

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 7**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1776–Dec. 31, 1776**

**EUROPEAN THEATRE: Oct. 6, 1776–Dec. 31, 1776**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1777–Feb. 28, 1777**

**Part 7 of 9**

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19 Jan. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rainbow*, CAPTAIN SIR GEORGE COLLIER <sup>1</sup>

Jany 1777. Moored in Halifax Harbor  
 Sunday 19. A M at 1/2 past 8 fir'd a Gun & made the Signl for all Petty Officers at 10 sail'd hence His Maj's Ship *Lizard* – at 1/2 past 11 fired a Gun & made the Signal for all Captains.  
 First pt clear Wr latter cloudy with Snow – at 2 P M fired a Gun as a Signal for the *Milford* to fire Minute Guns – at 1/2 past 3 fir'd another Gun as a Signal for the *Milford* to desist firing havg buried Capt. [John] Burr

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/762.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Milford*, CAPTAIN HENRY MOWAT <sup>1</sup>

Jany [1777] At Moorings in Halifax Harbour  
 Sunday. 19 AM Saild hence the *Lizard* with some Merchant Vessels under her Convoy for England.  
 Modr & fair PM fired 52 Guns during Captain Burrs Procession whom was Burried with all the Honours Due to his Rank.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/607.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Emerald*, CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CALDWELL <sup>1</sup>

Jany 1777 Off Bristol Ferry.  
 Sunday 19th sailed past the Ship a flag of Truce, to exchange Prisoners,<sup>2</sup> sent a Petty officer on board, punished Saml Johnston with 7 Lashes for quarrelling & using reproachfull speeches.  
 Light breezes & fine Wear at 4 P M sailed past from Newport the flag of Truce, the Longboat Watering.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/311.

2. See Hopkins to Parker, January 18, 1777.

SHIPPING ARTICLES FOR THE CONNECTICUT PRIVATEER SLOOP *Revenge* <sup>1</sup>

Articles, made between the owners of the Armed Sloop, called the *Revenge*, of Eighty Tons: fitted from Stonington in the State of Connecticut, of the one part: and the Commander, Officers and men, of the other part: Witnesseth, that the said Owners, Shall fitt said Vessel for the Seas in a War like manner. And provide her with Cannon, Swivils, Small Arms, Cutlasses, Sufficient Ammunition, and Provisions; with a Box of Medicines and every other necessary at their own Expençe; for a Cruize against the Enemies of the Thirteen United States of America; and against Such as Shall in a Piratical or hostile manner, infest, invade, or ann[o]y these States; Disturb, or molest them in the peaceable Enjoyment of their Just rights and Liberties; and against all Such as Shall aid or Assist the said Enemies, In special, to Seize all British property on the Seas; and that the said owners Shall have one half of all prizes, Effects & things: which may be taken. And the Com-

mander, Officers and men, the other half, As follows The Captn Shall have Seven Shares. The first and Second Leiutnt, Master & Doctor, four Shares each. Two Masters [mates], Boatswain, Gunner and Quarter master, Mariens, Carpenters Two Shares each. Prize masters Two & half Shares each. All [illegible]esser Offices not more than One & half Shares. Privates One Share, Boys half Share. All Interprizes at Sea, or on Shore: Shall be Solely Directed by the Captain. There Shall be five Dead Shares, to be given to the Most Deserving men to be adjudged by the Committee. — If any one in any Engagement, Shall Loose a Leg or an Arm. He shall have Three hundred Dollars, out of the whole Effects taken. If any of the Company Shall Mutiny, or raise any Disturbance on board, Game or Steal, or Imbezzel on, or of any prize, whither at Sea or in port, Disobey his Officer; prove a Coward, Desert his Quarters, absent himself, without Leave of his Superior Officer for the Term of Twelve Hours, exercise any Cruelty: or inhumanity in Cold Blood: he Shall forfeit his whole Share, or Shares to the Company And more over be Liable to Such Corporal punishment as the Committee Shall think fit to inflict. The Committee Shall Consist of the Chief Commanding Officer, first and Second Leiutnt and Master. The Capt Shall have full power to Misplace Such officers as he Shall think proper. — Lastly the said Commander Officers, and men here by Enter our Selves on the Cruise for the Term of Four Months if the Cruize Shall Last so Long; or untill Sooner Dischardg —  
Dated at Stonington [January 19] 1777

Mens Names & Quality —

Joseph Conkling Captn —  
Nathan X Post first Leiutn  
John Belcher 2[d] Leiut  
Moses Sawyer Master  
William Jagger 1 Prisemaster  
Jsack Champlin 2 Prisemaster  
John Palmer Leutn Mariens  
Henery Gilden Sleaves Carpen  
Henery Holsey Qut maste[r]  
Peter Foster Qtr Master  
Timothy atwood Do[c]tor  
Edmond Trowbridge Gunner  
Archebal Niles Boatsswain  
Jeremiah Post  
John Wick  
Thomas Glanvill  
Zebulon Chesebrough  
William Driskill  
John Brown  
William Babcock  
John Colein  
Adin Willbor Gunners mait  
Beebee X Denisan

James Thompson  
Asa Elliott Boy  
John Vilett  
John X Dinning  
George Davol Stuard  
Thomas fish Clark  
David Mackninck 1 Sergt  
Moses Palmer 2 Sergt  
Jsack Horden Coxen  
Silvenious Wick first mate  
Joseph Webb Second mate  
William Clarke armourer  
Nathan Clarke Drumer  
Nathan foredom  
Peleg Sisson Carpenters mate  
William Middleton Boy  
Thomas Garner Boy  
Joseph Tamarage  
Cornelious Havins  
Benjamin Stannard  
Thomas Acron Bosin mate  
Abel Shalor Copper  
Jchn Jonson

Samuel Champlin  
 John Brand  
 Amos Babcock  
 Benjamin Duvall  
 Zebulon fowler  
 John franklin

Dick Tuttle Negro  
 Frank foster  
 Jsack foredom  
 Timothy frankling  
 Philemon Miller  
 Jack Nicols

1. John Palmer Papers, MHA. The date is approximated. Marine Lieutenant Palmer's cruise in the *Revenge* began January 22, "John Palmer's Journal of a cruise in the privateer sloop *Revenge* from Stonington, Conn., 22 Jan. 1777, cruise ending at New Bedford 22 May, 1777 – Joseph Conkling, commander," MHA. Hereafter cited as John Palmer's Journal, MHA.

#### SAMUEL CHASE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore, January 19, 1777]<sup>2</sup>

I laid a Petition from Capt. [James] Campbell before Congress, they declined having any thing to say to it. all persons taken by the Ships of War or privateers of any State, are deemed the prisoners of such State, and are generally applied to the Redemption of their own Subjects; on the Contrary all persons taken by Continental Vessells are deemed the prisoners of the Congress & subject to their Disposal. –

The Georgia Delegates object to the Discharge of the Gentlemen, whose Cases You referred to Congress.

Unless in future all prisoners taken by Vessells of our State are detained, such of our People, as fall into the Enemies Hands, cannot be redeemed. this Subject is of Consequence & demands the Attention of your Board – Yr [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Chase

1. Red Book, XVII, Md. Arch.

2. Date is approximated. Campbell's petition was read in Congress on January 18, Ford, ed., JCC, VII, 49.

#### CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Hond Gent

Baltimore Jany 19th 1777

Since I had the Pleasure of seeing you last I saw one of those unfortunate men that was in the Prize Snow *George* taken by the *Camelia*. a British Frigate, he made his Escape from a Prison Ship at New-York and travel'd to this Place, he informs me that the prisoners are us'd Extremely ill and no respect to Rank, that Officers and men are all tumbled into the hold together and oblidg'd to dress what little provision they have allow'd themselves or it's not done at all. I have applied to Mr Chase and Mr Carrol for their Assistance to get them exchang'd, but they say its a Business particularly belonging to this State. I do not doubt was your Honorable board to write the Congress but what they would get them exchang'd as soon as Possible. there is Capt [Andrew] Glasby, and Mr Lyons his mate here were they Secur'd they might be of Service in Exchanging for the Master of the *defence* Mr [James] Cordrey and Mr [William] Carter a Midshipman – Capt [James] Campbell will wait on you, and will be able to acquaint you more fully of each Circumstance – Our men who are taken by

the Enemy are very likely to be kept as Prisoners a long time unless we fall on some method to have them exchange'd, I'm in great hopes some Speedy method will be put in Execution for that purpose

I intend for Frederick on Wednesday Morning next and doubt not but the Officers belonging to Ship will do every thing in their power to make dispatch – I shall wait on you in the time of the Assembly's being at Annapolis. I am Hond Gent [ &c.]

Geo: Cook.

P. S. I have had some Conversation with Mr Jeremiah Chase relative to Snow *Geo.* he thinks a Claim good by an appeal to Congress. If you think proper you'll please to write to him Concerning said snow, and inform him of your Intention. I am [ &c.]

G Cook.

[Enclosure] The names of those taken in Snow *George*. James Cordrey, Master; William Carter, Midshipman. Seamen, Alexr Stanton, John Power, Collin Brown, Alexr Nicholson, Dennis Larkens, Edward Gibbons, John Halfpenny, Patrick Cole, Timothy Kelley, the person made his escape –

1. Red Book, XVII, Md. Arch.

#### PETITION OF ANDREW GLASBY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore] January [19] 1777 <sup>2</sup>

To the Honorable the Council of Safety of Maryland.

The Remonstrance and Petition of Andrew Glasby late Master of the Snow *George*, most humbly representeth, that some Time ago, your Remonstrant's Vessel, with all her Hands and Cargo was made Captive of by George Cooke Esqre, Commander of the Ship *Defence* of this Province. – That amongst others of the Captivated, a free Negro Man, called by the Name of Partyfall, happened among the Number, who was at that Time entered on Board your Remonstrant's Snow at the Rate of Seven Dollars per Month, in the Capacity of a common Sailor. – Your Remonstrant and Petr humbly representeth unto your Honours that he is given to understand, that when a free Negro doth not inlist or take up Arms in Defence of Great Britain against America in the present unhappy Contest, the Honble Congress have passed a Resolve, that he should have and enjoy the same Freedoms and Privileges with other Freemen of the State – Yr Remonstrant and Petitioner further sheweth unto your Honours, that such is the Custom of the Place from whence this Negro came, that the Person in whose Ship or Vessel he enters, is obliged to give Bond, with sufficient Security, under a heavy Penalty, for a safe Return of the said Negro: And to prevent Frauds it is added, that in Case such Negro should die on his Passage, the Person giving such Security shall be obliged to carry to the Place from whence he was carried or taken both his Ears. – Your Remonstrant further representeth unto your Honours that he has divers Times mentioned this Matter to the said George Cooke Esqre, and requested of him to deliver to your Remonstrant the said Negro, in Order that your Remonstrant might thereby rele[ase] his Secu-rities. – And as the said George Cooke Esqre hath altogether refused to give up to

your Petitioner the said Negro, he therefore prays your Honours Interposition therein And he as in Duty bound will ever pray &ca

1. Red Book, XVII, Md. Arch.

2. Date is approximated and based on Captain Cook's letter of the same date to the Maryland Council.

GOVERNOR CRAISTER GREATHEAD TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG<sup>1</sup>

(Copy.)

St Christophers 19th. January 1777 -

Sir I was favoured yesterday with your Letter of the 16th Instant, and having the Day before received one from Mr [Thomas] Warner, His Majesty's Attorney General of His Leeward Charibbee Islands, accompanied by Copies of two Letters he received from you, and of two wrote by him to you on the Subject of the Sloop *Reprisal*, also a Copy of a Case touching the same Sloop with his Opinion thereon; I am at a loss to know what legal Measures I can take for putting an immediate Stop to the proceedings you complain of within my Government, since His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, on whose Advice I must rely in Cases of Difficulty, both agree in opinion, that an Armed Non Commissioned Vessel has a right to take the Ships and Vessels which are found trading contrary to the 16th of His present Majesty intituled An Act to prohibit all Trade and Intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire &ca However although I cannot require Mr Warner to act contrary to his own Sentiments, I shall desire him to move the Court of Vice Admiralty in Antigua to Order that the proceeds of Vessels and Cargo's taken by Non Commissioned Cruisers do remain in the Hands of the Receiver of the Rights and Perquisites of the Admiralty until His Majesty's pleasure be known, or that the Captors do give Security to refund such part as may be adjudg'd to them by the same Court in case their Proceedings shou'd be disapproved of by His Majesty. -

I shall most readily pay all Regard and Attention to whatever comes recommended by you for His Majesty's Service, and am very sorry I have received no Directions from England to regulate my Conduct with Regard to Armed Vessels.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Craister Greatheed.

James Young Esqre

Vice Admiral of the Red &c &c.

[Endorsed] No 5. 16 January 1777. Copy of Letters from Vice Adml Young to Craister Greatheed Esqre Commander in Chief of St Christopher & the Leeward Charibbe Islands

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

20 Jan.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS<sup>1</sup>

Honored Sir

Boston January 20th 1777

I have before me yours of the 14th Current. As you must remember that no Officer in the Service hath taken more pleasure in the discharge of his duty than myself so you may now rely on my sh[o]wing a religious obedience to your Orders. The general Orders which I unexpectedly received from the Marine

Board were unsolicited; and there hath been a mistake somewhere since I find myself superseded by Capt Hinman's Commission as No 1 – I am not however uneasy but shall rest satisfied until the matter is coolly explained – Colo Tillinghast writes me that an action is entered against me for £10,000 – on account of the concerned in the *Eagle* Privateer – It hath been insinuated to me though not in plain terms that you have disavowed the express orders which you gave me repeatedly at Newport respecting my conduct in that matter – but as this seems highly improbable I will not believe it without the strongest proof – However if you are not fully determined to justify my Conduct I must request you to signify it to me as soon as possible – that I may not be unprepared for my defence as I understand that the cause comes on in Providence the first Monday in next Month – When there is any enterprise intended wherein I can render acceptable service to America, no man will step forth with more alacrity than myself – in the mean time it is proper that I inform you of my desire to go on a Visit to New Hampshire with Capt Bradford and a party after my Accounts are settled here.

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

Jn<sup>o</sup> P Jones

N.B. As Mr Southouse waits on you himself he w[ill no] doubt give the account of the returned to him which you require – W[hat]ever they are they were not delivered by my Order or with my knowled[ge] as I had previously taken leave of the Ship to proceed to Dartmout[h]

1. Harbeck Collection, HUL.

#### MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Boston 20 Jan'y 1777 [A. M.]

Order'd That the Commissary deliver Doctor Haven such Surgeon Instruments as he shall want belonging to Sloop *Republic* –

Voted That Doctr Haven apply to Mr Jasper or some other Person to make him such Instrumts as he shall still want after receiving those order'd from the Commissary –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 120–21.

#### MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO JACQUES GRUEL & Co., NANTES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Gentn

War Office, Boston Jan'y 20th 1777 –

The Board of War for the State of Massachusetts-Bay having enter'd into Contract with your Mr Pliarne, (Copy of which he now forwards you) to supply them with a Quantity of warlike Stores & such other Articles as they may require to the Amount of Eighty Thousand Pounds Sterling; & Mr Pliarne having agreed that you Gentlemen, should accomplish the Business at Nantes, we inclose you Memorandum of the Articles we want, and which we earnestly request may be ship'd with all possible Dispatch from your Port. And as the Fire Arms are most necessary we pray they may come first & the other Articles in as quick Succession as may be –

This will be handed you by Capt [Nicholas] Bartlett <sup>2</sup> Master of our Brig *Penet*, & inclos'd are Invoice & Bill of Lading of her Cargo, which we doubt not

your care in disposing of to the best Advantage This is the first Vessel we send in part of our Contract, and we beg you'll return her with all possible Dispatch, putting in her a proportion of the Articles for which we write making Insurance upon them, & every other Article you may ship us from France.

In a few Days our ship *Versailles*, Joseph Chapman Master will follow for Nantes loaded with Logwood & Mahogany which we hope will make you a tolerable remittance – we have other Vessels ready to sail for the southern States on this Continent, by which we shall send considerable Cargoes of Rice & Tobacco from thence to your Address – We shall also from time to time advance such Monies to Mr Pliarne (something of this kind we have already done) as he shall have Occasion for, & take every other possible Method of speedily fulfilling our part of the Contract. – It would be very pleasing to us to have a considerable part of the Goods in our Memorandum, shipt to us in French Bottoms, clear'd out for St Peters – In this Way we think the Risque will be much lessen'd & that it would be a very agreeable Introduction of your Vessels to our Ports: <sup>3</sup>

Introduc'd to Gentlemen of your Character by our Good Friend Mr Pliarne, we flatter ourselves that our Connection with you will be happy – that our Business will be conducted to mutual satisfaction – & that you Gentn will have the pleasure of reflecting that in your Sphere you have contributed to the Establishment of Freedom, & Independance in America, from which you as Individuals as well as the whole Kingdom of France, will derive the most permanent Commercial Advantages – We are respectfully, Gentn [&c.]

By order & in behalf of the Board of War

Sam<sup>l</sup> Phps Savage Prest

P. S. . . . As the Channels of Intelligence from Britain are much obstructed and the Plans of our Enemies seldom known till the Moment of Execution, the English News Letters, Parliamentary Debates, Magazines, & such, like Periodical Papers, as also the interesting European Intelligence by every Vessel bound to this State, will render us the most essential Service –

We have under our Direction a large number of Masts intend'd for the Royal Navy, but have no Vessels at present suitably large to send them to your Market; Would it not be possible for you to procure a Ship of sufficient Force from France to carry them? – perhaps the Ministry of France mig[ht] think this an Object so worthy their Attention, as to adopt some plan of getting them safely to your Ports –

[Enclosure]

Memo of Articles wanted by the Board of War, which was inclos'd to  
Messrs Jacques Gruel & Co –

20,000 Good Effective Fire Arms, *des Fusils letique le Sieur Coule[vue] nous a Apportes, pour Eschantillons, avec leur Bayonettes et Bayatt[e] defer a bouton.* –

30 Brass Feild Peices 4 & 6 pounders

1000 Barrels Powder – 150 Tons Bar Lead

300,000 Flints – 10 Tons German Steel –

40,000 four point Blankets –

70,000 yards Woolen for Cloathing for 20,000 Men at or about 4 Livres Tournois,  
not exceeding 5 – Hooks, Eyes, &c. &c –  
132,000 Yards coarse Linnen for Soldiers Shirts at or about 1½ Livres pr Yard with  
Thread & Buttons –  
20,000 Soldiers coarse Hatts –  
3,000 peices Ravens-Duck for Tents –  
40,000 pr Mens Shoes, strong & fit for Soldiers –  
40,000 pr White Stockings ½ Linnen, ½ Woollen –  
50 Bolts Ticklenburgs –  
20 Tons Cordage from 1 to 5 Inches –  
Medicines & Surgeons Instruments as pr Invoice – <sup>4</sup>  
100 Boxes Tin *Ferblance* 1/3 x ore dune *Qualite le plus excicse* –  
20 peices white Flannel for Cartridges –  
2,000 pounds Twine – 50 doz Codlines –  
5,000 Gun-Locks with what the English call good Bridles –  
An Assortment Files value £200 –  
Ditto of Nails £750 –  
Borax £100 –  
60,000 Yards Brown Russia Drilling for Waistcoats & Breech[es]

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 19–24, 44, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.
2. The care taken to assure the arrival of at least one copy of this important letter, is indicated by a notation, reading: “Origl by Capt Bartlet Copy by Capt Chapman Dupli[cat]e by Capt Adams Fourth by Capt Clarke Fifth by Capt Carver.”
3. At this point in the letter, and for French consumption, the Board of War gave the Nantes merchants an optimistic review of the military situation in America.
4. Five page invoice of the medical and surgical supplies, naming each individual drug and instrument.

#### DIARY OF WILLIAM JENNISON <sup>1</sup>

1777

Jany 8. I set out for Mendon  
Jany 11 I passed on to Boston put up at Colo D Brewers –  
14 I entered as a Volunteer on board the Frigate *Boston* Hector  
McNeil Captain –  
20 The Ship was hauled into the Stream in order to keep her Crew  
on board –  
Note The Ship rode in Boston Harbour until May.

1. William Jennison Diary (1775–80), LC.

#### COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. <sup>1</sup>

Warren, in Providence River

Sir

Jany 20th 1777 –

Please to pay the bearer Mr Samuel Lyon my Secretary; all my part of  
Prize Money in your hands, (which is One twentieth of the Captors part) –  
And his receipt Shall be your discharge for the Same, from Sir [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

Nathaniel Shaw Esqr Agent for the Continental Fleet at New London

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, Portfolio 4, NLCHS.

*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1777

New-York, January 20.

The Ships of War are daily sending in Prizes. There is an immense Number at present in this Harbour, and some of considerable Value. Several of them are laden with Ammunition and military Stores.

By a Person just arrived from the northern Parts of this Province, we are informed, that the two Frigates of 24 Guns each, long since ordered by the Congress to be built at Poughkeepsie, are launched and rigged, but not manned.<sup>1</sup>

The Ship *Lord North*, Capt. Ross, arrived here Yesterday from Antigua, and brought in with him a Brig from St. Martin's, bound to Philadelphia, with Salt and Dry Goods.

1. Continental frigates *Congress* and *Montgomery*.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] January 20th, 1777.

An order from drawn on Mr. Nesbitt in favour of Capt. John Hazlewood, for 800 Dollars, being the Bounty Money for 80 men.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 95, 96.

#### PETITION OF CAPTAIN JAMES CAMPBELL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore, January 20, 1777]<sup>2</sup>

To the Honourable Council of Safety for the State of Maryland –

The petition of James Campbell of Baltimore-Town humbly Sheweth –

That your petitioner made several Cruizes, in the privateer *Enterprise*, against the Enemies of the United States; That your petitioner sent into the United States, upwards of One hundred prisoners; many of whom have since entered into the Service of the States, – That your petitioner always treated his prisoners with humanity; and with consent of his Owners, Sufered the officers belonging to the several prizes, by him taken, to go at large with all the money, and property belonging to themselves Which he believes, was the General custom of American Cruisers; That Mr James Belt, Lieutenant to your petitioner, had the Misfortune of falling into the hands of the enemy, and after being most cruelly cut, and hack'd, in a Scuffle, when taken, And so miserably defaced, that scarce any of the human figure remain'd, was thrown on a chest among the common men on board the *Nautilus* Man of war, that he is now at New-york with three of his crew, confined on board of a small ship with three hundred other wretches, without cloaths, or Necessaries for their existence; and wishing for the last consolation of the Unfortunate, death itself; – That your petitioner sent into this State; one Pigot a midshipman, belonging to the *Galatea* Frigate, and One Horn, a mate, belonging to the *Camilla* Frigate, also a frenchman who says he is an Ensign, in the Royal Regt of Americans, now in Canada; That your petitioner humbly hopes, that your honourable Council will exchange the above prisoners, or some other person, or persons, for the Unfortunate Mr Belt, and his miserable Crew, That your petitioner laid a petition to this purpose before the Congress; and was told that it

was reasonable, and that the prayer of it ought to be granted, but that it was more immediately the Bussiness of this State Recomending it to your Consideration, your Petitioner shall ever pray!

James Campbell –

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.
2. The date is approximated. The Journal of Congress for Saturday, January 18, 1777 included a crossed-out entry reading: "A petition from Captain James Campbel was read praying for leave," Ford, ed., *JCC*, VII, 49. Lieutenant Belt was prize master on board the snow *James*. Her crew rose, retook the snow, and turned Belt over to the tender of H. M. Sloop *Nautilus*. See Volume 6.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY <sup>1</sup>

January [1777]

Cape Henry West 2 Leagues.

Monday 20

at Noon came to an Anchor

Clear weather, mann'd & Armed the Barge & Pinnace & sent them to chace a sloop which the[y] boarded she proved from St Eustatia to Virginia,<sup>2</sup> sent a Lieut & 25 Men in the Sloop to proceed with the *Brune*, after a ship which had run in Shore, which they took, she proved to be the *Farmer* from Maryland bound to France with Tobacco.<sup>3</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.
2. The sloop *Batchelor*, William Seon, master, with rum, salt and dry goods, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.
3. *Ibid.*, the ship *Farmer*, Benjamin Dashiell, master, from Baltimore.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BRIG *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remarks on Monday 20 Jany 1777

Light wind fair weather my Crew petitiond to go home observed that there time was out, thought hard to be kept any longer Hoisted out the Boat sent on board the prize and bent new Sails the Prize Master taken Sick sent the 2d Lieut on board as Prize Master

Course

Lattd in 17.5

North

Longd in 58.34 W

Moderate breeze of wind our boat came on board we gave our prize three Cheers and parted tack ship at 4 P M. the people assembled at the Cabin door and demanded what I was going to do & whether I was going home my answer was I was not accountable to them, they told me that there was not provision to stay any longer I answerd I should not come to them to know how long I should stay, they then told me that there time was out & that they would not do any duty. I orderd them away they insulted me with their language I struck two of them they all went forward calling on one another to sign a paper or Round Robin as they calld it not to Obey any Command or do any duty unless I would go home, gave me and the Master much ill Language which I was obligd to pass by for I was afraid that if I went to punish them what the consequence might be. This is the substance

of what passd between Capt Fisk & some of the Crew to the best of our knowledge on board the *Tyrannicide* Jany 21. 1777

John<sup>a</sup> Harraden Ivory Hovey Benj<sup>n</sup> Moses <sup>2</sup>

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

2. The account of the near mutiny concludes the journal. *Tyrannicide* returned to Salem early in February. See *Independent Chronicle*, February 20, 1777.

21 Jan.

JOHN LANGDON TO THOMAS CUSHING <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

[Portsmouth] January 21. 1777 –

Your favour of the 16th Instant is now before me by which you are Ordered to build a 74 Gun Ship in which I wish you prosperity – Ive received no such orders but expect it soon I'm getting some Timber on the best Terms I can about 4 dollars P Tonn some less, the hawling such I'm afraid I shall not get it have not made any Contract as yet am undetermined how to proceed cannot form any Idea where the materials are to come from, I thank you for your Congratulation, am verry unfit for the Station <sup>2</sup> in which my Country has placed me but shall endeavour to keep good Conscience by doing my best, the old saying all that we can expect from a Cat is her skin – With all due respect I am [&c.]

John Langdon

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

2. Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Boston 21st January 1777.

Inclosed you have Copies of my Letters from the time of my departure on the late Expedition from Rhode Island down to the 12th Current. I am now to inform you that by a letter from Commodore Hopkins dated on board the *Warren* January 14th 1777, which came to my hands a day or two ago, I am Superseded in the Command of the *Alfred* in favor of Captain Hinman, and Ordered back to the sloop in Providence River, whither this Order doth or doth not Supersede also your Orders to me of 10th Ulto <sup>2</sup> you can best determine, however as I undertook the late Expedition at his request from a Principle of Humanity, I mean not now to make a difficulty about trifles especially when the good of the Service is to be consulted. As I am unconscious of any Neglect of duty or misconduct since my appointment at the first as Eldest Lieutenant of the Navy, I cannot Suppose that you can have intended to Set me aside in favor of any Man who did not at that time bear a Captains Commission, unless indeed that Man by exerting his Superior Abilities hath rendered, or can render more important Services to America, those who Step't forth at the first in Ships altogether unfit for War, were generally considered rather as frantic than as Wise men, for it must be remembered that almost every thing then made against them, and altho' the Success in the affair with the *Glasgow*, was not equal to what it might have been, yet the blame ought not to be general, the Principal, or Principals in command alone are Culpable and the other Officers while they stand unimpeached have their full

Merit, there were it is true divers Persons from misrepresentation put into Commission at the beginning without fit Qualification, and perhaps the number may have been increased by latter appointments, but it follows not that the Gentleman or Man of Merit should be Neglected, or overlooked on their Account, none other than a Gentleman, as well as a Seaman both in Theory and in Practise is qualified to support the Character of a Commission Officer in the Navy, nor is any Man fit to command a Ship of War, who is not also capable of communicating his Ideas on Paper in Language that becomes his Rank, if this be admitted, the foregoing Assertion will be sufficiently Proved but if further Proof is required it can be easily produced.

When I entered into the Service, I was not actuated by Motives of self interest. I stept forth as a free Citizen of the World in defence of the Violated rights of Mankind, and not in Search of Riches whereof I thank God I inherit a Sufficiency, but I should prove my degeneracy were I not in the highest degree Tenacious of my Rank and Seniority, as a Gentleman I yeild this point up only to a Gentleman of Superiour Abilities of superiour Merit, and under Such a Man it is my highest Ambition to learn.

As this is the first time of my having Expressed the least Anxiety on my own Account, I must entreat your Patience untill I account to you for the Reason which hath drawn from me this Freedom of Sentiment, It seems that Captain Hinman's Commission is No 1, and that in consequence he who was first my Junior Officer by Eight, hath expressed himself as my Senior Officer, in a manner which doth himself no honor, and which doth me signal Injury, there are also in the Navy [those] who have not shewn me fair Play after the Services, which I have rendered them, I have ever been blamed for the Civilities which I have shewn to my Prisoners, at the request of one of whom I herein inclose an Appeal, which I must beg you to lay before the Congress, could you see the Appealants accomplished lady, and the three Innocents their Children Arguments in their behalf would be unnecessary, as the base minded only are capable of inconsistencies, you will not blame my free Soul which can never stoop where I cannot also Esteem.

Could I, which I never can, bear to be superseded I should indeed deserve your contempt, and total Neglect, I am therefore to entreat you to Employ me in the most enterprising and Active service, accountable to your honorable Board only for my Conduct, and connected as much as Possible with Gentlemen and Men of Sense.

When I was fitting out for my late expedition at Rhode Island, the concerned in Privateers Invigled away the Seamen so fast that Commodore Hopkins repeatedly gave me express Orders that whenever I met with a Privateer, I should cause her to be strictly searched, and if I found a single Man belonging to the Fleet I must take out all who had deserted and as many more as I thought proper so that I left a number barely sufficient to Navigate the Vessell into Port.

In consequence of this Order I sent my Boat to examine the Privateer Schooner *Eagle* in Tarpawling Cove, and finding two Men belonging to the Fleet, and two more belonging to the Rhode Island Brigade, concealed in Such remote parts of the Vessell that my Officer was Obligated to break open a bulkhead before he could come at them, I took them with Twenty others on board the *Alfred* and

proceeded. To my great Surprise I have now received a letter from my Attorney Colo Tillinghast of Providence informing me, that an Action hath been entered against me there, by Samuel Aborn and the concerned in the Privateer for Ten Thousand pounds Lawful Money, altho' the Vessel was then inward bound, but what is truly Astonishing is, that the Commodore (as I am Informed) should prevaricate in the Matter because forsooth the Order was not given in Writing, I do not apprehend that he means to Justify me in it, however be the consequence what it will I glory in having been the first, who hath broke thro' the Shameful Abuses which hath been too long Practised upon the Navy by Mercenaries whose governing Principle hath been that of Self Intrest. Colo Tillinghast hath entered an Action against the Owners of the Privateer, in behalf of the Continent for the same sum, and the first Monday of next Month this important Cause is to be determined.

One of my Prizes with Coal from Cape Briton got into Rhode Island, and was retaken after standing the fire of three of the Enemies Ships, another of the Coal Ships was retaken, and carried to New York by the Frigate that chased the *Alfred* on the Edge of St Georges Bank, but it doth not appear that she retook the *John*. The *Active* and *Mellish* are safe at Dartmouth, the *Kitty* is in this Port, so that the *John* and One of the Coal Transports, are the only Prizes whereof we have not had an Account, the first Frigate that chased me in the *Providence* was the *Solebay*, that within the Isle of Sable was the *Milford*.

I am now employing myself to settle the *Alfred's* and *Providences* Books and pay off the Men whose term of Entry is expired, when I have the honor of hearing from the Board, I must request that the Letters may be forwarded thro' the hands of Messrs [Abraham] Livingston and [William] Turnbull of this City, meantime I have the Honor to be with great Respect and Esteem. Gentlemen [&c.] The Honorable The Marine Board.<sup>3</sup>

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6538-41, LC.

2. See Continental Marine Committee to Captain John Paul Jones, December 10, 1776.

3. Jones sent this letter enclosed in one to Robert Morris stating: "I must intreat you to look over and lay before them [Marine Committee] or not as you may Judge most Expedient." He also asked Morris to give a copy to Joseph Hewes, Papers of John Paul Jones, 6542, LC.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Renown*, LIEUTENANT ROBERT DEANS <sup>1</sup>

January 1777                      Moor'd in the Narhighgaset Passage, Rhode Island. -  
Tuesday 21st                    The Longboat in coming round the No end of Connanicut  
Island was attack'd by some Reble boats, which she beat off

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/776.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN <sup>1</sup>

January 1777                      Moored off the Town of New York  
Tuesday 21st                    at 2 PM made the Signal for all petty Officers  
Mod & Clear Wr At 5 PM the Alarm was given that some  
part of the Town was on Fire hoisted the Boats out and sent  
Officers & a party of Seamen with Bucket[s] and the Fire En-  
gine ashore, had every thing in readiness to haul the Ship out

into the Stream At 1/2 past 10 the Officers & Seamen returned onboard the Fire being extinguished.

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1777

Deserted, the 15th of January, four marines belonging to Captain Samuel Shaw's company, from on board the *Randolph* frigate, lying at Fort-island, viz.

Philip Mulholand, five feet five inches high, dark brown complexion, a weaver by trade, and about twenty-seven years of age.

Neil Faran, five feet five inches and three quarters high, brown complexion, black hair, full faced, and well made.

John Clements, five feet six or seven inches high, brown complexion, black hair, twenty-two years of age, and a taylor by trade.

Thomas M'Namie, five feet six or seven inches high, brown short hair, brown complexion, down look, and twenty-seven years of age.

January 18th. Edward Rowin, a landsman, about five feet eight inches high, pale complexion, and about twenty-five years of age.

Henry Spear, a marine, about five feet eight inches high, remarkably squint eyed, sandy hair, fair complexion, lusty built, about twenty-eight years of age, and plays the fife tolerably well.

Edward Higgins, a landsman, about five feet nine inches high, stout built, pitted with the small pox, brown complexion, and American born. All the rest are Irishmen.

The above men were well cloathed. Five Pounds reward will be given for each of them, or Thirty Five Pounds for the whole of them, on their appearance on board the *Randolph* frigate, or if secured in any of the jails of Philadelphia.

Nicholas Biddle

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Baltimore Jan'y 21<sup>t</sup> 1777.

As we are informed that the Enemies Fleet and Army have orders to leave Rhode Island, if this proves true, you are hereby directed to fit for Sea the Continental Frigates, *Warren*, and *Providence*, with all possible Expedition; and order them to proceed, forthwith, to cruise upon the Enemies Ships of War that are now interrupting the Commerce of the United States from the Harbour of New-Port to the Capes of Virginia. And they are to take, burn, sink, or destroy all such of the Enemies Vessels as they shall fall in with. The other Continental armed Vessels, that are in your Port, you will order to proceed to Sea, and do their best Endeavour to intercept Supply Ships that may be coming to the Enemy at New York -

You will please to see that the Wages are duly paid to the Seamen, and that the Prize Money due to them, be paid to them by the Agent as punctually as Circumstances will admit, to prevent Murm[urs] among the Seamen. We have heard some Complai[nts] for Want of Attention to the Seamen, which induces

us to mention it to you. – We wish to hear from you as often as possible, and are,  
Sir [&c.]

By order of Marine Comm[ittee]  
John Hancock Chair[man]

Essek Hopkins Esqr Commanding the Continental Navy –

[Endorsed] On Publick Service Free

To Esek Hopkins Esqr Commanding the Continental Navy At Providence Or  
Elsewhere.

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. A copy is in Marine Committee Letter Book, 50–51, NA.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore 21st Jany 1777

. . . I was in great hopes you would have had guns from Connecticut for the *Raleigh*, but you say you have no prospect of them – no answer has been received from Governor Trumbull, on that subject though I have long expected it. I am doing every thing in my power to procure them here and if my endeavors had not been so often baffled should think I had a fair prospect of success – I hope you are going on with preparations for the 74 – our removal hither has disconcerted matters so that I have not been able to procure the dimensions but expect them from Philadelphia every day: in the mean time I hope the timber will be procured and every other necessary that you can collect and I hope by the time this reaches you the vessels I mentioned in some of [my] former letters will be on their passage here for iron &c . . .

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

BILL OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK AGAINST THE PRIZE BRIGANTINE  
*Mary Ann* <sup>1</sup>

State of Maryland Baltimore County to wit

To the honourable Benjamin Nicholson Esquire Judge of the Court of Admiralty erected by the honourable Convention of Maryland to take Cognizance of and determine the Propriety of Captures of Vessels, brought into the State of Maryland, pursuant to the Resolves of the honourable Continental Congress.

The Bill of William Hallock Esquire Commander of the continental Ship of War called The *Lexington* duly commissioned under the honourable Continental Congress, who, as well for himself as the Officers, Mariners, Seamen and all others belonging to and concerned in the said Ship in this Behalf prosecuting, in all humble Manner sheweth, That the said Ship was fitted out, equipped, victualled and armed at the Expence of the united States of America, and the said William Hallock; being duly commissioned, authorized and appointed with his Officers, Mariners & Seamen on Board the said Ship to cruize and sail on the high Seas, did, on the twelfth Day of December in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy six, within the Jurisdiction of this Court, discover on the high Seas, pursue, apprehend and as lawful Prize take the Vessel a Brigantine called *Mary Ann* commanded by Anthony Gilchrist Burthen about two hundred and fifty Tons together with her Apparel, Tackle, Furniture and Cargo belonging to a Subject

or Subjects of the King of Great Britain – And the said William Hallock doth further shew that the said Brigantine *Mary Ann* at the Time of the Capture afore-said and long before and the Tackle Apparel, Furniture and Cargoe of the said Brigantine did belong to the Subjects of Great Britain not residing in or being Inhabitants of the Bermudas, [New] Providence or Bahama Islands – Wherefore the said William Hallock prays this honourable Court that the said Brigantine called *Mary Ann* with her Tackle, Apparel, Furniture & Cargoe may be adjudged and condemned as forfeited to the Use of the Captors thereof and those concerned in the said Ship called The *Lexington* according to the Resolutions of the honourable Continental Congress in that Behalf made & provided.

Baltimore Town Jan'y 21st 1777. –

J<sup>o</sup> To<sup>y</sup> Chase pro Libellants

1. Admiralty Court Papers, Box 1, Folder 9, 1776–1781, Md. Arch.

LIBEL FILED IN MARYLAND ADMIRALTY COURT AGAINST THE PRIZE BRIGANTINE  
*Mary Ann*<sup>1</sup>

January 21, 1777.

Port of } To all whom it may concern – Notice is hereby given, that a court  
Baltimore } of admiralty will be held at the court house in Baltimore Town, on  
Monday the 10th day of February next at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, then and  
there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of William Hallock, Esq; commander of the Continental ship of war called the *Lexington*, who as well in behalf of himself, as the officers, mariners, seaman, and all others belonging to, and concerned in the said ship, against the brigantine called the *Mary Ann*, her tackle, apparel, furniture, &c. lately commanded by a certain An[thony] Gilchrist – To the end that the owner or owners of the said brigantine, or any person concerned therein, may appear and shew cause (if any they have) why the same should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bill.

William Gibson, Register.

1. *Maryland Journal*, January 25, 1777.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Badger*, LIEUTENANT CHARLES HOLMES EVERITT<sup>1</sup>

January 1777	Salt Key SWbW nearest part of Turks Island WbN 3 or 4 Leagues
Sunday 19th	P.M. . . . Saw a Sail in Shore, sent the Boat in Shore towards the Vessel with an Officer and 5 Men Fresh Breezes & Clear Wr
Monday 20th	8 A M the Boat return'd saw two Sail to the Southwd 10 Fir'd three Swivels to bring a Sloop Too, she came from Nantick to this Island for Salt, sent three Men on board her to Carry her to Jamaica. At 1 P M Came to Anchor at Turks Island in 7 fathm . . . found a Brig Lying here at Anchor, bound for New York, Lading with Salt, sent an Officer and two Men on Board her for Jamaica. at 10 P M Saw three Sail hove up and gave Chace to the WNW

Tuesday 21st

1 A M Fir'd 10 Guns at the Chace, His Maj's Schooner *Porcupine* in Chace of the Sloop, at Noon brought her Too, she came from Cape Francois bound to Baltimore Lading with Salt

Modt fine Weathr hoisted our Boat out, sent her on Board the Prize Sloop at 5 P M sent two Men on Board the Prize Sloop to Convey her to Jamaica, our three Prizes in sight, the *Porcupine* in Sight,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/78.

22 Jan.

JOHN LANGDON TO CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY <sup>1</sup>

Sir [Portsmouth] January 22d 1777 –

Your fav. of the 1st Inst Ive received by which I find you have obtained your Guns which gives me pleasure that some of our Ships are like to get out – I hope those Guns are not the Guns which were ordered by Congress for this Ship as Iv'e just received a Letter informing me that they expect Iv'e the Guns from Connecticut which had been ordered for me sometime those ordered for me are Twelve Pounders Nine's will not do for us; The *Raleigh* I take it will be able to carry 12 Pounders as any Ship in the Navy, therefore the Recommendation for 9 Pounders won't do – With all due Respect [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOHN LANGDON TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Sr Portsmouth. Jany 22d 1777

This will be handed you by Capt [Samuel] Tucker or Capt [Daniel] Waters, both of whom, Set off immediately for Baltimore, these gentlemen have Comanded two of the Continental Schooners and tho' Iv'e but little Acquaintance, with them, yet their known good Charectar, and the Services they have done the States in takeg so many valuable prizes, no doubt will meet the approbation of the Honbl Marine Committee –

The letter from the Honbl Committee of the 10th Decm. (by which I see Capt Thomson [Thomas Thompson] is order'd to Sea) Convinces me that Several of my former letters have Miscarried, upon which I tho't it Necessary to Send off Some Person on purpose, that I might be Certain that the Honbl Committee k[n]ew the Situation of my business, but, as that would be expensive and those gentlemen going up, who have kindly offer'd to Bring any money &c that I might want or Transact any other Matters made me Conclude to Send by them

I now must beg the Patience of the Honbl Committee while I Remind them, of what I wrote in a number of letters (to them) and to Colon Whipple, (who no doubt Communicated the Matters) from April Last – The Ship *Raleigh* was Raised in March, Launched Compleated to the gunwale; graved fit for Sea, abt the 21st May last, before which time every Mast and yard were Compleat to go on and, all Her Riggg Compleatly fixed even her gun takes [tackles] were Rove; as to her Sails they were not made untill some time after, for the want of Canvas, but

could the guns have been procured for her at that time, I could have had the Sales of almost all the vessells in the River, to fit her out, but, this Step was unnecessary while there was no prospect of guns, – the whole of her Carriages were ready the day she Launched, all to puting them together, which cannot be done without the guns – her full Complemt of hands at least three quarters Seamen Stood ready to go on board, in forty eight hours – Such was the Situation of this Ship and as I wrote the Honbl Committee at that time, she might, (could we have had the guns) have gone to Sea Compleatly built in the best manner. Vittualed and well maned by the first day of July followg, which would have been in less than four months from the day she raised – I do not mean to take the Whole Credit to myself by any means, but by the kind Assistance of every workman, and indeed of every person, who could give any Assistance, I was able to give the greatest dispatch tho' I hope I may say with out boastg that I'm tolerably well Acquainted with ship matters – these are facts which cannot be Contradicted not even by my worthy Friend at Providence

the Honbl Committee have been fully inform of what has happend since Respectg the guns at Providence, therefore shall not Repeat. – When Capt [Nathaniel] Falconer, was here he inform me that the guns at Connecticut was ready for the ship *Trumble* [*Trumbull*], but as he tho't she would not get out, I [illegible] Recommended my haveg the guns for Capt Thompson; I immediately wrote to Colonl Whipple to inform the Honbl Committee, and desired to have them order'd for this ship Capt Falconer also told me he would write the Honbl Committee, and when he got back would mention the Necessity of haveing them guns, here, – I soon after sent to govenor Trumbul, abt the guns Desireg he would furnish them if Possable. I Recd a Polite letter from that gentleman, informg me that the guns which were for their ship, was Deld the Agent, Mr Dean [Barnabas Deane], and from the Sutuation of the furnice he could not promise the guns, – abt this time I Recd a letter from Colonal Whipple in which he mentiond, that the guns at Connecticut were order'd or Recommended for the *Raleigh*, which made me think that I was sure of them, immediately Desire'd Capt Thompson to proceed to Boston or even to Connecticut, to See after them and have them hawled by land. when he got to Boston he found that Mr Dean the Agent at Connecticut had been there, and that one Mr [Richard] Derby who was imployed to get guns with Capt Manly, had Agree'd with Mr Dean for all the twelve pounders he had; for Manlys ship, at a Certain price and Commission – and that no guns were left for us axcept those which are improper Size; This appeared to Me to be Strange Sort of Conduct. that after the guns had been order'd for me, (and the property of the Contin[e]nt) should by the influence of either Agents or Captains be appropriated another way, at a Certain price, with a Commission, as I understand the Matter from Boston, – by all which the Honbl Committee will See that the *Raleigh* is without guns or any prospect of them, unless we can get them Cast at Massachusetts by takeing the pig Iron Ballast out of the *Alfred*, for that purpose, which Capt Thomson, who is now at Boston is endeavouring to effect. –

It is a Matter of great Concern to me to See this ship in this Situation, her bottom intirely foul and must be Cleand before going to Sea, the most part of

her men left her, Seeg no prospect of guns, much Provision &c expended, the whole of her Ballast, Water, wood, Shot, and all Stores must come out in order to Clean the Ship before going out. when I think of the pains Iv'e taken to get this Ship Dispatched the great Prospect I had of it, and the Disappointment Ive met with in the guns, after being at much expence and leaveing no Stone unturned, to procure them, and all in my opinion oweing to the influence, and unfair dealings of Some people imployed in Publick business, and to think that after all the first ship ready (by at least Six months if not Eight) should be the last Served, is I confess the most humiliateing Circumstance of my life – I Humbly Submit this matter [to] the Honbl Committee and shall go on to do my best to get her guns –

Capt Roches ship has been raised Some time, the whole of her timber Cut and hewed in the woods Six weeks but the hawlg has been Such that it has been impossable to get the Timber in – but I hope soon to give her Dispatch – by virtue of a letter from Colonal Whipple, I am Cuting and Procureing large Parcel of timber and plank, &c. for the Seventy four. the Dementions and order for which, I hope Soon to Receive Inclosed is Sketch of the Honbl Committee Acct Curret by which they'll See the Necess[i]ty of my haveg a Considerable Sum of money Sent for the use of the Several vessells which I hope will come immediately by the Bearer's or Some other way or the business will be Retarded, Iv'e got the Iron for Capt Roche's Ship, but shall want forty or fifty Tons for the Seventy four gun ship – the Honbl Committee will See by the Acct that Iv'e no money in my hands; and that for to Compleat the *Raleighs* bills (which never can be done, till the guns are on board, and the men enter'd) for Capt Roches Ship Timber plank Iron, Labour, Cordage Sail Cloth, guns, which we are procureing, with all Stores, for Procureg Timber, Plank, Masts, &c for the 74, all which might be done this winter, will amount to very large Sum of money (without which it will be impossable to go on with Dispatch) which the Honbl Committee will please forward on in part, as soon as may be, as Iv'e great Number of Carpenters and other Tradesmen at work who must be paid every fortnight or three weeks, besides the Cost of materials Iv'e Advanced what little Stock of money I had already for the Service – I beg leave to Congratulate the Honbl Committee on the glorious Success of our Arms, every person seems to have new Spirits, and ready for Action –

with all due Respect I have the Honour to be [&c.]

John Langdon

P.S. The Captors of Ship *Royal Exchg* prize have been pd off some time past Honble Jno Hancock Esqr

President of the Honble Marine Committee –

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

#### JOHN BRADFORD TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston 22d Janry 1777

. . . I was determind to have bot the *Esther* on our Joynt Accot but the order I receiv'd from the Secret Committee prevented, and I purchased her for Accot of the Continent for one third her value – I informd that Honble

Committee in my last that I had bot the Brig *Tryton* with four hundred twenty Teirces Extreem fine Salmon on board, and tho this is a private letter I beseech you Sir I may have orders how to dispose of her & what to fill her up with, I suppose she will stow from 150 to 170 Casks flax seed –

I plainly perceive I shall soon be in want of money for being Centrally plac'd between New hampshire & Rhod Island States, I have great & frequent calls for what is not to be obtaind but with Cash, I have paid off the *Cabot* – am now paying off the *Alfred*, and have supply'd Mr [Thomas] Cushing with £1300 – All the *alfreds* [*sic Mellish's*] Cargo, with a very considerable part of the *Livelys* being sent forward, and the great purchase Messrs [Abraham] Livingston & [William] Turnbull have made, for which I shall take their drafts will scarcely leave me money sufficient to pay off the Captors, I take it nothing will affect the Credit of the Continent more than the want of money in public offices, it will rejoyce the hearts of our adversaries, when I first had the honour of coming into Office, after advancing all my own money I borrowed a considerable Sum of those who were warm in the great Cause, and the credit of the Continent was not Injured – I hope I shall not be obliged to do the like again – at present we have no prospect of any prizes – as I know not of a single Continental Cruiser out

Capt Hinman arriv'd a few days ago with a Commission for *Alfred* and orders from Comre Hopkins to alter her – he proposes to get it done rather different from what Capt Jones proposed, which will [be] less expensive, I am Sorry to find that Gentleman is not provided for as I think him to be a sensible discreet Capable Man – ~~I would heartly wish him to have the *Hancock* Capt Jones is a very different sort of a man to him that Commands her~~ – <sup>2</sup>

I hope we shall soon get the new frigates to sea I am very happy it being in my power to supply them with Slops out of the *Lively* and Blankets from the Brig *Elizabeth* Capt [John] Palmer I hope to have the *Raleigh* Completley fitted with cannon in Six weeks, we are now Collecting iron Piggs from the *Alfred* and *Cabbot* and have obtain'd a vote of the assembly to lend us a furnace belonging to the State to Cast our Guns in, the *Hancocks* guns are now on the road and will be here in all next week

1. John Bradford Letter Book, vol. 1, LC.

2. The two sentences crossed out would indicate Bradford's preference for Jones over Hinman.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] Wednesday January 22d 1777.

In Council The Committee of both Houses, to whom was referr'd the Information of the Committee of Correspondence, Safety &c of the Town of Salem, representing that Numbers of Persons in the County of Essex are fitting out Vessels under Pretence of their going on Merchants Voyages but really with Intent to make Captures upon the high Seas, for which Purpose they are maning said Vessels with many more Men than are necessary to navigate the same, if bound on a Merchants Voyage – by which the good Design of the Legislature in laying the present Embargo is Subverted. —

Report the following Resolve —

viz Resolved that all Vessels belonging to this Government that may from

and after the Date hereof be clear'd out at any Naval Office within this State, shall carry Men for the Purpose of navigating the same, in Proportion to Tonage of said Vessels. —

viz for every Vessel of one Hundred Tons, no more than eight Men, including Master and Mate, shall be allowed, and in the same proportion for any Vessel of a greater or less Burthen. —

It is also resolved that the several Naval Officers in this State be, and they are hereby commanded not only to take proper Bonds of all Persons who shall clear out for any of the united american States, for the due Observance of the above Resolve; but that they also oblige all Persons who have already cleared out, and have not yet sailed to give Bond of like Tenor. — and if any Person, so cleared out, shall refuse to give said Bond, when required by any Naval Officer, said Officer is hereby empowered, and directed to give such Orders to the Commanders of Forts, as shall effectually prevent the said Vessels leaving Port, till the further Order of this Court. —

And it is further Resolved that the Committee of Correspondance &c for the Town of Salem, (whose Exertions for the public Safety are very Commendable) be, and they are hereby directed to return to this Court the Names of all such Owners of Vessels, together with the Names of the Commanders of the same, who have, in the County of Essex, since the 7th of December last shipped more Men than has been usual on the like Voyages, that proper order may be taken thereon.

In Council. Read & Concurred  
Consented to by fifteen of the Council

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 476–77.

#### MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Boston 22d Jany 1777 [A M]

Voted That Colo [Jonathan] Glover be allowed four shillings & three pence Sterling P Quinl for the Freight of Fish to Europe, & that he make the greatest Dispatch in loading his Brig & sending her away —

P M

Colo [Thomas] Crafts to appraise Cannon &c with Capt McNeil <sup>2</sup> reported

That he had agreed to deliver Capt McNeil two, six pounders & one four pounder from the Laboratory for Five, 3 pounders recd from Capt [John] Bradford

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 125, 126.

2. Hector McNeill, captain of the Continental frigate *Boston*.

#### MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL STONE <sup>1</sup>

War Office,

Sir,

Boston Jany 22d 1777

You being Master of the Sloop *Martha*, Charter'd by the Board of War for a Voyage to North Carolina, your orders are to proceed direct for Newbern, where you are to dispose of your Rum and Sugar for the most you can obtain, purchase a

full load of Naval Stores in the following proportion: Three Hundred Barrels Tar, Five Hundred Barrels Pitch & One Hundred Barrels Turpentine. —

If your Sales should amount to more than will be sufficient to load your Vessel with Naval Stores, you will invest the Ballance in Deer Skins and Bees Wax, Upon your return you are to make the first Harbour you can, in this State or New Hampshire, from whence you are to give the earliest Notice to the Board by Express. —

It is expected that if you should think you must certainly be taken, that you take particular Care to destroy all Papers you may have rec'd from this Board. By order of the Board of War,

Sam<sup>l</sup> Phps Savage Prest

P S. You will purchase five hundred Bushells white Beans in preference to the Skins & Beeswax

[Endorsed] Boston Jany 23d 1777 — I acknowledge the above to be a true Copy of the orders I have receiv'd from the Honorable Board of War, and promise to obey the same.

Nath<sup>el</sup> Stone

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 403, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

# ACCOUNT BOOK OF WILLIAM SEVER <sup>1</sup>

[Kingston] 22 [January, 1777]

Richard Derby junr Esqr

Dr

To Cash as Agt Schoonr *3 Brothers* <sup>2</sup>

369..0..—

State of Massachusetts Bay

Cr

By Sales of one half Cargo Schooner *three*

*Brothers* &c at Dartmouth Octob 21. 1776

[Total]

£1207..0..9

[To] Cash pd for advertising sales

12..—

do pd labourers unlading

7. 17. 11

& watchg nigh[tl]y p bill

do cooperage p bill

4..1..3

do pd Jno & Saml Pitts for

8 Gs Molosses & 53 Gals

17..0..3

rum more than the States

half

do pd Thos Lee for his & 2

other hands expences to

6..0..—

Salem

do pd Capt Smith one half

[the] Amo of bill of

45..6..9

wages

do pd Rotch & Jarvis wharf-

1..2..9

age

82..0..11

Sales of Sundrys from Brig *Nancys* Cargo Decr 18. 1776 vizt

[Totals]

1319..0..3

1. Sever Account Book, 272, 273, 274. Courtesy of Captain and Mrs. Noel Sever O'Reilly, Glenview, Illinois.
2. *Three Brothers* was a prize of the Massachusetts state brigantine *Tyrannicide*. See Volume 6.

PETITION OF GOTLIEB KLOSE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable The Continental Congress of the United States of America –

The petition of Gotlieb Klose a Native of Silesia and late Missionary from the United Brethren to the Negroes in the Island of Jamaica, humbly sheweth

That your petitioner after a residence of Six Years in the said Island, took his Passage in the Snow *Thomas*, Thomas Nicolson Master, bound to Bristol, in Ordr to proceed to his own Country, and on the 12th Day of Decr last was taken by the Continental Cruiser *Andrew Doria*. That your petitioner is a poor Tradesman and has all his effects on board said Snow in One Large Chest containing his Shoemakers Tools, &c One Larg & one small Trunk contain his Cloathing Linnen &c and has no kind of Wares for Traffick. his Keys he left with the Prize Master – [Joshua] Barney. Your Petitioner requests the Honorable Congress would be pleased to grant him an Order for the releasement of his said Goods in Order that he may obtain them again, And your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray –

Gotlieb Klose <sup>2</sup>

Philadelphia January 22d 1777.

[Endorsed] Philada Jany 28th 1777 – I am of opinion the within Cloaths & Tools being proved to be the property of the passenger as mentioned Shou'd be given up to him –

Robt Morris –

V. P. of Marine Commee

1. Papers CC (Memorials addressed to Congress), 41, V, 59–60, NA.
2. Klose's petition was approved by the Continental Congress on February 5, 1777, Ford, ed., *JCC*, VII, 89. Unfortunately the *Thomas*, with Klose's tools and chest on board, had been retaken by H.M.S. *Perseus* on January 12, PRO, Admiralty 51/688.

LORD STIRLING TO CAPTAIN ISAIAH ROBINSON, CONTINENTAL BRIG  
*Andrew Doria* <sup>1</sup>

Sir

I most readily Accept of your Voluntary and very Spirited Offer for this Service, and therefore must desire that you will proceed with your Officers and Men to New Town in Berks County and there take into your Care & Command All the Iron Cannon & their Amunition you find at that place, and proceed with them to Trentown Ferry and there place them in such position on this Side of Delaware River as will best defend the passage of it either by Boats or on the Ice; and In Case any Circumstance should render it Necessary for our Army to retreat out of New Jersey you are to Make the best disposition you Can to Cover the Retreat if Necessary, The Officer in whose Custody those

Cannon & Stores are, is hereby requested to Accompany you with them, and the Deputy Quarter Master General & Waggon Masters will give you every Necessary Assistance

Stirling

Philadelphia January 22d 1777.

1. FDRL.

*Pennsylvania Packet*, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1777

Philadelphia, January 22.

On the 12th of November the armed brig *Freedom*, Capt. [John] Clouston, from the state of Massachusetts Bay, fell in with and took the ship *Lasoye Planter*, bound from New-York to Cork, and put a prize master and nine hands on board her, who allowing the former crew too much liberty, they one night rose upon him, and after wounding him and some of his men in a shocking manner, retook the ship, put them in irons, and carried her into St. Croix, a Danish West-India Island. — Captain [Norris] Cooper in an armed vessel from this port being at St. Croix, and hearing of the above affair, went on board the ship and demanded the prisoners, who after some altercation were delivered to him, and he is since arrived with them safe at Chingoteague Inlet in Virginia.

*Maryland Journal*, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1777

Baltimore, January 22.

A Number of abusive Pieces having been inserted in the *Caraibbean Gazette*, printed at St. Kitt's, reflecting on the Governor and People of St. Eustatius, on Account of their supposed Partiality for the American States, now engaged in the Cause of all Mankind, the Printer, a Genius little known in the typographical World, having Occasion to take a Trip to that Island, on his landing there was immediately scented, and hunted so very hard, as to be obliged to trip back again, in the utmost Speed and Consternation. Our Dutch Friends should not have declared War against the poor Printer, as he is only a Servant to the miserable English Caraibeans, who ought to be indulged in the Liberty, peculiar to Englishmen, of grumbling when their Bellies are empty If the Printer is able to fill his, at such Times as these, he is as lucky as many of the Fraternity. The following is an Extract from one of his Gazettes, by Way of Specimen of the Tempter of our old Friends the Caraiibs.

“When the Renegado English Robinson, in the *Andrew Doria*, saluted the Dutch Fort at St. Eustatius under piratical Colours, the Officers of the Fort sent to receive his Honour's Orders, who, after mature Deliberation, commanded the Salute to be returned. This, no Doubt, at first Sight, appears to be such an Infringement of that Respect which the States General owe to Britain, and such a glaring Insult to the latter, that if proper Representation be made of it to the Hague, by the Court of Britain, we would be apt to venture a Wager that the Governor who commanded, or even permitted it, would be displaced before Twelve Months are at an End. But when we consider his Honour's acknowledged Coolness and Discretion, and that the Affair was done deliberately, and the same Compli-

ment repeated at the sailing of the Pirate, we ought to suspend our Opinion till he has been properly called upon to give his Reasons, as, we are told, is intended to be done.

"When Robinson waited upon him to inform him of his Errand, and particularly told him of his wanting to purchase Powder, he plainly answered him, he could suffer none to be exported till after the 28th of November, on which Day the Prohibition expired. After that Day he was at Liberty to buy up as much as he pleased. Robinson brought a very considerable Sum of Money to lay out in St. Eustatius for Powder, and other warlike Stores; and his Honour, wishing to secure such a Chapman for his People, was public-spirited enough to go out of the Course of his ordinary Economy, to make hospitable Entertainments for the Pirate and his Agents, to make his Time pass agreeably away till the Day came, in which it was safe to open a free Trade with him. Here, therefore, was much Punctuality respecting Great Britain, and great Care and Attention to the Good of his own People."

WILLIAM SEON TO SIR JOHN PEYTON<sup>1</sup>

On board the ship *Preston*,

To Sir, John Peyton, North River

Sir

January 22, 1777.

This will inform you, that I had the misfortune to be taken by the above mentioned ship on Monday the 20th instant; and as I understand there are a great many prisoners in Baltimore, beg your interest for an exchange, which I believe the Commodore will agree to. There are several other prisoners on board who join me in this request. I am, Sir, [&c.]

William Seon.<sup>2</sup>

[Endorsed by Commodore Hotham] Having on board the squadron under my command a number of prisoners, I shall be ready to exchange them, if any person be duly authorised to treat with me for such exchange. W. Hotham.

By command of the Commodore. Titus Livie, Sec'ry.

*Preston*, in Chesapeak Bay, Jan. 25, 1777.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, January 31, 1777.

2. Master of the *Batchelor*, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE<sup>1</sup>

Jany 77

Bermuda S64° E Disce 83 Leags

Wednesy 22nd

At 1 PM Saw a Sail in the SE Qr Gave Chace. At 3 Bt too Mn Topsail to the mast and took the Schooner, *Sea flower*, Thos Crocker Master from St Eustatia bound to Nantucket wth Salt, Molasses, Tea, Geneva, Dry Goods, Canvas, Cordage &ca At 4 shifted the Prisoners. Put 2 Officers & 7 Seamen on board the Prize with Orders to proceed in Company to Antigua. Made Sail, Stow'd all the Staysails close reefed the TS Handed Mizn TS Down top Gallt Yards & struck the Masts. A Large swell from the Northward The Schooner in Company

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

23 Jan.

JOHN LANGDON TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Portsmo Jany 23d 1777 –

Inclosed you have the accots Current of the Honle Secret Committee, made up to the 18th Instant & the Ballance carried to the Honle Marine Committee as I made use of some of their money's which was agreeable to order I have bought a Brig of Mr Moffatt of about One hundred & fifty Tonns for Twelve hundred Pounds for which he has my Obligation as I had not any money in my hands belonging to the Continent to pay for her this Vessel which is called the *Morris* will be Soon ready to sail for Virginia Cap. Gunnison who is Master of her haveing got most part of his hands, The Ship lately called the *Royal Exchange* which I bought in for the use of the Continent at the low price of four hundred & Sixty Pounds is now fitting for Virginia I shall repair her, buy Cables &c to compleat her for the Voyage – Cap. [John] Clark who commands her is endeavouring to get hands which should he effect will be soon ready – The Ship is now called the *Mifflin* Iv'e by this opportunity sent a sketch of the Honle Marine Committees accot Current by which you'll see I have no money in my hands therefore it will be necessary immediately by the Bearer or some other Conveyance to forward a sum of money, for the purpose of fitting out & paying for this & any other Vessel that may offer for the purpose I mentioned in my former Letters to the Honle Committee that I had sent only the *Betsey Frigate* to France there being no other Vessel Suitable for to carry Masts and that no other European Cargo was to be had –

In a short Time a verry fine Prize Brig of about 250 Tonns Will be sold here should she go off low Shall purchase her for Virginia or Europe on accot of the Honle Secret Committee, The fitting out the Ship *Mifflin* will cost near as much as the purchase, as she ha's no Cables & wants much repairs – Therefore this with the purchase of the Brig *Morris* & fitting out both, for Virginia & Should I purchase another it will require a Considerable sum of money to Compleat, which the Honle Comee will please forward without fail immediately as I am now doing Business on Credit Ive Wrote to the Agent at Boston for money – but he is likewise out & no money to be had for Draughts on Philadelphia it being employed in the speculating way – I have the Honor to be with Respet Yours & the Honle Commees [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Portsmouth] January 23d 1777 –

. . . I should be glad to have the Dementions for the Seventy four & an Order from Committee am procureing Timber Plank, Masts &c in abundance only wait for Snow to hall, all the business is doing on Credit – pray send the money – as soon as the orders came for the Vessels to go to Baltimore, for Iron shall Comply – we have got Iron for Roche's Ship we shall want forty or Fifty Tonns for the 74 as to the Schooners to go to St Peters I beleive will not do as I know of no

Cargo to send but Provision which I'm fearful would not pay the risque however if it comes I shall do my best or get your Brother Joseph to do it, who has done me the Honor of accepting a Deputation of Agent for Prizes which I had right to appoint by Virtue of my Instructions to have one half of the Commissions of any Prizes that come in hereafter dureing his appointment, I find you can't inform me relative to Commissions I've Charged only 2½ PCent on Prizes & the same on homeward bound Cargoes but fitting out is 5 PCent as P order and most Certain for building of Ships as I do without Contracting is worth 5 PCent or it's worth nothing. I wish this matter was settled, the Questions are these what Commissions on the Cargoes inwards what Commission on Prizes, what Commission on the rest of the business which is done at great expence and Trouble to me in the way I do it,

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

#### MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Exeter] Thursday, Jan'y 23d, 1777.

Ordered Joshua Bracket, Esqr, Judge of the Court Maritime, to pay Capt Titus Salter the Sum of £ 255-17-5 3/4, after deducting what is due to him for fees, being money in his hands, part of the Sales of the Rigging of the Ship *prince George* – Copy on file.

Also ordered the Rec[eive]r General to pay Capt Titus Salter one hundred pounds to be accounted for by him as follows:

Took a Receipt (which is on file) of Capt Salter for the Two above mentioned orders, in which he promises to pay in Equal divisions what money he Received on sd orders to the 71 Claimants of the 1/4 part of the Ship *prince George*, as decreed by the Court Maritime.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society* (Concord, 1863), VII, 69.

2. *Prince George* was seized by Captain Salter and his militia company in October, 1775. See previous Volumes in series.

#### MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR<sup>1</sup>

Boston 23d Jan'y 1777

Commissary acquainted the Board he deliver'd the six pounders to Honl Mr Cushing P Order of the Court for Ship *Boston*; – was directed to apply to Capt Manly for them as the Board are inform'd they are in the *Hancock*

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 128-29.

#### MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO WILLIAM FROST<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

War Office, Boston Jan'y 23d 1777 –

I am directed by the Board of War to desire you to purchase for them a Quantity of Timber, &c. agreeable to the above Memorandum, sufficient to load a ship of two hundred Tons according to your own proposals of finding & sending up a Master, Mate, and Hands for such ship as the Board shall direct to carry her from the Port we may buy her at to Falmouth, there to load and proceed in her to such Port in France or Spain as the Board may order – for which the Board

agrees to allow the said Master & Hands Wages as pr Memorandum above and you a Commission of 5 pr Cent upon the Cargo you may purchase for your Trouble –

The Board depend upon it that you will exert yourself to purchase the Articles directed upon the most reasonable Terms you can – and that they are all of them of the best quality, as the Reputation of the Country may depend upon the goodness of the Cargo we may send.

As it is necessary that the Business be immediately accomplish'd, it is expected that you directly attend to it, letting us hear from time to time what progress you may have made in it [&c.] in behalf of the Board Ellis Gray

[P.S.] Capt Ten Pounds pr Month, a Privilege of ten Hogds, & a Gratuity of fifty pounds in Lieu of Commission –

Mate eight pounds pr month –

Hands, from 16 to 20 Dollars –

[Enclosure]

Memorandum of Articles to be purchas'd by Mr William Frost of Falmouth for loading a ship of about two hundred Tons to be sent him by the Board of War for the State of Massachusetts-Bay

Square edg'd fine Deals from 10 to 25 feet long – from 10 to 16 Inches broad & from 2 to 4 Inches thick –

White pine Timber from 12 to 24 Inches square –

Oak Timber from 12 to 20 Inches well squar'd –

Do Plank 2 to 4 Inches –

Masts & Bowsprits of the largest size you can procure, & which the Vessel can carry –

Spars, Staves Anchor Stocks, Lath, Wood, Handspikes, Car Rafters, for Stowage –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 31–32, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

#### SHIPPING ARTICLES FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS SHIP *Versailles*<sup>1</sup>

It is agreed between the Master, Seamen, and Mariners of the *Ship Versailles* bound for *Nantes in France* that in Consideration of the Sums as monthly Wages affixed to our Names that the said Seamen and Mariners will perform a Voyage from *Boston in the State of Massachusetts Bay* to [France] and back to *Boston in s'd State* promising hereby to obey the lawful Orders and Commands of the said Master, or of other Officers of the *sd Ship Versailles* and faithfully to do and perform the Duty of Seamen, as required by said Master, by Night and by Day, on board the said *Ship*, or in her Boats, and on no Account or Pretence whatever, to go on Shore without Leave first obtained from the Master or Commander of said *Ship* hereby agreeing that Forty-eight Hours Absence without such Leave shall be deemed a total Desertion; and in Case of Disobedience, Neglect, Pillage, Embezzlement or Desertion, the said Mariners do forfeit their Wages, together with all their Goods, Chattels, &c. on board said *Ship*; hereby for themselves, Heirs, Executors or Administrators, renouncing all Right and Title to the same. And the Master of said *Ship* hereby promises and obliges himself, upon the above Conditions, to pay the said monthly Wages as set against the Names of the Seamen and

Mariners of the *s'd Ship Versailles* upon return of said *Ship* to the Port of *Boston* in *s'd State*, or on her Arrival at the Port of her Discharge.

*It is understood that the Mariners of said Ship upon her Arrival at the afore-said Port in France, shall either be discharg'd, or kept in pay & return'd home in some other Vessel, as they shall choose —*

In Testimony of our free Assent, Consent and Agreement to the Premises we have hereunto set our Hands, the Day and Date affixed to our names.

Time of Entry.	Men's Names.	Quality.	Advance Wages.	Wages per Month or Run.
December 6 1776	Joseph Chapman	master	20 . 0 . 0	10 . 0 . 0
January 15 1777	William Nuwman	Ch mate	8 . 0 . 0	8 . 0 . 0
December 30 1776	James Digge	Sd mate	10 . 10 . 0	7 . 0 . 0
30	Joseph o Cleave	Boswen	9 . 9 . 0	6 . 6 . 0
30	Jos hay	Seeman	X 9 . 0 . 0	6 . 0 . 0
30	alexexander Dawson	Do	X 9 . 0 . 0	6 . 0 . 0
January 3 1777	John Backer	Do	X 9 . 0 . 0	6 . 0 . 0
13	James Letter	Do	5 . 8 . 0	5 . 0 . 0
13	John manny	Do	4 . 16 . 0	4 . 16 . 0
pd 1 mo Wages 15	Eben marble	Do	8 . 2 . 0	5 . 8 . 0
16	Edw Vannevas	Do	5 . 8 . 0	5 . 8 . 0
pd ½ mo Wages 20	William grims	Do	8 . 2 . 0	5 . 8 . 0
13	John Rolle		8 . 2 . 0	5 . 8 . 0
20	Thoms Beck		6 . 0 . 0	6 . 0 . 0
20	Barthley Thalrey	Do		5 . 8 . 0 to be discharged
15	plato		p. 10—	do —
£ 127.15.—				

Boston Jany 23. 1777 charged  
the above advance wages to Accot  
Current — Joseph Chapman

N B. The Sums with this Mark X should be but £6 as Capt Chapman returned ½ a Months wages for each of those Men —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 45. This is a printed form with handwritten insertions in italics.

#### BRITISH SHIPMASTERS' PETITION TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Council and Honble House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts Bay in General Court Assembled. —

The Petition of Levi Preston late Master of the Ship *Garland*, lately taken by Capt Colier [Isaac Collyer] Commander of the Armed Sloop *Polly* and brought into the Port of Marblehead the 15th of December last, in behalf of himself and George Bennison Mate, John Rowe (an Old Man[]) Cook, Joseph Berschanale Steward (who broke two of his Ribs lately[]); Also for his five Servants vizt Matthew Groser, Thomas Nebrine, Wm Weldone, John Sneathe, and Mark Mackdonale, (the said Matthew Groser being now in Salem Goal for no Crime that he knows of) Also the Petition of John Taylor late Master of the Ship *Content* lately Taken by Capt [Israel] Thorndike of the Armed Schooner *Warren*, and carried in to the Port of Beverly for himself and John Anderson Mate and

three Servants vizt William Randile, John Story and John Canady. Also of Elias Warren late Master of the Brig. *Billey* taken by the Armed Schooner named *Ranger*, Commanded by Roger Robbins & carried into Newbury Port.

And also of George Gray late Master of the Ship *George* taken by the Armed Schooner *Boston*, and caried into Boston Port for himself and Robert Shon his Mate, and two Servants vizt Joseph Andres, and William Pullen.

Humbly Shew

That they were taken as aforesaid and remain without any means to Support themselves, and as there is a Brig now bound to Cork in Ireland, they are desirous with your Honors leave to take passage in her

They therefore humbly pray your Honours would be pleased to permit your petitioners their People and Servants before named to take passage in the said Brig, or in any other Vessel that may offer, that so they may get home to their Families and friends again. —

And as in duty bound shall every pray &c.

Boston Jany 23d 1777

John Taylor Levi Preston George Grey

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 182, 80.

*Independent Chronicle*, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1777

Boston, January 23, 1777.

Capt. [Elias] Smith, in the Privateer Brig *Washington*, belonging to Beverly, arrived at Plymouth a few Days ago, from a Cruise, during which he took eight Prizes; the last of which was a Brig from London, bound to Barbadoes with Beef, Pork, Butter, Flour, Cheese, and some Dry Goods: She sailed from Spithead the First of December.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hunter, who sailed from this Port last Summer in the *Yankee* Privateer, Capt. Johnson, and was taken as formerly mentioned,<sup>2</sup> was on board the above Brig: He informs, That Capt. Johnson, made his Escape from the *Rippon* Man of War, and got to France, a Month before he sailed. That the Dr. (Downing) [Eliphalet Downer] lay very sick on board the *Rippon* of 60 Guns. . . . One of Capt. Smith's Prizes had 300 Pipes of Wine on board.

Extract of a Letter from Captain John Fisk of the Brig *Tyrannicide*, in the Service of this State, dated at Sea, Nov. 17, 1776.

"This Day I fell in with, and took the Bark, *John*, from London, for Antigua, William Barrass, Master, with a Cargo of King's Stores, English and India Goods; the Papers on board, were all destroyed, and therefore cannot be particular. I have taken another Ship, loaded with Lumber, from Pensacola, for Grenada, she is not worth sending Home, and therefore shall detain her with me for the present."

The first mentioned Prize, is arrived at a neighbouring Port.

Captain Fisk, has also taken a Ship, from London, bound to Antigua, of 16 Guns, which is safe arrived at an Eastern Port. — She is entirely loaded with English Goods of all Kinds, the Foot of her Invoice is upwards of 40,000 l. sterling.

On Tuesday next, the 28th Instant, At Ten in the Morning, Will certainly be Sold at Public Vendue, in Taunton, At a Store near the Green, The remaining Part of the Brig *Countess of Eglin[g]ton*'s Cargo, consisting of a very large Quantity of Oznabrigs, Scots Checks, Stripes, Irish Linnens, Sheetings, Stamp Linnens,

about 50,000 Yards in the whole, 130 Dozen Mens and Womens plain and ribbed Thread and Cotton Hose, 50 Dozen Mens Calf Shoes and Pumps, 6 Dozen Womens Shoes and Pumps, 8 Dozen Womens Callamanco Shoes, &c. &c. &c.

J. Russell, Auctioneer.

1. Brig *Friends Adventure*, John Cumming, master, *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, February 13, 1777.
2. See Volume 6.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD <sup>1</sup>

Sir Providence Jany 23rd 1777 –  
Inclosed you have a Copy of a paper Sign'd by Some of the Officers of the *Alfred* and *Providence* – and Mr Southouse has waited upon me to have his property return'd – all I can Say in that matter is that I am willing every prisoner taken by the Continental Vessels should be treated well, and have as much of their property restor'd as will Support them in the Character they Sustain'd – but in this Case there has as you will See an Uneasiness arose – and as I have not had any Account of what he has had return'd, nor what more he Claims – I can't be any judge in the matter at present – Should advise you to Use the most prudent method to Settle the Matter So that the Officers and people may have no great Right to Complain, nor the Gentleman treated Worse than other men that have had the ill luck to fall into our hands –

I shall be extremely oblig'd to you to forward Capt'n [John Paul] Jones in discharging and paying off the People, as Well them that has Enlisted into the Land Service as the others – I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

E H –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

DANIEL TILLINGHAST TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES <sup>1</sup>

Sir Providence 23 January 1777  
Your favor under 20th Inst came duly to hand. – Note the Contents – The Commodore has just left me of whom requested to know his detirmination, either to disavow his Orders, to you, or to commend your Conduct, that I might acquaint you thereof, agreeable to your desire, – to wch he replys, you have his Orders in writing, wch if that will justify your Conduct its well, if not, he's ready & willing to do any thing in his Power, to assist & serve you. –

As to my advice in the affair, I am convinc'd the Suit cannot lay; as I am Serv'd with a Copy of the writ, I am only to appear in Court & say, that I have no effects of yours in my Hands as I cant make charges against you for the Cash I have advanc'd you Pr Rect on a/c of the Ship, wch I can say till you account with me for is just against you. – I shall be at some Expence in seeing the Lawyer &c & you may be assur'd I'll exert myself for your Interest in this affair – I am Sir [&c.]

Dan<sup>l</sup> Tillinghast

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6543, LC.

DANIEL TILLINGHAST'S RECEIPT FOR PRIZE MONEY FOR CREW OF CONTINENTAL  
SHIP *Columbus* <sup>1</sup>

Providence 23d January 1777.

Receiv'd of Abraham Whipple Esqr the Sum of Two Thousand seven Hundred and Thirty Pounds 8/7, Lawful Money being the Captors part of the Prize Ship *Royal Exchange*, also Two Thousand five Hundred and seventy two Pounds 13/1. Lawful Money being the Captors part of the Briga *Lord Lifford* in full, as P John Langdon Esqr Agent for the State of Newhampshire & John Bradford Esqr for the State of Massachusetts Bay their Accounts delivered me –  
Dan<sup>l</sup> Tillinghast Agent for the Compy –

1. Abraham Whipple Papers, CL.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Diamond* <sup>1</sup>

Janry [17]77  
Thursday 23d

Remarks onbd his Majesty's Ship *Diamond*  
A M the Signal was Made on bd his Majtys Ship *Amazon* for a Court Martial to Enquire into a Muloncholy Accident which hapned on Bord the *grand Duke of Russia* Transport by which 5 of her Crew was killed Supposed to have hapned from a Shot fired from one of our Guns on the 18th in Celebrateing her Majestys Birth Day  
first part Moderat and Cloudy middle and Latter part fresh gales with Rain PM at 3 the court Martial ended when the first Lietent Gunner and Crew ware Cleared.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1699.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE <sup>1</sup>

Copy.  
My Lord

*Chatham* off Newport Rhode Island  
23d January 1777.

Since my last Letter of the 13th Instant, I have received from Providence Fifty two prisoners, among whom are six Masters of Merchant Ships and some Passengers, and also the Mate, Boatswain, and four Seamen belonging to the *Betty* Transport. As the Cartel Business is to pass through my Hands, I have opened a Book for the purpose, and Mr Ayres is not now to go to New-York. He came here the 19th in the Morning, and in a few Hours the Exchange was made, and the whole Account settled (except for the Prisoners that went to Cork in the *Triton* Brig) and the Balance is Thirty in our Favor. I have sent all our prisoners including the Forty Nine brought by the *Greyhound*. As a Convoy now offers for New York, I have ordered the *Betty* Transport to be valued and have given her up to the Master, who can easily get her refitted there. Your Lordship may then either take her into the Service, or send her home, as your Lordship may judge proper. The 14th Instant I received by the *St Laurence* Schooner your Lordships Letter of the 11th, and the 17th I received by the *Greyhound* your Lordships Letter of the 12th, and by the *Amazon* one from Captain Duncan dated the 7th Instant, acquainting me that the *Amazon* was ordered to Newport

to be under my Command, and that the *Carysfort* was arrived at New-York with her ForeMast badly sprung. The *Niger* has not yet joined me, and I have therefore ordered the *Amazon* to supply the place of the *Carysfort*. The *Greyhound*, *King's fisher* and *St Laurence* Schooner are to proceed with the Troops, as soon as the Wind and Weather will permit. I have given Captain [Archibald] Dickson Orders agreeably to your Lordships Commands and have directed him (when he has taken the *King's fisher* as far as he thinks necessary) to order Captain Graeme to put in execution my Orders to him of the 10th Instant, to proceed to Shelter Island. The *King's fisher* and *Tryal* have made several Attempts, but have been obliged to put back by contrary Winds; therefore all the Dispatches go now in the *Greyhound*. The Rebels have several Thousand Men in this Neighbourhood, and are fitting two Fire-Ships. They threaten a Visit, and we hear are building Boats, and cutting down Vessels for the Reception of Great Guns. And as the *Tryal* may be of use in reconnoitring &c I shall employ her on that Service. The *St Laurence* Schooner and any Small Craft that can be spared, may be also of great Service, should your Lordship think proper to send them. Lord Percy will inform Sir William Howe of such Intelligence as he has received relative to the Force and Designs of the Rebels. The 17th and 18th Instant five Cartel Sloops arrived with about one Hundred and Sixty Soldiers &c from Sherbrook. The *Diamond* and *Cerberus* are ready to return to their Stations, and the *Emerald* will proceed as soon as possible to join Commodore Hotham. Captain [Francis] Banks has been for some time past in so bad a State of Health, that his Recovery is doubtful; I have therefore given him leave to go onshore to Sick Quarters, and have appointed Mr Robert Deans (the first Lieutenant of the *Chatham*) to act as Captain of the *Renown* during the Absence of Captain Banks, or 'till further Order.

Captain [Maximilian] Jacobs having applied to me for a Lieutenant to act in the room of the first Lieutenant of the *Amazon*, who is lent to the *Lord Howe* Armed Ship, I have ordered the second Lieutenant Mr Baynr Prideaux to act as First, and Sir James Barclay Bart (a Midshipman onboard the *Chatham*, who has passed his Examination) to act as second Lieutenant of her 'till further Order.

Your Lordship will receive herewith a List of the Transports under Convoy of the *Greyhound*, and an Account of a Sloop taken off of the Mouth of this Harbour.

I am happy to hear that your Lordship is so well recovered from your late sever Fit of Illness, and have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

P. Parker

Viscount Howe Vice Admiral &c &c &c  
[Endorsed] in Lord Howe's Lre of 13 Feby 1777

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

CAPTAIN SETH HARDING, CONNECTICUT BRIG *Defence*, TO GOVERNOR  
JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

New London Jany 23d 1777

Recd your Hons favor yesterday menshoning the Brig *Defence* Being nearly Ready to proceed to Sea which is so only a feue things from Norwich Mr Smedley

Informes me Likewise of my Coming to Lebenon this Day in Order for Settlement I am sorey to Inform your Honour I have bin hear 7 Days to Day Settling acct have bin Sick Ever since have got the Brigs acct Nearly Settled and they would have bin Settled 6 weeks agoe had not my Helth prevented I hope to get to Norwich to morrow if a plesent Day and then the next plesent Day to Lebenon I have no thoughts I shall be able to procead to Sea I have but Little Hops of Ever geting my helth but god only nose I have sumtimes in hops of a happy Exchange at other times Doutfull but Hope I trust only in the Sun of heaven I heartely wish your Hons & Counsel the Blesings of god to Rest with you and suces in our Nave and army god grant it so may be – I am Sir your Hons [&c.]

Seth Harding

P S Smedley Seams Verry Industuras and will Have things I Dont Dout with  
Dispach

S H

To Jonatha Trumble Esqr Lebanon

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 90, ConnSL.

### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore] Thursday, January 23, 1777

The Marine Committee having recommended Captain Fulford to take the command of the armed brig *Lexington*,

*Resolved*, That he be appointed to take the command of the said armed brig *Lexington*.

*Resolved*, That two frigates, one of 36, and the other of 28 guns, be immediately undertaken in the state of Connecticut.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VII, 58, 59.

### MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND COURT OF ADMIRALTY<sup>1</sup>

At a Court of Admiralty held for the State of Maryland at the Court House in Baltimore Town the Twenty third day of January 1777 Present The Honble Benjamin Nicholson Esqr judge

Private Schooner *Enterprize*

Jas Campbell Master

vs

Sloop *Fame* Nathl Barnard

Master

Libell filed 2d Jany 1777

Monition iss[ue]d

Claim & Ansr filed

by Jarred Coffin in behalf of

Joseph Hussey & Thomas Snow of Nantuckett in the Massachusets Bay

Ordered that a Venue be issued for 48 Jurors returnable tomorrow Morning 10 OClock

Rep[levin] & issue

Summons for Claimt  
Thos Sykes sd swm

Saml Mardens – sd swn

Wm Hare –

Jarrett Coffin – affirm  
for Libellt

Summon Wm Pickett sd swn

Danl Robbins

Jno Silver sd swn

Court Adjourns till tomorrow Morning 8 OClock

Court met According to Adjournment

Present as on Yesterday

The Marshall makes return of the following Persons as Jurors Vizt who are Accordingly impaneled & Sworn

Jury to be Allowed	James Calhoun foreman	Henry Sheaff
the usual fees	Mark Alexander	John Philo
	George Welsh	Richd Lemmon
	Nathan Griffith	Isaac Griest
	James Cox	David Shields
	Cornelius Garrettson	Aaron Mattison

Verdict that the Sloop *Fame* was in Possession of the British Ship of War Called the *Galatea* more than twenty four Hours & not as much as forty Eight Hours

Condemnation for One fifth part of said Sloop *fame* & Cargo &c  
day of Sale to be the 25th Instant.

1. Admiralty Court Minutes, 1776–1778, Md. Arch.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Charles Town Jany 23d 1777.

. . . The *Perseus* Frigate is now off the Bar – within Sight & now in Prsuit of two small Vessels – She chased into our Harbour the day before Yesterday 2 Sloops, they ran into Water where they could not be followed by the *Perseus* & she sent an armed Boat after them, but on our sending another armed Boat to oppose them they retired – However shortly afterwards, a Brig from old France coming over our Bar was boarded by her, took out our Pilot & then the Brig came in . . .

1. Herbert S. Smith Collection, CL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Camilla*, CAPTAIN CHARLES PHIPPS <sup>1</sup>

January 1777

Ditto [Charleston] So 4 Leagues.

Thursday 23d

at 10 AM Read the Articles of War & punished William Weller with 3 dozen lashes for Neglect of Duty and behaving in a Contemptuous manner to his Officers.

at 3 PM saw a Sail to the Westward ½ pt fired 2 Swivels & brought her too, she proved a Sloop from Cape Francois bound to Charlestown Masters Name Thomas Ridley and the Sloops

the *Fanny* laden with Molases and Rum sent an Officer & 7 Men onboard and took the Prisoners out of her the Sloop had lost her Rudder in a Gale of Wind

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/157.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Hind*, CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE <sup>1</sup>

January [1777] Working between Statia & Saba  
 Thursday 23 A M fired 9 Six Pds at a Sloop & brot her too from St Croix to St Eustatia with Rice detain'd her & sent an Officer & Men in her to St Kitts <sup>2</sup> Exercis'd great Guns & Fired Volleys of small Arms –  
 P M came to[o] in Sandy Point [St. Kitts].

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/457.

2. Sloop *Salt River Packet*, J. Spencer, master, with rice and hides, Young's Prize List to March 10, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF FRENCH SLOOP *St. Guillaume* <sup>1</sup>

An Account of Ships and Vessels Seized by His Majesty's Brigantine the *Pelican* Lieutt. J: P: Ardesoif Commander.

When taken	1777 January 23d
Where taken	Near Rosseau Dominica
Name of the vessel	<i>Le St Guillaume</i>
[Name of the] Master	Pr davide
To what Nation or	(French)
Province belonging }	St domingo
Sort of vessel	Sloop
From whence	Said to be from St Domingo
When last sailed	In Novemr last, but appears She left Statia the 17th Inst
Where bound	To Martinico
Lading	Guns, Provisions & other Warlike Stores
No of Tons	100 or more
Men	24
Guns	13 found but suppose more to be in the Ballast
If any other Ship of War	None
in Company, her Name }	
To what Port sent	Rosseau
Particulars relating them	On Supposition of her being the Sloop called the
& cause of Seizure.	

*Seaflower* belonging to Henry Jennings of Statia on her way to Martinico to be fitted as an American Privateer against his Majesty's Loyal Subjects; Induced me to make Strict Search in her Ballast where I found Secreted a Quantity of Shot, to the amount of 830 more than the Master said he had on board: also a Quantity of small Arms Vizt 12 Blunderbusses, 36 Mus-

quets with Bayonets & Cutlasses spare Rammers, ladles Spunges Boxes &c: On Examination his Men Owned that they had all entered at Statia the middle of Jany and that he Instructed them to ansr to his St Domingo Rol[l] D'Equipage.

John Plumer Ardesoif

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

24 Jan.

CAPTAIN SIR GEORGE COLLIER, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY MOWAT, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

By Sir George Collier Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Rainbow* and Senior Captain of His Majesty's Ships in the Harbor of Halifax.

Captain Andrew Barkley Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* being appointed to the *Milford*.

You are therefore hereby required an[d] directed, forthwith to repair on Board the *Scarborough* and take upon you the Command of her 'till further Order; Strictly charging and Commanding all the Officers and Company of the said Ship to behave themselves with all due Respect to you their said Commander; And you likewise to observe the General printed Instructions as what orders and Directions You shall from Time to Time receive from me or any other your superior officer, For doing which this shall be Your Order.

Given on Board His Majesty's Ship *Rainbow* in the Harbor of Halifax the 24th of Janry 1777,

Geo. Collier

To Captain Henry Mowat hereby appointed Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2124.

ROBERT MORRIS TO WILLIAM HOOPER<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Pha Jany 24th 1777 –

. . . In all the Transactions of America nothing has given me more Concern than that kind of irregular Conduct on bd the Am: Privateers that savours more of Moorish Piracy than Christian Forbearance. We have already many Instances that ought to be reprobated and the perpetrators brot to a Condign Punishment if the United States of Ama means to preserve a National good Character

One I have mentd to the Committee of Secret Correspondence because there was an open violation of the Laws of Nations and a palpable Insult on our real or pretended good Friends the French<sup>2</sup> Others have happened in Violation of the Authority of Congress and the Ships & Cargoes belonging to the States of Ama have been seized on Frivolous pretences and sent into their own Ports, those Insults have been overlooked because the States have probably not suffered any great Loss as the Property has reverted to them & the Captors have been supposed

to act from good Motives &c but what shall we say for these Plunderers when Individuals, honest Industrious Men, Friends to the Freedom & Independence of America lose their Property Credit & reputation by these Depredations, & the Misrepresentations they make to Cover their own Villainies, indeed my good friend if we do not take some effectual measures to punish the guilty and put a Stop to this kind of Arbitrary Thieving we shall be Sharers in their Guilt and probably incur the Suspicion of being Sharers in the Plunder.

I am led into these remarks by a letter from our Friend Hewes who has had two Vessells taken on the high Seas by American Privateers on no better pretence than the Captains pretending the Owners were Tories, the last of them is particularly mentd and described by Mess Hewes & Smith in their letter to me of the 13 Decr a copy of which is enclosed,<sup>3</sup> and when Congress have leisure I wish you would propose some Salutory Measures to put a Stop to these Growing Evils. I think the Captains & owners of Privateers shd give Security in very large Sums, and every State be answerable to those who grant Coms to, this woud make the latter cautious & villains woud find it difficult to deceive them, something I am sure must be done unless we wish to plunder one another & lay all the World under Contribution as a lawless Set of Freebooters, which God forbid shd ever be the Characteristicks of the Country I love . . .

1. Bank of North America Papers, HSP.

2. Reference is to the illegal actions of Captain William Patterson in the West Indies.

3. Protesting capture of the *Joseph*. This proved to be a mistake since she had been taken by the British.

#### THOMAS CASDORP TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen:

Philada, 24 January, 1777

When I was at Ticonderoga last Summer building Gallies: I have the Honour to acquaint you that I invented a New model of Swivell Skids for Gun Carriages, which was handed to General Arnold for his Approbation, and was approv'd off, which General Gates and most of his officers can inform you off. And as I am Certain that the Invention will be of great use to the Publick, Shall be glad to hand it to my fellow Citizens, not to have a Patent, but to serve my Country. My request to your Honourable Board is, that I may have the Liberty of Altering one of the Gallies Skids, the expence is So Trifling that Should it not be Approv'd off, I will replace it at my own expence, as I am well Assured the Invention will meet with your Approbation. Should your Honourable Board want a farther explanation I will at any time wait on you. I am, Gentlemen, with the Greatest Respect

Thos. Casdorp.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 200.

#### JOHN HANCOCK TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Baltimore January 24th 1777

The Marine Committee judging it of the utmost consequence that the frigate *Virginia* should be got to sea as soon as possible and finding it impracticable to procure the necessary Articles for the Ship without which she cannot proceed to

Sea have determined to send to Philadelphia for them, and have sent the Bearer an Officer of Captain Nicholsons to expedite the business; And I am now in the name of the Marine Committee to request you will immediately order such of the articles as are mentioned in the inclosed memorandum and can readily be got in Philadelphia to be forwarded here without loss of time in such manner as you shall judge best, the bearer will afford every aid in his power. I should think that it would be no disservice in taking an Anchor and the Cables from one of the Frigates in Philadelphia as you can with much more ease replace them there than we can procure them here, and all your Frigates are not in the readiness the *Virginia* is, and indeed she waits only for these articles. I submit it to you to conduct as you think most for the Public service, but with respect to the Anchor and Cables and Rigging, it is of the utmost importance they should be sent. Two Carts put together would easily effect this, let the expense be ever so great, but care should be taken to prevent the Cables chaffing, by matting the turns or putting Canvas round the parts liable to rub against the waggon, but I need not give you any hints of this kind. I wish we may have as many of the articles as can be got, I know you will exert yourself to effect this business. I am in behalf of the Marine Committee Sir Your very hble servant

John Hancock Chn

P:S: the inclosed Letter to Commodore Hopkins I leave open for your perusal – please to seal and forward it by first good opportunity.<sup>2</sup> –

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 51, NA.

2. See Marine Committee to Hopkins, January 21.

# HOLTON JOHNSON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Baltimore Jan'y 24 1777

this is to Inform You of the Safe Arivel of the Brig *Ann Amos Mansfield* master the master mate and men decline Going to France I have sold her Sugars for sumthing more than Six pounds up on an Avereg and have apply'd to Purvience for Pig Iron which they have purchesd for You I shall Take On board the Brig about Twenty Tun and fil her up as sune as Possiable with Flower it is Very Scarse here and dont think it possiable to Lode her under Fifteen or Twenty Days Flower is Twenty shillings and rising there is A Schooner Arived here this day belonging to the Bord of War from Boston which was drove onshore near Cap henery by Two British Men of War about Six days Ago and is Got of[f] with out any dameg only Lusing A Cable and Anchor which is the furst Account we have had of Any Men of war being of[f] this Coste I Cant Remember the Capt name but she had Forteen Cask of Sugar and Six or Eight Cask of Rum<sup>2</sup> Gentlemen I am with Respect [&c.]

Holton Johnson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 32, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

2. See Samuel Arnold to the Board of War, January 29.

## JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY<sup>1</sup>

January 1777

Remarks &c*a* *Preston* Chesepeak Bay

Thursday 23

½ past 2 [P. M.] the Pilot grounded the Ship, furl'd all our sails, sent the Master to Sound for deeper water, made the

Signal for Assistance, hoisted out the Long boat, put the Stream Anchor & 4 hawsers into her, with the help of Boats carried them out & made them fast to the *Brune*, hove and by degrees got her a Float,

Friday 24

ran to the Etward and Anchored

Do [Moderate & cloudy] weather and much rain, fired several Shot at a Sloop & brot her too she proved to be from Cape Francois bound to Virginia<sup>2</sup> at 5 Anchd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

2. Sloop *Good Intent*, John Finlayson, master, with rum, salt and dry goods, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1777

Williamsburg, January 24.

We hear the two men of war which came within our capes on Monday last are still hovering about the mouth of York river and New Point Comfort, have taken two salt vessels, and a ship laden with tobacco, from Maryland. Some of the hungry dogs have been on shore at the point, but with what design we cannot tell: No doubt we shall soon hear of bloody battles with the horned tribe, sieges against hog-pens, and violent assaults upon hen-roosts, by these modern heroes of Britain, who, on the dreadful appearance of a rifleman, like amphibious animals, fly to the watery element for security.

25 Jan.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

[Boston] Saturday, January 25th 1777

In Council Whereas Honble Richard Derby Esqr has inform'd this Board that he has a Brigantine laying at Providence in Rhode Island, which it will be agreeable to him Shoud be us'd for the purpose of conveying Prisoners to & from Rhode Island, Halifax or elsewhere, without any Hire or reward therefor, save only that when the business is accomplished, the said Vessel be delivered to him at Boston or Salem or such other Port as she may return to, in the Vicinity thereof – It is to be understood that the said Vessel is to be at the risque of this State during the Time she is employed in this business. – Wherefore it is, Ordered, That the Commissary or Committee who shall be entrusted with the Management of this Business (of exchanging Prisoners) be directed to wait on the Honble Mr Derby for his Orders to take the said Vessel and improve her in the abovemention'd Service. Provided the Enemy will suffer said Brig after delivering her Prisoners to return to either of said Ports –

In Council Read and Concurred.

Consented to by fifteen of the Council

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 489, 490.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH CHAPMAN<sup>1</sup>

Capt Joseph Chapman,  
Sir,

War Office,  
Boston Jany 25th 1777

You being Master of our Ship *Versailles* now loaded and ready to Sail your orders are to proceed direct for Nantes in the Kingdom of France deliver your Letters to Messrs Jacques Gruel & Compy Merchts their, to whom you are consign'd, & follow their orders for your further proceedings –

As your Ship is to be sold, you with your Men are to take passage home in the Brig *Penet* Capt [Nicholas] Bartlett: if he should arrive safe, if not in any other Vessel Messrs Gruel & Compy may send this way –

If any of your Men will take their discharge in France, you may pay them off, giving them one Months advance pay should they insist upon it.

What Money you may want for the payment of your Men or other disbursements, Messrs Gruel & Compy will supply, but it is recommended to you to be as frugal as possible –

By order of the Board,  
Sam Phps Savage Presit

[Endorsed] Boston Jany 27th 1777 I acknowledge the above to be a true Copy of the orders I have receiv'd from the Honorable Board of War & promise to obey the same – Joseph Chapman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 405, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO JACQUES GRUEL & CO., NANTES<sup>1</sup>

Messrs Jacques Gruel & Co  
Gentn

War Office,  
Boston Jany 25th 1777 –

This will be deliver'd you by Capt A[lexander] Wilson Master of our Ship *Le Duc de Chartres*, who goes from here to South Carolina, in order to purchase a Load of Rice, – if he should be so happy as to arrive safe at your port, we desire you to dispose of Ship and Cargo in the Best Manner you can, and pass the neat proceeds to the Credit of the Board of War, of the State of Massachusetts Bay, in Account with you; – What Money Capt Wilson may want for his necessary disbursements upon the Ship, and to get his hands back to this port you will please to advance & charge the Board with it – We are very respectfully Gentn [&c.]

By order of the Board of War  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Php's Savage, Prest:

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 33, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

State of Rhode-Island }  
& Providence Plantations }

In Council of War [Providence] Janry 25th 1777

Whereas this State did heretofore Charter of the Honl Nicholas Cooke Esq the Sloop *Diamond* to proceed a Voiage to Martinico, and the said Sloop having lately arrived in the Port of Bedford, and as such a Sloop is wanted for the use of this State: And this Council thinking it of greater Advantage and benefit to this

State to purchase said Sloop than to pay Charter Partys: And the said Nicholas Cooke Esq doth offer said Sloop with all her Stores and Appurtenances, & likewise to discharge and release what may be due upon the Charter Party aforesaid unto the State for the sum of Six hundred Pounds lawful. Wherefore Resolved that this Council do in behalf of and to and for the use of this State agree to purchase said Sloop *Diamond* with all her Stores & Appurtenances as she came in from Sea for the Sum aforesaid. And that upon the said Nicholas Cooke Esqr making and executing a good Bill of Sale of said Sloop with her Stores & Appurtenances to the General Treasurer for the time being to and for the use of this State, and likewise producing the Counter part of the Charter-Party discharging the sum therein due from this State unto the sd General Treasurer, that he be paid out of the General Treasury the Sum aforesd of Six Hundred Pounds lawful Money in Notes.<sup>2</sup>

£600      Witness R J Helme Clk

1. Maritime Papers, Revolutionary War, 1776–81, 56, R. I. Arch.

2. Governor Cooke's execution of the bill of sale dated January 27, 1777.

#### BARNABAS DEANE TO JOHN HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Wethersfield 25th Jany 1777

The *Trumbull* Frigate under my Direction Proceeded down Connecticut River the Last of Novr and when She had got within a few miles of the Rivers mouth Two of the Enemy's Frigates Appear'd of[f] the River & kept that Station untill the River Froze, I Advisd with Govr Trumbull & his Opinion was to Lay the Frigate up in Some Safe Creek which I did about Twenty miles from the Rivers mouth – Capt Manly Call'd on me with a Letter from Govr Trumbull (a Copy of which you have on the Other Side) And Agreeable to his Advice I have Supply'd Capt Manly with the *Trumbulls* Cannon which I hope will be Agreeable to the Honble Congress; Govr Trumbull has Engaged that the First Cannon made After the Furnace in this State begins Again to Cast Shall be for to Replace those Supply'd Capt Manly with      I am Respectfully [&c.]

Bar<sup>s</sup> Deane

1. Deane Papers, ConnHS.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Saturday, January 25. 1777.

Commissions issued to Bennett Matthews Esq. appointed Commander of the Row Galley called the *Independence*: also to John Stevenson Lieutenant of Marines of the same.

Ordered that Capt. Cooke, or in his Absence, the commanding Officer on Board the Ship *Defence* be requested to confine all such Prisoners belonging to this State that were taken by the Ship *Defence* that will not enter into the Service of the State or on Board of some of the private Ships of War, or Merchantmen; and to return a List of their Names with all convenient Speed to the Council of Safety.

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

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Perseus*, CAPTAIN GEORGE KEITH ELPHINSTONE <sup>1</sup>

January 1777 Charles Town Lighthouse WNW Distance 4 Leagues.  
 Saturday 25th At 7 (A M) gave Chace to 2 Sail in Shore. At 8 Charles Town Lighthouse WNW 10 Miles. Tack'd repeatedly as did the Chace; fir'd many Nine Poundrs and Swivels Shotted at the Schooner and Sloop; after which the latter bore down and prov'd from St Thomas's for So Carolina – took charge of her –<sup>2</sup> gave Chace to the Schooner which carried away her flying Jibb Boom; fir'd a Shot and brot her too, which proved a French Vessel – took charge of her.<sup>3</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/688.

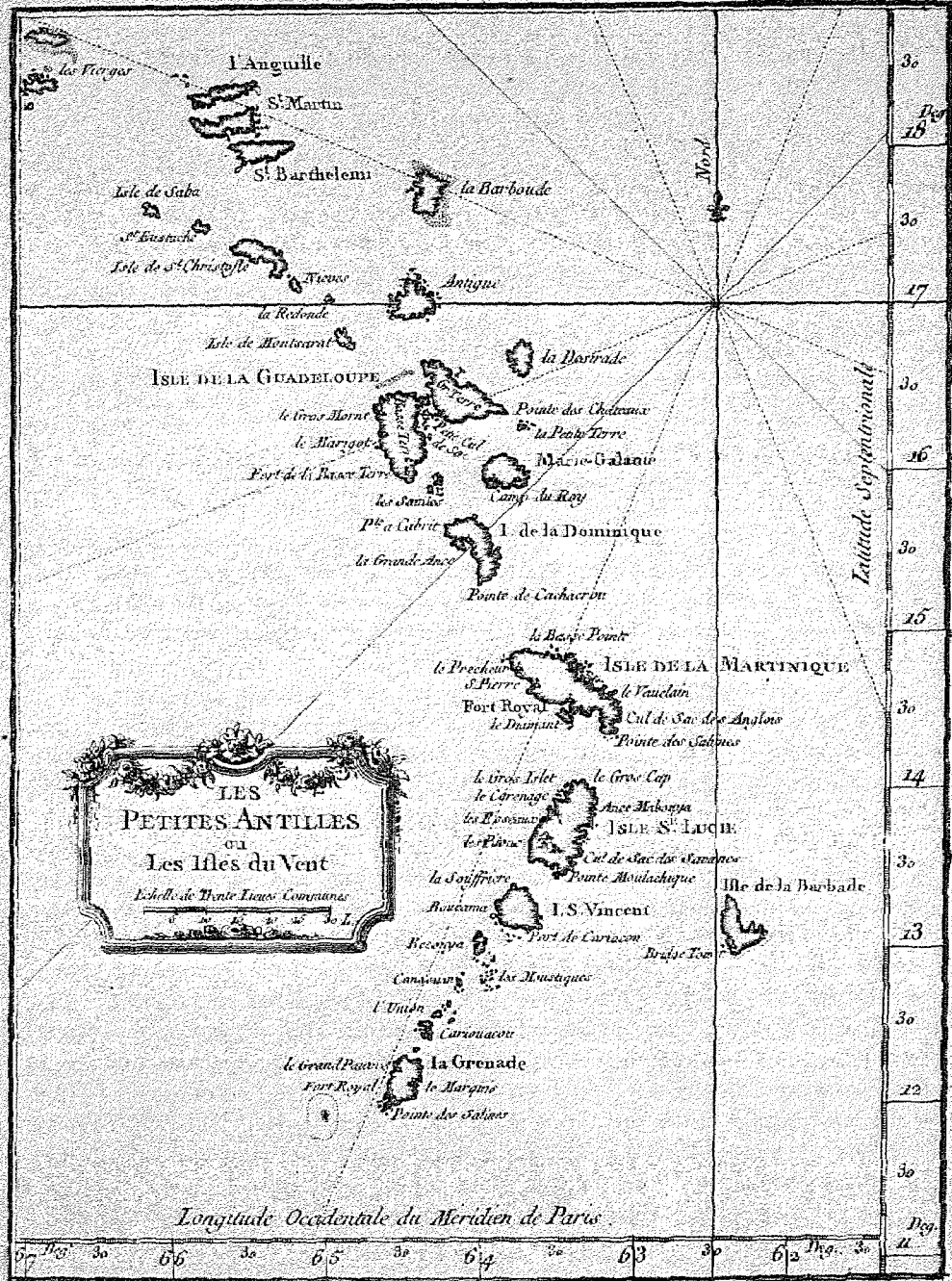
2. Sloop *Adventure*, Thomas Nevell, master, with wine and dry goods, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

3. *Ibid.*, the schooner *Union*, Jean Collineux, master, from Martinique, with bale goods. And see *South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, January 30.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BARBADOES, TO THE MERCHANTS IN THIS TOWN [LIVERPOOL], DATED 25TH JANUARY, 1777.” <sup>1</sup>

On Monday last the 20th inst. the *Thomas*, Capt. Collinson, and the *Sarah*, Capt. Frith, both from Liverpool, fell in with a ten gun sloop, which soon boarded, and sword in hand took the former, she and the prize then fired upon the latter ship, which by having the heels of them got off, but she had the misfortune of being attacked again in the morning of the 22d instant, near the land, by a schooner of considerable force, with which he had a long and smart action, the enemy attempted sundry times to board, but was prevented by booms rigged out on each side of the *Sarah*, whose mainmast had a six-pounder through it, the sails, blocks, and rigging all cut to pieces, and his chief mate wounded in the arm, he poor gentleman, received two musquet balls in his body, and tho' all imaginable care was taken of him immediately on his arrival in Carlisle Bay, last Wednesday evening, he died the night before last, and was buried yesterday morning. The engagement was seen from the shore, and 'tis allowed that poor Frith behaved gallantly: at the bottom of the invitations to his funeral were these words, “*Dulce et Decorum Pro patria mori*,” of the schooner and several of her crew, which appeared to them to be chiefly French mulattoes and negroes, the privateer was a good deal shatter'd in her sails and rigging, and received several shots in her hull. – Several of the independent gentry are cruising to the Eastward of this Island, and some of them well fortified and mann'd. – One Fisk a Salem man in the brigantine *Tyrannicide* of fourteen guns and 120 men, has been very successful. – The last he took that we know of was a brigantine call'd the *Three Friends* (one Helme commander) from London, with a valuable cargoe of dry goods and provisions, said capture was last Saturday. The long-boat was given to six of the hands, who arrived here that afternoon, and reported that their Capt. and Mate enter'd on board the privateer, carrying with them a sum of money and upwards of two thousand letters for this place. Such swarms of them are to windward that 'tis fear'd they will do much mischief.

1. *The General Advertiser*, Liverpool, March 21, 1777.



Voyez ces Isles plus en grand N<sup>o</sup> 80. N<sup>o</sup> 81. et N<sup>o</sup> 82. Voyez la Barbade N<sup>o</sup> 98

26 Jan. (Sunday)

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston Jany. 26. 1777

please to Send the dimensions of the Ships immediately, as they will be wanted directly to determine in what manner to hew the Timber,<sup>2</sup> No Iron to be had here under Eighty pounds P Ton, pray send a Quantity immediately from Baltimore Send also a quantity of Hemp if possible, as I know not how it will be practicable to obtain the Rigger in these parts. —

I wrote you the 10th of Novr last that I should be glad to be Informed whether after the frigates which I have built, are Compleatly fixed & gone to Sea, I Shall have any more to do with them when they return into Port,<sup>3</sup> in short whether it is expected I should supply them from time to time with Such Provisions and Stores as they may have occasion for or whether they are for this Purpose to apply to Capt Bradford the Agent for Prizes, Will it not be as much as one man Can do to take Care of the prizes that are & may be taken by the Armed Vessells fixed out by order of Gen Washington? As I have had the trouble of building these frigates at this very difficult time, & which the usual Commission wch Congress may Allow will but poorly Compensate, (tho I shall be perfectly Content with whatever they do Allow) I should think it would be but right that I should be employed to Supply them with the Provisions and stores they may from time to time stand in Need of and also as Agent for the prizes they may take I should be obliged to you for yr Interest in this Matter, and remain with great Esteem & respect [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

[P.S.] Would not Capt Job Prince make a Suitable [contractor fo]r one of the Ships about to be built, pray Consider of it, he is an Active Man, has a Spirit of Government, an[d of good] Business, his Men would both love and fear him.

Capt Waters & Capt Tucker will hand you this Letter, they had [both been] in the Continental service by Virtue of a Commission from Genl Washington they Incline to Continue in it, I recommend them to your Notice, the[y] ar[e] at some uncertainty about their orders of whom they Should receive them, Does not this Shew the Necessity of a having a Marine Board Established at Boston consisting of a member or members from each of the New England Governments, vested with certain powers for the well ordering and from time to time Improving the Continental Ships in such Cruises & upon such Voyages as shall most promote the Common Cause and most Effectually Annoy the Enemy and in order to Engage them to attend the Business closely proper salleries should be affixed for their Service? Should there not be a Magazeene of stores provided for these Ships & a proper yard filled with masts of all Dimensions for their Use. . . .

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SI.

2. Continental 74 gun ship and 26 gun frigate.

3. Continental frigates *Hancock* and *Boston*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS <sup>1</sup>

Jan'y 1777

## Moord in Rhode Island Harbour.

Sunday 26

at 1 P M the Com[modore] and the Sigl for the Boats Mann'd  
& Arm'd to Chace in the S Ward the Pinnacle with a petty  
Officer drove a Sloop on Shore loaded wth Salt and burnt  
her

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN TOBY CAULFIELD <sup>1</sup>

January 1777

[Moored off Newport]

Sunday 26

11 AM anchored here H. M. S. *Orpheus* & *Daphne* – at noon  
saw a Sloop in the Offing  
light airs & Clear 3 PM anchored here H. M. S. *Ambuscade*  
& 10 Sail of Transports loaded with fire Wood from Long  
Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Sir

Philada Jany 26th 1777

The enclosed letter from the General came in last Night by Mr McClenaghan one of the Light Horse of this City . . .

The Generals Question respecting Small Arms, deserves much attention, all that have lately been imported have been put into the hands of Militia bot[h] here & in the Eastern States, and altho very considerable quantities may reasonably be expected this Winter, yet their arrival is very uncertain whilst the Enemies Ships line the Coast, and as there now is undoubtedly more than sufficient of good Arms in the Country some [e]fficacious Method shou'd be adopted to draw them into Public Arsenals, from whence they may be taken as wanted either for the use of the Army or Militia . . . The Delaware continues too full of Ice for Ships to sail which is a pity as Capt Biddle has now 200 Men onbd the *Randolph* & is ready to push out the first opening, our Tradesmen will not return and the other Ships shall be got ready fast as possible . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 115-18, NA.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Badger*, LIEUTENANT CHARLES HOLMES EVERITT <sup>1</sup>

January 1777

Salt Key bore EbS distance 2 Miles, the great Sand Key  
SbE distance 3 Leags

Saturday 25th

7 A M Saw a Schooner found her to be the *Porcupine*, same time Turks Island SW 3 Leags 1/2 past 8 A M Saw a Sloop and a Schooner at Anchor, under Turks Island, at 9 Hoisted out the Boat & sent an Officer on Board, She came from Bermuda in Ballast to this Island, the *Porcupine*, Brig & Sloop in Sight.

Modt Breezes & fair Weathr the Chace SEbE . . . 10 P M  
 Came in sight of the Chace, bearg SbW sent our Boat to  
 Board her found her to be from New London, Bound to  
 Cape Nicholas Mole, with Horses & Lumber, sent an Officer  
 & Four Men to take Charge of her <sup>2</sup>

Sunday 26th

A M the Prize in Company.

Modt Breezes & fair Weathr 5 P M our Prize parted with us,  
 Bound for Jamaica.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/78.

2. Brig *Molly*, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

27 Jan.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Milford*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY <sup>1</sup>

Jany [1777]

At Moorings in Halifax Harbour

Monday. 27

AM reeved some of the running rigging Dryd sails Captain  
 Berkley <sup>2</sup> from the *Scarboroughs* Orders was Read whom sup-  
 perseded Captain Mowatt [Henry Mowat] Caulkers Empd on  
 Board.

First & later parts Modr & fair Middle Modr Breezes & Cloudy  
 with much Snow. Reeved the remainder of the running  
 rigging

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/607.

2. "Capt Barclay of the *Scarborough* arriving from New York claimd a Senior title to the *Milford* as a preferable Ship and was appointed to her by Sir George Collier Accordingly. Captain Mowat was removed into the *Scarborough*." "A relation of the services in which Captain Henry Mowat of the Royal Navy was engaged in America, from 1759 to the end of the American War in 1782," *Maine Historical Society Collections and Proceedings*, 2nd series (Portland, 1891), II, 357.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Boston 27 Jany 1777

The Bearer Capt Daniel Waters this moment inform'd me he was to set out this afternoon for maryland to wait on the congress. I suppose in hopes of promotion, encouraged by the late favours granted Capt Roch [John Roche] who it seems was only a Lieutent in one of those Schooners. Waters is accompinied by Capt [Samuel] Tucker whose Vessell is deliv'd to the owners being unfit for service.<sup>2</sup> I proposed to Capt Waters to go on a Cruse in the *Lee* but he declined it, because he was going to Congress. I shall not mention at present any thing relitive to this persons caracter. I beg leave to refer you to my former Letters. I make no doubt he is brave but his former conduct with Poor Capt [William] Burke was very reprehensable.<sup>3</sup>

I must think myself criminal not to mention something relitive to Tucker who is by no means qualified to rise higher in Command being the most volatile empty body I ever meet with, little credit being to be given to any thing he says, And his principle of honesty being very suspicious I inclose a list of things reported to have been taken out of a prize by him on information of his Lieutent Mr Bartlett on taxing him with it he acknowledged it. I find he has been Selling part

of the muskuets a[t] Marblehead, I assure you Sir it gives me pain to caracterise in so disagreeable a light. But I can with great truth say its from an ardent wish that such persons only may be employ'd that will do honour to our growing navy the distracted state I found that part in over which I have the honour to preside. I have in several Ltrs hinted to you great allowances are to be made while the Navy is as it were in Embraio. I flatter myself we are in a much better way then we were formerly

You may be Surprised Sir when I tell you the Schotch prizes are not yet settled but its intirely owing to a dispute between Deacon Gardner and myself he demanding a greater sum than I proposed to give him for getting the Brig *Annabella* from the Blk rocks where she lay a Month Sunk,<sup>4</sup> we shall settle the dispute to morrow when we shall pay of[f] the Captures for them Prizes & the *Perkins*<sup>5</sup> the Ship *Peggy* being clam'd a[t] philadelphia we cannot settle till we know her fate from congress<sup>6</sup> the *Lord Lifford* is paid off and Settled The two frigates here will soon get away and I hope in five weeks from this to get the *Rawleighs* Guns fifteen tuns pig Iron is alrealy at the furnace

I have had no complaints from any of the Captures for when they ask me for money I have always given them that on a Settlement the[y] wont have any great sum to receive being pressed for time I must Conclude with the most profound respects Your [&c.]

J B

1. John Bradford Letter Book, vol. 1, LC.

2. See Bradford to Hancock, November 28, 1776.

3. See Bradford to Continental Marine Committee, November 11, 1776.

4. See Volume 5.

5. Taken by Washington's schooners *Franklin* and *Hancock*. See Volume 6.

6. See Volume 5.

#### ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.<sup>1</sup>

Council Chamber [Boston] Jany 27. 1777.

Ordered That Benjamin Cudworth of Boston be & he hereby is appointed Water Bailiff for the special purpose hereinafter mentiond and he is accordingly required to repair on board the Brigantine *Rising States*<sup>2</sup> now within or near the Harbor of Boston and with such Assistants as he may need, make due Search through out the said Brigantine, And if he find any persons on board who are enlisted or engagd in the Land or Sea Service of this or the United States, He is to apprehend & secure them untill the further Order of the Council – And all Magistrates Sheriffs & others are required & enjoind to afford the sd Cudworth any Aid he may stand in need of for the full Execution of this Order; And the Officers of the sd Brigantine are particularly enjoind to be aiding in this business and as soon as it is accomplishd He is to notify the said Officers Immediately to appear at the Council Chamber to answer to such questions as the Council may think fit to ask them –

In the Name & by Order of Council  
John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 201½.

2. Massachusetts privateer *Rising States*, James Thompson, commander, Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 46.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO MESHECH WEARE <sup>1</sup>

Council Chamber, Boston

Jany 27th, 1777.

Sir –

We have great reason to conclude that Capt. [Simeon] Sampson of the armed Brign *Independence* in the service of this State has been taken and carried into Nova Scotia – as we wish to take the most effectual measures for recovering Capt. Sampson & his crew from the Enemy, and as we have not at present within this State seamen Prisoners of War sufficient for the Exchange, perhaps it might be relieving your State from a burthen to allow us to avail ourselves of the Prisoners lately taken on Board the armed schooner (late Capt. Burke) <sup>2</sup> or any other seamen Prisoners of War within your State, for the purpose before mentioned – Please to favour us with your sentiments on the subject by the first opportunity.

In the name & in behalf of the Council I am, Sir [&c.]

J. Bowdoin, Presidt

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 473.

2. Schooner *George* (formerly Washington's schooner *Warren*, William Burke), a tender to H. M. S. *Milford* which had been driven into Portsmouth, N. H., and captured.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER WILSON <sup>1</sup>

Capt Alexander Wilson,

Sir,

War Office,

Boston Jany 27th 1777 –

You being Master of our Ship *Duc de Chartres*, your orders are to proceed direct for Charlestown South Carolina where you will dispose of your Rum & Sugar to the best Advantage, and purchase a full Load of Rice, with the Addition of such light [illegible] skins, and Bees Wax as your Neat Sales will admit. –

When you are loaded, you are to proceed for Nantes in the Kingdom of France, deliver your Letters to Messrs Jacques Gruel & Company Merchants there, to whom you are consign'd & follow their orders for your further proceedings. –

As your Vessel is to be sold, you with your Men, are [to] take your passage home, in the first Vessel that Messrs J Gruel & Compy may send this Way, but should any of your Men be desirous of being discharg'd in France, you may pay them off, with the Addition of one Months advance wages, should they insist upon it. –

What Money you may want in France, for the payment of your Men or other Disbursments Messrs Gruel & Co will supply, but it is recommended to you to be as frugal as possible.

Upon your Arrival in Charlestown, you will deliver the Letter you have herewith given you to Messrs Alexander Gillon & Compy Merchts there, whose advice and assistance you will avail yourself of, should it be necessary. <sup>2</sup> – You will advise the Board by the Post of your Arrival and proceedings in Carolina, and will observe to forward by the same Conveyance, Duplicates of your Invoice, & Bills of Lading for France –

The Board consent to allow you five pr Cent on the Sales and two & a half pr Ct on the purchase of your Cargo in Carolina, Eight Pounds L. M. pr Month, eight Tons Priviledge out, and two Tons home.

As the season is far advanc'd we would recommend to you the greatest Dispatch, & Heartily wish you a good Voyage. —

By order of the Board,

Sam<sup>l</sup> Phps Savage Prest

P. S. Mr Pliarne a Gentleman from France who it is probable you will see in Charlestown, is intituled by Agreement with the Board to ship in your Vessel, Freight free, Six pr Cent on your Cargo, or six Teirces of Rice upon each Hundred, you are therefore to receive the same, & sign Bills of Lading accordingly.

[Endorsed] Boston Jany 29th 1777 — I acknowledge the above to be a true Copy of the orders I have receiv'd from the Honorable Board of War, & promise to obey the same. Alex<sup>r</sup> Wilson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 406–07, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

2. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 34, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

*Boston Gazette*, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1777

Boston, January 27.

Friday 7—night one of the Privateer Sloop *Union's* Prizes arrived at a safe Port, laden'd with 600 Hogsheads Salt, 50 Boxes Lisbon Lemons, and 12 Quarter casks of Wine.

Tuesday the privateer Brig. *Washington*, Capt. [Elias] Smith, belonging to Plymouth, arrived at Beverly from a cruize; off western islands he took a Brig from London bound to the West-Indies, and order'd her into port.

In the above prize was taken a person late belonging to the *Yankey*, Capt. Johnson, who informs, That he made his escape from a prisonship, where he left 22 of his fellow sufferers, and that by what he could learn they were to be carried to the East Indies; that Capt. Johnson had made his escape and got to France; that he sail'd from London the 28th of November; and that some extraordinary appearances of a French War had taken place, as there was 3000 Seamen press'd in one night.

A London print, of the 2d of December, it is said, was taken in the above prize wherein was inserted an account, that an English cutter had taken and carried to England, a vessel from France bound to America, with dispatches, by which they learn't, that the Court of France were determined to assist the Americans, with a powerful fleet in the spring. That on the British Court's receiving the account, they immediately gave orders for fitting several large ships, and that 1500 Seamen were pressed in one night, to man them.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Jany 27th 1777 —

The Officers and People have seen Som Certificates from Captn [John Paul] Jones to Some of his Men by which they are apprehensive that the Prize Money is to be Sent to Philada to Mr David Sproat, which gives them great Uneasiness — and they have applied to me to use my Influence that the Money may be Stopp'd I therefore desire you to keep the Prize Money for the *alfred* & *Providence* in your hands untill the returns of their Crews are made to you

So that the Officers & people may Severally receive it of you – I am in behalf of the Officers & people Sir [&c.]

E H –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Sphynx*, CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT <sup>1</sup>

January 1777. Moor'd off Prudence Island as before –  
 Sunday 26: Modt and fair Wr PM Wash'd and smoaked between Decks, at 1 Departed this Life Thomas Smith (Seaman) at 5 sent the boats mann'd & Armed after a Sloop that had Anchord between Prudence and Patience Islands, at ½ past saw a firing from the boats and Sloop at 6 fir'd 3 Nine Pounders as Signals for the boats to Return –  
 Little Wind and Cloudy Wr  
 Monday 27 AM Longboat for Water, at 10 a Row Galley came down the River and Anchord off Warwick Neck, and another went round the North end of Prudence, Do heard the Report of several Guns from the East end of Prudence –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/922.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS, PROVIDENCE <sup>1</sup>

New London Janr 27 1777

I Received yours 20th Inst and have ever Since been endeavouring to furnish you with an Accot of Whatt Interest you may have on Accot of the Prizes that have been sent into this State in my hands but I find that I cannot with any exactness do it, by Reason of the Rum not being Sold, not in Cash for the Stores from New Providence, neither am I furnished with the number of persons who have lost their Limbs in the Service as I suppose these are to be reimburs'd before any Division is made I really wish I could know the names of the Ships Crews who are to receive the prize money that is in my hands for I want to pay them, knowing that the Service Suffers for want of this Division – I have two hundred pounds in Mr Tillinghast hands which I shall for[ward] Soon as I can find what more is in your favour untill then – I am Sir [&c.]

N. B. by the bearer Mr Lyon have sent you 1000 Dollars

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Lebanon, Monday, January 27th, 1777.

Dr. Benjamin Ellis is appointed Surgeon to the brig *Defence*, his pay to begin the 20th of Decr, 1776, when his service began.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, I, 162.

*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1777

New-York, January 27.

Thursday last, a Schooner and Sloop were sent in by the *Unicorn*: They were both bound for Virginia, from Boston, and are loaded with Rum and Sugar: By Letters found on board the Prizes, it appears, that several other Vessels were soon to follow them from the same Place, intended for the southern Colonies.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA . . . DATED JAN. 27." <sup>1</sup>

The brisk trade we have for some time carried on to the French and Spanish islands in the West-Indies, is almost entirely stopped. The English admirals on the West-Indiea stations, exclusive of the men of war and frigates belonging to their squadron, have fitted out and commissioned a number of armed vessels, from eight to fourteen guns each, which are commanded by lieutenants, masters, and mates of the navy, and are stationed to cruize off the Havannah, Monte-Christi, Cape Francois, Cape Nichola Mole, and likewise off St. Eustatia and Curacao; so that our vessels can seldom or ever go in or out of the above ports without being taken. It is said these armed cruisers have within these few months taken upwards of fifty sail of American vessels, some of them privateers.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 5 to April 8, 1777.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO DAVID STEWART, BALTIMORE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]  
No 130.

. . . the proportion you are to retain in your hands is two thirds of all the Prizes, and Effects sold, that were taken by the *Defence*. — had the men not received Pay, they would have been entituled to one half, but they having been constantly paid, are entituled only to one third under the Resolves of Convention. — We are &c.

[Annapolis] Jan'y 27th 1777. —

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.

STEPHEN STEWARD TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentell Men

West River January the 27 1777

Captain Mathews Com to Me from [y]ou for Cordigg and Canviss I have not So much of Eather as well Compleet the Galley thats fineshed I have firneshed this Galley With feeften or Sixteen Hundred Wait of My one Inglesh Cordig Such I am Shore I Cant git In this State to Replace I have taken Evrey Step to Git metearls for the Seven Galleys and the Nine armd vesells and have ben Continuley Disapointd you no I Deliverd you a bill of Parsels for Evrey thing at first but as Evrey one that you Employed to Build the Galley have Built them on Difrent Construction from What Was first Proposd, itis Emposebell for to no What Metearls is Sutebell for any of them but the two I have Built My self Which are Built agreeable to the Draft I Drew and laid befor the Convention Which the Convention aProved of and Desierd Me to Give the other Builders

Copys of Which I Did I Sapose the other Builders have Consilted you before thay Built on a Difrent Plan

Intend to Baltemore this week to try If I Can Proswaid Msrs Lux and Bowley to Mak Me another Cable If I had a Cable that I Culd venterd this Galley In the Bay With I would sent hir to you long ago I think Captain Mathews Will tell you She is Comple[a]t for the use She Was Intended for Which is Dercelly to the Plan I laid befor the Convention I Shall Call on you as I go up for your Comands and shall Strickly observe them as far as In my Power I have Rigid and fited out fore vesels for you Comple[a]t Which has taken a great dele of Cordigg Canviss Ship Chandle[r]y &c I am Gentell Men [&c.]

Stephen Steward

1. Red Book, XVII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY <sup>1</sup>

January 1777	Remarks &ca <i>Preston</i> Chesepeak Bay
Monday 27	2 AM Anchd at day light saw a Brig & 4 Schooners, sent the Boats Mann'd & Armed took the Brig & 3 Schooners Little wind & fair weather cleared the <i>Runfast</i> Schooner the <i>Phoenix</i> dismantled & burnt the Brig & one Schooner. <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

2. Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777, credits only two of the above vessels to H.M.S. *Preston*; the *Runfast*, Nehemiah Somes, master, from Boston with rum and sugar, and the *Content*, Samuel Gale, master, from Marblehead with salt, rum and sugar. The other two are listed as prizes of H.M.S. *Phoenix*; the *Three Friends*, Samuel Robins, master, from Boston with ten hogsheads of sugar, and the *Adventure*, William Jones, master, from Hispaniola with salt.

ADMIRALTY COURT ORDER FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF PRIZE SHIP *Jane* <sup>1</sup>

At a Court of Admiralty held in Williamsburg the 27th Day of January 1777. The Marshal having returned to Court an Account of Sales of the Ship *Jane* and Cargo and after deducting the Charges attending the Capture and trial of the same there appears to be due a Ballance of eight thousand three Hundred and Ninety four pounds and Sixpence Half penny It is ordered that the Marshal pay the same to the Treasurer of this Commonwealth and to Capt Thomas Lilly and his Crew of the Brig *Liberty* in such proportions as directed by Law and the Resolutions of the Continental Congress.

A Copy

Will Russell Cl Co[u]rt

1. Papers of the Virginia Navy, brig *Liberty*, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS <sup>1</sup>

Jany 1777	So Et End of the Frying Pan Shoal So84:47W 72
Monday 27	Lgs [from Cape Hatteras] at 6 A M handd Mizn & F Topsls Close Reft Mn Topsl one Sl in Co <sup>2</sup>

Fresh Gales & hazy at 12 pm saw a Sl to Leewd gave chase  
 ½ pt fired one Gun shotted & a Volley of small Arms at the  
 Chace & bt her too, sent An Offr & some men on bd of her,  
 the Boat stove & filld alongside, Cut her away, fd the Chace  
 to be a Brig bd from Cape St Nichole to Boston: <sup>3</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.
2. The *Solebay* had sailed from New York January 21, as a convoy for two transports bound for St. Augustine and, eventually, Jamaica, PRO, Admiralty 51/909.
3. The brig *William*, Jesse Harding, master, with a cargo of molasses. The prize was carried into St. Augustine, Howe's Prize List, to October 24, 1777, *London Gazette*, December 2 to December 6, 1777.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Antigua*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM SWINEY <sup>1</sup>

January 1777 [English Harbour, Antigua]  
 Monday 27th Little Wind and fair Wr His Majesty's Armed Brigantine  
 the *Antigua* was this day put in Commission in English Har-  
 bour Antigua by Lt Swiney

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4117.

#### MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck* <sup>1</sup>

January 1777 Antigua So73 W35  
 Monday 27th A M at 8 the Entrance of English Harbour NWbW 3 mile at  
 9 got a pilot on board at 10 Saluted Vice Admiral Young  
 with 13 Guns turning up English Harbour at 12 Anchor'd in  
 the Mouth of the Harbour in 4 fath. Join'd the *portland*,  
*Pearl* *Seaford* & *Shark* here –  
 Modt and cloudy  
 P. M. Warp'd into the Harbour & Moor'd at the Pitch Kettle  
 Moorings <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.
2. To clean and refit.

#### NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

[January 1 to January 27, 1777]

I continued cruising with my little Squadron on this service <sup>2</sup> untill the  
 10th Jany during which time we took 11 or 12 Prizes. some of which were laden  
 with Powder & Arms. two were French ships that pretended to be bound to  
 Miquelon the rest were americans Laden with supplys of different sorts for  
 Philadelphia from the West Indies all of which we sent to New York – When hav-  
 ing assurances that the upper part of the River was frozen up, which the severity  
 of the Weather below left no room to doubt of, I moved to the Southward; and  
 having given each of the Captains orders to cruize in certain Latitudes for a lim-  
 ited time, and sent the *Perseus* & *Camilla* off Charles Town Bar, I gave out a gen-  
 eral Rendezvous for the Island of Antigua, Making the best of my way thither,  
 in pursuance of the Admirals Orders to clean & refit my ship: where I arrived

the 27th having taken three Vessels on my passage, one of which was laden with Gun Power & Sail Cloth, Two Articles, of which the Enemy are most in want of.<sup>3</sup>

1. Hamond, No. 6, UVL.

2. Off Delaware Bay.

3. *Adventure*, Lawrence Sandford, master, from Cape St. Nicolas Mole with powder and sail cloth, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Antigua 27th January 1777.

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that not having yet received any Account of the *Pomona*, I cannot but Conclude her to be lost and the small Number of His Majesty's Ships now employed on this Station are very insufficient to protect the Trade of the different Islands within the Limits of my Command: I have therefore thought it necessary, and for the good of His Majesty's Service, in order to more effectually to annoy the Rebels Numerous Armed vessels (called Privateers) now Cruizing in these Seas: To Cause to be purchased, Armed, and Commissioned the Rebels Privateer Brigantine lately called the *Putnam*; (which I acquainted their Lordships by my Letter of the 2d November last, had been taken as Prize by His Majesty's Ship *Portland*;) <sup>2</sup> she having been reported on a Careful Survey fit to be made an Armed Vessel for the use of His Majesty, and capable of carrying Ten Guns and Forty Five Men; and I have directed the Deputy Naval Officer at Antigua Yard to draw Bills on the Navy board for £500 Sterling, the appraised Value of said Brigantine; the reported Condition and Valuation of which are inclosed for their Lordships Inspection. The 27th January I caused her to be Commissioned and called the *Antigua*: and have appointed Lieutenant William Swiney, from the *Portland*, to Command her, and took that opportunity to give Lieutenant William Young a Commission as Second Lieutenant of the *Portland*: which their Lordships had been pleased to direct. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young.

[Endorsed] Recd - 6 May Dupl Rd 26 Apl

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. *General Putnam*, Pennsylvania privateer brig, Captain Charles Ferguson.

28 Jan.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR<sup>1</sup>

Boston 28th Jany 1777

Order'd That Mr Ebenr Foster's Bill for an Anchor for Brig *penet* £46 . . 2 . . 4 be paid -

Order'd That the Commissary deliver Capt Willson [Alexander Wilson] Four Swivels & their Apparatus, also Two small Arms for the *Duc de Chartres* -

Order'd That Colo [Thomas] Crafts deliver Capt Willson Twenty rounds for Four Swivels & Sixty Cartridges for small Arms

1. Mass Arch., vol. 148, 136, 137.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAINS JOHN PAUL JONES AND ELISHA  
HINMAN, BOSTON <sup>1</sup>

Gentn

Providence January 28th 1777

There is a great difficulty arose weither the Agreement enterd into at Rheedey Island shall be kept to in division of Prizes it has been proposed by Capt Whipple and Mr Thomas Mumford in order to put an End to the Dispute that each Captain should choose a Man of known Character which should detirmine all disputes of that Nature and the several Crews Shear agreeable to their detirmination and on the whole, I think to prevent Law Sutes it may be better detirmined that Way. – than by Jurys & not only better decided but sooner. – If you Gentn are of that Opinion you will Sign the Arbutation Bond wch Mr Mumford has forwarded to Capt E Hinman by this Oppertunity & apoint your men in the Column against your Names, under the Bond, you will therefore get it done as soon as possible, and you have my Leave to attend the Setling the same if not should be glad you will signify the same so that some other method may be hit on & let it be done Immediately as there's no time to be lost. – I am Gentn [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 187, NA.

STEPHEN HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence January 28th 1777

The thirteen Ships who came down the Sound the 26th current, arrived at Newport Yesterday, and are supposed to be the Wood Vessels from Long-Island with their Convoy; they drove on Shore at Point Judith a Sloop laden with Salt: – an Armed Schooner and a Number of Barges from the Harbor of Newport attacked her, and it is most likely will destroy her. –

The Enemy are erecting a Fort or Battery upon Rhode-Island near Fogland Ferry – and also one upon the heights at the North part of sd Island opposite to Bristol-Ferry. –

Some very valuable Prizes have arrived within the State of Massachusetts-Bay the Week last past . . .

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, vol. 5, 24a–24b, ConnSL.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Diamond* <sup>1</sup>

Jany [17]77

Remarks onbd his Majestys Ship *Diamond*

Saturday 25

AM Unmored Ship and hove Short Borrowed 2 Long Boats and Brought of[f] 12 Butts of Spruce Beer Moderate and Cloudy Wr P M Loosed sails to Dry at 2 Caryed out a haser to bring the Ship to Sail weighed the Anchor but the haser Breaking before she got away She fell on Bd of a Sloop which Broke in her Stern windows Do Let go the anchor Do Caryed out our small Bower to windward weighed the small Bower and warped her in a Birth and let go the best Br anchor Received a flat Bottomd Boat.

- Sunday 26 at 8 A M. weighed and came to sail stood up the Bay at 11 Anchord with the best Br Between the No end of Rhoad Island and Prudence as did his Majest Schooner *Tryall* at Noon Saild Down his Majestys Ship the *Emerald* Bristol ferry NE and the Church at Bristol NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E of Providence Island 1 Mile & a half  
first Part Moderate and hazey Wr Latter Calm and Clear PM got the fire Booms out and put arm Chests into the Boats at 8 saw a Gally rowing from Providence towards warwick at 10 the Rebels at Bristol ferry fired 3 shot at Rhoad Island.
- Monday 27th Got up a New Mesenger the Old one being much worn aired the Spair Sails –  
The first & Latter part Mod and fair Middle hazey PM at 9 Sent our Boat with the *Centurions* Barge & Long Boat Maned and armed under the Command of the first Lieut to take a Gally we had seen going towards warwick Point
- Tuesday 28 A M at 3 the Boats returned without Suc[ce]ss and Could not Discover the gally Sent the Marines ashore to Prudence Island to Exercise  
Moderate and fine Wr PM got on Bd some water from Prudence Island Employd Exercising great guns

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1699.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Lebanon] January 28th, 1777.

Orders were given to Capt. Wm. Coit of the ship *Oliver Cromwell* to order all his officers and men on board said ship to duty and fit said ship for sailing with all possible dispatch, and to land four of the guns on board said ship and put them into the care of Mr. Nathl Shaw junr, taking his receipt, and as soon as the crew of said ship are collected to make return of them that further directions may [be] given for said ship to proceed to sea.

*Voted*, to draw on the Pay-Table for £ 150 0 0, in favour of Capt. Wm. Coit, to enable him to proceed on his cruise.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, I, 163, 164.

#### JOHN PALMER'S JOURNAL OF A CRUIZE IN THE CONNECTICUT PRIVATEER SLOOP *Revenge*<sup>1</sup>

Thursday the 23 Day of January [1777] – a fresh Brease at the Northar'd our C[ourse] S b E Cleare and Coald Se[t] too Sail this Twenty fore howers most all hands See Sick on Board So End 24

Friday the 24 Day of January this morning Reignny and Squally and a Large See a Going and We a Lying two under a Trisle all this Twenty fore howers most all hands See Sick on Board and Dull Times – so Ends these 24 howers –

Saterday the 25 Day of January Reignny and Squally and most all hands See sick

on Board and We a Lying two Under A Trisail all this Twenty fore houers – So Ends these 24

Sunday the 26 Day of January this morning Sumthing Reignny and Squally and at 8 am We Hawld Down our Trysail and Set our Squaresail and Stood Coarse SbE fore We had Sprung our Boaldsprit Lastnigt – a Larg See a Going all this 24 howers all Hand Rather Better upon the Count of there being Seesick –

Munday the 27 Day of January this morning Sumthing Reignny But a Lite Brease of Wind and a Large See a Going We Hawld Down our Squaresail and Sot our mainsail and foreSail and Jibb and Stood Coarse S E So Ends these 24 howers –

Tuesday the 28 Day of January this morning at 2 am Squally and Reignny and Sharp Litening and at 8 am Clearde up We Standing Coarse SBE Caried main Sail and fore Sail and Jibb and at 6 Pm took a Dowble reef main Sail and hande'd our Jibb for the Wind freshned by Squalls So Ends these 24 howers –

1. John Palmer's Journal, MHA.

#### ROBERT MORRIS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philada Jany 28th 1777

. . . I have recd the Copy of a letter from Mr Deane that was taken but was preserved without the Captors every coming at the Contents, it is as follows – <sup>2</sup>

I believe this was wrote at Paris altho dated Bourdeaux for a blind, but am not sure I am a good deal of his opinion respecting the Portugeeze the only doubt is whether that Kings declaration of shutting up his Ports against us, will justify us in the Eyes of the World or in other Words, whether he has given us sufficie[nt] cause to declare War on him & his Subjects, If he has we shou'd not hesitate, the bait is tempting & that insignific[ant] Nation can do us no harm.

Our River is now nearly clear of Ice and I propose pushing out Captn Biddl[e] I do think we cannot employ him & the small Vessells better than to send them to Martinico for the Stores mentioned in Mr Ds letter, and I will send out the Indico now here as a remittance towards paying our Debts in that Island I have engaged a proper person to carry your dispatches to France I send him out in a French Ship that if she once gets out to Sea will appear as if She had loaded in Martinico & she is actually Fren[ch] property which gives a fine chance of going safe . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 123–25, NA.

2. Deane to Morris, September 17, 1776, Volume 6, 602.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Philadelphia, January 28th, 1777.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay the wife of Peter Clarke 14 Dollars, being 1 month's pay as Gunner on board the *Vulture* armed Boat Capt. [Jacob] Hance, he being discharged as not fit for duty.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 105, 106.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*<sup>1</sup>

Ran away on Saturday last, the 25th instant, from the brigantine *Andrew Doria*, Capt. Robinson, a Negro man named Patrick Dennis, marked with the smallpox. He had on a blue jersey great coat, old shoes and stockings, and canvas trousers. He was taken in the prize sloop *Racehorse*, and is supposed to be concealed in town, or gone to Wilmington in hopes of making his escape in some of the vessels there ready to sail. Whoever apprehends said Negro, and delivers him to Capt. Robinson, or secures him in any jail, shall have Eight Dollars reward, and reasonable charges.

J. M. Nesbitt.

Philad. Jan. 28th, 1777.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, January 28, 1777.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore] Tuesday, January 28, 1777

The Secret Committee informed Congress, that the brig *Olive Branch*, William Bayly, master, was, by the procuration of Francis Lewis, laden at New York with 718 barrels of flour, on account of the United States, as will appear by bill of lading, signed 26 day of February, 1776, directed to be delivered to Mr. Samuel Carson, at St. Eustatia; that Captain Bayly, contrary to his orders, proceeded to Occoys, on the island of Hispaniola, and there put the cargo into the hands of Mons. Croix, who, by several letters, informed Mr. Carson that he should remit said Carson the proceeds of the flour to St. Eustatia; and, in a letter from said Carson, dated St. Eustatia, 30th November, is the following paragraph:—"I have not received one farthing on account of brig *Olive Branch*'s cargo, and God knows when I will;" that Captain Bayly, after landing the flour at Occoys, made a voyage for Mons. St. Croix, to France, and back to Occoys, where the said Croix loaded the brig, and proceeded with her to this port, where they both are at this time, with the vessel, re-laden with provision, &c. and ready to depart for Occoys; that Captain Bayly pretends he has sold the brig to Mons. Croix, and has taken his single promissory note for payment; but, it is obvious, that they have been jointly trading on the public's capital, and defrauding both the public and the owners of the brig; that, with the proceeds of the cargo sold here, they have reladen the brig with provisions, &c. and have a residue of [£]2500 cash in their hands:

*Resolved*, That this matter be referred to the Secret Committee who are empowered to do therein what they shall judge to be just and right, and conducive to the public interest.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VII, 64, 66-67.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1777

Extract of a letter from Sir John Peyton of Gloucester County, to the Hon. John Page, Esq. President of the Council, dated Jan. 28, 1777.

... I have seen Mr. Edward Hughes, who was taken by the enemy last Wednesday. He informs me there are three ships in the bay, a 60,

50, and a 36 gun frigate, under the command of Commodore Hotham. He brought with him the inclosed, <sup>1</sup> and if it is proper that an exchange should be made, shall be much obliged to you for your interest in bringing it about as soon as possible. Mr. Hughes gives great praise to the Commodore for his generous and humane behaviour, who, after being informed the circumstances of Hughes's family, &c. gave him his boat with almost every thing in her, detaining a Negro which he said he understood was a tolerable pilot, but assured him, at the same time, he should be returned as soon as he got a better; that he did not mean to distress individuals who industriously were going from river to river to support their families. — Hughes understood they were to cruise here, and expect 7 or 8 sail more every day.

1. See William Seon to Peyton, January 22, 1777.

#### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 28th January 1777 —

Thomas Pollard is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley in the room of Lieut [Charles] Herbert who is appointed to the *Casewell* Galley. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Lewis Jones for One hundred and fifty pounds, upon Account, to recruit Seamen for the use of the Navy, who gave Bond for his faithfully applying the said Money and rendering a Just and true Account thereof when required —

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt [William] Deane One hundred and fifty Pounds of Gunpowder, twelve Musquetts, forty Gunflints, two Iron Potts, three Quire Cartridge Paper and as many Swivel Ball and Musquet Cartridges as he may be in want of for the use of the four Boats fitting at Hampton

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Richard Cary for the use of Houlder Hudgins for forty five pounds it being the Ballance due him for Building two Boats for the Transportation of Troops. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Edward Anderson for One hundred Pounds it being the Ballance due him for Building a Boat for the Transportation of Troops —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt John Harris for One hundred and twenty pounds upon Acct, for the Purpose of Recruiting Seamen for the Naval Service — Who gave Bond for his faithfully applying the said Money & rendering a Just and true Account thereof when required —

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt [Robert] Tompkins five hundred pounds of Gunpowder, four Quire of Cartridge Paper, thirty Two prickers for Musquetts, One hundred Gunflints and fifty pounds of Musquett Ball for the use of the *Henry* Galley. —

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Tompkins six pounds of Twine one Deep sea Line one speaking Trumpett, two half hour Glasses one two hour Glass, five hundred Pump tacks and two pound of Brimstone for the use of the *Henry* Galley. —

Ordered that Mr William Holt deliver unto Capt Tompkins five Barrells of Bread, five Barrells of Flour, five Barrells Beef, five Barrells of Pork and One hundred Gallons of Spirits for the use of the *Henry Galley* –

Lieut Joel Sturdivant recommended to his excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed to the Command of the *Manley Galley* in the room of Capt Cooke who has resigned his commission. –

Robert Bolling is recommended to his excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the *Manley Galley* in the room of Lieutenant Sturdivant who is recommended Capt of the said Galley –

George Chamberlaine is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed as second Lieut of the Brig *Musquetto* in the room of Robert Bolling who is recommended as first Lieut of the *Manley Galley*. –

Ordered that William Holt deliver unto Capt [William] Ivey two Barrells of Beef, two hhds of Pork, five hundred pounds of bread, two Barrells of Flour, five Gallons of Vinegar and twenty Gallons of Spirits for the use of the Sloop *Liberty*.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Ivey twenty yards of Oznabrigs – four pounds of Twine, five hundred pump Nails, four Palm Irons, two half hour Glasses, two half minute Glasses, two Quarter Minute Glasses, three Loglines, one Compass, one Lanthorn, one Spie glass and one Tin Kittle for the use of the Sloop *Liberty* –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt Ivey three Quire of Cartridge Paper and two Iron Potts for the Sloop *Liberty*. –

Adjourned till tomorrow Morning ten of the Clock. –

Signed, Thomas Whiting 1st Comsr –

1. Navy Board Journal, 162–65, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. ARMED SCHOONER *Porcupine*, LIEUTENANT JAMES COTES <sup>1</sup>

January 1777

At an Anchor in the Old Road Turks Island

Tuesday 28

at 11 AM Boarded a Schooner,<sup>2</sup> which proved to be from Baltimore with dry Goods & Bolts of Canvas at ½ past 2 PM Sent the Schooner down to Port Royal with a Quarter Master, 3 hands & the Master of her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Schooner *Fanny*, Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

TRIAL IN ANTIGUA VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF PRIZE SLOOP *Mary* <sup>1</sup>

Antigua.

At a Court of Vice Admiralty held for the said Island of Antigua at the Court house in the Town of Saint John in the said Island on Tuesday the twenty eighth day of January in the Year of our Lord 1777. –

Present

The honorable Edward Byam Esquire Judge. –

Our Sovereign Lord the King

against

The Sloop *Mary* Giles Mansfield Master and her lading seized and taken as Perquisites of the Admiralty by Morto Downey and others, and brought into the Harbour of Saint John in the said Island of Antigua. –

Proclamation being made and the Court called and sat and a Monition duly issued being proved by the Marshal of the said Court, The substance of the Libel was opened by Mr Attorney General of Counsel for his Majesty. –

Whereupon and upon hearing the preparatory Examinations taken in this Cause read, and also upon hearing the arguments of Mr Attorney General in support of the said Libel. –

Proclamation was made for all Persons having any Right, Title or Claim to the said Sloop *Mary* her Tackle, Apparel, and Furniture and the Goods, Wares, and Merchandize on board to come in and Claim the same and no person appearing His Honor the Judge proceeded to pronounce sentence in the following manner vizt. –

In the Name of God Amen, I Edward Byam, of the Island of Antigua Esquire Judge of his Majesty's Court of Vice-Admiralty of the said Island, and also duly appointed to hear and determine all and all manner of Causes and Complaints as to Ships, and Vessells and Goods seized and taken as Prize specially constituted and appointed having heard, seen, and understood and fully and maturely discussed the merits and circumstances of a certain Business of taking or seizing of a certain Sloop named the *Mary* whereof Giles Mansfield was Master her Tackle, Apparel and Furniture and the Goods taken therein by virtue of and under a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the sixteenth Year of the reign of his present Majesty Intituled An Act to prohibit all Trade, and Intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the three lower Counties on Delawar, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, during the continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively; for repealing an Act made in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty to discontinue the landing and Discharging lading or Shipping of Goods, Wares and Merchandize at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston in the province of Massachuset's Bay, and also two Acts made in the last Session of Parliament for restraining the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned, and to enable any Person or Persons appointed and authorized by his Majesty to grant Pardons, to issue Proclamations in the Cases, and for the Purposes therein mentioned by a certain non Commissioned Sloop named the *Reprisal* whereof Morto Downey was Master and brought into the Port of Saint John in the said Island of Antigua which was lately and still is depending before me as rights and Perquisites of the Admiralty, and against all Persons in General who have or pretend to have any Right, Title, or interest in the said Sloop *Mary* her Tackle, Apparel and Furniture and the Goods therein taken and I having duly proceeded therein do hereby pronounce, decree, and declare that the said Sloop *Mary* her Tackle, Apparel and furniture and the Goods therein taken were rightly and duly taken and seized by

the said Non Commissioned Sloop *Reprizal* as being the Sloop and Effects of Open Enemies by virtue of and under the said Act of Parliament and as such ought to be accounted and reputed and liable and subject to Confiscation and to be adjudged and condemned as and for the Sloop and Effects of open-enemies And I do hereby adjudge and Condemn the said Sloop *Mary* her Apparel [and] Furniture and the Goods therein taken as and for the Sloop and Effects of open-enemies and rights and Perquisites of the Admiralty and liable to Confiscation by this my definitive Sentence or final Decree. —

Whereupon John Burke Esquire and Thomas Daniell Esquire of Counsel for Alexander Dover, Nicholas Taylor, and Thomas Bell, Bertie Entwisle, Samuel Jeaffreson, Joseph Brown, and Saml Brown, Thomas Montgomery, and Campbell Brown, John Wilkins, James Stilling, Robert Addison, and Thomas Willock, George Redhead, and John Otto Bayer Owners of the said Sloop *Reprizal* prayed that a proper reward or Gratuity might be decreed to the said Owners for seising and taking the said Sloop *Mary* her Tackle, Apparel, and furniture and the Goods therein taken and upon reading the Deposition of Thomas Bell of the Island of Antigua Merchant and the Schedules thereto annexed marked respectively A: B: & C: I the said Edward Byam do hereby further Order Adjudge and decree that the said Sloop *Mary* her Tackle, Apparel, and Furniture, and the Goods therein taken to be sold and disposed of at Public Sale by the Marshal of this Court or his lawfull deputy and that the monies arising by such sale be paid to such owners or some or one of them after deducting all necessary Costs and Charges, upon Good and sufficient Security being first given by them or some or one or more of them with two or more Securities to be approved of by me or my surrogate or by the Judge of the Admiralty for the time being of the said Island of Antigua or [illegible] surrogate to his Majesty his heirs and Successors to refund such Monies or any part thereof to his Majesty his heirs and Successors or to such other person or persons as shall be appointed to receive the same or any part thereof by his said Majesty his heirs or Successors or by any other person or persons thereby lawfully authorised in Case his Majesty his heirs or Successors shall think proper to Order and direct such monies or any part thereof to be refunded, And I do hereby further Order, Adjudge, and decree that the said Marshal or his Deputy do and shall within the space of Sixty Day's from the time of my Decree make a return of the Sale of the said Sloop *Mary* her Tackle, Apparel and Furniture and Goods therein taken and to whom sold and at what respective Prices the same were sold and that such return be signed by the said Marshal or his Deputy and by the Person who shall be appointed in this Island for receiving his Majesty's Casual Revenue thereof and by the said Owners of the said Sloop *Reprizal*, or any one or more of them. —

Whereupon Thomas Warner Esquire his Majesty's Attorney General prayed an Appeal from so much of the said Sentence as Ordered and directed any part of the Money arising by the sale of the said Sloop *Mary* her Tackle, Apparel, and Furniture and the Goods therein taken to be paid to the Owners of the said Sloop *Reprizal*

[Endorsed] Antigua March 7th 1777. A True Copy Geo: Wm Jordan Registr in Admiralty.

[Second endorsement] No 11: Antigua. In the Court of Vice Admiralty Our Sovereign Lord the King against The Sloop *Mary* Giles Mansfield Master and her lading seized and taken as Perquisites of the Admity by Morto Downey and others. – Sentence of Condemnation. –

[Third endorsement] In Adml Young's Letter Dated 8 March 1777 –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

29 Jan.

#### MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Exeter] Wednesday, Jan'y 29th [1777].

Ordered the Recr Genl to pay Timthy Bradley & Jonathan Eastman £6–15, for boarding five officers, late of the Schooner *George*, 3 weeks at 9/ Each pr Week

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 73.

#### JOHN BRADFORD TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston 29th Jany 1777

. . . the ship at plymouth I there mentd with the *Sassaparilla*, Log Wood &c was sold at private Sale to the Board of War of this state who (I may venture to say to you) I am afraid are making very Wild Steerage much to the detriment of the State: they have been making many and large purchases: and are sending abroad for Articles that may be wanted, but they give such very exorbitant prizes for their Vessels & Cargoes: and such unheard of Wages & privileges to their masters and men that its evident the masters will realise full a third part of the whole Cargo, it so effects the private merchs others Asking the same those state gentry has that ruin must be the Consequence unless they alter their measure. –

I wish to receive Orders from the [Secret] Committee what to do with the Brig *Tryton* & the Cargo of 220 Fr Salmon purchas'd in her & to know what to fill up with, I have bot but two of the four Vessels order'd by the Honble Committee, But I purpose to buy the *Mellish*, she was a Bomb Ketch in the British Service, Capt [John Paul] Jones thinks she would make a fine 20 Gun ship with some alterations. . . .

Capt Hinman who now commands the Ship *Alfred* by order of Commodore Hopkins making alterations on her that it will be 6 Weeks before He can go to Sea, the *Cabot* has been ready for the Sea above a Month, but the Captain & Men were called to Providence to mann their Frigates. Captain Oldney [Joseph Olney] who now commands her is manning her & I hope will soon sail, paying off the Portridge Bill of those Ships calls for a great Sum of Money.

1. John Bradford Letter Book, vol. 1, LC.

PAUL ALLEN TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE<sup>1</sup>

Hond Sir

Bedford Jany 29. 1777-

your favor of the 26th Int I Recd with the Vote of the Council directing Me to take Charge of the *Dimond*,<sup>2</sup> at which time she was drove up by the Gale of with [*sic* wind] & Ice almost high & dry -

have not been able to Get her off as yet hope I Shall this high Water have got the Guns, Powder &c &c out & Stor'd in Capt Mayhews Store which please to inform Mr Jno Jenckes that he may know where to send for them

I meet with Great difficulty in fitting her away, No men nor provision to be had, nor Sail makers to mend her Sails indeed here is nothing to be done

it's uncertain whether Mr. Coffin will Go as master. Can't you forward the Bills payable to Capt Coffin or whoever shall Command the *Diamond*?

the Bearer waits while I Rite from [&c.]

Paul Allen

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776-1777, R. I. Arch.

2. Rhode Island privateer *Diamond*, owned by Nicholas Cooke and Thomas Hazard.

PETITION OF SHIPWRIGHTS TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>

Poughkeepsie, Jany 29, 1777.

The Humble Petition of Ship Wrights now Employ'd on the Publick work att Poughkeepsie.

Worthy Gentlemen:

It is with the greatest Reluctance Imaginable we your humble Petitioners are under the disagreeable Necessity of thus addressing you By this their Humble Petition Respecting our Wages nor should we att this time presume to Intrude on your Goodness did not Every Idea of want & Misery most Impertinately stare us in the face, occasion'd By the Curtailing of our wages and the great Rise of every Necessary of Life which we Need not mention, for we make no Doubt but that the Honble Convention are fully acquainted with the Prices of all nor will they Bear mentioning In Competition with our wages which is no more than 8s. Pr Day & 10s.6d. Pr Day for the Foreman much Less than has been known for a Serious of years Before the Last. We also take Liberty to say that not a Mechanick that Derives Protection from the Honble Continental Congress but has greater wages now than they Had Before this unhappy Civil war Began Except Ship Wrights & Joyners and it's Evident to a Demonstration that they in a particular manner are the Great Bulwark of the Navy, which no war Can be vigorously Prosecuted without, altho the Projectors thereof are held in Little Esteem, But we your humble petitioners fearing to tire your Patience Make no Demand But beg your Consideration But a few Moments on the Nature of this our Petition. We make no Doubt but from the readiness of your Honours to Receive Petitions the Natural Inclination to Releve the opprest your Right to justify the Injured and your Power to Encourage the Sons of Liberty that you will augment such a Due Proportion to our Present small Wages as will make the Hearts of your Humble Petitioners Leap for Joy that has been so Long swoln against the unknown Curtailor of our Wages. Then worthy Sirs you will have all the prayers that can

Flow from the gladned Hearts of Sirs Your Devoted most obedient Faithfull Servants to Command, Signed by Order and in Behalf of the Body of Mechanicks.

George Peek, Clk

To the Honbl. Convention of the State of New York.

[Endorsed] Jan'y 30, 1777. Lowest wages for which the Foreman of the Ship Carpenters & the Journeymen agree to take to continue in the Service of this State viz., Robert Hatton, Foreman, 14s. pr Day & a half Pint Rum; George Peek, in Behalf of himself & the Rest of the Journeymen, 11s. pr Day & half pint Rum.

1. *New York Historical Manuscripts*, I, 616.

CAPTAIN JOHN HAZELWOOD TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

[Philadelphia] Jan'y 29th, 1777.

As it is now time for us to be Impleyd In prepearing and getting in Order our fire fleet and armed Boats, to be as Earley as possible fit for action, Thought Proper to lay before you our wants for That purpos, Vizt: —

For the appointment of two Cpts for two armd boats. The one that came upp from the Capes, the Other now allmost Built. I whould wish To Recommend my son, Thomas Hazelwood, for one, and Mr [James] Brown, Lieutenant of the fire Brig, For the other.<sup>2</sup> & I whould wish to have an order On mr [Robert] Towers for what we may want for the making Fals fires, Sky Rocketts, & some Port fires, as night Signales for our fleet, & an order on Mr. [William] Richards for what we may whant of him. I am, Gentn [&c.]

John Hazelwood.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 205.

2. *Ibid.*, 2nd series, I, 292, 345, on February 1, 1777, Thomas Hazelwood was appointed captain of the armed boat *Fame*, and James Brown, captain of the armed boat *Tormentor*.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Gmtlmen

I Would In form you thate I arrivd Hear aftr a Vary Long pasage Which Was 16 days I had the mis fortan To fal In Company With Too Ships of War 40 & 20 of[f] Cape Hanray which I Was I[n] Compny 36 hors Before I got Withen the Cape which I Cared a way my man Bome Come To ankar near the Shore which the Ships Come In and drove me a Shore which I was ondr a gard for three days To Safe the Vasal and Corgo By the Halp of a dark Nite and a far wind I Came a way & prsead for Baltmore which I find Vary moch frose flowar is Vary Scase Not Las 20 Shilens To 22 and vary Litel at that thare Is not Las then 10 Sale from the Northrd Her for flouer I hafe Sold my Corgo Rom 15/ Sugrs at 6/ pond and Shal prsead To Load as fast as po[s]abal and for Borston Ef Posabal To git out of the Cape I Shal make a Bad Vo[ya]ge for mr Loring Cared a way my Bome Lost a Cabal and ankor I ramam yours To Serve

Sam<sup>11</sup> Arnold

Baltmore Jan'y 29: 1777 —

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 152, 33, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 29th January 1777. –

Mr. Christopher Tompkins is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed second Lieut. of the *Henry* Galley in the room of George Chamberlaine who is appointed second Lieutenant of the Brig *Musquetto*. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Robert Tompkins for One hundred and eighty pounds – upon Account, for the Purpose of Recruiting Seamen for the use of the Navy. – Who gave Bond for his faithfully applying the said Money and rendering a Just and true Account thereof when required –

Capt John Calvert received Instructions to take under his Command the Gallies now lying at York and Proceed immediately to Annoy and Distress the Enemy, which are now lying in the Bay, all in his power, and also to take the Command of such other Gallies that may hereafter join him for the purpose aforesaid informing the Board from Time to Time of any Occurrences that may happen worth relating and also of the Number and Station of the Enemy's Vessels. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 165–67, VSL.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER, JR. TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER, WILLIAMSBURG <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Westover Jany 29th 1777.

I am sorry to Inform you that we were on Tuesday Night last under the disagreeable necessity of removing from Jamestown to Westover by an alarm given by a Gally and one of the Privateer's that the Men of War were within a few Miles of us, we Immediately Weigh'd Anchor and proceeded as fast as Possible to this place; where we are now lying in Idleness untill we can hear from you, the Captain is under the utmost Anxiety to know in what manner to Act. I went to Williamsburg a few Days ago to write to you, but Mr Jameson inform'd me that he had wrote you but a Day or two before very particularly, that the Men of War were at Point Comfort, and that there were no possibility of our geting up the Bay . . .

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, Earl Gregg Swem Library, CWM.

CHARLES BIDDLE TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Mole St Nichola Jany 29 1777

The Schooner *Ninety two* belonging to your state, having been Oblidg'd to put in here in distress, Capt Rogers applied to me for Assistance and put his Vessell and Cargo into my Care. I have done every thing in my power to get the best prices for his Cargo. the flower have sold at fifty four livers the barrell bread at thirty P hundred: the Tobacco was most of it damaged, entirely thro Carelessness in the Stowage – the Vessell Came in here like a Wrack and from what I can learn, the Villian that was Mate Would have Carried her down to Jamaica but for a fall he got the day before the Vessell Arrivd here: I will Make him an example to such rascals. – By Capt Ford I have ship'd you the goods mention'd in the Invoice.<sup>2</sup> as his Vessell sails remarkably fast, I think there will

be less danger than in Capt Rogers, and expect he will be with you a good deal sooner – they are the best and Cheapest that Could be got. have not agreed for the freight, but as the Vessell is in ballast, and the goods for the publick Acct I suppose they Wont Charge Much – Capt Rogers will get his Vessell ready in four or five days, by which time all his Cargo will be aboard Consisting of Salt and other Articles you Want. – If any of your Vessells should come this way, shall be happy in doing Every thing in my power to serve them: By the last Accounts from Europe, a large fleet of Spanish Men of War, and transport saild from Cadiz suppos'd to be bound for Cuba. I am Sir with Great respect [&c.]

Cha<sup>s</sup> Biddle

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

2. Biddle shipped 250 muskets and 6 bales and 2 cases of dry goods in the schooner *Betsey*, Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

30 Jan.

CAPTAIN HECTOR McNEILL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Boston Jany 30th 1777 –

I did apply last Monday Morning for an Order of your Honourable Board to Search a Certain Privateer call'd the *Rising States* – on board of which I had reason to think some of my Men were embark'd with an intention to desert the Publick Service –

The Order was Granted and a proper Officer appointd for that Service but before these could be Accomplished the Vessell Sail'd –

Your Honours thought proper on farther information to order Mr Cudworth down to Plymouth, as it was reported the privateer would call in there to receive on board a Certain Captn [James] Thompson, & others, who were to proceed on a Cruise in the Vessell Aforesaid – Mr Cudworth did proceed to Plymouth or near it and return'd to this Town last evening, and reports as follows –

That being met on the road by the Honble B. Genl [James] Warren to whom he related the Business on which he was going – The General told him that no such Vessell was or had been Lately at Plymouth – on which Mr Cudworth return'd in Company with the General and were met on the Road by our Captn of Marines whom I had dispatched after Mr Cudworth to Assist him if Necessary – he also returns with Genl Warren & Mr Cudworth & having taken Lodgings on Tuesday evening at Mr Cushing's of Hingham, they were soon joined by the aforesaid Captn James Thompson of the Brig *Rising States* who brought with him in a Coach five Sailors –

Capt Thompson seem'd a little alarm'd at Seeing Mr Cudworth and our Officer of Marines at that place before him but as none of the five Men with him were personally known by our officer, Mr Cudworth let them all pass – Genl Warren advised our Captn of Marines to return to Plymouth which he Accordingly did yesterday Morning before the Coach or its passengers were Stiring, Mr Cudworth informs no farther of his proceedings.

I had sent two Officers on Tuesday to Marblehead having had information that Men were to be collected at that place & sent over to Plymouth, Those

Officers are now return'd and report to me that they found a Certain Mr [Henry] Fritz now Capt'n of Marines and a Certain Mr [Josiah] Martin now Carpenter of the *Rising States*, with them they also found about Nine Men who were then waiting an opportunity to go off on board the above mention'd Brigtn which was then in Sight Lying off, and on; the Harbours Mouth –

My Officers apply'd to the Committee, who could give them no other Assistance than to call those Officers before them, and on examination they did confess that they were bound on a Cruise on board the said Brigtn *Rising States* but would give no farther Satisfaction –

I thought it necessary to give your Honours the above information as soon as possible and am Your Honours [&c.]

Hector McNeill

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 196, 180–181b.

*Independent Chronicle*, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1777

Boston, January 30, 1777.

Saturday arrived in this Harbour, the Bark, *John*, laden with dry Goods, lately captured by John Fisk, Esq; in the *Tyrannicide*, State Vessel of War.

*Continental Journal*, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1777

Boston, January 30.

By a Person late from Halifax, who was on Board the British Pirate *Renown*, Capt. [Francis] Banks, while that Ship lay in this Harbour, informs, That he with 13 New-England Men, was put on board the Boats which were Ordered to Attack the brave Capt. [James] Mugford, and that the Pirates put those Sons of America in the Front of the Battle to *Cover themselves*, whereby some of our Sons were Slain by their Friends! –

Remember this O Americans, and let your Justice whet her Sword to Revenge the innocent Blood of your murdered Children.

*Connecticut Journal*, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1777

New-Haven, January 30.

Capt. Solomon Phips, of this Port, sailed from New-London, in a Brig for the West-Indies, the 29th Ult. and the next Day was taken by the *Cerberus* Frigate, and carried into Newport, where he was detained a Prisoner 17 Days, when he and his Company were exchanged.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Thursday 30th [January].

A Ship of War (the *Greyhound*) with 13 Sail of Transports, & 2000 Troops on broad [i.e., board] came down Connecticut Sound this Morning. The Rebels about W. Chester instantly scampered away, from an evident Belief, that they were intended to land & cut off their Retreat.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 181.

ROBERT MORRIS FOR THE MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE,  
CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Randolph* <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia] January 30th 1777

I have undoubted intelligence that there are not any men of war at the Capes indeed as an evidence of it a large Ship is come up the Bay, I therefore think it highly proper that you proceed to sea immediately, and as you have now more men considerably than you had when I gave your last orders, I think proper to recall those and instead thereof you must Observe the following Instructions. —

You are first to make returns to the Board of Assistants of all the Stores in each department, that your Boatswain, Gunner and other officers may account for what is under their respective care and the same with provisions. Return also a compleat List of your Officers and men on board, but as I would wish you not to loose One Moments time in getting out to Sea these returns can be made out as you go down and may be Sent up from the Capes therefore you are to make the best of your way down the moment the Ice will permit, and I expect the *Hornet* and *Fly* will be in readiness to go down with you. If so you had best keep them Ahead to look out. Several Merchantmen will also go down with you, and you are to convoy them fairly off to Sea and keep with them for a few days if possible soon as you find yourself fairly out at sea, you will no doubt try the ships Sailing and I expect she will perform wonderfully in that way; you will of course exercise your Men at the great guns, and prepare them for action soon as possible.

The Marine Committee now at Baltimore have instructed Commodore Hopkins to fit out the two Continental Frigates *Warren* and *Providence* with all possible expedition, and to order them forthwith to proceed on A Cruize upon the enemies ships of war that are interrupting the commerce of the United States from the Harbour of Newport to the Capes of Virginia and they are to take burn, Sink, and destroy all such of the enemies Vessels as they shall fall in with. <sup>2</sup> These are the Instructions for those Ships and therefore I think they must be proper for you and for your encouragement in this service I must Observe that there are no Cruizing Ships an over Match for you except the two Deckers, for altho you think you have not seamen enough yet this is just their case, except the *Roebuck* there is none of them half manned, therefore you have only to avoid two Deckers or engaging when there is more than one in Sight. Any of their other single ships you need not fear, especially if you can persuade your men to board, remember what a glorious exploit it will be, to add one of their frigates or 20 Gun Ships to our Navy in A few days after you get out and if the *Randolph* has but Heels I think you can and will do it you will then get seamen plenty. If your ships sails remarkably fast you may take libertys with them, If she does not be more cautious and try to find out her trim. I shall send a Copy of these Instructions to Congress and it is possible they may send fresh orders to you, which shall be lodged with Henry Fisher at Lewis Town, and the light House will be ordered to shew a large white sheet when they have any orders for you and find A frigate in sight.

Should any unfortunate accident befall you destroy these orders rather than let the enemy get them, and you will as opportunities occur transmit us Accounts of your proceedings. You'l observe that many merchant Vessels are expected in with

valuable Stores to this port, therefore you'l Afford them All possible protection and had best keep in their tract as long as you can. —

I wish you would send me Signals by which you may be known, in case we should send out any of our Small Cruizers to look for you, also to deliver to the other frigates that may go from hence Rhode Island &c.<sup>3</sup> You will be careful of the *Randolph* her Stores and Materials, kind to your Officers and Men, but observing Strict discipline, humane to your Prisoners, and send your prizes into safe ports With the best wishes for your Success I am Sir [&c.]

Robt Morris V: P:

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 49–50, NA.
2. See Marine Committee to Hopkins, January 21, 1777.
3. Biddle supplied the necessary signal, "a White Jack at the fore top mast head and a Pendant over it;" see Morris to Elisha Warner, February 15, 1777.

### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore] Thursday, January 30, 1777

*Resolved*, That a standing committee, to consist of five members, be appointed to hear and determine upon appeals brought against sentences passed on libels in the courts of Admiralty in the respective states, agreeable to the resolutions of Congress; and that the several appeals, when lodged with the secretary, be by him delivered to them for their final determination:

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [Jonathan Dickinson] Sergeant, Mr. [William] Ellery, Mr. [Samuel] Chase, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VII, 71, 75.

### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday 30th January 1777.—

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt [John] Harris Twenty Musquetts, Twenty Bayonetts, Twenty Cartouch Boxes, two hundred Flints fifty four pound Cartridges, 100 lb Musquett Ball, two W[illegible] pieces and some Sheet Lead for the use of the Brig *Musquette* —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Pasteur for the use of himself, Charles Bailey, Samuel Watts, & Thomas Watts for Four hundred and twenty five pounds for a Pilot Boat Call'd the *Molly* Purchased by the Commissioners of the Navy for the use of this Commonwealth as will appear by a Bill of Sale filed & Ordered to be Recorded. —

John Pasteur is recommended to his excellency the Governor and the hon'ble the Council as a Proper person to be appointed to the Command of the Pilot Boat *Molly*. —

Mr Paul Loyall is recommended to Richard Henry Lee Esq as a proper person to be joined with Mr James Maxwell as an Assistant to Superintend the Building of any Ship or other Vessel that now is or hereafter may be directed to be Built in this State by Order of the hon'ble the Continental Congress. —

The Board having had under Consideration the Building of two Frigates directed to be Built in this State by the hon'ble the Continental Congress are of Opinion from the Information they have received from Mr James Maxwell and Mr David

Stodder who were directed to View the different places in this State that Gosport in the County of Norfolk is the most proper place for that purpose and therefore with the Advice and Consent of the honble John Page, Dudley Digges, John Blair and David Jameson Esqrs four of the Members of the hon'ble the Privy Council have Ordered the said Frigates to be Built there accordingly. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to David Bell for the use of Sampson Matthews for six hundred Pounds, upon Account, to Purchase Hemp for the use of the Rope Walk —

1. Navy Board Journal, 167–68, VSL.

*South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 30, 1777

Charlestown, January 30.

On Friday last the British Frigate *Perseus*, Capt. Elphinstone, appeared off this Harbour, and chased several Vessels in. A Boat, with six American Prisoners, whom the Captain had set at Liberty, came ashore that Day to Fort Moultrie. The *Perseus* came to an Anchor near the Bar, but the Wind rising, put out to Sea at Night. Next morning she appeared off again, received six British Prisoners sent from hence, dismissed four more Americans, and of three Vessels coming in took two, viz. Capt. Newell in a Sloop from St. Thomas's, and a French Schooner.<sup>1</sup> The Frigate has since disappeared, and it is said is gone to the West-Indies with her Prizes.

1. See Journal of H.M.S. *Perseus*, January 25.

### 31 Jan.

"A LIST OF BRITISH PRISONERS SENT FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, LATELY TAKEN BY SEA & LAND, AND BROUGHT THERE; SENT AT THE DESIRE OF GEN. WASHINGTON UNDER THE CARE OF CAPT JNO HAVEN TO BE DELIVERED TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE BRITISH ARMY AT NEW PORT ON RHODE ISLAND, JANY 31ST, 1777"<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]<sup>2</sup>

Names	Rank	Vessel
Richard Willis	Captain	Of the armed Schooner <i>George</i>
Jos. Hanwell	Midship- man	do.
Alexr Reed Elliot	Ditto.	do.
Owens Williams	Ditto.	do.
Magnus Banks	Ditto.	do.
David Garret	Gunner	do.
Henry Johnson	Boatswain	do.

Names	Rank	Vessel
William Chapple	Carpenter	do.
Samuel Mills	Sailor	do.
John Mills	do.	do.
John Scott	do.	do.
John Garoon	do.	do.
Patrick Clark	do.	do.
Thos Sharrack	do.	do.
James Amesbury	do.	do.
John Ellison	do.	do.
Jno Blackeldon	do.	do.
Jno Keeling	do.	do.
Saml Anson	do.	do.
John Loring	do.	do.
Geo. Polloxfen	do.	do.
Richard Singer	do.	do.
David Nadreck	do.	do.
John Fudge	do.	do.
Wm. Lewis	do.	do.

I hereby certify that the persons named in the aforesaid list belonged to the armed Schooner *George* which was wrecked on the 26th day of December last near Piscataqua Harbor and were made prisoners by the Americans.

Richard Willis, Captain.

Charles Hartford	Captain	Of the Ship <i>Hero</i>
John Taylor	Carpenter	Do.
Edmund Butler	Boy	Do.
Dick	A negro.	Do.

I hereby certify that the Ship *Hero* bound from Jamaica to New York, was taken by the *McClary* an American Privateer & bro't into Piscataqua Harbor, New Hampy

Charles Hartford, Master.

Lawrence Boden	Captain	Of the Ship <i>Royal Exchange</i> .
James Nutt		

I hereby Certify that the Ship *Royal Exchange*, bound from Grenada to London was taken by the *Columbus* an American Privateer, and brought into Piscataqua Harbour.

Lawrence Bo[w]den, Master.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 476-78.
2. Mariners only; no prisoners taken on land.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF BOSTON'S DEFENSES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

In the House of Representatives Janry 31st 1777.

The Comtee of Fortification, appointed by a Resolve of the General Court of the 15th Inst, to make report, to this Court, of the present State of the Fortifications & other works of Defence in & near the Harbour of Boston, & what they judge further necessary to be immediately done in order to put Said Harbour into a better State of Defence – And also to Report what number of Men & Guns they apprehend necessary to defend the Same; & Report a General Plan of Defence in Case of an Attack; Report, . . .

. . . Supposing an Attac[k] from the Sea; Hull must be particularly attended to, with the works near it further up the Harbor, few men wou'd be Suddenly wanted; for as Hull lies most exposed, there, & near it, must always be a good Garrison to prevent a Surprise; but upon an alarm, all the other Forts further up the harbor, will be filled with Men before an enemy can force his Passage; and no Officer, of the Enemy, who knows his duty, will ever venture to force his passage into this Harbor, until he has made himself master of Nantaskett (Supposing it the harbor to be fortified as aforesaid) for there would not be any chance for his Safety.

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 4. 1777/ Read &amp; sent down

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 142–46. This long report details the condition of the various fortifications, and the committee's recommendations for strengthening the defenses.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1777

New-London, January 31.

Last Lord's-Day Morning ten Sail of Ships and two Brigs went down the Sound. They were supposed to be the Fleet lately mentioned in this Paper that have for some Weeks past been at Long-Island taking in Wood, and bound to Newport.

And on Tuesday last several more Ships and other Vessels went down the Sound.

Last Wednesday Twenty-one Sail of Shipping from the Eastward, chiefly Ships, went by this Harbour, up the Sound – This must be the Fleet of Transports which we have been informed were taking in Troops at Newport, bound to New-York.

Last Lord's-Day a Flag of Truce which lately went from Say-Brook, in Company with several others, with Prisoners, for New York, returned here: They were permitted to tarry but one Night, and were not allowed to go within some Leagues of the City.

The *American Revenue* Privateer, captain [Samuel] Champlin of this Port, has sent into Bedford a Brig from Quebec, which he took to Windward of Barbadoes; her loading chiefly Fish.<sup>1</sup>

Capt. Joseph Bell from Groton, and Capt. Andrew Palmer, from Stonington, are safe arrived in the West-Indies.

1. Brigantine *Athol*, James Wadie, master, *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, April 3, 1777. Captain Champlin "made use of" the following articles from the cargo:

30	Yards	for the people for trowsers & Hammocks of Ozns
2	Do	for the Fore Sail
2	Do	for the Mainsail
13½	Do	for the Mainsail

Shaw Papers, Ledger 7, YUL.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER <sup>1</sup>

Copy.

*Eagle* Off New York

Sir,

January the 31st 1777.

Trusting that you will have been joined by the *Orpheus*, *Unicorn* and *Juno*, subsequent to the Departure of the *Greyhound* with the Transports for this Port; and lastly by that Ship, the Captain of which is charged with this Dispatch, in Answer to your several Favors of the 11th, 13th and 23d of this Instant received yesterday; I reckon You will be now enabled to provide more sufficiently for the different Services recommended to your Attention. And as your Knowledge of the Port and Coasts obtained since your Arrival at Rhode Island, will direct your Choice of the most proper Stations, I am assured that the Ships you see requisite to keep with You for preventing the Escape of the Rebel Armed Vessels of different Classes, will be appointed with that View in the best manner that the Navigation and other Circumstances of the Port will admit.

The Demand for Small Armed Vessels, some of which employed here have been (for want of other yet more seasonable Means for that End) necessarily manned from the Ships of War, will soon increase so considerably at this Port, that I cannot judge when it will be in my power to furnish You with any adequate Assistance of that Nature from hence. Lieutenant Browne was meant to be moved into One of greater Force, that I purpose fitting up as soon as the other more urgent Services in the Repair of the Cruising Ships will admit: And in the meantime he may remain as you have at present appointed. But if by the Hire, or other Means of procuring proper Vessels for your Purpose, You are capable of supplying that Defect at Newport, the Expedients you judge to be necessary therein shall be properly authorised.

Tho' I am entirely of Opinion that all requisite Precautions should be taken to guard against every probable Enterprize, I cannot think the Rebels will attempt an Invasion of Rhode Island, as they are said to intend; under all the known Difficulties attending the Conveyance of Troops Ammunition and Stores, and the Hazard of having their Boats from which their Force is to be landed, destroyed by the Ships of War, and their Retreat in that case totally cut off.

The constructing of a Redoubt for preserving the Command of the Seakennet passage, seems highly necessary, whilst the Rebels have possession of the Eastern Shore. But I apprehend such a Situation should be chosen for the placing of it, as will equally serve for the purpose of defending the Coast from Invasion, on such part where the Assistance of the Ships could be less readily afforded. Judging of the Face of the Country from the Draft you refer to, I apprehend the Hill near

the Bridge on the Eastern Side of the Island directly opposite to Wanton's Cove, would be an eligible Position. I have always understood that the Enemy had constructed a Work upon the Hill overlooking Bristol Ferry. That Post (if not commanded from the opposite Shore) guarding a Strait where the Ships would be much confined in their Operations if the Rebels made a proper Advantage of it, will I conclude be occupied by the King's Troops: In order that the Rebels might be obliged to direct their Landing (should they venture at any time on so bold a Measure) to other Parts of the Coast more accessible to the Ships. And if ever such a desperate Attempt should be made, it will doubtlessly be the Object of the Ships to press in Succession, at all Events, upon their Boats, when on their passage to the Island.

No better Method occurs to me at present for supplying the Want of Slops and Naval Stores in the Ships of your Squadron from the Magazines at this port, than to provide a Conveyance for the Quantity of each Species necessary according to the Contents of a General Abstract stating the whole Deficiency collected by your Direction and transmitted to me. But I must intreat that in the Preparation of that Abstract, Care may be taken to admit only such Articles as upon Inspection of the Warrant Officers Expences and Remains, are found to be indispensibly requisite for the Service of the Ship. This Caution is the more material, as it is not uncustomary for the several Warrant Officers to calculate their Demands to complete their Remains equal to the Amount of their first Charges at a fitting Port. And I have had the Dissatisfaction in some Instances to observe, that the Commanders have not taken the care to regulate those Demands, which a due Regard to the Benefit of the King's Service and the Circumstances of this Fleet require.

The Payment of Artificers employed by your Order, may be adjusted in a similar Manner. Proper Returns expressing the Number and Qualit[ies] of the Artificers, and the times they have been employed being made out in the different Ships as when fitting at this Port, the Store-keeper residing here shall be directed to remit the Amount upon Receipt of the Vouchers: Three Copies thereof being transmitted for the regular Settlement of his Accounts at the Navy Office. Stores procured for your Squadron may be paid for, either by Draft on the Storekeeper for the estimated Value of the Articles you have need of; Or the Sum be remitted upon Delivery of the Vouchers, as in the Instance last mentioned

You will perceive that the Complaint from Mr Cooke concerning the Masters, passengers and others permitted to leave the port in the *Triton* Brig and his Claim of an equal Number of American Prisoners in Return, have been noticed; and my Sentiments thereupon signified in my Answer to his Letter: A Copy of which and the original Letter for Mr Cook have been sometime since forwarded with a Dispatch from me of the 23d Instant, to be delivered to you by Mr Thomas Goldesbrough in the *Mary* Armed Vessel.

I conclude You will have been able to contradict the Report respecting the Men, who, Mr Cooke is informed, were taken out of the Brig: But if that Assertion is founded, the Satisfaction I have left in his Choice, will, I hope, induce a Continuance of the Disposition in those Eastern Colonies, to leave us in possession of the Benefits derived to the Fleet from this Intercourse.

The *Asia* returning to England, I presume that You acquainted the Secretary of the Admiralty with the Exchange you had allowed between the Boatswains of that Ship and the *Chatham*; In which I should have concurred. The Appointment of a Lieutenant in place of the first Lieutenant of the *Amazon*, I equally approve of; tho' I have many reasons to be dissatisfied with the Cause of that Vacancy.

Permit me to make the Acknowledgments due for the very obliging Interest You take in my Recovery from my late troublesome Illness, at the same time that I assure You of the sincere Respect with which, I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]  
Howe

[Endorsed] In Lord Howe's Lre of 13 Feby 1777

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract] [Philadelphia] January 31 1777

. . . Here are Captain Jones<sup>2</sup> and several other people in this City that want to go into New York . . . I think it best to Send Jones in on Parole because Captain Hamond Sent up Captain [William] Hallock of the *Lexington* on those terms, and if your Excellency thinks proper I will propose an exchange between those two, the other persons we dont hold as prisoners being taken in Merchantmen, but I would put them all under Parole and Send them by Crosswicks to South Amboy and let them cross from thence, I think it can do no harm and they do much mischief here, amongst the Number is also Mr Palmer Commissary of Provisions &c under Mr Charnier who will get in exchange a Capt Deane asked for by the Council of Safety or any other you please to name or return back. I have a Ship in our Bay arrived with 10000 Bushels of Salt, but unfortunately she is run aground. I am sending down assistance and hope to Save her By her I got King Georges Speech and you will find A Copy enclosed. I have no doubt of a rupture in Europe this next Summer and his Majesty seems to entertain some doubt about it —

1. Papers CC (Letter Book of the Executive Committee of Congress, 1776–77), 133, 74–76, NA.

2. William Jones of H.M. Sloop *Racehorse* taken by the Continental brig *Andrew Doria*.

FRANCIS LEWIS TO ABRAHAM TEN BROECK<sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Baltimore 31st Jany. 1777.

My last informed the Convention of the arrival of the armed sloop *Montgomery*, Capt. [William] Rogers, with two prizes, vizt. a brigantine and schooner in this harbour. I have procured libels to be filed against both, and the 10th day of February was appointed for trial. I shall assist Capt. Rogers to obtain condemnation, but learn that the brigantine's cargo, consisting of about 3000 bushels of salt, will be claimed as the property of an inhabitant of this town. The schooner's cargo is valuable, and as some articles, vizt. cheese, &c. are perishable, I have obtained leave to land the cargo under the care of the Continental agent for this State. I am informed there is woollens sufficient to clothe a battalion, which I shall reserve until I receive the orders of Convention; there is also about £400 sterling worth of fine Irish linen, much too fine for soldiers' shirts; these I would

advise to have sold here, together with such other articles not suitable for the troops, as they will in my opinion, yield a better price here than elsewhere, and the sailors will want money. I have advised Capt. Rogers to fit out his sloop for another cruise, as soon as possible. Should you order any of the articles to your State, they must be conveyed by land, as two English frigates with two tenders are lying at the capes.

At foot you have an abstract of the schooner's cargo, collected from the cockets, the invoice being destroyed. I have the honor to be, sir [&c.]

F. Lewis.

Schooner *Hannah's* Cargo, vizt:

12 barrels and 10 half barrels of barley.	7 bales woollens.
23 tierces, 26 barrels, 7 ankers, 25 firkins beef.	1 puncheon, 2 boxes and 3 bales woollens.
21 casks raisins, say 21 casks.	1 bale osnaburgs.
1 cask neats' tongue.	6 bales and 33 loose bolts canvas.
4 tierces and 19 barrels peas.	1 barrel pork, 1 cask lampblack.
36 kegs pickled tripe.	2 cases mustard, 1 box spices.
5 firkins butter.	1 case buttons and trimmings.
23 coils cordage.	1 case pickles, 3 chests Florence oil.
15 hhds. beer.	3 bundles twine.
30 bundles sheathing paper.	112 cheeses, 1 keg nails.
1 hhd. glassware.	50 hampers red port wine.
4 cross cut saws.	1 pack cinnamon.
1 puncheon and 1 barrel shoes.	2 boxes pipes, and a parcel of oakum.

N.B. Several of the woollens and linens being wet, it became necessary to open them.

Brigantine *Minerva's* Cargo.

3000 bushels of salt, and 1 puncheon rum.

P.S. Please to inform the superintendent for the frigates, that I learn anchors may be got of one Forbes at Cannain [New Cannan, Conn.] who makes them, and is not far from Hudson's river; none to be got here, and at Philadelphia they are fully employed for their own vessels.

To the Hon. Abraham Ten Broeck, President  
of the Convention of the State of New-York,  
at Fishkill.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 378.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY<sup>1</sup>

January 1777

Thursdy 30

Remarks &c. *Preston* Chesepeak Bay  
AM dismantled the *Runfast* Schooner & cut up her upper  
works for Firewood.

Friday 31 AM fired & brot too a Sloop she proved to be the *Molly* from Elke River to York in Ballast  
[P. M.] employed dismantling the *Molly* prize Sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Friday 31st January 1777. –

Edward Lattimore is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honb'le the Council as a Proper Person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the Pilot Boat *Molly*. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to William Drane for the use of Edward Archer for thirtye eight pounds five shillings for his attendance at this Board as a Commissioner of the Navy.

Goodrich Boush is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honb'le the Council as a proper Person to be appointed to the Command of the *Washington* Galley. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Jones for Twenty five Pounds upon Account for his attendance as Doorkeeper to the Commissioners of the Navy. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 169–70, VSL.

### VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS POLLARD <sup>1</sup>

To Lieut. Thomas Pollard of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley –

Sir, In consequence of your Letter we have recommended Mr Tenant [James Tennant] as first Lieutenant of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley. – We are much Oblig'd to You for your behaviour and good conduct on this occasion, and you may depend the resignation which you have made shall be no obstruction in your rising hereafter. – You are desir'd to keep the Commission you now have and act as second Lieut. on Board, and when you return from this cruise you'll wait on the Board and they will take in your present Commission and grant you a second Lieutenants Commission, if nothing better can then be done as we are determin'd to serve you all in our Power. –

(Signd) Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

[Williamsburg] 31st Jan. 1777 –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

### PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1777

Williamsburg, Jan. 31.

The *Northampton* privateer, capt. Power, belonging to the Eastern Shore, has taken two prizes, one a ship from the Bay of Honduras, with mohogany, logwood, &c. and a sloop from the Mississippi with staves and shingles.

### JOHN PALMER'S JOURNAL OF A CRUISE IN THE CONNECTICUT PRIVATEER SLOOP *Revenge* <sup>1</sup>

Wednesday the 29 Day January [1777] this morning Pleasanter Weather than had bin Sometime before and all moste Calme and at 8 am We Went to Work to

mend our Boldsprit Whaire We had Sprung it and at 4 Pm We See a Larege turkle and We throod out the Barge and Catcht him – and at 6 Pm We finished our Boaldsprit and Clearde up the Decks and Set our main Sail and fore Sail and Jibb and Stood Coarse S B E Pleasant Weather all this 24 howers

Thursday the 30 Day of January this morning Showerry and a Lite Brease of Wind and at 8 am See a Large Scool of Whailes a bout three miles of[f] and at 11am Cleard up our Course SE So Ends these 24 howers –

Friday the 31 Day of January this morning Clear and our Coarse SE and in the after noon Squally and Reignny So Ends these 24 howers

1. John Palmer's Journal, MHA.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE <sup>1</sup>

Jany 77

Desseada SbE Disce 246 Leags

Friday 31st

At ½ past 9 AM Saw a Sail in the SW: Qr Haul'd our Wind & gave Chace. Fired 3 Six Pounders Shotted at the Chace. At Noon Still in Chace

Modt & Cloudy Wr Still in Chace. Found the Chace to be a rebel Brig of force, with a figure head, stern painted, Black & Yellow, Black sides & white Bottom, Ensign staff near upright Royal Masts with rigging & Sails, with a Driver Boom. found her in Lattd 20°30' N At ½ past 1 PM finding the Chace leave us, left off & steer'd our Course.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

#### OWNERS' INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM BELL, ARMED SLOOP *Reprisal* <sup>1</sup>

[Antigua, January 31, 1777] <sup>2</sup>

Captain William Bell Master of the Arm'd Sloop *Reprisal*

Sir Your Conduct being such as to merit our attention, We have accordingly appointed you to the Command of our Sloop *Reprisal*, in the Stead of Captain Downey, who hath desir'd to resign his Command: and as his good Fortune by falling in with Two American Vessels hath prevented him pursuing the intended Voyage to Barbadoes, we desire you wou'd folow our Instructions as herein after mentioned so far as Wind Weather and other Circumstances will Permit.

As soon as you can get on board the necessary Stores and Water, and your Compliment of Men, we desire you woud Stand to the Northward under easy Sail running as far to the Windward of St Bartholomew and St Martins as just to distinguish the Land, shortening Sail as you pass those Islands, then Steer North if the Wind is northerly, or NNE if the Wind is Southerly continueing under easy Sail as far as the Latitude 22 north then Tack and stand to the Southwd under easy Sail till you see Barbuda, then make all Sail and go to windward of Antigua and Grandterre, and as soon as you See the Latter Shorten Sail, and proceed to Windward of Dominica and Martinico towards St Lucia, and Cruize to Windward of these Islands till you think your Provisions are expended to a fortnights allowance, when it will become necessary to compleat your Voyage to Barbadoes and our further orders there. –

We have particularly recommended great care of your Water, and to loose

no opportunity of ketching any Rain, we also desire you wou'd very frequently inspect both Water and Provisions, and set down in your Log-Book when you broach a Cask, and Once a Week set down how many Remains so as not to be unexpectedly disappointed in falling Short, we likewise recommend to you to be particularly Carefull in the disposing of your Powder, Shot, and Small Arms that you may not be at a loss to find any thing if you should be obliged to engage with a Vessel, and so as to prevent any from Spoiling, and when you find the Sloop in good trim, take great pains not to loose her Trim, as your Success depends almost intirely on the Vessels Sailing. —

If you fall in with a Man of War, shew the officers your clearance (if he demands the papers) and particularly your List of Men, and if you shou'd have on board any Men not mentioned in the List, you must hide them for fear of their being impress'd by the Man of War: he cant take any Man mentioned in the List from the Custom House:

If you are so fortunate as to take a Prize, you must be govern'd by her Value, to Cruize with her a Month if you are at a distance from this Island and She is not worth more than £1000. a Week only if she is worth £2000. and to come away immediatly if she is worth £3000. if your Prize Sails well and has Conveneancies we recommend you to put on board 2 Small Guns and a few Swivels and to fix some Wooden Guns as she may help you in chase and perhaps by appearance prevent a large Privateer from attacking you both, pray leave two of the Prizes Men on board to prove her being taken by you and be very carefull not to loose Sight of your Prize if of any Great Value and as by chasing you may be Seperated take care to appoint a place of Rendezvouz with the Prize Master as soon as he goes on board, and renew it as often as requir'd, and fix Signals by day and by Night and give different Signals for each Prize, for fear of their falling into the Enemies hands and your being decoy'd thereby, and as it Sometimes happens by light Winds Under the High Land of some of the Islands you may be Seperated, on your way to this Island pray appoint a place to meet, where the Wind blows true either at the end of that Island, or of the next Island, but if you can get to Windward of the Islands, it is the Safest passage: and at any rate bring your Prize into this Island unless you fall in with a Man of War, and the Captain should insist on having possession in which case you must Continue your Men on board and follow the Prize to wherever the Captain may order her; and when She gets to Port you must apply to some respectable Merchant to employ a Lawyer, and as soon as the Officer of the Man of War libells her you must put in a Claim for the Owners: if an opportunity offers for this Island, write your Owners immediately, but if not, as soon as you have put in your Claim and proved your Capture by the deposition of One of your Prize officers or Seamen, you must come with your Vessel to inform us, and we will take care to prosecute the Captain for the unjust detention.

We have given you Mr [Thomas] Warner the Attorney Generals opinion, that we have a right to take American Rebels Vessels, which we desire you wo[uld] shew to the Captain of any Man of War, who thinks we have no right to take Vessels, and we have given you several Copies of that Opinion one of which you may give to such Captain if he desires it; and you may also shew the Captain these our orders, as we mean to be open and Candid, and wish to Shew the officers of

the Navy our respect for them and that this Adventure is not in opposition to them, but to the Rebellious Americans, and to make Recaptures for our very heavy losses by this Rebellion, for altho' we might be protected by a Court of Admiralty now, and by his Majesty on an appeal for defending our property by force; if a Captain of a Man of War should determine to take possession of your Vessel, or your Prize, yet we desire you wou'd not contest the matter with the Smallest Vessel, bearing the Kings Commission but Submit to their orders and go along with one or both as it happens, and if you are carried to another Island follow our orders as before Mentioned; — We have also given you 2 Copies of Instructions to prize Masters, and we desire you woud give to each Prize Master One of these Instructions and One of Mr Warner's opinions, for we are sure of having redress in time, the Law being in our favor; We most heartily wish you health and Success, and are Your Freinds.

Dover Taylor & Bell.

Jos. & Saml Brown.

Montgomery & Brown.

Bertie Entwisle.

John Wilkins

James Stilling

George Redhead.

Addison & Willock<sup>s</sup>

N B the Signal given the Prize Masters must be enter'd in the Log-Book immediatly and the places of Rendezvouz, the same when alterd according to your different Stations must be enter'd in the Log-Book, as soon as you inform the prize Master, so that your Mates or any other officer may Know them if an accident happens to yourself —

#### Memorandum.

The proper Vessels to take as Prizes are,  
 All belonging to American Subjects in Rebellion  
 Any Vessel having on board the property of such Rebels,  
 Any Vessel having Counterfeit papers and American Produce on board.  
 Any Vessel without papers, not Droughers about an Island with such p[ro]duce [Endorsed] Instructions given by the Owners of the Private Armed Sloop *Reprisal*, to William Bell the Person appointed by them to Command her.  
 [Second endorsement] No 12 Containg Custom house papers. Instructions. Agreements found on board the private Armed Vessels Seized by His Majestys Ships of War.

[Admiralty endorsement] In Adml Young's Letter Dated 8 March 1777 —

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. Date is approximated. Trial of sloop *Mary*, a prize of the *Reprisal* while under Captain Morto Downey, was held on January 28. Since these instructions indicate that Downey had resigned, it seems likely that the owners would have lost little time naming his successor, and sending the ship out again.
3. In a different hand, apparently to identify the owners for the information of the Lords of the Admiralty, appears the following:
 

Dover Taylor & Bell.	Agents to the Contractors for Victualing his Majesty's
Ships at Antigua.	
Jos. & Saml Brown.	} Merchants at St Johns, Antigua.
Montgomery & Brown.	
Bertie Entwisle.	
John Wilkins.	Surveyor of his Majesty's Customs at St Johns, Antigua.
James Stilling.	Deputy Secretary of the Island of Antigua.
George Redhead.	Planter at the Island, Antigua.
Addison & Willock.	Merchants at St Johns Antigua.

1 Feb.

JOHN BRADFORD TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston 1st Feby 1777

Your favr of the 27th Ultimo I duly Recd in Answer to which I shall Settle that matter with Capt [John Paul] Jones. I make no doubt (to the Satisfaction of all parties.) I've already wrote forward to Congress relative to the *Mellishes* Cargo, and hope it wont be long Ere we shall be Able to pay off the Captors.

I shou'd be Glad the return of the names & quality of the *providence's* people may come forward as Soon as may be I hope the *Cabot* will Soon Get away. Capt [Joseph] Olney being at providence, will let you know his Situation I am Sir [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> Bradford

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

PETITION OF THOMAS STILLWELL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

State of the Massa- To the Honble House of Representatives  
chusetts Bay – } & the Honble Council of said State in  
                              } General Court assembled Feby [1] 1777.<sup>2</sup>

The Petition of Thomas Stillwell of Taunton in the County of Bristol, Mariner, humbly shews –

That your petitioner hath for some time past been employed in the service of this State on board the Brigg, called the *Freedom* of which John Clouston is Master, in the capacity of a Pilot, & being so on board, at the taking of a Brigg called the *Unice*, he was put on board said Brig, as a prize Master, to carry the said Brig into the first convenient Port in possession of the United States, which said Brig by this Honble Court was afterwards adjudged to be American Property, & acquitted accordingly. And whereas your petitioner was at many necessary charges attending said Vessel, particularised in the underwritten Account, he begs as he has not received as yet any equivalent therefor, that it might be taken into Your Honors consideration & he may be reimbursed his Charges, & your Petitioner further shews that he billeted himself for thirteen weeks before the sailing of said Brigg, that the allowance granted to every other man on board said Brigg, for billeting was twelve shillings pr Week: he therefore prays also your Honors would take this Matter into consideration & order him such a sum as shall be an adequate Compensation for the Premises – And as in duty Bound shall ever pray

Thos<sup>s</sup> Stillwell

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 182, 115.

2. Date is approximated and is based on chronological placement of document in the Massachusetts Archives.

PETITION OF THOMAS NEWBERRY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Massachusetts Bay

Thomas Newberry late Superintendant of the Ship *Mellish* Bound to Quebec, taken by J Jones Esqr Commander of the *Alfred*, Humbly begs leave of the Honle

Council permission to return to England by a Ship from this place which sails in a few days. He flatters himself from assurances which Captn Bradford the Agent gave him, & the kind Indulgence he has either too [*sic* hitherto] met with from the Honble Council since he has been here, that they will be pleas'd to take his Situation into Consideration, & kindly permit him to return, which will enable him to act according to the principals he has ever adopted, & will be remember'd With the greatest gratitude, by their Petitioner

Thos Newberry

Boston Jany

[Endorsed] State of Massachusetts Bay –

In the House of Representatives Feby 1st 1777 –

The Committee on the within Petition beg leave to report, That the prayer of the within Petition be so far granted that the sd Thomas Newberry have leave to depart this State in one of the Ships that is now fitting out from this State to France by the Honble the Board of War & be under such further restrictions as they shall think proper –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 182, 14–15.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN JOHN AYRES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston Feby 1. 1777

You are to proceed to providence in the state of Rhode Island with the prisoners under Your Care, & there to take Charge of the Brig *Kingston Packet* belonging to Richd Derby Junr now in the Harbour of Providence, and after Applying to Govr Cooke for the Necessary Ca[r]tell papers, You are to take onboard the said Vessell the prisoners sent with You from Boston & with them to proceed to Rhode Island, & them Deliver to Sr Peter Parker or the Comanding officer there, & take a Rescte from him for them, Spe[c]ifying their severall Stations, & with That Rescte proced to Halifax in the province of Nova-Scotia, and if posable procure from there Capt [William] Burke, & Capt [Simeon] Sampson, & Capt Hatch with as many of their officers & mariners as You can Procure, & with them proceed as fast as posable to this place, but if You Canont Obtain Liberty to proced to Halifax for the purpose of Procureing the Persons aforesaid, then take Such Prisoners as are to be had at Rhode Island & New York & with them proceed Round to Boston as aforesaid. You are also Directed if posable to procure the Releasement of Ebenr Hawthorne, Danl Shehane, & Joseph Sor, now or late prisoners onbord the *Lively* also Benja S[ou]thurst onbord the *Syren* & Thos White onbord the *Falcon* and Jno Palmer all seamen belonging to salem, taken in the Merchant service, and one Wadsworth, of Boston, taken in the privateering Service You will Observe & follow, as far as may be, the Instruction given You by the Councill of this State the 3d of Last month, & in all Respects Conduct with the Greatest Oconomy & Dispatch.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 206.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Boston 1st Feby 1777 [A M] –

Order'd That John Brewers Bill for Blocks &c for Ship *Duc de Chartres* £ 3 . 4 – be paid –

Order'd That Saml Barretts five Bills for mendg & making Sails for the Vessells £ 29 . . 1 . . 4 be paid

P M

Voted That Honl Mr [James] Warren be desird to purchase the Prize Brig at Plymouth & also the Sarsaparilla on Board Mr Jacksons Ship at the same port

Voted To purchase Mr [Martin] Brimmers Sloop called the *Reprisal* with all her Stores at her Cost, with the Addition of 2½ P Cent

Resolved To purchase the Ship *Caledonia* of the Proprietors at £1525 –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 141, 142.

BRITISH PRISONERS SENT TO NEWPORT FOR EXCHANGE <sup>1</sup>

Providence February 1st 1777

List of Prisoners in the Naval Department sent in the Carteel Sloop *Nancy* to Newport to be exchanged under the Directions of Mr John Innis Clarke.

Mens Names	Stations	In What Vessel taken
George Doughty	Mate	of the Ship <i>Friendship</i> , Samuel Broomstone late Master
John Cladinboll	Second Mate	of the said Ship <i>Friendship</i>
William Sadler	Boatswain	of ditto
John Taylor	Gunner	of ditto
David Smith	Cook	of ditto
Robert Morgan & David Smith	Mariners	on board the said Ship <i>Friendship</i>
John Hunter		
Charles Stuart	Second Mate	of the Ship <i>Live Oak</i>
John Reed	Sail Maker	of ditto
Edward Moffat	Apprentice	on board said Ship
James Walker	Master	of the Sloop <i>Swallow</i>
Neil Crawford	Carpenter	of the Ship <i>Peggy</i> David McKay
William Wood	Boatswain	late Master
John McCarty	Mariners	on board the said Ship <i>Peggy</i>
Archibald Campbell		
Robert Sharp		
James Walker	Mariners	on board the Ship <i>Betsey</i> James Ramsay late Master.
Walter Napier		
James Hendry	Boatswain	of the Ship <i>Aurora</i> Gregor McGregor late Master.

## BRITISH PRISONERS SENT TO NEWPORT FOR EXCHANGE [continued]

[Mens Names]	[Stations]	[In What Vessel taken]
William Morrow	Mate	of the Ship <i>Westmoreland</i> William
John Patterson	Steward	Hoar late Master.
David None	Mariner	on board the said Ship
George Parker	Mate	of the Ship <i>Devonshire</i> William
Thomas Duggan	Mate	Fisher late Master.
		of the Schooner <i>Frank</i> , Sylvanus
		Waterman late Master.
Charles Cranstoun	Acting	
	Lieutenant	On board the <i>Acteon</i>
William Marsh	Midshipman	on board the <i>Tamer</i>
Richard Ragged	Midshipman	on board the <i>Orpheus</i>
Samuel Horsenail	Superintendent	of the <i>Mellish</i> Transport Ship
James Boyle	Cooper	of the <i>Crawford</i> Transport Ship
Thomas Turnbull	Mate	of the Ship <i>Bella</i> Thos Jones
		late Master
John Crandall	Mariner	on board Ditto
Francis Welsh	Marine	on board the <i>Friendship</i>
Richard Quarrier	Mariners	on board ditto
Benjamin White		
Jack Bamberry		
Mamanly		
Alsimeer	five free Negros	on board the Sloop <i>Swallow</i>
Ganserry		
Famsey	Mariners	Edward Moffatt late Master –
James Stott	Mariner	Sloop <i>Truelove</i> Capt Moulton
John Taylor	ditto	Bright <i>Betty</i>
John McFarding	ditto	Ship <i>Hope</i>
William McKennedy	ditto	Bright <i>Betty</i>
Andrew Fleming	ditto	Ship <i>Belle</i>
Thomas Turnbull	Chief Mate	of the Same Ship
John Edwards	Chief Mate	Ship <i>St James</i>
James Simple	Passenger	Bright <i>Countess of Eglinton</i>
Malcolm Walker	Seaman	

A List of Officers in his Britannick Majesty's Service sent in the Carteel Sloop *Nancy* to Newport under the Direction of Mr John Innis Clarke

Harry Munro Lieutenant of the 42d or Royal Highland Regiment

John Campbell Ensign of the said Regiment

Roderick Murchison Ensign in the 71st Regiment

William McLeod Cadett in the 71st Regiment

St Leger Bevell Ensign in the 29th Regiment

William Sauder Surgeon in the Royal Artillery

1. Council of War Papers, Exchange of Prisoners, and Miscellaneous Papers, 1775–1781, R. I. Arch.

JOSHUA LORING, BRITISH COMMISSARY OF PRISONERS, TO CONSIDER HOWLAND <sup>1</sup>

New York Feby [1] 1777. <sup>2</sup>

you having given your parole to his Excellency general Howe to return into the City of New York in Six Weeks from the Date thereof in case of Failure of Sending in Mr John Loring in exchange for yourself and he was already exchanged before you reached Boston of Course your Engagement Could not be Complied with you are therefore still considered a prisoner on your parole until some proper person is sent in here for you Mr Maston has been represented to me as Such and when ever he arrives here your Parole Shall be immediatly forwarded to you, till when it is expected that you act in no Shape either by Word or deed Contrary to the Interest of his Majesty or his government and that you Repair to whatever place his Excellency the Commander in Chief shall think fit to Order you whenever Required so to do. — I am Sir [&c.]

Jos. Loring Commissy for Prisns

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 36, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777. In 1775 Howland had been captured in the brig *Washington* of George Washington's fleet.
2. Date is approximated and is based on chronological placement of document in the Massachusetts Archives.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Number 20.

*Eagle* Off New York

Sir

February the 1st 1777.

The Rebel Prisoners detained some time in the Cruizing Frigates, by a frequent View of the Signals appointed for making the Ships of this Fleet known to each other, have been able to retain the Memory of them; And to communicate them upon their Exchange, to the Commanders of the Rebel Armed Vessels. It has therefore been necessary to make such an Alteration in those Signals, as will guard against that Inconvenience in future. And I transmit herewith a Copy of the Signals I have directed to be used here for that Purpose. <sup>2</sup>

These I imagine it will not be requisite to alter, unless the Rebels become by an Accident possessed of a Copy of them. And in that Case, a sufficient Change may be made in them, by ordering the Months (for Instance) at the Head of the first Column to be transferred to the Head of the Second, Third, or Fourth, and so in Succession of the others; Without altering the Signals themselves; Tho' several of them are ill chosen, in as much as they require an Alteration of Sail, which may be highly improper on many Occasions; But the Private Ships not being now allowed the National Colours of the other Maritime Powers, nor any Extra Colours, no better Means have offered for composing the necessary Variety.

I am, with great Consideration Sir [&c.]


Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. See illustration page 1082 for portion of Howe's signals.

LIBEL FILED IN PENNSYLVANIA ADMIRALTY COURT AGAINST THE  
RECAPTURED SCHOONER *Success* <sup>1</sup>

To the Honourable George Ross Esqr Judge of the Court of Admiralty for the Port of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylv

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Signals to be made by the Ships to Windward and to Leeward.
												NB. If crossing upon different Packs, either Ship making one of the Daily Signals is to be answered from the other by the corresponding Signal.
Monday—Sunday—Saturday—Friday—Thursday—Wednesday						By Day Ship to { Windward Main top sail lowered, the other top sails hoisted, w <sup>th</sup> 1 Gun. Leeward Main top sail Shove cloved up, with the Yard aloft.						
						Night Ship to { Windward 2 Lights of equal height. Leeward 1—D <sup>r</sup> —D <sup>r</sup> } Where most easily seen.						
Tuesday—Monday—Sunday—Saturday—Friday—Thursday						By Day Ship to { Windward Fore top sail Shove cloved up, with the Yard aloft. Leeward Lack at Mizzen topmast head & Pend <sup>r</sup> at Fore top mast head.						
						Night Ship to { Windward 2 Lights one over the other Leeward 1—D <sup>r</sup> —in a triangle, viz <sup>t</sup>  } Where most easily seen.						
Wednesday—Tuesday—Monday—Sunday—Saturday—Friday						By Day Ship to { Windward Red Ensign Mizzen topmast head. Leeward Main top sail lowered, Mizzen top sail Shove cloved up, with the Yard aloft.						
						Night Ship to { Windward 2 Lights in the Main & in the Fore & in the Mizzen, Shrouds of equal height w <sup>th</sup> 1 Gun. Leeward 1—D <sup>r</sup> —one over the other in the Main, 2—D <sup>r</sup> —Fore } Shrouds of equal height.						
Thursday—Wednesday—Tuesday—Monday—Sunday—Saturday						By Day Ship to { Windward Fore top sail lowered, the Main top sail being hoisted, and 2 Guns. Leeward Red Ensign Fore top gall mast head.						
						Night Ship to { Windward 2 Lights of equal height in Main, Shrouds 2—D <sup>r</sup> —Fore } Leeward 1—D <sup>r</sup> —one over the other at the Mizzen Peak, Ensign Staff.						
Friday—Thursday—Wednesday—Tuesday—Monday—Sunday						By Day Ship to { Windward Mizzen top sail Shove cloved up with the Yard aloft & Lack at the Fore topmast head, w <sup>th</sup> 1 Gun. Leeward Red Ensign at Mizzen Peak & 1 Gun.						
						Night Ship to { Windward 2 Lights of equal height, where most easily seen and 1 Gun. Leeward 1—D <sup>r</sup> —one over the other, where most easily seen.						

The Bill of John Baldwin Esq Commander of the armed Schooner of War Called the *Wasp* in the Service of the United States of America fitted out for the Defence of American Liberty and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof which sd John Baldwin in this Behalf prosecuteth as well for himself his Officers Mariners and Seamen belonging to the sd Schooner as for the United States afsd in all humble Manner Sheweth

That the sd Schooner was equip'd victual'd fitted out and man'd at the Expence of the United States and the sd John Baldwin duly commissioned Authoriz'd and licens'd by the Delegates of the sd States in General Congress Assembled to Command the sd Schooner, and set her forth as a Vessel of War for the service afsd And the sd John Baldwin being so commissioned authorized and licenced he the sd John Baldwin with his Officers Mariners and Seamen belonging to the sd Schooner Sailing upon the high-Seas on board the sd Schooner between the twenty fourth Day of July last and the day of exhibiting this bill upon the sd High-Seas and within the Jurisdiction of this Court did discover pursue apprehend and as legal Prize and Booty of War take the Schooner or Vessel called the *Success* commanded by William Compton of the Burthen of Forty Tons or thereabouts with her Tackle Apparel Furniture and Cargo belonging to some Subject or Subjects of the King of Great Britain not residing within or being an Inhabitant or Inhabitants of the Bermudas [New] Providence or Bahama Islands And the sd John Baldwin doth further charge that the sd Schooner her Tackle Apparel Furniture and Cargo at the time of the Capture afsd were in the Possession of the King of Great Britain or of some of his Subjects who are the open and avowed Enemies of these United States and who had before the Time of the Capture afsd taken and detained as Prize & Booty of War from the Inhabitants of these sd States the same Schooner with her sd Tackle apparel Furniture and Cargo for the Space of forty eight Hours and upwards before and till the sd Recapture thereof<sup>2</sup> Wherefore the sd John Baldwin prays this honourable Court that the sd Schooner *Success* her Tackle apparel Furniture and Cargo may be condemned as lawful Prize for the Use of the sd Captors and others concerned therein According to the Resolves of the honourable the Continental Congress in such Case provided

1st Feby 1777

W<sup>m</sup> Lewis Proc p Libs

1. Colonial – Revolutionary Manuscripts Collection, Admiralty Court Papers, HSP.

2. *Success* had been captured by H.M.S. *Roebuck* on December 18, 1776, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

LIBEL FILED IN PENNSYLVANIA ADMIRALTY COURT AGAINST THE BRITISH  
SLOOP OF WAR *Racehorse*<sup>1</sup>

Port of Philadelphia }  
Pennsylvania, ss. } To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given that a Court of Admiralty will be held at the State-house in the city of Philadelphia, on Friday the twenty-first day of February instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of Isaiah Robinson, Esq; (who as well, &c.) against the armed sloop called the *Racehorse*, burthen about thirty tons, with her

guns, tackle, &c., lately commanded by William Jones, Esq. To the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said sloop, &c. or any person concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bill.

By order of the Judge,

February 1, 1777.

Andrew Robeson, Register.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, February 1, 1777. The *Racehorse* had been captured by the Continental brig *Andrew Doria*, Captain Isaiah Robinson. This issue of the newspaper also carried libels filed against prizes of the Continental vessels *Wasp* and *Independence*.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO WILLIAM BINGHAM <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore in Maryland 1st Feby 1777 –

. . . Congress has referred the matter of remittance for discharge of the obligation which you and Mr [Richard] Harrison have entered into, to the State of Maryland, from whence you will no doubt receive remittance as soon as the British Ships of War now in Chesapeake Bay will permit. It is a singular misfortune to us, and very injurious to the Commerce of France, that we have not two or three line of Battle Ships, which, with our Frigates and armed Vessels would keep open our navigation in despite of Great Britain, – but at the present one heavy ship affords protection to two or three frigates, that would otherwise be easily removed, and they place themselves so as to shut up the entrance into our principal trading States.

1. John Work Garrett Library, JHUL.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore, Feb. 1, 1777

Give me leave to hint to you my Opinion that it would be a Saving to our State in the Way of Supplis, if the Board of War would consign the Cargoes which they order here to a Merchant of good Character rather than to the Master of the Vessel. Possibly there may be some Exceptions; But I have Reason to think that a Cargo which arrivd about a Fortnight ago, consisting as I am told, chiefly of Rum and Sugars which were scarce Articles, was sold at least 30 pCt under what it would have fetchd, if it had been under the Direction of a Person acquainted in the Place; and Flour is purchasing by the Person who bo't the Cargo, and I suppose expects an Allowance therefor, at an unlimittd Price. I am perswaded, if you had by a previous Letter directed a Cargo to be procurd, you might have had it 20 pCt cheaper. If the Board should be of my Mind, I know of no Gentlemen whom I would more freely recommend than Messrs Samuel and Robert Purvyance. They are Merchants of Character, honest and discrete Men, and warmly attached to our all-important Cause.

But I get out of my Line when I touch upon Commerce. It is a Subject which I never understood. Adieu my dear Friend. Believe me to be yours,

S. A.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 286, 287–88.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Hind*, CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE <sup>1</sup>

February. 1777                      Town of Statia NNE 2 or 3 Miles  
 Saturday 1                      Standing off St Eustatia & St Kitts  
    P M took and sent to Sandy pt An American Sloop &  
    Schooner.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/457.

2. Sloop *Hope*, Arno. Renon, master, from Martinique to St. Eustatius in ballast; and the schooner *Two Sisters*, Nathaniel Pendleton, master, from Baltimore, for St. Eustatius with flour and bread; Young's Prize List to March 10, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

St Pierre M/que Feby 1. 1777.

Inclosed you have a Copy of what we had the Honour of writing you on the 26th ulto – We have now to acknowledge the rect of your favr by the *Friendship* Capt Martin, who, we with pleasure inform you, arrived here this day. – It is unlucky his Cargoe does not consist of Tobacco instead of Flour, as it would in that case yield at least 50 pCt more. – However as his last Voyage proved so unsuccessful no body is to blame and we must endeavour to make the most of what we have got.

We shall immediately discharge the Cargoe & dispatch the Vessell down to St Eustatia for a load of Salt, where we expect she may also be able to procure a handsome Freight of dry Goods. – Salt is not to be had here at present, nor do we see any prospect of an Advantageous Freight; we therefore think it well worth the risque, especially as you are so much distressed for that essential Article We are exceedingly sorry that our embarrass[ed] Circumstances will not admit of our shipping any of the other Goods you desire. We shall however use all our Influence to engage private adventurers to speculate in them to your State and on all occasions do every thing in our power to render our Services acceptable. – Although we have shipped but little Salt ourselves, most of the Cargoes that have gone from St Eustatia & this port have been shipped in Consequence of our Advice & Encouragement, and we have even (distressed as we are) taken Small Concern in three or four adventures on our own Accots to prevent their falling to the Ground, & for the Sake of throwing in Supplies.

We hope our Accot Currt of the 28th December got safe to hand, as we Sent it by two different Opportunities. But for fear of Accid[e]nts we now inclose you triplicate of it. – As we have been frequently under the necessity of reshipping your produce to other Islands It was impossible for us to be so regular in transmitting our Accts Sales & Acct Currt as we wished. – But in future we hope it will be attended with less difficulty. The Affair of the powder sold in Charles Town is not yet settled, so soon as it is you Shall be advised of it.

We are concerned to learn by Capt Martin that some are ill natured enough to suspect us of Under hand Work in the purchase of Stones Brigt – He will carry papers from Statia that we trust will clear us of every foul Imputation of the kind & place us above the reach of Malice. We are &ca

1. Red Book, XVI, Md. Arch.

2 Feb. (Sunday)

JOHN R. LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston Feby 2d 1777

I begin to grow tired of Privateering and wish I could take all my property from the Vessels I am concerned in. I here send you a list of them which if you will be so good as to offer to Walter Livingston who perhaps may take them

1 - 14th	Sloop <i>Congress</i> sailed from Phila about the middle of October since sent in one prize though it was retaken	£666.13..4
1 - 14th	Sloop <i>Chance</i> <sup>2</sup> sailed at the same time	666.13..4
1 - 12	Briga <i>Rising States</i> mounting Eighteen Six pounders carries One hundred and eighty men saled Jany 26th - a finer Vessel allowed by those who are judges than any yet Sailed	1503..0..0
1 - 16	of Ship <i>General Mifflin</i> <sup>3</sup> mounts Twenty Nine pounders and Six fours now in the Port of Boston is supposed to Sail in Six weeks to carry 250 Men	1245.16..8
1 - 12	of Sloop <i>Beaver</i> almost ready for sea Lying at Providence at which place there is a Large Body of men	800..0..0

Amount of the whole comes to

£4882..3..4

You find by this State of my accounts in the Shipping way that I am rather too deep so that if you can sell them all or separately to any person that will have them provided I am informed first of what Vesels they take as I shall endeavor to do the Same here and they might be sold to two people at the same time which would make great confussion should any one make a good offer that is not less than £ 4400 for the whole of them you will be so good as to inform me by express of it as I would take it though I should lose a little by it, for I find that so much money in privateers is gaming very high and to a great disadvantage. If Walter Livingston chuses to take only the Ship and Briga - he can have the first at 25 PCt on what I gave and the other at 30 PCt.

1. Papers Relating to Naval Affairs, NYHS.

2. *Congress* and *Chance* were Pennsylvania privateers.3. *Rising States* and *General Mifflin* were Massachusetts privateers.COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Chatham Rhode Island Harbour the 2d Feby 1777

My Powers extend only to the exchange of Seamen and Persons taken at Sea, and should any mistakes happen in the exchange of Prisoners, I shall be always glad to rectify them, as I dare say you will be on your part - The two Persons

whom you mention to have been exchanged for Soldiers, Lord Percy will settle with you the first opportunity. —

By the last exchange negotiated with Capt Ayres there are 30 Seamen due to us, I have now upwards of 50 Americans in my possession & expect more soon from New York. I shall not be able to accommodate them so well as I could wish, and therefore a speedy release from their disagreeable situations will entirely depend on yourself, as I shall be ready to exchange on the equitable terms proposed by Lord Howe, as soon as I shall know your determination.

Lieutenant d'Auvergne, who will deliver this Letter, is also charged with a Packet address'd to you from Lord Howe. . . .

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 9, 1776–1777, R. I. Arch.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN AT NEW YORK, TO HIS FRIEND AT GLASGOW, DATED FEBRUARY 2, 1777, BROUGHT BY THE *General Howe*”<sup>1</sup>

I arrived here this Day from St. Eustatia, where I saw many Rebel Vessels, and particularly a Brigantine called the *Andrew Doria* (one of them that engaged the *Glasgow* Frigate last Summer) mounts 16 Guns and 104 Men, commanded by one Robertson [Isaiah Robinson], a Whitehaven Man, intirely on the States Employ, came to St. Eustatia with 70,000 l. in Specie, to purchase Clothes and Ammunition for the Rebel Troops, and got loaded in a few Days.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, March 24, 1777.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS  
IN FRANCE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore 2 February 1777

. . . It concerns Us not less than We are sure it will You, that you should have heard so seldom from Us, but the vigilance of the British Cruizers has prevented our most earnest solicitude for this purpose. The manner in which they now conduct their business proves the necessity of the request made by Congress for the loan, or sale of a few Capital Ships. The entrance into the Delaware and Chesapeake being narrow, by placing one 40 or 50 Gun Ship for the protection of their frigates they Stop both Commerce and correspondence. Formerly their frigates protected their tenders, but now that we have frigates, their larger ships protect their frigates, and this winter has been so uncommonly favorable, that they have been able to keep the sea, undisturbed by those severe gales of wind so usual off this coast, in the winter season. If we had a few line-of-Battle Ships to aid our Frigates. The Commerce of North america, so beneficial to ourselves and so advantageous to France, would be carried on maugre the opposition of Great Britain. As we have not received any of those military stores and cloathing promised by Mr Deane, we have much reason to fear they have fallen into the enemy's hands, and will render a fresh supply quite necessary. Except Mr Deane's favor of September 17th which is but just now received, and that of 1st October we have been as destitute of European News as we fear you have been of true American intelligence . . .

The regular troops that are to compose the new army are making up in the different States as fast as possible; but arms, artillery, tent cloth, and cloathing

will be greatly wanting. For these our reliance is on the favor of his most Christian Majesty. If you are so fortunate as to obtain them, the propriety of sending them in a strong ship of war must be very evident to you, Gentlemen, when you know our coasts are so covered with Cruizers from 20 to 50 guns, though but few of the latter. We believe, they have not more than two ships of 40 and two or three of fifty guns in their whole fleet on the North American Station; and these are employed, one of them to cover a frigate and two at the capes of each bay, whilst the rest remain at New York.

1. Papers CC (Letters of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, 1776-83), 79, 37-40, NA.

THOMAS DORSEY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Elk Ridge Feby 2: 1777.

The Bearer Mr Thomas Cole is Desirous of Getting into the Navy of this Province, he is A Gentelman that has Eaver bin Firm And Steady in the American Caus I tharefore take the Liberty to Recommend him As A Proper Person for Any trust that he Would Except of Am Gent [&c.]

Thomas Dorsey

1. Red Book, XIX, Md. Arch.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORT ROYAL IN JAMAICA, FEB. 2." <sup>1</sup>

Several American vessels, together with their cargoes, taken by his Majesty's armed schooner the *Penelope* and brought in here, have been condemned and sold to the Merchants at Kingston, and the prize-money has been paid to the crew, who received each man 27 pistoles.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 12 to April 15, 1777.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Badger*, LIEUTENANT CHARLES HOLMES EVERITT<sup>1</sup>

February 1777

Mounta Christe SEbE 6 Leagues

Saturday 1st saw a Sail in the SE Quar out 1st & 2d Reef of Topsails, set T Gt Sails, gave Chace, Fir'd 3 Four Pounders, hoisted the Boat out & sent her on Board the Chace, found her to be from Old York Bound to Cape Francois with Lumber, Took Possession of her off Shore 4 Leagues.

Sunday 2d Our Prize in Company, set the Rigging fore & aft,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/78.

COUNT D'ARGOUT, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF MARTINIQUE, TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG<sup>1</sup>

Sir:

Fort Royal, Martinique 2 February 1777

For a long time I have deplored the acts of violence committed against our commerce by British pirates or frigates in a manner contrary to the terms of treaties as well as to the respect due our ensign.

It is far from my thoughts that such acts committed against public faith may

have the consent and approval of your Excellency and I am already persuaded that you will return to my complaint all the justice that it has the right to expect.

The French brig *LeGuillaume* sailing from and dispatched from Miquelon was stopped and led to La Dominiqua by the ship *Abraham* under the command of a Gilbert Grant who did not possess any British war commission.

Such duress was exercised against the ship *Saint Guillaume*, with David as the Captain, sailing from Santo Domingo for this island which carried only a few French passengers, and brought letters from the Governor of Santo Domingo; it was stopped, led to and detained in Santo Domingo. Armed men were placed on board, the search conducted revealed that it was only ballast, the trunks were examined, and the letters taken away of which some were not returned.

To justify such a capture made in violation of rights of men the insidious means of corruption were used. The mercenary souls of the sailors were tempted with gold to testify that these ships were used to run errands for the Anglo-French in conflict with the British.

I do not know under what appellation you classify this kind of machination, our laws call it intimidation of witnesses and punish this crime with dishonor and sometimes death. Since the principles of honor are the same among all civilized nations, I am certain that your scruples will be offended upon reading these odious ways.

I had the honor of writing about this to his Excellency, Mr. Shirley, Governor of Santo Domingo, who replied that in what concerned the Navy you were the only one responsible, him also excluded.

Therefore, I have the honor of bringing to you my formal and official protest against these abuses which are hostile acts and upon which I cannot close my eyes. I beg of your Excellency to inform me clearly and positively of your definite action. Your reply will be a just satisfaction of my complaint, or a justified reason for the reprisals which I shall order.

Herein you will find a copy of the complaints addressed to me by Mr. de Luin and Mr. Lars Dorient, inhabitants of this colony. Sir, I have the honor to be, with the Greatest respect [&c.]

Dargout

[Enclosure]

“Copy of the Declaration of Messrs de Luynes and Lars Dorien inhabitants of this island”

[Martinique]

We the undersigned declare that having been obliged to call at St. Eustatia on 17 January while coming from Santo Domingo we embarked there on the 19th with several other passengers in the ship *Saint Guillaume* under the command of Captain David and belonging to Mr. Adrien Sicard of Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, with Martinique for destination, that on the following 23d while passing off Dominica abreast the Roseau roads we were stopped by the long boat of the British frigate from which it departed when it was near us, that without any word, nor making any signal to bring us to, a musket shot was fired, the bullet of which struck the anchor cathead near which were standing two passengers who ran a great risk, that the ship was anchored near the frigate, although the

papers were found in order and that the ship was only in ballast, of which nine guns composed its artillery, two of which were on deck, that the Captain of this frigate came aboard of the said vessel bringing 20 armed with muskets, bayonets, swords and pistols, removed the crew composed of 8 men, four white Frenchmen and four negroes, also French, with the exception of a Corossolian, our servants consisting of three mulattos and two negroes, leaving only the captain, under mate and three passengers; that next we were confined to our room after the windows were locked and a watch posted and relieved every two hours; that as soon as the Captain had departed the 20 men seized a case of rum belonging to one of the passengers, became drunk, and that we spent a horrible night.

that the next day the Captain returned on board searched the vessel once more, and the trunks of the passengers taking all the letters which were entrusted to them. that Mr. de Luynes, one of the passengers having received the permission to go ashore with him had much difficulty in obtaining the release of the other passengers, their servants and their trunks; however their letters and those of other passengers were not returned; that all the servants were interrogated as to their destination which they were ignorant of, that several sailors having been taken ashore and having fled came to speak to us telling us they also were interrogated and that some were promised 25 moidores others thirty to make them confess that the ship came from New England and that it was going to be armed to give chase to the British Royalists which they all declared themselves ignorant of with the exception of one who said that he was engaged for privateering in the mentioned vessel. It was on the testimony of this wretch, without any clear indication, that this vessel was stopped. We left Dominica the evening of the 25th reaching St. Pierre on the 26th

Signed Lars Dorien and de Luynes

Copy

Dargout

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Enclosed in Vice Admiral Young's letter of March 9, 1777.

#### WILLIAM BINGHAM TO SILAS DEANE <sup>1</sup>

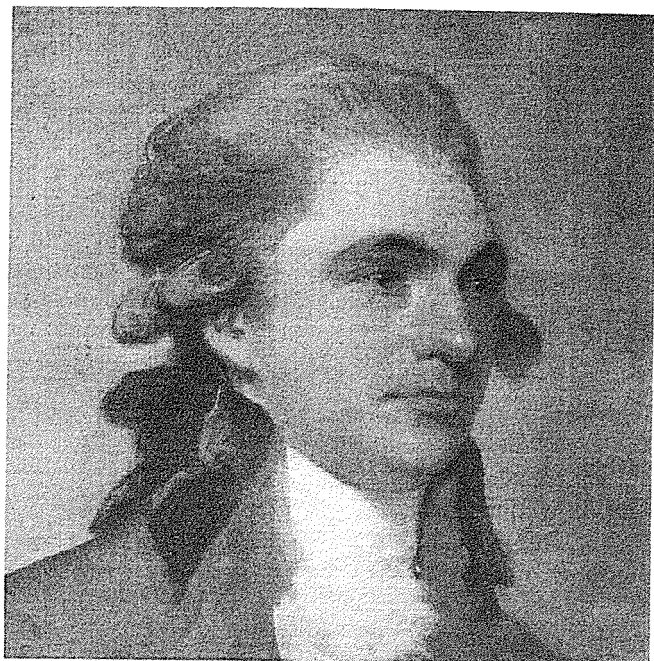
[Extract]

St Pierre Martinique Feb 2d 1777

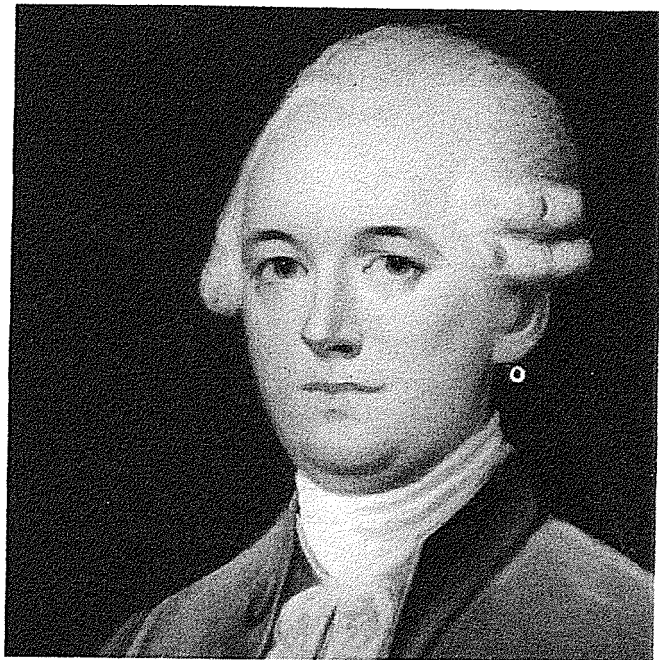
There have been a Number of Privateers lately fitted out of the English Islands, which greatly annoy & molest our Trade – They carry no Commissions, but make Prizes of our Vessels under the Authority & Sanction of the Kings Proclamation, which dooms us to be the Prey of every Invader; – The English Admiral on the Station has seized upon several of their Prizes in the Kings Name, & a Law Suit commenced in Antigua, to determine the Property, when it was adjudged to the Captors. –

The favorable Issue of their Suit has occasioned many of the Islands to follow the Example of Antigua, & I expect that these Seas will soon be covered with Privateers;—

As they began, So they continue their Depredations, in a lawless Manner, & are under no Restraint in the Exercise of their assumed Authority – They have lately stopped, searched & carried into Port several French Vessels, bound for this Place, one of which they have libel'd in the Court of Admiralty, for no other



*William Bingham*



*Silas Deane*

Reason, than that She had Cannon & Small Arms on board, which they suspected, as being intended for a Supply to the Rebels in Martinico; – This was their only Plea – The General remonstrated with the Governor of Dominica against the Violence of these Proceedings, & in a Spirited Letter which he wrote to him, demanded the Restitution of these several Prizes;

Whatever might have been the Governors Inclination, he certainly had it not in his Power to surrender them, as this Matter came altogether under the Jurisdiction of a Court of Admiralty. – The General, not receiving a satisfactory Answer, immediately ordered the Seizure of all British Property – In Consequence of which three English Vessels have been stopped, stripped of their Sails, & will be detained untill the Issue of this Affair is Known. . . .

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

CAPTAIN JOHN McKEEL TO ROBERT PURVIANCE AND DANIEL BOWLY, BALTIMORE  
MERCHANTS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

On board the *Sturdy Beggar* Feabuy the 2d 1777

Latde 17.0. Longd 68.0

. . . about two weeks aGon we Ingaged a large ship but could make nothing of hur fighting Consaderable more Guns then us and all under Cover appearing to be an old India man Yesterday we feil in with Eight sail and Came in more with them but appearing seavarel vessels of Considerable force did not ingage them these being two of the fleet aStern – You may depend on my prolonging the Cruise to the best advantage – I am [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> McKeel

P S a Copy of our Commition you have Inclosed JM  
favoured P Cap. G. Brown

1. Admiralty Papers, Box 1, Folder 13, 1776–1781, Md. Arch. Opening portion of this letter is badly torn. However the first line reads in part: "By Captn G. Brown Comdr of the Prize *Elizabeth*."

3 Feb.

#### MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Boston 3d Feby 1777

Order'd That the Comee of Sequestration deliver Capt Palmer <sup>2</sup> some Herbs now in the Store of Doct Gardner – for the use of the Continental Ship *Boston* –

P M

Capt [George] Williams reported –

That he had agreed to take Mr. Wm Dennies Ship & her Cargo of Mohogony Logwood &c now lying at Portsmo on the Terms he offer'd them to the Board – see proposals – had also agreed with Capt John C[l]arke to go Master of her & to give him the same Wages &c given Capt [Nicholas] Bartlett viz £10 – P mo £50 – in full Commissions primage &c ¾ P day while in port – Wages to be paid till return home if not taken – if the Ship is sold to be found a passage home –

Capt Williams reported That he had contracted with Jacob Boardman of Newbury Port for his Brig & Cargo to allow him 8/ P Ton P Month & insure her Value against all Risques, said Vessel to be appraised by three Men, Capt Wm Wyer on Accot of the Board Cargo 65 m Boards a 48/. Shingles 12/. Shooks 5/ & 6/. 20 hhds Cod & Seale Fish 27/ a 25/. 10 Tr's Salmon a £4 – Hoops £7 – & all her Stores see Contract on File for Vessl

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 143–46.
2. Marine Captain Richard Palmes.

#### MEMORIAL OF DARTMOUTH INHABITANTS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

We the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the Town of Dartmouth and others, having understood that your Honor's have given permission to the Captains of several Vessels brought into this port of Bedford to be exchanged and that they are to be sent to Newport in the State of Rhode-Island for that purpose. We beg leave to represent to your Honors that the Harbours of Bedford and Fairhaven lay very much exposed to the Enemy, and are in avery insufficient state to resist an attack of them – As We believe that the above Captains are fully acquainted with the defenceless state of this harbour, We humbly conceive that they are able to carry such intelligence as may induce the Enemy to make an attack upon this town and thereby endanger the lives and properties of the Inhabitants of it.

We beg leave further to represent to your Honors that there are anumber of Ships, as well as other Vessels fitting out from this port both on acct of the Continent and Individuals (many of which ships have been even commanded by the above Prisoners) and therefore the Owners have the fullest reason to suppose that the aforesaid Prisoners will give such information as will render their Vessels exceedingly exposed to the Enemies Cruizers; The above Prisoners knowing the destination and the times of the sailing of the different Vessels bound out of this Port.

We therefore pray your Honors will recall the permission given to the aforesaid Prisoners as we are sure that by the continuance of it the consequences must be most unhappy to this Town and the properties of many individuals; – Inhabitants of this State. –

Isaac Sears  
James Bowdoin junr  
Elisha Tobey  
Joseph Russell Junr  
Patrick Maxfeld  
Nathan Rex  
Will<sup>m</sup> Patchell

W<sup>m</sup> Breck  
Griffin Barney  
Charles Ches[illegible]  
John Proud  
Uriah Rogers  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Stillman

Since our Last from the best Inteligence we Can Get from the Armie and Navey at Newport we have Reason to beleive they would be Very Ready to take all the advantages on our town & harbour of bedford we therefore are of opinion that it would be most advisable the prisoners be Sent from Providence to New york or Hallifax. when you Consider the Petition of A Number of merchants of this

Town we make no Doubt you will be of the Same oppinion with us. we are  
your most obedient & hbl Servts – the Committee of Safety and Select men  
Dartmouth February 3rd 1777

Fortunatus Shearman  
Phillip Taber  
Prince Tobey  
Thomas Smith  
Thomas Crandon

James Soule  
Nathl Richmond  
Abraham Shearman  
Philip Shearman

William Davis	} Selectmen
William Tallman	
Jabez Parker	

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 163.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER <sup>1</sup>

Onboard the *Warren* near Providence  
Feby 3rd. 1777 –

Sir I take the Opportunity by a Cartell from the Governor & Councill to send  
you Mr Charles Cranston acting Lieutt onboard the *Acteon*, in room of Mr  
Cranston brought by Captn Ayres, William Nash, midshipman onboard the  
*Tamor*, Richard Regett Midshipman onboard the *Orpheus*, and Six Seamen;  
for whom I must desire you to Send, or give Orders to release, Mr Michael Knies,  
and So many of his Crew, now onboard the Prison Ship at New York – <sup>2</sup> I am  
Sir [&c.]

E H –

To Sir Peter Parker Commander in Chief of  
his Britannick Majestys Ships at Newport

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. See Hopkins to Parker, January 18, 1777.

LIEUTENANT SAMUEL SMEDLEY, CONNECTICUT BRIG *Defence*, TO GOVERNOR  
JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Honourd Sr

New London Februy [3] 1777 <sup>2</sup>

As there ware Orders Came to Capt Harding for the Brig *Defence* to  
Proceed on A Cruise for three Months & Capt Harding not being Able Gave  
the Command to Me Acording to Your Honours Orders, I have therefore Got  
the Brig Ready for Sea so that there is Nothing Wanting but Men, Which there  
is No Chance of Getting here – We have not More than forty Men now belonging  
to the Brig & but very few Seamen Amongst them but Shall not be Detaind any  
on that Account As I think there is Great Prospect of Getting our Compliment  
at the Vineyard soon – Another Commesion Officer will be very Nesesary on  
Board As there is but two now Where there formerly Ware four if You think fitt  
to Appoint Another I Would Recommend to Your Honour Capt Angle of this  
Place he is A sober, steady, Worthey Man & has been Master of Vessel this twelve  
Years from this Place & to My Knowledge is A Stout Seaman – such A Man would

be of Greate service if it should be our Good Luck to Take A Valuable Prize in Getting of her In to Port As he is Well Acquainted With All the Co[a]st I Am Your Honours [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Smedley

NB I Shall Be Glad to Know by a Line from your Honour Whether Capt Harding is to Draw A Shear of Prizes as Commander While on Shore if there is Any bad Conduct I shall Expect to Bare the Blame & if Good Shall Be Judg'd by your Honour Who Must Receive the Benefitt

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 94a-94b, ConnSL.

2. The date is approximated. James Angel, recommended by Smedley, was appointed a lieutenant on February 7.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BOMB VESSEL *Carcass*, CAPTAIN ROBERT DRING<sup>1</sup>

February 1777

New York Alongside the Wharf

Monday 3d

at 11 Lieutenant John Howorth came on board and took Command of the Ship; I having permission from Vice Admiral Lord Howe to resign, and go to England for the Recovery of my health.

Robt Dring

at 11 A M I came onboard and Superseded Captain Robert Dring by virtue of an Order from Viscount Howe, Vice Admiral of the White

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/167.

*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1777

New-York, February 3.

The following Prizes were sent in here within these few Days, viz. Sloop *Savage*, Nathaniel Atkin, Master, from Boston, for Carolina, loaded with Rum, Sugar, and Mohagony Plank; Schooner *Smack*, John Leighton, Master, from Boston, for Virginia, with the like Cargo; Schooner *Friendship*, Daniel Rhodes, from Cape Nichola Mole, for Philadelphia, with Rum and Molasses; a Sloop from Connecticut with Flaxseed, &c. The above were sent in by his Majesty's Ship *Unicorn*.<sup>1</sup>

A Bermuda Sloop<sup>2</sup> with 400 Barrels of Gunpowder and 150 Stands of Arms, and a Schooner with 45 Hogsheads of Rum, have been taken and sent in by his Majesty's Ship *Phoenix*.

1. All except the schooner *Friendship* which was taken by H.M.S. *Roebuck*, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

2. *Ibid.*, the Bermuda sloop was the *Fly*, James Wilson, master, from Martinique.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, FEBRUARY 4, 1777

Philadelphia, February 3, 1777.

The petty officers, seamen and landsmen, belonging to the armed brig *Andrew Doria*, in the service of the United States, are desired to attend their duty on board

said brig. Those that fail to attend within ten days from the date hereof, shall be deemed deserters, and liable to the forfeiture of their wages and prize money.

Isa. Robinson.<sup>1</sup>

1. The call was repeated in the newspaper on February 6.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LEWES, (CAPE HENLOPEN) FEBRUARY 3, 1777." <sup>1</sup>

By an express from Salisbury in Somerset, it is certain there is a Tory-Insurrection there. They had been in arms last week, and the Snow-Hill militia had gone to suppress them, on which they disappeared, and the militia returned home. But this must have been a feint of the tories to gain time to collect more from Sussex and elsewhere. Yesterday (being Sunday) great numbers were met in different places in Sussex, moulding bullets, &c. Expresses were sent to all the tory companies in Sussex, and many hundreds have marched with their firelocks, the number uncertain, though many of them were too cowardly to go. Those who have been probably hired by the English to invent and propagate lies for some years, have exerted themselves almost to press the ignorant foresters. The tory camp was last night at Parker's Mill, about five miles from Salisbury: On which Colonel [Joseph] Dashield was fortifying with a few whigs in Salisbury, but expected to be a thousand strong today: He has ammunition enough, and two pieces of cannon. Flags have been passed between the two camps, and they expect to have a battle tomorrow. It is said, that one Simon Kollock of Nanticoke, and one Herne, are to lead the Sussex tories, and Dr. Cheney, &c. those of Somerset. These, and many others, are said to have been on board the English men of war, and to have brought them round into Chesapeake bay. Armed vessels are now at Nanticoke; the tories believe them to be English, but Colonel Dashield believes them to be American, and expects some cannon from them, &c. It is certain, the English ships have not been near Lewis since they burnt a Carolina schooner in Indian river, when the tory flag on Long-Neck invited them in, the 20th of last month; when they brought Simon Kollock on shore with a new suit of cloaths, a silver hilted sword and sterling money, which he got on board. The design of all this may be conjectured. These tories use very violent expressions, as "By God, there never will be any peace till the Whigs and Presbterians are all cut off."

By accounts from Somerset, since the foregoing we learn, that the insurgents had dispersed, and several of their leaders were taken prisoners.

1. *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette; or, the Baltimore General Advertiser*, February 25, 1777.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir,

Baltimore February 3d 1777

The impossibility of getting intelligence at present thro' this Bay, has obliged us to send an Express to the Council of Massachusetts, requesting they will immediately dispatch a quick sailing Vessel with letters to the Commissioners. The only vessel we have sent from hence for this purpose, is now shut up in a small Creek below by the Men of War four or five of which are now in this Bay, as we are informed, & some of them as high as Smiths Point, mouth of Potowmack, they

have taken Buchanans ship as she went down. We have reason to suppose that these are the ships that lately block'd up the Delaware, and that they are brought here by the fugitive Guthridges' [Goodrich's] and the Tories on the Eastern shore of Maryland. The latter are numerous, and we apprehend have informed of a quantity of Provisions preparing there for the Troops which they mean to assist in getting to the Enemy.

We are doing all we can in this slow place to get armed Vessels down to obstruct this wicked design. In the mean time would it not be highly proper to send out immediately the *Sachem* or *Race Horse*, or both to the Capes of Virginia to notify coming in Vessels of their danger, and also to suppress any Tenders that they may have out to intercept Vessels coming in, whilst they think themselves secure from interruption from hence by the large ships covering the passage of the Bay opposite Potowmack. Captain Isaiah Robinson is as perfectly well acquainted with our Bay that he could in a swift sailing Vessel not only give notice to Vessels bound in, but come in himself, suppress their Tenders, and, regardless of the bigger Ships run into a thousand places of protection and security where they cannot molest him, taking care of the Counties of Somerset, Wor[ce]ster, and an adjoining Maryland Eastern shore – If you approve this Plan can it not be immediately executed? <sup>2</sup> I am inclined to think your Bay is open now, and it is a good opportunity to push [Nicholas] Biddle and the other Vessels out on the business you mention. We shall keep the letters you sent us for France until we can get an opportunity here, when we propose sending out the *Lexington*

1. Henry Laurens Papers, Group 45b, 1776–83, SCHS.

2. Lee was mistaken. Isaiah Robinson commanded the *Andrew Doria*, not the *Sachem*. Morris ordered the Continental sloop *Fly*, Captain Elisha Warner, to cruise off the Virginia Capes. See his letter to Warner, February 17.

SAMUEL & ROBERT PURVIANCE TO SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE, MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore 3d Feb: 1777

Sir Your Favour of the 23d Decr P The Schooner *Ellen* Captn Morton, with Invoice & Bill of Lading for Six Hhds Sugar, & Four hhds Rum, was deliverd us this day. We beg leave to congratulate you on the safe arrival of this Vessel which narrowly escaped some Frigates of the Enemy at our Capes, who are since come into the Bay. – The Sugars & Rum will both sell at extravagant high Prices. The latter now worth 15/ P Gn the former, 140/ & upwards as in Quality.

The Intentions of the Enemies Cruizers in coming into the Bay at present is not certain: But supposed to collect Provisions & Stock from Two of the lower Counties on the Eastern Shore, where Toryism too generally prevails. whither they intend a permanent Stay is doubtful. At any Rate we are glad of embracing so early an Opportunity of advising you the danger, hoping it may be in time to prevent the Sailing of Some of the Vessels destined hither from your Board. Such as may have Sailed, will undoubtedly be in great danger of being taken. Congress are in the mean time fitting out some Vesls here to sail in a few days, which hope may at least prevent the depredations of the Enemies Tenders in the Bay & probably allarm some of the Inward bound Vessels. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 39–41, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES CAMPBELL, PRIVATEER  
SCHOONER *Enterprize* <sup>1</sup>

No 136

[Annapolis, February 3, 1777]

Sir We understand from Mr [Samuel] Chase that you are willing to undertake an expedition into Somerset County with the *Enterprize* to Suppress some disturbance[s] that have arisen in that and the Neighbouring Counties – be ready and call here at Annapolis on your way down for further orders. –

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Monday the 3rd day of  
February 1777

On the Recommendation of the navy Board, it is Ordered that a Commission issue appointing George Chamberlaine second Lieutenant of the Brigantine *Musquetto* in the room of Robert Bolling who is recommended first Lieutenant of the *Manley Galley*.

Mr. President having received information that a Sloop from Martinico bound to Baltimore laden with Powder and Soldiers Cloaths had been chased up East River by some British Ships of War, and that the Captains Orders were to deliver the said Cargo to the Order of some Committe or Convention should necessity oblige him to put into any port in Virginia, wrote a Letter to Sir John Peyton of Gloster County, desiring him to receive the aforesaid Cargo and guard it, and to send an Accot to the Governour and Council of the Steps he may take in this Affair.

On the Recommendation of the Navy Board, a Commission issue appointing John Pasteur captain of the Pilot Boat *Molly*, dated the thirtieth of January last past

A Permit issued to the Sloop *Industry*, Captain Hutchings, to trade to Bermuda, laden with Tobacco and Flour per Manifest filed. Bond with security exd acknowledged, and ordered to be recorded.

On the Recommendation of the Navy Board; Commissions issued appointing Goodrich Boush to the Command of the *Washington Galley*; James Tenant first Lieutenant of the *Norfolk Revenge Galley*, and Edward Latimer first Lieutenant of the pilot Boat *Molly*.

Whereas the Council some time ago received Information that Flour sold low in the Foreign West Indies, and that Indigo commanded a good price, which being a less Bulky Commodity must make a more profitable Cargo for our small Vessels, and had determined to send several swift sailing vessels to Charles Town in South Carolina, addressed to Peter Rutledge, who was desired by Letter from his Excellency the Governour to cause to be purchased for the use of this State about eight tons of Indigo, and to draw on our Delegates in Congress for the cost and charges thereof. And the armed Boat *Henry* commanded by Captain Pasteur being ready to sail to Charles Town for the purpose of taking in a load of Indigo to be consigned and carried to messieurs Vanbibber and Harrison of St Eustatia and Martinico. Upon Colo [William] Ayletts recommendation, The President di-

rected the Captain to take on Board from Portsmouth fifty Barrels of flour, and apply the neat proceeds to the Credit of this State. And Letters to our Delegates at Congress and President Rutledge were written in Consequence of the ships [*sic* steps] which had been taken & recorded in the Letter Book.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 321-24.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN <sup>1</sup>

February 1777

Charlestown N71.15W 181 Leagues

Monday 3d

Fresh breezes & Cloudy Wear

At 9 am Saw a Sail to the Noward do made sail and gave Chace At ½ past 11 AM Brot too the Schooner *Susannah* from Geo. Town So Carolina bound to Cape Francois Laden with Rice & 4 Small Kegs Indigo, in Company as before.

Fresh Gales & Cloudy wear

At 3 PM Saw a Sail to the Westd gave Chace At 8 PM fired a Shot and brot too the Schooner *Baker* from St Eustatius bound to Newberry, Laden with Canvas, Cordage & Melasses

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THE GOVERNORS OF GRENADA, BARBADOS AND ST. VINCENT <sup>1</sup>

Copy)

My Lord

Antigua 3d February 1777.

I am to acquaint You that several Adventurers belonging to the Island of Antigua (encouraged thereto by an opinion they have obtained from the Attorney General and some other Law Gentlemen of this Island) have fitted out several Armed Vessels (Consisting of small Pilot Boats, Schooners and Sloops) and without Commission or any Lawful Authority from the Crown: have caused them to proceed to sea, there to Cruize and make Capture of any American Vessels they can meet with. They have already taken upon the High Seas several American Vessels and sent them into the Island of Antigua to be prosecuted in the Court of Vice Admiralty as Prize of War and it seems expect to be rewarded both by the Court of Admiralty and the King for making such Captures. I think it highly probable some of the Inhabitants within Your Lordships Government Stimulated thereto by what they may deem the success of the Antigua Adventurers may also determine (if not prevented) to act in the same manner.

In the course of my Service I never before heard of any Self appointed Cruizers, and am firmly of opinion the same is not only strictly illegal; but highly Derogatory to the King's Authority, and will also be attended with many dangerous and alarming Consequences to the Nation. I have already received a Complaint from the Governor General of Martinique &ca that an Armed Sloop belonging to Rosseau Dominica has boarded and Examined several French Vessels and that he has ordered one of the French King's Frigates to take her as a Pirate I must further add that I am certain Administration in England have positively refused repeated applications made to them for Permission to Arm private Vessels to cruize and act offensively against the American Rebels: neither do I think the

opinion of Lawyers a sufficient Sanction, to risk the Involving two Nations in a War: for the sake of Gratifying a few Individuals: I must therefore intreat you will be pleased to take such measures for preventing the foregoing Mode of Arming Vessels to Cruize on the High Seas, from the Ports within Your Government as your Lordship may think proper and Effectual: I also beg to receive your answer to this Requisition as speedily as possible: as I think it my duty to transmit without Delay, a full and particular account of these Transactions to the Ministry, in Order to their laying the same before His Majesty I have the Honor to be my Lord &ca

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

To The Right Honble

Lord Macartney, Grenada

The Honble Edward Hay, Barbadoes

Governor Morris, St Vincents

[Endorsed] (No 7.) Copy of Letters from Vice Admiral Young to the under named Governors Govr Shirley: Dominica Lord Macartney, Grenada Hay – Barbados Morris – St Vincents.

[Second endorsement] In V. A. Young's Letter Dated 8th March 1777 –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM FOOKS, R.N. <sup>1</sup>

Copy)

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral  
of the Red &ca

You are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith in his Majesty's Sloop *Favorite* under Your Command to Kingston Bay St Vincents and their deliver to Governor [Valentine] Morris the Letter You will herewith receive from me addressed to him on His Majesty's Service; and are then to make the best of your way to St George's Grenada, and deliver the other Letter addressed to Lord [George] Macartney: and at that place compleat the Sloops Wood and Water with all possible Expedition; and as soon as that Service is performed proceed on a Cruize, ranging along the Island Grenada, the Grenadines and St Vincents and use your utmost Endeavours to intercept and make Capture of all Ships and Vessels belonging to, or owned by any of the associated Colonies in North America now in Rebellion, and of all other Ships and Vessels whatsoever that you can meet with either going to Trade or coming from Trading with any of the afore-said Colonies taking care strictly to Comply with the general Orders you have received from me concerning them. And whereas I have Intelligence that several Privateers and Armed Vessels belonging to the said Rebellious Colonies are now Cruizing in these Seas &ca to annoy and make Capture of the Trading Vessels and Property of His Majestys Loyal and Faithful Subjects; you are therefore directed to use Your utmost Endeavours to take, sink, burn, or otherwise destroy all such Armed Vessels and Privateers belonging to the Rebels you can meet with at sea; but are not to attack them in the Bay's Harbour's or Roads of any of the Islands belonging to European Powers in Amity with Great Britain, whilst under the protection of their Forts.

You are to remain on the Station now appointed You 'till further Order, and are to transmit me by every opportunity such Intelligence as you may be able to procure concerning the operations of the Rebels &ca for which this shall be your Order.

Given &ca at English Harbour Antigua  
the 3d February 1777.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

By Command of the Admiral

Geo. Lawford

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

#### 4 Feb.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO MARINE CAPTAIN GEORGE JERRY  
OSBORN <sup>1</sup>

State of New Hampshire.

Sir – In Committee of Safety, [Exeter] Feby 4th 1777.

The Committee are informed, by Col [Pierse] Long, that you have enlisted as marines to go on board the *Raleigh* ship of War, Sundry soldiers belonging to his Regiment, now under marching orders for Ticonderoga. The Committee have seen no Resolve or Vote of Congress that will justify such proceeding, and think it very prejudicial to the public service, and that you ought to release them immediately.

A Resolve of Congress transmitted to us allows officers appointed to recruit the Quotas of men in the several States allotted for them to raise to serve during the war, to Enlist men out of other Regiments in their Service, who are engaged for a short time; but is expressly limited to them, and cannot be construed to allow any other officers to enlist them, though for the war, unless they belong to the 88 Battalions mentioned in the Resolve <sup>2</sup>

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 480–81.

2. Resolves of September 16, 1776 to raise 88 battalions to serve during the war, Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 762, 763.

JOHN MANLEY, DEPUTY CONTINENTAL AGENT FOR RHODE ISLAND, TO  
CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES <sup>1</sup>

Capt Jones

Providence Feby 4. 1777

Sir

I some time ago Wrote you Concerning some imbezelmēt of Mr Gallaher's Effects on board the Sloop *providence*, by Mr Lovey [George Lovie] and Mr Backup [James Bechup] Desiring your Assistance, in settleing the Affair, towards making satisfaction them Two men have Destroy[e]d but I have not as yet had the Pleasure of a line from you –

You have here a Letter Inclosd from Mr Gallaher him self – the particulars of which must refer – <sup>2</sup>

I should be glad of a Line from you how in What manner I had best to proceed if this Lovy is a good officer I should be Loth to Expose him, but other-ways I am Determin[e]d to Commence process against him as I have sufficient proof of him wearing the Cloths of Mr Gallaher & Disposeing of some of his

Effects in Newport. your Silence on this head will Confirm me in the Opinion I have had given of this Lovey I am Sr with Due respect [&c.]

John Manley

To John P. Jones Esqr Late Commander of the Ship of Warr the *Alfred* Boston – [Endorsed by Jones] Providence 4th Feby 1777. letter from Mr Manley inclosing one from Mr Gallagher recd Boston

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6544b, LC.
2. See Bernard Gallagher to Jones, January 18, 1777.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT DAVID PHIPPS<sup>1</sup>

To David Phipps Esqr Providence Feby 4th 1777 –  
Lieutt of the *Trumbull* Frigate –  
at New Haven

Sir I receiv'd yours of the 27th Jany and observe the Contents and as to the Wages of the Officers and People that were turn'd over from One Vessel to another, the Last Commander has paid them off, (first having an Account of what Slops or Money they had out of the Vessel or Vessels they came from) – I have Examined Capt'n [John] Hazards Books, and find no Account against you – If you cannot get it Settled any other Way, if you'll get a Certificate from Capt'n Saltonstall when you was Enter'd into the Service, and another from Capt'n Hinman when you came onboard the *Cabot*, I will give an Order on Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw [Jr.] for your Wages due – I am Sir [&c.]

E H –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Nathl Shaw, Junr Esqr Providence Feby 4th. 1777 –  
Continental agent at New London

Sir Capt'n Whipple late of the *Columbus* Sent for his money from New Hampshire and Boston, and has divided it out to his People – and as Mr Thomas Mumford has a power from Capt Hinman his Officers and People I think it will be best for the Service that you pay him the Captors part of what Capt Hinman's last Prize<sup>2</sup> came to (all except my part which is one twentieth) – and his Receipt will be your discharge for the Same. I am [&c.]

E H –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.
2. Prize of the Continental brig *Cabot*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO ROBERT MORRIS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

To Robert Morris Esqr New London Feb 4th 1777  
Chairman of the Secret Committee Phila

Sir Inclosed is a Copy of what I wrote you in Answere to yours of the 5th Novr Relative to the Powder Since that I have not received any of your Orders. I Just

now was Informed by a person from Hispaniola that Capt Geo Champlen in the Brig *Nancy* belonging to me had sailed from that port with Ten tons of Powder & three hundred Musketts and that he designed to fall in to the Southward Incase he has arived, this being on the Continent Accot you can give directions for the dispoel of it. . . .

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New London Feb 4 1777.

Sir I Received yours 14th Ulto and observe the Contents and relative to the Ship *Mary* Capt [Thomas] Kennedy, she is now laid up and her Cargo all Landed, I have by Govenour Trumbulls order delivered the Wheat to the Commissary General, all except a few bushels to the Neady Inhabitants and sum I have ordered to be made into ship Bread, for the Supplying of any of our Continental Fleet that may want I shall get the Commissarys Bills for the Amo of what he has received, and as to Loading the Ship or sending her to the Southward its impracticable, for his Majestys Friggates have entirely shutt up this Harbour so that its impossible to get out, without falling into their hands, this day a prize Schooner was run on Shore by the *Niger* Frigate & her Station of our Light House, so that we must give over thinking of getting Kennedy out, untill we can oblige those Gentry to remove. . . . Agreeable to your orders I had all the Stores Commodore Hopkins brot from Newprovidence apprized and sent you the Amo the people who were in that expedition want there prize Money should be glad you would let me know whether I am to pay them out of the Continent share of Prizes now in my hands – Inclosed is a List of Prizes that is been brot into this State since the Commencement of this Warr,<sup>2</sup> and shall continue to advice you of all that comes in – I have and shall Continue to supply Capt [Dudley] Saltonstall with what money he may want to get his ship<sup>3</sup> out, at present she is in Connecticut River and am fearful we shall meet with Difficulty in getting her out as she draws so much water, it must be a very extraordinary tide to get her over the Barr, and in case she lies any time on the barr, as the British Ships are Continually passing they may take that opportunity to Destroy her, however you may depend that the greatest prudence will be observed – the Sale of the prize Ship *Clarendon* taken by the *Cabot* is not compleated soon as it can be effected shall send the Accot . . .

This moment a person come in and says that the prize Schooner I mentioned being drove on Shore by the *Niger*, proves to be a Prize belonging to an Armed Vesell of mine, Laden with beef pork butter bread & flour she is 150 tons burthen we have got on those 800 Firkens of butter 100 Casks Bread last Night, the Frigate sent her Boats to burn her, they boarded her & sett her on fire in the Cabbin but our people fired on them so smartly they were obliged to quit her & tumbull into their Boats drove of with the wind not daring to stand up to row &c &c – the *Niger* still Continus to cruse of this Harbour . . .

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

2. See Volume 6, 1100–01.

3. Continental frigate *Trumbull*.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE IN PHILADELPHIA TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philada Feby 4th 1777

. . . The Board of Assistants to the Marine Committee <sup>2</sup> are now getting the Tradesmen & others to Work on the Frigates & other Vessells of War here & will want Money for that department hitherto it has been supplied by drawing all the Continental share of Prize Money out of the Agents hands & that Fund is exhausted for the present . . .

We are of opinion the Congress may now return with safety & that they cannot be disturbed by any New attacks on this side September by which time we Shall certainly have our Army able to meet & Cope with the Enemy wherever they please, We ground our present opinion of Safety to this City on many [illegible]-ring Circumstances, but principally on the Enemies want of Horses to move the necessary stores, provisions, Forage Artillery &c &c for Such an undertaking, they have not Numbers sufficient & what they have are unable to do the duty neither can they subsist what they have. They will not undertake such an Expedition by Water for they have not Men enough to hold New York & attack this place at the same time, If they depend on assistance from Quebec they cannot get those Troops here by Sea sooner than August & as to reinforcements from Europe they must be more difficult to be had & later in coming this year than last & so in each succeeding year whilst they are mad enough to carry on the War — If this reasoning be right, the Congress may return with Safety and we imagine it does not require Arguments to prove that the general interest of America requires that they shou'd return if possible . . .

The *Randolph* Frigate is on her way down the River with several Merchantmen under Convoy, the *Hornet* & *fly* attending them and we hope they will get safe out that being once accomplished we shall be impatient to give you good accounts from Capt Biddl[e] . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 136–41, NA.

2. Navy Board for the Middle District.

CAPTAIN JOHN CHRISTIE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentleman

February the 4th 1777

I am under the Nesasety of applying To your Honnerable board In behalf of Walam Hardy [Hardie] Second Leuittenant of *Chatham* galy to the perfarment of Leuittenance in the *Vesuvius* fire Brige as he is A worthy officer and Deserves perfarment and Bears the strongest recommendation of most Gentlman In the fliet of at Station and at your Honnerable board wod a Point him in the leu of James Browen <sup>2</sup> He you have so honnerable apointed in on[e] of the Fire Barges. And at your honnerable board Wod a point Mr. Hardy in his Place <sup>3</sup> and oblage Your most [&c.]

John Christie  
Commander of the *Vesuvius*

1. USNAM.

2. Lieutenant James Brown had been appointed to the armed barge *Tormentor*.

3. Hardie was appointed, but the muster roll of the *Vesuvius* notes that he had "Run" in September, 1777, Muster Roll Books, 1776–1778, Pa. Arch.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1777

To be sold by public vendue, on Saturday the 8th inst. (February) at six o'clock in the evening, at the London Coffee-house, the privateer sloop *Congress*, with all her guns, &c. as she came from a cruize, and now lies at Charlestown, South-Carolina. For farther particulars apply to Thomas Lawrence, Esq.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore] Tuesday, February 4, 1777

*Resolved*, That Dr. [Thomas] Burke be added to the Medical Committee; and that he be appointed a member of the Marine Committee, in the room of Mr. [William] Hooper, who has leave to return home for some time.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VII, 85, 87.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO JOHN PAGE, WILLIAMSBURG <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Baltimore, — Feby 4th 1777

. . . The visit paid us by the British Ships, and, as we hear, the number of small craft they have seized in our narrow waters, prove incontestibly the disadvantage we shall forever be exposed to while we are in want of Marine force. Had our Gallies been in good order and fit for business, the Barges and small Craft of the enemy would never have dared attempt the Capture of Vessels in our shallow narrow waters — And I will venture to affirm that if we had 8 or 10 such Gallies as Congress have built in the Delaware to carry 4 thirty two pounders each, with 10. 6 pounders & 100 men, Not less than a Squadron of Line of Battle Ships would venture up our Bay.

1. Delaware Miscellany, II, 1, LC.

HOLTON JOHNSON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Gentelmen

Baltimore Feby 4th 1777

this is to Inform you that I have this day wated on the Honl John Hancock for Advise Concerning Loding the Brig at this difecult Time he advises me by no means to think about Loding her with Flower but advises me to Lode her with Tobacco for France as Flower is from 20/ to 22/6 and scarsely any Cums to market which Advise he Tels me I shall never be Blamd for braking Your Order at present there is no Chance to git any Vessel out of this plase there is five Men of war Lays below besides sum Tenders if there should be no Oppertunety to git the Brig Out the Flower wold Sower on Your hands—if the Tobacco should Lay in A Year it wold not be any thing the wors for it and if there is any Oppertunety to git her out I think I Can git the Master and Men therefore I think it my Duty to Take up with Mr Hancocks advise and Lode her Emediately with Tobacco if the Men of war shoud not Leve the Bay so as to send her out should be glad You wold write Me word whether I shall Discharg the Men or not Tobacco now is from 28/ to Thurty & Rising I Expect that I shall be able to Lode her in about Two weakes I am Gentelmen [&c.]

Holton Johnson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 42, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

*Maryland Journal*, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1777

Baltimore, February 4.

Wednesday last Capt. Henry Johnson, late of the *Yankee* Privateer, of Massachusetts Bay, who escaped from a British Man of War, lying at the Nore, arrived here from France. We hear he brings very pleasing Accounts of the friendly Disposition of the French Nation towards the American Cause.

Baltimore, February 1st, 1777.

By virtue of an order from the Honourable Benjamin Nicholson, Esq; Judge of the Admiralty for the State of Maryland, on Tuesday the fourth instant, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the store of Messrs. Lux and Bowley, in Calvert street, will be Sold, by Public Vendue for Ready Money.

Port wine in bottles, Lancashire ale, anchovies, capers, catsup, raisins, pickled tripe, and a quantity of cheese; being part of the cargo of the Schooner *Hannah*, lately made prize of by the Sloop *Montgomery*, William Rogers; Esq; Commander.

David Stewart, Marshal.

Twenty Dollars Reward

Baltimore, February 1, 1777.

Deserted from the New Galley, at West River, in Anne-Arundel County, on the 27th of January ult. a certain Henry Peggs, an Englishman, about 5 feet 8 inches and 3 quarters high. Had on a brown coat, black spotted velvet jacket, leather breeches, thread stockings, country made shoes, and a castor hat. He can play on the fife and drum, and has a counterfeit discharge from the galley at West River. Whoever takes up said deserter, and brings him to said galley, shall receive the above reward, from

John David, Captain.

N.B. Recruiting officers are hereby forewarned from enlisting the aforesaid deserter.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMAS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

The Commissioners of the Navy desire you will purchase on the best terms, and as soon as you possibly can ten good Negroes such as you may think proper for working at the Ropewalk, and draw on the Board for the Money which shall be paid on sight. It is probable you may make the purchase either at Johnsons or Blands Sale. —

(Signd) Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

Williamsburg 4th Feby 1776 [*sic* 1777] —

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO LIEUTENANT JOHN P. ARDESOIF,  
H. M. BRIGANTINE *Pelican* <sup>1</sup>

Copy)

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of  
the Red &ca

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed to Sea in his

Majesty's Armed Brigantine *Pelican* under your Command and call at Kingston Bay St Vincents; and St Georges Bay Grenada; at one of which places you will meet with an Ordnance Store Ship, lately arrived from England, having on board Ordnance Stores for the King's Service at Antigua Yard: and you are to deliver the Master of said Store Ship the Letter you have received from Mr Peter Alsop, his Majesty's Ordnance Storekeeper at this place, and are to receive from him on Board the *Pelican*, Three four Pound Guns with their Carriages &ca to Compleat the Number of Guns allowed her, for which You are to give a proper Receipt; You are also to make inquiry after and proceed in search of Captain William Fooks of his Majesty's Sloop *Favorite*, stationed to range along the Islands Grenada, the Grenadines and St Vincents, and deliver Captain Fooks the Letter given You herewith addressed to him, and you are to put yourself under his Command, and follow and obey all such Orders and directions as he may have lodged for you at any of the aforesaid Islands; or that you may from time to time receive from him for his Majesty's Service; taking especial care to compleat the Brigantines Wood and Water as opportunities offer, for which this Shall be Your Order.

Given &ca the 4th February 1777.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young.

By Command of the Admiral

Geo. Lawford

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

5 Feb.

JOHN LANGDON TO CAPTAIN BENJAMIN GUNNISON<sup>1</sup>

Capt Benja Gunnison

Portsmouth in the State N. Hamps

February 5th, 1777

You haveing the Command of the Brigantain *Morris*, belonging to the United States of America now equipt for Sea, It's my Orders you embrace the first opp[o]rtirtnity of wind and weather, and, Sail with Sd Brigt for the Bay of Chesapeak, and proceed up the River Rhappahannock to Fredericksburgh in Virginia where, when it shall please God, you Arrive, You'll call on Messrs James and Adam Hunter who Transact business for the Continent and to them Deliver, your letters, and follow their further Direction, in taking a Load of Tobacco or other Merchand[iz]e for Some port in France as they may order; you'll be inti[tl]ed, not only to your wages (which is to be at Ten pounds L my Dollars at 6/ p month but also to the Customary Priveledges of Carr[y]i[n]g Staves or other articles and Cabin Stores), as are given other Masters at the port you load, any Resonable Advances of money, will be made you, by those gentlemen as they are Agents for the Continent – On your Return from France should you be order'd to any other port then this, on the Continent and there, be Discharged, you'll be Allowed, every reasonable Expençe in geting home, by the Continent – Should it so happen that great Numbers of Cruizers belonging to the British fleet should be off the Capes of Virginia; so as to Render it very Dangerous in going in and by any good intelligence, there should be much less Risque in going to South Carolina; you may in that Case proceed to Charlestown in South Carolina aforesd where when you Arrive Call on Messrs Levinus Clarkson

and John Dorsius Continental Agents, and take a load of Rice, for France, or follow their Direction after Shewing them, these orders – I must Strictly enjoin, you, to the Strickest Care, and good look out to prevent your falling into the Hands of our enemies, Recomending also, the utmost frugality and Dispatch dureing your voyage – I wish you health and prosperity – Your Friend and Derector

John Langdon  
Agent for the United States

P S. The Allowance of one Dollar P Day be made while in Port when abroad. [Endorsed] The above and on the other side of the book is Copy of my Orders which I promise to follow

Benja Gunnison

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

#### PETITION OF ANDREW CABOT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Council and Honble House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts Bay –

The Petition of Andrew Cabbot of Salem Humbly Shews, that your Petitioner has a Ship called the *Rambler*, which He begs your Honors would give Liberty for to Sail in Ballast from this State to Carolina, there to load with Rice and then proceed to some Neutral Port in Europe for Salt, and in case Salt cannot be procured, the Amount of a Cargo shall be brought to this State, in Woolins Sutable for the Army, which This State shall have the Preferance in the Sale of, and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Boston 5th Feby 1777

Andrew Cabot

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 17th 1777 Read & thereupon Ordered that Richard Derby & Daniel Hopkins Esqrs be a Committee to consider the above Petition & report what is best to be done thereon –

John Avery Dpy Secy

In Council Feb. 18th 1777 read and orderd the Prayer of the above Petition be granted –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 209.

#### PETITION OF AARON ANDREWS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Council of the state of Massachusetts Bay

Humbly Sheweth Aaron Andrews Prize Master of the Bark *John* a prize taken by the Brig Capt [John] Fisk belonging to this State <sup>2</sup>

That one of the prisiners Robt Key on board the said Bark *John*, robbed the prize of Sundry articles & attempted the Life of your petitioner, and endeavord to raise a Mutiny on board, and is a person very inimical to these States, & is now under Confinement – Your Memorialist therefore prays your Honors would give direction what shall be done with the said Robt Key – and as in duty bound will ever pray.

Boston Feby 5. 1777

Aaron Andrews

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 5. 1777 Read & Ordered that the Secretary give a Mittimus directed to the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk to committ the above named Robert Key to the Goal in Boston Jno Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 207.

2. *John*, William Barrass, master, taken by the Massachusetts state brig *Tyrannicide*, arrived in Boston, January 22, 1777.

#### MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Boston 5th Feby 1777 AM

Voted That Ebenezer Bradford have the Command of the Ship *Caledonia* – The Board agree to allow him the same Wages previledge &c given Capt [Nicholas] Bartlett, with which sd Bradford is satisfied –

Order'd That five Load of Ballast be immedeately put on Board the *Caledonia* – Resolv'd That the Ship *Caledonia* be called the *Pliarne* –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 148.

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 5, 1777.

I perfectly agree in Sentiment with you, that it would be better for every Suspicious and dangerous person to be in New York, for which reason you have liberty to send in Capt. [William] Jones in exchange for Capt. [William] Hallock <sup>2</sup> . . . If there are any others taken in Merchantmen that are not held as Prisoners of War, use your own discretion, only endeavour if you can, to procure the liberty of Masters of Ships or others under the same Circumstances.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, VII, 107–08.

2. Jones had been commander of H. M. Sloop *Racehorse*, and Hallock of the Continental brig *Lexington*.

#### ROBERT MORRIS TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philada Feby 5th 1777

I have frequently received your letters advising me the particulars of your several Cruizes, and with pleasure assure you that the Contents in every instance have been very acceptable, always entertaining & in many parts usefull, these letters I have from time to time communicated to the Members of the Marine Committee all of whom express their satisfaction with your Conduct. You wou'd no doubt expect an Answer from them to your proposal for a Cruize this Winter on the Coast of Africa <sup>2</sup> and such they intended to give you long since but the confusion occasioned by their removal from this City to Baltimore & the Multiplicity of business that has unavoidably crowded on every Member of Congress, put it out of their power to give that attention to your department that they wou'd always wish to carry into every American Concern, thus Circumstanced they never doubted that your Active genius wou'd find usefull employment for the Ships you Command, as you were so near the Commodore & cou'd go cloathed with his Authority & they have not been disapointed for you have in this way made a most usefull & Successful Voyage to Cape Breton & thence to Boston. Major [John Gizzard] Frazer <sup>3</sup> passing through this City (which I have never left) sent me an

account of that Cruize which appeared to be in your own hand writing, pleased with your Success, I transmitted it to Congress and wrote that, if they pleased, I wou'd point out an enterprize or two for you to undertake & leave the Choice to yourself, this was agreed to, and my present design is to fulfill that promise, when I made it, I had in view either to gratify your desire by undertaking an expedition as you proposed to the Coast of Africa, or to gratify my own by undertaking what I think will prove a more usefull one & nearer home. I have pretty good information that there is Stationed at Pensacola only two or three Sloops of War from 10 to 16 Guns, and that at that place there is not less than 100 ps of Brass Artillery which our Armies are much in want off, These insignificant Sloops of War lie there in perfect Security or now & then take a Cruize along the Coast of Georgia & Carolina, shou'd they be met with they will inevitably become your prizes, Shou'd they be out of the way Pensacola may become the more easy prey, it is true that Governor [Peter] Chester has been trying to put that place in a posture of defence, but he has no Troops and the inhabitants will never defend it, therefore my plan is that you shou'd take the *Alfred*, *Columbus*, *Cabot*, *Ham[p]den* & Sloop *Providence* proceed first to the Island of St Christophers where a sudden & unexpected attack will carry that place being very defenceless, there is a Number of Canon & Stores there, as well as Merchandize of various Sorts that we are in want of and I fancy you will make a considerable booty, this however is not what I have so much in View as to alarm not only the Inhabitants but the whole British Nation, it will oblige the Ministers to provide for the Security & protection of every Island they have & by that means they must divide their Force & leave our Coasts less carefully gaurded from St Kitts (where your Stay must be short) you can proceed down to Pensacola, I apprehend the best passage might be down the South side of Hispaniola & then you might give an alarm to the North side of Jamaica by putting into some of the outports there, cutting out their Ships &c in all which you must be expeditious as their Fleet will be after you, Shou'd you decline meddling with Jamaica the best passage will be down the No Side of Hispaniola through the passage of Cape St Nicholas & Cape Maize & then down the So Side of Cuba, When you arrive at Pensacola it may be well done to send a Brig & a Sloop to Cruize off the Mouth of the Mississipi so long as you remain in that quarter but they Shou'd wear English Colours & never go so near into the Balize as to be known for any thing but English Cruizers, there is at this time not less than £ 100,000 Sterlg Value in goods up that River the remittances for which, will come away in the Months of March, April & May, in Indico, Rice, Tobo, Skins & Furs, so that this alone is an object worthy of your attention, but as I have said before, disturbing their Settlements & spreading alarms, Shewing & keeping up a Spirit of Enterprize, that will oblige them to defend their extensive possessions at all points is of infinitely more Consequence to the United States of America than all the Plunder that can be taken, if the[y] divide their Force we shall have elbow room & that gained we can turn about & play our part to the best advantage which we cannot do now, being constantly cramped in one part or another, It has long been clear to me that our infant Fleet cannot protect our own Coasts & that the only effectual relief it can afford us is to attack the Enemies defenceless places & thereby oblige them to Station more of their Ships in their

own Countries or to keep them employed in following ours and either way we are relieved so far as they do it, I do not pretend to give you any Account of the Coasts or Harbours, Strength of Fortifications or mode of Attack, for I cannot doubt you being well acquainted with these things, knowing as I do that you have been a Commander in the West India Trade, & at any rate your appearance will be unexpected, the Enemy unprepared, they have no Troops and the very sound of a Great Gun will frighten them into submission. Govr Chester will no doubt, know where the Brass Artillery are deposited and be glad to surrender them as a ransom for himself & his Capital. when your business is done at Pensacola you may give them an alarm at St Augustine, but here they have some Troops and you must be careful of your Men. I think you shou'd carry with you as many Marines as possible for they will be usefull & necessary in all your Land Excursions. The Southern Colonies wish to see part of their Navy and if you find it Convenient & safe you might recruit & refit at Georgia, South or North Carolina, there make Sale of such part of your Prize Goods &c as wou'd be usefull to them, learn where was the safest Port to the Northward & then push along to such place of safety as might be necessary for refitting & remanning the Fleet. Shou'd you prefer going to the Coast of Africa you have the Consent of the Marine Committee but in that case I apprehend you only want the two Ships & Sloop *Providence*, remember it is a long Voyage that you cannot destroy any English Settlements there and that if you meet any of their Men of War in those Seas they will be much Superiour to you in Strength, &c you may it is true do them much mischief, but the same may be done by Cruizing to winward of Barbados as all their Guinea Men fall in there, however you are left to your choice and I am sure will choose for the best. Shou'd there be a difficulty in getting all the Vessells fully manned with so many Seamen as you may think necessary take the more Marines & you will get Seamen from Prizes in the Course of your Voyage. It is a standing instruction from the Marine Committee to the Commanders in the American Navy, to be careful of their Ships, the Materials & Stores, to use well their officers & Men, preserving however Strict discipline, to treat Prisoners with Humanity & generosity, and to keep them advised of their proceedings as frequently as Circumstances will permit. Wishing you the utmost Success, I am Sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris, V. P. of the Marine Committee

P S If you get the Brass pieces Land them in the first port in these States & have them Valued –

1. Papers CC (Letters and Papers of John Paul Jones, 1777–91), 168, I, 5–8, NA. A copy, varying slightly and dated February 1, is in the Marine Committee Letter Book, 52–54, NA.
2. See Jones to Morris, October 17, 1776, Volume 6, 1302–04.
3. Frazer, a Virginian, was a major in the 6th Continental Infantry. He had resigned December 31, 1776.

#### ROBERT MORRIS TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philada Feby 5th 1777

By Consent of the Honorable Congress I have this day given instructions to Jno Paul Jones Esqr Commander of the *Alfred* to take upon him the Conduct of an Expedition wherein he will require the assistance of the *Columbus Cabot*, Cam-

*den [Hampden] & Sloop Providence*, and You will please to order the Commanders to join him & to put themselves under his Command. I flatter myself with having your utmost exertions to get these Vessells well & expeditiously manned and compleatly fitted that they may sail soon as possible. I lately forwarded you a Packet with instructions respecting the Frigates from the Marine Committee which I hope will arrive safe. I long to hear that you contrive ways & means to get rid of the Enemy in Your Neighbourhood & am with esteem Sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris, V.P. of  
the Marine Committee

P S my Compts to your Brother

1. Robert Morris Papers, HUL. A draft of this letter with the correct name, *Hampden*, and without the postscript is in the Marine Committee Letter Book, 54-55, NA.

#### SHIPWRIGHTS' PETITION TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable the Continental Congress

The Petition of the Shiprites of fells pint

Shewith

That your Petitioners Labours under Maney Difficulties and Is greatly Distessed by the High and Exorbitant prices of their Board and the great advance on Every article of wearing Apanel thire wages being only Eight Shilling pr day for Every day that the[y] Can work which Is hardly Sufficsint to Support and get the Common Necesaries of Life besides thire wearing Apanel Tools and others Expences therefore Most Humbly prays you as the gardeans of the people[s] Writes take thire case in your consideration advance Thire [expençe] to as we can Live By for we that has Goot famlyes Cant not Leve and Supoart ours at Eight Shilling pr day and will Remane your Humble petitioners and as in Duty Bound Will Ever pray

Febry 5th 1777 No 18.

[Endorsed] Petition from the Ship-wrights of Fells point Baltimore read 5 February 1777 ordered to lie on the table

1. Papers CC (Petitions addressed to Congress), 42, VII, 27-28, NA.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Baltimore] Wednesday, February 5, 1777

A letter, of the 2, from the committee of Congress at Philadelphia, was read;

A memorial of Gotlieb Klose, a native of Silesia, and late missionary from the United Brethren to the negroes, in the island of Jamaica, was read; setting forth, that he was taken on his passage to Bristol, in the snow *Thomas*, Thomas Nicholson, master, by the continental cruiser, *Andrew Doria*; and praying that his effects, consisting of the tools of his trade, and cloathing, may be restored to him; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petition be granted.

The Marine Committee having informed Congress, that Captain Fulford,

who was appointed to the command of the *Lexington*, has declined that service, and having recommended Captain Henry Johnson to the said command:

*Resolved*, That he be accepted and that a commission be granted to him accordingly.

*Resolved*, That Elijah Bowen be appointed first lieutenant of the said brig *Lexington*.

*Resolved*, That the commissioners at the court of France, be directed to use their utmost endeavours, to send, without delay, 80,000 blankets, 40,000 compleat suits of cloaths, for soldiers, of green, blue, and brown colours, with suitable facings, and cloth of the same colours, with trimmings, sufficient for 40,000 suits more, 100,000 pair of yarn stockings, fit for soldiers, 1 million flints, and 200 tons of lead, in armed vessels, to such ports of the united States, as the Secret Committee shall direct; that they pledge the faith of the united States for complying with their contracts; and should the application of Congress to the Court of Versailles, for the loan of money be successful, that they appropriate part thereof to the payment of the said articles; that the several States be requested to order their armed vessels into the service of the united States, under the direction of the Secret Committee; that they be allowed a reasonable compensation for the use thereof, with the appraised value of such as may be lost; and that one of the new continental frigates, with the armed vessels which may be furnished by the respective States, be employed by the Secret Committee, to export produce, and import military stores for the next campaign.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VII, 88, 89, 90, 92-93.

#### CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Baltimore Feby 5th 1777

Judging it of the last consequence to the Public that the Military Stores probably lodged for the Continent in the West Indies should be brought over with all possible expedition, we have determined to send all the armed Vessels mentioned in your letter to be now at Philadelphia, and the Frigate *Randolph* likewise, on this business. The Island that each Vessel is to go to, and the Port she is to aim at returning to, is left to your discretion. You will please Sir to give the necessary orders for the quickest possible execution of this important service.

We are Sir [&c.]

In Marine Committee

John Hancock	W <sup>m</sup> Whipple
Richard Henry Lee	Nathan Brownson
Sam <sup>l</sup> Chase	Thos <sup>s</sup> Burke
Oliver Wolcott	Jona D Sergeant
William Ellery	

[Endorsed by Morris] Balto 5 Feby 1777 Marine Committees orders for sending all the Armed Vessells & the *Randolph* to the West Indias - answd 15 Feby 1777 p R M

1. USNAM. A copy signed by Hancock is in the Marine Committee Letter Book, 59, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Wednesday, Feb. 5. 1777.

Commission issued to Thomas Conway appointed Captain of the *Chester* Row Galley—

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

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday the 5th day of  
February 1777.

On the Recommendation of the Navy Board; it is Ordered that a Commission issue appointing Joel Sturdivant to the command of the *Manley* Galley in the room of Capt James Cocke who hath resigned.

The Board are off opinion that the *Musquetto* armed Brigantine be forthwith sent out on a Cruize against the Enemy. Information being received that the french Ports are open to our Cruizers, and that their Prizes are condemned there. Ordered that it be recommended to the Navy Board to signify the same to the Officers of our armed Vessels.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 327.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Antelope*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM JUDD <sup>1</sup>

February 1777                      Moord in Port Royal Harbour  
Wednesday 5th      PM Arrivd his Majstys Sloop *Hound* and Saluted with 13 Guns  
   Returnd 11, and two Merchant Ships Saluted with 7 Guns each  
   Returnd 3 to each

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/39.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Hind*, CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE <sup>1</sup>

February. 1777                      At Single Anchor in Sandy Point  
Wednesdy 5              [P. M.] Retd Tendr with an American Brig Loaded with  
   Lumber <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/457.  
2. The brig *Sally*, John Davis, master, from Newburyport for St. Eustatius, with lumber and fish, Young's Prize List to March 10, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

**6 Feb.**CAPTAIN THOMAS THOMPSON TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE  
OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentn    Portsmouth, February 6th, 1777.

Capt Osborne has just recd a letter without any signature dated in the Committee of Safety at Exeter the 4th Inst which I must suppose comes from that Body. On that presumption only I answer as I suppose will Captain Osborne. 'Tis very strange after Colo [Pierse] Long has taken the Pains to send to Genl Ward & received his answer respecting those men, he should trouble the Committee of Safety of this State about the matter. Colo Long told me that Genl Ward

said if the men had listed with Capt Osborne in his Company of Marines during the War, they might remain with him; but to tell Capt Osborne not to enlist any more out of that Regiment: If the Genl had thought proper the men should be deliver'd up he would have ordered Capt Osborne to that effect. Remember the men have entered as Marines not Mariners, & Marines by a Vote of Congress are on the same footing as soldiers in the land service; Notwithstanding we can keep them & are not accountable to the Committee of Safety of any State for such conduct; yet rather than any reflection should fall on us or that we should be the means of retarding the too long neglected march of Colo Long, shall agree to give them up, if he again desire it; for I shall not expect he will send to Baltimore for advice & make this an excuse for further delay.

I must likewise remind the Committee of Safety that every discouraging method is taken in this State to prevent the manning of the *Raleigh*. A pretended Embargo is seemingly complied with. Here are vessels sailing every day whether with or without leave I cannot say, for I have never been made acquainted with the Embargo. It has been the custom of other Nations to include the commanders of ships of War as well as Forts in any directions for special Embargoes. An Embargo is laid & strictly adhered to in the other States, of all private property. All Privateers are stopp'd for the purpose of manning the Continental Ships of War & filling up the army. The State of Massachusetts Bay strictly keep to their first intention, insomuch that the same owners concern'd in the Privateer now in Portsmouth were obliged to bring two of their ships up from the Castle, which had been victualled & manned some time & ready for the Sea: they have petitioned & remonstrated to the Council several times since urging the Damage and great expence they had been at, but to no effect: they only received for answer, the public good must be prefer'd to private interest: This I can affirm from the Council Chamber not a fortnight ago; where I had an opportunity of hearing it.

How different here! A Privateer launch'd, Rigg'd & Mann'd since the Embargo was laid (if it may be so called) The other States stop all Privat – strictly relying on their sister States to preserve the same Virtuous conduct. I beg you to consider how this matter will appear in publick. My Friend John Langdon, Esqr is concerned, to whom I acknowledge every tie of Friendship, & could I prefer Friendship to Duty & the good of the service I am engaged in should be silent in this matter. But I act from a consciousness of my own duty, which is to make you acquainted tho' late, That if the Privateer above mention'd is suffered to depart, it will bring a Reflection on this State, operate in public against Mr Langdon and manifestly tend to the disadvantage of the public service, particularly to manning the Ship under my Command; of which I bear testimony & do remonstrate against her going to your Honours, & leave it to your further consideration, as the General Court is not now sitting.<sup>2</sup> I am, Your Honos [&c.]

Thomas Thompson

N.B. 130 able Body'd men going in this Ship would fill up some space in the army or Navy.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 482–83.

2. The ship *Portsmouth*, Robert Parker, master, owned by John Langdon and others, Portsmouth, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, XII, NA.

MARINE CAPTAIN GEORGE JERRY OSBORNE TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gent —

Portsmo Feby 6th, 1777.

You are pleased to acquaint me that Colo Long has informed you that I have enlisted some of his soldiers, belonging to Capt Dearing's Compy, wch I tho't I had a right to, — as my orders from the Grand Congress are — To enlist for three years: Upon wch I cannot but believe I have a right so to do; tho' you have in your letter excluded, as not having any Rank or concern wth the Army to be raised. I think, Gentlemen, if my Company is to be ruled & commanded by the Regulations of the army, I must in consequence reckon my Department as a part of the same — having orders from the Major of Marines to fill my company equal to the Land service.

As for those soldiers being enlisted to serve their country by sea, I had their own officers who said, If I did not Enlist them, they knew they would not go with them.

I must confess, Gent I am surprised — when after Colo Long should tell both Capt Thompson and myself that Gen Ward should write him to give up the men already enlisted with me, but not to suffer any more to go (wch we assur'd the Colo we would not) that after this, he should trouble you on this account!

I mean not to vindicate an Error: but as an officer I think it my duty to stand for my conduct, till by any further proof I am convinced to the contrary, wch as soon as I am, shall look upon it as my Duty to obey.

If Colo Long should further desire these men, I will deliver them up rather than it should be a means of retarding his march to Ticonderoga. I am, Gent, with respect [&c.]

Geo: Jerry Osborne <sup>2</sup>

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 484–85.

2. *Ibid.*, 489, the Committee replied to Captain Osborne on February 8 reaffirming "their opinion of the Impropriety of Enlisting men belonging to said Col Long's Regiment."

CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER <sup>1</sup>

Honoured Sir

Boston 6th Feby 1777.

With pleasure I have seen a son in your own likeness, and gladly embrace the Oppertunity by him of acquainting you with my health and wellfare, my family after the fatigues of canada, are once more peacably Seated at Boston; we all hear of you with pleasure, and Should rejoice in having the oppertunity of taking you by the hand in our habitation, May God Grant us that happiness when all our Contests with our unnatural foes are honourably decided, — I am now Verey near leaving this place in a verey good Ship,<sup>2</sup> may God prosper our honest endeavours to establish the general rights of Mankind, and convince the world that we are worthy of Freedom by our Sturdy Strugles in its cause.

My wife and children joine in wishing you all possible good in this world and that which we hope for — a Kingdom of the just I am Sir your Sincere Friend [&c.]

Hector McNeill

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 5, Box 28, HSP.

2. Continental frigate *Boston*.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Boston 6th Feby 1777

I am honoured with your favour under the 15 Ult<sup>o</sup> am pleas'd you have given me liberty to discharge the Schooners wch were unfit for the Service. I have discharged two of them <sup>2</sup> and am fitting out the other two. Capt [John] Skimmer has the Command of the *Lee* & I am in hopes poor [William] Burke will be here to Command the *Lynch* The hour I Recd your Ltr I Attended to your Orders in indeavouring to hire the two vessells to send forward to Baltimore and shou'd have Accomplished it without difficulty had not a Capn Church arrivd a few days since who was taken off the Capes of Virginia <sup>3</sup> wch has spread such an Alarm I cannot find Capt or Man who will be hired at any wages, they are terrified at the Apprehension of falling into the hands of the Enemy and true it is they have used our people Cruelly who have been there prisoners however I hope to surmount every difficulty and to get the Vessels away next week, and shall follow your directions in every respect. I have engag'd a thousd of loaf Sugar @ 1/10 wch is all I am able to procure. I have a prospect of getting some Liver Oil But west India Articales none to be purchas'd in town, owing to the late regulations partly but chiefly to the Scarcity; the county having bought all up at the new fixed prices it gives me pleasure to acquaint you Sir, its in my power to furnish you with some fine fish.

Mr [Thomas] Cushing has been furnished by me with £ 1300 its not in my power to supply him with more, as I find if I have not a Speedy supply from philadelphia I shall be distressd for want of money. the paying of the *Cabbot* and *alfreds* portledge bills for a year and the outfit of those Vessells Calls for great sums. the *Millishs* Cargo will yeldt no supply being sold to [Abraham] Livingston & [William] Turnbull A very Considerable part of the *Livelys* Cargo is sent forward. those gentlemen have purchased between Eight & nine thousand pounds of the cargo for which they will give me a draft for payment, and the greatest part of the Scotch prizes are sent forward these things keep me bare of money I have sundry times been Oblig'd to borrow from my friends oft[en] after advancing all my own money, I dont mean to complane for the Little I have it is at my Cuntrys service and a[m] read[y] to testefy my attachment to it with my life But when I am called on for money by poor men who have Earnd it and cann[ot] give it them it grives me I shall write you by next post whe[n] I hope to acquaint you of my having contracted for the two Vesells in the interim I am [&c.]

J B

I dont see what will keep the Frigates longer tha[n] three weeks or a Month at farthest <sup>4</sup>

1. John Bradford Letter Book, vol. 1, LC.

2. Washington's schooners disposed of were the *Hancock* and *Franklin*.

3. William Church, master of the schooner *Delight*, was taken by H.M.S. *Roebuck*, December 28, 1776, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

4. Continental frigates *Hancock* and *Boston*.

PETITION OF HUGH MUNRO TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

To the Honble The President & Members of the Council of the State of the Massachusetts bay;

## The Petition of Hugh Munro of the Grenades

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner with his family (Consisting of his Wife a child of about four years of age, a young girl his relation, a Negroe Woman and a Negroe boy Servants) being on their Passage from the Grenades to London on board the Ship *Earle of Errol* John Bartlett Commander were taken by two American Armed Vessells and sent into this Port in the Month of August last. That your Petitioner did obtain leave from your Honors in September to go to England in a Ship fitted out by a Mr Ross of Jamaica who sailed from here with a number of Passengers about the beginning of October, but cou'd not avail himself of said leave as his child was then in the chicken pock. That his affairs now require his presence in England as soon as possible and therefor hopes your Honors will grant him leave to go to Rhode Island or New York with his family and baggage and that you will order him the necessary passports for that purpose. And your Petitioner as in duty bound Shall ever pray

Boston 6 febr'y 1777

Hugh Munro

[Endorsed] In Council Chamber Feby 13. 1777 upon the Petition of Hugh Munro ordered that He & his Family consisting of Six persons Be and hereby are permitted to depart this State to New York or Halifax provided he give his Parole to use his best Endeavours upon his arrival at either of those places, to procure the release of as many Persons belonging to this State, now detained there as Prisoners as his said Family upon their arival may Consist of

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 211.

*Independent Chronicle*, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1777

Boston, February 6, 1777.

The *American Revenue* Privateer, Captain [Samuel] Champlin [Jr.], has sent a Brig into Dartmouth, from Quebec, which he took to Windward of Barbados; her loading chiefly Fish.<sup>1</sup>

To-morrow, At One o'Clock, Will be sold by Public Vendue, At the American Coffee-House, The Snow *Kitley*, and Appurtenances, as she now lays at Avis's Wharf, — She is about 120 Tons burthen, a fast sailing Vessel, and well found. An Inventory of her Stores, may be seen at the Time and Place of Sale.

J. Russell, Auctioneer.

On Thursday, 13th Instant, At XII o'Clock, Will be sold by Public Vendue, at the House of Mr. John Dennis, in Stonington, The Privateer Sloop *America*, with all her Guns, Appurtenances, Ammunition and Provisions, &c. &c. as she now lays at Long Point, in said Stonington, — She is a fine sailing Vessel, and only One Year old. An Inventory may be seen at the Place of Sale.

For Sale, with her Appurtenances, as she now lays at the Long-Wharf in Salem, the Sloop *Rainbow*, burthen about 90 Tons, a prime Sailer, and every way calculated for a Privateer. Inventory of her Stores may be seen at any Time, by applying to Joseph Grafton, jun.

Salem, February 1, 1777.

1. Brigantine *Athol*, James Wadie, master, *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, April 3, 1777.

DARTMOUTH COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JOHN AYRES <sup>1</sup>

Capt Ayers Sr

Dartmouth 6th Feby 1777

The following list of Prisoners, together with the Prisoners and a Copy of a Letter from the Committee for the Exchange of Prisoners will be delivered you by Lt Eleazer Hathaway the list is as follows –

Mr John Curling Master of the Ship <i>Capel</i>	} taken by Capt Wm Curling, son to Capt Curling of sd Ship	} Richd Whelden
Mr John Bowes Master of the Snow <i>Ann</i> .		
Mr John Noble Passenger	} taken by Capt Knot	}
Thirsty Brindal & Wm G[illegible]dwood Seamen		
Mr Daniel McKay Master of the Brigg <i>John</i>	} taken by Capt Knot	}
Mr Isaac Fox Master of the Brigg <i>Active</i>		
Mr Robd Shaw Chief mate, Wm Bruce 2d Do	} Taken by Cap Jones in the <i>Alphred</i>	}
Robd Malkinson, Joshua Garner & James Fos Seamen		
Mr John Willson Master of the Brigg <i>Genl Wolf</i>	} taken by Capt Richd Whelden	}
Thos Belling & Phillip Furlong Seamen		
Mr George Elliot Master of the Schooner <i>Salley</i>	} taken by Capt McGee –	}
Mr Jos Jackson Master of the Brigg <i>Desire</i>		
Jos Exington & Thos Atkinson Seamen	} taken by Capt McGee –	}
Mr Robd More Chief mate to the Ship <i>Venus</i>		
Mr Jos Barker passenger in Ship <i>Esther</i>	} by Capt Hinman	}
Mr Robd Reed Master of the <i>Countes of Eagleston</i> [ <i>Countess of Eglington</i> ]		
Mr Wm Brown & Archbald Shanning Passengers	} taken by Capt Dennis	}
John Wilkes Seaman –		
Mr Daniel Madden Doctors & Passengers in the Ship <i>Mary</i>	} taken by Capt Wm Chaplin –	}

P Order of the Committee

A Copy

P Fortinatus Shearman Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 222.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Number 21.

Sir,

*Eagle* Off New York February the 6th 1777.

Under Cover with this Letter you will receive the Original Determinations of several Courts Martial held by my Appointment at this port, and since my Arrival in this Country, as stated in the Schedule enclosed.

I have to observe of those held by my Appointment, that James Woolspring, a Seaman belonging to the *Phoenix*, adjudged to suffer Death, was necessarily kept in close Confinement to prevent his Escape near two Months: the Circumstances of the Fleet being such, that under the Restrictions of the Act of the 22d of his late Majesty, no Court Martial could be sooner assembled for his Trial, consistent with a due Attention to the more important Duties on which the Captains were engaged. Therefore, in consideration of his extraordinary Sufferings by that long Confinement; And that, by the Dispersion of the Ships of War ordered to different Stations, the Example could not have had an equal Effect for dis-

countenancing the like Crimes in others; I have been induced to respite the Sentence, in the Hope, through their Lordships Interposition, to obtain from His Majesty's Indulgence, a pardon for the Criminal in this Instance.

The Restrictions in the Act to which I now allude, regard more particularly the XVth Clause: Whereby it is enacted, "That no Member of any Court Martial after the Trial is begun, shall go on shore until Sentence be given &ca &ca upon pain of being cashiered from His Majesty's Service."

By this Clause it is conceived, that a Captain quitting the Ship as therein mentioned on any the most urgent Occasion, (Sickness excepted) until Sentence be given, becomes immediately, or is liable on Information to be, divested of his Command.

Several of the Ships attending the Operations of the Army have been necessarily appointed to fixed Stations within the Limits of this port, for express purposes of Military Service: Such as the Strengthening of Ports from whence it has been then thought expedient to draft a part of the Force for other Objects; Covering the Flanks of advanced Corps of the Army; Being themselves advanced from the Fleet, on that side from whence some probable Enterprize by the Enemy was to be expected; Attached to the Guard of Transports under the same Circumstances; Or kept in constant Readiness to proceed on any occasional Service: Relative to which last Instance, the Notice has been in some Cases so short, that I have been obliged to go on the Moment and order One of those detached Frigates immediately underway, for the purpose then pointed out.

These Situations, confined to the Case of a Fleet or Squadron employed on Military Service in port, are such as will not allow the Captains to quit their Ships, subject to an Absence of Uncertain Duration. Whence it must happen on similar Occasions, that Duties most essential for the purpose of the Armament must be disregarded, Or that—The Fleet must remain precluded from the Benefits attending the only Means by Law provided for maintaining Order and Good Discipline; which, if they may be deemed more requisite at any one time than another, are so when the Fleet is engaged in actual Military Service as aforesaid.

The Circumstances of a Fleet at Sea are not very different. Fleets at Sea are always subject to a sudden Discovery of the Enemy's Fleets, if not purposely stationed in quest of them. The Ships are liable to be dispersed by Fogs, bad Weather, and other unforeseen Accidents. The Commander must therefore either risk the Consequences of those Events, or decline the Use of Courts Martial in the Government of his Fleet, under the Restrictions that now subsist.

It may be said of the Inconveniences I have before stated in Objection to the Assembling of Courts Martial in port, that (excepting the Confinement of the Members until Sentence is given) they may be still composed of those Captains of the Fleet who are not then so circumstanced, but that their Absence from their respective Ships may be with propriety admitted.

According to the Sense in which I have always read the Clause XII, a Court Martial so constituted might legally proceed to Trial. But I find a different Opinion is entertained concerning the Interpretation of that Clause, in this Fleet: Founded very much upon what is said to be the Usage in the Western ports of England; where it is held, that the Words of the Clause – "Then and there

present," applied to the Officers next in Seniority to the President, are [to] be understood of all the Captains of the Ships that are then in View within the Limits of the Port; and not confined to the Captains present, in compliance with the Signal on board the Ship in which the Court Martial is to be held. This Construction prevailed so strongly upon an Occasion in which I was concerned towards the Close of the late War that because a Captain, Senior to some who attended the Signal but posted with his Ship several Miles from the Anchorage where the Body of the Squadron lay, did not quit a Charge of much importance to take his place at a Court Martial ordered, the other Captains assembled for the purpose, concurred in Opinion that they could not therefore legally proceed to Trial. And Tho' the Charge (as I recollect) was on a case of Mutiny, the Trial was necessarily postponed on that account.

These Inconveniences and Restraints on the Due Administration of Justice, having recently occurred in the Government of the Fleet I have now the Honor to command, it becomes a particular Duty in me to make Report thereof: To have the Benefit of their Lordships Instructions on such points as are dependent for Remedy on their immediate Authority; Or that they may be submitted for Consideration, where the Interposition of Parliament is requisite, as their Lordships in their Wisdom shall see fit.

With the Judgments of the Courts Martial held by my Appointment, you will receive Three others enclosed. One, the Original Sentence of the Court, and the two others only Copies of such Sentences. The first passed in a Court assembled at Halifax by Order of Captain Brisbane, for the Trial of Lieutenant Knight, late Commander, and Mr Tho Spry, Second Master, of the *Diligent* Armed Schooner, taken by the Rebels in July 1775. The two last, in Courts assembled in the same port by Order of Captain Jacobs; And in consequence of which, the Punishments adjudged have been inflicted by his further Direction.

These Courts Martial have been called, and the Trials proceeded upon, under the sole Authority of the Officer presiding at each, without any Communication with me. Captain Brisbane, and all the Captains composing the first (Captain Gidoin excepted) were at that time acting in every other Matter by my particular Appointment. Captain Jacobs was then under Orders from their Lordships and on his passage to join me at this port; The other Members of those Courts being under the Circumstances as in the former Instance. I am therefore to request I may be instructed how far the Proceedings in these several Cases are to be deemed regular and valid. That if those under the Order of Captain Brisbane should be (as I conceive) unwarrantable, I may be informed in respect to the Inquiry that will then remain to be made into the Conduct of Lieutenant Knight; and for determining the period from which the pay of the Officers and Crew of the Armed Vessel is to cease. And also in regard to the Precedent, that the true Construction of the IXth Clause of the Act of the 22nd of His late Majesty, on which those proceedings have been founded; may be made known; As well for the Government of the Captains of the Fleet in future, as for my Guidance also. For I humbly apprehend, that Clause is to be only understood with relation to any five (or more) Ships meeting together in foreign Parts, not then actually forming, or being under appointment to form a part of any Squadron in the Com-

mander of which the power to assemble Courts Martial is supposed to be vested: Since, if such Special Provision had not been made for Ships of that Description, they could not receive the Benefit from the Act in this particular intended.

If the Act, imperfect and inadequate to the purpose of its Institution, as I presume to think, should be revised, an Explanatory Amendment of this Clause will, I apprehend, be requisite. By this Clause, as it is now worded, the Senior of any five (or more) Commanders not under the Degree of a post-Captain (and consequently a Commander of superior Rank) who "happen to meet together in foreign Parts," is vested with a power, at any time, to hold Courts Martial. — A power of such Consideration, and so guarded in a preceding Clause (VI) of the Act, that the Authority of the Admiralty is made requisite for qualifying the Commander in Chief of a Fleet or Squadron to exercise it "in foreign parts," under other Circumstances. That is to say, of Ships meeting there together not accidentally, but by Destination. And such Commander in Chief is expressly enjoined (Clause VIII) to delegate that power to Commanders under him, whom he may see occasion to detach with a Part of his Fleet on a separate Service: As if the Sense of Parliament had been in these two last Instances, that Courts Martial could not be otherwise legally assembled by Those Officers.

Having been taken ill very soon after the arrival of the *Amazon*, and Captain Jacobs sailed for Rhode Island before I was able to attend to Business; I did not discover till many Days after he went from this port, that the Determination left of the Courts Martial held by his Order, were only Copies of those proceedings. The Minutes of the several Courts Martial referred to in this Letter, that have yet been made up and delivered to me, are sent herewith under other Covers.

I must further beg leave to submit to their Lordships' Consideration, another Matter, which remaining in the present unregulated State, will in the Circumstances of this Fleet be attended with very great prejudice to the public Service; I mean with respect to the Insufficiency of my Powers to restrain by proper Punishments, the criminal excesses of every kind committed by some of the Seamen belonging to the Transports in the Service of Government: In cases of Theft, Drunkenness and Disobedience, Striking their Masters, and other Irregularities respecting their Duty in the Ships: Breaking open the Houses; plundering and wasting the property of the inhabitants without Distinction, as the Troops have advanced along the Coasts; wherein they have proceeded to such lengths, that I have been obliged to order severe Corporal punishments to be inflicted on the Offenders, to prevent those Violences being carried to greater Extremities, through a persuasion that no legal Restraint could be laid upon them. And I am to request their Lordships' Countenance in these necessary Measures, when it may be requisite; And for obtaining such legal Opinions for my Guidance in future Instances of a similar Nature, as the Circumstances will authorise. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

P.S. Since the Conclusion of this Letter as above written, I have received two Judgments of Courts Martial assembled by Order of Sir George Collier at Halifax upon the same principle as that on which Captain Brisbane was induced to proceed on the Trial of Lieutenant Knight. I have added these, and the Minutes transmitted with them, to the others as before mentioned.

## [Enclosures]

*Eagle*

off New-York

6th February 1777.

Dates. —

3d December 1776.

Schedule of Papers transmitted to the  
Secretary of the Admiralty with the Dispatch No 21.

3d December 1776.	Copy of the Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Rainbow</i> at Halifax for the Trial of Jenkin Davis and George Lawson, belonging to that Ship, for Desertion.
4th —————	Copy of the Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Amazon</i> at Halifax for the Trial of Michael Leaghley, a Seaman belonging to that Ship for Desertion and other Misdemeanors.
10th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr George Hire Master of the <i>Nautilus</i> Sloop.
11th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> for the Trial of Richard Martin Armourer of that Ship.
13th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr John Featherstone, Carpenter of the <i>Jersey</i> Hospital Ship.
Ditto —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York, for the Trial of Mr Ford Forster Master of the <i>Carcass</i> Bomb.
16th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of Lieutenant John Graves, and Mr Thomas Page Christian, Surgeon, of the <i>St Lawrence</i> Schooner.
17th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of James Woolspring a Seaman belonging to the <i>Phoenix</i> .
25th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Flora</i> at Halifax for inquiring into the Causes of the Loss of the <i>Diligent</i> Armed Schooner.
30th December 1776	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Rainbow</i> at Halifax for the Trial of John Ward, Seaman belonging to the <i>Lark</i> , for Desertion.
Ditto —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Rainbow</i> to try Mr John Consett Peters late Master of the <i>Dispatch</i> Schooner, for the Loss of that Vessel.
24th January 1777	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Juno</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr Matthew Burwood, Gunner of the <i>Thunder</i> Bomb.
25th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Juno</i> off New-York, for inquiring into the Causes of the Loss of the <i>Savage</i> Sloop.

Ditto —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Juno</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr William Roggerson late Boatswain of the <i>Tartar</i> .
27th —————	Sentence of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Juno</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr Rogers Curry, Surgeon of the <i>Carysfort</i> . Sent in a separate Packet.
10th December 1776.	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr George Hire, Master of His Majesty's Sloop the <i>Nautilus</i> .
11th —————	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of Richard Martin, Armourer of that Ship.
13th —————	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr John Featherstone Carpenter of the <i>Jersey</i> Hospital Ship.
Ditto —————	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of Mr Forster Master of the <i>Carcass-Bomb</i> .
16th —————	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> for the Trial of the Lieutenant and Surgeon of the <i>St Lawrence</i> Armed Schooner.
17th December 1776.	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Bristol</i> off New-York for the Trial of James Woolspring, a Seaman belonging to the <i>Phoenix</i> .
25th —————	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Flora</i> at Halifax for inquiring into the Causes of the Loss of the <i>Diligent</i> Armed Schooner.
30th —————	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Rainbow</i> at Halifax for the Trial of John Ward a Seaman belonging to the <i>Lark</i> , for Desertion.
Ditto —————	Minutes of a Court Martial held onboard the <i>Rainbow</i> at Halifax, to try Mr John Consett Peters late Master of the <i>Dispatch</i> Schooner, for the Loss of that Vessel.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

#### MEMORIAL OF JEAN DUPERON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

The Memorial of Jean Duperon late Canonier of the Royal Corps of Artillery on the Island of Martinique – humbly sheweth

That your Memorialist having engaged with one Mr Bingham an Agent for the Continent at Martinique aforesaid to go to Philadelphia and offer his Service in the Army of the United States was by the said Bingham directed to take his Passage on Board the Privateer Sloop *Independence* Captain Robinson [Robertson] Commander<sup>2</sup> at which time your Memorialist plainly understood that he was to have his said Passage free as a Volunteer that would on any Occasion fight in the Battles of the Sloop tho not do the common duties of Marines or Sailors –

That your Memorialist put on board of the said Sloop 4 dozen Bottles of Cordials and 4 dozen of Lemon Juice in eight Cases on purpose that by the Sale thereof at Philadelphia he might be enabled the better to support and equip himself for the Service he intended to enter into – But that at his Arrival the said Captain flatly refuseth to render him an Account of his eight Cases of Liquors to the great Loss of your Memorialist who had ventured his Freedom & Life in the Fate of a Privateer for to serve the Cause of the Americans –

Your Memorialist being a Foreigner without Friends and Connections in this place who could advise or support him in his difference with the Captain puts his sole Confidence upon that Faith and Honor of Nations and their Magistrates by which the Right of the Stranger within their Gates are to be held sacred and protected is necessitated to claim the Protection of your Honorable Board against the said Captain or any of his Officers or Men who may have been guilty of imbezling his Property And humbly prayeth to compell him or them to restore the same to your Memorialist or the Value thereof at the current price in the City of Philadelphia –

And your Memorialist as in duty &c  
Philad Feb'y 6th 1777 –

Jean Duperon

[Endorsed] In Council of Safety feb. 11th 1777

The within memorial is referr'd to James Young Esqr and Jacob Schreiner Esqr who are requested to enquire into the Complaint to determine thereon or report to the Council if they think necessary By order of Council

Dav<sup>d</sup> Rittenhouse V.P.

1. Society Miscellaneous Collection, Petitions and Memorials, Box 3b, HSP.

2. Continental sloop *Independence* temporarily commanded by Lieutenant James Robertson during Captain John Young's illness.

#### SAMUEL CHASE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Gentlemen/

Baltimore Town. Feb'y. 6. 1777

Congress are very anxious, that some immediate Steps should be taken by our State, not only as to the person of Captain [William] Patterson, but as to the Payment of the Engagement entered into by the Continental and your Agent. – Capt patterson is viewed as a pirate, and after Examination, if the facts should appear to You to be well founded, it may be well to consider, if it would not be proper to send him to Martinico for Trial there, by the Law of Nations.<sup>2</sup> If our State shall pay the Value of the Vessel & Goods seised by Patterson, would it not be proper to inform the Governor of Martinique that the whole would have been returned, but for the Risque? – If no Remittance can be made but by produce, it will be an equal Risque to send back the Vessel. – could not Mr [Robert] Morris pay the Money for our State? – an Opportunity of Writing will present itself in a few Days. would it not be proper for our State to write a Letter, disavowing the Conduct of Capt Patterson, and engaging Payment as soon as possible, & mentioning the Men of War in our Bay, which may delay the Remittance.

Mr Zachariah Campbell, in a Letter from Vienna, of 1st Inst – writes to his Brother Capt Campbell “That the Tories in Sussex, Som[er]set & Wor[cester]

Co[un]tys, have been assembling for some Days, they have 250 Men collected at parker's Mill, about 9 Miles from Salisbury, and 'tis reported they have three Field pieces which they received from the *Roebuck*, with some Men, with Intention to seise the Magazine, & destroy the property of the Whiggs. Colo [Joseph] Dashiell is now at Salisbury wth what Whiggs he could collect, about 130, & is to be reinforced on Monday, by eight Companies from this County," –

Captain [James] Nicholson's Tender brings Account, that there are three Men of War in the bay, one at the Tangiers, one at Smiths point, and one in the middle, & that it is reported some Men, with two Field pieces are landed from the *Roebuck* –

Congress has ordered Colo Wm Buchanans Battalion, which was ordd to Camp, to march with Colo [Mordecai] Gist – & some armed Vessells to prevent any Communication from the Ships, and to prevent their plundering –

If Advice Boats are not sent outside of the Capes, several of our Store Vessells may fall into the Hands of our Enemies.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

2. See Journal of the Maryland Council of Safety, February 6.

#### ELNATHAN HOLMES TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Boltemore Feby. the 6th 1777

Sirs; this may Inform your Honours that through Divine Goodness towards us. that in 17 Days passage We Arived at Boltemore where we know lye With the Blessing of god we Escapet of Being taken But we have run as Great a Chance as Could be We have ben Chast by Man of War twice upon our pasage for three of four hours at a time but got Clear of them having a long C[h]ase for it When we Come up with the Capes we Spide a large Ship lying two Between the Capes put us in Sum fright we then Run in by Cape Charls & Come to ancer Clost by the Brakers within two Miles of the Ship and hove our boat out went on Shore and Enquired what News with the Men of War & they give us Entelegence that they

Burnt all they took We made our Escape By runing Clost in by Cape Charls and runing up the Sound we Saw the ruings of a Good Many Vesels Racks Masts part burnt Shrouds on them lookt to Be large Vesels Spars which frightened us Sum We run abou[t] a Duzen League[s] up the Sound Came a thought [athwart] towo large Ships in the Night run Clost by them before we Saw them it Being very hazy I would Inform your honours that Shugar is 7£/10s pr [Ct] & rum 20/ pr Gallo and Flowar Soald for 20s/ pr C I Beg your Honours that you would Send the within Closed to Plymouth and you will Oblige your [&c.]

Elnathan Holmes

the President [illegible] of the Bord of War  
at Boston, in Newengeland –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 43, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Council of Safety Annapolis Febry 6th 1777

Complaint having been made to the Council, that–Capt. William Patterson, commander of the armed Schooner called *The Dolphin*, at or near Saint Pierre in Martinique, pursued from that Port, a Flag of Truce Schooner from Governor Shirley of Dominica to the General of Martinique captured and detained her in violation of the Law of Nations – You are hereby commanded to take the said Patterson immediately into your Custody and him have before this Board, that proper Enquiry, and order may be had thereon. By order

R Ridgely Cl. C. S.—

To John Fulford –

Commander at Ann[apoli]s.

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

ACCOUNT OF CAPTAIN THOMAS CONWAY OF THE SLOOP *Molly* AGAINST THE STATE OF MARYLAND <sup>1</sup>

Dr	Sloop <i>Molly</i> Owned by the State of Maryland	To Thomas Conway -	Contra	C[redit]
1776			Maryd Curry	1776
August 2	To my Expences from Alexandria to Annapolis when the Powder was Landed at Wicomico		2..6..9½	Decemr 17. By Cash 195..--
				By Ballance due T. Conway 132.17..1
Septemr 12	To my Expences to Annapolis for Sailing Orders		3..7.10	
18	To 6 Oars 25 feet long at 5d P		3..2..6	
	To Square Sail Yard 41 feet long		8.10	
	To 10 Pike Staves at 6d P		5..-	
19	To Live Stock for Cabin use		3..--	
Decemr 7	To Wages paid Robt Jarbee 2 Mo. 19 days a 50/P		6.11..8	£ 327.17..1
	To ditto Joseph Liegh 2 mo. 18 days a 50/		6.10..-	
	To ditto Edward Milburn 2 mo. 19 days a 50/		6.11..8	Alexandria Febry 6th 1777 Then came Thos
	To ditto John Greffin 3 mo. 2 days a 50/		7.13..4	Conway late Commander of the Sloop <i>Polly</i> [ <i>sic Molly</i> ]
	To ditto William Belwod 2 mo. 16 days a 50/		6..6..8	of Maryland and made oath on the Holy Evangels
	To ditto Hambleton Davison 2 mo. 19 days a 50/		6.11..8	that the within Account as stated is just & true & that
	To ditto Parker Junifer 2 mo. 18 days a 50/		6.10..-	the Balance of One hundred & thirty two pound
	To ditto John Richardson 2 mo. 18 days a 50/		6.10..-	Seventeen Shillings & one penny is justly due to him
	To ditto William Crain 3 mo. 2 days a 50/		7.13..4	to the best of his knowledge
	To ditto Zacariah Smith 3 mo. 2 days a 50/		7.13..4	W <sup>m</sup> Ramsay
	To ditto Richard Shirley 3 mo. a 75/		11..5..-	Received 6th Feby 1777 of Jenifer & Hooe the within
	To ditto Robert Dunkerson 2 mo. 2 days a 90/		12..--	Ballance of One Hundred & thirty Two pounds
	To ditto Joseph Thompson 3 mo. 5 days a 60/		9.10..-	Seventeen Shillings & one penny Maryland Currency
	To ditto Levi Thomas 3 mo. 6 days. 75/		12..--	in full of my Accot for Wages & Disbursmts against
	To ditto Henry Gibbins 3 mo. 6 days. 75/		12..--	the Sloop <i>Molly</i> .
	To ditto Joseph Woodward 3 mo. 75/		11..5..-	Thomas Conway
	To ditto William Skilling 2 mo. 24 days. 75/		10.10..-	
	To ditto Thomas Richardson 2 mo. 22 days. 165/		22.11..-	

	To ditto	Charles Haney	2 mo. 18 days.	75/	9.15..-
	To ditto	Joseph Conway	2 mo. 18 days.	75/	9.15..-
	To ditto	George Roberts	3 mo. 12 days	60/	10..4..-
	To ditto	Robert Purtill	2 mo. 28 days.	50/	7..6..8
	To ditto	John Swaller	1 mo.		3..-..-
		Carried Over			<u>£ 222..4..3½</u>
	To Sum from Debit				<u>£ 222..4..3½</u>
	To Wages paid Joseph Fowler	2 mo. 28 days	45/	6.12..-	
	To Cash paid Doctr Robinson for Setting a	mans Leg that was Broke, Wm Shilling }		10..-..-	
	To Butchers Bill at Annapolis P Receipt			11.18..6½	
Novemr 29	To Cash paid at St Marys for a Jib Boom			5..-	
	To Cash paid for a Lock			5..-	
	To Wages paid Anthony	2 mo. 27 days a	45/	6.10..6	
	To ditto paid Adam	3 mo 21 days.	67/6	12..9..9	
	To 72 feet Inch & ½ Oak Plank			12..-	
	To Wages paid John Stoops	1 mo.		3..-..-	
	To my Wages from Septemr 15th 1776 to	Janry 31st 1777 at 32 Dollars P Mo }		54..-..-	
	4 mo. 15 days				
				<u>£ 327.17..1</u>	
	To Ballance P Contra		£ 132.17..1	£ 132.17..1	

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 2, Accounts, 1777, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY <sup>1</sup>

February [1777]	Remarks <i>Preston</i> Chesepeak Bay
Wednesdy 5.	AM came onboard seven Negroes from the Shore saw a Sail to the SEward sent the Tender to chace her, sent a months water onboard the <i>Farmer</i> prize Ship <sup>2</sup> at noon the Tender boarded the Chace which had been deserted by the people [Moderate weather] Ditto the Tender returned with a prize Sloop supposed to be the <i>Ranger</i> John Sanford Master Master Carpenters and Armourers variously employed.
Thursday 6	Ditto weather pm broke up the <i>Good Intent</i> prize Sloop & set her adrift <sup>3</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

2. Taken January 20, 1777 by H.M.S. *Brune*, PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

3. Taken January 24, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday 6th February 1777. –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt [Alexander] Dick Twenty five pounds of Powder for the use of the Brig *Musquetto*. –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Dick six Blankets for the use of the Brig *Musquetto*. –

Ordered that Capt Dick repair immediately with the Men under his Command on Board the Brig *Musquetto* and observe and obey such Orders as he may receive from Time to Time of Capt [John] Harris the Commander of the said Brig –

1. Navy Board Journal, 171–72, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday the 6th day of  
February 1777.

On the Recommendation of the Navy Board, it is Ordered that a Commission issue appointing Robert Blaws second Lieutenant of the *Manley* Galley in the Room of George Chamberlaine who is appointed second Lieutenant of the Brigantine *Musquetto*.

Whereas by the present Regulations of the Navy of this Commonwealth two thirds of every Capture, if a merchant man are to belong to the State, and the other third part to the Captors, but if a ship of War, Tender, or Privateer, one half to the State, the other half to the Captors which at the time of that establishment corresponded with the Continental Regulation And whereas the Congress have since directed that of all future Captures, the United States should have only a Moiety, and the Captors the other Moiety in case of merchantmen, and that the Captors should have the whole where the Prize is a Ship of War, Tender, or Privateer,<sup>2</sup> and it being necessary that there should be an uniformity in the Rules prescribed for the Distribution of Prizes. Resolved therefore that the last

recited Regulation of Congress between the Captors and the united States shall hereafter be in force between the Captors & this State.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 330.
2. See Volume 6, 1463-64.

THOMAS WHITING TO CAPTAIN JOHN HARRIS, BRIG *Musquetto* <sup>1</sup>

Capt John Harris

You are hereby directed to proceed, as soon as you think it safe [s]o to do, with your Vessel to Sea and Cruise from fifty to One hundred Leagues to Windward of the West Indie Islands. – You are to annoy over come and make Prize of all Vessels you may meet with which you shall have reason to believe are Enemies to the United States of America having at all Times strick regard to the Rules of War and Law of Nations. You must take the greatest Care in securing and Conducting, any Prize or Prizes you may take, into some place or places of safety by Convoying them or otherwise as you may Judge most Prudent. – We have been informed that the French Ports are Open to our Cruizers and that Prizes taken by them are Condemned in their Ports. Should you think it expedient to send any Prize or Prizes that may fall into your hands into any of the French Ports, such Prize or Prizes are immediately on their Arrival to be put into the hands of the Agent or Agents of this Commonwealth who are desired to Proceed to have them Condemn'd & Sold, Paying (if a Merchant Vessel) one half of the Nett Produce to the Capt & Crew and if a Man of War or Privateer then the whole to be paid to the Capt & Crew agreeable to the Rules & Articles of the Navy of this Commonwealth. Should you send any Prize or Prizes to the Continent you are to direct the Prize Master immediately upon his arrival to acquaint us by express of such arrival – when & where & what her Cargo may Consist of. – We wish you success and confide in your Fidelity Courage and good Conduct as well as in your [illegible]nity for your kind & generous Treatment of any of the Enemy that may happen to become your Prisoners. – You are to return within six Months. –

Thom Whiting 1st Comr

Virginia Navy Board [Williamsburg]

February 6th 1777

Van Bibber & Harrison }  
are our Agents in St }  
Eustatia & Martineque <sup>2</sup> }

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/310 (Vice Admiral James Young's letters) ; enclosed in Young to Philip Stephens, June 12, 1777, No. 7. The *Musquetto* had been taken by H.M.S. *Ariadne* and carried into Antigua.
2. The Virginia Navy Board wrote to Van Bebber & Harrison this date informing them of the *Musquetto's* cruise, Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMAS <sup>1</sup>

Sir/

[Williamsburg] 6th Febr'y 1777.

You are desired to furnish Capt [James] Maxwell from Time to Time with such Cordage as he may have Occasion for, for the purpose of Riging fitting &c

the two Frigates Ordered to be Built in this State by the Continental Congress, keeping a separate Account of the same. —

By Order of the Naval Board  
Thom<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Comr

[Williamsburg] 6th Feby 1777.

1. Public Rope Walk Papers, 1777, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

Navy Board [Charleston] Thursday 6th February 1777 —

The Board Mett According to Adjournment

Present Edward Blake Esqr first Commissioner

George Smith, Josiah Smith, Thomas Corbett, Esqrs —

[Lett]er was wrote to Mr. Stephen Duvall

Mr Stephen Duvall Sir Navy Board January 30th 1777 —

The Commissioners of the Navy direct that you do Receive on board the *Eagle* Pilot Boat Mr. John Knight and Mr. John Turner Two Branch Pilots, at all *times* when they may offer to Assist as Pilots for this Port, and at any time that Either of them may go to Pilot any Vessell or Vessells out from this or any other Harbour in this State, that you take them from on board such Vessells and that you see that they are Supplied with Provisions & Accomadations as the Other Branch Pilots in the service of this State now are

Edward Blake first Commissr.

Capt. Thomas Pickerin[g] Attended the Board and the Commissioners gave him Orders to get the Briggt. *Defence* under his Command ready for Sea as soon as possible —

The following Attestation was given to David Bruce and 500 Copys Ordered to be Emeadeately printed in sheets Viz —

South *Carolina*.

Know all Men That I do hereby Certify that I Have Voluntarily Entered [into the service of the] Navy of the State aforesaid on board the and I do hereby engage to be true and *faithful* in the said Service for the Term of *Months*, to Commence from the undermentioned date, and at the Expiration thereof then to have my discharge from the said Service, and also do Engage to be bound to Obey all and Every Rule, Resolve, Order, and Regulation made or to be made by the Legislature of the state aforesaid or by the Commissioners of the Navy, and I do hereby acknowledge the Receipt of Pounds Current *money* as a Bounty for Entering into the service of the said State Witness my hand this [blank]

Agreed that the first Commissioner draw on the Treasury for payment of the following Accounts

No 31	To Joseph Gaultier for Attending the Pilot } Boat <i>Hawk</i>	£12. 10 . . —
32	To Saml Hrabowsk sundrys Supplied the Comissry	132 . . 3 . . 9

33	To Capt Frans Morgan for a Boat	65 .. - .. -
34	To Jacob & Chrisr Willaman for Beef 2 Accots	377 .. 5 .. 6
35	To Chrisr Williaman for Beef	196 .. 2 .. -
36	To the Pilot Boat <i>Eagles</i> pay bill from the 4th Octr. 1776. to the 4th Janry 1777 — 3 mos }	594. 10 .. 8

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£1377. 11. 11

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 38–39.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN<sup>1</sup>

February 1777                      Charlestown N69.21W    139 Leagues  
Thursday 6th              At 3 PM Fired Six Shot & brot too a Letter Mark Schooner  
Named the *Revenge* from Martinico bound to Verginia, having  
on board a Quantity of Sail Duck & Wooling

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN JOHN CHAPMAN, H. M. SLOOP *Shark*<sup>1</sup>

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of  
the Red &ca &ca &ca

Whereas I have received repeated Complaints from the Masters of Sundry Victualling Transports, now lying in St Johns Harbour, who are employed in Government Service to carry Provisions to the Kings Army in North America that their Seamen are enticed to leave them and enter on board the Vessels called Privateers illegally fitted out from this Island to Cruize and make Capture of Vessels on the High Seas without Commission or any Lawful Authority so to do; by which said Transports are greatly distressed for want of Men to refit their Vessels for Sea, in order to proceed on their Voyages with the Kings Stores they have on board for the use of his Army in America.

You are hereby required and directed to proceed immediately to St Johns Road Antigua, with His Majesty's Sloop *Shark* under your Command; and having Moored her in Safety are to use your utmost Endeavours to put an immediate Stop to the disorders complained of; by taking on board His Majesty's Sloop *Shark*, all such Seamen as the Masters of any of the Transports may inform You have left their respective Ships and Entered on board any of the abovementioned Armed Vessels: and you are to keep them on board the *Shark* 'till the Transports they belonged to are ready to proceed on their Voyage, and then return them on board their proper Ships. You are also to see that the Masters of said Transports make no delay in getting their Ships ready for Sea and acquaint me with their proceedings Weekly You are likewise hereby directed to protect and Guard from any Insult of the Rebels all such Merchant Ships as may be lying in St Johns Road and are to examine with Your Boats all Ships and Vessels that may come into, or Sail from said Road or Harbour, and make Report to me as often as may be needful in the Form given You herewith, for which this shall be your Order.

Given &ca at English Harbour 6th February 1777.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

7 Feb.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Boston] Friday Feby 7th 1777. —

In the House of Representatives — On the Letter from Capt Simeon Sampson dated Halifax Harbor, on board the *Boulouqua* Guard Ship January 20th 1777 —<sup>2</sup> Ordered that the Council be desired to take the same into Consideration and endeavour to procure the Officers and Seamen prisoners in the State of New Hampshire and Collect those in this State and send them in a Flag to Halifax for the purpose of redeeming Capt Sampson his Officers and Company, and as many others now Prisoners there as can be. —

In Council read and Concurred

Consented to by fifteen of the Council

In the House of Representatives — Whereas the rum Molasses and sundry other Articles hereinafter enumerated, now in this State, are all needed for the Supply of the Army and the Inhabitants of this State. It is therefore Resolved, That all exportation of rum molasses, sugar cotton Wool, Sheeps-wool, flax, Salt, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, linen, cotton and linen woolen and cotton goods of all kinds, provisions of all and every sort, shoes, hides, deer-skins, sheep-skins and leather of all kinds, as well by land as by water, from the counties of Suffolk and Middlesex after the seventh day of Feby currant and from the counties of Essex, Plymouth & Bristol after the eighth; and from every other part of this State after the tenth, be stopped, except to the different parts of this State.

And if any Vessel shall be found having any quantity of rum more than sixty gallons to a vessel of eighty tons, and for a three Months Voyage, and in that proportion for a larger or smaller vessel, and on a longer or shorter voyage, or having any other of the articles above enumerated on board more than is sufficient for the use of the crew of the said vessel, she being outward bound therewith, or found at sea having sailed from any port in this State, after the times fixed for this Resolve's taking place in such port for any part of the world without this State; such vessel shall be a lawful prize for any person or persons who shall take the same, and shall be libelled in some Maritime Court within this State, within two months after having been found or brought in with such rum or other of said articles on board, and shall be condemned and sold in manner as is provided by the laws of this State for the condemnation and sale of vessels taken in carrying Supplies to the enemies of the United States of America; & the money such vessel and cargo may be sold for, shall be disposed of in the same manner as Vessels and cargoes are disposed of that are taken as prizes. Provided nevertheless, that if it shall appear to the Satisfaction of the court before whom such trial shall be had, that the owner or owners of such vessel did not knowingly transgress this resolve, in that case such vessel shall not be liable to condemnation.

Provided also, That this resolve shall not be construed to extend to prevent the exportation of Sugar in such quantities as are allowed by a resolve of this Court of the ninth day of January last, for the purpose of procuring flour and other provisions, and other articles for the use of the inhabitants of this State and neces-

sary supplies for the crews of such vessels as may be bound from this State, or to prohibit any exportations the Board of War may think proper to make for the public advantage, or to prevent the carrying of any of the above enumerated articles from this to any neighbouring State, as purchased at ordinary retail, either for the consumption of individuals or single families.

And further Resolved, that Mr Hosmer be, and hereby is directed to procure one thousand of these Resolves to be printed, and that he immediately transmit to the several naval officers within this State, and the several Committees of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety of the Towns that border upon the neighbouring States, printed copies of the same; and that he cause the same to be printed in the Boston news-papers.

In Council read & Concurred –

Consented to by fifteen of the Council

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 37, 5, 6, 10–12, 13, 14.
2. Captain Sampson, in the Massachusetts state brigantine *Independence*, had been taken by H. M. Sloop *Hope*.

#### MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

Boston 7 Feby 1777

Order'd That the Comy deliver Capt McNeil a Fish Seine for the Ship *Boston* & charge the Honl Mr Cushing with it –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 151.

#### JOHN BROWN AND THOMAS GREENE TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE <sup>1</sup>

Mr Pain Sr

Providence Feby 7th 1777

Thos Green Esqr & my Self owners of a Sloop Called the *Retalliation* of 90 Tons which has Lately bin aCruse apriveteering with 12 Carrage Guns Under the Command of Capt [Isaac] Jones the Barer hereof & in her Cruse Fell in Company with Capt [William] Dennis in the Priveteer Sloop *America* of 45 Tons & 38 Men, & being to Windward of the West India Islands and as they Supposed in a Good place to Lay for Merchant Vessils bound from England to the West Endies, they agreed to Lay buy & Wate in Company with Each other for Vessills to Come Down Near them, Accordingly in a Day or Two a Brigg appeard in Sight they both gave Chace together & after 5 or 6 Hours the *America* Capt Dennis Came up with Sd Brigg Capt Jones allso being then in full Chace within 3 miles Distance the Brigg Struck which Turnd out to be the *Countes of Eglington* Capt Reede [Robert Reid] from Glasgow bound to Antego, with a Cargo of £4585 Sterlg in Dry Goods &c which Brigg was Sent to Bedford in Your Province under a Prize Master & 8 Men of Capt Jones & a Prize Master & 4 Men from Capt Dennis, we Claim a propotion of Sd prize in propotion to the Strength of the Privateers but to our Grait Supprize at a Tryal at Plimouth before Judg Cushings Court the Jury Gave the whole to Capt Dennis's Privateer we Appeal'd to the Superior Court to be held at Barnstable in May next, our Attorneys ware Mr Cole from here & Mr Cleringer of Bridgwater their Counsell was Mr. Daney & Mr Lovel, and as we are Determined to prossicute this Matter till we have Justice Done if possible therefore Desire Your Assistance as a

Gentleman of the Law & in Due time we will Give You a Handsome Fee, Capt Jones will give You a More perticul[a]r Acct of all Circumstancis Relative to any evidences Capt Jones shall Want to take that are within your State you will give him such Directions and advices as you think most Consistent with the tenor of the Cause & if any Evidences should be taken near where you reside, if you will be at the Interrogations and then propose such Questions as shall be pertinent to the Justice of our Capture &c or any advices that shall be given to Mr Jones we shall be Obligated to you for the same – If you can Undertake for us be pleased to acquaint us of the same as soon as you Conveniently Can Which will Oblidge Your [&c.]

John Brown      Tho Greene

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN TOBY CAULFIELD <sup>1</sup>

February 1777      [Moor'd off Newport]  
 Thursday 6      Anchored here H.M.S. *Juno & unicorn*  
 Friday 7      ½ past 8 AM fir'd a Gun & made Sigl for a boat from each Ship  
                          to attend the punish[ment] of a Seaman ½ past 9 David  
                          Robertson Seaman received along side 150 Lashes according  
                          to the Sentence of a Court Martial for desertion.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1777

New-London, February 7.

A ship of War, supposed to be the *Niger*, of 36 Guns, has lain just within the West-End of Fisher's-Island, most of the Time since our last. On Monday she came to Sail, and the same Day drove a-shore on Narraganset-Beach a large Schooner, Prize to the *American-Revenue* Privateer, Capt. [Samuel] Champlin of this Port. The Schooner was from Ireland, bound to the West Indies, laden with Flour, Bread, Butter and other Provisions, and had two Bails of Linen on Board, which the Privateer took out.

After the prize was on shore several attempts were made by boats from the ship, to set her on fire, which they once effected; but it was soon extinguished by the vigilance of the inhabitants who collected on the occasion, and who drew to the shore several field pieces, with the help of which they preserved the Vessel, notwithstanding an incessant fire was kept up from the ship; which however did our people no damage. Several of the enemy, it is tho't, were killed. We hear the prize had 800 firkins of choice butter on board, about 200 firkins had been got on shore; and it was expected great part of the cargo would be saved.

The ship about the same time took a schooner, supposed to be bound in from the West-Indies, but we don't learn who she is.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN BRADFORD <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philadelphia Feby. 7th 1777

Your Letter of the 21 december & 17th January to the Marine Committee are with me and I have great pleasure in acknowledging on behalf of that Com-

mittee your Zeal and attention to the Public business. The tiding contained in those Letters was very Acceptable and I was particularly pleased with Captain [John Paul] Jone's's Success. By this Express I send him orders for an other Cruize, but by an expression in one of your Letters I imagine he or you have wrote to the Committee and proposed altering the Ship *Alfred*, that Letter must have passed through here without coming to my hands and the Committee have said nothing to me about it. Should they give any Orders that contradict mine let them be obeyed but if nothing contradictory, Captain Jones will abide by what I have wrote him. I have observed that you frequently did propose discharging those Vessels that were fitted out as Cruizers by General Washington and the Committee were always of your opinion but some how or other in the multiplicity of business and in their late confusion they omitted to give you orders Now Sir, as I know it was their desire to have those Vessels paid off and dismissed the service I will venture to authorize your doing it and shall send the Committee A Copy of this Letter which you may deem a proper authority: But as I have mentioned in another Letter your employing one of those Vessels to carry the dispatches to France, you must either keep that one in pay or buy her, which I should much prefer, and if any of the rest of them are good Vessels, suitable for Cruizers I should think it best to buy them and continue them in the service, especially as I suppose some of the Commanders and officers have merit to deserve a continuance in the service: but I am utterly against continuing them on hire and so I think are all the Committee. You may inform Mr [William] Turnbull that Altho the Congress wish by all means to procure the Public stores on the most reasonable terms possible, yet they cannot desire to injure One part of the Public service for the sake of another, and that the Honest Tars ought to have fair play in the sales of their Prizes. We don't wish to take any advantages of them but would chuse he would Gaurd against monopolizers, Forestallers and combinations of that Kind. If you can persuade Commodore Hopkins to give up his Guns you may, but I dont think the Committee will order it as there has already been some altercation on that subject.<sup>2</sup> On Behalf of the Marine Committee I am Sir [&c.]

Robert Morris V: P:

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 59-60, NA.

2. See Bradford to Marine and Secret Committees, December 21, 1776.

#### SAMUEL CHASE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen/

Baltimore Town. Feby 7th 1777.

The Marine Committee are very desirous, that the Tender of the *Defence* should be well manned, & under a bold active prudent officer, sent down with the Troops destined for Som[er]set & Worcester County. — Congress will afford every Assistance in their power to prevent any Communication between the Insurgents and the Men of War, and any plunder of our Islands or Coasts. it is earnestly wished and expected that our State will order every Vessel they have and can obtain on the same Duty. — I shall speak to Captain [George] Cook about his Tender. —

No Letters from General Washington The Post is not yet arrived. With Respect [&c.]

S Chase

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1777

Williamsburg, February 7.

Last Wednesday a flag came from the fleet at Willoughby's Point, towards Hampton, and was met by Captain [James] Barron, who received their dispatches and forwarded them to this city by express the same evening; they contain nothing more than a desire to exchange prisoners.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Badger*, LIEUTENANT CHARLES HOLMES EVERITT <sup>1</sup>

February 1777

Mounta Christe SWbS 6 Leagues

Friday 7th

At ½ past 6 A M discovered a Sail in the NE Quarter, made Sail, Fir'd Six Four Pounders & 3 Swivels Brought her too, sent the Boat on Board her, found her to be from New-London Bound to Cape Francois Laden with Lumber, Fish &c Took Possession of her, the Prize in Company.

P. M. 1 P M . . . bore away for Jamaica Prizes in Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/78.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO COUNT D'ARGOUT <sup>1</sup>

Copy)

Sir

Antigua 7th February 1777.

I have just received Your Excellency's Letter of the 2nd Instant,<sup>2</sup> Complaining that a French Brigantine called *Le Guillaume*, coming from Miquelon has been taken by an Armed Boat called the *Abraham*: one Gilbert Grant Commander, who had no Commission to Act in an Hostile manner, and has been carried into the Island of Dominica; I am very sorry to receive from any of his Brittanic Majesty's Friends and Allies: Complaint of such a Nature, as I totally disapprove and Disavow that any Vessels can legally Cruize on the High Seas, (to make Captures) even in the time of War, without being authorized by Commission from the Prince or State to which they belong: This Gilbert Grant I know not but am Concern'd to find that several other Armed Vessels, without any Commission to do so, are Cruizing in the like manner; having obtained an opinion from some of the Lawyers in this and the other Islands "that all His Brittannic Majesty's Subjects have a legal Right during the present open Rebellion to distress and annoy His Majesty's Enemies in any manner they can.[""]

Though I very much disapproved this Opinion and Measure, I did not interfere therein, so long as they only annoyed the Common Enemy; and I flattered myself they would not presume to meddle with any Vessels that did not belong to the American Rebels, or do any thing to occasion dispute between his most Christian Majesty's Governors and myself, with whom I have at all times endeavoured to keep up the most Friendly Correspondence; however since it appears from your

Excellency's representation they now begin to act offensively against the Friends and Allies of Great Britain: Be assured I will use every means in my power to prevent any more of them Cruizing on the High Seas, by ordering the King's Ships under my Command to make Capture of all such Armed Vessels as they can meet with at sea which are Cruizing for the purpose of taking Prizes and are not Commissioned to do so, and will also endeavour as far as I am able to prevent any of them hereafter to sail from this Island, I shall likewise request the Governors of the other English Islands to do the same in their respective Governments. As to the Vessel in Question: if the Circumstances of the case appear to be such as has been represented to Your Excellency, there can be no manner of doubt, but she will be cleared and restored by the Court of Admiralty at Dominica, and the Person to whom she belonged may recover ample Damages in the Courts of Law there.

In regard to the *St Guillaume* Captain David from St Domingo Your Excellency will perceive by the inclosed account given me by the Officer Commanding his Britannic Majesty's Armed Brigantine *Pelican* who Seized her that very few of the Circumstances appear as related in the Memorial Transmitted by your Excellency, and that the officer had great Reason to believe the Vessel called the *St Guillaume* was intended to be fitted out as an American Privateer; having many Guns and other Warlike Stores secreted on board, although the Master had declared her to be only in Ballast. as to the Matter of Bribing the Sailors on board to give false Evidence, I presume no Court of Justice in any Nation suffer such Practices: this Vessel will be Libelled and tryed in the Court of Vice Admiralty at Dominica, — where the Parties claiming property therein may be heard in defence thereof and will undoubtedly have strict Justice done them.

As such kind of Disputes may prove very disagreeable in their Consequence I shall send express to the Court of London a true and faithful Account of these matters and request such further Instructions and Authority as may fully enable me in future to prevent any Complaints of this Nature; and I hope in the mean time to preserve Inviolable that Friendship and good Faith with his Most Christian Majesty's Governors, which ought ever to exist between the Officers of Princes in Alliance.

After these Explanations your Excellency must permit me leave also, to make Complaint of the great Number of Privateers and Armed Vessels belonging to the American Rebels that are harboured in the French Islands, where they meet with every kind of Indulgence and protection, and are thereby enabled more Effectually to annoy the Trade of His Brittannic Majesty's Loyal and Faithful Subjects; and also obtain information of such Ships and Vessels as must unavoidably pass within sight of the French Islands: surely this cannot but be deemed breach of Neutrality, and there must be a great difference between protecting the harmless Trader, and the Armed Pirate: for I presume Your Excellency will agree with me that Subjects acting in open Rebellion against their Lawful Prince can only be considered in that light by reason they can have no Lawful Commission to authorize their proceedings: I flatter myself therefore Your Excellency will not

any longer permit the Rebel Privateers and Armed Vessels to be Harboured: Refitted and supplied with such Stores as they may want at any of the Islands under Your Government.

As Your Excellency is pleased to mention You shall order Reprisals to be made, should my Answer not prove definitive and Satisfactory: I must take leave to acquaint You. In that Case I shall Certainly use my utmost Endeavours to prevent any Injury being done to the Loyal Subjects of the King my Master –

I have the Honor to be &ca

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

His Excellency the Compte Dargout Governor General &ca Martinique  
[Endorsed] No 2 Copy of Letter to Compte Dargout in Answer to his Letter dated the 2d February 1777.

[Endorsed by the Admiralty] In V. A. Young's Letter Dated 9th March 1777 –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. An enclosure in Young's letter to the Admiralty, March 9, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE BY VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG <sup>1</sup>

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red &ca

Whereas, I have received a formal Complaint from His Excellency the Compte D'argout, His most Christian Majesty's Governor General &ca at Martinique; Setting forth that several Armed Vessels, belonging to the English Islands; without Commission, or any lawful Authority to Cruize and make Captures on the High Seas: have lately made it their Practice to Cruize about the French Islands, and thereby greatly annoyed the Lawful Trade of the same: by Firing at, Boarding, and otherwise Insulting the Trading Vessels belonging to His most Christian Majesty's Subjects: and that a French Brigantine called *Le Guillaume*, has been Piratically Seized by one of the above Described Armed Vessels, and Carried into the Island of Dominica.

In order therefore to put an immediate Stop to such daring and unlawful practices, and prevent the Possibility of any farther Complaints similar to the foregoing: I think it necessary To give this Public Notice, that I have ordered Captain Chapman of His Majesty's Sloop *Shark* to proceed immediately to St Johns Road, and there to lie a Guardship: and have directed him not to suffer any of the Armed Vessels called Privateers (intended to Cruise on the High Seas for the purpose of making Captures[]) to sail from St Johns Harbour; and that I shall also give Orders to the Kings Ships under my Command, to make Capture of all such Armed Vessels, having no Commission as they may find Cruizing on the High Seas for the purpose of making Capture of any Vessel whatever.

Dated at English Harbour Antigua 7th Feby 1777

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN JOHN CHAPMAN, H.M. SLOOP *Shark* <sup>1</sup>

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red

Whereas I have received Complaint from Compte D'argout: Governor General of Martinico; Setting forth that several Armed Vessels belonging to the

English Islands without Commission, or any Lawful Authority to Cruize and make Captures on the High Seas; have lately made a Practice to Cruize about the French Islands, and thereby greatly annoy'd the lawful Trade of the same; by firing at, boarding and otherwise Insulting the Trading Vessels belonging to the French King's Subjects: and that a French Brigantine called The *Guillaume* has been Piratically Seized by one of the above described Armed Vessels and carried into Dominica.

You are therefore required and directed (in addition to my Order to you of the 6th Instant) to prevent any of the aforesaid illegal Arm'd Vessels to sail from St Johns Road Antigua during the time You remain there in His Majesty's Sloop *Shark*: for which this shall be Your Order.

Given &ca at English Harbour Antigua

7th February 1777

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

### 8 Feb.

#### WILLIAM FROST TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

May it please your Honors;

Falmo Feby. 8th 1777

pursuant to your Directions I have tried to get a Capt for the Ship – and conversed with Capt Stone, (the bearer hereof, whom I beg leave to recomend to your Honours as a Gentleman of Fidelity & Dispatch, and suitable for the Command of the Ship) he wants to know whether, if the Ship is taken; the Wages should be forfeited, or continue 'till he returns home, also whether she is to be sold when she Arrives at France or Spain. –

In the memo given Me – the Wages stands. Capt ten pounds P Mo, a Priviledge of ten hhds chief Mate Eight pounds P Mo & a Gratuity of fifty Pounds in lieu of Comms & 3/4 LM. P Day in Port abroad. Hands from 16 to 20 Dolls P Mo

He supposes it was defined that the Gratuity of 50 £ & 3/4 P Day, should be annexed to the ten hhds priviledge for the Captain – I am afraid I shall meet with greater Dificulties in procuring Seamen, than the Loading for the Ship – 'tho the latter will be hard, unless We shall have more Snow then there is at present – for fear it may be forgotten, I would mention to your Honours, (as necessary in loading the Ship) 2 Canting Dogs with Rings, 2 or 3 Iron Crows & 2 halling Dogs.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 46–47, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

#### MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

War Office,

Boston Feby 8th 1777

To the Honble The Council & House of Representatives of the State of New-Hampshire. –

May it please your Honors –

The General Assembly of this State having impower'd the Board of War

amongst other Business, to fit out a Number of Ships &c. for supplies of Cloathing & Military Stores for the approaching Spring, – The Board have in consequence thereof purchas'd of Mr William Dennie the Ship *Bunker-Hill* & her Cargo, John Clark Master, in your State, and as the Vessels fitted out by this State were excepted in the several prohibitions, – We pray your Honors to give immediate orders to the proper Officers, for the Permission of said Ship & Cargo to proceed to Sea, any prohibition or Embargo notwithstanding. –

By order & in Behalf of the Board of War  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Phips Savage, Prest

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 35, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Feb 8 – 1777

I have had a Complaint from some Officers & a number of the *Alfred's* People who Capt. [John Paul] Jones has discharged that he would not give them their Wages without their first Signing a power to him to be their Agent – If that is true it is a practice not to be Justified and I desire you will take no Notice of any power Extorted in that manner as such practices will greatly discourage People from Entering into the Service – and I believe Some of them Since has given the Agent here a power – and he has advanc'd some for them to Encourage to go into the Service again I am Sir [&c.]

E H

1. Hopkins Papers, vol. 2, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Centurion*, CAPTAIN RICHARD BRATHWAITE <sup>1</sup>

February 1777

Moored between Prudence & Rhode Island.

Friday 7

AM . . . passed by a Cartel from Providence for Newport.  
Fresh Gales & Cloudy Wr.

P M Sent the Galley armed with a Mo[r]ter in her to the  
*Diamond* . . . at 10 heard several Vollies of small Shot from  
the NNE.

Saturday 8

AM the Galley ret'd with the Carriage of her prow Gun Disabled. She having thrown a Charge of Round & Grape into  
Bristol Carpenters emp'd cutting a piece of Timber to repair  
the Galley.

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy with Rain in the first & middle  
parts P M Saw the Cartel return from [*sic* to] Providence.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1777.

"A LIST OF PRISONERS DISCHARGED FROM HIS MAJS SHIP THE *Unicorn*, INTO THE  
CARTEL SLOOP P ORDER OF COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER THE 8TH FEBY  
1777" <sup>1</sup>

1777

Jany

15. <i>Savage</i> Sloop	Nathl Atkins Master	
	Edward Barbar	Seaman
	Jno Archer	Do
	Wm Simonton	Do
15. <i>Smack</i> Schooner	Jno Leighton Master.	
	Jona Turtle	Seaman
	Joseph Berry	Do
	Jos. Fletcher	Do
	Jno Diamond	Do Negro
16. <i>Abigail</i> Schooner	Harman Atwood Master	
	Elisha Higgins Mate	
	Edwd Baker	Seaman
	Jedh Baxter	do
	Elisha Baker	do
19. <i>William</i> Sloop	Peter Buntager Master	
	Jona Beecher	Seaman
	Elihu Mouldrop	do
	Wm M Leod	do
	Wm Woods	do
	Thos Slicer	do
	Chas Pierce	do
	Parsone Clarke	do
	Jes: Ant: Resseau	do
		J <sup>no</sup> Ford
		No
Feby 8t } 1777 }	To Ballance due from Americans }	28
	P Capt [John] Ayres's Ballance }	65
	To deliver'd to Mr Clarke	93
		93
	By recd from Mr Clarke & }	70
	Mr Jno Haven }	23
	By due from Americans	93
Newport 8t Febry 1777		93

M Read Secty

1. Council of War Papers, Exchange of Prisoners and Miscellaneous Papers 1775-1781, R. I. Arch.

LIEUTENANT HENRY BILLINGS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Norwich 8th Feby 1777

May it Please your Excellency

This Comes to acknowledge my Gratitude to your Excellency for the honour and favours you have Confered on me in giving me a Lieuts Commission to Sarve on board the Armd Brig *Defence* – Notwithstanding your excellency has twice given me a Commission much to my honour – yet I have one more favour to Supplicate your Excellency for which is to except of my Commissions again (which now Inclose) and for no other Reason than that I am offered the Command of a Burmudian Built Sloop fixing out as a Privateer <sup>2</sup> – and I think to do Justice to myself & famaly I must except of the offer I am with esteem your Excellencys [&c.]

Henry Billings

[Endorsed] 8th Feby 1777 Lt Henry Billings resigning His Coms enclosed – recd idem Blank sent to Mr Shaw to fill the Place

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, vol. 6, 33a, ConnSL.

2. Billings took command of the ten gun Connecticut privateer sloop *Trumbull*, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, XV, 49, NA.GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Lebanon, Feby 8. 1777.

I wrote you yesterday relative to Seamen Prisoners sinch [*sic*] which Henry Billings 2d Lieut on board the Briga *Defence* has sent his desire to be released from that command on account of Superior Command offered him on board another vessel. As no time is to be lost in forwarding said Brige on a cruise, and suppose nothing else will delay her sailing but the appointment of a proper person to act in Lieu of Lieut Billings, and relying on your good Judgement in finding a proper person to fill that Department have inclosed a Blank Warrant for you with advice of Capt [Samuel] Smedley to fill up the warrant and deliver the same to the person you shall employ.

Trust nothing will be wanting on your part to make every necessary provision for the Briga that she may sail the first proper opportunity. Remain your [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Shaw Mss., Force Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M. GALLEY *Dependence*, LIEUTENANT JAMES CLARK <sup>1</sup>

Feby 1777

Spiting Devil Creek SSE 2 Miles

Saturday 8

At 7 AM Weigh'd and row'd up the river in Company the *George* Sloop at 9 A. M. Discover'd 5 Reb[el] Boats Crossing the river full of Arm'd Men fir[e]d 4 thirty two Pounders at them with round and Grape to bring them too Seeing they Could not Escape us they row'd in for the Jersey Shore and hauld their Boats up Do sent Our Boat and *Georges* Mann'd and Arm'd to Destroy them at 11 AM the Boats Retd havg

Completed what they were Sent for having One Man Wounded.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4159.

LIEUTENANT JAMES JOSIAH'S ACCOUNT OF HIS TREATMENT AS A PRISONER OF WAR <sup>1</sup>

A just account of the treatment which Mr. Josiah, first Lieut. of the Continental brig *And. Doria*, received while a prisoner.

He was taken on the sixth day of June last, by the *Cerberus* man of war, Capt. Simmons [John Symons], and confined six months, during her cruise. — Upon his first coming on board he was insulted with the name of rebel, and threatened that the yard-arm should be his portion, if he did not directly enter and take a mate's birth. This he refused, and was damned for a rascal, and was ordered immediately to the main deck, where the boatswain and his three mates were charged to see him perform the meanest duty in the waist of the ship. The Captain was determined to see this done himself — As he would not engage to fight against his country and friends, the Captain ordered that he should be placed in the boats during an engagement. He requested only to have the privilege of walking the forecastle during an action, as he would choose a walking posture rather than be still to be shot at — this was granted. It has frequently happened that masters of vessels were rifled by the British officers of what was in their chests, and insulted and kicked from the quarter-deck for asking the liberty of bringing their necessaries, which were left behind in their vessels. The only satisfaction they could obtain was to be ordered directly to a gun. Lieut. Ball of the *Roebuck*, who was exchanged for Mr. Josiah, had returned ten days or a fortnight to the prison-ship at New-York, before he (Mr. Josiah) was suffered to depart, and then was put on shore at Connecticut without a pass, although he had petitioned for liberty to land in Jersey, on his way to Philadelphia.

James Josiah.

Philadelphia ss. On the eighth day of February 1777, before me James Young, Esq; one of the Justices of the Peace, &c. personally came and appeared James Josiah, and being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, did declare, depose, and say, that the foregoing account, by him subscribed, is just and true in every respect, and farther this deponent saith not.

James Josiah.

Sworn before me the day and year aforesaid. Witness my hand and seal,  
James Young.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 29, 1777.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 8, 1777." <sup>1</sup>

A Letter of Marque Brig belonging to this Port, is just arrived here with a valuable Prize. She is a Brig laden with a large Quantity of excellent Rum, consigned to General Howe.<sup>2</sup>

1. *Maryland Journal*, February 11, 1777.

2. Brigantine *Anne* taken by Michael Bastow commanding the letter of marque *Industry*.  
*Pennsylvania Packet*, February 11, 1777.

COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis, February 8, 1777]

The Committee to whose Consideration the manner of disposing of the Sloop and Cargo drifted on Shore from Lord Dunmores Fleet, taken by a party of the Militia of Saint Marys County under the Command of Major Price, was submitted having had the same under their Consideration.

Do Report, That they have not been able to find any Resolve of Congress which directs how such Captures should be disposed off or what Share thereof should be allotted to the Captore.

That they are of opinion, a Libell should be Exhibited against the said Vessel and her Cargo in the Court of Admiralty of this State: and that if there shou'd be a Condemnation, the said Vessell and her Cargo should be exposed to public Sale by Commissioners to be appointed by the Convention, or in Recess thereof – by the Council of Safety, and the Money arising from such Sale to be lodged in the Treasury of this State, for the use of the public; and that all other Vessells which shall be taken by the Land forces in the pay of this State, ought to be disposed off in the like manner. All which your Committee beg leave to submit to the House –

Signed by order of the Committee

Nick Harwood Clk

1. Assembly Papers, Resolve of House of Delegates, February 8, 1777, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Saturday, February 8th 1777.

On Motion, Resolved, That it is the opinion of this House that the Council of Safety be directed to send immediately two Armed Cutters to Cruise between Cape Hatteras and Chinkoteague Inlet, for the purpose of Giving early intelligence to all Vessels bound to this State of the Ships of War now Stationed in this Bay; and that the Commander of each Cutter upon producing a Certificate (in which the Tonnage of the Vessel shall be specified) signed by the Captain of any inward bound Vessel, and making Oath that the said Certificate was fairly obtained, that he has actually received such information shall be entitled to receive of this State at the Rate of One Shilling per Ton for every Vessel not exceeding One hundred Tons and for every Vessel upwards of one hundred Tons, Seven pounds Ten Shillings, exclusive of his ordinary Wages, as a reward and Encouragement for his activity in the Service.

1. House of Delegates Journal, 1777, 9–11, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO SAMUEL CHASE, BALTIMORE <sup>1</sup>

No 152

Sir We have ordered Capt Cook to give every assistance that the Congress or Marine Committee may require. And also Orderd the Schooner *Dolphin* now at Annapolis. A Row Galley and an Armd Vessell at Mr [Stephen] Stewards yard to be immediately Got ready and expect them at Annapolis on Tuesday [February 11]. You may Speak to Captain Walker <sup>2</sup> for assistance, but we fear his Galley cannot be got ready in time, but he may Spare some Men. Enclosed

you have a Copy of a report from the Conferees from the Senate & Assembly which will Show what they deem the Force to be that is Ordered by the Honble Congress & Council of Safety to quell the Insurgents in Somerset & Worcester Counties. We are [&c.]

[Annapolis] Feby 8th 1777 –

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.
2. Thomas Walker commanded the galley *Baltimore*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

In Council of Safety

Sir,

Annapolis Feby 8th 1777. –

An unhappy Affair has lately happened in Martinico by the Imprudence of Captn [William] Patterson in a Small Privateer from this State; – he, contrary to the Law of Nations, having taken an English Vessel, under a Flag of Truce, within a Small distance of that Island; to Make Satisfaction for which outrage, the Continental, and our Agent there, have been obliged to give their Bond for the Payment of the Vessel and Cargo So Seised, within three Months, from the Date thereof. –

We therefore desire you'll remit to those Agents the Sum of fifteen hundred Pounds continental Currency; if in your Power, or take other necessary Steps to enable them to pay that Sum within the Time limited, and charge the Same to this State. We are Sir [&c.]

By order Dan of S Tho<sup>s</sup> Jenifer Prest

1. FDRL.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO RICHARD HARRISON, MARYLAND AGENT IN MARTINIQUE <sup>1</sup>

No 153

Sir Your favor of the 8th Decemr came to our hands, and we are very sorry to be informed thereby of the extreem Indiscretion of Capt Pattison [William Patterson] who is now under an Arrest to be examined by the proper Powers of the State, the Result of which will be communicated to you hereafter. We have now several Vessels ready to send to you which upon their Arrival will we hope enable you to discharge the several Sums due from you on our Account, but when they will depart from hence is uncertain as there are a Number of Brittish Ships of War in our Bay, however we have given Orders to Mr [Robert] Morris of Phila to remit you the Sum of fifteen Hundred Pounds to enable you to pay the Debt you & Mr [William] Bingham have incurred on Account of Capt Pattison whose Imprudence we trust will not be productive of any Inconveniences or ill Consequences to any of the United States, at the Same Time we assure you we highly disapprove of this Conduct of Capt Pattison and rely on your making a proper Representation of our sentiments on this Subject to the General & Governor of Martinico. We are [&c.]

[Annapolis] Feby 8. 1777 –

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Caroline, February 8, 1777

... It seems we have 7 men of War in Our bay, who have been hitherto tolerably civil; a Vessell loaded with Blankets luckily escaped them and it got up York River. We have an Account that one of our Vessels sent out on a trading Voiage on Public Account, is taken off St. Kitts, by whom or whither carried, I have not heard. . . .

1. David John Mays, ed., *The Letters and Papers of Edmund Pendleton, 1734-1803* (Charlottesville, 1967), I, 205.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN JOHN CALVERT, GALLEY *Norfolk Revenge* <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

The Commissioners of the Navy have this day sent orders to the *Protector Safeguard* and the two Rappahannock Gallies directing them not to join You but to cruise in the following manner to wit, the *Protector* in the Wicomico, the *Safeguard* about the mouth of Potowmack, and the two Rappahannock Gallies <sup>2</sup> about the mouth of Rappahannock, and to annoy the Enemy, protect and defend the trading Vessels all in their power and also to bring too all Boats to prevent the Negroes going on board the Enemies Vessels – shou'd the abovemention'd Gallies or either of them join you before the abovesaid Orders reach them you are desir'd to send them back and give them orders to cruise as above. You are to keep with You the *Henry* and *Hero* Gallies and observe the orders you last receiv'd from this Board. –

(Signed) John Hutchings 1st Comr

[Williamsburg] 8th Feb. 1777 –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. The two Rappahannock galleys were the *Page*, Captain James Markham, and the *Lewis*, Captain Celey Saunders.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS <sup>1</sup>

February 1777

Cape Fear Shoal NEbEt 11 Legues

Thursday 6

at 5 A M got T: G: yds across at 8 out Ref TPs, 11 saw a strange Sl in NW Qr Made sail & gave chase  
Fresh breezes & Squally at 1 pm fired 3 nine poundrs to bring too the chase 1/2 pt fd her to be a Sloop from Charlestown bd to Philadelphia loaden with rice & indigo, sent an officer & Men on bd her

Friday 7

1/2 past 8 AM saw a sl ahead gave chase out all Refs & Carry'd the Mn T: G: yd away in the Slings, Carprs Empd making a new one, fired 3 Nine prs to bring too the Chace 10 Carry'd away the Starbd F: M: studg sl Boom 1/2 past br too the Chace sent an officer on bd her fd her to be a schooner from Santa Croix bd to St Pierre Split Fr: Topmt Studg yd lost most part of it

Fresh breezes & Cr at 1 pm saw 2 Sl to the SW. gave Chace at 4 Mod: fired 2 Guns for the Convoy to come under our stern, fird 2 Gs to bring too the Chace 1/2 past findg we could not come up with the Chace down Studg sls & Shortned sl at 7 fired 4 Gs & made the Sigl for the Convoy to bring too on the Larbd Tack,

Saturday 8th 1/2 past 5 AM saw a strange Sl gave Chace found her to be a Brig from St Eustatia bd to Charlestown, 1/2 past 7 gave chace to another Sl to the Wt ward gave chace 1/2 pt 8 fired a shot at her, at 9 br her too<sup>2</sup> at 10 fired 2 Gs a Sigl for the Convoy to bear down bt too occasionally from 10 to 11. bt too Exchang'd Prisoners at 11 made sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.

2. The prizes in the order of their capture were: sloop *Speedwell*, E. Rudolph, master; schooner *Hope*, T. Cunningham; brig *Fortune*, Joseph Towner, and schooner *Little Dick*, Joseph Evans, master. Prizes were sent into Jamaica and St. Augustine, except *Little Dick* which was lost on the Nassau bar, Howe's Prize List to October 24, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/488.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, LIEUTENANT JAMES COTES<sup>1</sup>

February 1777 Anchd at Turks Island

Saturday 8 AM at 9 Came in & Anchored here a Schooner and a Sloop from Bermudas, the Schooner belonging to Charles Town sent 2 hands on board to take Charge of her<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Schooner *Nancy*; Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Hind*, CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE<sup>1</sup>

Feby 1777 Sandy point SBE 3 or 4 Miles

Saturday 8 A M spoke to the Tendr who had detained at Sandy pt an Antigua Privateer bore up for Do at 2 P M Came too in Sandy Point Exchanged hands the Sloop having 30 men & 8 Guns. at 6 Weighd & came to Sail in Co the three Privateer Prizes<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/457.

2. Three of the illegal "privateers" operating out of British West Indian ports. They were giving Vice Admiral Young much concern.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Camilla*, CAPTAIN CHARLES PHIPPS<sup>1</sup>

February 1777 Antigua S21° Et Distance 217 Leagues

Saturday 8th at 7 AM saw a Sail to the Eastwd made Sail and gave Chace at noon in Company as above. at 9 PM fired a 9 Pounder & burnt a false fire a Signal to the *Perseus* at 10 brought too and spoke the *Perseus* the Chace proved to be the *Mackeral* Transport from Cork for New York

laden with Provision taken by the *Notre Dame* a privateer<sup>2</sup> –  
Sent a petty Officer and 7 Men on board her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/157.

2. The South Carolina state brig *Notre Dame*, Captain Robert Cochran, returning from France, *South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, February 20, 1777.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN THOMAS DUMARESQ,  
H.M.S. *Portland*<sup>1</sup>

Copy)

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red &ca

You are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith to sea in His Majesty's Ship *Portland*, under Your Command to the Latitude of 20° North, and Longitude from 58° to 61° West; and there Cruize to intercept and make Capture of any Privateers, Armed Vessels or Trading Vessels belonging to the American Rebels you can meet with, pursuant to the General Orders you have already received from me concerning them and should you fall in with any Convoy from England or Ireland &ca for these Islands and you think it necessary for their safety you are to accompany and Protect them so far as may be needful; and then return back to the abovenamed Latitude, extending the Longitude as you may obtain Intelligence, or order more effectually to annoy the Rebels: You are to continue on this Service 'till the 10th Day of March next, and then call at Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica, to compleat the *Portlands* Wood and Water; and afterwards return and join me in English Harbour Antigua. Should You happen to fall in (during your Cruize) with any of the American Squadron, coming to this Island to Clean and Refit you are to acquaint their Captains it is my directions that they call at Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica, and compleat their Wood and Water before they proceed to this Island: for which this shall be Your order

Given &ca at English Harbour Antigua  
the 8th February 1777.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

By Command of the Admiral

Geo Lawford

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN JAMES JONES, H.M. SLOOP  
*Beaver*<sup>1</sup>

Copy)

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red &ca

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed in his Majesty's Sloop *Beaver*, under Your Command, to the Road at the Island of St Christophers, and there Compleat the *Beavers* Water; and the moment that is done proceed and Cruize among the Leeward Charibbee Islands Vizt off St Eustatia St Martins, St Bartholomew, and St Croix, and use Your best endeavours to intercept and make Capture of all Ships and Vessels belonging to, or owned by any of the Inhabitants of the associated Colonies in North America, now in Rebellion and of all other Ships and Vessels belonging to, or owned by any of the Inhabitants of the Associated Colonies in North America, now in Rebellion; and of all other Ships and Vessels whatsoever, that You may meet with either

going to Trade, or coming from Trading, with any of the aforesaid Associated Colonies; taking care Strictly to Comply with the General Orders you have already received from me concerning them.

And Whereas I have received Information that several Arm'd Vessels and Privateers belonging to the said Rebellious American Colonies are now Cruizing in these Seas, to annoy and make Capture of the Trading Vessels and property of his Majesty's Loyal and Faithful Subjects: You are hereby directed to use Your utmost Endeavours to take, sink, burn, or otherwise destroy all such Armed Vessels and Privateers belonging to the Rebels, as you can meet with at Sea; but are not to attack them in the Bays, Harbours, or Roads of any of the Islands belonging to the European Powers in Amity with Great Britain whilst under the protection of their Forts: You are to remain on this Service 'till the Expiration of six Weeks, and then (having Compleated the *Beavers Water*) return and join me in English Harbour Antigua; for which this shall be Your order

Given &ca at English Harbour Antigua  
the 8th February 1777.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

By Command of the Admiral

Geo Lawford

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAINS OF THE LEEWARD ISLAND SQUADRON <sup>1</sup>

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of  
the Red &ca &ca

Whereas I have received Complaint from Compte D'argout Governor General of Martinico setting forth that several Armed Vessels belonging to the English Islands without Commission, or any Lawful Authority to Cruize and make Captures on the High Seas, have lately made a Practice to Cruize about the French Islands and thereby greatly annoy'd the Lawful Trade of the same, by firing at, boarding and otherwise Insulting the Trading Vessels belonging to the French King's Subjects and that a French Brigantine called the *Guillaume* has been Piratically Seized by one of the above described Arm'd Vessels and carried into Dominica and as I think it absolutely necessary to put an immediate Stop to such daring and unlawful Practices.

You are hereby required and Directed to Seize all such Armed Vessels having no Commission, as you may find Cruizing on the High Seas for the purpose of making Capture of any Vessel whatever and are to take on board His Majesty's Ship under your Command all the Hands (except the Master and Mate) which you may find on board such Armed Vessel Cruizing as aforesaid, putting on board her from the *Portland* as many Men as are sufficient to Navigate her to English Harbour where You are to send her, to be further proceeded against, for which this shall be Your Order

Given &ca at English Harbour the 8th  
February 1777.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

To The Respective Captains of His Majesty's Ships *Portland*, *Seaford*, *Hind*, *Perseus*, and Sloops *Beaver*, *Hawke* and *Fly*.

[Endorsed] No 6: Copy of Vice Adml Youngs Advertisement; and Orders given to the Kings Ships to Seize the private Cruizers acting without Commission [Second endorsement] In V. A. Young's Letter Dated 8th, March 1777.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

### 9 Feb. (Sunday)

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN EZEKIEL BURROUGHS <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Providence Feby 9th 1777 –

You are hereby directed to go onboard the *Hamden* [*Hampden*] and take Charge of her as Captain; and proceed on a Cruize as soon as you can get your Men onboard, and Cruize for Store Ships bound to the Army of his Britannick Majesty – If you take any Prizes which you may not think worth while to send into port, you are to first take the Men out, and then destroy such prizes and what Prizes you may take which you think worth Sending to port, I advise you to Send to Virginia or the Carolinas, directed to the Continental Agents and when you have Weaken'd your Brig So as not to be able to Cruize, you may put in to one of the ports where you Send your prizes – and get your men and Such Stores as you may Want, and then Cruize as before directed, as long as you can keep your Vessel in Order fitt for the Service –

You are to follow such Orders as you may receive from the honble Marine Board, or from me or any other of your Commanding Officers –

You are to acquaint Me, and the honbl Marine Board of your Circumstances by all Opportunitys, and apply to the Continental Agent for what Money or Stores you may Want for the Service – I am [&c.]

E H Cmmr in Chief <sup>2</sup>

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Similar orders were issued this date to Captain Joseph Olney, Continental brig *Cabot*, Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN ELISHA HINMAN <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence Feby 9th 1777

I receiv'd yours, and have Inclosed you Mr [Peter] Richards Commission <sup>2</sup> and Mr Edward Revelys Warrant for Master of *Alfred* – the Lieutenant of Marines Commission I have not Sent as I don't know at present where Lieutt [William] Hamilton is placed.

Should be glad you will use all your Skill and Industry to get the *Alfred* fit to proceed on a Cruize as soon as possible – I am Sir [&c.]

E H –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. To be first lieutenant of the *Alfred*.