fleet had sailed from the Delaware. The *Hornet* did not participate in the capture of that island; *Andrew Doria Journal*, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, MARCH 8 TO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1776

[Charleston, March 20]

The last Accounts from Savannah informs us, that the Men of War have all gone down the River, and have carried with them sixteen Merchantmen; the latter were carried through the Back River, and were obliged to be lightened of great Part of their Cargoes, which were thrown into the River. We are informed that a Number of Negroes have been taken off a Gentleman's Plantation, lying on Savannah River, and carried on board the Men of War.

COUNT D'ARGOUT TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

Sir,

At Fort Royal, Martinique, 20th March, 1776

M. De Marguy, ship's lieutenant and commanded of his Majesty's frigate *Ceremes* will have the honor to greet you on my behalf and to present to you my compliments. I beg your Excellency urgently to add faith to all that he tells you which is obliging, and to the assurance that he gives you of my eagerness to anticipate everything which can interest you in these Islands, of which the King, my master, has just appointed me Governor-General, succeeding M. the Count De Nosier who is crossing over again to France.

I busy myself with the greatest care, Sir, in maintaining the understanding and the union which exists between the subjects of our Sovereigns and I will be very pleased to prove to you my good will in maintaining the arrangement so favorable to both nations and so justified, particularly to demonstrate to your Excellency the desire which I have to merit his esteem and friendship.

M. the Count De Nosier communicated to me the letter which your Excellency wrote him on the subject of M. Begorras, wholesale merchant at St. Pierre. He has entrusted to me a copy of the declaration of this man,

which I have the honor to send to you appended here. It affirms that he has never procured either arms or powder for the rebellious subjects of His Britannic Majesty and that he has never engaged in any similar commerce with them. Since my inauguration, I myself have taken the most rigorous safeguards in this respect, and supposing that there were some abuses, they would not have been able to succeed at all to the knowledge of the Government. But I beg Your Excellency to be persuaded that I will take all possible steps to discover them and present their action henceforth.

I have the honor to be [&c.]

d'Argout

[Enclosure]

Account given to M. the General on the subject of intelligence given to Vice Admiral Young

The ship *Bachelor*, Captain John Scot of Virginia, has arrived at St. Pierre, Martinique. There it was siezed and confiscated by the King's frigate the *Perin* on account of 141 barrels of flour which she was carrying. The ship as well as its cargo was sold.

The ship *Molly*, Captain Connerway [Conway] actually arrived at St. Pierre. The ship and cargo were sold here. It is false that it was loaded with 500 muskets. It was outfitted for going to take a cargo of mullet. There has been no shipment made from St. Pierre for the islands St. Pierre and Miquelon with 500 muskets and 60 barrels of powder, registering them in the realm of Fort Royal.

The ship *Charles*, Captain Denison overtook the brigantine *Liberty*, taking its cargo of molasses nothing more.

The brigantine of Captain Corsells was sold to one named l'Haribert, who loaded it with coffee for Marseille.

There is no ship at St. Pierre named *Industry*, Captain Sewell of Rhode Island.

Richard Harrison is not a merchant from Philadelphia. He is a young man of 20, come in the ship *Baltimore*, to St. Pierre in order to be treated for venereal disease. He is in treatment at the house of a good surgeon here. He has bought neither powder nor arms, and his youth prevents him from it being suspected that he is an agent of the Continental Congress. He was recommended to Sr. Begorat who has the order to furnish him to the extent of his needs.

The original is signed by Pierre Begorat [Begozzat]. This is a true copy.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. A translation from the French.

21 Mar.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, March 21, 1776.

Gentn.: Er'e now, I was in hopes of congratulating you on the departure of the Ministerial Troops, not only from your Capital, but Country. That

they still remain in the Harbour, after having been five days embarked, affords matter for speculation, and, collected as their Force is now, of apprehension. This Circumstance, the Security of Boston by a work on Fort Hill & demolition of the Lines on the Neck, and preservation of the Stores, for Continental use, belonging to the King, by a proper search after them, rendered it indispensibly necessary for me to throw some Troops into the Town immediately (It coming within the line of my duty); but notwithstanding all the precaution, which I have endeavoured to use to restrain and limit the Intercourse between the Town and Army and Country for a few days, I greatly fear that the Small Pox will be communicated to both.

So soon as the fleet sets sail, my attention must be turned to another Quarter, and most of the Continental Regiments now have march'd off. It may be necessary therefore, for you, Gentn., to consider the state of your Harbour, and think of such works as shall be found necessary for the defence of it, and the Town, in case another Armed Force (which I by no means expect) should be sent hither. I shall leave three or four Regiments, as circumstances may require, for security of the Stores, and throwing up such works as shall be deemed necessary for the purposes above mentioned; and shall direct the Officer Commanding them, to receive such Instructions, in respect to the latter, as you may think proper to give.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 416-18.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge 21st March 1776

. . . The Enemy's fleet Lyes down below the Castle yet, which they Employ themselves in blowing up & destroying as fast as Possible, they burnt what buildings there was in it Last Evening - I am [&c.]

Jos Williams

Mr William Coit Merchant Norwich

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Braintree March. 21st 1776.

Since the Ships and Troops fell down below, we have been apprehensive of an Attack from their Boats, in Pursuit of live Stock; but, yesterday in the Afternoon we were happily relieved, by the Appearance of a number of Whaleboats, streching across our Bay, under the Command (as I have since heard) of the brave Lieut Colo [Benjamin] Tupper, who in the forenoon had been cannonading the Ships, with one or more field Pieces from the east Head of Thompson's Island, and, I suppose, last Night cannonaded them again from the same Place, or from Spectacle Island.

This judicious Manoeuvre had its genuine Effect; for, this Morning the Admiral, and all the rest of the Ships, except one of the Line, came to sail, and fell down to Nantasket Road, where a countless Number is now

collected: In Revenge for their burning the Castle last Night, were we provided with a sufficient Number of fire Ships and fire Rafts, covered by the smoke of Cannon from a few Row Gallies, this Night, might exhibit, the most glorious Conflagration, that was ever seen upon the watery Element, and the probable Consequence of it, a Period to the present War, otherwise Humanity revolts at the Destruction of so great a Number, even of our Enemies.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN KEMBLE ¹

[Nantasket Road] Friday [*sic* Thursday], March 21st.

About 4 o'Clock in the Afternoon a Signal made for an Attack at Sea, from the Light House. The *Savage* Sloop of War, and a Brig, the *Diligence*, ordered to Slip and pursue at five; saw four Schooners in chase of a Brig making for the Port; about six the Schooners fired; the Brig let fly all her Sails; but, our Vessels coming up fast, the Schooners did not choose to wait to take possession, and we recovered the Brig, from the West Indies, with Coal, Porter, and Sour Crout, having been drove off the Coast the preceeding Fall. The Rebel Privateers escaped our Vessels, one of them had a Flag hoisted at the Main Topmast Gallant head as a mark of Distinction.²

1. "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, I, 74.

2. Washington's schooner *Hancock*, flying John Manley's commodore's pennant.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

March 1776

In Nantasket Road

Thursdy 21st AM at 11 the *Fowey* made the Sigl for Weighing – repeated it; The *Fowey* & Convoy got under Sail, soon after she made the Sigl for Anchoring which we repeated, came down from King Road the *Chatham*, *Centurion* & all the Transports –
Variable Weather.

PM at 3 a Sigl from the Light house of an attack in the offing, Slipp'd pr order as did the *Savage* & made Sail out of the road, Saw 5 Rebel Privateers & an English brig wth them, Sett the Steerg Sails & gave Chace, – The boat broke adrift & was lost with all her Materials – When the Privateers found we come up wth them they bore away for Plymouth ² & left the Brig which we retook at 7 left off Chace, close reefed & handed the Topsl Boston light-house NWbW 7 or 8 Leags at 11 Sett the TSls.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

2. See letter from Sarah Sever, March 23, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE ¹

March 1776

Laying too off[f] the Island of Prudence

Thursday 21 at 11 AM weigh'd & Came to Sail at Noon brot too of the
So end of Prudence –

Modt & fair at 1 PM ran out of the harbour at 2 joind
Compy the Brigg Tender at 6 our Signl to Chase to the S W
at 7 spoke the *Belona* Tender & a Sloop her prize do bore
away at 9 lost sight of the Squadron.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 ho. A.M.

March 21st, 1776.

Mr. Elias Nixen, the port master, attending, produced a list of supplies wanted for the use of the *Swallow* packet.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That the port-master be and he is hereby, permitted to convey on board the *Swallow* packet, for the use of the said packet, the following supplies, vizt: 8 barrels bread, 4 barrels flour, 5 barrels pork, 5 barrels beef, 200 scupper nails, 3 lb. 20d nails, 1 quarter fresh beef.

Abel Hetfield attending, requested permission to go on board the *Asia* ship of war to get his clothes, which he had left on board when taken in his boat coming from New-Jersey, loaded with iron, and which was seized by Capt. Van Deput.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That Abel Hetfield be and he is hereby permitted to go on board the *Asia* ship of war, with the port master, and to return; he having been sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

Mr. Nicholas Low had, on the 26th day of Feby. last obtained from the Provincial Congress a permit to ship – flaxseed and lumber on board of the ship *Polly*, Thomas Kennedy, master, to be exported to Cork, in Ireland, in return for military stores imported, to the amount of eight hundred and ninety-six pounds and ninepence, which he brought back and returned to the Committee of Safety. Mr. Low informed the Committee that he had laded the said flaxseed and lumber, but that through the stoppage of the ports by the ships of war, he cannot get the said vessel and cargo out of port, and therefore requested that he might have a permit to export to the amount of the sum above mentioned, in provisions, to the West Indies, in lieu of the said flaxseed and lumber, on condition that the same shall not be exported.

Ordered, That Mr. Nicholas Low be permitted to export provisions to the West Indies to the amount of eight hundred and ninety-six pounds and ninepence, in lieu of the said flaxseed and lumber, on condition that the said flaxseed and lumber shall not be exported.

Die Jovis, P.M. March 21st, 1776.

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Capt. Wm. Mercier the sum

of five hundred pounds on account, towards enabling him to fit out the vessel lately purchased by order of the Provincial Congress, and ordered to be fitted out and armed by the marine committee, or their order.

A second letter from Wm. Powell, requesting a permit to go on board the ship *Phoenix*, was read and filed.

Ordered, That he be informed that this Committee if well assured Capt. Parker will not permit him to pass to sea, and therefore the Committee will not give him a permit to go on board.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 378, 380.

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

March 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Thursdy 21st the Pilot Sloop brought in and Anchor'd here the Sloop
 Wanton ² Fired two Guns to bring Vessels too.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. Taken by the tender in Cranberry Inlet. She was in ballast, owned by Samuel Burling, with John Mount as master, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR. ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Thursday 21 March 1776

... the floating battery wh I have spoken of in my former letters will be ready in a few days: yesterday they were getting in her masts: the Province Ship carrying 20 guns 12 pounders will be launched next Saturday.

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] March 21, 1776

You will soon see a sett of Resolutions, which will please you – the Continental Vessells the Provincial Vessells and Letters of Marque and Privileges will be let loose upo British Trade.

I hope, and believe it will not be long before Trade will be open. Foreign Nations, all the World I hope, will be invited to come here, and our People permitted to go to all the World except the Dominions of him, who is adjudged to be *Nerone Neronior*.

I think the Utmost Encouragement must be given to Trade, and therefore We must lay no Duties at present upon Exports and Imports, nor attempt to confine our Trade to our own Bottoms or our own seamen. This for the present.

We have so much Work to do, by sea and Land, and so few Hands to do it, that We shall not be under any Necessity, nor will it be good Policy, I think, to attempt such Restrictions as yet.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 213.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 21st March, 1776.

Resolved, That the following mentioned officers on board the Provincial Ship, be allowed the pay as affixed to their respective stations:

First Clerk	10	Dollars per Month.
Second Clerk	8	do.
Boatswain's Mate	8	do.
Quarter Masters	8	do.
Quarter Gunners	8	do.
Gunner's Mate	8	do.
Steward	10	do.
Steward's Mate	8	do.
Cook	8	do.
Carpenters Mate	12	do.

Resolved, That Mr. John Mitchell be appointed Master to the Provincial Armed Ship.

That Joseph Greenway be appointed 3rd Lieutenant to the Provincial Armed Ship.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 522.

WILLIAM LUX TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Baltimore 21 March 1776.

Gentlemen. By a letter I recd from Mr Bowly by this days post he tells me our delegates had ordered all the sail cloth to be left at Phila the other things were to come in the Packet on Tuesday, I expect they mean to sell the sail cloth as the price is very high there, we sold ours at £9.10 pr Bolt, If the Gentn have not wrote you their reasons for doing it, I think you had better order it down, as perhaps you may not soon meet a further supply. Genl Lee got here last night and has been to view our Battery, he thinks it very well executed, and that it will answer the intention. He has taken Mr [Felix Lewis] Massenbaugh ² with him to Virga & says he understands his business & that he cant do without him –

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

2. Massenbach was an engineer and second lieutenant of Captain John Fulford's company of matrosses.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 21st March, 1776.

A warrant to Capt. John Calver[t] for £50 and 1 Do. for £50 upon account for purchase of materials for the Row Gallys.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 132.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* ¹

March 1776 Remks on bd His Majestys Ship *Roebuck*
 Wednesday 20th A M at 7 Anchord here the *Otter* & *Liverpools* Tender with 6 Sloops & schooners ² which they had taken at 8 the *Lord How[e]* Anchord with a Ship she had taken from Philadelphia ³ . . . at Noon Anchord in 10 fa Point Comfort ENE 1½ Mile.
 Moderate & fair weathr P M receivd some Provision out of the *Lord How's* Prize & Fired 2 Nine pd Shott to bring too our Pilot Boat.
 Thursday 21st A M the *Lord How* & her Prize went to Norfolk Do Musterd the People & servd Slops
 First part moderate & fair Latter fresh gales & cloudy P M at 3 Weighed & made sail . . . at 6 Anchord in 7½ fath Cape Henry ESE 3 Miles

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

2. The prizes are noted in the *Liverpool's* journal of this date and footnote.3. The ship *Grace*, from Philadelphia to Baltimore, in ballast, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]

No. Carolina Snow *Peggy* in
 Cape Fear River March 21st. 1776.

My Lord, By The *Duke of Cumberland* Packet Boat which arrived here on the 18th. instant I have had the honour to receive Your Lordship's circular Letter – bearing date the 10th. day of November, notifying the King's appointment of Your Lordship to be one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State and signifying The Royal Pleasure that my future dispatches be addressed to you. pursuant to this command My Lord I have now the honor to open my correspondence with Your Lordship, and I beg leave to embrace this opportunity to offer my humble congratulations to Your Lordship on your taking upon you the high department in Administration to which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to call you and to commit to your care.

The same Packet has also brought me the honor of Your Lordships Dispatch No. 1. containing an Account of the Nature and strength of the Armament intended to be sent to the Southern Colonies; and of its readiness to proceed according to its destination. and requiring me to exert every effort to carry into execution the orders contained in Lord Dartmouth's letter of the 7th. of November, of which I have received the Copy enclosed in Your Lordship's Dispatch, the Original having reached my hands safely in the beginning of January.

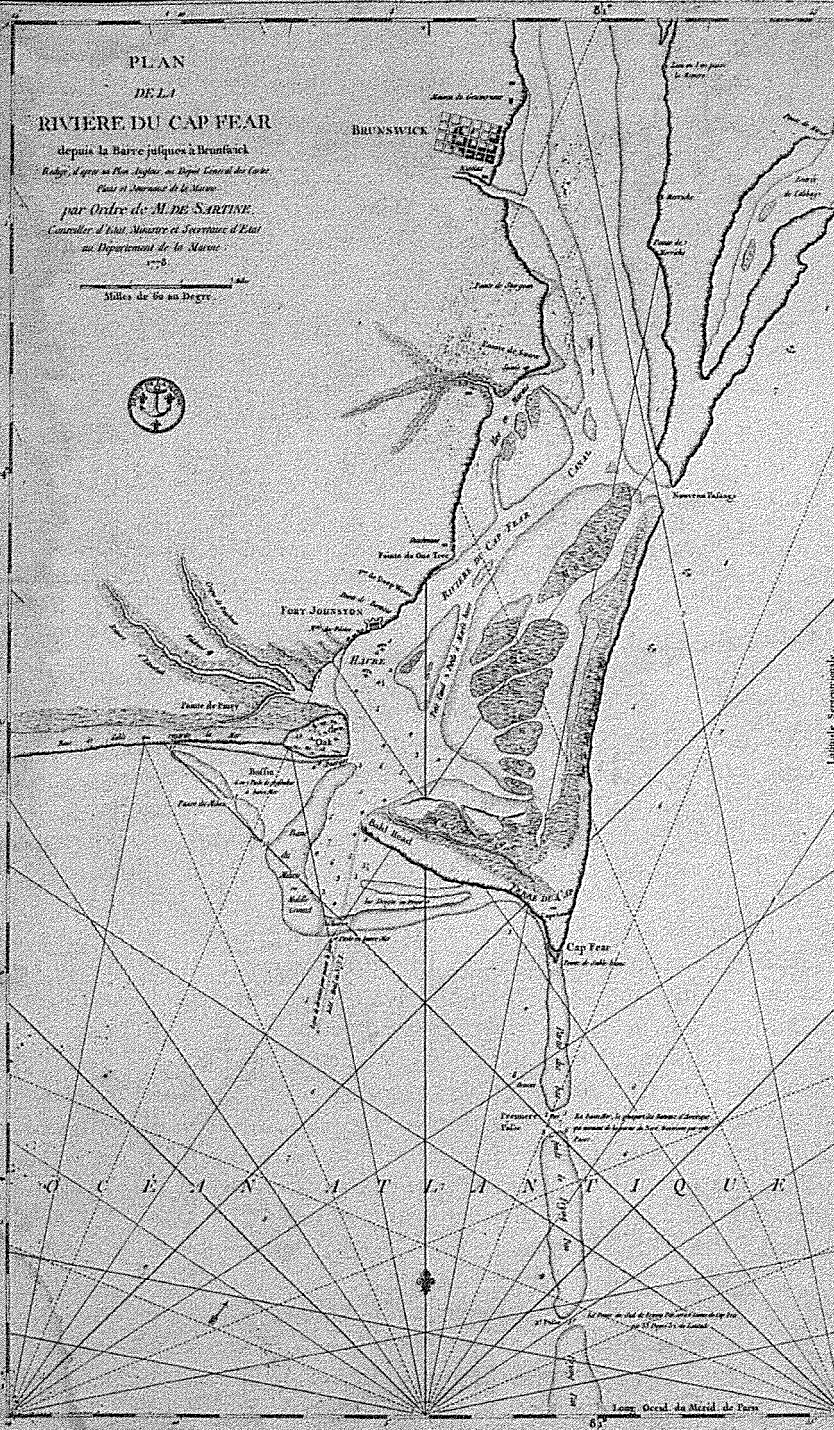
I own My Lord it is difficult for me to express my amazement on finding By Your Lordship's letter, that the Armament, which I have computed to be on its way from Corke, from the very beginning of December, or sooner, is only in a state of readiness to proceed towards the latter end of that month; and I regret this unfortunate delay the more sincerely, because it has

[illegible]

PLAN
DE LA
RIVIERE DU CAP FEAR

depuis la Barre jusqu'à Brunaïck
Redige, d'après un Plan Anglais, au Depot General des Cartes
Etat et Journaux de la Marine
par Ordre de M. DE SARTINE,
Contrôleur d'Etat, Ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat
au Département de la Marine
1783.

Miles de 60 au Decr



Attitude Semantics

contravened a plan and purpose of mine, not originally formed but necessarily pursued, and correspondingly as I conceived after the Receipt of the orders contained in Lord Dartmouths Dispatch, that would have had the happiest effects and consequences, as the issue of it though unlucky has certainly evinced.

Moved by the pressing & reiterated assurances given me by some well affected persons living in the County of Brunswick adjacent to the station of the Ship in which I was embarked, that the people of their neighbourhood and a multitude of others of their friends & acquaintances throughout the Country were groaning under the Oppressions of the little Tyrannies they had been deluded to vest with authority under the denomination of Committees; solicited to relieve them from the self made yoke which they now found intolerable; informed by the concurring testimony of these People, and all others from the Country with whom I communicated, of the weakness of the Rebel Troops, affectedly called Regulars, who by the best efforts of their leaders, were not yet provided with arms for a third of their number, and that they were equally deficient of ammunition; persuaded too by all report of the soreness of the common people under their new fangled Government and of their disposition to revolt from it, Compassion, and sense of duty to The King's Government, and the distresses of His Majesty's Subjects, wrought upon me to attend to the wishes of these People, who invited me to their relief, by the most confident assurances, that they would engage, in a month's time, to join me with two or three thousand men. I thought upon these good presages My Lord, the happy moment was arrived, when this Country might be delivered from Rebellion, and Anarchy, that it was not to be neglected or lost, and determined accordingly, to try by the efforts of the People themselves, in such proneness to make the experiment, and while I had no prospect of aid from without, at once to restore lawfull Government.

Forming this design My Lord, I resolved to unite the strength of the numerous Highlanders, and other well affected people of the interior Counties, to the force these people promised to collect in the lower Counties, more contiguous to this neighbourhood. and it was concerted between me, and the People of Brunswick, who had made such advances to me, that they should assemble as secretly as possible, and put themselves in motion together. The day appointed for the whole to join me was the 1st. of February . . .

. . . the *Syren* Frigate arrived, and brought me Lord Dartmouth's Dispatches numbered 20, 21 & 22, which gave me the first hopes of effectual external aid . . .

I furnished Mr. Maclean, my unwearied, persevering Agent, with powers to proper persons to raise and embody men; and instructions to them, being in sufficient force, to press down to Brunswick by the 15th. of February, or as soon afterwards as might be possible . . .

After this, my first intelligence came by the person who had accompanied Mr. Maclean in his last Expedition into the Country. it was a verbal

message from my most trusty friends, importing, that the Loyalists were in high spirits, and very fast collecting; that they assured themselves of being six thousand strong . . . that they intended to post one thousand at Cross Creek, and with the rest, I might rely on their being in possession of Wilmington (the principal town on this River, and within reach of The King's Ships) by the 20th., or 25th. of february at farthest. the time of my expecting the approach of the Loyalists being at hand, I was on my way up the River to meet them when I received this advice, that corresponded with all my hopes, and insured the accomplishment of my wishes, to restore the peace of this Country. Some communication that I had with the People of Wilmington, of whom I made a demand of a quantity of flour, still encouraged my expectations: but their change of language, soon afterwards, abated them greatly ² having not the least intercourse with the Loyalists, I still remained in doubt, as well about the route they had taken, as concerning all reports of their operations, until the 6th. instant, [*sic ultimo*] that a certain Mr. Reid, who failing in an attempt to join them on their route from Cross Creek (owing to the intervention of a party of the Rebels) wonderfully escaped them, and found his way down to me. his intelligence reduced the number of the Loyalists to 3,500 men but nevertheless assured me they were in condition to make their way good, unless they were obstructed by some unfordable water, which from a better knowledge of the Country he supposed, might happen, at a point where he computed them to be, and that it was practicable to relieve them by small Vessels; on which opinion, that I communicated to Captain [Francis] Parry of the *Cruizer*, that Gentleman, after consulting with the Pilots, made the necessary preparations for giving every possible succour, with his usual alacrity: but before this purpose could be executed, our intelligence from various quarters assured us, that the meeting of the loyalists was out of hope; that they had been checked about 17 miles above Wilmington by the Rebels, in an attempt to pass a Bridge on the 27th. of February, and after sustaining the loss of Captain Donald McLeod, a gallant Officer, and near 20 men killed, and wounded, had dispersed.³ This unfortunate truth My Lord, was soon confirmed, by the arrival of Mr. MacLean, Mr Campbell, Mr. Stuart, and Mr. Mc.Nicole, who with infinite fatigue, danger, & difficulty, and by a vast [labour] made their way to the *Scorpion* Sloop of War, which lay at Brunswick . . .

Constrained to be my own Amanuensis, for want of opportunity to obtain a better in my present situation, and writing under every possible inconvenience, in the Cabbin of a little Vessel, I am sensible this letter needs apology, which I flatter myself Your Lordships goodness will admit, when you are pleased to consider the wretched state of a man not of Neptunes element, in the tenth month of his confinement on board ship. I have the honor to be, &c,

Jo. Martin

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, LC Photocopy.

2. See Martin's exchange of letters with the Magistrates and Inhabitants of Wilmington, February 27 and 28, 1776.

3. The battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON ¹

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find Colonel [Christopher] Gadsden's orders, for eighteen men to be put on board the armed schooner *Peggy*, of which, Lieut. Sherman ² is to be the commander. The mate of the schooner has consented to go, which I am glad of; as he is acquainted with the vessel, and every thing about her.

I am of opinion, that two of your 4-pounders which may be hoisted in, in an instant, will be of great service; and, although there are no ringbolts in the schooner, the seamen will soon make a contrivance for fixing and working the guns, sufficient for the intended short service.

Your lieutenants will be deliberate, in taking every necessary article on board – dispatch is absolutely necessary – she must be at, or over the bar, by daylight. You will give the necessary orders; and I would for the encouragement of the men, besides the value of the prize, promise thirty-five pounds per man, for every prisoner taken; and the like sum, for every man killed of the enemy. I am, dear Sir, [&c.]

Charlestown, 21st March 1776.

Henry Laurens.

A light in the main shrouds, will be a signal to the fort, to pass.

The Hon. William Henry Drayton Commander of the Ship *Prosper*

1. Drayton, *American Revolution*, II, 183.

2. Lieutenant Thomas Sherman, first lieutenant of the *Prosper*.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Thursday, March 21, 1776.

Resolved, That the ship *Port-Henderson*, Henry Aitken, master, now lying under the cannon of fort Johnson, and bound for London, be forthwith seized, and brought up to Charles-Town, under the care of the *Prosper* ship of war. That upon the said ship being brought up, the cargo on board be forthwith landed, and sold. And that, the said cargo being sold, the monies arising from such sale, be lodged in the Colony Treasury.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 90.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Scarborough, Savannah River

Georgia March 21st 1776

Sir.

I beg leave to Inform you that I sailed from Boston the 4th of Janry last in His Majesty's Ship under my Command with two Transports under my Convoy bound to this Port in Order to Purchase or seize a Quantity of Rice for the use of His Majesty's Troops & to have the assistance of Sr James Wright Governor of this Province in procuring the same.

Upon my Arrival here I found this Province in the utmost Confusion & in open Rebellion, they had taken away the Kings Cannon that lay at Cockspur & mounted them at the Town of Savannah & likewise sunk Vessels in

the narrowest part of the Channell, so as to prevent any Ship of Force getting up, they had likewise confined their Governor & Council, a few days after my Arrival Sr. James Wright found means to escape from his Confinement & got on board the *Scarboro*. where he & his Family now remains.

The Rebels had detained about twenty sail of Ships & Vessels partly loaded with Rice Therefore the only way of getting a Supply of that Commodity was to seize upon the Shipping which was done accordingly & I have got in my possession Sixteen hundred barrells of Rice, & I am now loading the two Transports with the same & then to proceed to Boston with them, where it is much wanted.

On the fifteenth Inst arrived here the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet, from St Augustine who brought me Letters from Governor Tonym, & Lieut. [William] Grant of the *St John* Schooner, Copies of which I herewith Inclose you, upon the perusal of which you will find the Rebels have sent a number of Armed Vessels to Sea & have attacked [New] Providence, but I imagine before I received the information they were gone as they declared they only came to carry away the Kings Cannon & Powder & to take the *St John* Schooner, I inclose you the Names & description of the above Rebel Vessels.²

Yesterday came in here a Sloop from St Augustine who brought me a Letter from Governor Tonym dated the 8th of March with Copy of one he received from Govr Brown Copies of both I herewith Inclose by which you will percieve they have some Intentions of paying a Visit to West Florida.

I therefore think it my duty to give you the earliest Information in my power. Mr Chambers who brings you this was at Providence the time the Rebels arrived there. There has been a report here that those Ships & Vessels had left Providence & got into Charles Town So Carolina, which has been partly Confirmed by the Information of Andw B[r]edon which I herewith Inclose you,³

I have sent a Vessel to look into Charles Town to know whither they are there or not, but as it may be of the utmost Consequence to His Majesty's Service for your being made acquainted with this Intelligence I will not detain Mr Chambers untill her return which may be some days. you will be pleased to observe they mean to attack our Trade from Jamaica which I make not the least doubt but they will endeavour to do.

Sr Peter Parkēr is expected upon this Coast every hour with a Small Squadron & [7?] Regiments, in order to reduce the Southern Colonies. I am afraid the Force is too small;

Governor [Josiah] Martin has got at Cape Fear, between three & four thousand Men in Arms for Government. the moment the Troops makes their Appearance, he expects to be joined by many more.

I beg leave to recommend Mr Chambers the master of the Sloop that brings you this, upon my Expressing a desire to send you this Intelligence,

he Immediately Offered his Service for that purpose, he thereby deserves every Encouragement & favour that can be shown him I am Sir [&c.]

And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, "A List of Ships and Vessels fitted out by the Rebels at Philadelphia to Cruize against the English which were ready to put to sea on the 12th February 1776."

3. *Ibid.*, Andrew Bredon's declaration of March 20, 1776.

22 Mar.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS¹

Mr. Adams

Salem, March 22d. 1776

You will by this itt likely have heard, of the departure of the Troops from Boston. I went in this week and found my home in good Order, though great devastation as to many Others.

I here Mr. Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] has wrote to his brother about purchaicing a Cargo, of fish – and have been with me, About purchaicing some I have. I Understand, itt is by the Order of Congress, I dont purpose parting with itt, unless I can have the chance of shiping itt by my Own Vessells As choose to imploy them, and think I have as good a right, to have them imployed as any man in the government, as I question whether any One will suffer more – and iff you could let me know, in what Manner the Vessells and Cargo's are to be fixt Out upon. – I sent three or four Schooners for Virginia As grain will be wanted and would be a publick benifit, but dont know but they will be taken. One Crew returned Yesterday being taken in the Capes of Virginia, by which I shall suffer Two hund. pds. ster.² I have a Number of Schooners laying by as well as larger Vessells which should be glad to get imploy for, and One att Baltimore hauld up there. Iff any probabillity of any liberty to go as private property to foreign ports let me know – We hourly expect to see the fleet come along.³

I am with regard Sr. Yr. hum Servt.,

Isaac Smith

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 364–65.

2. The schooner *Joseph*, John Hill, master, taken February 14, 1776, by the frigate *Liverpool*, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. Smith refers to the British fleet in Nantasket harbor, part of which, two frigates and a fleet of transports, sailed for Halifax on the afternoon of March 25, 1776.

"RETURN OF ORDNANCE STORES LEFT BY THE ENEMY IN BOSTON MARCH 17TH
1776 – " ¹

7 --- 12 Pounds	} In the North Battery all useless.
2 --- 9 Do	
4 --- 6 Do	

3 --- 28 Pounders	}	On Cobs Hill
177 --- 28 Pound Shott		
1 --- 8 Inch Shell		
273 Wads		
2 Handcrow Levers		
2 Drag Ropes	}	At West Boston
Half a Side of Leather		
3 --- 32 Pounders		
39 --- Shott		
154 --- Wads		
1 --- 13 Inch Iron Mortar & Bed	}	On B[e]acon Hill
1 --- Large Chain		
2 --- 12 Pounders		
23 --- Shott		
23 --- Wads		
1 Cohorn in the Dock at Hutchinson's Wharf	}	On the Neck.
3 --- 24 Pounders at the Hay Market Battery		
1 --- 28 Pounder		
1 --- 24 Do		
8 --- 12 Pounders		
3 --- 5¼ Pounders	}	In the Blockhouse Battery.
1 --- 3 Pounder useless		
3 --- 24 Pounders		
3 --- 32 Do		
1 --- Cohorn		
3 --- 12 Pounders at Hatches Wharf	}	In the Dock at Hatch's Wharf.
A Number of Shot and Shell		
10 Swivels in the <i>Washington</i> armed Vessel		
2 --- 24 Pounders		
1 --- 32 Pounder		
7 --- Iron Wheels for Carriage Guns	}	In South Battery.
31 --- Cannon useless		
1 --- 4 Pounder		
19 --- 4 Pounders useless		

Cambridge March 22d 1776.

Errors excepted
Signed, Ezek^l Cheever, Comy Artillery

1. John Hancock Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

(Copy)

Notwithstanding former Orders, You are hereby required and directed, to Order Captain [Tyringham] Howe of His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* on his

Arrival at Virginia, and delivering the Packets which are to be forwarded to the Southward, to put himself under the Command of the Senior Officer on that Station, and follow his Orders for his further proceedings.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* in Nantasket Road 22nd March 1776.

M.Shulldham.

To Captain Wallace Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, and Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Rhode Island.

By Command of the Admiral E Bragge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR ¹

- March 1776 Moor'd in King Road
- Wednesday 20 during the Night Saw a great fire on Castle William & from 6 AM till Noon heard the report of Several Great Guns from thence. Serv'd Porter to the Ships Company – Fresh Gales
- at 3 PM the Rebels began firing from Thompson's Island at a party of men belonging to one of the transports, whilst watering Sent the Pinnace & Cutter to assist in bringing them off. Came on board a party of Marines Consisting of one Lieutenant & 39 Ptes Recd on board Water & Brandy at 9 Saw Castle William all in a Blaze
- Thursday 21 AM thick Wr & Snow at 10 fir'd a Gun & made the signal to Unmoor At Noon made the signal, weigh'd & made Sail for Nantasket Roads –
- Mode Gales & fair Wr at 1 PM Came too in Nantasket roads & moord a Cable each way, Long Island WBN the Light House EBN found rideing here H M Ships *Renown Lively, Fowey, Nautilus, Savage & Diligent* Schooner with all the Transports &ca Returnd the *Savage's* Salute Anchord here the *Dispatch* & *Tryal* Schooner at 1/2 past 2 heard the Reports of several Guns in the Offing, the Light House made the Signal for an Attack in the Offing. HM Sloop *Savage & Diligent* schooner Slip't & went out to Sea ²
- Friday 22 Fresh Gales with Sleet & Rain PM Came in Anchord here HM Sloop *Kingsfisher* ret'd her Salute also HM Sloop *Savage & Diligent* Schooner with a Brigg from London loaded with Coals & porter the Vessel that the Rebels Attack'd yesterday.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

2. See Journal of Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Kemble, March 21, 1776.

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF
REAR [VICE] ADMIRAL SHULDHAM" ¹

Rate	Ships	Commanders		Disposition
4th	<i>Chatham</i>	{ Rear Admiral Shuldham Capt John Raynor }	At Boston	In Nantasket Road, Under Orders to proceed with a Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
"	<i>Renown</i>	" Frans Banks		Do Under Orders to Cruise and Rendezvous occasionally in Nantasket Road, and Boston Bay.
"	<i>Centurion</i>	" Richd Brathwaite		Do Ordered to accompany and protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax and then to return, and put himself under Command of Capt Banks.
6th	<i>Lively</i>	" Thos Bishop		Do Ordered to accompany . . . Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
5th	<i>Niger</i>	" Geo: Talbot		Cruizing in Boston Bay under the Command of Capt Banks.
6th	<i>Fowey</i>	" Geo. Montagu		In Nantasket Road Under Orders to proceed with those Transports which are ready to Halifax and then to return and put himself under the Command of Capt Banks.
Sloop	<i>Savage</i>	" Hugh Bromedge	At Boston	Do Ordered to New York under the Command Capt Parker
"	<i>Nautilus</i>	" John Collins		Do Ordered to Rhode Island with Dispatches (to be sent Southward by the <i>Glasgow</i>) and from thence to proceed to the Island of Bermuda.
"	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	" Alexr Graeme, Actg		Do Ordered to Accompany and Protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
Brig	<i>Diligent</i>	Lieut Edmd Dod		Do Ordered to proceed with the <i>Fowey</i> , to accompany and protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax.
Storeship	<i>Adventure</i>	" John Hallum		Do Ordered to accompany the Convoy to Halifax.
Brig	<i>Hope</i>	" Geo. Dawson		Cruizing in Boston Bay, under the Command of Captain Banks.
Schooner	<i>Tryal</i>	" John Brown		In Nantasket Road { Ordered to accompany and protect the Fleet of Transports to Halifax.—
"	<i>Dispatch</i>	" John Goodridge		Do

Sloop Brig	6th	<i>Rose</i>	Capt James Wallace	At Rhode Island	Ordered to Halifax to refit.
	"	<i>Glasgow</i>	" Tyrm Howe		Ordered to the Southd with Dispatches and remain at Virginia
		<i>Swan</i>	" Jas Ayscough		Ordered to Cruize between the Latitudes of 42.00 and 43.20 N and
		<i>Bolton</i>	Lieut Edwd Sneyd		Longitude of St Georges Bank and to be under the Command of Capt Banks at Nantasket..
Sloop	5th	<i>Phoenix</i>	Capt Hyde Parker	At New York	
	3d	<i>Asia</i>	" Geo: Vandeput		
		<i>Viper</i>	" Saml Graves, Actg		Supposed to be blown off the Coast when on her passage to New York, and by late Intelligence Arrived at Antigua.
Sloop	5th	<i>Roebuck</i>	" A: S: Hamond	At Virginia.	
	6th	<i>Liverpool</i>	" Heny Bellew		
		<i>Otter</i>	" Mattw Squire		
Sloop		<i>Cruizer</i>	Capt Frans Parry	At North Carolina	Ordd to Boston this Spring by V: A: Graves.
"		<i>Scorpion</i>	" John Tollemache		
	6	<i>Mercury</i>	" James Montagu		Supposed to be Cruizing off Cape Fear with General Clinton on board and three Trans-
Sloop		<i>Falcon</i>	" John Linzee		ports with Troops under her Convoy –
"		<i>Tamer</i>	" Edwd Thornbrough		Supposed to be Cruizing off Cape Fear.
Sloop	6th	<i>Scarborough</i>	" Andw Barkley	Supposed to be at Savannah	
		<i>Raven</i>	" John Stanhope		
	Schooner		<i>St Lawrence</i>		Lt John Graves	At St Augustine. Ordered to Boston this Spring by Vice Adml Graves
"		<i>Hinchinbrook</i>	" Alexr Ellis		Sailed with the <i>Scarborough</i> to relieve the St Lawrence.
"		<i>St John</i>	" Willm Grant		At the Bahama Islands.
Arm'd Ship		<i>Cherokee</i>	" John Ferguson		Supposed to be Surveying the Southern Coast
Sloop		<i>Merlin</i>	Capt Wm Chalmr Burnaby	At Annapolis Royal	Nova Scotia.
"		<i>Senegal</i>	" Wm Duddingston	At Liverpool	
	5th	<i>Orpheus</i>	" Chas Hudson	At Halifax refitting	
	6	<i>Cerberus</i>	" John Symons		

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF
REAR [VICE] ADMIRAL SHULDHAM"¹—Continued

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition
Schooner	<i>Halifax</i>	Lieut Wm Quarme	
6th	<i>Lizard</i>	Capt Wm. Hamilton	} At Quebec.
Sloop	<i>Hunter</i>	" Thos Mackenzie	
Brig	<i>Gaspee</i>	Lt Willm Hunter	Lieut Hunter and part of the Crew taken Prisoner (by the Rebels) at the Island [sic] St John.

Chatham in Nantasket Road, Boston 22d March 1776.

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE ¹

- March 1776 Abrest of Gould Island.
- Thursdy 21 A M Weigh'd and came to Sail as did the Squadrn Steering down the River.
 Fresh Breezes with Sleet at times at 1 P M abrest the Light House Brot too Join'd *Fortune* T[ende]r at 2 past 3 saw 2 Sail SE. gave Chace at 2 past 4 saw 2 in the S W made the *Glasgow's* Sigl to Chace as did the *Fortune* Tender at 6 Join'd the *Glasgow*, *Hawke* T[ende]r and the Sloop *Sally* David Hawley Master ² from Newhaven with Flax Rye Indian Corn, Flour, Beef and Pork which the *Hawke* had Seiz'd, at 8 lost Sight of the Chace, In 2d Reef T Sails
- Friday 22 A M at 5 All the Squadrn in Sight but the *Fortune* Tr, saw 2 Sail in N W out Reefs &c and gave Chace, at 8 the Et End of Block Island NBW 4 Leagues Bro't too Join'd *Fortune* Tr with the Sloop *Daulphin* Ernt Sheerman Master from Newhaven bound to the Wt Indies with Flour, Pork, Beef, Tallow & Bread ³ at 10 made Sail Steering for Rhode Island Harbour Fresh Breezes and hazy, at 1 P M Steering in for Rhode Island Harbour, came to in 8 fm soft Bottom,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. Hawley was held on board the *Glasgow* and was a prisoner in her when she engaged the Continental fleet on April 6, 1776. The sloop *Sally* does not appear on any British prize list.

3. The *Daulphin*, or *Dauphin*, or *Dolphin*, does not appear on any British prize list.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Friday, 22 March, 1776

Voted, That Eliphalet Dyer and Wm. Williams, Esqrs, be directed to purchase at New York or Philadelphia sufficient quantity of rigging for the Colony ship now building, or procure hemp sufficient to make the same, as shall appear most advantageous for this Colony, and forward the same, if in hemp to Mr. James Tilley at New London, if in rigging to Capt. Uriah Hayden at Saybrook, and give as early advice as possible of their proceedings thereon.

Voted, That Eliphalet Dyer and Wm. Williams, Esqrs, make use of so much of the Colony money that they shall receive at Philadelphia as to pay for the rigging or hemp which they are ordered to purchase for the Colony ship, and also pay what is due to Col. Isaac Sears for sundries he purchased for this Colony, take receipts for what they pay and lodge the same with the Pay-Table and take their order on the Treasurer, to answer so far as they pay in lieu of lodging the money.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 254.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

East Greenwich March 22d 1776

At the Request of the General Assembly now sitting here I make Application to your Excellency for Six seamen taken from the Enemy and now your Prisoners to be exchanged for six Inhabitants of this Colony who were taken and are detained by Capt. Wallace. Four of These Men have Families who are greatly distressed. I send this by Express by Reason of the Danger of Capt. Wallace's being removed from this station and carrying these unfortunate People with him, or if that should not be the Case of his sending them to Britain to the utter Ruin of them and their Families. We have but Two Prisoners in this Colony both Officers and active enterprizing Men whom we should be extremely unwilling to give up.

I beg the Favour of your Excellency to give his Matter the quickest Dispatch and to deliver the seamen to Mr Burr the Bearer to be immediately brought into the Colony.

I am with great Truth and Respect [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Letters from the Governor, 1768-1777, vol. 2, R. I. Arch.

JOHN CHATFIELD TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Easthampton, March 22d, 1776.

Gent. — This day, about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, our guard stationed at Montauk saw twenty sail of square rigged vessels, (five of them appeared to be large) and two sloops, bearing about SSE from the point of Montauk, about nine or ten miles to sea; the wind SSE; the weather something thick and hazy; steering about NE by N and sailed to the eastward of Block Island, and I suppose, by the course they steered, that they were going into Rhode Island. This, gentlemen, is all the information we can give you concerning them, as at about 1 o'clock they disappeared behind Block Island, and they saw them no more.

As we are a frontier at the east end of Long island, and are destitute of men to defend us, and have but little ammunition, should be very glad if the Hon. House would use their endeavours that we may have some assistance. We are, gent. [&c.]

Signed by order of com. of Easthampton.

John Chatfield, Chairman.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 149.

2. The lookouts saw the British fleet, under Captain James Wallace, returning to Rhode Island; see journal of the *Rose*, this date.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, A.M. March 22d, 1776.

Ordered, That the general committee of the city and county of New-York, or their sub-committee of inspection, be at liberty to permit Mr. Jacobus Van Zandt and Mr. Isaac Sears to export produce of any kind, (horned

cattle, sheep, hogs poultry excepted,) to the amount of value of three hundred and sixty pounds, in part of the value of military stores imported from Amsterdam in the sloop *Sally*, Brown master.

Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers dissents.

Ordered, That Philip Livingston, by his agent, Mr. Abraham Livingston, be permitted to export wheat, flour and other produce of the United Colonies, (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry excepted,) to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, for the service of the United Colonies, pursuant to a permission of the committee of secrecy of the Continental Congress, of the 8th of Jany. last.

Ordered, That Mr. [Barnabas] Dean[e] of the Colony of Connecticut, be permitted to load the brig. *Elizabeth* with wheat and flour, on Continental account, pursuant to an order of the Continental Congress.

Captain Rutgers dissents.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 380.

————— TO RICHARD VASSAL ¹

[Extract]

[New York] March 22d 1776.

It is a certain truth that two french Noblesse were in cog last summer with the Congress. I am afraid something is brewing, that will be like an Explosion. Clem saw in town a few Weeks ago a french Officer, stiff in lace, a white Cockade in his hat, that could not speak a word of English. He had a Negro behind him, bearing his sword, that spoke for him; they came from N.England & were bound to Philadelphia. A few weeks after, he saw another of the same sort moving the same way. We get what Arms & Ammunition we want from france, holland & spain, notwithstanding all the precaution of your Court; We have also a prussian Officer here. A Baron came to offer his service to the Congress, its said from the King of prussia . . . Every Avenue leading from the River into the City of New-York is fortified; in consequence of expected Troops. Genl [Charles] Lee is gone to the southward to meet Genl Clinton (it is remarkable that both these Generals arrived here on one day, &, though it was sabbath, it threw the whole City in such a convulsion as it never knew before, moving away their effects; all that day & all night were the Carts going & Boats loading, & Women & Children crying, & distressed voices heard in the roads in the dead of the night). Clinton came here to pay a short visit to Govr Tryon, & to see how matters stood here; but, to his great surprize, found he could not put his foot on shore, expressed much concern at seeing so much distress on his acct declared his juvenal love for this place brought him here, & was pleased to send for the Mayor, to desire he would acquaint the people, he only came on a Visit, & would go away as soon as he could.

[Copy]

Not signed.

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

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, March 22, 1776

A petition from Thorowgood Smith, and others, was presented to Congress, and read, setting forth, that they have procured a vessel, and raised money to fit her out as a privateer, in order to guard and cruize on the coast of Virginia, and praying that a commission be granted to William Shippen, to whom they propose to give the command of said vessel; and that the Congress will grant them a small quantity of powder, upon their making satisfaction for the same:

Resolved, That a commission be granted to William Shippen, as captain of the above mentioned vessel, for the purposes aforesaid.

Resolved, That Captain William Shippen be supplied with three hundred weight of powder by the Secret Committee, he paying for the same.

The committee appointed to prepare a declaration pursuant to certain resolutions,² brought in a draught, which was read ³

The Congress took into consideration the declaration brought in by the Committee, and after debate, the further consideration thereof, was at the request of a colony, postponed till to morrow.

Resolved, That the marine committee be empowered to dispose of the coal on board the *Blue Mountain Valley*, in such manner as they shall judge most for the benefit of the United Colonies.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 225, 227.

2. Resolutions of March 19, 1776.

3. The original draft of the declaration on privateering, which differs materially from that finally adopted, reads as follows:

Whereas the british Nation, through great Corruption of Manners, and extream Dissipation and Profusion both private and publick, have found all honest Resources insufficient to supply their excessive Luxury and Prodigality, and thereby have been driven to the practise of every Injustice which Avarice could dictate or rapacity execute, and, whereas, not satisfied with the immense plunder of the East, obtained by sacrificing Millions of the human Species, they have lately turned their Eyes to the West, and gruding us the peaceable enoyment of the Fruits of our hard Labour and virtuous Industry, have for Years past been endeavouring to extort the same from us under Colour of Laws regulating trade; and have thereby actually succeeded in draining us of large sums to our great Loss and detriment, and whereas impatient to seize the whole they have at length proceeded to open Robbery, declaring by a solemn Act of Parliament that all our Estates are theirs and all our Property found upon the Sea divisible among such of their armed plunderers as shall take the same; and have even dared in the same Act to declare that all the Spoilings, Thefts, burnings of Houses and Towns, and murders of innocent People perpetrated by their wicked and inhuman Corsairs on our Coasts, previous to any war declared against us were just Actions, and shall be so deemed, contrary to several of the Commandments of God, which by this Act they presume to repeal, and to all the Principles of Right and all the Ideas of Justice entertained heretofore by every other Nation Savage as well as Civilized thereby manifesting themselves to be *hostes humani generis*: And whereas it is not possible for the People of America to subsist under such continual Ravages without making some Reprisals, therefore –

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 22 March – Wyth reported the Preamble about Privateering, he and [Richard Henry] Lee moved an Amendt wherein the King was made the Author of our Miseries instead of the Ministry, it was opposed on Supposition that this was effectually severing the King from Us forever and ably debated for 4 Hours when Maryland interposed its Veto and put it off till Tomorrow, Chief Speakers for the Amendt Lee, [Samuel] Chase, Serjeant [Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant], [Benjamin] Harrison, against it [John] Jay, [James] Wilson, [Thomas] Johnson . . . Agreed to grant Commissions to Capt Wm Shippen & his Officers who are about to cruize in a Privateer on or out of Chesapeak Bay, agreed also to sell Him £b. 300 of Powder –

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO CHARLES WILLIAM FREDERIC DUMAS ¹

Dear Sir:

Philadelphia, March 22d, 1776.

I wrote to you lately by Mr. [Thomas] Story, and since by another conveyance. This line will be delivered to you by Mr. Deane, who goes over on business of the [Continental] Congress, and with whom you may freely converse on the affairs committed to you in behalf of that body. I recommend him warmly to your civilities. Messrs Vaillant and Pochard ² continue close at their new business, and are already able to subsist by it; as they grow more expert, they will be able to make more money.

Mr. Deane will inform you of every thing here, and I need not add more than that I am [&c.]

B. Franklin

1. Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*, II, 82.

2. *Ibid.*, 64, French gentlemen "of mere science in *les belles-lettres*," who had arrived in Philadelphia in August or September, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee on Friday 22 March 1776 –

Mr Hugh Young applied to the Committee for the Schooner *Ninety Two*, which he had engaged to load on Accot of the Province, but as they are of Opinion, that it is necessary to keep her to have her sunk in case of Need, they think it inexpedient to deliver her up –

The Council of Safety having directed this Committee to prove the Cannon belonging to Capt William Stone, they appoint Capt Nathaniel Smith, Capt John Fulford, & Lieutenant Bouchier [John Thomas Boucher] to perform that Service, and return an Account of their Number & Sizes to this Committee

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore March] 22d

. . . we are geting more prepared for our Enemies (if the[y] Come) every day and we doubt not if they give us a Little time that we shall give them a warm Reseption – this day we Got permission to bring up Your brig to prepare her for her Cargo, on our Promis to send her down when Ordered she & two others are not to be sunk till there is Real Danger and we hope by the time she is Ready to take in, that our boom will be Redy, & prevent the Sinking any more than what is allready done and we hope Ere long we shall begin to Load her . . .

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 22d March 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Silas Howell, Wm Sellars and John Wilson (whose Vessel was taken from them in Chesapeake Bay by the *Otter* Sloop of War) thirty Shillings each to defray their Expences to Philadelphia.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE CALVERT COUNTY COMMITTEE OF
OBSERVATION ¹

[Extract] No 75

Gentn

As it was thought by the last Convention that 50 Regular Troops would be sufficient to watch the Movements of the Ships of War and their Tenders on your Coast, and to repel any sudden Attack or Invasion which might be attempted by small Parties, and as we do not conceive your Situation more dangerous now, than it was then, so we cannot think ourselves at Liberty to station an additional Number of Men in your County –² We wish to prevent the Militia's being harassed, and apprehend when Captn [Reason] Beall arrives at his Station, which we imagine will be by the last of next Week, there will not be any Occasion for them to move, unless a more formidable Force should come up the Bay, than has yet appeared, which we have no Reason to expect for some Time, under which Circumstance the Number you speak of would not avail, and the Militia would be under a Necessity of taking the Field.

[Annapolis] 22 March 1776

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

2. On March 18 the Calvert County Committee had requested an additional 30 men. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 261.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, 22nd March, 1776.

Ordered that the Comm'ee of Prince Wm. be wrote to, that the Comm'ee will take their powder and lead, and direct that they will deliver so much thereof to the order of Colo. George Mason and Mr. John Dalton, as they shall judge necessary for the naval department in Potomack, and the residue to Colo. [Hugh] Mercer for the use of the 3rd Regiment.

John Allison is appointed Captain, William Payne, jun'r, First Lieutenant, and James Moody, Second Lieutenant of Marines for the cruiser employed in Potomack River called the *American Congress*.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 133.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1776

Williamsburg, March 22.

It is an undoubted fact, that between 8 and 9000wt. of gunpowder is just brought into this colony, from one of the French islands, with a number of fieldpieces, four and six-pounders, some muskets, &c. Several French gentlemen likewise came in the vessel, one of whom, shortly after their arrival set out for Philadelphia.

While a couple of tenders were on their way up James river, last Thursday night [March 14] which was very dark and stormy, one of them got fast aground below Jamestown, within a small distance of the shore, and the crew, finding it impracticable to get her off, stayed on board till next morning, when all hands left her, and rowed to the other tender, leaving behind a number of cannon balls, a quantity of salt, some sailors clothes, &c. They then proceeded up to a plantation of mr. Harrison's of Brandon, from whence they stole eight steers out of a cart, and twelve lean cows, which they slaughtered and took with them, for the use of lord Dunmore's hungry fleet and army, robbing the overseer likewise of all his household goods, stripping the negro cabins, and carried with them, by force, two valuable negro men, as recruits, we suppose, for the *Royal Regiment of Black Fusileers*.

About ten days ago, a sloop bound from Hispaniola to Philadelphia, the property of mr. Beveridge, merchant in that city, and commanded by capt. Forrester, was taken in the bay by a tender belonging to the *Roebuck* man of war, and one Rogers, a midshipman, with five seamen, were put on board to conduct her to Norfolk; at the same time taking out all the hands, except the mate and a boy. In her voyage thither, one of the casks of wine in the hold becoming leaky by some accident, the midshipman and his party went down to stop the leak, when the mate and boy, with great address, shut down the hatches and secured the prisoners, and then pushed to the Eastern Shore with the vessel and cargo, the latter worth at least 4000£ sterling. Captain Hammond, on hearing of this affair, ordered capt. Forrester, who was on board the *Roebuck*, up to the prison ship at Norfolk, in a pilot boat, under the escort of a midshipman and six hands; but the vessel running aground on an oyster bank, two miles below lord Dunmore's ship,

the midshipman ordered one of the seamen into a canoe to do something for the relief of the vessel, when capt. Forrester seized the opportunity, and, leaped into the canoe, cut the painter with a jack-leg knife, on which she swung off with the tide; then turning to the seaman, swore he would cut his throat if he offered to obstruct him in his escape. This menace quieted the fellow till capt. Forrester had paddled about 100 yards, when, finding his escape practicable, he pulled with all his might, and both got safely ashore, amidst a cloud of curses and imprecations from the midshipman and sailors. The captain, and his comrade whom he had taken, have gone to Accomack, to look after the vessel, and to dispose of the cargo to the best advantage.

Capt. Forrester informs, that the *Kingfisher* is gone round to Boston, to bring a number of ships of war up Delaware river, to prevent the Philadelphians from making any farther preparations for the defence of their city; it being determined upon, it seems, that the grand attack shall be made upon Philadelphia, as soon as the fleet and troops arrive from England, but we hope will prove equally abortive with the rest of the cursed ministerial schemes to enslave America.

The *Otter* sloop of war, and two tenders, which have been lying at the mouth of Patuxent, and cruising in the bay, for some time past, took several prizes, and burnt a shallop loaded with oats; and, their audacity increasing with their successful piracy, capt. Squire took it into his head to go up to Baltimore, with the tenders and prizes, with the view, it was supposed, to take or destroy the *Defence* privateer which had been fitting out at that place. Capt Nicholson, however, the commander, having got intelligence of his design, immediately got his *Defence* ready, manned with a number of brave Hearts of Oak, and towed down the river, to give battle to the *Otter*, several small vessels attending, crowded with men, to lend their assistance, if it should be wanted. Upon being discovered bearing down by the tenders, they pushed off with precipitation, abandoning three or four small prize vessels, with a large ship they had taken loaded with wheat and flour, commanded by one [Jonathan] Hudson. The *Defence* having manned the prize, and seeing the *Otter* get under way, clued up her courses and prepared for battle, expecting her to come up; but the *Otter* having lain about two hours, as if wanting capt. Nicholson to come down, at length bore away, and in the afternoon came to anchor off Annapolis. Capt. Nicholson continued his station some time; and, having performed this gallant action, returned with the prizes to Baltimore.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS ¹

March

At an Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia

Friday 22 At 11 A M saw a Sloop towing towards Hampton Harbour; fired a Shot & sent the *Edward* Tender after her. At noon the *Edward* set her on fire.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Charleston] Friday, March 22, 1776.

Resolved, That Col. [George Gabriel] Powell, Col. [Thomas] Fuller, Mr. [Aaron] Loockock, Capt. [Thomas] Shubrick, Dr. [David] Oliphant, Mr. [Daniel] Cannon, and Mr. [James] Brown, be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners, for laying forthwith such obstructions to the navigation of the channels over Charles-Town bar and in the harbour, as they shall judge necessary to prevent the passage of ships of war. And that the Council of Safety do give every assistance to the said Commissioners, and cause the necessary sums of money to be advanced, for the carrying on this service.

Read a letter, received last night from the Council of Safety of Georgia, dated 16th instant, with the sundry papers therein referred to, viz.

No. 1. Two letters from Messrs. Demeré and Roberts to Col. M'Intosh, dated on board the *Charming Nancy*, 3d and 4th March – Col. McIntosh's answer – Letter from Messrs. Demeré and Roberts, 4th March.

No. 2. Letter from Col. McIntosh to Messrs. Demeré and Roberts – Letter from Capt. Barclay and Major Grant, dated on board the *Hinchinbrook*, 6th March – Col. McIntosh's letter to them, 5th March – Letter from Mr. Demeré to Col. McIntosh, dated *Hinchinbrook*, 6th March.

No. 3. Letter from the Council of Safety in Georgia, to Capt. Barclay and Major Grant, dated Savannah, 7th March – Letter from Capt. Barclay and Major Grant to Anthony Stokes, Esq.; dated on board the *Scarboroughh*, 14th March.

No. 4. Letter from the Council of Safety for Georgia, to Capt. Barclay and Major Grant, dated Savannah, 16th March –

Copy of an intercepted letter from James Taylor, dated on board the *Christie*, at Cockspur, 14th March, to Mr. George Houstoun – Copies of other intercepted letters, viz. from John Simpson in London, dated 23d December, 1775, to Mr. George Houstoun; from Robert Grant and Comp. in London, to the same, of same date; with an extract of a contract with the Commissioners of the Victualling-Office; from Roger Kelsall in London, dated 5th December, 1773; and from the same, dated 22d December, to Kelsall and Spalding at Sunbury.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 92, 93.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS¹

March 76

Tebea [Tybee] So 57 Wt Distance 29 Leagues

Thursdy 21 at 2 AM handed the Topsail Reefed the Main sail at 9 saw 4 Sail to the West and hauld up to Speak them they prov'd to be 4 Rebel Privateers,² bore away and made sail the Privateers in Chase of us at 12 the Privateers Still in Chase Light Airs with a heavy swell the Privateers in Chase of us at 5 P M lost a logg & three lines at 6 a Privateer Brig fired

Several Shot at us at 11 P M the Privateer Brig hail'd us
bore away
Fridy 22 At 1 A M Lost sight of the privatr hove too with the Main
Topsail to the mast at 6 A M Saw the land from NoW to
SW off shore 7 miles hauld to the Wind at 8 Do Port Royal
WbN 8 mile Tkd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.
2. This encounter was probably with the South Carolina armed brig *Comet*, Captain Turpin. That there were four privateers in company is doubtful, the other vessels probably were merchantmen under convoy.

A DECLARATION OF THE MASTERS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPS LIBERATED
AT SAVANNAH ¹

(Copy)

Province of Georgia North America

We the Masters of the Undermentioned Ships and Vessels do declare and attest that about November last We had permission to load our ships and Vessels with Rice and other Commodities for Great Britain, at the Port of Savanah in Georgia, and having taken our Cargoes on board accordingly, we were stoped on the fifteenth day of December following by orders of the Council of Safety and detained by them at Savanah, and that We were at great loss and a heavy Expende of Seamens Wages and Victuals, in keeping them On board, which if we had not done they would have gone and Joined the Rebels, who offered them three pounds a Month. That upon the Arrival of the King's Ships in Savanah River, several of us applied to Captain [Andrew] Barkley Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough*, and to Major [James] Grant Commanding officer of the Kings Troops, for protection, who assured us, We should have every protection in their power and further say that Captain Barkley and Major Grant having got up to the Town of Savanah with several Armed Vessels and a Body of Troops – We were desired by the above Gentlemen to get our Vessels ready to sail up the Back River under Cover of His Majesty's Armed Vessels, as the Rebels had shut up the other Ship Channel both by Sinking a Hulk in it and erecting a Battery upon the Bluff – and that we were obliged in order to proceed under Cover of the said Armed Vessels to bring our Ships and Vessels to the draught of between Nine and Ten feet which obliged many of us to throw over board a Quantity of Rice, and we are of opinion and firmly believe that our ships and Vessels have been saved by the interposition of His Majesty's Ships and Troops under the Command of Captain Barkley and Major Grant as they must otherwise have been detained or destroyed by the Rebels then assembled in Arms in Savanah, as they repeatedly ordered us to unreeve our rigging unbend our sails, and unhang our Rothers[rudders].

And when the Kings Troops had got on board our Ships an Officer came from the Shore and declared if we did not immediately begin and Unbend our sails we should be destroyed, which Officer was taken Prisoner.

To the truth of the Above We have hereunto Set our hands on board His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* in Savanah River this 22d March 1776.

Tho ^s Glenders	And ^w Lee
Tho ^s Walker	Geo. Craik
R ^t King	W ^m Pinkerton
Jn ^o Alexander	Rich ^d Chapman
Jn ^o Wallace	

(Signed) And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

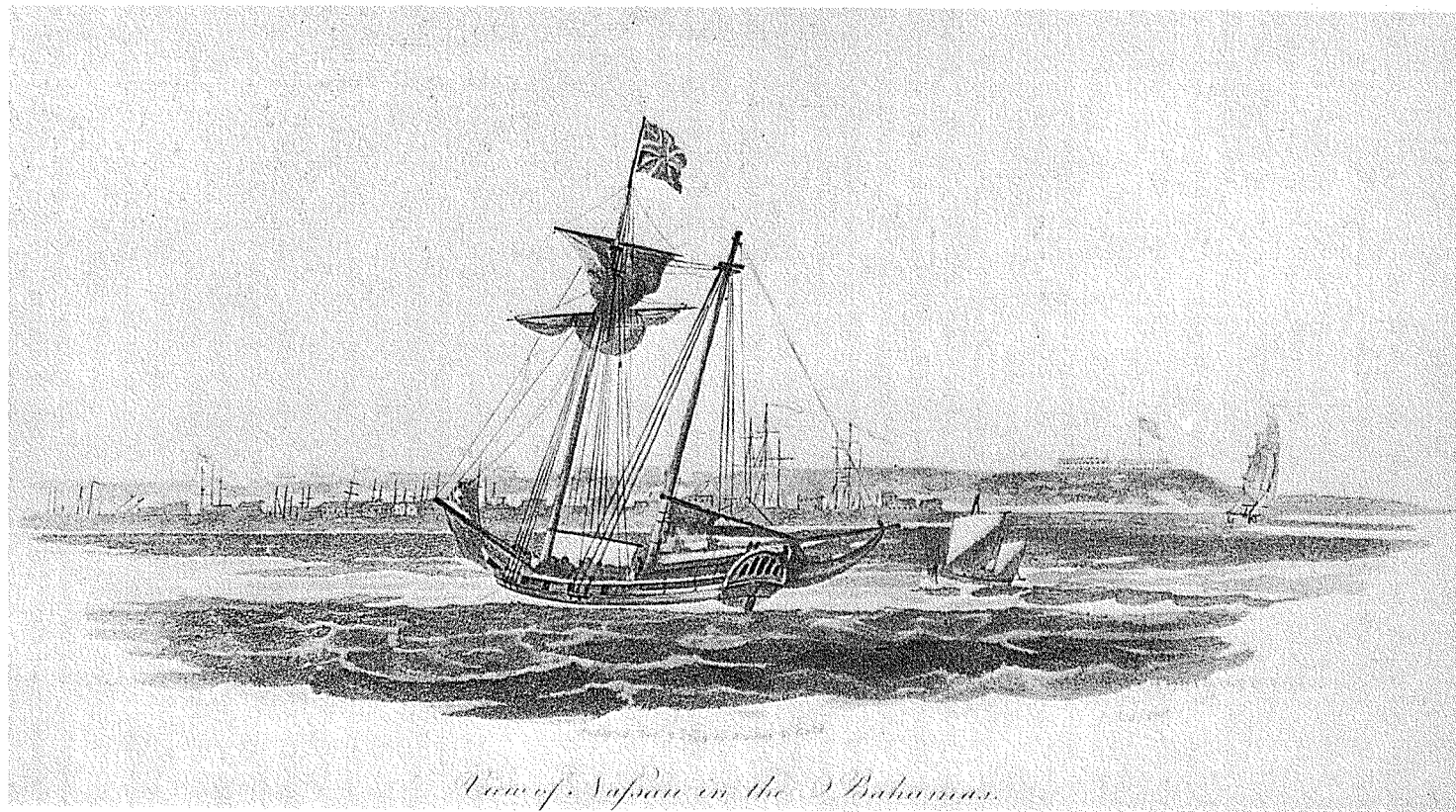
JOHN BROWN TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Bahama Island, New Providence
22nd March 1776

Sir

The present distressed and defenceless State of His Majesty's Bahama Islands occasioned by the arrival of an Armament fitted out by the American Colonies now in open and declared Rebellion, makes me take this earliest opportunity by Express to acquaint you of what has lately happened here, and to request your Assistance.

You must know then, Sir, that early on Sunday Morning of the third Instant a Ship, afterwards found to be mounted with thirty two Guns, One of thirty Guns, two Brigantines mounted with sixteen Guns each; a Sloop of fourteen Guns, a Schooner of Six, and two other Sloops appeared a little to windward of the Bar of the Harbour of New Providence; and as it was doubtful what their designs were His Excellency Governor Browne, expecting they wou'd come into the Harbour, order'd the Country to be alarmed & assembled the greatest part of the Militia, the only Force here (the Company of His Majesty's 14th Regiment which had done duty here having been some time ago withdrawn to the Continent) into Fort Nassau, at the West Entrance of the Port, in order to defend the Passage over the Bar, and a Sloop was immediately sent out to discover, if possible, who they were but to no purpose; and when it was thought they wou'd come into the Harbour they suddenly tacked and stood towards the East, and the Ships and Brigantines being anchored at a place called Hanover Sound, about three Leagues from hence, the Sloops and Schooner proceeded to the east end of this Island, where, before the Militia of Fort Nassau, who were dispatched to the Eastward to reinforce a small party posted in Fort Montagu at the other entrance of the Harbour, with design to oppose the landing of any Troops, cou'd reach the place where they were anchored, they debarqued to the number of about three hundred Men, and the Militia finding themselves too weak to make any opposition were forced to return to Fort Montagu, where the Governor then was, and as it was thought most adviseable to retreat to Fort Nassau, which was the most defensible and where the Powder (except a few Barrels) was lodged, the Governor & Militia return'd then accordingly (after having spiked the Cannon & removed the Powder of Fort Montagu) with design to defend the same. soon after the Governor sent an Officer of



the Militia to demand of the commanding Officer of those Troops which were landed who they were and what their intentions were in coming hither, who received for Answer they were sent by the Congress of the United Colonies, in order to possess themselves of the Powder and Stores belonging to His Majesty. Sometime after this a paper was handed about amongst the People to the Eastward of the Town, signed by one Esek Hopkins, the Commander in Chief of the Fleet & Forces, in which he promised security of Persons & Property to such as wou'd not oppose his designs ² which induced several of the Inhabitants to refuse coming to defend the Fort & others to Join the Rebels. Early in the Afternoon the Enemy to[ok] possession of Fort Montagu where they remained until the next Morning; in the mean time a Spirit of Disaffection shewed itself amongst the Inhabitants many of them declaring that they wou'd not fight against the Americans in consequence of which they deserted the Fort in great numbers, so that by ten oClock in the Evening there were not in the fort more than one hundred Men, the Governor Council Militia Officers & even Slaves included; the Governor then called a Council of War consisting of the Council Militia Officers & some of the principal Inhabitants the Majority of whom were of Opinion that the Fort in its then State was not defensible by the few that then remain'd in it; soon after this he advised with his Majesty's Council respecting the sending off the Powder in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the Rebels, which was resolved on & accordingly Shipped for St Augustine to His Excellency Governor Tonym & at day break the Governor, Council & Officers finding themselves almost entirely deserted, were at last obliged to leave the Fort; soon after which the Rebels entered the same & sent a party to the Government House, which took the Governor as their Prisoner. The next day the large Vessels came into the Harbour and took all the Cannon Morters & Stores &ca belonging to His Majesty in the Forts, on board, and sailed from hence on Saturday last [March 16] carrying with them as Prisoners His Excellency Governor Browne Lieut [James] Babbidge on half Pay & one Mr [Thomas] Irving late belonging to the American Board of Customs, leaving us Altogether defenceless. It is not known where this Force is gone, it is probable that after being joined by a Ship, Brigantine and Sloop, the Maryland part of their Fleet, which was seperated from them, as they say in a Gale off Abacoa, in their way thither they may attempt St Augustine.

After this detail I must now, Sir, beg leave to observe to you, that altho this armament left the place without doing any Injury to private Property, it was much, as I am told, against the inclinations of some of the leading Officers amongst them, who were of such a Stamp as to be capable of committing any kind of Mischief, and wou'd probably have done much had they not been prevented, more by their Commanders perswasions than Authority over them: by this you will be able to see the precarious and defenceless situation His Majesty's Servants and the well affected part of the Inhabitants will be in shou'd they be hereafter revisited by the Rebels, under a Commander of less humanity & influence, which may be expected, as at the departure of this Fleet it was declared some part shou'd return soon.

This being our Case, I have, with the advice of His Majesty's Council, dispatch'd the Schooner *Polly* of this place, whereof William Newton is Master, to request that you wou'd afford what assistance you can to prevent His Majesty's Bahama Islands from again falling into the hands of the Rebels who probably may endeavour to make them a place of Rendezvous for their Ships, which will entirely ruin the people and Trade of this Government.

You'l give me leave to request that if you shou'd have an opportunity soon of informing His Majestys Ministers of what has happened here, and the present condition of this place you will, as I shall not be able, for some time to come. I am &c

John Brown –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 71c. A copy is in PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. See Hopkins' Manifesto, March 3, 1776.

THOMAS ATWOOD TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Atwood [New Providence] March 22 1776

My Lord In obedience to, and at the request of, His Excellency Governor Browne, I with all due Deference presume to transmit to your Lordship a brief Account of the late unfortunate Event that has happen'd here: But previous thereto, I conceive it necessary to acquaint your Lordship, That in the Month of [July] last His Majesty's Ship *Falcon* and two Transports were sent here by Order of General Gage to take from Us the Cannon, Powder, Shot, and other Stores out of our Forts Nassau and Montague, Which the President, in the Absence of his Excellency, with the Advice of Council and at the Intercession of the Inhabitants of this Island, thought fit to decline sending them away at that Juncture for the Reasons assigned in their Memorial for that purpose Notwithstanding We had then no Regulars to defend Us and since when the Militia has constantly mounted Guard at each Fort for the Protection thereof, and whereby We thought Ourselves secure with our own internal Strength and Defence, But Fate has proved the contrary – For on Sunday the 3d instant there appeared off this Island early in the Morning Two Ships, Two Briggs a Sloop and a Schooner – His Excellency in Consequence ordered three Guns to be fired at Fort Nassau as an Alarm for the Militia to turn out, and then summoned his Council to attend him at the Fort, That before the Council met, The Major of the Militia had dispatched a Detachment of Thirty Men up to Fort Montague, (two Miles distance from Fort Nassau) which was soon afterwards followed by a like Detachment, But few of either Party were furnished with more than common Fowling Pieces; That at this time His Excellency gave the necessary Directions in Fort Nassau for the proper Defence of the same And having received Intelligence that the Rebels had landed part of their Troops at a Place called the Creek to the Eastward of Fort Montague, He then marched himself with a third Detachment consisting of about Eighty Men in order further to succour the other Fort That before His Excellency had reached the same Lieutenants Burke and Judkin had been dispatched from Fort Montague with a Party of thirty Men to reconnoitre and if possible to prevent

their Landing but which they had effected to the Number of about 250 Men and several Boats being clearly seen near the Store His Excellency thought fit to order another Detachment of 40 Men commanded by a Captain Lieutenant and Ensign to support the former Detachment who soon returned without accomplishing the purpose intended As the other Party was then upon the Retreat, Upon which His Excellency ordered three Guns to be fired on the Enemy which did no Execution, And therefore it was thot adviseable to march back what Force he then had to Fort Nassau His Excellency first ordering the Guns to be spiked up, and Lieutenant Burke to wait on the Commanding Officer of the Enemy to know his Errand and on what Account he had landed his Troops, Who returned for Answer, He was come for the King's Stores and Gunpowder in our Forts and wod have them. Now my Lord from this sudden and unexpected Attack it was almost impossible to collect together a Force equal to the Report made of the Numbers of the Rebels, But in order to obtain every Assistance His Excellency issued his Proclamation by beat of Drum offering a Reward of a Pistole to every free Negroe and others that wod immediately enter the Fort properly armed, and further to prevent the Enemy from gaining the Advantageous Post at the Government [House] He sent a Detachment of 40 Men under the Command of Captain Thomas Hodgson (altho' not then an Officer in the Service) and Ensign Barrett to protect the same, (As that Eminence shod the Enemy have got any Cannon mounted thereon wod greatly have annoy'd Fort Nassau)], Which being done, and the Rebels having got Possession of Fort Montague, and their Comander having by Lieutenant Burke sent Word He shod see the Governor in the Morning His Excellency about 8 oclock in the evening called a Council of War at Which assisted the Council, Militia Officers, and several of the Principal Inhabitants, to know whether from the Force the Rebels were supposed to be, and the Condition Fort Nassau was then found to be in, with what Strength was then in the Fort It was defensible or not? To which Question only Ten were of Opinion it was defensible, and Fourteen that it was not; And therefore in Consequence His Excellency with the Advice of his Council got about 160 Barrels of the Gun Powder removed out of the Fort (the whole not exceeding 182 Barrels some time before) and imediately sent off to [St.] Augustine in a Sloop belonging to one Captain Willm Chambers, A Man truely attach'd to Government and Active upon this Occasion; His Majesty's arm'd Sloop the *St. John* not being in any Condition fit for Service altho' commanded by Lieutenant [William] Grant whom His Excellency directed to putt to Sea to prevent his Vessell falling into the Hands of the Enemy, and whereby he might be enabled to give Intelligence of their Proceedings In Case he met with any of his Majestys' Ships of War – The next Matter that ensued and in which His Excellency took the Opinion of his Council was; Whether, from the Determination of the Council of War it was not advisable in our defenceless Condition and the Powder being ship'd, off. Which Circumstance alone almost instantaneously produced a Desertion of three fourths of the Men and Negroes, It wod not be proper to have the Assistance of the Detachment

then doing Duty at the Government House for the ultimate Protection of the Fort, which being approv'd of, His Excellency himself went from thence and soon returned with that Succour, But they not conceiving themselves a suffict Force for that purpose, solicited that they might not remain, the rest having left the Fort; Whereupon it was then thought most advisable to evacuate the Fort instead of being made Prisoners to the Enemy, But His Excellency dissented therefrom and said He was not willing to leave the Fort while any One woud stand by him And certain I am My Lord That this whole Affair has been brought upon Us by the Treachery of some few Individuals, and that the Americans woud never have thought this Enterprize worthy of their Notice, Had they not been apprized of our unguarded Situation, and invited here for this purpose by the Enemys of Government – But the Result has proved too successfull to the Rebels – For they have not only dismantled our Forts and possessed themselves of every serviceable Part of the Cannon, Shot, and Stores, but have also forceably taken from Us His Excellency the Governor after confining him to his House some few Days under a Guard of an Officer and 40 of the Rebel Army, and then Dragging him by Violence on Board one of their Ships mounting 32 Guns called the *Alfred* In which Ezek Hopkins is stiled the Comodore and Commander in Chief, where He remained four Days previous to their sailing from hence, Which was on Saturday the 16th instant in Company with Lieutenant [James] Babbidge and Mr.[Thomas] Irving whom they made Prisoners immediately upon their Arrival here from Pensacola One by being an Officer (tho' upon half Pay only) and the other as Receiver General of South Caroline – There are several other Matters His Excellency directed Me previous to his Departure to acquaint your Lordship, respecting singular Proceedings here, But the short Notice I received even to communicate to your Lordship the foregoing I hope will in part apologize for any incorrectness therein and be excused by My Lord Your Lordship's [&c.]

Tho. Atwood

New Providence
22d March 1776

[Enclosure]

A List of the Armament, Etc.

	Capn. names	Guns	Men & Marines	
Frigate <i>Alfred</i>	Saltinsel	32	300	
Do <i>Columbus</i>	Wipple	32	250	swivels
Brig <i>Cabott</i>	Hopkins	16	200	16
Do <i>Andrew Doria</i>	Biddle	16	180	16
Schooner <i>Wasp</i>	Hallock	8	60	10
Sloop <i>Fly</i>	Hacker	14 ²	100	14
Do <i>Providence</i>	Hazard ³	12	80	14
		130	1170	70

N. B. The two Frigates were two Deckers mounted 9s on her lower Deck and double fortified 4rs on her upper.

1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XLIX, 361-66.
2. The *Fly* mounted four guns and had twenty-nine men when she sailed with the fleet from the Delaware, not 14 guns and 100 men. The total of 1170 men in the fleet is also incorrect.
3. The seven captains listed were Dudley Saltonstall, Abraham Whipple, John Burroughs Hopkins, Nicholas Biddle, William Hallock, Hoysteed Hacker and John Hazard.

INVOICE OF GOODS FOR VIRGINIA ON BOARD THE SLOOP *Dolphin*¹

Invoice of Sundry Goods Ship't by Abraham Vanbibber on board the Sloop *Dolphin* [blank] Smith Master bound for Virginia on the proper Account & risque of said Colony and Consign'd to the Care of Mr. John Dixon Merchant on board:-

Bought of Hendrick Pondt

NBN 1 is a Chest Contg 100 ps Common Stripes @ 4 pr	£ 400	
2,3,& 4 is Bales Contg 20 ps French Ruans @ 27½ pr	550	
5 & 6 is do Contg 25 ps Oznabrigs 1804 Greek or 3157 dutch Ells @ 7 ste	460.3.1	
7 is a Chest Contg 100 ps Red & Yellow Stripe @ 4¼ pr	425	
N8 a Box	Contains 126 Small Blankets @ 12 Reals	
9 a Package		189
10 a Do		125
11 & 12 is 2 Bales Contg 20 ps Russa Duck @ 12½ pr	250	
13 is a Bale Contg 4 ps Flemish Linnen	115.3.1	
N. 464, 104 Ells N. 460. 150 do N. 461.		
82 do N. 459. 96 do is 382 Ells @ 14½		
& N. 2 Chests for Goods	2.6	
	Rs 2517.4.2	755.5.3

Bought of Gebroedes Mendis Vizt

14,15 & 16 are 3 Bales Contg 20 bundles each is 60 bundles twin @ 3 pr	180.-.-	
12 Ells of crudes to pack it in	1.4	
Negro hire	2	
	181.6	54.10.6

Bought of Demoulin & Co

17 a Chest Contg 90 Cutlasses @ 1 pr	90	27
Carried Over		£ 836.15.9

Brought forward & Invoice Continued	£ 836.15.9
Bought of J & M Dykers Vizt.—	
37 ps Oznabrigs Contg 52723 Ells @ 65 Ste P658.—.5	
75 ps Hollands Duck @ 16½ ps 1237.4.—	
61 do Ravens Do @ 13 do 793	
	2689.4.5
20 ps Russia Drab @ 9½ 190	806.17.7½
paid Portorage & Common hire	57.
	1.13.—
	£ 1702..6.4½
Commission on Amt of Invoice a 5 PC	85..2.3¾
	1787..8.8¼
Add advance 10 PC	178.14.10¼
	£ 1966..3..6½

St. Eustatius March 22d 1776

Errors Excepted

Abm. Van Bibber

Recd March 23d 1776 the above Contents, on Acct & risque of the Colony of Virginia on board the sloop *Dolphin* & to be delivered, if not lost by Capture, seizure or any other unforeseen accident, to the said Colony, they paying freight for the same One Hundred & Sixty Dollars

John Dixon, jr.

1. Sloop *Dolphin* Papers, VSL.

23 Mar.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON ¹

March 1776 Moored as before [Herring Cove, Nova Scotia]
 Saturday 23 A M anchored here a Schooner from yarmouth P M found the Schooner to be Rebel Property, took out their men & put some of ours on board.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. *Ibid.*, the prize was sent to Halifax on March 30. She was the *Ebenezer*, John Clemons, master, and John Pedrick, owner, bound from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, for Liverpool, Nova Scotia, with wood, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO Admiralty 1/484.

JOHN LANGDON TO WAGONMASTER LIBBEY ¹

Mr. Libbey — Portsmouth Marcch 23rd 1776

You having the Command and Charge of the Waggons with the Continental Powder; are to proceed to Head Quarters at Cambridge, or Boston, and there deliver your Powder, to the quarter Master General, or any other Officer who shall be Appointed by General Washington to receive it, takeing Receipt thereof — You'll use your utmost Care in Guarding of the same, by

Night as well as day, being provided therefor, take great Care that its not wet, when you've dlv'd your Powder, you must apply to Mr [Thomas] Cushing at Watertown, or Dedham for a Sum of Money which is Lodged in his Hands, for me for the use of the Continent after getting the same give a Receipt therefor, to be dlv'd me for said use – If Mr.Cushing will spare some Hemp you may load back the teams, with Hemp for this Place for the use of the Continent, with as much as they can bring, for which Mr.Cushing may take his Pay out of the Money, if not I will pay him P Post. –Enquire of Capt [John] Bradford, if at Newbury, where the Hemp, of Mr.Cushing's is, and what P Ton. – Endeavour to find out if any large Anchors, to be had abt 30 Ct. Weight –

In behalf of the
Continent –

Your [&c.]
John Langdon

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

COLONEL THOMAS MIFFLIN TO JOSHUA HUNTINGTON, NORWICH MERCHANT ¹

Dr Sir

Cambridge 23d March 1776

All the Vessels must have two weeks wood & water on board. Those which are in Connecticut River are to fall down to Seabrook and remain there until the Troops arrive. The Vessels which carry the first Detachment must be ordered back to New London as soon as possible & to be got ready for the second Embarkation. Cap Francis has Money to defray the Expençe of Embarkation. If any thing material occurs pray send me an Account of it by express. I am Sir [&c.]

Tho Mifflin Q M G

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 276.

COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Cambridge 23d March 1776

Your request for Six Seamen taken from the enemy, to be exchanged for Six inhabitants taken & detained by Captain Wallace, is now complied with, tho really Contrary to a Resolve of Congress past the 30th Novemr which mentions that Citizen should be exchanged for Citizen Officer for Officer, of equal rank, & Soldier for Soldier, the Seamen go under the Care of Mr Burr, I have the honor to be Sir Your Most H. Sert
By His Excellency's Command

Stephen Moylan Ade

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 310.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES ¹

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary will, herewith, lay before you, two letters from the Committee of Newbury port, one dated 24th Feby last, & the other the 18th Instant,

wherein you will observe, that the Order of Court of the 8th of February last, relative to the fixing for the Sea, and maning with fifty men each, the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, & the Schooner *Diligent*, hath not been fully executed; that it is not in the power of said Committee to do it, and that if said Vessels are maned it must be from the Eastern part of this Colony – Considering the danger that would attend the Suffering Sd Vessels to leave the harbour, in which they now are, with so few men, as are inlisted to serve on board, which are a Number little more than sufficient to sail them – The great delay it would cause to attempt recruiting, and marching men the distance of two hundred Miles at this Season of the Year –

That the present appearance of our Affairs are materially different from what they were, when said Order of Court was made – And that there is good reason to believe, that one, if not both, said Vessels are unfit in their Construction for the Service, for which they are designed – The Council thought it their duty, to lay this matter before you, & recommend it to your Immediate Consideration.

Council Chamber
March 23d, 1776.

G Palmer	W Severs
Michael Farley	W Spooner
Moses Gill	J Cushing
John Taylor	Jedh Foster
B White	Eldad Taylor
Jabez Fisher	James Prescott
B Lincoln	Chas Chauncy S Holten

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 298.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Boston 23 March 1776

Sir The 17th Inst the Pirates all abandoned their Works in Boston & Charlestown & went on board their Ships, & on the 20th they burnt & destroyed the Works on Castle Island. They now lye in Nantasket Road waiting for a fair wind; we keep a vigilant eye over them lest they should make an attack on some unexpected quarter. The particulars with regard to the Seige, the Stores taken, &c. you will receive from better authority, therefore it is unnecessary for me to mention them. Our Troops behaved well, and I think the flight of the British Fleet & Army before the American Arms, must have a happy & very important effect upon the great Cause we engaged in, and greatly facilitate our future operations. I wish it may stimulate the Congress to form an American Government immediately. If, after all our exertions & successes, while Providence offers us Freedom & Independence, we should receive the glo[illegible] foot of George to rule here again – what will posterity, what will the wise & Virtuous through [illegible] World say of us? – Will they not say, (and justly[]) that we were fools who had an inestimable pr[ize] put into our hands but had no heart to improve it! – Heaven seems now to offer us the glorious privilege, the bright preeminence ab[ove]

all other people, of being the Guardians of the Rights of Mankind & the Patrons of the World . . .

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

GEORGE GILLESPIE TO DR. GILLESPIE, AYR, SCOTLAND ¹

Copy./

Nantasket Road March 23. 1776.

The whole Army which lately occupied Boston is now embarked, & lying at the Mouth of the Harbour, it is said we go to Halifax to wait for the Reinforcement from Home, what then will be done, God knows.

On the 2d of this Month the Rebels began to bombard & cannonade us in the Town of Boston, they threw Shells & Shot for three succeeding Nights into the Town, without doing much Execution, only wounded four Soldiers & a Baker's Boy, two of the former are since dead, this they did to amuse us while they took Possession of & strongly fortified the Heights of Dorchester, in one Night they raised two very strong Works, which if finished totally commanded the Town. Genl How embarked part of the Troops & made them fall down the Harbour to attack them opposite Castle William, while another Party in flat bottomed Boats were to have attacked on the other Flank commanded by the Gneral in Person, this was to have been on the 5th, but a violent Gale of Wind prevented the Troops landing, it continued about 24 Hours, when it ceased, their Works were so far advanced that the Attack was given up, They had at least 10000 Men on these Hills, which 3000. were to have attacked, it must have been a very bloody Affair, and if successful would probably have dispersed their Army, I have no doubt it would, as there was not a Shot to have been fired but from the Artillery till you got into their Works, the Men were not allowed to load, but depend entirely on their Bayonets. The Onset was to have been in the Night, our not being loaded would have prevented any Confusion among our own Men from irregular Firing, & if they got in with their Bayonets the Carnage must have been very great.

The Elements having frustrated this Attempt it was not possible to stay in Boston without having our Men destroyed Piecemeal, while they could very little annoy the Enemy. We embarked the 17th without the Loss of a Man, the Rebels not daring to stir out of their Works, nor attempt coming into Town for sometime after we left it. It was a beautiful Sight to see an Army of about 7000. Men embark in the face of one of 60000. without being molested, if they had fired a Shot the Town would have been burnt.

By a Cruiser come in Yesterday from the Southward it is said the Rebels have destroyed their Towns on the Coast & drove their Cattle up the Country (this is hearsay).

George Gillespie.

P.S. March 25. The Gale which has blown for some Days is now much abated, & part of the Fleet getting under Sail, viz. the Light Horse & the Emigrants from Boston, hope we shall soon follow.

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

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Nantasket Road Boston 23d March 1776.

I acquainted you in my last of the 17th instant of His Majesty's Troops being safely Embarked, and the Transports Anchored in King Road, from whence, as fast as they were Watered and ready for Sea they proceeded to this place; where they are all collected and will proceed by the first opportunity of Wind and Weather under Convoy of the Ships in the Margin,² to Halifax; I have Ordered Captain [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* to take under his Command such other of the small Cruizers as I can spare from this Service, and employ them Cruizing before this Port and in the track of such Vessels, as may be bound here with Supplies, and to see them in safety to Halifax, where I shall hope to receive their Lordships further directions; except the Operations of the Army make it necessary for me to move from that place, of which you shall have the earliest information.

The *Princess Augusta* Victualling Sloop Arriving yesterday, brought me your three Letters to Vice Admiral Graves of the 21st November, One Signifying His Majestys Bounty in the Disposal of that Vessel's Cargo of Sour Krout for the use of the Fleet, and the other Two Containing Intelligence of the Destination of Vessels from Philadelphia, which I shall pay proper regard to.

His Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* having Arrived yesterday from Virginia, I send you Extract of Captain [Andrew Snape] Hamond's Letter and some Intelligence accompanying it, together with Copies of Letters lately received from Mr Arbuthnot and Governor Legge, and an Account of a Vessel taken by Captain [Alexander] Graeme of the *Kingsfisher* laden with Gunpowder, Salt Petre, and Sulphur from Port L'Orient, the Master and Mate of which, both Irish, I shall send to England as Prisoners, by the first safe Conveyance.³

Captain Hamond having Acquainted me that the *Liverpool* had Arrived at Virginia without a Second Lieutenant, I have Appointed Mr Richard Boger to fill up that Vacancy, and sent his Commission to Captain Hamond.

I likewise transmit to you the State and Condition of such part of the Squadron as has yet come to hand since the Command devolved on me, With the Disposition of it, and a List of the Appointment of Officers. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

P.S. By the next Conveyance I hope to be able to transmit to you, a List of such Seizures of the Rebel Vessels as have been made by the Cruizers, since the Command of His Majesty's Ships devolving upon me, Amounting to about Nine Sail at this port.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. H.M.S. *Chatham*, *Centurion* and *Lively*, H.M. Sloop *Kingsfisher*, and H.M. Schooners *Tryal* and *Dispatch*.

3. The brig *Juno*, William Keith, master, and Robert Cunningham, mate, owned by Keith and John Pringle, a Philadelphia merchant, taken February 28, 1776, off the Delaware Capes,

bound from Lorient for Philadelphia, with gunpowder, saltpetre and sulphur, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD THE *Chatham*, DATED NANTASKET-ROAD, MARCH 23, 1776." ¹

We passed the winter very quietly since our arrival at Boston till the beginning of this month, when the rebels made some movements. They ordered into their camp before the town about 20 000 of the militia from the internal parts of the country, and took the advantage of a few days of hazy weather to erect one strong battery on Dorchester-point, and another at Phipp's-farm, so near the town, that the shot and shells from either went into it and over it. They cannonaded and bombarded us for about a fortnight, without doing much hurt, farther than frightening the town's-people by driving a few shot through their houses. We had not a dozen men killed or wounded. It was, however, resolved upon to abandon the town, and to carry the army in transports to Halifax, together with such of the American refugees as chose to go thither. In a few days all the artillery, military stores, provisions, baggage, &c. were embarked, and the troops followed without the loss of a single man in the embarkation, though there were above 20,000 armed rebels within cannon shot of them. The reasons given for leaving Boston are, that General Howe intends to send a large detachment to Canada immediately by the River St. Lawrence; that he had certain information the rebels were meditating an expedition against Nova Scotia; that it was absolutely necessary to provide for the defence of that province; and he could not relieve Quebec, and strengthen Nova Scotia effectually, without leaving himself too weak to maintain his ground at Boston. It was, therefore, determined to withdraw the troops from thence, and to leave the sea ports blocked up by the men of war and armed ships. We are thus far on our way to Halifax. Earl [Hugh] Percy and General Howe are on board of this ship. General [James] Grant and General [James] Robinson are already sailed for Halifax in the *Fo[we]y*. The transports with the light dragoons sailed at the same time for the same place. The army has been scarce of provisions by reason of many of their victualling ships being blown to the West Indies; however, that is not the case with the navy. I can assure you from good authority, that they have sufficient to serve them till October next, after having spared a good deal to the army. We have had a great deal of fresh provisions of all sorts from Halifax and the Bay of Fundy during the winter, though rather dear. Five or six vessels of one kind and another have arrived from the West Indies within this month, chiefly laden with rum, molasses and limes, and within these few days several victuallers for the use of the army, and other ships, have arrived, after very long passages, from England and Ireland. I have been at Halifax before, and if we were to get no other refreshments there than the plenty and variety of fish that the sea affords to add to the ship's allowance, we should have no reason to complain; for when I was there last, we caught cod, haddock, mackrel, hollibut, skait, smelts, trout, salmon, and a variety of other fish, by throwing

our lines over the ship's side without going further for them, and in such plenty, that two men in an hour's time would furnish more than 100 men could eat.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 4 to May 7, 1776.

SARAH SEVER TO _____¹

[Extract]

[Kingston,] Saturday March 23.

. . . We were greatly surprised Wednesday evening [March 20] by the appearance of a great light in the north, which many people thought could be occasioned by nothing less than the burning of the town of Boston . . . Could not think it possible it could be the Castle, but we since hear it is.

Thursday evening we had a new alarm, that the lighthouse and dwellings upon the Gurnet were in flames, upon which I looked out and discovered two large fires, which appeared exactly in the range of those buildings; supposed the enemy had landed and fired them, but comforted myself that if they had designed any further mischief they would not have begun by burning those buildings, as they must have been sensible it would give a universal alarm. Went to bed at my usual time tolerably well composed, but it was not so with our friends in Plymouth. Mrs. Otis drank coffee with me yesterday. She tells me they were in the utmost confusion there. It seems there were a number of guns fired about the same time the fires were kindled (the guns we did not hear), which were both designed to give an alarm, but they supposed, as we did, that the buildings were on fire. They also supposed that the enemy fired the cannon, upon which they sent down a boat to see if they could discover the enemy. They soon returned with terrible accounts, that there were three or four large ships within the Gurnet, and that they were landing their men very fast, which threw the town into the utmost consternation. They kindled a fire on the burying hill, and despatched messengers to all the towns around, even as far as Warehem and Middleborough, to call in the militia; sent off many of their women and children, and as much furniture as they could get away. Mrs. Otis tells me they had their chairs at the door and cloaks on from half past ten till half after four, ready to fly in a moment . . . In the morning to their great joy [they] found that the fleet which had thrown them in such a panic was Captain Manly with four other privateers, who were driven into the harbor by a large man-of-war, — and so ended this mighty affair.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 158–59.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1776

Providence, March 23.

Thursday Afternoon the ministerial Fleet put to Sea from Newport, and steered South-Eastward.

A large Ship from Jamaica, bound to London, with a valuable Cargo of Sugar, had put into South-Carolina to refit, but was stopped by Order of the Provincial Congress, and it was thought would be condemned.¹—Several

Vessels laden with Rice, bound for England were likewise seized by the Inhabitants of Georgia.

1. Probably refers to the brigantine *William*, Captain Mercier, detained February 11, 1776, at Beaufort, South Carolina.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Hond Sir

Norwich March 23d 1776

As soon as I arrived Home from Lebanon this Day I Recd a Letter from Mr James Tilly in which he Informes that we have Waited so long that all the Hemp in the Jerseys is now bought up neither is there any Hemp Yarns, nor Cordage to be had in N York and that there is no other way left now to Procure it but to Buy Mr Melbone's Yarns and that what they and Mr Tilly's fall short might be made up in Flax – am sorry we had not Known this before the Committee left Lebanon. If your Honor should think best to Employ Mr Tilly to Do his best Endeavours as soon as Possible to furnish us with Cordage it will in my Opinion be the best step that Can be taken for a few Days more may Carry us beyond any Market for Flax – whe have no Reason to think Cols Dyer & Williams will Obtain any on their Journey.²

Mr Moses Cleaveland is with me for a Recommendation to your Honor for a Lieuts Place in the Galley which I think he may Do well in as he is a Good Soldier and a Lieutenant on Bord a Vessell is Principally Concerned with the Marines I am sir with Esteen & Duty [&c.]

Benj Huntington ³

1. Gunther Collection, ChHS.

2. Dyer and Williams were on their way to the Continental Congress to request an advance of fifty thousand pounds to Connecticut, Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 272.

3. Secretary of the Connecticut Council of Safety.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Saturday, 23 March,

Voted, That Capt. Theophilus Stanton of Stonington be and he is appointed Captain of the row-galley building at Norwich.

Voted, That Elij. Backus, Esqr, be employed and desired as soon as may [be] to work and manufacture two ship anchors of twelve hundred weight each, for the use of the Colony.

Voted, That the row-galley building at N. Haven be called the *Whiting*.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 255.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Sabatti, A.M.

March 23d, 1776.

A letter from Major [William] Douglas, as to service at the lakes, and which was received yesterday, was read and filed.

He says he will proceed to the lakes when [he] receives the command of

Continental Congress, or the General, if his health will permit, and in the mean [time] will serve his country, and desires the Committee would assist and forward Mr. [Jacobus] Wynkoop.

A draft of a letter to the Delegates of this Colony, relative to the command on the lakes, and recommending Captain Wynkoop, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, March 23d, 1776.

Gentlemen – On the 16th instant, the Provincial Congress, then about to adjourn, received a letter from Major-General Schuyler respecting Major Douglass and Captain Wynkoop, of which we enclose a copy, No. 1.

The Provincial Congress immediately send for Capt. Wynkoop, read the General's letter to him, delivered him a copy; desired him to call on Major Douglass with it, and return an answer the speediest possible.

On the 18th Capt. Wynkoop informed the Committee of Safety that he had called on Major Douglass, (who is in Colo. Ward's regiment in Kings county,) and delivered him a copy of the General's letter. That Mr. Douglass had intimated that he was now in service, that it would be at least two months before he could attend at the lakes if his health would then permit. The Committee therefore wrote to Major Douglass, and on the 21st received his answer, of which we enclose you copies No. 2 and 3.

The season is so far advanced that the service must suffer if the vessels on the lakes are not immediately employed. We have prevailed on Capt. Wynkoop by this reason only, to engage seamen and proceed to the General with all possible despatch. We beg leave through you, to inform [the Continental] Congress that Capt. Wynkoop was bred a mariner, has frequently been master of mercantile vessels; served with reputation last war, both in the land and marine departments; we think him an officer of merit, and we have heard his conduct in the last campaign highly applauded. We have promised to recommend Mr. Wynkoop to Congress for the command of the vessels on the lake. This we do with the greatest cheerfulness, as we think him equal to the command and worthy of the trust; and from General Schuyler's letter, we are induced to believe it would not be disagreeable to him. We do not wish to impose Capt. Wynkoop's services on Congress in this command if it is not perfectly agreeable to them; and should the Congress think proper to order Major Douglass or any other gentleman to go up to take the command, we pray their determination may be speedy, that the service may not suffer, as Capt. Wynkoop

will not continue in that service under Major Douglass. We are,
gent. &c.

To the New-York Delegates
in Continental Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 381, 382.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[New York] Saturday 23 March 1776

A new Alarm upon which the Inhabitants flew out of Town with the utmost Precipitation – General Washington by a Letter of the 19th advises General Lee of Mr. Howe's abandoning Boston on Sunday 17th Inst. & then laying in King Road & Nantusket – The conjecture that they were destined to N Y was countenanced by Intelligence the next Day from the East End of Long Island & Montauk Point the Eastern Extremity of Long Island. –

I imagined that the British Army was sailed for Hallifax but to give Ease to my Family & because the Provincials were moving to this Place from Boston & other Places I resolved to move the greater Part of my Moveables to Haverstraw where I had last Fall lodged my Library & some Household Goods.

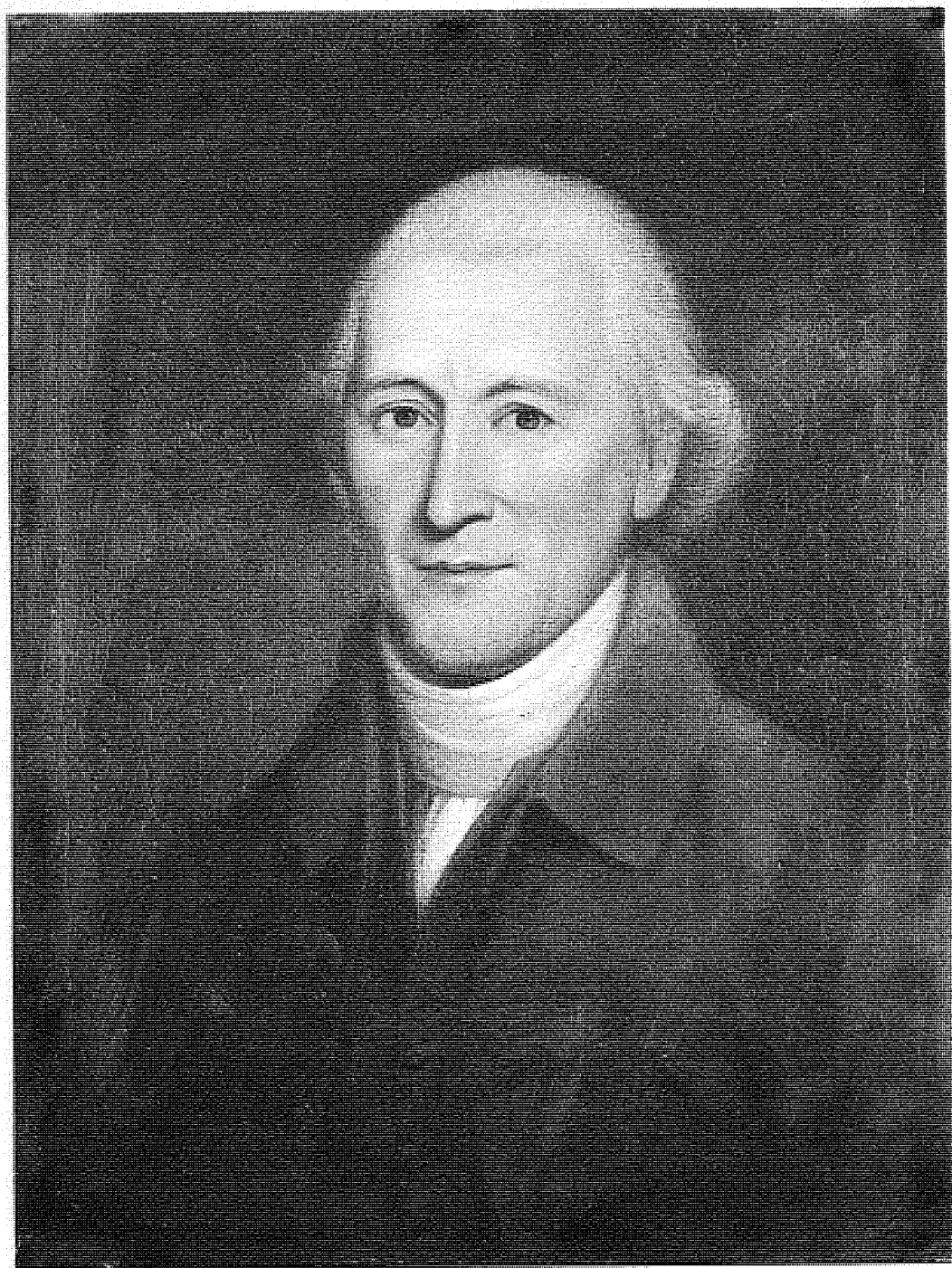
1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 270.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturdy, March 23, 1776

The Congress resumed the consideration of the declaration, which was agreed to as follows:

Whereas the petitions of the United Colonies to the King, for the redress of great and manifest grievances, have not only been rejected, but treated with scorn and contempt, and the opposition to designs evidently formed to reduce them to state of servile subjection, and their necessary defence against hostile forces actually employed to subdue them, declared rebellion; And whereas an unjust war hath been commenced against them, which the commanders of the British fleets and armies have prosecuted, and still continue to prosecute, with their utmost vigour, and in a cruel manner; wasting, spoiling, and destroying the country, burning houses and defenceless towns, and exposing the helpless inhabitants to every misery, from the inclemency of the winter; and not only urging savages to invade the country, but instigating negroes to murder their masters; And whereas the parliament of Great Britain hath lately passed an Act, affirming these colonies to be in open rebellion, forbidding all trade and commerce with the inhabitants thereof, until they shall accept pardons, and submit to despotic rule, declaring their property, wherever found upon the water, liable to seizure and confiscation; and enacting, that what had been done there by virtue of the royal authority, were just and lawful acts, and shall be so deemed; from all which it is manifest, that the iniquitous scheme, concerted to deprive them of the liberty they have a right to by the laws of nature and the English consti-



Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress.

tution, will be pertinaciously pursued. It being therefore necessary to provide for their defence and security, and justifiable to make reprisals upon their enemies, and otherwise to annoy them, according to the laws and usages of Nations, the Congress, trusting that such of their friends in Great Britain (of whom it is confessed there are many entitled to applause and gratitude for their patriotism and benevolence, and in whose favour a discrimination of property cannot be made) as shall suffer by captures, will impute it to the authors of our common calamities, Do Declare and Resolve, as followeth, to wit:

Resolved, That the inhabitants of these colonies be permitted to fit out armed vessels to cruize on the enemies of these United Colonies.

Resolved, That all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great Britain, taken on the high seas, or between high and low water mark, by any armed vessel, fitted out by any private person or persons, and to whom commissions shall be granted, and being libelled and prosecuted in any court erected for the trial of maritime affairs, in any of these colonies, shall be deemed and adjudged to be lawful prize; and after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners on board of such captures, as are merchant ships and vessels, shall be entitled to, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the adjudication, shall be condemned to and for the use of the owner or owners, and the officers, marines, and mariners of such armed vessel, according to such rules and proportions as they shall agree on: Provided always, that this resolution shall not extend to any vessel bringing settlers arms, ammunition or warlike stores to and for the use of these colonies, or any of the inhabitants thereof, who are friends to the American cause, or to such warlike stores, or to the effects of such settlers.

Resolved, That all ships or vessles, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant of Great Britain, as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any of the vessels of war of these United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited; one third, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners as aforesaid, to the officers and men on board, and two thirds to the use of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandises, belonging to any inhabitants of Great Britain as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessel of war fitted out by and at the expence of any of the United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited, and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, in such manner and proportions as the assembly or convention of such colony shall direct.

Resolved, That all vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and cargoes, belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, as aforesaid, and all vessels which may be employed in carrying supplies to the ministerial armies, which shall happen to be taken near the shores of any of these colonies, by the people of the country, or detachments from the army, shall be

deemed lawful prize; and the court of admiralty within the said colony is required, on condemnation thereof, to adjudge that all charges and expences which may attend the capture and trial, be first paid out of the monies arising from the sales of the prize, and the remainder equally divided among all those, who shall have been actually engaged and employed in taking the said prize. Provided, that where any detachments of the army shall have been employed as aforesaid, their part of the prize money shall be distributed among them in proportion to the pay of the officers and soldiers so employed.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published. ²

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to consider of the fortifying one or more ports on the American coast, in the strongest manner, for the protection of our cruizers, and the reception of their prizes; that they take the opinion of the best engineers on the manner and expence, and report thereon to the Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. R[obert] Morris, and Mr. [William] Whipple.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself in a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies; and that sundries motions offered by the members from Massachusetts bay, Maryland, and Virginia, be referred to said committees.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 229-33.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, March 27, 1776.

JOHN ADAMS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES ¹

Sir:

Philadelphia, March 23, 1776

I had the pleasure, a few days ago, of your favour of the 8th instant, for which I esteem myself under great obligations to you. We rejoice here at the prospect there is of your driving the enemy from Boston. If you should succeed in this, I hope effectual measures will be taken to fortify the harbour, that the Navy may never enter it again. I think the Narrows may be so obstructed that large ships may not be able to pass; and the channel between Long-Island and the Main may be commanded, by batteries on each of those Islands, in such a manner that Boston may be safe from men-of-war. I hope my countrymen will hesitate at no expense to attain this end, if, in order to accomplish it, they should be obliged to remove the rocky mountains of my town of Braintree into the harbour.

But I cannot yet clearly satisfy myself that they will leave Boston. It will be a greater disgrace to the British arms than to be taken prisoners in the town in a body. If they should abandon the persons and property of their dear friends, the Tories, in Boston, will any other Tories, in any other part of the Continent, ever trust to their protection? It will be considered as such impotence or such infidelity, that I am inclined to think few professors of Toryism will ever afterwards be found anywhere.

I agree with you that in politicks the middle way is none at all. If we finally fail in this great and glorious contest, it will be by bewildering

ourselves by groping after this middle way. We have hitherto conducted half a war; acted upon the line of defence, &c., &c. But you will see by tomorrow's paper that, for the future, we are likely to wage three-quarters of a war. The Continental ships-of-war, and the Provincial ships-of-war, and letters of marque and privateers, are permitted to cruise on British property, wherever found on the ocean. This is not Independency, you know nothing like it.

If a post or two more should bring you unlimited latitude of trade to all nations, and a polite invitation to all nations to trade with you, take care that you do not call it or think it Independency. No such matter. Independency is a hobgoblin of such frightful mien that it would throw a delicate person into fits to look it in the face.

I know not whether you have seen the act of Parliament called the Restraining Act, or Prohibitory Act, or Piratical Act, or Act of Independency – for by all these titles is it called. I think the most apposite is the Act of Independency; for King, Lords, and Commons, have united in sundering this country from that, I think, forever. It is a complete dismemberment of the British Empire. It throws thirteen Colonies out of the Royal protection, levels all distinctions, and makes us independent in spite of our supplications and entreaties.

It may be fortunate that the Act of Independency should come from the British Parliament rather than the American Congress; but it is very odd that Americans should hesitate at accepting such a gift from them. However, my dear friend Gates, all our misfortunes arise from a single source – the reluctance of the Southern Colonies to Republican Government. The success of this war depends on a skilful steerage of the political vessel. The difficulty lies in forming particular Constitutions for particular Colonies, and a Continental Constitution for the whole. Each Colony should establish its own Government, and then a league should be formed between them all. This can be done only on popular principles and axioms, which are so abhorrent to the inclinations of the Barons of the South, and the Proprietary interests in the Middle States, as well as that avarice of land which has made upon this Continent so many votaries to mammon, that I sometimes dread the consequences. However, patience, fortitude, and perseverance, with the help of time, will get us over these obstructions.

Thirteen Colonies, under such a form of Government as Connecticut, or one not quite so popular, leagued together in a faithful confederacy, might bid defiance against all the Potentates of Europe, if united against them.

Pray continue to make me happy with your favours. Accept of my most cordial wishes for your safety, happiness and honour. Make my most respectful compliments to the General and the ladies, and the whole family; and believe me to be, with much respect, [&c.]

John Adams

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Philad: March 23d 1776

We have no News from Virginia since I wrote you last – No Account yet of our Fleet & as no Member of Congress expresses any Concern on the Subject, we begin to suspect they are gone upon some distant enterprize. Some conjecture to lay in the Way of the last India Ships a few of whom would soon reimburse us the Expence of the War – however it is all Supposition –

It has happened as I expected that many who were impatient to have How driven from Boston are now alarmed with the Apprehension of the Seat of War being removed to the Middle Colonies.

General Lee is gone off to Virginia, & we hope will be there in time to meet the Troops expected from England – The Congress have at length granted Letters of Marque but there is such a difficulty in procuring Ammunition that I imagine little Use will be made of them at least for some Time . . . By some late Accounts from England we are led to expect that the Scheme of sending Commissioners will be wholly laid aside – If it should I think we shall have no Reason to regret it, as it does not seem calculated to produce any real Benefit.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 23rd March, 1776.

Resolved, That James Maul leave his station at the mouth of the River, to attend this Board as speedily as possible, and that Captains [William] Richards, [Nathaniel] Falconer, and [Leesom] Simmons, be desired to have his place supplied immediately, by another pilot of sufficient ability and Industry.

Resolved, That James Morrison be appointed Lieutenant of Marines in the service of this Province.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 523.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] March 23d

... down town to See the Province Ship Launched ²

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

2. Built by Simon Shurlock at his shipyard in Southwark, adjacent to Philadelphia on the south.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

[Philadelphia] March 23, 1776.

Whereas complaint having been made to this board, that some of the Crews of our armed Boats have so far disregarded the 11th Article of our General instructions for the Commanders of the same, as to put the Masters

or Skippers of the Vessels on the River Trade to unnecessary delay & trouble, by demanding such compliments from them as the officers of the British fleet unwarrantably have compelled an obedience to, greatly to the interruption of commercial people and disquiet of the same, and have otherwise disturbed them by firing upon them to bring them to without proper cause. Wherefore you are hereby required to see that a proper obedience be paid to the sd General instructions by all the Officers & Crews in our Provincial Navy, and to direct that all Vessels be suffered to pass without any hinderance or molestation, or any demand of Compliments whatsoever; except what is absolutely necessary to satisfy the inquiries of the Officers of the Guard-boats whether their intentions be hostile or not, of which you are to give proper notice to the Officers of each Vessel, Boat, &c.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 724.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JOHN ALLEN THOMAS ¹

No. 77

Sir We received a Letter of the 15th Inst from Mr. Mackall advising us that you thought a Virginia Pilot-Boat which the Calvert-County Cuards had stopped some Days past, would be very useful, as well for conveying the Troops from one County to the other, as for taking any small Tenders, which might come into your River, and that the Owner would sell her on reasonable Terms, and requesting our Opinion upon the Expediency of purchasing and arming her for the Use of the Province. We cannot conceive a Pilot-Boat properly calculated to transport Troops across a narrow River, in which upon an Alarm given, unless the Wind should suit, they cannot sail from one place to another with that Expedition the Service might require, and as to repelling any hostile Attacks, which may be made by Tenders; we do not think that Boat would be Sufficient for the Purpose, as Nothing less, than an eight or ten Gun Vessel would offer to run up our Rivers to commit Depredations – these and other Reasons will not justify our purchasing her for the services suggested.

[Annapolis] 23 March 1776.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

No 78

Gentn Two Ton of Powder, or near that Quantity, we beleive, have been lately received at Baltimore Town from Philadelphia, one Ton of which Mr [Robert] Alexander wrote us, was intended for Virginia, but given up by their Deputies on Occasion of the late Alarm – we wish to be informed whether we are indebted to Virginia or to Congress for that last Ton, if to Virginia, we can easily settle the Account, because we have already lent them 12 Barrels – 2 for the lower Counties – 10 for their Sloop of War at Alexandria – Musketts by Captain Tibbitt not yet come to Hand,

they are much wanted, our Independent Companies are very importunate for Arms, which we have not as yet been able to supply them with – our Gunsmiths go on very slowly and we want small Arms very much, permit us to request you would remind the Congress of those lent for fitting out the *Hornet* and *Wasp* – we are anxious to have all the Powder secured we can, and should be glad to know what Quantity Messrs Willing and Morris sent, and whether any more is to be expected from that Quarter soon – We are satisfied so far as relates to the Province with the sale of the Vessel called the *Wild-Dick*, W. Lux seems not altogether pleased and talks that he has some Claim, but we think he ought to be contented all Things considered . . . We have heretofore requested you would let us know the Pay of Officers and Seamen, in the Continental Navy, and must again remind you of sending it to us, that we may settle the Pay in our Province – We can spare fifty Pieces of the heaviest Duck, and most unfit for Tents, the rest you will be pleased to forward to us by the Stages – All is quiet here at present, Nothing new only that the Man of War in her passage down plundered Sharp's Island and carried off some Stock and had taken a small Vessel belonging to Colo Tayloe; a flying Report by Charles Lansdale this Day, that they were lately seen at the mouth of Potowmack –
[Annapolis] 23rd March 1776.

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

CAPTAINS JAMES KENT AND WILLIAM HENRY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Head Quarters Northampton. Virginia 23th March 1776.
Honble Gentn We Imbrace this opportunity by Captn [Thomas] Kell, who has been some weeks blocked up in this harbour by Tenders, on monday evening last a Tender came into Cherriton Creek and carried out a sloop belonging to Isaac Vaughn and got Captn Kells schooner under way but luckily run aground. our Companies who are stationed at the Court-house got down a little after dark; and as there was a ship and 5 small craft in the offing that we supposed to be the man of war and Tenders that were up the Bay with you, we planted centinals along the bay shore, and went to heaving up an Intrenchment opposite to Capt Kells schooner, we discovered nothing of the Tender till the morning when she weighed anchor & came too opposite to our little breast work & an engagement ensued which lasted about an hour, when we obliged the Tender to retreat without carrying out the schooner.

P.S. As Captn Kell will return here again has promised to wait on you for any Commands you may have to us.

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

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Saturday, March 23, 1776.

Resolved, That the Commissioners appointed yesterday for laying such obstructions to the navigation of the channels over Charles-Town bar and in

the harbour, as they shall judge necessary, be, and they are hereby, authorized and required, to prepare proper fire-vessels, for the most effectual annoyance of any enemy that shall attempt to enter the said harbour.

Ordered, That Capt. [Clement] Lempriere be added to the said Commissioners.

Resolved, That all the letters which have been put on board the ship *Port-Henderson*, be forthwith brought from thence, and lodged in the Constitutional Post-Office, and there delivered to the several persons claiming; the claimants opening the same in the office, to prevent mis-delivery.

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Edwards, Captain Roger Smith, Mr. [George-Abbott] Hall, Mr. [Aaron] Loockock, Mr [Thomas] Corbett, and Mr. [Cornelius] Dupont, be, and they are hereby, appointed Commissioners, for unlading and valuing the cargo of the ship *Port-Henderson*, and for fixing a reasonable rate at which the said Cargo shall be sold, for consumption, or for sale, at a price not exceeding the purchase and carriage, in small quantities by retail; and for employing proper persons to excute this service, allowing such proper persons a reasonable compensation for their trouble.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 96, 97.

24 Mar. (Sunday)

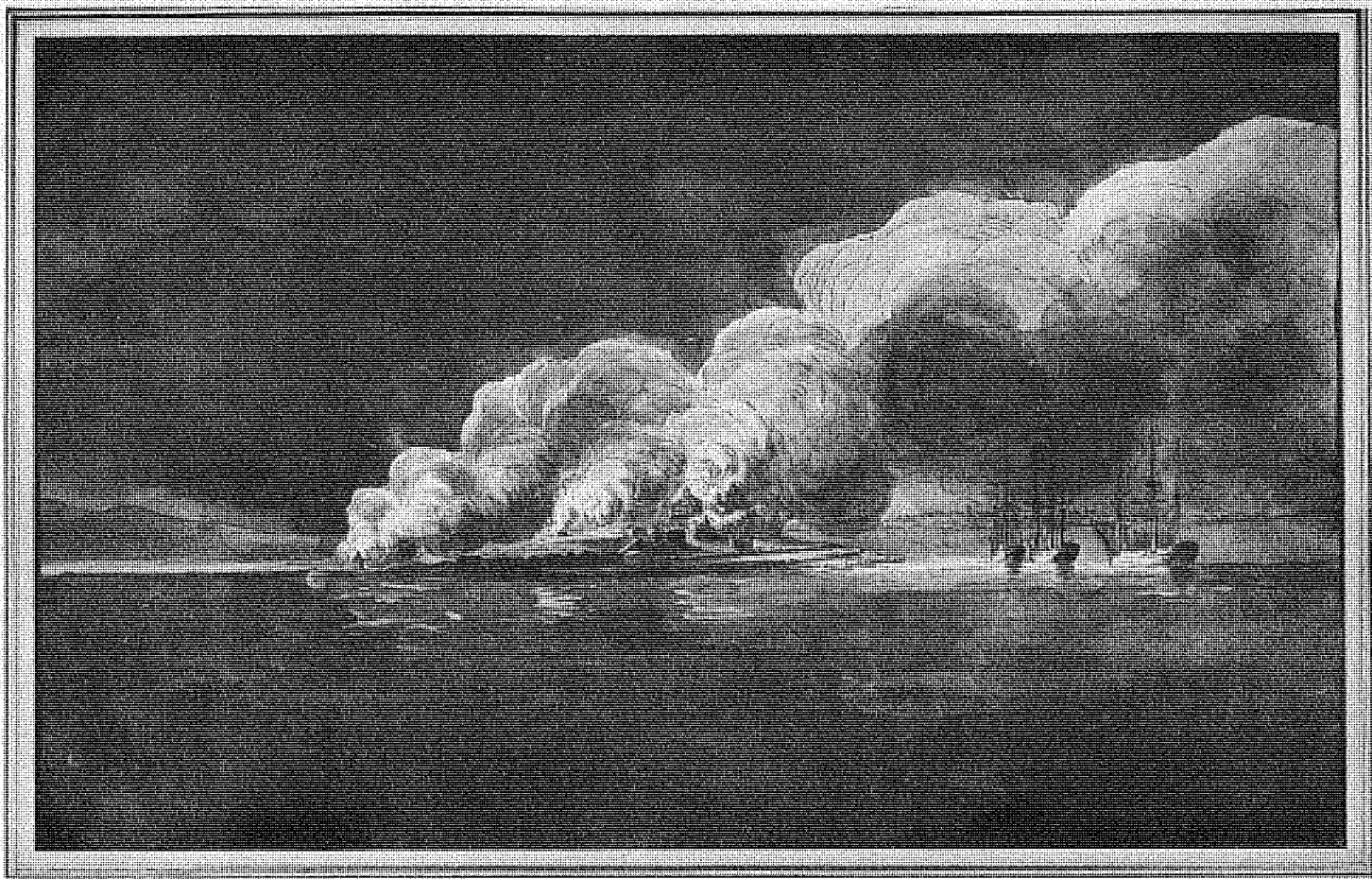
GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge March 24. 1776

Sir When I had the honor to address you the 19th Instt upon the evacuation of the Town of Boston by the Ministerial army, I fully expected as their retreat and embarkation were hurried and precipitate that before now they wou'd have departed the harbour and been far in their passage to the place of destination: But to my surprize and disappointment the Fleet is still in Nantasket road. – The purpose inducing their stay, is altogether unknown, nor can I suggest any satisfactory reason for It; – On Wednesday night last [March 20] before the whole of the Fleet fell down to Nantasket, they demolished the Castle & Houses belonging to It by burning them down, and the several Fortifications – they left a great number of the Cannon, but have rendered all of them, except a very few, entirely useless by breaking off the Trunnions, and those they spiked up but may be made serviceable again; some are allready done.

There are several Vessels in the Docks which were taken by the Enemy, some with and others without Cargoes, which different persons claim as their property and right – are they to be restored to the former owners on making proof of their title, or to belong to the Continent as Captures made from the Enemy? – I wish Congress wou'd direct a mode of proceeding against them and establish a Rule for decision, they appear to me to be highly necessary. In like manner some of the Cannon which are in Boston, are said to have come from the Castle – Supposing them with those remaining at the Castle to have ben purchased by & provided originally at the



Burning of Castle William in Boston Harbor.

expençe of this Province, are they now to be considered as belonging to It, or to the Publick? I beg leave to refer the matter to the opinion of Congress and pray their direction how I am to conduct respecting 'em.

As soon as the Town was abandon'd by the Enemy, I judg'd It advisable to secure the several heights lest they shou'd attempt to return, and for this purpose have caused a large & strong work to be thrown up on Fort Hill, a Post of great importance as It commands the whole Harbour, and when fortified, If properly supported, will greatly annoy any Fleet the Enemy may send against the Town, & render the landing of their Troops exceedingly difficult, If not Impracticable— This work is almost done & in a little time will be compleat— And that the communication between the Town & Country may be free & open, I have ordered all the Lines upon the Neck to be immediately destroyed, and the other works on the side of the Town facing the Country, that the Inhabitants from the latter may not be Impeded, and afforded an easy entrance, in case the Enemy shou'd gain possession at any future time— These matters I conceived to be within the Line of my duty, of which I advised the Genl Court, and recommended to their attention such other measures as they might think necessary for securing the Town against the Hostile designs of the Enemy.

I have just got an Inventory of Stores and property belonging to the Crown, which the Enemy left in Boston at the Castle & Bunker Hill, which I have the honor to transmit you, ² and shall give strict orders that a carefull attention be had to any more that may be found. — I shall take such precautions respecting 'em, that they may be secure, and turn to the public advantage as much as possible or circumstances will admit of —

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), I, 541–44, NA.

2. See reports of John Frazer, March 20, 1776, and Ezekiel Cheever, March 22, 1776.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK
HALDIMAND ¹

Adventure Transport in Nantasket
Road Boston Harbour March 24th. 1776

Dear Sir On the determination to quit Boston, We Were employed from the Eighth Instant to the 17th in Embarking the provisions and Stores, which we with great trouble and labour Effected, Except leaving the four Sea Morters and about twenty ps of Iron Cannon which were Spiked, We Embarked on the 17 Instt at the Long Wharf, Handcocks Wharf, and Hatches Wharf in good order, and without any appearance of an Attack from the Rebels; there were traverses thrown up near liberty tree, & on the Wharfs; and the retreat was covered By the Granedr's & light Infantry; the detachments on Charlestown hights, came off at the same time. Several familys have embarked with us, among whome are the Commissioners, Mr Letchmore, Mr Fitcher, Mr Logdes, and several others with whome you were not so well acquainted, those peoples Situation is realy deplorable —

On the Night of the 16 Instt the Rebels threw up a Work on Forsters hill, from whence we Expected they wou'd Cannonade the Ships going

down; but they did not fire a Shot, And from all appearence they seemed well pleased with our Departure, and that their town is not destroyed, which they were given to understand woud be the case, if they gave us the least interruption in our Embarkation; I am sorry to say our Soldiers & Sailors committed many irregularities for a day or two before we Embarked, by breaking into houses & destroying a great deal of Valuable furniture – particularly that Value furniture of Mr Smiths, the house in which you took leave of Genl Howe. I had the pleasure to deliver Your house with every thing in it in good order to Mr Bulfinch, about an hour before we Embarked, and have no doubt but Mrs Apthorp is now in it, I gave her Son Thomas Apthorp a bill on you for the Years Rent you agreed to pay her amounting to Sixty pounds Sterling. It was lucky for her I remained in it, by that means her furniture was preserved.

The Works at Castle William was blown up the twentieth at Night and the Block-houses and Barracks burnt, and that Island rendered intirely useless to the Rebels –

The whole fleet are now in Nantasket Road fiting for Sea and its said we will proceed to Halifax in a day or two, We are greatly Crouded in the transports and very short of some Species of Provisions, and if some Victualers do not very soon Join us, we shall be in a bad way. I believe there never was Twenty three British Regiments in such a Situation as we are at present.

I am Embarked in a small Store Ship with Captn Handfeild & family Captn M[a]jrr (both brothers Assistants) & two More Officers; We are kept busy from Morning to Night, and I cant help saying my Situation is very different from what your good intentions ment or I Expected, could I have forseen what I have met with since your departure, I woud never have been in this department; but its too late now to look back. –

Mr Haldimand is very well & embarked with his Regiment, on board a fine large India Man. this bustle seems to please him, and he makes his way very well –

The Rebell privateers continue to insult us, five of them appeared off the light house Yesterday in sight of our fleet, and they have taken Several Ships within this last Month, in short I do not see any great alteration for the better since the departure of Admiral G[rave]s who was so obnoxious.

This Letter goes by the *Lord Hyde* Packet, which is said will Sail tomorrow. I give it in Charge to Mr Thompson² a Gentleman of New England, who came in to us last Winter and is a very Genteel Young Man, he is well informed of every thing passing here, and can give you much Satisfaction in those Matters. I have therefore taken the liberty of Introducing him to you– We have not had any late Arivals from England, a Sloop came in Yesterday which had 19 Weeks passage from the Downs. I have had but One Letter from you (dated the 2d Septr) since your Departure, which makes me very anxious. I hope you have got all mine. I never miss an oppertunity.

How Glad I am you wrote for Mrs Fairchild She is lucky to be out of

this Scrap I hope I shall soon hear of her & Watsons safe arrival; Old Juba is still alive and Embarked with me, between my Man John & I, he does not fare badly – I have not heard from New York these five Weeks, nor do I know any thing of your Affairs there or in Mereland. we have no Communication with the Southern Provinces; Chamier tells me will send you bills for £200 by this Packet, and Mr Nicol paid me the other day Sixty three dollars on Accot of his note to you which Money I gave to Mr Haldimand as he was in want of so much. –

A Man of War is Just now come in from Virginia, 12 days passage,³ they say they are all in Arms in that Country, and Confirms the Accot we had of Lord Dunmores having burnt Norfolck – Genll Clinton has left that for North Carolina –

About 3 Weeks ago I sent my Phaeton, Horses, Chair, & yr Sulky by a friend to Jamaica to be sold for produce, which I desired he wou'd take with him to London, and deliver it to your Nephew, Mr Haldimand for my Accot I hope he will Excuse my taking this freedom with him as I did not know any Merchant in London to whom I could have Consigned it. It was lucky I sent them off, I shoud otherwise have lost them, Capt Reid who came here with Porter & Coal for the troops and was a Pensacola acquaintance is the person by whom I sent them, I have given him a direction to Mr. Haldimand.

Genll [James] Robertson is very well and desires his Compliments, he & [Sir James] Grant go off tomorrow to Halifax with the first Division of the fleet. What wou'd I give for one hour or two Conversation with you, I could tell you many things I cannot write. God grant I may some day have the happiness to see you –

I must beg you will remember me to [Dietrich] Brehm, I long to hear from him, I know nothing of our Regt but that [Stephen] Kemble has got a Majority, I hope he has got a Company. I am not uneasy for my self I know you will take care of me when promotion comes to my turn. Its Mortifying to see a number of boys getting Majoritys in this Army, and I can have no Chance, I may well say I serve here for five Shillings a day only.

I was so lucky to get Brehm twenty Guineas for his horse about a Month ago. Its so much out of the fire I will send him a bill on Mr Ross for it –

I do not know if you'll be able to read this Letter I write so inconveniently in a crouded & lumbered Cabin, be my situation as it may, I will not let slip any oppertunity of writing to you, being with the greatest Respect & Esteem Dr Sir [&c.]

Fran^s Hutcheson

I rejoice every day you are releived from so disagreeable a Service as you wou'd have had here

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

2. This was the famous Benjamin Thompson, later Count Rumford, (1753–1814), scientist, philanthropist and administrator.

3. H.M.S. *Kingsfisher*, Captain Alexander Graeme, which arrived in Nantasket road on March 22, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN LONDON, DATED ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Chatham*, MARCH 24, 1776."¹

The retreat of the Troops from this garrison (Boston) cannot fail to be differently represented in England; for which reason I have found time from our great hurry to give you some account of it. In the first place, the General's not receiving any letters or despatches from Government since the middle of October, could not fail of making everybody uneasy; it looked as if we were left destitute to get out of a bad scrape as we liked best. Our provisions falling short, added to our discontent. The fleet afforded us no relief; little indeed was in their power – their own ill equipment was enough to make them as dissatisfied as ourselves. The Provincials, who knew exactly the state of our garrison, harassed us from their batteries, with an intention of making our people more dissatisfied, in hopes of desertions. Finding no probability of supply, and dreading the consequence of further delay, it was thought prudent to retire to the ships, and to save what we could. Our not being burdened with provisions, permitted us to save some stores and ammunition, the light field-pieces, and such things as are most convenient of carriage. The rest, I am sorry to say, we were obliged to leave behind; such of the guns as, by dismounting, we could throw into the sea, were done so; the carriages were disabled, and every precaution taken that our circumstances would permit, for our retreat was by agreement. The people of the town who were friends to Government, took care of nothing but their merchandise, and found means to employ the men belonging to the transports in embarking their goods; by which means several of the vessels were entirely filled with private property instead of the King's stores. By some unavoidable accident, the medicines, surgeons' chests, instruments, and necessaries, were left in the Hospital. The confusion unavoidable on such a disaster, will make you conceive how much must be forgot where every man had a private concern. The necessary care and distress of the women, children, sick, and wounded, required every assistance that could be given. It was not like breaking up a camp, where every man knows his duty; it was like departing your country, with your wives, your servants, your household furniture, and all your encumbrances. The officers, who felt the disgrace of their retreat, did their utmost to keep up appearances. The men, who thought they were changing for the better, strove to take the advantage of the present times, and were kept from plunder and drink with difficulty. In bad plight we go to Halifax. What supply we are to expect there I do not know; our expectations are not very sanguine. The neglect shown us bears hard on us all; the soldiers thing themselves betrayed, the officers all blame the Admiralty, and your friend, Lord S[andwich], is universally execrated. The sea officers complained they were hurried out of England in a most shameful condition, not half manned, and ill provided. Fleet and Army complain of each other, and both of the people at home. If we fare as ill at Halifax as we have done here lately, I fear we shall have great desertion, as the opportunity will be more convenient.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 484, 485; printed from an unidentified British newspaper.



Two favorite SONGS, made on the Evacuation of the Town of BOSTON, by the *British Troops*, on the 17th of March, 1776.

IN seventeen hundred and seventy six,
On March the eleventh, the time was prefix'd,
Our forces march'd on upon Dorchester-neck,
Made fortifications against an attack.
The morning next following, as Howe did see
The banks we call'd up, were so copious and high,
Said he in three months, all my men with their might,
Could not make two such Forts as they've made in a night.

Now we hear that their Admiral was very wroth,
And drawing his sword, he bid Howe to go forth,
And drive off the YANKEES from Dorchester hill:
Or he'd leave the harbour and him to their will.

Howe rallies his forces upon the next day,
One party embark'd for the Castle they say,
But the wind and the weather against them did fight,
On Governor's Island it drove 'em that night.

Then being discourag'd they soon did agree,
From Bunker and Boston, on board ships to flee.

For fear our next fort should be mis'd in King-street.

But yet notwithstanding the finger of God,
In the wind and the weather which often occur'd;
Still Howe, Pharaoh "c, did harden his heart,
Being thirsty for victory to maintain his part.

He gives out fresh orders on Thursday it's said,
Forms his men in three branches upon the parade;
Acknowledging it was a desperate case,
In their situation the YANKEES to face:

Yet nevertheless being haughty of heart,
On Friday one branch of his men did embark
A second flood ready down by the sea side:
His Dragoons were mounted all ready to ride.

Great Howe he now utters a desperate oration,
Saying fight my brave boys for the crown of our nation:
Take me for your pattern, and fight ye as I
Let it be 'till we conquer, or else 'till we die.

But all of a sudden, with an Eagle ey'd glance,
They espied a fire being kindled by chance,
In a barrack at Cambridge, as many do know,
And then in confusion they ran to and fro.

Moreover as Providence order'd the thing,
Our drums beat alarm, our hell it did ring,
Which made them cry out, O the YANK: will come:
O horror! they'll have us, come let us begone.

Then hither skilker they ran in the street,
Sometimes on their heads and sometimes on their feet,
Leaving cannon and mortars, pack saddles and wheat,
Being glad to escape with the skin of their teeth.

Now off goes Plymlick with his men in fight,
And ah! they throw coarads, yet still they show spite,
In burning the Castle, as they pass along,
And now by Nantasket they lie in a throng.

Let 'em go, let 'em go, for what they will fetch,
I think their great Howe is a miserable wretch,
And as for his men, they are fools for their pains,
So let them return to Old-England again.

IT was not our will that Bunker Hill
From us should ever be taken;
We thought 'twould never be retook,
But we find we are Mistaken.

The soldiers bid the hill farewell,
Two images left sentries,
This they had done all out of fun
To the American YANKEES.

A flag of truce was sent thereon,
To see if the hill was clear,
No living soul was found thereon,
But these images stood there.

Their hats they wave, come if you please,
There's none here to molest us,
These wooden men that here do stand,
Are only to defy us.

These images they soon threw down,
Not one man's life was lost then,
No sooner they were on the hill
But they landed into Boston.

The men come, and children run,
I have PUTNAM rejoicing,
Saying now is your time to man your piece
For the soldiers have left Boston.

The troops you fairly fear'd away,
On board the ships they're quarter'd,
The children laugh'd, saying over the wharf
They threw their best bomb mortar.

With the blazing of your guns that night,
And roaring of your mortars,
The soldiers cry'd the YANKEES come
To tear us all in quarters.

The barracks being set on fire,
Which made the soldiers quiver,
They soon embark on board their ships,
May they stay there forever.

Soon after this the fleet fell down,
It's what we long desir'd,
I think the Gen'ls were afraid
That they'd be set on fire.

The shipping now have all set sail,
No cause have we to mourn,
But seem afraid because 'tis said
That they will soon return.

Some say they're sail'd for Halifax,
And others for New York;
Howe let none know where he was bound,
When the soldiers did embark.

Where they are bound there's none can tell,
But the great Gun on high,
May all our heads be cover'd well,
When cannon balls do fly.

The property of Abraham H. Paul.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS ¹

March 1776

At Single Anchor [in Nantasket Road]

Sunday 24th A M Saild hence H M Ship *Fowey & Diligence* Brig wt 40 Sail
of Vessels under their Convoy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

BRIGADE ORDERS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

Norwich – March 24th 1776 –

The Brigadier General Thanks the Officers and Soldiers of the Brigade for their great Assiduity on the March from the Camp to Norwich,² and for the Good order which has been observed – The Strictest Order and Discipline will still be kept up, Such Conduct will not fail to ensure Honour to the Troops wherever they march, – The Tarry of the Troops in Norwich will be very Short, as the water carriage will ease the Troops, and as the Service calls for the Greatest Dispatch, they must not Expect to lay by untill they Reach New York, – as there will not be accommodations on Board the Transports for Cooking a Sufficiency of Provisions, the Commanding Officer of Each Regiment will Direct that Six Days Provision be Cooked, This Day if the Fresh Provisions be ready, – An Exact Return of each Regt and the Company of Artillery must be given in Immediately, – All the Troops (Except Colo [Charles] Webb's) will be under arms at half past four this Afternoon on the Common – a Pocket Book with a Small Sum of money has been found on the Road – the owner by applying to Capt [Charles] Cushing at Colo [John] Greateon's Regt and describing the Book &c. may have it.

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. "22d [March] – Our General reached Norwich in Connecticut. The troops marched with great expedition; but by the badness of the roads, the frost then coming out of the ground, the baggage-wagons moved heavily. The transports, destined for the troops, were fitting for sea." Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 36.

"A RETURN OF TRANSPORTS NOW LYING ATT NORWICH LANDING, TAKEN UP
ON THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED COLONIES – " ¹

March 24th 1775–[sic 1776]

Vessels Names.	No. Tons.	By whom Commanded.
Brig <i>Pitt</i>	138	Squire Geor
Schooner <i>Neptune</i>	115	Thomas Fling
Brig <i>Pitt</i>	110	Hezekiah Perkins
Schooner <i>Chelsey</i>	40	— — —
Sloop <i>Polly</i>	80	Jabez Lord
Schooner <i>Bedford</i>	64	— Roggers
Sloop	70	Cowdree
Sloop	110	— — —
Schooner	20	Saml Adderton
Sloop <i>Dove</i>	94	Alpheus Davison
	941 Tons	

1. Gates Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER, DATED ON BOARD THE BRIG *Allerton*, COCKSPUR, IN GEORGIA, MARCH 24.”¹

In my last, I promised to give you as full an account as I could of our present disturbances here. You will observe by my different letters, of the Resolves, that hath from time to time been entered into here, by the Congress, Councils and Committees, all of which seem in one part or other to distress trade and ruin thousands. Your schooner *Maria*, would have sailed by the time appointed, had not the Delegates for this Province arrived before that time, and brought positive orders from the Continental Congress, to admit no vessel whatever to depart the Province before the first of March, which the Congress here agreed to. Some of the masters of vessels applied for liberty to go away in ballast, but were refused. There was at that time about twenty vessels in port, which were obliged tamely to put up with these orders, they having no redress, and being in hopes that they would be permitted to sail on the first of March. About the 15th of January arrived at Cockspur, three of his Majesty's ships, viz. the *Tamer*, of 16 guns; *Seron* [Syren], of 28 guns; and *Cherokee*, of 10 guns: This alarmed the people on shore, being apprehensive they came to destroy the town, although it was declared they only came for provisions, and not in a hostile manner, provisions were refused them, so now began the worst of our troubles. The country was immediately alarmed, and as many people as could be got were brought to town: those who were disaffected to their cause, were either disarmed or bound up by a parole, and not to aid or assist any of his Majesty's ships or troops with any thing whatever, or go on board. This parole was only granted to persons of character. The Council of Safety, Resolved, to put the town into a state of defence in the best manner they could, and accordingly erected a two gun battery on one of the Wharfs, and another above it on a hill of eight or 10 guns; at the same time sinking a vessel about two miles below the town, in the narrowest part of the channel, to prevent the vessels coming up. — This alarm caused a general move of the property of the inhabitants out of town; I moved as much of the store goods as I possibly could, on board the *Maria*, and ordered her a few miles up the river, at that time thinking it the safest place; some time after this the *Seren* of 28 guns sailed, which eased the minds of the people a little: but greater was the alarm, when the *Scarborough*, of 20 guns, and two transports with Marines, arrived. The inhabitants then could not be convinced that they came in a hostile manner, though assured to the contrary. This arrival caused the Council of Safety to pass a resolve, to confine the Governor, and his Majesty's Council, to the Province, and oblige them to give their parole that they would not quit the same: some time after this, they demanded a second parole, which they refused; as that was the case they thought themselves cleared from the first. The Governor with his family made their escape, and got on board the *Scarborough*, and have remained there ever since. This gave a great alarm, which still encreased, when one of his Majesty's ships, with some armed vessels and the two transports, made their appearance

about four miles below the town. Upon expectation that all the vessels would be permitted to sail the first of March, I removed the schooner down the river again about the 25th, in order to be in readiness; and on the last of February three vessels got permission to depart the Province with their cargoes, but the Council of Safety reconsidered that resolve, and made a second one, that no vessel should depart before the first of May, for fear the rice on board should fall into the hands of the King's troops. On the second the vessels below the town weighed anchor (except one to command there) and proceeded up the back river, a river not at all suspected by the inhabitants. They fired several shot from their battery, but to no effect. The *Hinchinbrook*, of ten guns, was to go up this back river and come down a breast of the town; at the same time the marines from on board the transports landed on an island a breast of the town, marched over the same and got on board the shipping about three o'clock in the morning undiscovered. The *Hinchinbroke* unluckily got a-ground, so was of no service. The marines being on board, orders were given to remove the shipping as high up the river as possible, intending to carry them down the back river, at this time mentioning, they only came to carry off the shipping in order to get the rice, and not against the province. The people on shore knew nothing of the troops being on board, until they sent off some of their people to order the vessels to be unrigged, and the rigging sent on shore, agreeable to a Resolve of the Council of Safety, the day before: this messenger was detained, which gave them some suspicion. They then sent two other messengers, who were likewise detained; at this they hailed several times, but to no effect, they then began to fire with their musquetry to no purpose, they then dragged some cannon to a convenient place, and began to fire, which was returned by one of the merchantmen with four guns, and continued for some time. About four o'clock, the tide answering, orders were given to get under way, and proceed up the river as fast as possible: the people on shore finding this, and their cannon not suiting the intended purpose, they resolved to do all in their power to burn the shipping; they accordingly went on board one of the ships lying much lower than the rest, and set her on fire; she belonged to London, was fully loaded, and worth about 13,000 l. sterling: this ship drawing too great a draught of water to drift up the river. They then got a schooner, hoisted her sails, set her on fire, and turned her adrift. This vessel unluckily caught the *Nelly*, Captain Fletcher (of Liverpool) which was likewise consumed, and had it not been for the activity of the seamen in towing these fire-ships on shore, many more must have shared their fate. On the 4th, the ships of a large draught of water were obliged to lighten by throwing some of the cargo overboard. After many difficulties we got down here with the schooner and about ten other vessels, it not being possible to get the remainder away at that time.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GEORGIA, DATED MARCH 24." ¹

This letter, after reciting all the particulars relating to the depredations of the Provincials, upon the stores, ships, and other private property, and molesting the King's people belonging to the ships of war, says,²

Several of the Marines were sent on shore by the Commanders of his Majesty's ships of war now lying here to procure necessities, when they were attacked by a party of Rebels, who fired at them, and being considerably superior in number, and seeing others flocking to join them, the Marines thought it prudent to retreat to the ships, which they all effected, except one man, who having received a wound, was left behind, and seized by the Provincials, who immediately tied him to a tree, afterwards cut his legs, thighs, and arms, into several pieces, and then left him in this tortured condition. A few days ago another piece of barbarity was also done by this lawless rabble; the Marines were sent to a small Island near this place to cut wood, assisted by some of the Natives (King's friends) but so soon as the Rebels knew what was going forwards, they collected a large body, and proceeded to said Island, which occasioned the Marines to take to their boats, but some of the inhabitants fell a sacrifice to their merciless fury. One man in particular who was pursued, and had no other chance to save himself but to take to the water and swim to the other side, he had no sooner got a small distance from shore, than a party of the Rebels was upon the beach, when one of them fired at the poor creature with a rifle gun, and shot him through the head. Such barbarities as these you will hardly credit, but I can assure you they are undoubted facts.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, May 20 to May 22, 1776.

2. The summary is by the editor of the newspaper.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks on Sunday the 24 M[arch 1776]

4 [A.M.] Light airs a Large sea from the W S W
8 Sat the gibb & Fore sail
Lattd Obs 32..06 No
2 [P.M.] Clear Weather hard gails took one R:F:S
at 6 P M hove too under F:S the Schooner Sprang a Leke made 20 Inches water a hour Cut away the Seling in order to Stop it But found it to Bee in the Scarff of the Stern We could not Stop it No otherways than Stop in a pees of Beef -

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Antelope*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM JUDD ¹

March 1776 Moored in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica
Sunday 24 at 2 P M took poss[ess]ion of a Sloop bound to Georgia ²

at 5 came in here a Brig from Philadelphia sent two petty Officers on board and took possession of her³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/39.

2. Sloop *Betsey*, — Gray, master, in ballast, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

3. *Ibid.*, brig *King George*, — Pennock, master, with a cargo of bread and flour.

25 Mar.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JOSHUA WENTWORTH, PORTSMOUTH¹

Cambridge 25th March 1776

Captain [John] Frazier deliverd me your favor of the 21st instant — I have Laid it & the Captains petition before his Excellency, who has no objection to the gentlemen belonging to the *Susanna*² Seeking an opportunity to return home which he will give them Liberty to do, upon their giving their parole not to act inimical to America during the present Contest —

The Captain Sets forth, that he has been plunderd of his private property to the amount of £63.19.9 Stg — this is a Circumstance, which gives great dissatisfaction to the General, it has been his positive orders to the Commanders of those armed vessels, to guard against this So ignominious behaviour of the people on board their vessels, the only remedy at present that I can think of is, to get the Sufferers attestation of their Loss, Let them be paid, the Captains must find out who the plundered were, & beside Such punishment as is due for their Crimes, the Sum paid Must be deducted from their Share of the prize — if they Cannot fix upon the defalters, it must become a Charge against the one third given to the Captors by the Continent.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The *Susannah* was taken March 6, 1776 by four of Washington's armed schooners cruising as a squadron.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

The Committee of both Houses, Appointed to take into consideration a letter from his Excellency General Washington, dated the 21st of March instant — as also the report of a Committee, who, by Order of Court, had waited on his Excellency to confer on the subject matter of the removal of the Continental Troops now in this Colony, having attended the business assigned them Report as followeth. —

As our Enemies are now withdrawn from the Town of Boston, and it appearing to your Committee that it is a metter of the utmost importance, to secure said Town Against the approaches of large Ships of war in future, That a Committee of both Houses be appointed as soon as possible to lay before this Court, a Sketch of the Harbour of Boston, and examine & Report, particularly The Number of passages there are for Ships into the same & what distance they are from the Capital — what is the depth of water in, & the width of the Channel at eash passage — what the height of the Land adjoining, and the distance therefrom to the Oposite Side of the channel — whether it is necessary to the best good of this Colony, and its

Capital, that all the passages to the Town of Boston should be continued open – What are the advantages, & what the disadvantages, that will result from stoping either of the passages thereto – Which passage, if any, ought to be stoped – Where can fortifications be erected, most easily to resist the enemy in their attempt to enter the harbour Aforesaid – Whether such posts are on the main or on an Island or Islands, – If on an Island whether a communication can be kept up between it and the main in case of a siege – whether those posts are commanded by any Neighbouring Hills If by any, by what Hill – and whether, at All times, a Garrison at such posts can be supplied with Water. –

And whereas this Colony is greatly weakned, by the distruction of our Fortifications & War like stores by our Enemies, and will be more so on the removal of the continental Army, as a large proportion of the Men & Arms therein, are from this Government – Your Committee are therefore of Opinion, that an application be immediately made to his Excellency General Washington, and request that he would further consider the exposed, and at present, the defenc[e]less state of this Colony, and if consistent with the general interest, he would continue here Six Regiments of the Continental Troops, for the defence of this Government, instead of the Three or four Regiments, his Excellency hath informed this Court he intended to leave. –

W Sever p order

In Council March 25th 1776

Read & accepted & ordered that B Lincoln & Joseph Palmer Esqrs with such as the Honl House shall join, be a Committee for the purposes mentioned in the foregoing Report – sent down for Concurrence Perez Morton D Secry

In House of Representatives March 25th 1776

Read & concurred & Mr ~~Speaker~~ Cooper Mr Brown of Boston & Deacon Nicholls are Join'd Sent up William Cooper Spkr Pro Tem

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 301-03, NA Photocopy.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1776

Watertown, March 25.

On Sabbath of the 17th instant, the British army in Boston, under General Howe, consisting of upwards of 7000 men, after suffering an ignominious blockade for near eleven months past, disgracefully quitted all their strong holds in Boston and Charlestown, fled from before the army of the United Colonies and took refuge on board their ships. The most material particulars of this signal event are as follows: – About 9 o'clock a body of the enemy were seen to march from Bunker's Hill, and at the same time a very great number of boats, filled with troops, put off from Boston, and made for the shipping which mostly lay below the Castle. On the first discovery of these movements, the Continental army immediately paraded several regiments embarked in boats and proceeded down the river from Cambridge. About the same time two men were sent to Bunker's Hill, in order to make discoveries. They proceeded accordingly, and when arrived, making a sig-

nal that the fort was evacuated, a detachment was immediately sent down from the army to take possession of it. The troops in the river, which were commanded by General [Israel] Putnam, landed at Sewell's Point; where they received intelligence that all the British troops had left Boston, on which a detachment was sent to take possession of the town, while the main body returned up the river. About the same time General [Artemas] Ward, attended by about 500 troops from Roxbury, under the command of Colonel Ebenezer Learned, (who unbarr'd and opened the gates) enter'd the town on that quarter, Ensign [Samuel] Richards carrying the Standard. The command of the whole being then given to General Putnam, he proceeded to take possession of all the important posts, and thereby became possessed in the name of the Thirteen United Colonies of North America, of all the fortresses in that large and once populous and flourishing metropolis, which the flower of the British army, headed by an experienced General, and supported by a formidable fleet of men of war, had, but an hour before, evacuated in the most precipitate and cowardly manner. . . .

The enemy, previous to their going off, scattered great numbers of crow's feet on Boston Neck and in the streets, in order to retard our troops in case of a pursuit; and with such silence and precaution did they embark, that a great part of the inhabitants did not know it 'till after they were gone. — Mr. James Lovell, who was long confined in goal, was cruelly carried off in irons, together with the prisoners that were taken at Bunker's Hill &c.

Tuesday evening [March 19] the enemy set fire to the block house and barracks at the Castle, and Wednesday they were employed at the same place in blowing up and demolishing the fortifications.

Two vessel arrived at Portsmouth the beginning of last week, and brought in six tons of gunpowder.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LIBELS IN THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY ¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Plimouth, ss.

At a Court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America, and brought into the counties of Plimouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Nantucket or Dukes County, to be held at Plimouth in the said county of Plimouth, on Monday the 15th day of April, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, will be tried the justice of the capture of the following vessels, viz. of a sloop called the *Polly*, burthen about seventy five tons, commanded by Sibeline White; of a Schooner called the *Industry*, burthen about eighty five tons, commanded by Charles Coffin; of a small fishing schooner, burthen about fifteen tons, commanded by one Dawsey; ² of a ship called the *Happy Return*, burthen about one hundred and thirty tons, commanded by James Hall; of a ship called the *Norfolk*, burthen about one hundred and twenty tons, commanded by Jonathan Grendal; ³ of a sloop called the *Dolphin*, burthen about eighty tons, commanded by Lot Norton; of a brigantine called the *St. Lawrence*, burthen about one hundred and sixty five tons, commanded by James Coffin; of a sloop called the *Sally*, burthen

about seventy tons, commanded by George Middleton; ⁴ of a sloop called the *Lively Locust*, burthen about thirty tons, commanded by one [Moses] Weyman; ⁵ of a sloop called the *Britannia*, burthen about eighty tons, commanded by Joseph Hall; ⁶ of a sloop called the *Betsey*, burthen about one hundred and fifteen tons, commanded by William Heath; ⁷ and of a ship called the *Harriot*, burthen about two hundred and forty tons, commanded by Wemyss Orrock ⁸. – All which vessels, said to be improved in supplying the fleet and army, employed against the United Colonies, and taken and brought into the counties of Plimouth, Barnstable, Bristol aforesaid, Nantucket, or Dukes County, together with their cargoes and appurtenances, are libelled in the Court aforesaid, and trials will be had thereon, from day to day, until the whole are tried. And notice is hereby given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, to all persons claiming property in any of the aforesaid vessels or cargoes, or any ways concerned therein, that they may appear and shew cause (if any they have) why the vessels, or any of them, with their cargoes and appurtenances, should not be condemned.

Nathan Cushing, Judge of said Court.

1. *Boston Gazette*, March 25, 1776.
2. These three vessels were captured in November, 1776 by Captain William Coit in the schooner *Harrison*.
3. The two ships taken by John Manley in the schooner *Hancock* off Boston harbor, January 25, 1776.
4. The *Dolphin* and the *Sally* were probably the vessels. *Boston Gazette*, December 11, 1775: "Last week a privateer from Plymouth, took several small craft bound to Boston, with provision and fuel." The *St. Lawrence* is noted in the *Boston Gazette* of January 1, 1776.
5. The *Lively Locust* is identified as the sloop carried into Plymouth on December 25, 1775. See *Boston Gazette*, February 5, 1776.
6. The *Britannia* was driven into Plymouth in a storm on November 25, 1775 and was seized by Captain Sion Martindale in Washington's brig *Washington*.
7. The sloop *Betsey* was the vessel captured by Captain House with four whale boats on January 30, 1776. See *Boston Gazette*, February 5, 1776.
8. Capture of the *Harriot*, Weymes Orrock, master, is noted in the *Boston Gazette*, March 18, 1776.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Braintree, March 25th 1776.

May it please your Excellency,

Your obliging Letter of Yesterday was handed to Me this Morning by General Wards Son. The Fleet still continues in Nantasket Road; and I can't discern any Diminution of their Numbers: five or six Transports, and a Man of War arrived last Fryday afternoon; as the Man of War saluted the Admiral I suppose they came from England.

The Signal at the Light House was thrown out again on Saturday; but, the Wind has hitherto prevented the Arrival of any more Vessels. The Admiral has a Signal now flying at his main top mast Head: I wish it was in my Power to construe it.

Agreeable to your Excellency's Desire, as fast as I can find trust Worthy Persons, I shall give them Directions to make dilligent Search, after such Characters as you have discribed, and upon good Ground of Suspicion to ap-

prehend and carry them to Head Quarters, or bring them to me for further Examination, as may be most convenient.

[11] oClock This Moment an Explanation of the above Signal occurs: – Part of this Fleet are come to Sail. I shall proceed journalwise, to inform your Excellency of their Movements, 'till the Bearer, who is gone to see Colo [Benjamin] Tupper, returns.

[1] oClock They are still coming to sail: near or quite fifty Sail are got out to Sea; about half of them Brigs, Schooners, and Sloops; one or two Frigates, and the remainder Transport Ships; their Course shaped for Cape Cod: May not this Division be bound for Martha's Vineyard, and the Islands in that Sound to procure fresh Provision for the Fleet, which is to rendezvous at Hallifax, and from thence to proceed to Quebec?

3 oClock My Servant, who was directed to take an Account of the Number that have sailed, informs me, there are in all fifty two: One transport Brig is just arrived: I expected Mr. [Joseph] Ward would return with Colo Tupper, and have dined with me; from them I hoped to have gained further Intelligence, but am disappointed: I hear the Colo is preparing [a] formidable fire Raft, which I wish may effectually operate, but, fear a single one will avail little

Your Excellency's Tender Concern for the Restoration of my Health (which, Thanks to the Father of Mercies! is much mended) lays me under a fresh obligation to subscribe my Self, with Cordial Gratitude and Esteem, Your Excellency's [&c.]

Josiah Quincy

P:S: 5 OClock The Adml has just now hoisted another Signal, a Pendant under his Flagg two more Ships are under Sail going out of the Harbor: 7 O'Clock Mr Ward & Colo Tupper are just arrived. They are of Opinion, that the Ships which sailed to Day, have carried off the Tories, and are bound with them to Lewisburgh.

1. Washington Papers, LC. Letter was continued on March 26.

EVAN NEPEAN TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Chatham, Nantasket Road

25h March 1776.

I hope you are before this time safe arrived in England, undisturbed by the cares of this troublesome Command, which has been attended with many disagreeable circumstances since your Departure.

The 4th Instant the Rebels were seen on Dorchester heights, having the preceding Night thrown up such an extensive Breast Work, that it was supposed not less than 10. or 12,000. Men could have been employed in completing it; this was so alarming a circumstance, having the command of the southern part of the Town, that 2000. were to have attacked it that night, to land below the Castle, but the weather fortunately proving very bad, the Expedition was set aside, the Rebels having that night 7000. Men in the Intrenchments, and as many more ready to fall in from Roxbury, Phips's

Farm has a very strong Redoubt, with the Mortar taken in the *Nancy*, and several long pieces of Canon, with which they have frequently thrown into the Town, and disturbed the Inhabitants exceedingly, tho' very little damage has been done. General Howe upon this, together with the great want of Provisions, thought it necessary to evacuate the Town, with the Troops under his Command, they embarked the 17h without the loss of a man, intending to proceed to Halifax, the Fleet and Transports are all now at Nantasket waiting for a Wind. Commodore [Francis] Banks is to be left with the *Fowey*, *Niger*, *Hope* and *Tryal* to guard Boston Bay. Captn Graemes is come here in the *King's Fisher*. Captn [Samuel] Graves, I hear by a Vessel from Antigua sailed from that Place 4. days before him with a Convoy, who were blown off the Coast, the *Experiment* is likewise coming from thence.

A Report from the Southward says 4000. highlanders settled in Carolina, headed by a Colo MacDonald gave the Rebels a total overthrow. This account from a naval Officer, but not authenticated. Captn Graeme has taken the Ship from Port l'Orient, laden with Arms, Ammunitions &c²

Evan Nepean

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

2. The ship *Juno*, William Keith, master, taken February 28, 1776.

CREAN BRUSH TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES ROBERTSON¹

[On board the brig *Elizabeth*, March 25, 1776]²

To James Robertson Esquire Brigadier of his Majesty's Forces in North America &c &c &c

The Memorial of Crean Brush Esqr humbly sheweth

That your Memorialist on the fifth day of February last had received into his custody sundry Goods Wares & Merchandize to a considerable Amount by virtue of his Commission of which on notification being received of the evacuation of the Town of Boston your Memorialist anxious to be directed in their disposition did make application to the Commander in cheif to your Honor to the Quarter-Master General and Adjutant General for aid and assistance using his utmost Endeavor but without effect Thus circumstanced your Memorialist at your Honor's request did under high Wages engage four Persons to abandon their own private Concerns and devote their whole time & attention in the making up packing and casing the Goods on hand and assist in conveying them on board in the best manner the peculiar exigence hurry & confusion of the times would permit no Cart or Boat to be procured altho a most exorbitant Price was offered and Capt Buckmaster absolutely refusing to spare one altho your Memorialist applied to him by your Honors & Major Hutchinson's direction The Brig *Elizabeth* had but two Boys and a Man on board none of them Mariners & ignorant of stowing Goods which were however put away in the best manner they could and the freest from damage. On the 10th of March your Memorialist received the Order of his Excellency the Commander in cheif to take into his custody all Linen & woolen Goods. In virtue of this Order your

Memorialist accompanied by the Assistants he has named did visit the Stores of Samuel Austin John Scolly John Rowe Cyrus Baldwin John Barret & Sons one [Samuel] Dash[er]wood & one [Samuel] Patridge from whence were removed the Goods answering the description of his Orders which were ready packed in Trunks & Cases and if any Articles were removed which did not answer the description the Parties are only to blame they being repeatedly called on to declare the Contents of each - which they obstinately refused - These People your Memorialist are irritated against him but your Memorialist begs leave to assure your Honor he is fully able to prove that his Conduct toward them was governed with politeness coolness & moderation true it is that when attempts were made to engage his attention in tedious dissertations on Magna Charta & the rights of British Subjects with intent to retard him in the execution of his Office he did interrupt such Harrangues & with an Irony which inflamed their resentments complimented them on their Eloquence which had in Town Meetings been so successful as to throw all America into confusion but that I was upon Business which I was determined to execute without interruption - The Goods I received from the Stores were taken on board & stowed away with all the care & attention my peculiar Situation would possibly admit and I solemnly aver that from the 5th to the 13th March my own Assiduity was so great that I did not in any one Night allow Myself more than two Hours Sleep and the Weather was so very wet that nothing could be done as to any Labor on board - That soon after the arrival of the Fleet in Nantasket Road your Memorialist in the execution of his duty was instrumental in securing the valuable Goods on board the Ship *Peggy* on board the Sloop *Polly*, and in discovering two Trunks on board a Vessel where Mr George Leonard & his Family are Passengers and while your Memorialist was impatiently waiting for the interposition of Government in sending proper Assistance to pack up & properly stow away the Goods the sole think [*sic* thing] undone & the Work only of a day this being the case your Honor may judge my surprise to find the first exertion of Government to be to render your Memorialist the Servant of Governmt meerly nominal and vesting his Authority in others for so small a Purpose as putting up some Goods of Mr. Rowe's (which were unpacked when received) into Bags & stowing others away in bulk most of them without Inventory or Account & the whole with tedious ceremony & parade finished in two days - Your Memorialist's attention was (as he justly informed your Honor Capt Balfour Mr [William] Davis & Lieut Campbell)*so much engaged as not to pay the least regard to the Articles of Stores & provisions as he justly &c *³ to whom he applied for relief but so far from his receiving any he was really greived to find all Parties declare that not a single Article would be supplied moreover the Persons who assisted me whom I assured a Passage and who were furnished with Stores out of which I had engaged a Supply were singled and set apart from the whole of the Passengers & Negroes aboard & possitive Orders produced for the immediate removal of them & Families on board the Ship *Peggy* altho in their present Circumstances such removal must have been highly dangerous

to some of them even so as to risque their Lives and yet this would have been executed had not the Weather rendered it impossible by which means the innocent People would in the public eye be involved in the guilt of the Plunders on board & render my own Character suspicious. Nineteen Barrells of Flour I had Major Hutchinsons orders to take on board and as much more as could be sent for which I gave my Receipts the second Barrell which was opened I sent for some which when discovered by Mr [Caleb] Wheaten he imperiously flourished over me while in Bed & told me he was surprized at the assurance I dared to shew in giving directions to have any, Upon which I told him he was an insignificant impertinent Puppy. Captain [Peter] Ramsey at that instant came in declared he would not hear one word of the occasion which provoked me to use the words I have mentioned but that if I uttered three words more he would send me Prisoner on board the Commodore – The Circumstances I have latterly mentioned must arise from the express orders of Government and are sufficient to shew that your Memorialist has been unfortunate enough to incur its displeasure – Your Memorialist very uneasy under any imputation which he really thinks malicious, frivolous & groundless prays proper Persons may be appointed by his Excellency the Commander in cheif to examine into his conduct and the conduct of those he employed so far as relates to him that your Memorialist may have an opportunity of shewing that he executed the trust reposed in him with ability probity and integrity to the Honor of the Character of Government and his own – Your Memorialist therefore most humbly prays his request may be laid before his Excellency the Commander in cheif & that he may be releaved in the Premises and receive suitable Satisfaction for the injuries & damages reced

[Endorsed] A true Copy attest Seth Loring Clerk in Secys Office No 52
Brush's memorial

1. The Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1776–1787, No. 2, "The *Elizabeth* and Cargo, Wentworth, Appellant," NA.
2. The date is approximated. Boston was evacuated March 18, 1776, and Howe sailed for Halifax on March 27.
3. The asterisk seems to indicate that Brush had applied for relief to Lieutenant Campbell. However, it may be that Brush was not clear in his memorial, or that there was omission in copying it during the appeal.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Polly* ON A VOYAGE TO SURINAM ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we John Brown of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant as Principal and Simon Smith of Providence aforesaid Mariner as Surety are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. 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 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 Twenty Fifth

Day of March in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said John Brown hath equipped the Sloop *Polly* burthened about Thirty Five Tons whereof the said Simon Smith is Master, and have obtained Permission of the Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony for him the said Simon Smith to proceed with the said Schooner and her Cargo to Surinam or to any of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other Military and Naval Stores &c. Now therefore the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Simon Smith shall well and truly lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board the said Sloop in Gun Powder Salt Petre, Sulphur Duck or Arms and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America the Danger of the Sea and of the Enemy only excepted; and also further excepting that in Case the said Simon Smith shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Coeti Candles in the Articles above-mentioned that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Paper Ozenbriggs Ticklenburgh Lead, Flints, Twine German Steele, Cotten Linnen or Woolen Cloths Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb and shall also lodge a true account or Manifest of his Cargo in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop: and further shall not during said Voyage proceed or go to any of the English Islands in the West Indies or to any Port or Place contrary to the Continental Association (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
[No witnesses]

John Brown
Simon Smith

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

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1776

Newport, March 25.

The ministerial fleet on this station, about a fortnight past, took a double decked brig in Narraganset-Bay, belonging to this place; they took off her upper deck, and fitted her with 8 or 10 guns, and last Wednesday and Thursday the whole f[le]et, consisting of the ships *Rose*, *Glasgow* and *Swan*, two brigs of 8 or 10 guns each, 3 armed tenders and a la[r]ge transport snow, sailed on a cruise, and next day in the afternoon returned again, with two prize sloops, both from Connecticut, one bound to the West Indies, and the other to the Eastward, loaded with provisions.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO COLONEL JABEZ HUNTINGTON ¹

Sir

Lebanon 21st. April [*sic* March 25] 1776

On Observation of the foregoing Letter ² desired Colo [William] Williams that nothing be done by Colo [Eliphalet] Dyer and himself, as to purchasing Hemp or Rigging until they receive further Orders from

home – please to consult His Honor the Deputy Govr and the rest of the Council with you – and if you think it proper, direct Mr [James] Tilley to purchase the Yarns and pursue the Making Rigging as above is proposed –

I have no knowledge concerning Colo [Jedediah] Huntington's March – The General writes the 21st no more of the Army will be detached from thence,³ until the Enemy have taken their departure, and quitted the Coast –

Nothing Material from Canada – Docr Lyman hath a Letter from his Son at Montreal, Says – Genl Wooster with a party of 1200 men were to March the 8th instant from thence to Quebec. All there remain as before I am – with Esteem & Respect [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull.

NB this Letter should be dated Mh 25 1776

1. Gunther Collection, ChHS.

2. Benjamin Huntington's letter of March 23, 1776.

3. Boston.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN ADAMS AND GEORGE WYTHE¹

Gentlemen

Lebanon, March 25, 1776

Two Accounts of loss by hostilities committed by the Ministerial Navy, which came to hand since my last, are enclosed.

I do most sincerely congratulate you on General Washington's success, and on the shameful retreat of our Enemies from Boston, Which demanded our humble admiration and praise of the supream Director of all Events for His marvellous interposition for our help. – Tyranny and oppression have a natural tendency to move the Colonists to a separation from Great Britain – Nothing else could induce them to an Event so distant from their thoughts or designs. Burning and destroying our Towns, robbing our property, trampling on and profaning places dedicated to divine Worship and Service, and cruel treatment of the persons so unhappy as to fall into their hands, are injuries of the first Magnitude. – The prisoners in our custody meet generous entertainment. Is it not time the law of retaliation should take place? – Every subtle art, as well as arms are used against us – May God prevent their Operations, and turn their counsels to foolishness – preserve and on the shameful retreat of our Enemies from Boston, Which demand our guide their public Councils.

I am, with great Esteem and Regard, Gentlemen [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers, 1775–89), 66, I, 91, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL¹

Sir,

Norwich – March 25th 1776 –

You will please to put one bbl of New England Rum, on Board each of the Transports, which carry the troops to New York – you will furnish each Regt with Six days provisions except those of fresh Beef, which is supplied

by Capt Keye, for the Passage, which should be entire when they sail, so that should they be detained in port for any number of Days they must continue to Draw Dayly allowances, you will also furnish each Vessell with 12 Pounds of Candles, in Case the provisions should fall short on the Passage you will please to direct the Masters of the Transports to supply the Troops out of the Provisions belonging to the Commissary Genl which are on Board takeing a Receipt from the Commanding officer of the Troops on board such Transport – I am Sr with respect [&c.]

W. Heath. B:G.

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

BRIGADE ORDERS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

Norwich – March 25th 1776 –

The Troops are to be Dispos'd of on Board the Transports, in the following manner – Vizt

Colo [John] Starks Regt 431. on Board the Brig *Brittania* Capt Edgerton 200, Schooner *Neptune*, Capt King 231 –

Colo Patterson's Regt 465, on Board the Brig *Pitt* Capt Geer 276, Sloop *Dove*, Capt Davison, 189.

Colo [Charles] Webb's will Embark at New London, the disposition of that Regt which Consists of 542 men will be made at that place.

Colo [John] Greaton's Regt and Company of Artillery 483, on Board the Sloop *Polly*, 220. Capt Malbone, Schooner *Bedford*, Capt Rogers Artillery Company 52 & 76 Battalion men 128, Sloop *Hope* Capt Cowdrey 140 –

Colo [William] Bonds Regt 500, on Board the Brig *Pitt* Capt Perkins 220, Schooner *Chelsea* Capt— 80, Sloop *Polly* Capt Lord 160, Schooner—Capt Adderton 40—

The Baggage of the Several Regts will be put on Board the Transports Immediately, Three Days fresh, and Three Days Salt Provisions must be Cooked for the Voyage; The Quarter Masters will draw it without Delay – it must be put on board a Small Vessell which is provided for that Purpose, and sent Down to New London this Day and Cooked there; The 5th 15th 24th & 25th Regiments will March To Morrow Morning at Seven O'Clock for New-London– Eight Seaman must be furnished by Each Regiment Immediately to assist in Navigating the Transports – They will be allow'd the Usual Pay of Artificers in Camp beside their wages. A List of their Names must be given in.

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

March 25th, 1776.

The letter from John Chatfield, Esqr. Chairman of the committee of

East Hampton, received and read yesterday, was again read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Here was inserted the letter of March 22, 1776]

The Committee, taking into consideration the defenceless state of Suffolk county,

Resolved, That 1,000 lb. of gunpowder and 4,000 lb. of lead be immediately despatched by a boat to Huntington, for the use of the inhabitants of Suffolk county, to be charged to the county, and the county to be accountable for the same; that a letter be wrote to Brigadier-Genl. [Nathaniel] Woodhull, informing him of the supply of ammunition sent to his county; and that Mr. [Thomas] Tredwell have the management of forwarding the said ammunition.

A letter from the Committee of Safety at Philadelphia, was read. They thereby inform us that they have sent Capt. Charles Alexander and Lieut. John Henessey, two officers of the armed boats in that Province, for the purpose of recruiting seamen for the naval service of that Province, and recommend them to this Committee for assistance.

Ordered, That the port master be and he is hereby permitted to put on board the packet one barrel of ale, and on board of the *Dutches of Gordon* five hundred weight of bread.

James Cooper, a boatman, and George Allisony, a sawyer, going on board of the packet with the port master with wood, were severally duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, not to give any intelligence to any person on board of the said packet, Governor Tryon's ship, or the ships of war in the harbour, relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of the city or Colony, and that they will not carry on board any letters or paper writings whatsoever.

Ordered, That they be admitted to go on board with the port master.

A permit from Nicholas Cooke, Esqr Governour of the Colony of Connecticut and Rhode-Island Plantations, under the seal of the said Colony, bearing date of the ninth day of March instant, was read. He thereby permits Upton Fraser, [*sic* Isaac Upton] master of the sloop *Greenwich*, to proceed to the Colony of New-York, in ballast only, and there take on board a lading of provisions and other articles, under the direction of the committee of inspection of the city, town or county where he shall lade, and to return to that Colony, sufficient bond having been given that he the said Isaac Upton shall in all things conform himself to the Continental association.

Ordered, That the general committee of the city of New-York, or their sub-committee of inspection, be permitted, and hereby [are] permitted to give permission to Isaac Upton, master of the sloop *Greenwich*, to take on board a lading of flour, bread or any other provisions whatsoever, (beef and pork excepted,) and any quantity of pig iron that they may think proper, and export the same to Rhode-Island, under such directions or restrictions and in such manner as they may think proper.

To the General Committee of the city of New-York, and to Mr. Ray and Colo. Hyer, their sub-committee, and to Capt. Wm. Mercier.

Die Lunae, 4 ho. P.M. March 25th, 1776.

Resolved, That the captains and inferior officers and the mariners of the armed vessels now fitted out or to be fitted out by this Colony for the protection of its trade against the depredations of the enemy be subject to and governed by the articles of war made by the Continental Congress for the government of the navy of the United Colonies, and that Captain [James] Smith of the sloop *Schuyler*, and Captain [William] Rogers, be each of them served with a copy of this resolution.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 382, 383, 384.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, March 25, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 19, was presented to Congress, and read, informing that on the 17, the enemy had evacuated Boston, and our troops took possession of it:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress, in their own name, and in the name of the thirteen United Colonies, whom they represent, be presented to his excellency General Washington, and the officers and soldiers under his command, for their wise and spirited conduct in the siege and acquisition of Boston; and that a medal of gold be struck in commemoration of this great event, and presented to his Excellency; and that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a letter of thanks, and a proper device for the medal.

The members chosen, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 234, 236.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] 25th March 1776 Monday PM 5 o'clock

Dear Papa Tomorrow we certainly leave this place at 9 o'Clock. I congratulate you on the success of our arms before Boston: the *Pena packet* contains Gen Washington's letter to Congress giving an acct that the enemy evacuated that city the 17th The Congress has resolved to thank the General & army for their conduct in driving the enemy out of their stronghold: a medal is to be struck upon the occasion & 4 battalions more are ordered to Canada on a supposition that Howe will send a part of his forces from Hallifax to Quebec when the navigation of the St Laurence will permit - The castle was not abandoned by the enemy when the General wrote his letter it is conjectured they will blow up the fortifications when they sail from the harbour or Boston road.

Providence smiles on our endeavours to preserve our liberties: the ardor of the people is So great that I believe Administration will be obliged to relinquish the mad project of reducing these colonies by force of arms. Since I wrote you last fresh powers have been given us, that of granting military commissions to such Canadians whom we shall think proper to grant them to – In short we have great powers, and I am determined not to abuse them; this is the disposition of my fellow Delegates.

God grant we may succeed in our undertaking & that our endeavours may be of service to our country & to the poor Canadians: to render the latter attached to us [we] should consider them as countrymen & friends. . . . I shall write to you again from N York where we shall remain a day or two: you may expect another letter from Albany, and from Crown point another . . .

. . . I do not imagine the enemy will come up our bay again however It was prudent to remove the sheep on account even of their fleeces.

Ch. Carroll of Carrollt[o]n

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 25th March, 1776.

Upon requisition of the Marine Committee of Congress for thirty stand of arms, or 2 wall pieces & 26 Muskets for the fitting out the Brig't. *Lexington*, for the protection of the Trade of this Coast, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver said number of arms to Capt. [John] Barry, or his order

Resolved, That Mr [David] Rittenhouse, Mr. [John] McNeal, Colo. [Samuel] Miles, Mr. O. [Owen] Biddle and Mr. [George] Clymer, [be] a Committee to fix upon proper places upon the River Delaware for erecting fortifications.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 524.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

A Journal of the Proceedings of the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command.

[March 20 to March 25] Having got back the Lieutenant and 40 Men, which I had been under the necessity of lending to the *Otter* to equip her for the expedition, I immediately prepared for sailing to the Delaware to meet the reinforcement I expected from Admiral Shuldhham, and accordingly wrote to my Lord Dunmore to acquaint him of my intention. His Lordship most strongly protested against my leaving Virginia and set forth his reasons at large in a Letter which appeared to have so much weight, that I consented to leave the *Liverpool* and *Otter* for his defence, until the arrival of some other Ship. I sailed the next day with the *Roebuck*,

but meeting with a strong NW. Wind I did not arrive at Cape Henlopen until the 25th in the Night.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* ¹

March 1776 Cape Henry ESE 3 Miles
 Friday 22d A M Exercis'd Great Guns & small Arms & Fired at a Mark
 Moderate & cloudy 2 [P.M.] the *Maria* Tender came from
 Norfolk & Anchord here sent an Officer & 4 Men on board
 her [at] 3 Weighed & made sail [at] 6 Anchord in 9 fa
 Cape Henry WNW 4 Miles [at] 10 Weighed & made sail
 Saturday 23d [at] 8 [A.M.] out 2d reefs TS & [at] 11 In 2d reef topsails
 Fresh gales & rain 1 [A.M.] brought too for the *Maria* & at
 2 made Sail 9 Split the Foretopsail got it down & handd the
 Main & Miz & down top G. Yds
 Sunday 24th Strong Gales & fair [at] 4 [P.M.] Wore ship bent the Fore-
 topsail
 Monday 25th 5 [A.M.] set close reefd TS 10 out reefs & up top G. Yd.
 [P.M.] took the *Maria* in Tow [at] 6 Cape Henlopen light
 House WNW 4 Miles [at] 8 run upon the beach at 1½ past
 backd off again Anchord in Old Kiln Road in 5 [fathoms]
 the light House SE 1½ S 1 Mile down top G. Yds.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Lewis, Monday Evening 7 o'clock,

March 25, 1776

Gentlemen, This serves to inform you that there is a Sloop of War now coming into our Road with a Small Tender, And as it is now night, I cannot inform you whether they are bound Up the Bay or not; the Wind is now at South, therefore have Reason to believe that they will proceed up the Bay. We are apprized of the Matter and shall do our outmost to prevent their getting any Pilot or Pilots from this place. Yours in haste,

Henry Fisher.

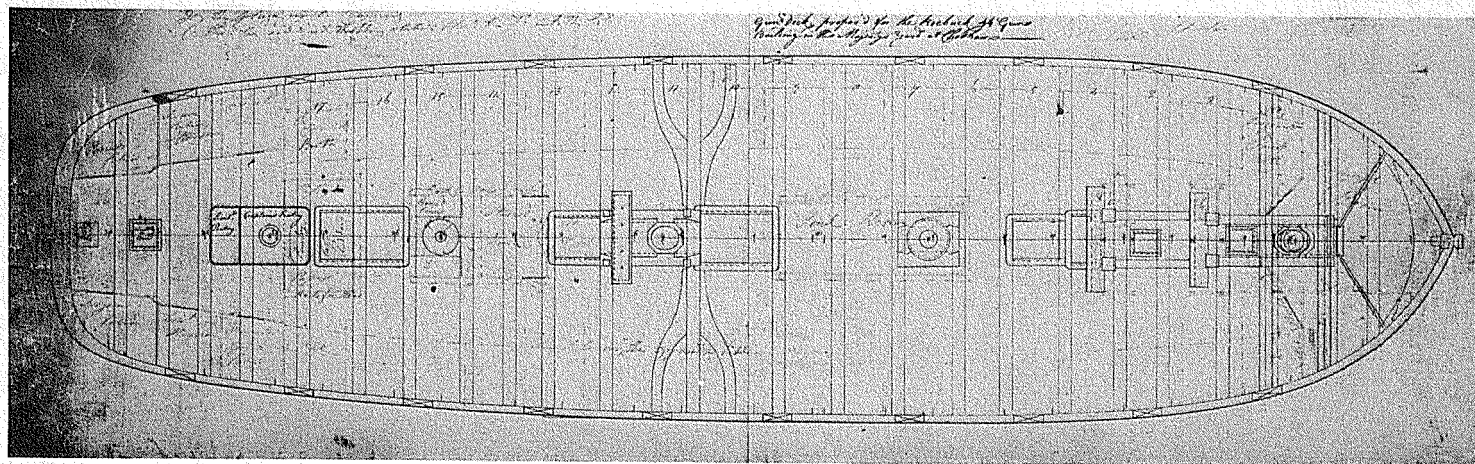
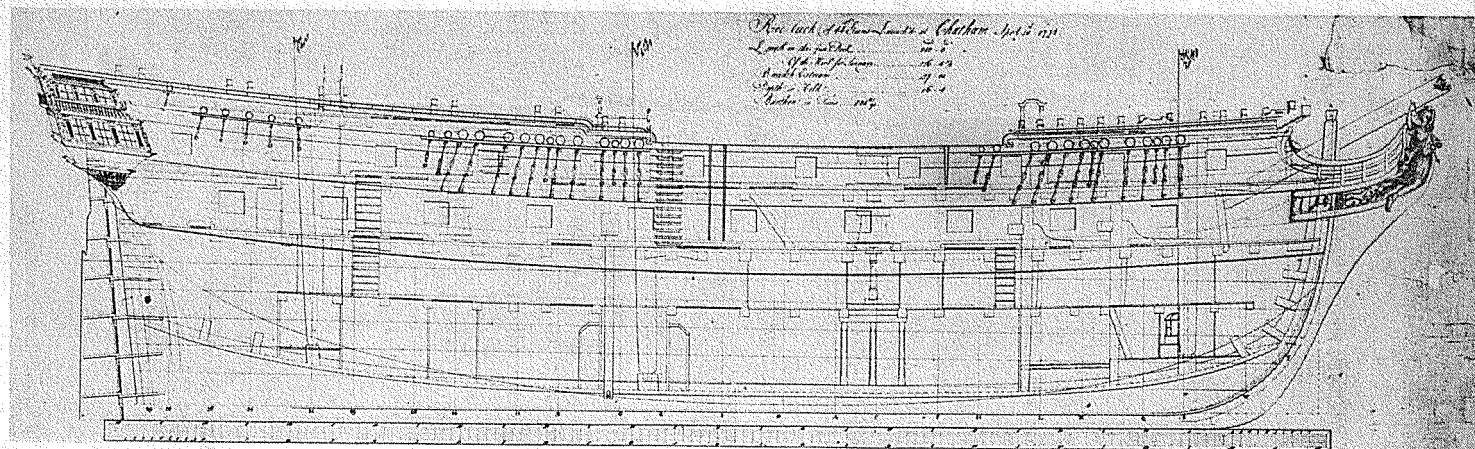
[Note to the stages] At every Different Stage the Express must Date the hour of Delivering this Letter to the other Express. H.F.

Directed, To the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, p Express.
 Indorsed.

Recd this Express Monday Night 30 Minutes after Ten o'clock, at Cedar Creek. Thos. Evans.

Recd at Dover Tuesday morning, at fifteen Minutes after four Dispatched at thirty-five Minutes after four. F. Battell

Recd at Cantwell's Bridge at five Minutes after Nine, Dispatched three Minutes after Ten; Arrd at Wilmington fifty-five Minutes after Twelve; De-



Inboard profile and gun deck plan of HMS Roebuck, 44.

tained at the ferry 21 Minutes, boat's being on Wilmington side.

Matt. Delaney.

Dispatched [from Wilmington] four Minutes after one.

Thos. Kean.

37 Minutes after 2 o'clock, Richard Kane arrived at Chester, the[n] Left it at 3 & 17 Minutes.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 724–25.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee on Monday 25 March 1776 –

Silas Howell late Mate, & John Willson & Willm Sellers Mariners of the Sloop *John William Dean* Master from Cape Anne to Virginia taken off York River, as appeared by Protest, and Certificate of the Council of Safety, applied for Passes to the Massachusetts Government, which were granted –

1. *Baltimore Committee*, LC.

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

March 25th 1776 Recd of Capt James Nicholson on *Accot Ship Defence* six pounds fifteen Shills for boarding Myself Nine Weeks at fifteen Shills pr Week

£6.15.0

John Burnell

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

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Monday 25th March 1776.

Ordered That the said Treasurer [of the Western Shore] pay to Mr Hugh Young Eighty five Pounds thirteen Shillings and seven Pence, being the Ballance of his Account in Conseq[ue]nce of the Ad]venture pr the Bri[g] *Nancy*.

1. *Council of Safety Journal*, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE PLATTER AND BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN DENT ¹

No 85

Gentn Colo [Hugh] Mercer has been with us this Day and is very desirous a Time and Place should be appointed for meeting to consult about setting up Beacons on the River Potowmack – we have agreed with him that Port Tobacco should be the Place and Tuesday the Second of April the Time – You will be pleased to attend accordingly, agreeable to your former Appointment. –

[Annapolis] 25th March 1776.

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

PROTEST OF WILLIAM RADDON, MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SLOOP
*Joseph*¹

North-Carolina, Edenton, ss.

By this publick instrument of protest and writing, bearing date hereafter mentioned, be it known and manifest to all whom it may concern, that on the 25th day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, before me, Thomas Jones, notary and tabellion publick, residing at Edenton, in the Province aforesaid, by lawful authority, duly admitted and sworn according to law, personally appeared William Raddon, late master of the Sloop *Joseph*, and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, before me, as notary aforesaid, that on the 9th day of January last past, he (this deponent) sailed with the said Sloop *Joseph* from the city of Philadelphia, bound to Savannah, in the Province of Georgia, and proceeded down to Reedy-Island, in the river of Delaware, when the navigation was obstructed by the ice, until the 11th day of February last past, when this deponent sailed with the said Sloop *Joseph* on his intended voyage; that early in the morning of the 13th day of the same month, the said Sloop *Joseph*, then being in the latitude of $35^{\circ}10'$, and about fifteen leagues from the land, this deponent discovered a vessel on the weather-quarter, steering down for her; that this deponent immediately made all the sail he could from the said vessel, and it being smooth water, ran very fast from her; that in the afternoon it fell calm, when this deponent discovered a boat rowing from the said vessel, (she then being about a league astern,) and about five o'clock in the evening the said boat came alongside the said Sloop *Joseph*; that this deponent hailed the people on board the said boat, and requested to know what was the vessel astern; they informed him she was the armed Sloop *General Gage*, commanded by George Sibles, bound from Boston to Cape-Fear, and then immediately boarded the said Sloop *Joseph*, being eight in number, completely armed with muskets and cutlasses; then as soon as they got on board, the officer who commanded them ordered this deponent to get into the boat and go on board the said Sloop *General Gage*, with his papers, which this deponent accordingly did; that when this deponent got on board the same, he delivered his papers to the commanding officer, who, after perusing them, told this deponent that the said Sloop *Joseph* was a good prize, "papers or no papers," as he had orders to seize every vessel he met with on his passage; and then directed this deponent to remain on board the said Sloop *General Gage*, where this deponent was put into the hold with the common seamen; that the same evening the mate and seaman belonging to the said Sloop *Joseph* were taken out of her and put on board the said Sloop *General Gage*, and a mate and six men were sent on board the said Sloop *Joseph* to navigate her into Cape-Fear; that on the 21st day of the same month, the said Sloop *General Gage* got into the Cape-Fear River, and on the 22d day of the same month, the said Sloop *Joseph* also arrived, and was moored under the guns of the *Falcon* sloop-of-war, commanded by John Lindsey, then Commodore of the fleet lying at Fort Johnston; that the next day after the arrival of the said Sloop *Joseph*, one John Collett, who

came passenger in the said Sloop *General Gage*, from Boston, and who, as this deponent was informed, had a commission as Captain of a company of "Loyal Fencible Americans," went on board the said Sloop *Joseph*, with the commander of the said Sloop *General Gage*, and broke open the hold of the said Sloop *Joseph*, and took out a butt of porter, a parcel of loaf-sugar, and cheese; that a few days after, the purser of the *Scorpion* sloop-of-war came down from Brunswick with an order from Josiah Martin, Esq., late Governour of Commander-in-Chief of the Province aforesaid, to take a large quantity of provisions out of the said Sloop *Joseph*, being part of the cargo of the same; that this deponent remained a prisoner on board the said Sloop *General Gage* until the 4th day of March instant, when he made his escape, with Joseph Wood, part owner of the said Sloop *Joseph*, and several other persons who had been detained prisoners with this deponent by special orders given by the aforesaid John Lindsey to the commander of the said Sloop *General Gage*.

Wherefore, the said William Raddon, late master as aforesaid, before me, did protest against the said George Sibles, commander of the said Sloop *General Gage*, the said John Collett, the said John Lindsey, commander of the *Falcon* sloop-of-war, and the said Josiah Martin, late Governour and Commander-in-Chief of the Province aforesaid, and all other persons with them concerned, for all losses, costs, and damages, whatsoever, that hath or may accrue to the owners, freighters, or insurers, or any person or persons whatsoever concerned in the said Sloop *Joseph*, and the cargo on board the same, for the reasons herein-beforementioned. Whereupon, I, the said Thomas Jones, notary as aforesaid, at the instance and request of the said William Raddon, did, and do hereby solemnly, and in due form, sign and attest this present protest of, for, concerning all and singular the premises aforesaid in the particular manner herein-beforementioned and expressed, as if the same were herein again particularly mentioned and repeated.

William Raddon.

In testimonio ventatis,

Thomas Jones,

Notary Publick, Edenton, North-Carolina.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1495, 1496. See Journal of the North Carolina Provincial Congress, April 12, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY ¹

March [1776] Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear River]
 Monday 25th Fresh breezes and fair; went up the river the *Kitty* Transport
 and the *Pallaser* Transport with Genl [Henry] Clinton.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Monday, March 25, 1776.

The Report of the Committee to prepare proper rules and articles for the government of the navy of this colony, being taken into consideration;

The said rules were amended, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Secretary do forthwith cause a proper number of copies of the said rules and articles to be printed, for the use of the navy of this colony.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 104.

HENRY LAURENS' ORDER TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA COLONY TREASURERS ¹

[Charleston] 25th March 1776 –

£5227.13.4 –

Pay to Messr P. Lepoole & John Burnley Five thousand two hundred & twenty seven pounds 13/4. for a Cargo of Rice Shiped by them on public Account on board the Brigantine *Liberty* Philip Conway Master for the West Indies –

By order of the Council of Safety

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 211.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUH ¹

March 1776

River Savanah Georgia

[Monday] 25 at 1 PM a Number of Rebels appeared on the Island of Tybey. Burnt 3 Houses, Killd one Marine, wounded another, and one Nicholas a Carpenter. Sent Boats on Shore to take the People off.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

March 1776

Moord in Savannah river off the Island of Cockspur.

Monday 25 Anchored abreast of the Light House The *Cherokee* an Armed Ship at 2 (P M) The *Hinchinbrook* Schooner fired two Shot which alarmed the Ships found that the Rebels had sett the Houses on Tybee Island on Fire and taken the people prisoners man'd and Armed the boats with all the boats in the Squadron and a Company of Marines in the flats and went down to the Island to get the well affected People off their was a small party of Marines a wooding two of them they used in a very Inhuman manner and one they took prisoner who afterwards made his escape one Nichols a Shipwright they shot through the Head we took the wounded and what people there was left and came on board with the boats the Rebels got off without any Hurt their was about 50 with some Indians commanded by Mr [Archibald] Bullock who is their head at Savannah

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* ¹

- March 1776 Tybee Light house E1½S 1 Mile & Graham's house ½
Mile off Shore
- Monday 25 Fresh Gales and fair Wear at ½ past 1 p m saw a brisk fire
of Musquetry on Tybe Island between a party of Six Marines
belonging to the *Symmetry* and a great number of the Rebels.
Do we fired three Broad sides on the Rebels and dispersed
them, the Lost on our side was 1 man killed, two Wounded
and one taken prisoner, the Rebels Lost uncertain.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS ¹

- March 76 Tibeia [Tybee] Lookout Et
- Mondy 25 at 2 AM Weigh'd & Run further up came too off Coxspur
with the Best Bower in 3 fm Moor'd with Kedge Anchor &
hauser. Tibeia Lookout East, Coxspur Isld WNW found
Rid[in]g here his Majestys Ships *Scarborough*, *Tamer Raven* &
Cherokee & *St Lawrence* armd Schooner Carpenter Varously
Empd –
- Mode Breezes and Clear Wr at 2 P M a party of rebels Came
and set a fire the two houses on Tebea Island fired several
Guns at them

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

Remarks On Monday March 25

- 2 [A.M.] Fresh Breezes & Cloudy with a heavy sea from the NWest
- 8 Saw a sail to Windward, a signal was made for us to Chase,
Tack'd to the South & made sail
- 12 [M.] Tack'd to the North the Chase Bearing North
- Latt Obsvrd 33..12
Longitude In 70..30
- 2 [P.M.] Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Weather
At 2 PM. The Sloop *Providence* Brought the Chase too, A
Schooner from Carilona, Bound to France, Handed the Topsails
& Mainsail, Blowing Hard with a Cross sea.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"A LIST OF REBEL VESSELS, TAKEN BY THE SQUADRON, OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS & VESSELS, UNDER MY COMMAND [GAY-
TON] AT JAMAICA, BETWEEN THE 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1775, AND THE [25TH OF MARCH, 1776]"¹

[Extract]

No of Vessels Taken.	When Taken year	Vessels Names.	Mastr Names.	where Belonging.	Lading.	By which of His Majestys Vessels taken	Commanders Name.	Agents Names.
1	21 Decemr 1775	Sloop <i>Dove</i>	Natha: Bull	Rhode Island	Molasses & Sugar	<i>Maidston</i>	Alan Gardner	Malc[ol]m Laing
2.	27 " "	Schooner <i>Happy Return</i>	Eliph Smith	Salem	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
3	29 " "	Sloop <i>Susannah</i>	B. Appleton	N. Carolina	Molasses	ditto	ditto	ditto
4	" "	Sloop <i>Cornelia</i>	Rob. Sands	New York	ditto & Coffee	<i>Squirrel</i>	Stair Douglas	Campbell & Galbraith.
5	31 " "	Sloop <i>Penelope</i>	Jno Worden	N. Carolina	Molasses	<i>Maidston</i>	Alan Gardner	Malc: Laing
6	2 Januy [17]76	Sloop <i>Affie & Hannah</i>	Benj: Bell	New York	Salt	<i>Squirrel</i>	Stair Douglas	Campbell & Galbraith
7	30 " "	Sloop <i>Thames</i>	J. Fairibelt	Philadelphia	Rum & Molasses	ditto	ditto	Campbell & Galbraith
8	31 " "	Schooner <i>Dolphin</i>	Ed. Manning	N. Carolina	Molasses & Coffee	<i>Maidston</i>	Alan Gardner	Mal: Laing
9	6 Februy "	Schooner <i>Nancy</i>	Will Clark	Nantuckett	ditto & Rum	ditto	ditto	ditto.
10	12 March "	Brigg <i>Polly</i>	Paul Cruize	Delaware	Bread & Flour	<i>Antelope</i>	Will Judd	Peter & Charles Ramsey.
11	" "	Sloop <i>Betsey</i>	Gray	Georgia	Ballast	ditto	ditto	ditto.
12	25 " "	Brigg <i>King George</i>	Pennock	Delaware	Bread & Flour	ditto	ditto	ditto.
13	" "	Brigg <i>Industry</i>	Edwd Allen	S. Carolina	Ballast	<i>Squirrel</i>	Stair Douglas	Campbell & [G]albraith.

1. Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

26 Mar.

LIEUTENANT JOHN BROGDEN TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM GOFORTH ¹

Copy

Camp before Quebec 26 March 1776

I have just time to let you know that me and my Family are Arrived at Head Quarters on Saturday 23d Inst in good Health. I am Informed that 500 Canadians and a few Regulars from the Garrison have Assembled together 12 Leagues below Quebec with two 12 Pounders and are getting more formidable every Day have Intercepted some Provision of ours. We have sent a Party of Men after them to take their Standard (which they have erected) and bring it to Head Quarters for my part I dread the Consequence as our Party does not Amount to 100 Men God & he only can determine our Fate. I think we have sent one Gondola and some Armed Battoes in Order to Intercept an Armed schooner from Quebec and they are Cutting more out of the Ice I mean the Regulars excuse Haste I know your Prudence will know how to handle this dangerous News. To Capt Goforth 3 Rivers

Jn^o Brogdon

P.S. Nothing shall escape my Notice to you of all that passes and if you think me worth your Notice let me have your Opinion.

Thanks be to God this Moment as I was Concluding this Letter News came in Major [Lewis] DuBois had sent a Letter to General Arnold that our Men met with the Advanced Party of the Enemy Killed Wounded a good many and took thirty Prisoners and Routed the Rest and is Advancing to the Main Body a party of 150 Men is gone to reinforce our Party we expect further News very soon if we carry our Point I think Quebec will soon be our own.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 113, 114, NA.

TRISTRAM DALTON TO MOSES GILL ¹

Sir

Newburyport March 26th, 1776

Under the 18 Inst I wrote you fully respecting the Brig *Unity*, [Michael] Corbit late Master – not knowing whom to address further on that Subject, I again take the Freedom to trouble you with the enclosure of a Copy of the Letter from Mr Schaltenbrand, already forwarded you – and a Letter from Mr [Andrew] Slyfield the Mate of the Brig – being the first I have received from him – Also a Letter signed by him and directed to Mess Bailey & Brown, dictated I presume by his Attorney – Wherein it is desired a Power of Attorney might be sent to enable Slyfield to recover the Money left in Shaltenbrand Care – These Papers with three others enclosed were brought me by Isaac Noyes, one of the Carpenters belonging to the Brig – & whom Slyfield dispatched home for that Purpose –

I have already mentioned that Bailey and Browns Names were used in a Set of sham Orders, Copy of which I now enclose, because the Register of the Vessel was taken out by them ² – The Real Orders signed by myself in

Behalf & by Order of the Colony, were so secreted by Corbit, that I don't think even Slyfield has them – Corbit was to have assigned the whole business over to some capable Person in Case of his being sick – I am apt to think He communicated his Plan to Mr Schaltenbrand with whom He left his Money – but being taken delirious on keeping his House, and dying suddenly, had not Time to direct in writing the future Disposal of the Interest – The Merchant appears to me to have acted an honest fair Part – and p[er] his Letter to understand Business – The Mate on his Part seems to act on good Principles – I send this packet by the said Carpenter, Mr Noyes, that you may interrogate him – He tells me the Brig would fetch from two thousand to 2500 Dollars – that by laying in St Thomas so long She must be much worm eaten – and unfit in some Degree to proceed the Voyage I took the Freedom to propose to you – I would beg Leave to offer my Opinion in the present Situation of her and the neat Proceeds of her Cargoe – That some discreet Person be sent immediately to St Thomas with full Powers from Bayley and Brown – that He gets the Money from Mr Achaltenbrand in the easiest Manner He can – that He then sells the Vessel, paying & dismissing all the People – and invest the whole Money left, in such Way and Manner as the Colony shall think proper – Or when He has got the Money from the Merchant that He proceed therewith in the Brig in any Voyage thought best – The Sloop bound to St Croix from this Place sails next Week – it will be a direct Opp[ortunit]y to send – A Determination soon will be most for the Interest of the Concerned – as perhaps no other Passage may present –

Mr Noyes has brought an Order on me for the Wages due him – I have no Money of the Colonies in my Hands, having settled and balanced the Accounts of the Brig with the late Committee of Supplies – There will be due him for Wages the 30th of this Month twenty-Eight pounds 2/8 – 28..2..8 for his Expences from York to Newb[ury]port – 12 for his Expences to Watertown with this Intelligence – & Horse Hire – Which Sum you'll oblige him & me by paying – his Family wants Supplies – I will be Sponsor that He shall make no further Demands on Acct of the Brig – as well as for any other Monies He may have taken up on her Account –

You'll please to communicate this, to those under whose immediate Department it falls – from whom I hope to hear further by return of Mr Noyes. – Being with Respect – Sir [&c.]

Tristram Dalton

[Endorsed] In the House of Represent[ative]s March 29 1776

Read and ordered that the same with the papers accompanying it be Committed to a Comtee of both houses and that Mr [Seth] Cushing and Majr [Stephen] Cross be of the Comtee on the part of the house.

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council March 29th 1776

Read and concurred & Chas Chauncy Esqr is joined Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 284-87.

2. The sham orders were dated July 31, 1775. See Volume 1, 1014-15.

WINTHROP SARGENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Glocester March 26 1776

Wen I rote you last I was in hops of Saving the biggest part of Capt [James] Watts Cargow² but the storm Cumming on direclely after the Ship was on fier that the Cask Stove against the rocks as sune as thay struck the Shoar there was not one Cask Saved after I rote your Excellency, below You have An account of what is saved Sum of the Cask which I thought was Portor is Veneger & Grout Should be glad to Know weather I must libel what is saved -

Last night at Sundown the Fleat about Seventy sail past Our Cape Stearing about E B S Distant about six Leags I Remain Your Excy [&c.]

Winthrop Sargent Agent

19 bals of porter
6 Hogsd of Do
17 Quart Cask of Do

42

9 Hogsed Veneger
2 bals of Grout

2 Cabels
3 Ackers
1 Horsor
2 Oyrn [iron] Haths
3 Coppors
Sail & Running Rigen
2 boats
Sundry blocks
3 Hogs

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The ship *Stakesby*, taken March 10, by four of Washington's armed schooners. She ran on the rocks that night, and was set on fire by H.M. Brig *Hope*.

PETITION OF NIELS CHRISTIAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

To the Honble the Council and the Honble House of Representatives of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay.

Niels Christian.

Humbly shews -

That he was Mate of the Ship *Harriot* which was taken about ten days since, and carried into Dartmouth²

That when said Ship lay at Long Island New York he took an opportunity to leave her on the 27th February last. -

That he ship'd himself on board the above said Vessel at London with a full purpose of quitting her and the Service she was employ'd in the first opportunity after her arrival in America & is now ready to engage in its cause if he can get a birth on board of any of the Arm'd Vessels fitted out by this Colony. That he inform'd the Provincial Congress of New York of the Signals that were to be given by said Ship &c - in consequence of which two

Armed Vessels were sent from thence in pursuit of her. – & said Congress granted him a pass which he now has by him. ³

That he left every thing belonging to him on board of said Ship (except the Cloaths he has on) & had 5 mo & 25 days Wages due to him when he left her, which with his Effects on board, amounts to £ 32. . 7 . . 0 Sterling.

He therefore humbly prays your Honors to take his Case under consideration – and give such directions as you in your Wisdom may think proper so that he may obtain his Wages & property on board of said Vessel –

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will pray &c –

Niels Christian

Watertown March 26th 1776.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 366.

2. The *Harriot* was taken March 7, 1776.

3. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 366a:

In Provincial Congress; New York February Twenty Ninth 1776./.

The Bearer hereof Niles Christian late Mate of the Transport Ship *Harriot*, who has escaped from the said Ship, and whose former stated place of Residence was at Charles Town in Massachusetts Bay is hereby permitted to pass to Cambridge in Massachusetts Bay

Extract from the Minutes

John McKesson Secry

To the Several Committees where necessary to be Shewn & to all other Friends to American Liberty.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Braintree] Tuesday Mornng [March 26, 1776]

Mr [Joseph] Ward's tarrying in Town, gives me a further Opportunity to inform your Excellency that the Fleet, consisting of about 100 Sail, chiefly large Ships, remain as they were last Night.

10 O'Clock The same Signal is now flying at the Admiral's Main top mast Head as was hoisted yesterday morning: Scarce hoisted before it was lower'd again, & in abt ½ an hour a blew flag is flying at mizen Top mast Head and a Pendant at his mizen Peek.

11 OClock The above Signals are changed, for a red Ensign hoisted just under his Mizen Yard: A signal is just now hoisted upon the Top of the Light House, for Vessels in the Offing; and immediately followed, by a blew broad Pendant from the middle of the Tower: In less than 10 Minutes the Signal first mentioned, vizt a Pendant is flying from his main top mast Head.

[12] OClock A red Ensign is now flying at his mizen top mast Head, a blew Ensign at his starboard mizen Shrouds, and a pendant thrown out between, by hand, & immediately taken in again.

[2] OClock The 60 gun Ship in King Road is come to Sail & going down to Nantasket: The Admiral's red Ensign is struck; the blew one remains: a large transport Ship and a Brig are just arrived within the Light.

If the foregoing Intelligence and the mode of it shou'd prove so agreeable to your Excellency as to desire the Continuance of it whilst the Fleet remains, please to let me know your Pleasure any Time before tomorrow

Night, 'till which Time I shall continue to note down every remarkable Occurrence. *Ut supra*

J Q

1. Washington Papers, LC. Continuation of a letter begun March 25.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N.¹

No I Know all Men by these presents, That I Thomas Bishop Esquire, Commander of his Majestys ship *Lively* now on the American Station, do hereby Constitute and Appoint Robert Hallowell late of Boston in the County of Suffolk within his Majestys Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England Esquire to be my agent and Attorney in all causes that are or may be instituted respecting any siezures or captures made or to be made by me or wherein I am or may be interested; empowering him my said Attorney to Libel, Prosecute, stipulate Appeal, and do all Acts and things for me and in my name, that may be necessary in & about the Premisses as fully and Effectually, to all intents and purposes as I the said Constituent might or could do if personally present – and also in my name to Demand, receive and (if need be) sue for any Sum or Sums of money that are or may be due to me respecting the Premisses, and to execute good and sufficient discharges for the same, with Power of Substitution – Hereby holding valid what my said Attorney may legally do in the Premisses

Witness my hand and Seal on board his Majestys Ship *Lively* now lying in Nantasket Road this twenty sixth day of March in the Year of our Lord, Christ, one Thousand seven hundred, & seventy six –

Sign'd Seal'd & deliver'd

Th^o Bishop

in Presence of –

Benj. Hallowell Ed. Winslow

[First endorsement]

Sundry goods on Board the Schooner *Tartar* Condemn'd as lawfull Prize to the Captors 4th May 1776 – Seized by Thomas Bishop, Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship the *Lively* –

[Second endorsement]

Received and Registered this 4th Day of May Anno Domini 1776

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776–1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N. S. Arch.

CREAN BRUSH TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

[On board the brig *Elizabeth*, March 26, 1776]²

May it please your Excellency

In pursuance of the Orders I received from Brigadier General [James] Robertson I did take to my assistance the Persons whose Names I returned to him vizt Charles Blasquet Richard Hill John Hill and David Cunningham who with their Families have spared no fatigue or Labor in assisting me to execute the Orders your Excellency was pleased to give me these Persons are cheifly of my own Family have principally neglected their own Concerns to serve Government at my request and confiding in the assurance

I gave totally neglected providing a Passage in any Vessel which otherways they could easily have procured Myself and these People have inclosed a small space between Decks have our own Stores and Provisions and cannot be the least inconvenience to any Person on board notwithstanding this I am apprehensive of their being removed & Myself left without assistance for my persnal convenience & comfort, I would therefore ask it as a favor that they may not be removed

C. Brush

[Endorsed] A true Copy attest Seth Loring Clerk in the Secys Office
No 51—

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1775–1787. "The *Elizabeth* and Cargo, Wentworth Appellant," NA.
2. The date is approximated; see note under Brush's Memorial, March 25, 1776.

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

[Providence] Monday Evening 26 March 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment.

Whereas. There seems to be an Uneasiness among the Ships carpenters on Acct. of their wages, Tis Voted that Nicholas Cooke Esqr John Smith, William Russell & Jabez Bowen be a Committee to attend in the yard tomorrow morning to settle the matter with them they not allowing any one Carpenter more than 9d more than they were to have in the former agreement.

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to morrow Evening

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

WILLIAM GREENE TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

[Extract]

Warwick 26 March 1776

I jest now received a letter from a Near Relation of mine Informing me that she had a Son whose name is Nathan Comstock junr who was Taken out of a boat at fishers Island in August last supposd by Capt How [Tyringham Howe], and as we are About to Exchange prisoners with Capt Wallace I am therefore Very Desierous that Your Honour as I suppose the Flag will go on board said ships under your Direction, will give perticular Orders to the barers of the Truce to make Deligent Inquiry whether he is on Board either of said Ships or not and if he is to bring him on shore with the rest we may receive in exchange for the prisoners we Deliver them . . .

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, News Series, XXXVI, 331.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Martis 4 ho P.M.

March 26th, 1776.

Ordered, that Capt. Charles Alexander and Lieut. John Hennessey be

at liberty to enlist the mariners lately brought from the east end of Nassau island, and now confined in the jail of this city, and take them to Philadelphia, and that the said mariners be discharged from confinement on the request of those gentlemen.

The Committee of Safety having called and examined the gentlemen enlisting mariners for the three vessels on the lake by order of Continental Congress, and the captains of the armed vessels fitting out by order of this Colony for the defence of trade between Sandy Hook and the Capes of Delaware, are informed that there are but few mariners in this city and no more, if so many, as will be sufficient for the necessary purposes above mentioned. The Committee are therefore of opinion that they can not, with justice to the Colony, or to the public service to the northward, consent that Captain Alexander and Lieutenant Hennessey enlist or take away any other mariners than those above mentioned.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 386.

HENRY LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON, JR. ¹

Hon'd Sir

New York March 26. 1776 –

We had a short tho' disagreeable passage – the Second day after our leaving you, We had, a Snow Storm which lasted us the Whole day – and on our arrival here we found this City in a most disagreeable State, in every street, there is a Barrier erected to prevent the landing of troops, people moving out of the town very fast, hourly is expected four Regiments from Pennsylvina – all the Militia from the Jerseys, and Westchester, in short all the men far, and near that can be procured – by the papers that I send you enclosed you will find that on the 17 Instant Mr Howe with the troops under his Command, embarked, on board their Ships, and fell down as far as Nantasket Road, their has been a vast number of surmises, relative, to the conduct of Gen. Howe in quitting so strong a hold, which the Provincials are now in Possession off – Yesterday, came to town an Express from the east end of long Island, given an account of a fleet of 25 sail of Ships being seen off Montock Point, steering: North east for Road Island – by accounts from the Southward their has been an Engagement, between Governer Martin and the Provincials in which the latter came off victorious —

I am very sorry to Inform you that flour is Extremely low, owing to the large Quantities that have arrived here for these some weeks past, I have sold your R flour for no more than 15/ – the Burr, I have put in Store in hopes of procuring in a short time Seventeen for, I cannot advise you to send, any more down, till a more favorable oppertunity offers I shall endeavour to Send the Sloop away on friday certain — as to the Articles Mentioned to me in your Order, altho [few] their not to be had, salt 5/ – I have made an agreement with a man for 2 Hhds of New York rum for 4/6 – Sell flour low and by high priced Articles wont do – I shall write you more fully by the Sloop – in the Interim Remain Your Most Dutifull Son

Henry Livingston

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, March 26, 1776

Resolved, That an order be sent to Commodore [William] Douglass, immediately to repair to the lakes, and take command of the vessels on that station.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 236, 237.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Phila 26 March 1776.

Gent: The inclosed contains a State of the powder and Arms we have sent from hence. Willing and Morris still assure us they daily expect an Arrival of powder to enable them to furnish us with the Quantity they contracted for they were but partly interested in the Salt petre which arrived & had not the Management of it nor was it in their power to procure any of it to be manufactured for us the Congress having immediately on the Arrival of the Salt petre taken up all the Powder Mills If you think it necessary we have no Doubt but that we can borrow a Ton of powder more as it begins now to come in from the Mills we should be inclined to borrow & forward it but that we think the additional Expense and Risk cannot be justified but by necessity. We should have got a return of the Musquets furnished the *Hornet* & *Wasp* with the powder but the Congress have it not in their power. . . . Inclosed you have the pay in the Marine Service. . . . The price of Duck & indeed every kind of Linen exceeds here what it does with you any Thing of the kind cannot be got at scarce any price nor could it when T. J. [Thomas Johnson] got to Phila wherefore no Attempt was made to get Knapsacks & Haversacks buying [*sic* believing] proper materials might arrive in port or from Vanbebber Time enough We hope what has been sent down of Vanbebber's Cargoe will answer for their purposes & for tents. The duck is too heavy for any use about our Troops we have sold the Holland Duck at 8.10 & the Russia at 7.0 a ps the sale was to the Congress for the use of the Frigates and to the Virginians for their armed vessels. Immediately on T J's coming to Phila he & R.A. [Robert Alexander] mentioned the *Defence* to the Marine Committee either to sell or have insured they seemed not very fond of taking her off our hands before the matter was totally given up Capt Squires Expedition was defeated T.J. confirms our Opinion that if any Depredations should take place after we had parted from the vessell it would be imputed to the sale of her and there's no Idea of the Congress taking her off our Hands but on subjecting her to the uncontrolled orders of the Congress we have therefore thought it best to let this Matter rest till the Convention. . . . We are [&c.]

R. Alexander Th Johnson

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a, 26th March, 1776.

Resolved, That William Gamble be appointed Captain to the *Aetna* Fire Ship.

That William Greenway be appointed Captain to one of the tier of Fire Rafts.

Resolved, That the Provincial Ship of War be called the *Montgomery*. That the Floating Battery be called the *Arnold*.

Resolved, That Mr. O. Biddle & Mr. Clymer employ Arthur Donaldson to build two piers to sink, for fixing the Boom for obstructing the navigation of the passage at Fort Island.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee of Safety, at the Coffee House, Mr. [John] Nixon laid before the Board a Letter sent by express from Henry Fisher, dated Lewes Town, Monday evening, Seven O'Clock, acquainting this Committee that a Sloop-of-war was then coming into Lewes Road with a small Tender, and that there was reason to believe they would proceed up the Bay. The Committee sent for the Commodore and ordered him to send four of the armed Boats, well filled & manned, immediately down the River, as far, if necessary, as Reedy Island, and to direct the commanding Officer and other officers of the said Boats to Act in concert with, and by the advice of Cap't Barry, of the Brig't. *Lexington*, (in the Continental Service,) and exert their utmost endeavours to take or destroy all such Vessels of the Enemy as they shall find in the River Delaware.

The Committee also sent an Express to Cap't [Thomas] Proctor, or the Commanding Officer of the Artillery Company at Liberty Island, with the above intelligence, and order'd to keep a good Look out to prevent surprize, and be fully prepared to oppose the Enemy if they should attempt to come up the River.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 525, 526.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philade, March 26, 1776.

Sir: The Committee have received certain Advice by Express from Lew-is Town, that yesterday Evening a Sloop of War and Tender appeared off that place, and it was expected would proceed up the Bay; You are, therefore, directed to send four of the Armed Boats, well fitted and man'd, immediately down the River, as far, if necessary, as Reedy Island.

You are to direct the Commanding Officer, and other Officers of the said Boats, to act in Concert and by the advice of Capt'n Barry, of the Brig *Lexington*, and exert their utmost Endeavours to take or destroy all such Vessels of the Enemy as they shall find in the River Delaware.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 726.

RESOLVES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Philadelphia] March 26, 1776

The House again took up the Resolves of the Committee appointed to consider the Resolutions of [the Continental] Congress, which having been read a second time, and separately agreed to on the Question, were transcribed, and follow in these Words, *viz.*

Resolved, 3. That there shall be erected and constantly held, in the city of Philadelphia, a Court of Justice, by such able and discreet Person as shall be appointed, from Time to Time, by the Assembly, and commissioned, under the Hand and Seal of their Speaker, for that Purpose, whose Business it shall be to take Cognizance of and try the Justice of any Capture, or Captures, of any Vessel, or Vessels, that shall be made by any Person or Persons in Pursuance of the Resolves of the Honorable Continental Congress, and brought into the Port of Philadelphia aforesaid; and the Judge, so commissioned to hold said Court as aforesaid, shall have Power, at all Times, to issue his Warrant, or Warrants, to the Marshal of the City and County of Philadelphia hereafter to be appointed by the Committee of Safety, which they are hereby impowered to do, commanding him to summon twelve honest and lawful Men of the County of Philadelphia aforesaid, to appear before the said Judge, at such Time and Place as he shall appoint; and the said Marshal is required to execute said Warrant and make Return thereof, as in and by the same he shall be authorized and directed.²

Resolved, 4. That when any Person, or Persons, shall take and bring into any Port, in this Colony, any Vessel or Vessels, that have been offending or employed by the enemy, contrary to the Resolves of the Honourable Continental Congress, such Person or Persons, so taking or bringing in such Vessel, shall immediately make out a Bill in Writing, therein giving a full and ample Account of the Time and Manner of the Caption of said Vessel, and the Employment she was in when so taken, and of the Persons who were aiding and assisting in taking her, to the best of his Knowledge, at the Time of her Caption, and shall deliver the same to the Judge, who shall have Jurisdiction of the Port aforesaid, with all the Papers that may be found on board such Vessel, to the Intent that the Jury may have the Benefit of Evidence therefrom arising; and the Judge, to whom said Bill shall be delivered, shall immediately issue his Warrant or Warrants, as aforesaid, to the said Marshal, commanding him, in Manner aforesaid, to return twelve good and lawful Men to try the truth of any facts alleged in such Bill; which Jury shall be sworn, or affirmed, to return and give a true Verdict upon the said Bill according to Evidence; and if it shall appear to said Judge, by said Verdict, that such Vessel has been employed or offending as aforesaid, he shall condemn said Vessel, Cargo and Appurtenances, and order them to be sold at public Vendue, and shall order the Charges of said Trial and Condemnation to be paid out of the Money such Vessel and Cargo shall sell for, into the Hands of Michael Hillegas, Esq; the Treasurer of this Colony, or such other Treasurer as the Assembly shall appoint, and shall order the Residue

thereof to be delivered to the Captors, their Agents or Attornies, for the Use and Benefit of such Captors and others concerned therein. And if two or more Vessels, the Commanders whereof shall be properly commissioned, shall jointly take such Vessel, the Money arising from the Sale thereof, her Cargo and Appurtenances, after payment of all Charges as aforesaid, shall be divided between the Captors, in proportion to their Men. And the said Judge, before whom any such Trial and Condemnation, as is afore-mentioned, shall be had, shall be and is hereby authorised to make out his Precept, under his Hand and Seal, directed to the said Marshal, requiring him to sell such Vessel, Cargo and Appurtenances, and to pay thereout the Charges of Trial, Condemnation and Sale, to the Treasurer aforesaid, and to deliver the Residue to the Captors and Persons concerned as aforesaid.

Resolved, 5. That there shall be paid to the Judge, Jurors, Marshal and Clerk, out of the public Treasury, such Fees as have been heretofore paid, in the Port of Philadelphia, in like Cases, or shall hereafter be established.

Resolved, 6. That when any such Bill shall be delivered to such Judge, he shall cause Notification thereof, and the Name (if known) and Description of the Vessel so brought in, with the Day set for the Trial thereon, in at least two of the public News-Papers printed at Philadelphia, fifteen Days before the Time set for the Trial, that the Owner of such Vessel, or any Person concerned, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why such Vessel, with her Cargo and Appurtenances, should not be condemned as aforesaid.

Resolved, 7. That the Process and Proceeding, upon any Vessel that shall be retaken from the Enemy by any Person or Persons, shall be in the same Manner as is herein provided for other vessels; and to be sold and disposed of, in Manner aforesaid, for the benefit and to the Uses directed by the Congress aforesaid, in Cases of Re-captures.

Resolved, 8. That in all Cases an Appeal shall be allowed to the Congress, or such Person as they shall appoint for the hearing and trying Appeals; provided the Appeal be demanded within five Days after definitive Sentence, and such Appeal be lodged, with the Secretary of Congress, within forty Days afterwards; and provided the Party appealing shall give Security to prosecute the said Appeal to effect. And in Case of the Death of the Secretary, during the Recess of Congress, then the said Appeal to be lodged in Congress within twenty Days after the Meeting thereof.

Resolved, 9. That the Judge of such Court shall appoint an able Clerk, who shall keep a true and fair Record of all the Proceedings of said Court, and shall be duly sworn or affirmed to act, in the said Office, with Truth and Fidelity, and his Attestations shall be received as Evidence.

Resolved, 10. That the Depositions of the Witnesses, in any of the Cases aforesaid, shall be taken before the Judge aforesaid and filed in the Clerk's Office, and that the same shall be, at all Times admitted in Evidence, in Case of the Death or Absence of the Witness; and that the same Depositions

shall and may be taken, *ex parte* on such Notice being given to the adverse Party as the said Judge shall direct and appoint.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 8th series, VIII, 7457-59.
2. *Ibid.*, 7504, on April 5 the Assembly appointed George Ross of Lancaster County judge of the Admiralty Court. The Committee of Safety named Matthew Clarkson marshal to the court on April 10. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 537, 538.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

This Comes Express to all whom it may Concern, giving Notice that last Evening Came into Whorekiln Road a Man of War, not less force than forty Guns; ² this morning they took a Sloop at the mouth of Lewes Creek and my Pilot Boat, which was going Express to the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, therefore, all persons along the Bay are hereby Warn'd to be on their Guard, in Haste I am yours,

Henry Fisher.

Lewes, 26 of March, 1776.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 725.
2. H.M.S. *Roebuck*, 44 guns.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Tuesday] 26 March

I did not arrive at Horekill road untill the 25th

Early the next morning a Pilot boat came out of Lewis Town in order to give intelligence at Philadelphia of our arrival. I imediately dispatched all the Boats arm'd after her in hopes of getting some Pilots for the River. Soon after it fell little wind & the boats had no difficulty in coming up with her, but unfortunately, a slight fogg came on at the same time, and the Men, who had deserted the Sloop and taken to their boat, could not be discovered. The same afternoon I put an officer & people on board the Pilot boat & sent her with the *Maria** in chase of two Vessels coming down the bay, which they took. one of them was of some consequence, as she was laden with Shot & Stores for a Battery Erecting in North Carolina; and had on board several articles of merchandize very useful to the Ships Compy. The other Sloop was empty.²

*a Prize Sloop I brot with me.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.
2. "By The *Roebuck*, and Ships under Captain Hammond's Orders . . . Polly, William Bowen, Master; William Bowen, Owner; from Philadelphia to North Carolina with Nine pound Shot, Iron and Groceries. A small Sloop, in Ballast," *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee Tuesday 26 March 76

Messrs Hercules Courtenay, Daniel Lawrence, Isaac Vanbibber, William Spear, & George Wells, or any three or more of them, are appointed by

this Committee to value upon Oath the Schooner *Resolution*, whereof William Waud is Master, and return the same to this Committee –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

No. 92

Gentn We are not as yet fully determined as to the Schooner of Mr [William] Lux's fitted out for a Tender, we would wish her to be in such a Situation, as to act in Case of Danger upon short Notice, but we would not have Men inlisted, or Provisions purchased for her 'till further Orders from this Board, or the Convention – we are informed from divers Persons of Credit and amongst others from Captn Nicholson himself, that she is a dull Sailer – if so, and we can get a better, we must remove the Guns &c on Board the Tender here after to be purchased, and make the best of the Schooner – We would not have her go any Distance, if she is likely to be instrumental in losing us a Number of brave Men and all her Stores – We have sent an Express with Order to Captn Burgess to try [Samuel] Hughs's 18 Poundsers, and request you will order Bullets to be cast, as soon as you know the proper size.

[Annapolis] 26th March 1776.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, March 26th, 1776.

Ordered, that Captain [Thomas] Lilly proceed immediately to have the Brigg *Liberty* fitted in a proper manner to be employed as a cruiser in York River.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 137.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

March At an Anchor in Hampton Road Virginia
 Tuesday 26 At 11 A M weigh'd & shifted our birth, and anchored with the small Bower in 6½ fam Sewells point E b S dist 1½ [miles].
 The first & midl parts little wind & hazy, the latter fresh gales & squally with rain. At 3 P M a Rebel Pilot Boat came out of Hampton. At 4 she fired 3 Swivells & went in again.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

March 1776 Moored in Cape Fear Harbor
 Tuesday 26 Fresh breezes and heavy, Came on board from the *Syren* a Rebel Captain & Private. . prisoners²

P M a Brig drove athawt Hause, and carried away the Jib-boom.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

2. Captain Francis Proctor and his company of artillerymen from Philadelphia.

LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

[Extract]

Cape Fear River 26th March 1776

Sir I received the honour of your letter, desiring to be informed "of the past, and present state of the Province under my Government, with an opinion what may be expected from the efforts of the well affected inhabitants, and what measures appear most advisable to be undertaken to co-operate with, and support those efforts in favor of Government." ² . . . As to my opinion of the efforts that may be expected from the well affected inhabitants, I have the greatest reason to think that if the Troops succeed in getting possession of Charles Town, and the Country adjacent, the friends of Government would be encouraged to exert themselves, and attempt a junction with the Kings Troops, notwithstanding the checks they have received; and I also think the Rebels would be deserted by many of their deluded followers. You will observe Sir this is matter of opinion only, for after three months absence from the Province, it cannot be expected I should speak with that certainty as in other circumstances I might be able to do. As far as I can judge Charles Town may be attacked with Success, and the carrying that place would be attended with the best consequences to the King's Affairs in this part of the Continent, as I must consider it as the Capital of the three Southern Provinces. Two very fine navigable Rivers run a considerable way into the Country, and the Harbours, particularly to the Southward, are perfectly accessible to the Shipping; but I must observe Sir a Province in the situation South Carolina is at present, cannot be conquered in a day, and after such convulsions the re-establishment of legal Government and good Order must be a work of time, and the assistance both of Ships, and Troops, as well as the presence of an officer of your distinguish'd abilities, will be absolutely necessary to effect it.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

William Campbell

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL. Lord William Campbell was royal governor of South Carolina.

2. *Ibid.*, Clinton wrote requesting the information on March 24.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 26th March 1776

My Dear Son Upon the table before me lye large packets of Letters which were returned to me a few days ago from on board the Ship *Port Henderson* Capt [Henry] Aitkin I had from day to day written by that Vessel to Mr. [William] Manning, Mr. [Ralph] Izard, your Uncle, Miss Patty, Mr. [John] Delagays & I believe not fewer than half a dozen Letters to your Self, this vessel had met frequent interruptions at length when She was on

the very point of Sailing all her intended passengers on board & Monsr. Rilliet among them, the Act of Parliament for prohibiting all Trade & Intercourse with the United Colonies made its appearance – the [Provincial] Congress Sitting, a Motion was made & immediately followed by a Resolution, that the Ship *Port Henderson* being British property be Seized, her Cargo Sold & the Money arising from the Sales deposited in the public Treasury – accordingly she was seized brought up to Charles Town & Monsr. Rilliet laid yonder letters again upon my Table the Sight of them draws a tear in each Eye – they contain no Treason no Plot nothing that can possibly work Evil to the State nor to Individuals I would give a hundred Barrels of Rice for the Safe passage of them to your hands.

Mr. Alexr. Wright who is going to take Leave of his Father Sir James has politely made me a tender of his Services, I embrace the offer & am in hopes his Interest may procure a passage in the packet for this & its contents which will be a Letter containing two Bills of Exchange for your Uncle ² & an uncovered Letter to your Dear Sister ³ I have taken off the Cover in order to avoid Bulk –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, No. 10, SCHS.

2. James Laurens.

3. Martha Laurens.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Charleston] Tuesday, March 26, 1776.

On motion, to establish a proper rank between the officers of the land and sea forces, of this colony.

Whereas it is expedient for the public service, that a proper rank should be established between the officers in the navy, and between the officers in the navy and the officers in the land forces of this colony: Therefore it is

Resolved, That rank be established in the following manner:

The captain of a ship or frigate, of not less than twenty guns, all not less than nine-pounders, of three years standing, to rank with a colonel.

The captain of a ship or frigate, as aforesaid, of less than three years standing, to rank with a lieutenant-colonel.

The captain of a ship that does not carry twenty guns, all not less than nine-pounders, to rank with a major.

The master or commander of a snow or brigantine, sloop or sloop, each carrying not less than fifty men, to rank with a captain of foot. And,

Lieutenants in the navy to rank with lieutenants of foot.

1. *Provincial Congress of South Carolina*, 132, 133.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks On Tuesday the 26th March 1776

4 [A. M.] Took one Reef in Fore sail
the Schooner Still Continued Lekeing

almost all hands Sick we are in a bad Setuation
Latd 0[bsd] 34..35

2 [P.M.] hard gail
10 the gail modreated the Sea Sum what fallen
Set mainsail and Jibb

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

27 Mar.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract] Salem March the 27th. 1776

Sir I wrote you by last, to which refer you. I beleive the brigantine of Mr. Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] is taken, a Vessell from So. Carolina which left itt About 20. days Ago, the Master of which says he saw a sailor who said be belonged to a brigantine with powder designed into the Eastern part of Our government, and that they came athot of a M[an of] War and threw in the Night part of the powder Over, before they boarded her in the Morning, but the Master never Askt him what the Capts. name was.

I have a Vessell Arrived in a short passuage from Cadiz. The Master says he heard att Cadiz she was saild, left Cadiz about the middle of last Month, there was a large ship from Phila. with flour suppose On the Continental Account – We are in expectation of seeing the remainder of the fleet come along...²

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 365.

2. The major portion of the British fleet, under Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham, and including General William Howe and many transports, sailed from Nantasket road for Halifax on the afternoon of March 27.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract] Cambridge March 27. 1776

I now beg leave to inform you that I just received Intelligence, that the whole of the Ministerial Fleet besides three or four Ships, got under way this Evening at Nantasket road and were standing out for Sea – In consequence of which I shall detach a Brigade of Six Regiments immediately from hence for New York, under the command of Brigadier Genl Sullivan (Brigadr Genl Heath having gone with the first) which will be succeeded by an other in a day or two, & directly after I shall forward the Remainder of the Army, except four or five Regiments which will be left for taking care of the barracks & public Stores & fortifying the Town and erecting such Works for Its defence, as the Honoble General Court may think necessary, and follow myself.

[Endorsed] Recd 6 April. –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 563–65, NA.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JAMES WARREN ¹

Sir

Cambridge March 27. 1776

His Excellency having this day taken the Paroles of Captains Nellis, Watts & Robertson ² who were taken by the Continental Armed Vessells, on their passage from England to Boston with Stores for the Ministerial Army, & Granted them permission to return to England with their Several Crews, as soon as the Fleet now in Nan Tasket road shall have sailed & quitted this Coast, in a Vessel they are about to purchase for that purpose – I take the liberty to solicit your friendship and favors in behalf of the bearer Captn William Wood ³ of White-Haven who was taken by two Privateers owned by persons in this Province, & hope that your Honourable Court will grant him the same Indulgence & liberty, given by his Excellency to those Gentlemen who were in the same predicament & circumstanced as Captn Wood is – I wou'd not have troubled you in Captain Woods behalf, did I not know him to be a Gentleman of merit & who in my opinion will not abuse any Indulgencies your Honourable Court may grant him, and will literally abide by an engagement he enters into –

Praying your excuse for this liberty I shall only add that whatever favors may be shewn this Gentlemen I shall esteem an Obligation laid upon Sir [&c.]

Rob H Harrison A D C

[Endorsed] In House of Representatives March 27 1776

Read & order'd that Mr Pitts & Coln Orne together with such as the Honl Board shall join be a Committee to take this Letter into Consideration and report thereon Sent up for Concurrence

William Cooper Spkr Pro Tem

In Council Mar 28th 1776

Read & concurred & Moses Gill Esqr is joined

John Lowell Depy Secy P T –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 307–08, NA Photocopy.

2. Nellis was master of the brig *Henry & Esther*; James Watts, of the ship *Stakesby*, and John Robertson, of the brig *Nelly*.

3. William Wood, master of the ship *Jenny*. He was granted permission to return to England on March 29, 1776. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

SAMUEL COOPER TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Boston, March 27, 1776] ²

You will hear before this reaches you that the British Troops and Fleet have left Boston: They have retir'd with Disgrace from before the General & Forces of the united Colonies. I congratulate you on this Honor to our Country. Should the War continue, prepar'd as we now are, we should have been well contented they had remain'd here – The Bombardment & Cannonding from our Lines, reach'g all Parts of Boston, was unexpected, and troubled their Host; our taking Possession of Dorchester Hills in so judicious & masterly a Manner compleated their Constirnation, & left them no

Time to deliberate. They embark'd with Trepidation; & most of them I am just told sail'd this Morning – Where they are bound remains a Secret; whether to Hallifax, or the Southward or to both in Divisions. Boston stands, to the Surprize of many, but much plunder'd – I am a Sufferer among a Multitude of Others. My House was let to a Capt Cochran of the British Army upon written Engagement – He had the Use of all my Furniture, but has not left a Bed, Coverlid, Sheet, or any Pewter, China or Crockery – many other Things of great Value carried off or destroy'd – but This is a small Specimen of the Perfidy & Villainy of British Officers & Soldiers – I esteem it however an Honor to such a Cause to suffer with & for my Country. – Shall we have a Nego-tion this Summer – Must we return to the mild & gracious Governm't of Britain? – How is *Common Sense* relish'd among you; it is eagerly read and greatly admir'd here. The Inability of our Enemies to subdue us by Force is more & more apparent; I doubt not our Councils will avail themselves of this and ev'ry Circumstance. I am dear Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Cooper.

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 82½, APS.

2. Date established by the contents of the letter, and the fact that Howe's main army sailed from Nantasket Road for Halifax on March 27, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS,
H.M.S. *Renown*¹

(Copy)

Whereas General Howe has thought proper to order His Majesty's Troops under his Command to be Embarked, and to Evacuate the Town and Harbour of Boston, intending to proceed forthwith with them to Halifax, where I shall accompany them with part of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command.

You are hereby required and directed to employ His Majesty's Ship under your Command, in such manner as you shall judge best, either by Cruizing or Anchoring occasionally in preventing all communication or Commerce with the Town and Harbour of Boston; And whereas many Vessels are daily expected here with Stores and Provisions for the use of His Majesty's Fleet and Army, which are in extreme want of them; You are to take under your Command the Ships and Vessels mentioned in the Margin² and employ them in Cruizing between the Latitudes of Cape Cod, and Cape Anne at such distance from the Shore, where they are most likely to fall in with the above Expected Vessels, which you are to direct them to see in safety to Halifax, and then return to you.

You are also hereby required and directed on the Arrival of any of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Nantasket (except those you have Orders to take under your Command) to give their Commanders Orders to proceed immediately to join me at Halifax, or where ever else you shall from good Authority hear I may be.

You are to take, sink, burn, or destroy, all Rebel Armed Vessels you may meet with, and to continue upon this Service till further Order, Gov-

er's being on his passage to Cork, and of some Alterations made respecting the Ships of his Squadron; another to inform me of American Armed Vessels being in the Gulph of St Lawrence and Canso Bay; one accompanying intelligence from Virginia and Maryland; the two others with the late Acts of Parliament and the King's Proclamation, and Draughts of different parts of the Coast of America; two of the 9th one of them to signify their Lordships directions to me that such Men as had been taken from the Transports by His Majesty's Ships should be returned to the Transports from whence they were taken; the other acquainting me of there being sent Marine Treatises, Statutes and Books of Instructions; and one of the 16th, inclosing a Duplicate Order relative to the Ordnance Stores on the Islands of Bermuda and [New] Providence.

I think it necessary to inform you that the *Charming Sally* laden with Ordnance Stores mentioned in your Letter of the 20th October 1775 is not yet arrived, and I must likewise acquaint you that the *Brownhall* which by your Letter of the 20th September 1775, to Vice Admiral Graves, informs me was Ordered hither with Naval Stores is also not arrived, nor have I had intelligence of either of them, I have further to add that the disappointment of the Arrival of these Ships has occasioned here a great scarcity of Naval Stores, and that many Species of Ordnance Stores are much wanted by the Fleet, particularly for the small Arm'd Vessels. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

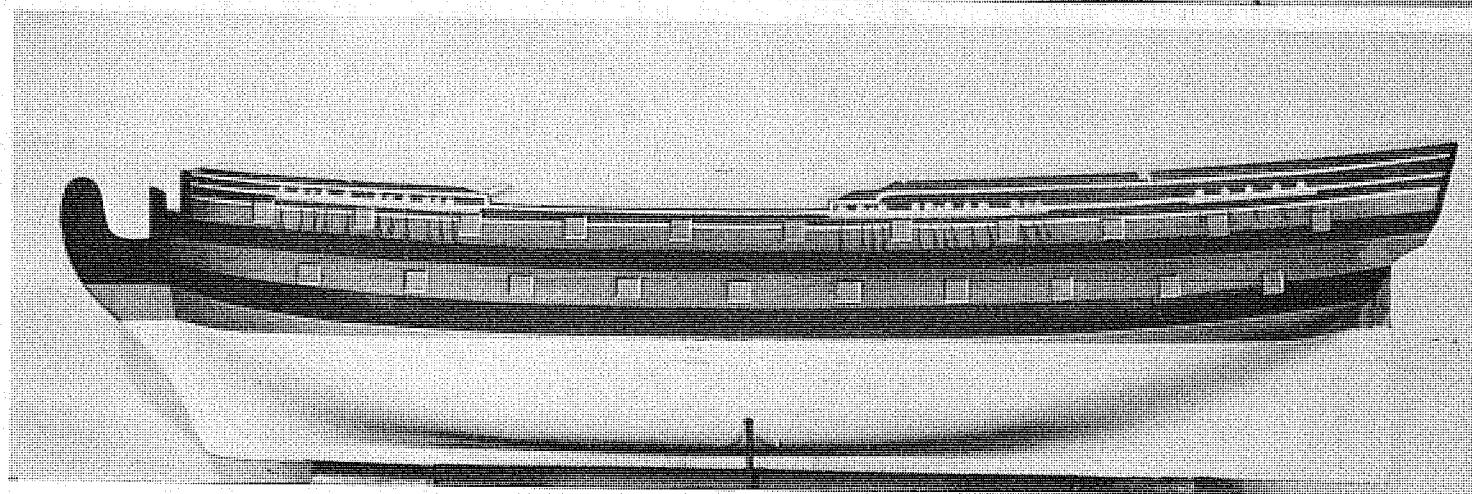
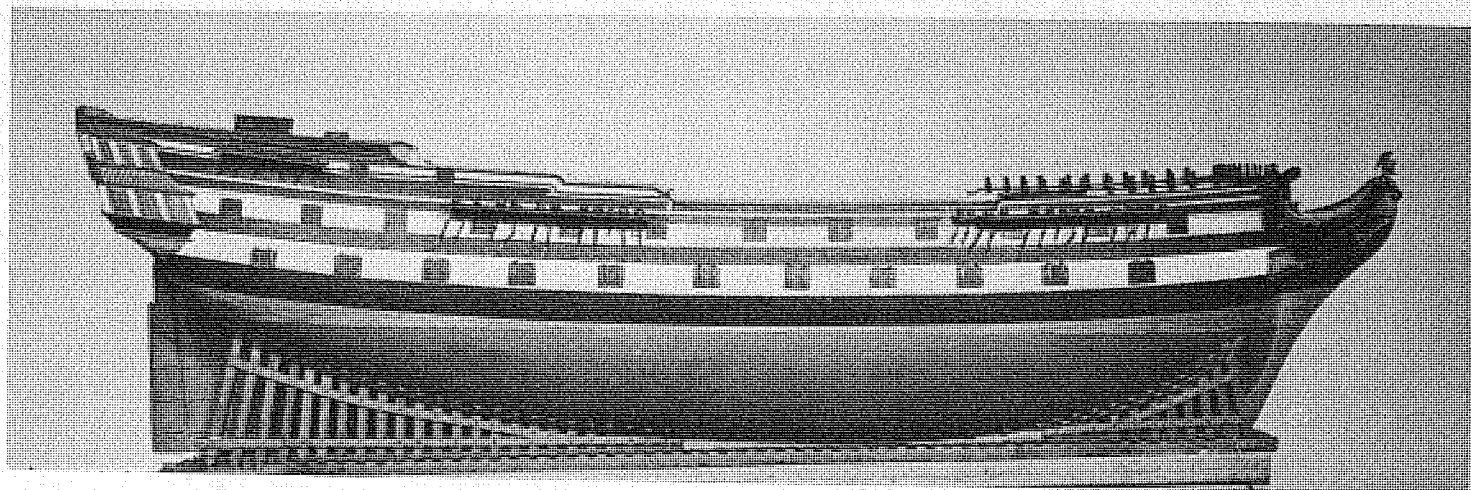
JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR ¹

March [1776] Moord at Nantasket road
 Wednesd 27 at 8 AM Made the Signal for Sailing
 at 3 PM Made the Signal & Weigh'd, made sail & hoist'd in all the Boats at 4 the light house N W 1 Mile at 6 in Company with HM Ships *Centurion Lively Savage & Tryal* Schooner with Sixty Six Sail of Transports & other Vessels at 8 Boston Light House WBN $\frac{1}{4}$ D dce 3 or 4 Leagues, fird 2 Guns & made the Signal for the fleet to come under our Stern, handed the Mizon top sail at 11 in 3d reef the fore & Main topsails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion*, CAPTAIN RICHARD BRATHWAITE ¹

March 1776 At Single Anchor in Nantaskett Road
 Wednesday 27th A M the Adl made the Sigl to Unmoor which we repeated, at 8 the Admiral made a Sigl for Sailing, Unmoored & Hove in to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable on the Bt Br, Sailmaker repairing the Jibb. First part Modt & Cloudy, Mid: fresh Breezes, Latter Light Airs & Clear P M at 3 the Admiral made the Sigl to Weigh, Weighed & came to sail in



(Top) HMS Centurion, 50 guns, (Bottom) HMS Phoenix, 44 guns.

Compy with the Adl & all the Transports, run foul of the *Niger* which Lay in the fair way & Carried away our Main Yard, Unrigged the Yard & Unbent the Sail, Launched the Yard overboard Empd stowing the Anchors at 8 one Sail in sight the Light House W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 3 or 4 Lgs At 10 split the Mizen Topsl & Handed it . . . at 11 Sett the Fore Sl at 12, 4 sail in Sight

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/177.

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

[Providence] Tuesday Eveng March 27th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment

Voted That Mr E. Palmer gets the Masts and Yards that he has procured for the Ships rafted from Taunton down to Mount Hope, on the best Termes he can and that he give the committee Intelligence as soon as he gets them to Swansey –

Voted That the Ballance of Mr Elkanah Palmer's Acct be paid him by the Treasurer.

Meeting adjourn'd to Friday Evening

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Norwich, March 27th, 1776.

Ordered Mr. James Tilley to purchase what rope yarns he could of Mr. Even Malbone and what yarns will be needful to furnish the Colony ship with cordage for rigging, and manufacture the same at the cheapest rate that he can.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 256.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO TRANSPORT CAPTAINS ¹

Sir,

New-London – March 27th 1776 –

The first fair wind you are to Proceede with the Troops you have on Board, up the Sound as farr as Hunts (the Pilot) & their to Remain Untill the Fleet arrives, or you Receive further Orders (desire Mr Hunt to have Five or Six Boats to assist in Landing the Troops – In Case you meet with any Difficulty, or Spy any Enemy, you are to Follow the Directions you will have from the Commanding Officer – ²

W. Heath Brigr Genl

To Capt. —

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. "26th. [March] they [the transports] fell down to New-London. 27th.—The troops were marched to that place, where they embarked, and came to sail about noon." Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 36.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Albany March 27th 1776.

The North End of Lake Champlain is open and I hope a few warm Days will open the Remainder of that, and also Lake George – We have here now about six hundred Men, who will move as soon as there is a prospect of conveying them across the Lakes.

The Cannon from New York are arrived and are on their way to Fort George, I fear they will not reach it in less than ten Days from this, if so soon as I cannot procure Cattle sufficient to move them at once from Half Moon (to which place they are gone by Water) owing to the incredible Scarcity of Forrage.

On the 22d Instant, one hundred new Batteaus were finished at Fort George, as far as they can be without pitch & oakham, which is not yet arrived from New York – Thirty five are however compleatly finished – I am of Opinion that a much greater Number are necessary to pour Troops into Canada, in Case it should be found necessary, but Congress has stinted me to the Number I have built.

The powder (only eight Tons) arrived here last Week & will be sent on with the first Troops.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

March 27th, 1776.

Ordered, That Captain Charles Alexander and Lieut. John Hennessey be at liberty to enlist Wm. Craig,² a prisoner now confined in the jail of this city, and take him to Philadelphia; and that the said Wm. Craig be discharged from confinement on the request of these gentlemen.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 386, 388.

2. See *Journal of the New York Provincial Congress*, March 14, 1776.

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE ¹

[Extract]

Elizabeth Town 27 March 1776

... The Man of war's Men set fire to the ship *bleu mountain Valley* last night, ... was happily extinguished – If they appear on such another Frolic, I believe the Towns men here will make them repent it. I am Sir [&c.]

Wil. Livingston

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 27th March, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers was directed to furnish Cap't. [Henry] Dougherty's Boat ² with 13 32 pound Cannon, Cartridges with Ball.

Resolved, That Henry Fisher be allowed for his services from the 16th September last, and as long as this Board may have occasion to employ him, the sum of ten pounds per month.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 526, 527.
2. The galley *Washington*.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Wednesday 27 March, 1776]

Saw a Vessel standing in from Sea. I sent Mr [George] Ball (the 3d Lt) with the Pilot boat & Tender in quest of her, who boarded her, and drove another ashore. The former he put under the charge of the Tender, and he in the Pilot boat, endeavored to make the best of his way to the Ship, but by some unfortunate accident (which is not yet known) he was driven ashore in the Night, and with 3 Seamen, made Prisoners of War by the Enemy.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LIEUTENANT JOHN THOMAS BOUCHER ¹

No 93

Sir We cannot oppose the Preferment of a Gentleman, who has manifested a laudable Zeal for his Country, and therefore accept of your Resignation This we do with the less Reluctance as your Station may still afford you an Opportunity of giving Assistance to our Province – We thank you for the services you have rendered us, and wish you Success in the Command of the Potowmack Fleet.²

[Annapolis] 27th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. In the service of Virginia.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

[Extract]

No 94

Dr Sir We send you inclosed a Letter to the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, if you approve, seal it and send it to them – since Writing we have seen Mr [William] Lux, and have had some Conversation with him about the Committee's detaining the two Vessels belonging to Hugh Young, one intended to bring us Arms and Ammunition, the other Salt – Young tells us, that the first has been unloaded & is kept with Intention to sink, as a Hulk, and that the other is employed in bringing in Ship Timber for the Frigate now building; ² no Consent of his, and contrary to the express Order of the Council of Safety of the 20th Instant

We wish to have this affair cleared up to our Satisfaction. W. Lux knows Nothing of the Matter – We request you would converse with some of the Committee and let us know how every Thing has been conducted –
[Annapolis] 27th March 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. One of the thirteen frigates being built for the Continental Congress.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 27 March 1776.

Ordered That all the small Arms now at Baltimore Town belonging to the Public and not delivered out to the Troops stationed there, be immediately sent by water under a Guard to Chester Town for the Use of the independent Companies on the Eastern Side of the Bay; and that the Musquets imported in Capt. Tibbit and now at Baltimore Town, or on the way thither, be included in this Order. Also Ordered That four hundred and thirty four Cartouch Boxes, Belts, Bayonet-Belts and Slings, one Ton of Gunpowder and four Ton of Lead be sent to Chester Town for the Use of the Militia and independent Companies on the Eastern Side of the Bay; and that the Powder be taken out of the Public Stock now at Baltimore Town and the Lead out of the Quantity imported in Capt Tibbit, and now arrived at Baltimore Town, or on the Way thither. That Major [Mordecai] Gist be requested to assist Captain Stone in having the above Order fully executed, and that Capt Nicholson's Pilot Boat-Tender convoy the Vessel [that carries] the same to the Mouth of Chester River with Instructions to land the same at Rock Hall, Worton, or some convenient Place higher up the Bay, in Case of Danger.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, March 27th, 1776.

Upon the recommendation of Capt. R'd Taylor the following officers are appointed on board the vessel of which he is app'd Capt., vizt: Edw'd Woynicott 1st mate, James Gray 2nd mate, James Blaws mid-shipman, and Henry Lyburn Pilot.

Philip Chamberlayne is appointed 1st mate of Capt. [George] Muter's Cruiser.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 140.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday the 27th Day of March 1776
Five oClock PM

The General Assembly met according to Adjournment
And proceeded to ballot for the following Officers separately vizt
The Judge of the Admiralty
And upon casting up the Ballots

Mr Chairman reported

That Hugh Rutledge Esquire was duly chosen Judge of the Admiralty
Resolved That His Excellency the President and Commander in Chief ²
[be] sworn into Office To-morrow And

That Colonel [Christopher] Gadsden be desired to issue General Orders
that the Regulars and Militia in Charles Town do parade To-Morrow and
that the Artillery be fired when his Excellency shall have taken the State
Oath Also that the Salute be returned by the Navy And that Proclamation
with all due Solemnity be made of His Excellency's being sworn to the Ad-
ministration of Government

1. A. S. Salley, Jr., ed., *Journal of the General Assembly of South Carolina, March 26, 1776–April 11, 1776* (Columbia, S.C., 1906), 4, 6. Hereafter cited as Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*.

2. John Rutledge.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 TO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1776

Charlestown, March 27.

About a Fortnight ago a Packet arrived from England at Cockspur, after a Passage, it is said, of 9 Weeks. She has brought out the new American Restraining Act . . . We hear that there is a Mail for this Province on board the Packet, and that there is some Reason to expect it will be sent ashore.

It is said that Capt. Barclay, of the *Scarborough*, has taken all the Rice (about 1600 Barrels) out of the Merchantmen, carried down to Cockspur, and put it on board two Transports, with which he is immediately proceeding to Boston.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS
BIDDLE ¹

Remark's Wednesday March 27th

6 [A. M.]	Saw a Sail to Windward
8	Gave Chase in Company with the <i>Fly</i> find a Current to the South'd.
10	Tack'd to the Eastward
12	Our People Still Continue very Sickly with the Fever
	Latt Observ'd 35 . . 00
	Longitude In 70 . . 38
2 [P. M.]	Tack'd Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Weather at 2 P M Brought the Chase too after firing two Guns, she Prov'd to be a French Schooner from New London bound to Cape Franchway out 6 Days who Gave an account of the Provincials Troops taken Boston.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]
(No 2.)

Jamaica 27th March 1776

My Lord, I had the Honor on the 14th Instant to receive your Lordship's dispatch No 1. of the 23d December together with your Circular Letter of the same date inclosing the Prohibitory Act.

I am equally astonished and concerned at the Intelligence your Lordship mentions to have been received from Carolina, of the Rebels in North America being Supplied with large quantities of Gun powder from Jamaica; for My Lord, I have every moral certainly that there has been no such quantities of Powder upon this Island for many Months past and I can, and do boldly Assert, that in this very consequential part of my Duty, I have taken every Method in my power, to prevent the Rebels getting any supplies from hence, by stopping the Exportation of powder, Cannon, Small Arms, and all sorts of Military Stores, and long before I received the Royal Proclamation for suppressing Rebellion and Sedition, I ordered the Receiver General, to purchase all the Powder, and Arms he could find for the use of the Island. The Orders I gave him, and His Letters in answer upon this Subject, are Vouchers of my Conduct, and proofs of the very great Scarcity there has been for a long time past of these Articles as a further corroboration thereof, I have continual applications from the Colonels of Militia to send them powder and Arms, which every Man, by the Law, is obliged to furnish himself with, under very severe fines and penalties; but these Gentlemen write me they cannot get them to buy at any price.

My Lord, the Truth is, most of the American Vessels that Trade here lately, went from hence to Hispaniola, and laid out the returns of their Cargoes in Powder, Arms, Ammunition, Sugar, Molasses and other French produce and your Lordship will observe, that in my Letter No 24. I inform Lord Dartmouth ² that the North Americans were amply supplied with Gun powder, and other Military Stores in that Island.

As it was known in America that such Vessels came here, when they returned with Arms and Ammunition, it was, without consideration or inquiry, reported, that they were supplied with them at Jamaica. This, I trust, will appear to be the Fact, and that your Lordship will be persuaded that I have and will continue to pursue every Measure that can be effectual to prevent the Rebels getting supplies of any kind from this Island.

Since my last dispatch No 28. The Admiral sent me the Affidavit of a North American, who was taken by one of His Squadron, in a Vessel from Hispaniola bound to North America, a Copy of which, I have the Honor to Inclose . . . ³

It was some days before I could get together a Quorum of the Council, there being but seven Members upon the Island, and several of these living in very distant parts of the Country; when they met, I had the Satisfaction to receive their approbation of every step I had taken, for the good of His Majesty's Service and the advantage and security of this Community. —They

agreed with me, in doubting Marshall's Intelligence, and on the maturest consideration of the many bad consequences, both to Great Britain and Jamaica of an Alarm at this time grounded upon such suspicious information they were unanimous in opinion with me, that I should wait the return of Lieutenant [Charles] Cobb from Hispaniola, before I wrote to the Secretary of State.

That officer did not return till the 25th Instant, I send your Lordship His Letter of Intelligence and the remarks he made, agreeable to my request before He left this Island, as they better explain the present state of the French in Hispaniola, and their Idea of ours, than any Extracts I might make from it, Observing to your Lordship at the same time, that this Officer who has been extremely diligent, drew his remarks up hastily not foreseeing that I should think myself obliged to make this use of them.⁴

However, My Lord, luckily for us, we were not obliged to wait the return of Mr Cobb to be relieved from our fears and apprehensions; for soon after He sailed, we had repeated information to be depended upon, of the general falshood of Marshall's Affidavit in consequence of which, by the unanimous desire of the Council, I wrote to the Admiral a Letter of thanks for his readiness and constant attention, to the Interest and Security of this Island, and representing the [*sic* that] we now thought there was no reason to induce us to desire him longer to keep His Ships in Port.

In my former Letter, I have said, that the French had done nothing of late Years to any of their Forts or Batteries only those at Cape Nicola; the Fortifying and strengthening of which, has been their constant object since the last peace; but since Count D'Ennery's arrival they have been very active and diligent in repairing and supplying them all.

I have done my best endeavours for the internal Security and defence of this Island; and in the strongest manner recommended the Forts and Fortifications to the Assembly, as objects deserving of their most serious consideration, and Transmitted Lord Dartmouth, a Book containing plans and sketches of them all, with another of written descriptions and references to every thing belonging to them – last year I reviewed the better half of the Militia, and mean to go through the whole this year, if other Duty does not prevent me.

The Answers to the Queries relative to my Government, which I transmitted with my Letter No 21. of the 13th June 1775. will inform your Lordship of the Number of White Inhabitants, Men, Women, and Children, also of the free People of Different Casts; and of the amazing, and dangerous disproportion of our Slaves. – by it you will likewise see, the Number of our Military Horse and Foot white, and black; very many of whom are badly armed – but on my representation thereof the Assembly last Session voted for three thousand Stand of good Arms to be sent for directly.

In the present state of Public Affairs, it is, I apprehend more proper for me, to refer your Lordship to the first Lord of the Admiralty and to the Secretary of War, than to particularize the Number and strength of His Majesty's Ships and Troops stationed, and Quartered in this Island; I will only

beg to observe that the regulars are necessarily detached in many, and very distant Quarters.

Agreeable to his Majesty's pleasure signified in your Lordship's circular Letter I have strongly exhorted every person in this Island concerned in the execution of the prohibitory Act to do their Duty in the strictest Manner and I will venture to Assure your Lordship, that the Inhabitants in general of this Island are truly sensible that every possible attent[ion] has been shewn to the security of their Lawful Commerce and I trust, when His Majesty's deluded Subjects in North America consider the fatal consequences of their Conduct; and are convinced of the determined Spirit of the Nation to support it's constitutional Rights and know that the happy means are still held out to them by Accomodation and Union with the Mother Country under whose Wise Government and protection they have become, a great and flourishing People they will with contrition and Gratitude return to their Duty, and by their future zeal and Loyalty deserve a continuance of those blessings enjoyed by none, but Brittish Subjects. – For my own part I have the greatest Satisfaction in the information your Lordship is pleased to give me that every proper step is taken to accelerate this very desirable object . . .

I am extremely sorry My Lord to inform you that the Ship with our Supply of powder is not yet arrived and as the Agent wrote me she would Sail from the River about Christmas, I have been for some time very uneasy about Her. I Have the Honour to be My Lord [&c.]

Basil Keith

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part II, LC Photocopy.

2. Letter No. 24 was dated November 6, 1775.

3. See affidavit of Robert Marshall, February 8, 1776, Volume 3, 1180.

4. Charles Cobb's letter, dated March 25, 1776, gave an accurate account of all French forces and fortifications in the French Islands and completely refuted the Marshall affidavit. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part II, LC Photocopy.

28 Mar.

ANDREW BROWN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Honoured Gentelmen Upon friday last I lay'd Befor[e] the Honourable House that I was very [anxtious] for to Serve by Sea and for to doo for the good and Well fair of the Cuntray to the Outermost of my pour And that there was at Salem laying above Bevely Being a Good Sound Schooner which Beloning [blurred] if which I have a Commission for which can be very Useful for a pacquet from port to port and also when She is not Employed she can be very Benefichall goin off into the Bay in fishing for the good of the Cuntray And Espesshally for the poor as I did Make mention of a commission there can be nothing done with out and as I said make Application With his Excellency General [Wa]shinton by orders Sent to me by the [Gen to Confirm] was for to make Application unto the Gentelmen of the Congress and my Business would be Answer'd and immedately for this three Quarters of the Year I have not gaine any Subsistance for my familly even with me that I have receive no Subsistance upon account of the Difuculty of

the times and as I am not in very truth so able as for to go By land and follow the Army I hope it will please the Honourable Gentlemen of the chance for Grant me A Comission by Sea I for spoke when I could not come to Boston Cape Ann Salem & Bevely or [blurred] for Rendezvouze I have Occation be [blurred] of the Gentlemen of the Congress

Be pleas'd for to give me an Answer I am honour'd Gentlemen [&c.]
To the Honourable Gentlemen of the Congress at Watertown

The Vessell can carry 8 Swivells Guns But there is no Occation for to run themselves in the Mouths of the Man of War but for to keep a good Look out –

Cambridge March 28th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 364. Brown had previously written on same subject March 25, 1776.

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

March 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.
Wednesday 27th AM Fired a Six lb Shott to bring too a Sloop.
P M Clear'd Hawse, Compleated our Water from Staten Island, at 10 Sent the *Asia*'s & our Boats Man'd and Arm'd to the Kilns,
Thursdy 28th at 6 AM the Boats Brought down & Anchor'd here the Ship *Lady Gage*,² havg lost a Grapnel.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. The *Lady Gage*, according to Shuldham's prize list of May 23, 1776, was "Cut from a Wharf" at Elizabeth Town. She was in ballast, and was sent to Halifax, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. She was condemned in Admiralty Court there, it being noted that she was captured "in the river Amboy ther Cargo all discharg'd and no papers were found on board no person on board but the mate" – James Downie, who testified that the ship belonged to "the Franklins in N. York and two Gentlem[e]n in London." Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

March 1776 Moor'd as before [off Bedlows Island]
Wednesday 27 AM Clear'd Hawse
P M at 10 sent away all our Boats, Mann'd & Arm'd to join the *Phoenix*'s: Cut the Ship *Lady Gage* from her Moorings and towed her out, they also set on Fire the *blue Mountain Valley* a Ship Transport taken by the Rebels
Thursday 28 A M Boats return'd
P M sent two small Sloops, laden with Iron to the *Lady Gage* to deliver their Cargo on board her;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, March 28, 1776

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to purchase, on the most reasonable terms, for the use of the continent, the ship *Molly*, and

to fit her out, with all possible expedition, to join Captain [John] Barry, on his cruize along the coast, between New York and Virginia.²

Information being given to Congress that some prisoners in the gaol of this city have meditated an escape, and are near carrying their plan into execution:

Resolved, That the gaoler be directed to confine John Connolly, J[ohn] Smith, and [Moses] Kirkland, in separate apartments, and suffer no person to converse with any of them, without special orders of Congress.

Resolved, That the sheriff of the city and county of Philadelphia be directed, by Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, to call to his assistance a guard of fifty men from the barracks of this city for the defence of the gaol; and that the sheriff be farther directed to keep secret any intimation given him of a design to rescue his prisoners, and employ every means to discover and apprehend those concerned in such design.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 238, 239-40.

2. The *Molly* became the Continental ship *Reprisal*.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 28 March R. Morris moved to purchase another Ship on Continental Accot in this Harbor to be fitted out for the Protection of Delaware Bay which was granted — ²

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The ship *Molly*, subsequently, the Continental ship *Reprisal*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 28th March, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver Capt. Robert Whyte 9 pieces of sail Cloth for the use of the Provincial Ship.

Robert Towers Reports his having receiv'd & deliver'd the following articles:

Deliver'd by order of this Board, to —

Capt. Barry for Brig't *Lexington*, on acco't of Congress,

5 lbs. Salt Petre,
13 Dutch Firelocks,
2 Wall Pieces,
5 Bayonets,
8 Scabbards,
48 Musket Cartridges,
2 Budge barrels.

Deliv'r'd to make Cartridges for
Signal Guns,

112 lbs do. [Gun powder,]

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 527, 528.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE
BRIGANTINE *Lexington* ¹

[Philadelphia, March 28, 1776]²

Brigte *Lexington* — John Barry Esqr Commander
To The Commissioners of the Navy Dr

—For First Cruise.—

		1776	£	Sh	d
March 22	To 4 Bolts Holland Duck	a£8.10/	34	..	..
April 29	Cash paid Sundry disbursements from 18th Mar: to this day Vizt				
	“ paid Jas Bringhurst for 2 Padlocks	£	4	..	8
	“ “ for 2 Cords Hickory wood, Hawlg &c		2	..	6
	“ “ Jos Stansbury for sundry Stone ware		5	..	7
	“ “ Michl Sisk for lining 2 Cambooses		7	..	6
	“ “ for 1 doz. Portwine for Medecine		1	10	..
	“ “ George Goodwin for 4¾ lb Putty		4	..	9
	“ “ Isaac Snowden for 3 half tan'd hyd's		3	18	..
	“ “ Woodhouse & Trickett for Stationary		2	..	3
	“ “ Willm Clifton for sundrys Pr Bill		19	..	6
	“ “ Cornellius Hilman for Rum		4	10	..
	“ “ Dean Timmonds for 2 boxes Candles & 1 Soap		8	..	9
	“ “ Hawling 2 loads carriages & wd to make them		11	..	..
	“ “ James McCutcheon for 2240 lbs Fresh Beef		25	..	5
	“ “ James Allenby Coopers bill		1	..	7
	“ “ William Rush Blacksmiths bill		82	..	..
	“ “ Elijah Dow in full as Pr bill		7	..	2
	“ “ Daniel Dolby Coopers bill		9	..	..
	“ “ Mrs Bridges for a new Ensign		7	10	..
	“ “ Benjamin Davis for a Drum & heads		4	18	..
	“ “ Jo Russell for 5 Barrls Flour		8	..	0
	“ “ Allen Moore for supplying the Rendezvous		13	..	8
	“ “ Thomas Cuthbert for wharfage		1	10	..
	“ “ Samuel Robins's bill		7	..	1
	“ “ John Appowen Sailmakers bill		21	10	..
	“ “ Joseph Guisilwood Pr Order of the Com'ss'ry for hawling 30 Barrls powder		17	..	6
	“ “ Benjamin Condys bill		1	18	..
	“ “ John Lewis for repairing Gunlocks		1	..	1
	“ “ William Perkins Smiths bill		3	..	9
	“ “ John Locktons bill for day's labour		16	..	5
	“ “ Dunn & Hale their & Wm Rush's 2d Bill for Iron work for the Boats		23	13	..
	“ “ Michl Owners bill		4	17	..
	Amount Carried forward	£	262	15	10
	1776 Amount Brought forward	£	262	15	10
April 29	To Cash paid William Ahart Bakers bill		5	11	10
	do Benjamin Harbesons do		37	..	8
	do John Ridge Riggers do		7	16	..
	do William Annis for making Hammocks		8	18	..
	do White & Montgomery for 2 Kegs butter		4	14	..
	do Jonathn & Joel Evans for Cabin Stores		21	18	..
	do for 6 Riffle Musketts		25	..	..

	do	Mathias Young Painters bill	6..--	
	do	Robert Fitzgerald Blockmakers bill	14..3..8	
	do	Thomas Truck & Jno Forrest for 2 Sundays work making catridges	16..--	
	do	Joshua Wallace for a hhd Rum	21..7..6	
	do	Charles Woolfall Blacksmiths bill	20..5..--	
	do	Wetherill & Cressons bill for Boards &c	11.19..--	
	do	Thomas Oliver for 9 days work a Catridges	2..5..--	
	do	Samuel Burge for 6 Barrells Rum	30..9..--	
	do	Samuel Kinder for Cogues &c	18..--	482..6.10
	Amot Sundry ship Chandlery Stores comprehending Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenters, Stewards &c			160..5..4
	T Ct qr lb			
	Amot Sundry Cordage wte 2.14.2.10 avgd @ 66/ 1 PCt			180..7..7
	Amot Benjamin Marshals bill for Tinware			9..9..2
May 17	1	Bolt Ravens Duck		
21	5	Pieces No 6 deld Abm Mason 207½ yds @ 2/1 ct qr lb	21.12..3½	
	1	Cast oatmeal 4..0.16 @ 10/	2..1..5	23.13..8½
June 17	2	Swivell Ladles		6..--
July 4		Cash paid for fitting a pump		3..6
10	do	Wm Rigdon for 8 lb Yellow paint hd of him in march		12..--
11	do	Wetherill & Cressons bill for Boards		2..6..3
23	1	Bolt Russia		8..--
Augt 27	6	Tons Pig Iron		54..--
Sept 8		Cash for an ommission on Allen Moores bill	10..--	
	do	paid Wm Roberts bill for 3 amunition boxes	15..--	1..5..--

[No balance shown]

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP. The Commissioners of the Navy originally were appointed by the Commissioners for Building the Four Frigates at Philadelphia. Their duties were to supply "Quantits of Cordage, Ship Chandlery and other Stores and necessaries" for those vessels. The Commissioners were James Craig, James Wharton, Nathaniel Falconer and William Davis, Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XXIV, 331, NA. When their duties were extended by the Marine Committee to naval vessels in the port of Philadelphia is not disclosed.
2. The date given is the one on which the *Lexington* sailed from Philadelphia. See William Bell Clark, *Gallant John Barry* (New York, 1938), 75. The dates in the account are for payments subsequently made. As the services and supplies were rendered before the brigantine cleared the port, it was thought proper to use the departur date, rather than when bills were later paid.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOSIAH BARTLETT ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 28th March 1776

Dear Sir I am just return'd from attending the remains of our worthy Friend Govr [Samuel] Ward to the place appointed for all the Humain ease His better part took its flight to world of Spirits on Tuesday morning . . . My last was by Express to Cambridge inclosing Bill Loading & invoice of your flour, which I wish safe to hand, but am somthing doubtful of it as the Coast is much infested with pirates its reported that a 40 gun ship is at the Capes The *Lexington* is gone down.² The M.C. [Marine Committee] have bot another ship which will be ready to sail in a week.³ The Battery

goes down to her stati[on] tomorrow⁴ & the Province ship will follow her in a few days.⁵ We have a report that our fleet is at South Carolina, but no certain advice of it. I suppose you vissited Boston in you way, pray give me a particular accot how you found matters there—. . . I expect them Devils from the other side the water very soon its said they will certainly be here by the middle of April—. . .

1. Dreer Collection of Signers, HSP.
2. The Continental brig *Lexington*.
3. Subsequently became the *Reprisal*.
4. The *Arnold* Battery, of the Pennsylvania Fleet.
5. The Pennsylvania Ship of War *Montgomery*.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776

Philadelphia, March 28.

We hear a tender, with ten or twelve swivels, fitted out by the *Phoenix*, is cruizing between Sandy-Hook and our capes, that she has taken two sloops and a brig off Egg-harbour; that they landed on Abscomb beach, where they plundered a house, inhabited by one Steelman whom they robbed and stripped of every thing, even to the clothes on the children's back.

By express from Lewistown we learn, that on Monday evening [March 25] a sloop of war and her tender came into our Capes.¹

1. The 44-gun frigate *Roebuck* and the *Maria* tender.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Thursday] 28th Mar.

at this time I was so exceedingly ill, with an inflammation in my Bowells, that it was not possible for me to attend to the duty of the Ship. However I desired Mr Leak the 1st Lt would get the Ship under sail and stand out to speak with several Vessels that appeared in the offing. He did so, and at 6 in the afternoon found the first to be Mr [George] Ball's Prize (a large New England Sloop in Ballast)² and concluded the two others were the *Lord Howe* & *Maria* Tenders. He was however undeceived about 8 in the Evening, when the *Maria* joind us, and informed us the other was a Rebel armd Sloop of 10 Guns & about 70 Men which he had had a narrow escape in getting away from.³ We imediately made sail in quest of her, but a dark night coming on, Saw nothing more of her. Returned back to Cape Henlopen.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.
2. "By the *Roebuck*; and ships under Captain Hamond's orders . . . *Dove*, T. Atkins, master, M. Dence, owner, from Plymouth, in New England, to Philadelphia, in ballast, destroyed off Cape Hinlopen," *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.
3. Continental sloop *Hornet*, Captain William Stone.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 28th March, 1776.

Capt. James Cocke is appointed and desired to view and examine Capt.

Hutchen's sloop Packett now lying in Baily's creek, near Jordan's, and if it shall appear to him that She is a proper vessel to be fitted up for an armed vessel as a Cruizer in James River, that he, together with the person to be named by the said Hutchings, proceed to value the s'd Sloop with her apparel and furniture, and report their proceedings, together with his opinion what it will cost to fit her for service, to the Comm'ee as soon as possible.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 142.

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO MATHEW CLARKSON AND MICHAEL HILLEGAS ¹

[Charleston] March 28th, 1776

Messrs. Mathew Clarkson & Mr Hillegas (Philadelphia)

Gentlemen/

(Per Post Rider)

Your letter of the 28th February was deliver'd to me on the 24th Inst and as I have occasion to lodge some Money in your Quarter, 'twill be very agreeable for me to advance the Cash you have requested me to do to Theobald Ent, but I fear, his non-appearance here may prove a balk to us all. – we have been long looking for the arrival of Capt. [Francis] Proctor & his Company of Artillery Men, of whom we have heard nothing since their departure from your City, and if a worse Fate has not attended them, are fearful they are Stop'd in their way by some one of the British Cruisers now Swarming on the Coasts of North America,² one of which a Tender from the *Falcon* Man Warr at North Carolina, was a few days since taken by the *Comet* Briggt of our province, who likewise nearly took a Schooner of the same Gang, but lost her by means of the Night & Shoal Water. Shou'd Ent ever reach this place you may depend on my doing the needful with him for your account, and bargain with him on the lowest Terms I possibly can for the land you have directed – for Publick News must refer you to the advices gone & going by Authority from Hence, and now Conclude – Gentlemen [&c.]

1. Josiah Smith, Jr.'s Lettercopy Book, 1771–1784, UNCL.

2. Proctor and his artillery company sailed from Philadelphia, February 16, 1776, and was taken by H.M.S. *Syren* on March 15, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Antelope Jamaica

Sir./.

March 28th: 1776

I have received two Letters from Mr [George] Jackson ² the one an Answer to a former One of mine of the 9th of September the other respecting the Ships under my Command Cruizing to intercept North American Vessels within the Limits of my Station both dated the 6th December likewise the late Act of Parliament for prohibiting all Trade & Commerce with the Rebellious Colonies & His Majestys Proclamation for the Distribution of the Captures; all which I shall pay due Attention to.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that since the Intelligence which I received in December last from Cape Francois in the Island of His-

paniola of the French making every Warlike Preparation there & of their expecting Seven Regiments & many Ships from Old France which I communicated to them by a Merchant Ship the 25th of last December and since that by two Pacquets – Captn Douglas of His Majs Ship *Squirrel*, who arrived the 6th of last Month from his Cruize brought me the following Intelligence “That there were a great Number of Men of War of the Line; & Troops lately arrived at Cape Francois from Old France & Martinaco” The Man who gave Captain Douglas the above Information; said, “he saw them at Cape Francois, & that he likewise saw Landed at that place a great Number of Troops & Ammunition, and that; after that he saw Troops Landed at Cape Nichola Mole under the Convoy of Two Frigates,” to the truth of which since his arrival at Jamaica he has made Oath to, before a Magistrate at Port Royal which Affidavit I inclose for their Lordships information.

Since this Man has been Sworn Captain Gardner has sent in a Schooner from Cape Nichola Mole which he took loaded with French produce & bound to Nantucket the Master of which Vessel inform’d him, that he saw at Cape Nichola Mole two French Frigates one of 36 the other of 20 Guns but they were Sail’d for the Cape, that very lately there where Eight Hundred Troops landed there & that there were Three Regiments more Dayly expected which Corresponds with the Latter part of the other Mans Deposition. Captn Gardners Letter I herewith Inclose

In consequence of the above Intelligence I thought it absolutely Necessary to communicate it to their Lordships as soon as possible & having no Vessel under my Command to send Home with an express, except the *Florida* Surveying Sloop (Lieut Cobb) which had I done it Mr Gauld could have done Nothing this Year in Surveying and I suppose would have received his 365£ from Government; the same as if he had been actually employed. The *Ferret* & her People being cast away & lost, & the *Diligence* at Pensacola I order’d the Naval Storekeeper to either Hire, or Purchase a Vessel of about 60, or 70 Tons for His Majestys Service. Hire, he could not, therefore I gave him an Order to Purchase a Schooner of about 70 Tons Burthen, a good going Vessel (which I have acquaintd the Navy Board of by this Opportunity, in case I should have occasion to send an Express to England, on the *Floridas* return from Cape Francois, who I had sent there to learn the Truth of this Information (as there was sufficient time for her going there & returning before I should have occasion to send her to Pensacola to carry on the Survey. She is since return’d Lieutenant Cobb, informs me that what the Man swore to was an absolute Falsity, and as to Troops what arrived were in Six large Merchant Ships and the Convoy of One Frigate only which were to Releive others, with some little addition to Strengthen the Island. therefor I shall employ the Schooner wch I have purchased & call’d the *Lady Keith* in assisting the *Maidstone* & *Squirrel*, in going inshore while on their Cruize to Intercept North American Vessels coming from Hispaniola, and as the *Florida* i[s] Mann’d out of the few Ships under my Command, which much Weakens them I have put my Nephew Mr Fra[n]cis L’Montais (who was acting Lieutenant of the *Antelope*) into her to Act as

Lieutenant 'til their Lordships Pleasure is known, and have order'd him to Compleat his Complement to Eighteen Men, and as he is a good Man, & well qualified for an officer, I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships as such & hope they will Honor him with a Commission. I hope my proceedings in regard to this Vessel will meet with their Lordships Approbation.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that since my last I have been Served with Three more Writs of Habeas Corpus; which I comply'd with for the Reasons I have before assigned and inclose for their information at-[tested] Copies of the Writs with the Petitions & Affidavit for their being Granted I've likewise had Fifteen Actions brought against me for the Detention of those People, on the Receipt of which I inclosed them to His Majestys Attorney General to defend the Cause; in behalf of the Crown, in answer to which he acquainted me, that I might depend on his best Services to the extent of his Proficinal [Provincial] Department, as Council, but as he never acted as Attorney, it would be necessary I should employ one; and likewise Solisited me; to Join a Gentleman of the Bar with him, which Letter I herewith Inclose

I further beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that the Attorney which I employed in consequen[ce] of being Served with those Writs of Habeas Corpus & Actions, for the Detention of those People in pursuance of their Lordships directions has render'd into me an Account amounting to the Sum of £146:2:6 Currency, which I have order'd the Naval Storekeeper to discharge, & by this Oppertunity have inform'd the Navy Board thereof which I hope their Lordships will approve & Inclosed is the Attorneys Bill for their Information -³ Since I have received the late Act of Parliament (agreeable thereto) I have order'd all such North Americans, who were of no use in condemning the Vessels, to be set at Liberty onshore

I further beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that as yet not one of the Nine Sail, sent in by His Majestys Ships *Squirrel* and *Maidstone* are Condemned, the Attorney General having given it as his Opinion, that the Six, wich were taken before the 1st of January 1776 are not Subject to Confiscation not[with]standing the[y] clear'd out from America, for some of the British Islands in the West Indies, Carried their Cargoes to Hispaniola, where they Sold them took in French produce, & were taken returning to the Rebellious Colonies. The Captains have since Fee'd another Council who is of opinion they are all liable to Confiscation, Copies of which Opinions: I inclose for their Lordships information⁴ & am sorry to acquaint them, that there are too many Friends to America; in this Island The Vessels are all Libell'd and will very soon be brought into the Court of Admiralty where I have not the least doubt of their being Condemned The Middle of this Month Two Briggs belonging to Newcastle on Delaware & Charter'd by the Congress, came into this Harbour, the former loaded with Flour & Bread, the Latter with Lumber, both of which I have Seized.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that the 22nd of last Month Captain [Alan] Gardner of His Majs Ship *Maidstone* applied for a Survey on

his Surgeon, he having a long while Labour'd under a Fistula, in consequence of which I order'd a Survey accordingly (the Report of which, with Captain Gardners Letter I inclose) wherein the Surgeons are of Opinion that a change of Climate is the only chance he has of recovery, agreeable thereto; I have given Captain Gardner an Order to Discharge him & have Appointed Mr William Bradford (the Surgeons First Mate of the *Antelope*) to Succeed him, & have likewise given Mr Richard Shepherd (the Surgeons Second Mate of the *Antelope*) a Warrant as first, all which I hope their Lordships will approve

With regard to the Dissposition of His Majestys Ships & Vessels under my Command, I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that the *Maidstone* arrived the 14th of last Month and Sail'd again the 11th instant, she wanted a great deal of Repairs, in her Masts; & Yards which occaision'd her to stay longer in Port than she otherwise would have done –

I have given Captain Gardner Discretionary orders, to Cruize off the Island of Henneaga, & use all possible means to Distress the Americans, observing the exceptions containd in the late Act The *Squirrel* has Careen'd, and is Haul'd off from the Wharf, & in a few Days will be ready to Sail, I shall give Captain Douglas orders to the same purpose, as those of Capt'n Gardner

The *Antelope*, in a few Days will Haul alongside the Wharf to Careen, after which I propose sending her to Cruize, & to Hoist my Flag onboard the *Maidstone*, when she comes in, as it will be her time to Careen as she will want to be intirely New Sheathed

The *Florida* I shall fit with all possible dispatch, & send her to Pensacola, to the Surveyior.

The *Lady Keith* Schooner is at present unloading a Store Ship and as soon as that Service is over, I shall send her to Cruize with the *Squirrel* & *Maidstone*, all of which I hope their Lordships will approve

Inclosed is the State & Condition of His Majestys Ships under my Command, & am, with respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. Second secretary of the Admiralty.

3. *Ibid.*, the account of Andrew Smith, the attorney, covered three pages and is endorsed, "1776 Attorneys Bill Amounting to the sum of £ 146:2:6."

4. See the two following entries.

"COPY OF A CASE WITH THE OPINIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL & THE HONORABLE RICHARD WELCH ESQR THEREUPON" ¹

[Jamaica, March 28, 1776]

By Orders from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Dated the 2d September 1775, Their Lordships did require and direct Admiral Gayton, to give Orders to the respective Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under his Command, to Seize all Ships and Vessels belonging to any of the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania The three

lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; or owned by the Inhabitants thereof; and to cause all Ships and Vessels, which should be Seized in the Cases before mentioned, to be carryed to some British Port, not within the said Associated Colonies; and there detained till further Orders, or be proceeded against according to Law, as the Nature of the Case should require.

Admiral Gayton, in pursuance of those Orders, sent Captain Alan Gardner in the *Maidstone*, and Captain Stair Douglass in the *Squirrel*, to Cruize off Cape Nicolas Mole, and put them in Execution –

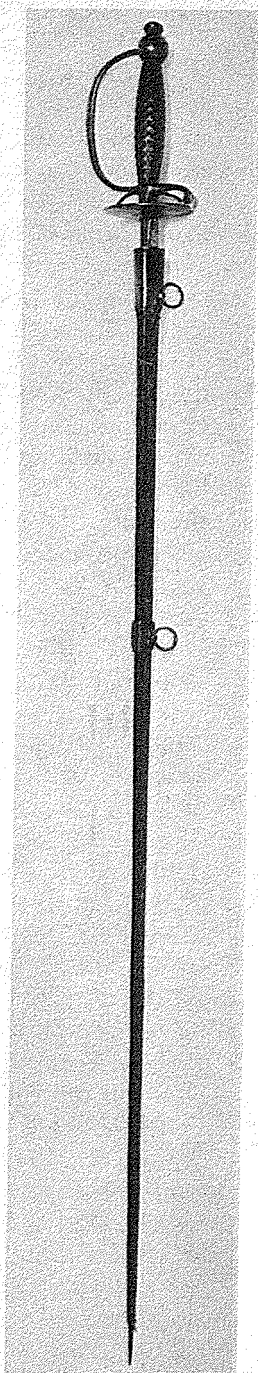
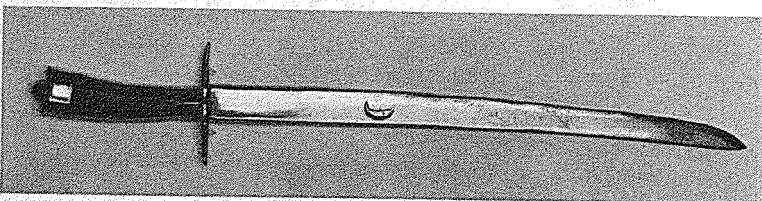
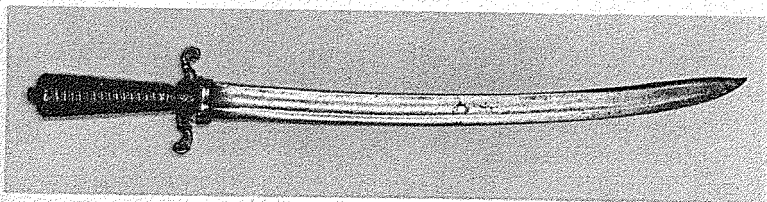
At the Time of Issuing the above mentioned Orders, Two Acts made in the Preceeding Sessions, commonly called the Restraining Acts, were in force, by which said Acts, it was generally intended to prevent any Goods Wares or Merchandizes, being carryed from any of the Provinces or Colonys of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, or Providence Plantation, New Jersey, Pensylvania the three lower Counties on Delaware Maryland Virginia and South Carolina to any other Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, Port or Place whatsoever, except to the Kingdoms of Great Britain or Ireland, or to some of the British Islands in the West Indies, to be laid on Shore there; and also to Oblige the Masters of all Vessels who shall lade or take on board any Goods, at any of the said Colonies, to give Bond and take out a Certificate thereof, in the Manner in the said Acts particularly mentioned, under the Penaltys in the said Acts mentioned and contained – See the said Two Acts –

On the 13th of December last, Captain Gardner Seized the Sloop *Dove*; whereof one Nicholas Bull was Master, as She came out of the Port of Cape Nicolas Mole, with a Cargoe of Sugar and Molasses, which She had taken in there. The *Dove* belongs to the Inhabitants of Rhode Island; had Cleared out from Rhode Island for Jamaica, on the 5th September 1775, with a Cargoe the Property of the Inhabitants of Rhode Island; The Master had given Bond and Obtained a Certificate pursuant to the above mentioned Acts, and had also got all the other proper Clearances for Jamaica; but instead of coming hither went into Cape Nicolas Mole, and Sold her Cargo there; where She took in the said Cargoe of Sugar and Molasses, and was on her return to one of the before mentioned Colonys, when taken by the *Maidstone*.

On the 20th December last Captn Gardner seized three other Vessells as they came out of Cape Nicolas Mole – Vizt –

The Sloop *Susannah*, of which Benjamin Appleton was Master; She belongs to an Inhabitant of North Carolina, and cleared out from Beaufort in North Carolina on the 6th November last for Jamaica, with a Cargoe on Board, the property of the Inhabitants of North Carolina: As she did not belong to any of the Colonies mentioned in the restraining Acts, She only gave the usual Bonds, and got the proper Clearances for Jamaica; but went into the Mole, and there Sold her Cargoe, and took Molasses on Board; and was on her return to North Carolina, when taken by the *Maidstone*.

The Sloop *Penelope*, John Werden Master, belongs to the Inhabitants



(Top) Hilt detail of Esek Hopkins' sword. (Right) Sword of Captain Simeon Sampson, Massachusetts Navy. (Bottom) Small swords popular for naval use.

of North Carolina, and cleared out from the Port of Roanoke in North Carolina, the 9th Day of September last for Antigua with a Cargoe on Board, the property of the Inhabitants of North Carolina; She Sailed with the proper Clearances for Antigua, but went into Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master Sold the Cargoe which he had cleared out for Antigua, and took on Board Molasses – He was on his return to North Carolina when taken by the *Maidstone*. –

The Schooner *Happy*, Eliphalet Smith Master, belongs to the Inhabitants of Philadelphia; cleared out from the Port of Bath Town in North Carolina, on the 8th Day of September last for Dominica, with a Cargoe belonging to the Inhabitants of North Carolina; and having got the proper Clearances Sailed for Cape Nicolas Mole, instead of Dominica, and at the Mole Sold her Cargoe, and took On Board Sugar and Molasses, with which, She was on her Voyage from the Mole to Virginia, when She was taken by the *Maidstone*. – N.B. The Sloop had not any Register when taken

On the 23d of December last Captn Douglass seized –

The Sloop *Cornelia*, Robert Sands Master; She belongs to the Inhabitants of New York, and cleared out from the Port of New York on the 24th Day of October last for Antigua; with a Cargoe belonging to the Inhabitants of New York; She Sailed with the proper Clearances for Antigua, but went immediately to Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master Sold her Cargoe, and loaded her with Molasses, And was on his return from thence to New York, when she was taken by the *Squirrel*.

On the 28th of December last, Captain Douglass also seized

The Sloop *Afee and Hannah*, Benjamin Bell Master, belonging to the Inhabitants of New York; She was cleared out from the Port of Beaufort in North Carolina, on the Ninth Day of September last, for Barbadoes, with a Cargoe on Board belonging to the Inhabitants of New York and North Carolina; and having got the proper Clearances, Sailed for Saint Eustatius, where She Sold her Cargoe, and from thence went to Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master bought a Cargoe of Salt, and was on Voyage from thence to New York, when She was taken by the *Squirrel*. –

On the 20th of January 1776, Captain Douglass in the *Squirrel* Seized The Schooner *Thames*, alias *Sally*, alias *Syrene*, Joseph Faribault Master; This Vessell belongs to Philadelphia, and the Master is a French Man, and when She cleared out at Philadelphia, he Obligated the Mate to Clear her out as the Master, for Jamaica, in Ballast; She then immediately Sailed for Cape Nicholas Mole, where the Mate Entered her as Master; from thence they proceeded to Leogan and took in a lading of Sugar and Molasses, and then went to the Port of Petit Gieaves [Goaves], where Faribault obtained a Set of French Papers for her as a French Vessell; which he might occasionally Shew to both French and English Ships of War, to protect him from Seizure, as Occasion required. – When he sailed from thence, his Destination was for some Port in New England, and when the *Squirrel* came in Sight, Faribault hid the English Register, Clearances &c, in some place so private, that the Captors have not as Yet been able to find them.

On the 28th January, Captain Gardner, in the *Maidstone*, Seized The Schooner *Dolphin*, Edward Manning Master, belonging to the Inhabitants of the Colony of Virginia, who had cleared out from Hampton in Virginia, on or about the 9th of September last for Grenada, with a Cargoe of Lumber, Bread and Flour on Board, belonging to the Inhabitants of Virginia. – The Master, having obtained from the Custom House the proper Clearance and Certificate Sailed to Grenada and delivered her Cargoe, and there obtained the proper Certificates for the Cancelling his Bonds at Hampton; and having cleared out from Granada in Ballast, for North Carolina Sailed from thence in the beginning of December last; But instead of going to North Carolina, proceeded immediately to Cape Nicolas Mole; where the Master took on Board a Cargoe of Sugar, Molasses and Coffee, and was on his Voyage from thence to North Carolina when taken by the *Maidstone*. – N B. This Schooner had also a Let-pass from the Governor of the Granadoes, as a Safe conduct from thence to North Carolina; Dated the 7th of December last. –

On the 2d of February 1776, Captain Gardner also Seized The Schooner *Nancy*, William Clark Master, belonging to the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island; who had cleared out from the Island of Nantucket in the Port of Boston, on the 9th Day of December last with Ballast and Stores for Jamaica. She proceeded to Cape Nicolas Mole, where the Master purcha[se]d and took on Board a Cargoe of Molasses and Rum, and was returning to Nantucket with that Cargoe, when taken by the *Maidstone* – N B No papers were found but a Short Clearance from Nantucket and her Register. –

These Nine Vessells were sent under the Care of Petit Offi[cers] to Port Royal Harbour, where they came under the Command of the Admiral. –

Afterwards, Captain's Gardner and Douglass returned from their Cruize, and soon after their Arrival, received the Act for Prohibiting all Trade with the American Provinces, and for repealing the restraining Acts. They, upon reading the Act, and considering, that the first taking of those Vessells had been in Obedience to the Admiralty Orders only, and not by Virtue of any Law, and conceiving that those Vessells were liable to forfeiture as American property, under the last mentioned Act, did on the 16th of February Instant, seize all the said Vessells, as they lay in the Harbour of Port Royal. –

The Sloop *Dove* was the only one of these Vessells, against which, any proceedings had been commenced in the Court of Admiralty; being the only one which was deemed Subject to any forfeiture, under the Restraining Acts; which Acts being now repealed those proceedings are Void. –

In that part of the Prohibitory Act which repeals the restraining Acts – there is the following recital – “And Whereas the Prohibitions and restraints imposed by the said Acts will be rendered Unnecessary by the Provisions of this Act.” – whereby it seems fairly implied, that it is not the intention of the Act to make Void all Forfeitures incurred under the former Acts; but on the Contrary, thereby to give a more effectual Method of recov-

ery, by making the Vessells with their Cargoes &c prizes, as if the Ships of open Enemys. – See Copy of the Law –

The Captors having some Doubts, how to proceed against the several Vessells they have so taken and Seized, as aforesaid. – Your Opinion is requested to the following Queres

1st Quere – Are all the above mentioned Nine Captures liable to Condemnation, by Virtue of the late Prohibitory Act, and the Seizure made in Consequence thereof? If all the said Vessells are not liable to such Condemnation, are any and which of them in that Predicament?

In giving our opinion on this Case, We shall reject the Consideration of State policy and State-Orders further than by observing that they can have no weight in a Court of Justice; unless it shall Appear they are warranted by Law. We know not of any Law or Statute authorising any of these captures previous to the restraining Acts and the present Prohibitory Act. We must confine our Attention to these Acts, and to such rules of Common Law as regulate their Construction. It does not Appear to us that any of the Vessells taken before the 1st of January 1776 were condemnable under The restraining Acts; for in respect to the Sloop *Dove*, she was only libel[ed] cautionarily and for the better securing the Penalty incurred by the Absentee proprietor thereof. Were it otherwise, that Act is now repealed and the Jurisdiction it created is repealed with it, so that no further proceedings can be thereupon had. The continuance of the restraining Acts is said to be rendered unnecessary, by the passing of and provisions contained in the Prohibitory-Act; We are at a loss to find any such provisions, without giving the Act a retrospection beyond the express Term of its commencement. It is a penal Act and we are restrain[ed] by every rule of construction from raising provisions out of intent unaccompanied with enacting Clauses, to give such intents Effect; Nay, the Clause which enables Vessels belonging to Inhabitants of the Prohibited Colonies to Sail from this Island before March, contradicts such supposed intents. As little we apprehend is to be inferred from the Indemnity-clause, which makes the Acts of the Captors legal. Instead of giving them or rather confirming a right of Seizure previous to the 1st of January 1776, it only indemnifies them for having possibly seized without such right. What they have done is made legal as to themselves but not legal as to the captures which are not thereby made liable to confiscation. Nor are any of the Men so taken, within the meaning of the bearing or super-numerary Clause of the Prohibitory Act. We therefore think the Vessels taken before 1776 not condemnable under this Act, but only such as have been taken since, which must be proceeded against in the Usual way.

2d Quere – What Mode of Proceeding so you Advise in Order to Obtain the Condemnation of such of the said Vessells, as you are of Opinion are liable there[by] If according to the different circumstances in which the Vessells were Seized, you should think that different Modes of proceed-

ings should [be] followed with different Seizures, please [to] point out the particulars –

This Quere is answered towards the Close of what has been said on the last. We think moreover these proceedings cannot be too soon instituted, As unnecessary Detention before prosecution may be productive of Inconveniences, in case Sentence of Condemnation should not be obtained. The detention of every Man not taken since the Operation And by Virtue of the last Act may probably Subject the Admiral and Captains to Actions. If the Vessels taken before the last Act are not also released so as to enable the Owners to take Advantage of the provisoes in their favor, this may also expose the Admiral and Captains to the like Attacks. How to avoid these difficulties is a question of prudence: A too ready release or too obstinate a retention is equally hazardous: perhaps the Claimants may not be averse to make proposals accompanied with General release, and this may be so managed as to come from themselves.

Tho Harrison
Richard Welch ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Enclosed in Admiral Gayton to Philip Stephens, March 28, 1776.
2. *Ibid.*, on the same date Counselor J. P. Baker gave a contrary opinion contending that, "these Vessels will all be condemned unless the Law of Nations is to give way to common Law Rules in our Courts of Admiralty: And Rebellion is to be Assisted by favorable Constructions of Acts of Parliament, . . ."

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT,
H.M.S. Experiment ¹

(a Copy)

Whereas the Sundry Transport and Victualing Vessels named in the Margin,² having on board them some Companies of His Majesty's Forces, sundry Stores and Provisions for the Use of the Kings Army and Navy at Boston in America, are now refitted, and ready to proceed on their Voyage

You are hereby required and directed to take under your care and protection, said Transports and Victualling Vessels, and also any other Merchant Vessels that may be bound there with Provisions and Stores for the use of the Kings Army and Navy; and Convoy them forthwith to Boston in America, stopping with them at Old Road St Kitts 48 hours to compleat their Water: You are strictly Commanded to make no delay whatever in executing this Duty and take notice that your activity and diligence herein may prove of the utmost importance to His Majesty's Service. You are also to take especial care none of the Convoy loose Company with His Majys Ship under your Command, and prevent as far as you may be able any of them being taken by the Rebels Cruizing Vessels.

On your arrival at Boston you are to put yourself, said Transport and Victualing Vessels, under the Command and Orders of Rear Admiral Shuldham, or the Commander in Chief of the Kings Ships at that Port; and are to

Deliver the Dispatches you will receive herewith as directed: for which this shall be your Order.³

Given under my Hand at English Harbour
Antigua the 28th March 1776

J. Young.

By Command of the Admiral. G L

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. *Argo*, *Brownshall*, *Killingsworth*, *Resolution*, *Manners*, *Felicity*, *Nanny*, *Generous Friend*, *Prince Rupert*, *Patty*, *Britannia*, *Winford*, *Liberty*.
3. *Ibid.*, "A List of Victualing Transports bound to Boston . . ." giving the inventory of each vessel, accompanied Young's order to Captain Scott. The convoy sailed on March 31.

29 Mar.

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

[Providence] Fryday Evening March 29. 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That the sum of Thirty six pounds Lawful Money be paid Mr Joshua Hacker for Forty five Water Casks for the Ships.

Reckoning [blank]

Meeting adjourn'd to Tuesday Evening

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

NATHAN MILLER TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Honrd Sir

Middle Town March the 29 1776

I Now with Inexpressable Anxiety of mind Take my pen To inform you of the Manuvers of the Minnisteral pirates Now Cruiseing about the Entra[n]ce of Our Bays they Have Taken no Less than Five Vessels within Four Days and Now in persute of One or Two More which I Doubt Not they will Bring in there whole Force which Cruize out at this Time might be Taken by One Brig of Twelve guns well maned which I think might Be Done in three Days there might Be men Enough Taken from the Trainee and Other parts of the Armeey if you Have No Vessel in providence there is a Brig Laying in the Gut at Howlands Ferry which would Answer the purpose Very well these Hints I Submit To your Wise Consideration and Subscribe my Self [&c.]

Nathan Miller

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 312.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS AGAINST THE CONNECTICUT ARMED BRIG *Minerva* ¹

Minerva, Capt. Giles Hall,

An armed Vessel for defence of Sea Coast

1775, Dec. 26 Andrew Johannet, Steward's account, at Saybrook

Sept. to Dec.	Cash &c from the State [<i>sic</i>]	109.17..6
	Disbursements	80.10.10½
	Balance	27.16..7½

Aug. to Dec	Provisions received and expended on board		
Oct. 9	Gov. Trumbull instructs Commissary Wadsworth to furnish Stores for six months		
Oct & Nov.	Bill of Mr. Wadsworth for the same £211: 7:0		
	Commissions 1½ per cent, 6 days } attendance 6/	5: 0:0	216..7..0
	Received of Johannet,	27:16:7½	
1776 Jan. 19	Treasury Order	188:10:4½	216..7..0
Dec. & Jan.	Bill of Thomas Lamb, Clerk		2.13..6
1775 Sep.	" G. Saltonstall, Oars		4.15..0
1776 Jan 25	Pay roll, Wages and Commissions		525..9..8½
Sep. to Jan	Capt. Hall's bill		2.16..6
March 29	do getting <i>Minerva</i> from Say- } brook to Rocky Hill		
"	Treasury order to Capt. Wm Griswold } for balance wages		15[2].10..0

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series; IX (*Minerva*) 6, ConnSL.

EXPENSES OF CAPTAIN GILES HALL OF THE CONNECTICUT BRIG *Minerva* ¹

[Lebanon, March 29, 1776] ²

The Colony Connecticut to Capt Giles Hall		Dr
1775		
Sept	To Horse hire and Exspences to New Haven	£1..0..0
Novr 3	To Horse hire and Exspences for myself } and Mr Phillips to go to Labanan	1..4..0
1776		
Jan'y	To Horse hire and Exspences to go to Hartford	0..6..0
	To Horse hire and Exspences to go to Labonan	0.12..6
		£3..2..6
	To Horse hire To hartford & Exspences	6
		3..8..6
	deduct the Charge for Horse hire & Expences twice to Hartford	.12..0
		£2.16..6

1. Conn. Arch., 1st. Series, IX (*Minerva*) , 5a, ConnSL.

2. Date established by summary of accounts against the *Minerva*.

ORDER ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE IN FAVOR OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM GRISWOLD ¹

Please to draw on the Treasurer for the sum of one hundred twenty five pounds twelve shillings, Bills in favor of Capt Wm Griswold, for & in payment of the Hire of the Brig *Minerva* employed the last Season as an armed Vessell in the Service & for Defence of the Sea Coasts of this Colony, under

the Command of Capt Giles Hall, according to Charter Party, as the Acco has been settled & allowed by the Govr & Council of Safety

[Lebanon] March [29] AD 1776

Test W^m Williams Clerk
£ 125 - 12 - 0

1. Conn. Arch., 1st series, IX (*Minerva*), 11a, ConnSL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 4 ho. P.M.

March 29th, 1776.

Mr. Nichols. Low informed the Committee that the sloop *James*, Richd. Puller master, with provisions for the West Indies, in return for military stores imported, is ready to sail, and requests a permit.

Ordered, That the sloop *James*, Richd. Puller master, be permitted to sail, and it is recommended to all friends to American liberty to afford every necessary aid to the said sloop and master.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 391.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO HIS WIFE ¹

[Extract]

New York, March 29th 1776. 7 oClock P.M.

I am again set down at the Bull's Head, and now go on to tell You that I went out with the Company that called on me and have taken a View of the greater Part of the Fortifications in this City, and am of Opinion that it would be extreemly difficult for an Army to force its Way into this Town from the Water for there are strong Breast Works raised across every Street that leads down to the Water at the Distance of About Ten and Twenty Rods from the Water behind each of which a considerable Number of Men may be placed and be kept covered from the Fire of the Enemy when at the same time they would be able to cut down the Enemy with their Shot surprisingly as they attempted to mount the Wharves, and on each Side of the City above it on the East River and on the West Side of it on the North River are strong Batteries to prevent any Ships geting above the City to do any Mischeif by Landing there, but least they should, there is a large Fort now building right back of the City in the Middle between the two Rivers, which goes on fast and will be soon done & when it is, it will command the Country from River to River and keep off any Enemy from that Quarter, and if any Enemy should get into the City this Fort will prevent there advancing into the Country, . . . The Ships that lie here are the same that You have heard off for sometime past, and there was a Gentleman of this City on Board the *Asia* last Night where was also the Capt of the *Phoenix* the Gentn was the first that gave them Intelligence that Genl How had left the Town of Boston, and they held up their hands & cryed out good God! if this is the Case we are perfectly in the dark. This does not look as tho How was comeing here for if he was, one would have thought he would have sent an

Advice Boat to have informd these Ships of it. We have Advice here that Genl How lay in Boston Harbour last Fryday, Night. . . .

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, SR.¹

[Extract]

New York 29th March 1776

Dear Papa We arrived at this city yesterday evening about 7 o'clock after a very pleasant and agreeable journey of three days. Doctr Franklin is a most engaging & entertaining companion of a sweet even & lively temper full of facetious stories & always applied with judgment & introduced apropos – he is a man of extensive reading & deep thought & curious in all his enquiries: his political knowledge is not inferior to his literary & philosophical: In short I am quite charmed with him: even his age makes all these happy endowments more interesting, uncommon & captivating. –

This morning we have been viewing the fortifications erected & erecting in and around this city: the ardor of the citizens is astonishing: gentlemen of the first and men of all ranks, work on these fortifications: the minute men receive their common pay about 2/2 – I was told by a gentleman, that some gentlemen not used to work with a spade, worked so long, to set an example, that the blood gushed out of their fingers – While this spirit continues the Americans will ever remain unconquerable. – The *Asia* lies about a mile & half from the town: she does not molest the vessels wh bring hay & provisions from the back country down Hudsons river & from the Jerseys, because by leave of the committee of Safety, provisions are allowed to be carried to them – If this were denied she could interrupt the provision vessels wh would occasion in the present situation of things great distress: at present My Lord Stirling informs me there are, including melitia; 6000 men: the rifle Battalion is arrived & the greatest part of the army under Gen. Washington is expected – we have no certain intelligence of the enemy having sailed from Boston: their destination is still uncertain. –

30th P.M. 7 o'clock –

. . . we have no certain advice of the fleet's being sailed from Nantasket road. Howe's delay is a proof that he does not intend to N.York & that he embarked his forces with great precip[it]ation: they have certainly abandoned the castle after blowing up some part of the fortifications. I am more & more convinced that the greatest part of Howes forces will go to Canada: the Ministry will certainly endeavour to repossess themselves of that country it will be giving Some eclât to their arms, and they may annoy the colonies extreamly from that quarter: the burning of a few defenceless seaport towns will render them contemptible only, not formidable – . . . General Washington will certainly come to N. York when Howe leaves the coast of N England: this is a central place & the best adapted for the head quarters of the American army: from this place detachments may be sent to the eastward, Canada, & Southward. –

Ch. Carroll of Carrollt[o]n

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Philadelphia] March 29, 1776

Since the joyfull News of the Reduction of Boston by the Forces of the united Colonies, my Mind has been constantly engaged with Plans and Schemes for the Fortification of the Islands and Channells in Boston Harbour. I think that if Cannon and Ammunition, in the necessary Quantities can possibly be obtained, Fortifications ought to be erected upon Point Alderton, Lovells Island, George's Island, Castle Island and Governor's Island, Long Island and Moon Island, and Squantum, the Heights of Dorchester and Charlestown and Noddle's Island. The Expence of the Quantities of Cannon necessary to make this Harbour impregnable, will be very great, But this must not be regarded.

Cannot Vesseaux de Frize be placed in the Channell? Cannot Hulks be sunk? Cannot Booms be laid across? Nay, cannot the Channell be filled up or at least obstructed with Stone?

Cannot Fire be employed as a Defence? I mean Fire Ships and Fire Rafts? Cannot Gallies or floating Batteries be used to Advantage?

We suppose that the Fleet and Army, under General Howe are gone to Hallifax with Design to go up the River of Saint Lawrence, as early as possible in the Spring. They may go up the River early in May, if not the latter end of April.

We are taking Measures to give them such a Reception as they ought to have.

The Baron de Woedke is gone to Canada, a Brigadier. A Lady at Braintree can furnish you with his Credentials which are very good. He is a great officer.

Pray appoint a Committee to look for Sulphur in our Colony, and let me know what Progress Salt Petre makes.

Favoured by Francis Dana, Esq.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I 216-17. The contents of this letter were repeated in Adams' letter of the same date to his wife, Abigail, Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 366.

JOHN ADAMS TO COTTON TUFTS ¹

My dear sir

Philadelphia March 29. 1776

We are impatiently waiting for Intelligence of further Particulars from Boston. We have only heard that General How [William Howe] and his Army have left it, and that General Washington with a Part of his, has taken Possession of it. How shall I express my Joy to you at this great Event! As we are in Possession of Dorchester Heights, Charlestown Heights and Noddles Island, I think there can be no Danger of their Returning to Boston very soon. I hope, the Instant they leave the Harbour, that our Colony will begin to fortify it in such a Manner, that no hostile Fleet shall ever enter it again. I hope We shall fortify upon the Heights of Point Alderton, upon Lovells Island, Georges Island, Governors Island, Castle Island, Dorchester

Heights and Noddles Island. I had like to have forgot Long Island And the Moon and Squantum, for there should be a Fortification upon each of these.

What can be done to obstruct the Channell between the West Head of Long Island and the Moon? But more especially, can nothing be done in Nantaskett Road, or in the Narrows to obstruct the Channell.

Will Gallies, carrying heavy Cannon be of any service? The Men of War seem to dread them exceedingly. They convey a sure shot and a terrible one, and they are very nimble and alert.

But cannot some thing be done, with Fire? Fire ships or sloops, or schooners, or Fire Rafts or all together, I should think might be used to some Purpose.

They are making Preparations to defend this River in this Way, I mean with Fire. They have several Fire Vessells besides several Hundreds of Fire Rafts ready. They would fill the whole River with Flame.

If the Bottom in the Narrows of our Channell is hard, I should think that the Vesseau de Frize, which is used in this River would do. They are large Frames of great Timber, loaded with stone and sunk. Great Timbers barbed with Iron, pointed and feathered, are placed in such a Posture as to intangle a Vessell, and shatter her, and sink her.

I hope that No Efforts, No Labour, or Expence will be spared in securing Boston Harbour against Enemies. It will be our Interest to do it, for as Privateering is begun and Trade will be opened, nothing will draw into our Country so many Prizes, so much Trade and Wealth as an impregnable Harbour. It will become the Principal Rendezvous in my Opinion of Privateers, and American Men of War, as well as a Principal Mart.

I hope, if Batteries, fixed or floating, Fire Works, Gallies, Vesseau de Frize, or all together can secure that Harbour, let it be done.

We are taking every Precaution to secure N.York, Virginia, Carolina and Canada, and by the Blessing of Heaven, I have great Hopes We shall do it with success. My Duty to Mrs.Tufts and Love to Mr. Cotton,² and believe me to be your sincere Friend.

John Adams

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 367-68.

2. Cotton Tufts, Jr.

JOHN MACPHERSON TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Honourable Gentlemen I have already taken the liberty, of pointing out my opinion of the many advantages which would arise to north america, by employing row gallies. Viz. The many superior advantages they have in calms, and little winds; the great advantage they have, in being able to take shelter from a superior force (in case of necessity) at all times, upon the coast of north america. As they draw less water, than vessels of the usual construction, and as I am persuaded I can construct them to sail much faster, than any vessels in great Britain; at least before the wind. These, with other considerations, led me to undertake to take, or destroy, every british ship of war, on the coast of north america, with twelve row gallies

only. Which command was promised to me, by Honble Messrs [Stephen] Hopkins, [Peyton] Randolph, & John Rutledge. I sincerely believe, had I been expeditiously furnished with those vessels, there would have been few british ships of war, now on the coast of america, to molest our trade. I am still ready to undertake the same charge, and will risk my life, and every far-thing I possess on earth, on my success.

Or if more agreeable to the Honble Congress, I will fit out two gallies at my own expense, the Honble Congress furnishing me with timber, guns, powder &ca, for which I will pay before my departure, and will risk my reputation, that I will take or destroy, an English man of war in avery little time. If I do not succeed, I do not wish to be reimbursed one penny. If I do, I should be glad the Honble Congress, would grant me a commission, for such a command, bearing date from the time that command was promised me, and that they would pay to my officers and men, the full value, of the first men of war I should take; or the estimated value of the first man of war I should destroy. I am little concerned, about any mercenary reward to my self. I should Ill merit the confidence of the Honble continental Congress did I doubt their honour. Twelve row gallies will not cost near so much money, as the four frigates now building here.

I hope the Honble Congress, will not be offended; by my beging they will be expeditious, in fixing the matter with me. I am Honourable Gentlemen, with sincere esteem for your august body [&c.]

[Philadelphia] March the 29th 1776.

John Macpherson

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 29-30, NA.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Friday] 29th [March]

Took out of the Prizes every thing that could be of use to the Ship, and then destroyed the Vessels.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

MEMORANDUM OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.¹

Roebuck at Cape Henlopen the
29th March 1776

Enclosed Captain [Henry] Bellew a Copy of Admiral Graves Private Signals, And appointed Mr. Phillips 3d Lieutenant in the Room of Lt. [George] Ball taken by the Rebels The Same day Mr Geo. Edwards had an order to Act in the Room of Philips prom[ot]ed.

1. Hamond Papers, Orders issued, UVL.

THOMAS AND JOHN DORSEY TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER¹

Sir

March 29: 1776.

Mr Richard Dorsey informs us that there is a Vacancy for a Lieut. of Marines on Board the Tender now fitting out at Baltimore Town, and that

he intends Applying to the Council of Safety for that place – We know he has been active in the Cause of Liberty from the Begining of our Unhappy Disturbances, And has been for some time a Midship man on Board the *Defence*, Cap Nicholson can inform of his Conduct since he has been with him – If it has been such as will entitle him to preferment, We shall be much obliged to you for any Service you may be to him. We Are Respectfully Sir [&c.]

Thomas Dorsey Jn^o Dorsey

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, March 29th, 1776.

Mr. Benjamin Pollard is appointed Lieutenant of Marines of the River Galley, commanded by Capt. [George] Muter, but not to enter into pay 'til he receives Instructions from the Comm'ee.

Same appointment to Mr. Thomas Merriwether, as first Lieut. of Marines, in the Cruizer for York River, commanded by Capt. [Thomas] Lilly.

Ordered, that notice be published in the *Virginia Gazette*, that on Monday 15th April, the Comm'ee will proceed to the appointment of officers for the several companies of Marines, to be employed in the Naval Department.

Ordered, that the committees of the counties of Nansemond and Isle of Wight be desired severally to appoint a person to take possession of the Estate of John Goodrich, the Elder, that may be found in their respective counties, causing an inventory and appraisement to be made and returned to this Comm'ee, and that they agree with each such person to superintend the management of the s'd Estate so as to yield the best profit, accountable to this Comm'ee, that the s'd Estate and profits may remain a security to the County for Mr. Goodrich's accounting for the money by him rec'd of the Treasurer for the purchase of Powder.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 143–44.

JOHN STERRATT & COMPANY TO HEWES & SMITH ¹

Gentm

Edenton 29 March 1776.

Inclosed you have Mr John Crocketts order on Saml Johnston Esqr for 1987 lb powder or the value thereof in money. The Congress for this Govermt may take the whole at Ten shillings pensilvania Cury p pound, or deliver as much powder to the Committee of Philadelphia or Baltimore for our acct – This we think will not be considered high if the risk is fairly Calculated as it cost 10/ pr lb in the West Indies and little or no benefits can now arise from the privelege of Shipping the Value – But if it shoud we wish to be allow'd no more than other private adventurers shall and have been allowed in the other Collonies – we direct You to Dispose of it to the public only as it was imported for that purpose – If you can procure Vessels or Charter at the rate of Ten pounds pr thousand freight to the West Indias we desire you to purchase White oak Staves & headings & ship the amount of

the privelege as soon as you can and Consign the Same to Mr Saml Roddy who will soon be here in order to go out with the first Vessel to some of the French West India Islands – If you find you cannot gett Vessels on these terms soon You will please apply the price of the powder One fifth to the order of Geo Kerr & Co Calepoint Virga and the remainder as we May hereafter direct – Be pleased to Address to us, Merchts in Baltimore & advise us from time to time of your proceedings. We are with due respect Gent [&c.]

Jn^o Sterratt & Co

I. NCDAH.

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

Newbern, March 29.

On Thursday last arrived here, in 12 days from St. Eustatia, in the armed schooner *Caswell*, Mr. John W. Stanly, of this place. He sailed from Ocracock Bar the 26th of January, in the brig *Sally*, Captain Ridge, and the 12th of February made the island of Martinique; where the vessel was seized by the *Pomona* frigate, Captain Young; while she lay becalmed about two miles from the town of St. Pierre, and while Mr. Stanly was gone on shore to obtain permission to anchor there. The *Pomona* had anchored that night in the harbour of St. Pierre, and came out disguised like a merchantman. A sloop from Fairfield, in the same situation, was taken in company with the *Sally*.

Among the many vessels seized under the prohibitory act are the following, viz. From New York, the sloop *Sally*, Doge, *Charming Polly*, Truxen [Thomas Truxtun] *America*, Campbell, and schooner *Polly*, Alstine.

Rhode Island, —, Capt. Sweet,

Fairfield, sloop *Diamond*, Whitney.

Salem, brig *America*, Lambert.

Philadelphia, ship *Nancy*, Kirby, and brig —, Gregg.

North Carolina, brig *Sally*, Ridge, and schooner —,

James Green, cleared by Governor Martin.

Georgia, a brig, Capt. Deane.

Virginia, a brig.

South Carolina, brig *Union*, Boyd.

Connecticut, a sloop, Capt. Jones.

New York, a sloop, Capt. Gibbs.

The cruisers are so exceedingly vigilant among the Islands, that few vessels escape them. Notwithstanding which, a brig from Baltimore, a ship (*Liberty*, Capt. Monro) from Philadelphia, and two pilot boats from the same place, had got in safe to St. Martin's and St. Eustatia early in this month.

The following quantities of powder were shipped from Martinique and Guadaloupe within a few weeks, besides large quantities from the Cape and St. Eustatia which has caused that article to be as high as 5s. 6d. a pound, and none now to be had even at those extravagant prices.

For New London	20000
For Maryland	7000
For Piscataway	6000
For Ditto	5000
For Ditto	5000
For Rhode Island	9000
For Casco Bay	3000
Five sail for New London, sent out by N[athaniel] Shaw, on account of the United Colonies,	40000
For Plymouth	4000
For South Carolina,	20000
For North Carolina,	2200
	<hr/>
	121200

A brig belonging to New York, with wines from Lisbon, got into St. Eustatia the 11th inst. The master says a requisition was daily expected to be made by the Court of Great Britain for the delivery of all American vessels in the port, which would undoubtedly be complied with. In Martinique and Guadaloupe there are at this time about 8000 troops, not long since arrived from France, who are industriously employed in repairing their old fortifications, and erecting new ones, particularly on the heights that command the plain through which the British troops passed to the back of Fort Royal when they reduced that place.

The French appear exceedingly friendly to the American cause, which they would have promoted by a much larger supply of arms and ammunition than they have hitherto imported, had they not been doubtful of the American submission to the claims of Parliament, and of course a discontinuance of the demand for warlike stores, which in that case would remain in the hands of the importers.

The common toast among the French, from the General down to the merchants, is *the independence of America*; until which is declared, they say our war with England can only be looked on as a domestic broil, unworthy the public countenance of those powers who would cheerfully enter into friendship and alliance with them, could it be done with propriety. It is a truth, that a certain great man in those islands wishes to have the honour of transmitting to his Most Christian Majesty an application from the Continental Congress to the Court of France, which he would engage should be presented and answered, *provided it was dated the first year of the republic of America*.

On the seizure of the before-mentioned brig, Captain Ridge, a memorial was presented to the Count de Choiseul, Governor of Martinique, and the General Nozier, representing the taking loaded provisions, so much wanted in the island, and within so small a distance of their harbour, as contrary to the established custom, distressing to the inhabitants, and insulting to the flag of his Most Christian Majesty, praying that orders might be given to prevent the like in future. The General ordered two frigates immediately

to receive their full complements of men, and to cruise for the security and safe conduct of American vessels bound into that island, and demanded by a flag of truce a restoration of the brig and sloop taken as before-mentioned. These frigates protected several vessels while Mr. Stanly was there, particularly Captain Denison of this port.

A privateer sloop of 10 guns, and a fine brig of 16, were fitted out, the first in Martinique, the second in St. Eustatia, and sent to America; and it is not to be doubted but that any continental armed vessels that might cruise in those seas, would be admitted into the French ports, and protected while there.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

March 1776	Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina
Wednesdy 27	Anchd here the <i>Palliser</i> Transpt and an Arm'd Schooner.
Thursdy 28	Fresh Breezs with Rain Saluted Genl Clinton with 15 Guns on his coming onboard. Empd Occasly Mode & Cloudy with rain at 12 sent the Boat Man'd & Arm'd on a Secret Expedition
Friday 29	5 AM Boat Retd Anchd here the <i>Kitty</i> Transport.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

30 Mar.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown, March 30, 1776

My Dear Sir, — When I wrote you last I was at Plymouth sick and confined. I did not return to this place till three days ago. On my way Mrs. [Mercy] Warren and I lodged at Braintree, and had the pleasure of finding Mrs. Adams and family well. Here I find the world turned topsy turvy to such a degree that I can scarcely realize the present appearances of things; the enemies army fled and our own marching into other colonies. The last division of the British fleet sailed on Wednesday last [March 27]. I had a view of them without the light house from Pens Hill, about sixty or seventy sail. They made a pretty appearance. What their destination is we are not able to ascertain. The general opinion is that they are gone to Halifax, and some circumstances seem to confirm it. I presume before this you have had a full account of their principle embarkation, their fright and their depredations, etc., etc. Two or three ships only, with one of their store ships ashore on George's Island, remain in the harbour. Four hundred of our men under the command of Colonel [Benjamin] Tupper were to have gone last evening on Petticks Island with some artillery, to render their station uneasy, and perhaps destroy the store ship. I suppose the storm may have prevented. What is to be the next movement of the British fleet and army, I can't devise. There is no reasoning on their conduct and I must leave



James Warren.

abler heads than mine to conjecture. The General proposes to leave only four or five regiments here. This number we think very small, considering that we have been first and principally marked for vengeance and destruction, and the possibility and even probability that the attack may be renewed, as well as the necessity of fortifying the harbour of Boston. But we must submit. We have a committee gone to view the harbour of Boston, and to report the best method of securing it. Whether that will be best done by fortifications or by obstructing the channels, or by both, I can't say, but surely it ought to be done effectually and speedily. Who is to command here I don't learn. General Ward perhaps, if his resignation (which I hear he has sent) don't prevent, by being accepted before a subsequent letter he is said to have wrote reaches you . . .

I congratulate you on the success of our arms in North Carolina. We hear nothing from Quebec. As the seat of war is changing you will of course have shorter letters in future. All kinds of intelligence I am now to expect from you. When shall we hear that we are independent? Where are the Commissioners? What is become of our fleet, etc., etc. Remember you have not wrote me a long time. My compliments to all friends.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 217-19.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU ¹

March 1776

[In Nantasket Road]

Monday 25.

at 2 AM let go the best bower under foot at 9 hove it up at 10 fired Gun and made the signal for sailing at 1½ past weighed & made sail for sea at Noon Boston Lt House WbS 3 Miles hove to wating for the fleet under my Convoy.

Fresh breezes & Cloudy

at 2 pm Made sail the fleet in Company at 5 close reefed the Foretopsail & first of the Main

Tuesday 26.

at 6 Cape Ann bore NbW½W 6 leagues the fleet in Company at 12 light winds with Snow AM fair the Convoy in Company.

Moderate & Cloudy at times

at ½ past 2 P M shortened sail for the fleet at 3 fired a Gun for the Vessells a head to drop into their station at 10 shortened sail for the fleet

Wednesday 27.

AM the fleet in Company, at 7 set the Mizentopsail at 9 out 2d reef of the Topsails the fleet in Company at Noon. Fresh gales & Cloudy

at 1 PM fired at the Head Vessells to drop into their station at 4 took in 2d reef of the Topsail at 9 close reefed them the fleet in Company.

Thursday 28.

at 5 AM out 4th reef of the Main set the Mizentopsail at 9 saw from the Masthead the land bearing NEbN and out 3d reef of the Topsails, At Noon Cape Sable NNW

distance 3 leagues & shortened sail for the fleet to come up.

Fresh breezes & Cloudy at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 fired & made the Signal for the sternmost Vessells to make sail at 6 reefed the Topsails the fleet in Company.

Friday 29. at 6 AM the fleet all up let the reefs out of the Topsails at 8 saw Sambro light House NEbE 6 leagues at 10 shortened sail for the fleet, at Noon the fleet in Company. First and Middle parts fresh gales and squally with Snow latter light Winds. at 1 PM came to with the best bower in 10 fm water below Mauger's beach, veered to a whole Cable with most of the fleet under convoy within me, at 3 the Master Attendance came on board.

Saturday 30. At 10 AM hove in to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable at Noon bore short. Light Winds and Variable at 1 PM weighed and made Sail with the store ship Transports & several of the fleet under Convoy at 5 Anchor'd off the dock Yard in 10 fm & veered to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable found riding here his Majesty's Ships *Orpheus*, *Cerberus*, *Kingfisher* & *Halifax* Schooner.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

SAILING PERMISSIONS FROM RHODE ISLAND GRANTED BY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor

March 5

Brig. *Industry* Edward Woodman Master to proceed to the foreign West Indies for Salt on the Colony's Acco.

Sloop [blank] William Lebaron Master the same Voyage

Both Vessels fitted by the Come for the Co of Newport

Schooner *Sally* Lavis Sisson Master for New-York.

Sloop *Diamond* John Norris Master for New-York.

7th

Sloop *Snow-Bird* David Lawrence Master, Maryland.

Sloop *Industry* Nathan Pettis Master for Connecticut.

8th

Sloop *America*. Ephraim Carpenter Master. Pennsylvania.

9th

Sloop *Greenwich* Isaac Upton Master. For New-York.

11th

Sloop *Diamond* Jonathan Carpenter. Master. for New-York.

12th

Sloop *Victory* William Rhodes Master. for Connecticut.

15th

Sloop *Betsey* George Coggeshall Master. for New-York & Connecticut.

18.

Sloop *Favourite* Abner Coffin Master. for Philadelphia. in Ballast

19.

Sloop *General Washington* Thomas Pickering Master for South-Carolina with Passengers & Stores for the Continental Service.

27.

Sloop *King Bird* Ebenezer Hill Master for Long-Island.

28.

Sloop *George* James Aborn Master for Connecticut with 16. Hhds Lime. Outward

Cargoes —In the Sloop *Polly* Simon Smith Master for Surinam.

March. 25. 300. bbls Flour, 65. bbls. Fish, 16 Hhds. ditto, 15 C Staves, 2000. Ropes Onyons, and 100 Boxes Sperma Caeti Candles. Owned by John Brown.

30. In the Sloop *Defiance* John Chace Master for South-Carolina. 700. Gallons N.E. Rum, 50 Casks Cyder, 6 bbls Oyl, 30 Boxes Sperma-Caeti Candles, 237. Bunches Onyons, 1000 lb Chocolate and 1000 lb Coffee Owned by John Brown.

1. R.I.Arch. These sailing permissions began on March 5, 1776, or at least that is when the record begins, and continued without a break until the British occupied Newport and blocked up Narragansett Bay in December, 1776. For permissions through July 4, 1776, see Appendix A.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1776

Providence, March 30.

The ministerial Fleet on this Station, which sailed from the Harbour of Newport on a Cruize Wednesday and Thursday Se'nnight, returned the day following with two Prize Sloops, both from New-Haven, with Provisions, one of them bound to the West Indies, the other to the Eastward. — They have since, it is said, taken three other Prizes.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE ¹

March 1776 Brentons Point SBW, and the Flagg staf at the Fort EBN

Thursday 28 Sail'd the *Charlotte* Tender.
P M came in the *Hawke* and *Charlotte* Trs with 2 Prizes Vizt the Sloop *Hanah*, Jno Tradwell, Mastr from Surinam with Mollasses, Sugar, Coffe and Coco, bound to Providence, Do Sloop *Greyhound* Jno Askin Mastr from Philadelphia with Flour belong to Dartmo

Friday 29 A M Sail'd the *Bolton* and *Fortune* Tender
First and Mid part do Wr latter fresh Breezes and Cloudy
Saturday 30 A M came in the *Bolton* Armed Brigg with a Sloop Prize *Snow Bird* ² Davd Laurence Mr from Baltimore belongg to Providence with Flour Iron and Bread

First part fresh Breezes and hazy with Sleet Mid do lattr
Rain P M came in H M Sloop *Nautilus* with a Schooner
Prize & Sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. The *Hannah*, *Greyhound* and *Snow Bird* are listed in Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484, but with no additional information than that given in the journal. The owners' bond for the *Snow Bird* was taken March 7, 1776, at Providence.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

March 30th, 1776.

The Committee considering of the best method to preserve the stock on Staten Island, if a fleet should arrive and attempt depredations, are of opinion that it should be removed to Jersey, on any appearance of an enemy.

Ordered, That Mr. Bancker get two good scows built, to have them in readiness to remove stock or Jersey troops to that Island.

Die Sabbati, 4 ho. P.M. March 30th, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. Stephen Rapalye be permitted to go on board his Majesty's ship *Phoenix*, with the port master, to demand his schooner lately seized by order of Captain Parker, he having been sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

A letter from Genl. Thompson was read and filed, in the words following, vizt:

Gentn. – A number of troops are arrived, and more are hourly expected who must be quartered in the city, and as I understand that many of the inhabitants who have quitted the town have left part of their furniture in their houses, I must request that you will give such directions as you may judge best for securing the property of those people whose houses are or shall be occupied as barracks for the troops; and you will much oblige, gentlemen [&c.]

Wm. Thompson.

New-York, 30th March, 1776.

To the Committee of Safety.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 393.

MEMOIRS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[New York] 30th [March]

They arrived at Turtle Bay,² disembarked, and marched into the city at noon. The transports fell down to the city wharves, and landed the baggage,&c. Gen. [William] Thompson and Lord Stirling, with some New-York and New-Jersey troops, were in the city; and works were constructing in and around the city, on Long-Island, and at Horn's Hook; the command of the whole devolved on our General. The *Asia*, British man-of-war, then lay off in the harbour, with the *Lady Gage*, of 20 guns; but on the arrival of the

brigade, the *Asia* moved further down, just out of shot. Our General put a stop to the intercourse between the inhabitants and the ships, which had, until then, been kept up.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 36, 37.

2. Heath's brigade of five regiments and an artillery company which had sailed from New London March 27, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a., 30th March, 1776

Resolved, That Mr. [Samuel] Howell, Mr. [John] Nixon, & Capt. [Robert] Whyte, be a Committee to look out for two Vessels most proper for sinking in the passage between the Chevaux-de-Frise, and make Report of their proceedings to this Board.

Resolved, That Mr. [Samuel] Morris be requested to purchase a sufficient Number of Logs for building two Piers, for fixing the Boom to for obstructing the Navigation.

That Capt. Whyte & Mr. Morris contract with some persons to build the said two Piers.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, in favour of Lieut. [John] Hennessey for £4 10, for Waggon hire, in bringing Seamen from Brumswick [New Brunswick] to this City.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 530, 531.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Philada March 30th 1776

Dear Sir You will find herein an Invoice & bill of Loading for Sundry Merchandize I have shipped onboard the Sloop *Betsey* Capt John Tucker which is Consigned to you & is intended for Sale in the Island of Bermuda provided the Sloop can be admitted to land the same with Safety there, and I think there is not much reason to doubt of your being able to accomplish that point, as the Island will probably be in want of the Cargo which is also cleared out from the Jerseys previous to the 25th March, consequently does not come within the late Prohibitory Act of Parliament, however Capt Tucker will put in at the West End of the Island where there is no Custom House & he will directly apply to Henry Tucker Esqr to whom I have given him & you letters, this Gentn I expect will be able to inform you of every thing you wou'd wish to know respecting that Island, and I flatter myself he will be willing to afford you all the assistance & advice you can stand in need off, One grand point to be accomplished is to procure a New Register for the Sloop *Betsey* which I hope may be obtained by pleading that her first Register is lost, and as she was built and originally Registered in the Custom House in Bermuda and it does not appear in that office that ever the property was Changed I think they can have little objection to renewing that Register from the Record, perhaps the former Owner may be willing to lend

his Name or if that cannot be Ventured on Capt Tucker must have her Registered in his Name as a Resident in that Island which will effectually Cover the property.

If you succeed in obtaining a Register for her which must be dated before the 1st Jany 1776, but the farther back the better, I think you had in that case best to make the remainder of your Passage in her, but here I must observe that I have pointed out some business for Capt Tucker to execute which if he can accomplish will oblige him to leave the Sloop, in that case you & he can either appoint the Mate or procure another good Master to go in her, I think the latter wou'd be best, and that if you go in her You shou'd take a New Master, Mate & hands clearing her out from Bermuda for London and making them believe you are bound there, (except the Master who shoud know better) – Capt Tucker will very soon know whether he can execute the business I have pointed out to him and if he cannot do that he will Stick by the Sloop, he is directed to be govern[e]d entirely by your orders in writing, and if she is Registered in his Name and he leaves her You will then see that he signs proper instructions as owner to the New Master. If on your arrival at Bermuda you find thare is no safety or protection there for either Yourself, the Sloop or Cargo you will doubtless proceed on, direct for your destined Port in Europe without loss of time, only in such case I wou'd wish Capt Tucker to remain in Bermuda if he can do the intended business, and another good Captain can be immediately got, if not he must go on; but if you find safety and protection for yourself, Vessell & Cargo, I think you had best in such case to Land & make sale of the Cargo or put it into proper hands for Sale none can be properer than Mr Tucker if he will Act therein, and procure as much Money or good bills of Exchange to be advanced you thereon as you possibly can,

I imagine this Cargo will sell directly for ready Money and that you may receive the whole in hard Money or bills, whatever you do receive must be put to the Credit of the Indian Contract, and if you leave any part unsettled You'l direct the same to be Accounted for to me hereafter, I have also written Mr Tucker to pay you in hard Money or good bills, a ballance due to me on a former Cargo of provisions I sent thither and whatever you receive on this Account please to give Mr Tucker a draft on Messrs [John] Alsop, [Philip] Livingston, [Francis] Lewis & myself for that Amount you Crediting the Indn Contract for the same, These points Settled, If you cannot get the *Betsey* a Bermuda Register or if you determine not to proceed farther in her, order the Captain of her to proceed from Bermuda for Hamburg and there put himself under the care of Mr John Parish untill he receives further orders from me or from Willing Morris & Co but if you do obtain for this Sloop a Bermuda Register I think you cannot do better in that case than to proceed in her from that Island to Bourdeaux clearing her out for London as already mentioned for by doing this you save the trouble and expence of Chartering any other Vessell, and her Register, Clearance for London with orders suitable from the Ostensible Owner named in the Register will make her as Safe a Conveyance as any can be. Shoud you pro-

ceed in this manner you will not have Occasion for this Sloop at Bourdeaux as I shall send you others to Answer your purpose, therefore I wish you to order her from thence to Hamburg as already mentioned to wait my farther orders or those of my House, as we have the public Service to attend to in that quarter but shou'd you find it necessary to detain her & not send her to Hamburg inform Mr John Parish thereof by a few lines to prevent disappointment.

Shou'd you find it necessary to Charter a Vessell in Bermuda to carry you to Bourdeaux You are Authorized to do so by the Secret Committee and your Contract will be made good by them Mr Tucker will assist you to do this on the most reasonable terms, but I hope it will not be necessary. If you transact any business in Bermuda I think you will do well to establish a Correspondance with some Gentln there on whom entire dependance can be had, who wou'd undertake to keep a look out for such Vessells as you may order to Call at the West end of the Island for advice and as I shall then lodge such intelligence for the Captains as I may then think most likely to bring them safe into Port, but at all events I think you had best establish this matter & let them call there, particularly the Sloop *Betsey* if you send her back from France, and if she goes to Hamburg I shall take care of that because Tucker must there resume the Command

I do not recollect any thing more that is necessary for me to add at this time except to assure You that I am Dear sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

To Silas Deane Esqr Passenger in Sloop *Betsey*

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

NARRATIVE OF WILLING, MORRIS & CO.'S CONTRACT WITH THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract] [Philadelphia, September 19, 1775 – March 30, 1776] ²

In September 1775 Willing Morris & Co entered into an agreement with The Honble Congress by their Committee appointed for that purpose, to deliver them Certain Arms & Ammunition they had written for by the Ship *Lion*, Capt [John] Wilson,³ provided she arrived safe with the Goods, on which they received an advance of Eighty thousd Dollars. This Ship arriving in Europe at the time the Foreign Courts were most watchfull to prevent the Exportation of such Articles from their Dominions, Capt Wilson was disapointed altho' he applied to different Merchants in Spain, France & Holland. and was obliged to return without the Goods bringing back the Specie & bills intended to pay for the purchase.

Congress thought proper to accept the latter and directed the Secret Committee to Renew the Contract which was done in Feby 1776. Mr John Ross of Philada Mercht was half owner of the Ship *Lion* & Consequently half Interested in the Contract tho' not named therein. To prevent further disapointments, he determined on a Voyage to Europe to prosecute this & other business. We purchased afine Brigt in which he went [passenger] [Meanwhile] Willing Morris & Co . . . made application for

leave to Export Provisions (during the time of the prohibition) on the Continental Account & Accordingly obtained permits for the following Cargoes –

One p Ship <i>Morris</i> ⁴ Cap [Thomas] Bell. Cost p Inv[oic]e	£2560. 2 .7
One p Ship <i>Nancy & Polly</i> ⁵ Capt Wade	3105.15 .8
One p Ship <i>Aurora</i> ⁶ Capt [Jacob] Getshius	4474.13.10
One P Ship <i>Clementine</i> ⁷ Capt [Patrick] Brown	3036.12 .41½
One p Ship <i>Neptune</i> ⁸ Capt. [Robert] Collins	4569.16 .0
One p Ship <i>Sampson</i> ⁹ Capt Farquharson	6983.19 .7
One p Ship <i>Lion</i> ¹⁰ Capt [John] Wilson	4441 .5 .2
	<hr/> £29172 .5 .21½

This entire Sum was supplied by Willing Morris & Co and it is the Proffit or loss on the Cargoes that belongs to the Continent the design being to replace for W M & Co in Europe the Money they had drawn for, to serve the Public and the Money Mr. [William] Duncan was to lay out in Hamburg ¹¹ & the Exchange was to be Estimated at the same rate the bills had been supplied that is 175 pCt.

Willing Morris & Co therefore Charge Congress in a Contract acct for the Cost of these Cargoes

£29172 .5 .21½

& for the Cost of 601 Bolts of Canvass Stg .

£3094,15 .7 a 175 [Pr] Ct

5415.17 .3

34588 .2 .51½

2057.10 .2

& for Cost pd Mr Gibbs the Ship *Auroras* pct

£3,6645.12 .71½

1. Robert Morris Papers, HUL.

2. These dates are approximate, the first being the day the Secret Committee was elected, and the latter the probable date that the last of these vessels sailed for Europe.

3. Captain John Wilson in the ship *Lion* had cleared Philadelphia ostensibly for Falmouth on July 24, 1775, *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 24, 1775.

4. The ship *Morris*, of 250 tons burden, was owned by Willing, Morris & Co. The date of her sailing was sometime in February 1776, *Public Advertiser*, London, June 11, 1776.

5. The *Nancy and Polly*, of 120 tons burden, was owned by Thomas Wharton, Jr., Ships' Registers, HSP. She had arrived from St. Vincents in ballast under Captain Woolman Sutton about October 20, 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 25, 1775.

6. The *Aurora*, Captain Thomas Read, had arrived from London October 5, 1775, and had brought the news of the two unarmed munition brigs sailing from London for Quebec; news which induced the first naval efforts of the Continental Congress, *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 11, 1775. She sailed under Captain Getsheus and was in the river Delaware ready to go under convoy of the Continental fleet in January 1776. See Volume 3, 617. She did not sail, however, until some time in March.

7. The *Clementina*, Captain Patrick Brown, had entered from Scotland at about the same time as the *Aurora*, *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 5, 1775.

8. The *Neptune*, Captain Robert Collins, had entered from London about November 10, 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal*, November 15, 1775. She was named by Captain Parker as in the Delaware River at the same time as the *Aurora*.

9. "The *Sampson*, Capt Farquhar, from London, which sailed from Poole [Liverpool] in August last, for America, is safe arrived at Philadelphia, after being out 18 weeks." *London Chronicle*, April 20 to April 23, 1776.

10. The *Lion* must have been the last vessel to sail from Philadelphia under this contract, as she

bore letters stating that three vessels loaded with flour had cleared that port on March 30, 1776, *Public Advertiser*, London, May 27, 1776.

11. See Volume 2, 329, for the account of the death at sea of William Duncan in the ship *Duke of York*.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Saturday] 30th [March]

Sent a Flag of Truce ashore to Lewis Town, to endeavor to get Lt [George] Ball & his Men exchanged for other Prisoners, but could not get any satisfactory answer.²

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. *Ibid.*, *Roebuck* kept busy. The following day she chased a brig, unsuccessfully. To keep a tight blockade of the American coast, the British needed many more ships on station.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore, March] 30

... Your Brig will heave down on tuesday & we hope to Begin to take in Next week ... one Capt Stockholm passed through this town for Your Place a few Days ago, he was taken in a sloop from Eustatia, Bell had a Quantity of goods in him he Reported here that Your Keith was taken & sent to Boston, we hope in god it may be false, Young bell owes me 23/9. if he is not gone pray ask him for it, what mad[e] that young man Leave this in such a hasty manner twas't we suspect that some person Interested has frightened him away, — otherwise he Could never been so foolish as to push off a second time after he was fixed on going in the Brig ... if we had your Brig Loaded we would take a Ride in the Country to Endeavour to Collect some Debts

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOHN HEYMAN'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

Ship *Defence* Captain Nicholson

To John Heyman

Dr

1775

Decembr 23 To 24 feet of 4 Inch oakplank @ 7d/2 p ... £0..15..0

To 26 feet of 2/7 ditto ... @ 4d/2 p 9..9

To 87 feet of 2 Inch ditto @ 3d p 1..1..9

To 2 Gallons of Rum 10..0

27 To 18 feet of Timber 9..0

To 8 feet 4 Inch plank 5..0

28 To 17 feet of Timber 8..6

To 14 feet ditto 7..0

1776

Jany 29 To 25 feet of a fleet 1..5..0

To 32 feet of Timber 19..0

1 To 14 feet of Sollid Timber 14..0

2 To 16 feet of Timber 8..0

3 To 14 feet of Inch plank 1..51/2

To 200 ct of 20 penny Nails	3..4
To 14 Ougers and Three Kinks	2..0..7
To 4 Knees @ 5/6 p	1..2..0
To Oakam & pitch for the Pilot Boat	2..0
4 To 6 Knees @ 5/6 p	1..13..0
To 16 feet of Flick	16..0
8 To 49 feet of 2 Inch plank	12..3
9 To 132 feet of Ditto	1..18..0
To 40 feet Ditto	10..0
To 30 feet of Timber	15..0
11 To 40 feet of 2 Inch plank	10..0
13 To 69 feet of Inch plank	7..2
To 28 feet of 2 Inch plank	7..01½
15 To 2000 of Trinels	6.. 0..0
To 6 ct of Oakham @ 4 p [lb]	10.. 0..0
To 32 feet of Inch plank	3..3
To 22 feet of 2 Inch Ditto	5..6
16 To 7 feet of Inch—Ditto	0..81½
To 16 feet of Timber	8..0
To three Ougers Inch & quarter Each	15..0
17 To 32 feet of plank	8..0
18 To 24 feet of Ditto	6..0
To 215 feet of spears	5.. 7..6
To 32 feet pine Log	1..12..0
To a Log for the Keal and Beam	2.. 6..0

£ 46..13..

1776 Brought Over—

£46..[13]..0

Jany	20 To 110 feet of plank	1.. 5..0
	23 To 16 feet of Ditto	4..0
	24 To 2 Standers	15..0
	To 156 feet 2 Inch plank	1..19..0
	25 To 229 feet of Ditto	2.. 7..3
	31 To 30 feet of Timber	15..0
	To 372 feet Of Sollid Timber	3..6
Feby	1 To 20 feet of Timber	10..1
	To 100 feet of 2 Inch plank	1.. 5..0
	2 To 2 Knees @ 5/6 p	11..0
	To plank for the Caption	4..0
	6 To 36 feet of 2 Inch plank	3..0
	To 2 Gunless for the Barge	4..0
	To 2 Supporters for the Cathead	5..6
	12 To thirty feet of Timber	15..0
	13 To 34 & ½ feet Ditto	17..3
	16 To 5 feet Ditto	5..0
	20 To 1 Knee	2..6

	To man & horses Sent after the Spears	14..0
	To John Hayman 2 days	1.. 0..0
	To 5ct 18lb Oakham	8..12..8
21	To 4 Knees	10..0
	To the Heady and pitch pot	1.. 0..0
	To 2 Knees	5..0
23	To 40 feet Compies Timber	1.. 0..0
24	To 26 feet Ditto	13..0
March 10	To a Compies of Timber	14..0
13	To 9 feet Timber	4..6
Due Errors Excepted and Contents		73.. 6..2
Reced in full 30 March 1776 deduct a		
	Sp[e]ar returned 22/. use of Iron	1.. 5..-
John Hayman Pot 5/.		
		<hr/> £ 72.. 1..2

Balto County March 22nd 1776 Then Came Before me the Subscriber One of the Honble the Proprietaries Justices for said County & made Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the above account is just & true as it stands stated & that He has not receiv'd any part or parcel thereof, or, satisfaction or security for the same. Sworn the day & year above written

Before Wm Smith Junr

Gentn Please to pay the within

Acct being due for our Ship

Defense Ja^s R. Morris.

To Messrs Lux & Bowly

I. MdHS.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, MARCH 30, 1776

Williamsburg, March 30.

We have certain intelligence, by express, that on the 2d instant the American fleet, commanded by Admiral Hopkins, put into the island of [New] Providence, and took possession of 280 pieces of cannon from 6 to 18 pounders, and a large quantity of ball and other warlike stores, which they found in the town and fortification of Nassau; but the Governor being advised of their approach, had secured all the powder except 17 barrels, by sending it off in the night. The Admiral ordered the Governor and Council, the Collector of the Customs, and the Judge of the Supreme Court, to be confined in their houses till the stores should be got in; but suffered no injury to be offered to the persons or property of any of the inhabitants. It was imagined the fleet would be ready to sail in two or three days.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]

(No 1)

Ship *Dunmore* in Elizabeth River Virginia

(Duplicate)

30th March 1776. —

My Lord It gives me great comfort, in the very unhappy situation which I am left, to think that my Conduct meets with his Majesty's Approbation. I can assure your Lordship, were it not for that, and the earnest desire I have to serve him, no earthly consideration could induce me to continue in this wretched State, where there is not a hope of gaining either honor, Credit, pleasure, or Profit. No! my Sole comfort is that I am doing my utmost to serve the best of Sovereigns.

What your Lordship observes in my dispatches of the 22d of October, of the disposition of many of the People here to take an open part against the Rebels, is exactly as I had the honor to inform your Lordship, and I really beleive now, had the *Liverpool* Arrived (as your Lordship had reason to expect) about that time, I am well Satisfied it would have made a wonderfull change on the face of Affairs in this Country, but, my Lord, She did not Arrive here till the 19th of December, two Months after that, as your Lordship will have seen by my Subsequent Dispatches.

Common fame has long since informed me, that an Armament was preparing for the Southern part of This Continent, and many a pleasing Idea it gave me in the midst of my distress, the hopes that I should soon have relief, and your Lordship, however Sensible your feelings may be, will not easily conceive what I felt on the receipt of yours, which informs me that, notwithstanding all my Applications, representations, Sufferings and the Efforts I had made with two incompleat Companies of the 14th Regiment, that Notwithstanding all I had said or done, no Attention was paid to it, but am left, in the first Colony on the Continent for Riches, Power, and extent, without the smallest assistance, and the preference given to a poor small insignificant Province, which has not a Safe Harbour with depth of Water that will admit half the fleet that is sent there, and as I am informed, should the Army Land, they must wade through a Sandy Pine Barren for many Miles before they reach the Inhabited part of the Country.

General Clinton in his way to North Carolina, called here and Stayed with me two or three days, when I gave him every information in my power relative to the Situation of this Colony, and his Majesty may be assured, should the General return here, he shall have every assistance that one most Zealously devoted to His Majesty's Service can give him.

Your Lordship will observe by my Letter No 34, that I have been endeavouring to raise two Regiments here, one of White People, the other of Black. The former goes on very slowly, but the latter very well, and would have been in great forwardness, had not a fever crept in amongst them which carried off a great many very fine fellows, the Medical People here thought, and I beleive with reason, that it proceeded from their being much Crowded on Board the Ships, and want of Cloathing, both of which we have

now provided against, the first by Landing and taking possession of a Small Neck of Land, which I have fortified in the best manner our Abilities and Circumstances would admit of, and I think tho' we have now several thousands of the Rebel Army in our Neighbourhood, who frequently come and take a few Shot at us, and retire, yet I am satisfied they will not willingly give us any disturbance there, tho' they threaten it much; We have in this little Fort four Ovens, and pretty good Barracks for our Ethiopian Corps, I have bought a large Quantity of Oznaburgs, of which I am making Summer Cloathing for our Garrison.

My Lord in my dispatch No 34, I had frequent Occasion to mention a Family of the Name of Goodrich, Natives of this Colony, this is a Spirited, Active, industrious Family, and it has cost me much trouble and pain (knowing the Service they would be of to which ever Party they joined) to secure them in His Majesty's Service; The Male part consist of a Father and Seven Sons, five of which are Arrived to the Age of Manhood, who are now most Zealously engaged in His Majesty's service, four of them are perfectly well acquainted with every River, Creek or Branch within this Bay. I have now five of their Vessels employed constantly running up the Rivers, where they have orders to Seize, burn or destroy every thing that is Water Born, that they can get at; they often Land and take off what Provisions they can get, which keeps the Rebels in constant motion, and I generally send a few of the 14th Regiment with them, they Land only when they are not likely to meet with opposition, and have orders to retire on Board so soon as they see any force coming against them. I mention this Family to your Lordship, for two reasons, the first is, least any of their Vessels of which they have many, in various parts of the World should fall into the hands of any of our Ships of War, that they may have that Attention Shewn to them that I think them so well entitled to. — My second reason is, that should we ever see better times in this Quarter (which I pray God we may soon) that His Majesty may Shew them such marks of His favour as he thinks their Services are deserving of. — They have all left their Houses, Negroes, Plantations, Stock, and every thing else at the Mercy of the Rebels, and are now with their whole Familys Water Born in this Fleet.

I have received the late Act of Parliament with your Lordships Dispatches, which I have hardly yet been able to look into, but should be glad to have your Lordships opinion whether the Word "not", in the 217 Page and 18 line, standing between the words Provinces and herein, is meant to be part of the Bill, or is only an error in the Press. If it is part of the Act, it then restrains every Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief, of any of His Majesty's Colonies or Provinces now in Rebellion, from sending Vessels to Supply themselves or those under their protection, with the Necessaries of Life, which I hope could never be meant.

Since writing the above, I have been reading the Act with more attention than I had leisure to do before, and I must observe to your Lordship, if my Construction of it is right, it will be impossible to be complied with, for the Act says, in the 222d Page, that "the Prizes are not to be carried into any

of the Colonies herein particularly mentioned." Now all come under that Predicament, Nova Scotia and the Floridas excepted, so that every Vessel as soon as taken must be sent to one or other of these places, which would take them near three Months to go and return, in which Vessel they must send an Officer and a Number of Men, according to the Size of the Vessel, was this to be the case, there is not a Man of War on this Station, that would have either Officers or man left in her in a Month; were they even to detain them in the Fleet, where such Captor was made, they must leave so many Men in them, that in a very Short time their Ships would be so weak that they would not be fit to go to Sea, which was the Case here for sometime, and having no Judge of the Admiralty here to try them, I was obliged to find a remedy for this inconveniency, which was this; I appointed five Gentlemen in the Fleet to Act as Commissioners, who are empowered to take Depositions and Enquire fully into the Circumstances of any Captors made by the Men of War, or the Tenders, if in their opinion, the Vessel and Cargo were Seizable, they then appointed Sworn Appraisers to put a Value on the Vessel and Cargo, and the Vessel and Cargo were Sold to the highest bidder at Publick Auction, and the Monies arising from such Sales are deposited in the hands of responsible People, either till His Majesty's pleasure should be known, or if a Judge of the Admiralty should afterwards be appointed, and the Owners of the Vessels were not satisfied with the Judgment of the Commissioners, the Cause might be tried by the Judge of the Admiralty from the Deposition &c. taken by the Commissioners, of which they are required to keep regular Books properly Authenticated. This was the mode I thought requisite to adopt rather than His Majesty's Service should suffer by employing the Sailors in taking care of Prizes, and to prevent the goods from perishing and being tottally lost, and probably the Vessel also; indeed, most of these Prizes have been Loaded with Provisions, which we should ere this have been in the greatest want of, had we not been so fortunate as to have taken them. I am [&c.]

Dunmore

[Endorsed] No inclosure recd with this Duplicate

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 757-69.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Saturday the 30th Day of March. 1776

Ordered That the Honourable Mr [William Henry] Drayton Colonel Charles C. Pinckney Captain [Alexander] M[o]ultrie Colonel [John Lewis] Gervais and Captain [Paul] Trapier [Jr.] do forthwith prepare and bring in the following Bills

A Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in Case of Captures and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases.

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 14, 20, 21. The Provincial Congress had on March 26, 1776 resolved itself into a General Assembly, which, in its first session that day, elected John Rutledge president and Henry Laurens vice president.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹*Antelope* Port Royal March 30th 1776

at 7 P M

Sir In great haste as the *Grantham* Pacquet sails Early to Morrow Morning, I beg leave to send the inclosed Express to you for their Lordships information; which I received Just now from Mr John Brown Chief Justice of His Majesty's Island of [New] Providence;² I shall do all in my Power with what Force I have, to assist the Island when required. I shall write to the Commanding Officer at Boston and acquaint [him] with this Express to me.

I am farther to acquaint their Lordships that I have seized one Mr [Ebenezer Smith] Platt – he was a Committee Man at Georgia, and is the Man that Boarded the *Phillipa*, one [Richard] Maitland Master of Georgia last Year & seized all the Government Gun Powder & carried it to the Rebels. I have had him some days in Irons, but could not get the identity of his Persons sworn to untill this afternoon, which was from the above Maitland, and his people that was with him when the Powder was seized and is now here loading with Sugar and as I have seized the above Platt at Port Royal, I presume he must be tried on this Island for the Robbery and Executed on this Island. I shall let his Excellency Sir Basil Keith know about him tomorrow morning and shall inform their Lordships by the next Pacquet what is done with the same Platt,³ I am with great respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 71b.

2. See John Brown's letter to Gayton, March 22, 1776.

3. What Gayton summarized in a paragraph regarding Ebenezer Smith Platt was described in detail later by Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Patience Wright, the wax modeler, in a letter to Benjamin Franklin. It reads in part:

the 13th of July 1775 there Arrived A Vessel in Savanah Harbour Commanded by A Captain Maitland, Laden with Goods and some Powder & Arms from Merchants in England Consign'd to their Correspondents – Merchants in Georgia – the People of Georgia at that Time had just form'd a Congress amongst themselves and began as well as the Other Provinces to be Divided into Liberty & tory Partys – The Merchants to whom the Goods were Consign'd were of these different Oppinions – A Stoppage of Trade then taking Place and Goods being rather Scarce – the Congress Previous to the Arival of the Vessel Purchased the Goods of the Merchants at An Advanced Price – but rather against the Will of those of them who were in the opposition to the Congress – in Consequence of which the others fearing there might be any obstruction to the Landing the Goods or that Possibly A Mob might be Rais'd to Destroy or Prevent the Congress from obtaining them – applied to Mr Plat with two other Gentlemen to go on board the Vessel which Lay some Miles off and see that She was Safe brought up to the Town and that none of the Goods Should be Landed til Her Arival There – they gave them an order to the Capt'n & Mate to Receive and Entertain them in the best Maner on Board – but they seeing the Capt'n afterwards in Town shew'd Him the Order – and As He was not going on Board again just then He gave them an order to the Mate, much to the same Purpose as the other, viz, to Receive & treat them well – & was very Polite & Friendly – but by what hapned afterwards it appears that He was rather Averse to the Congress haveing the Cargo – they staid on Board 6 Days – Saw the Vessel brought up to the Town and Nothing Landed Except some Horses for Governor Campbell at Charlestown south Carolina – they then went on Shore thought No more of it and Another Commitee was sent in their stead, who Landed the Cargo – after Capt'n Maitland had Cleard His Vessel in Georgia he set sail with a Cargo from there for Jamaica – and soon after Mr Plat went as Merchant in a Vessel of His own which He had fitted out for the same Port leaving

his Partner to superintend his Business & Property in the Mean time - After His Arival in Jamaica He Saw Captain Maitland There who was Exceeding Friendly to Him & invited Him to Make His home on Board His ship whilst he Staid in Kingston - this offer He Declined - but they frequently fell in Company with Each other and allways upon the footing of Friendship for about 8 weeks when they hapned one Evening to Meet in a Coffee House in a good deal of other Company amongst which was Captain Miller of New York, with several other Captains some of them had got a little heated with the Liquor and one amongst the rest, gave as A Toast "Damnation to all Americans" to which Mr Plat Reply'd, that No Gentleman of Honour or Goodness Could drink such a Toast as it was Repugnant to the Rules of Society - on which the other grew warm as well as some of the Company - and Mr Plat fearing A Quarrel imediately Withdrew - Captain Maitland who by this time had grown warm with the Liquor and Conversation soon after His Departure, Cryd out "That Damned fellow was one of them on Board my Ship at Georgia with an order from the Congress and Landed the Powder and Arms for them["] - most of the Company was Exceedingly Pleasd at the Discovery and the next Day Reported it all over the town, not omiting the Governor Sir Bassil Keith - who imediately sent word to Captain Maitland that He ought to Come & Exhibit an information Against Mr Plat - the Captn having grown sober again was Exceedingly Sorry for what he had said and sent word to Mr. Plat that He wish'd he would Absent Himself or Leave the Place, Elce He must be oblidged to Comply with the Governors Comands

Mr Plat Amazed, tho indifferent, at his information returnd Answer that His Business did not Suit him to leave the Place at that Time - that He had nothing to dread from any information He Could make against Him - and that He was at liberty to act as he thought Proper in the Case - Mr Plat was at that Time haveing Disposed of his Vessel & Cargo fitting out another for Turtling & fishing before His Return to Georgia - as He Lay off in the River Prepared to Sail - the Admiral's Boat Came allong Side and Asked for Mr Plat - the Captain Reply'd that He was on Board - on which they imediately Seiz'd the Vessel & Crew alledging it was on account of An information of Captain Maitlands against Mr Plat, before the Governor - Mr Plats Captain & Crew were Set at Liberty about 3 weeks afterward - but Mr Plat was Confind in Irons and for a fortnight Debar'd from Seeing or writing to Any of His Friends - and treated with the greatest insolence and indignities by the Sailors.

Franklin Papers, V, 56, APS.

PIERRE BEGOZZAT TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

St Pierre. 30 of march 1776

This will go to you by the way of north carolina, you will be acquainted by it of capt Soule is yet in St Pierre expecting two or three thousand more of gun powder to go away.

We are expecting vessels every days is long time Since we have none. ten or twelve vessels expected from europa are detained at See by bad whether.

The 13 of this month the government hath made St Pierre a free port for all the provisions the north america can afford us. May and June will be a very proper time to have gun powder plenty here.

The bateries of this island are all disposed like in war time, several vessels taken round this island have engaged the gouvernement to Protect any vessel who will be wanting of the assistance of our guns. Our frigate are cruzing to remove the english frigate of[f] our cost.

In this moment we receive t[w]o vessels from old france, i hope it will be gun powder enough to clear out Capt Soule in the first day of next

week. I hope he will take six guns to fortify himself against the small tender he may fear. I am [&c.]

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 312-13.

31 Mar. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF LIEUTENANT JOHN STARKE, R.N.¹

[Quebec, January 1 – March 31]

This successful defeat of the Rebels,² while it animated and encouraged the besieged, pointed out the necessity of observing the utmost vigilance; and the duty was very hard and constant through out the winter and the Spring; for as the Snows fall frequently and heavily during that Season, a number of men were often employed, besides the guard, to clear the Great Guns from it, and so deep was it at times, that the Officers in going their rounds were frequently up to the middle of it; and were obliged to wear leg-gins and other contrivances to defend themselves against the severity of the cold.

The Prisoners who had been treated with a lenity which they ill deserved, attempted to corrupt the Sentinels appointed to guard them; but a discovery being made in time, their purpose was frustrated – They had fallen upon means of communicating their design to their companions the besiegers without, which was to break out of confinement in the night, open the gates of the Town, throw the beds and quoins of the guns into the ditch, and apprise their friends without by a signal of their success, who were to be ready to come in to their Assistance, and seize upon the Garrison –³

To such a degree of vigilance and alertness did the Officers perform their duty, that several of them did not venture to cast off[f] their cloaths or accoutrements for weeks together, but lay down with them on their backs, both night and day, that they might be prepared against any surprise – Others felt the severity of this constant and fatiguing duty, but it was particularly so to Lieutenant Starke, who had but a few Months before, returned from a Station of four years in the Warm climate of the East Indias.

1. "The case of Lieutenant John Starke of His Majestys Navy, together with a short sketch of the operations of the War in Canada, in which he was employed, during the years 1775, 1776 and 1777." NMM, Ms. 49/129.
2. The defeat of Montgomery and Arnold on December 31, 1775.
3. The attempted break-out was planned around March 26, 1776, but was discovered on March 31 – James Melvin, *A Journal of the Expedition to Quebec, in the Year 1775, under the Command of Colonel Benedict Arnold* (Philadelphia, 1864), 17. Other diaries of the expedition speak of the attempted escape, but Melvin was the only one to pin it down to definite dates.

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

March 1776	Remarks in Halifax Harbour
Friday 29th	AM the Comdr sent on Bd an Order to Moor. First and Middle parts Hard Gales and Squally wt Snow Latter little