

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 11

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1778–Mar. 31, 1778
EUROPEAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1778–Mar. 31, 1778**

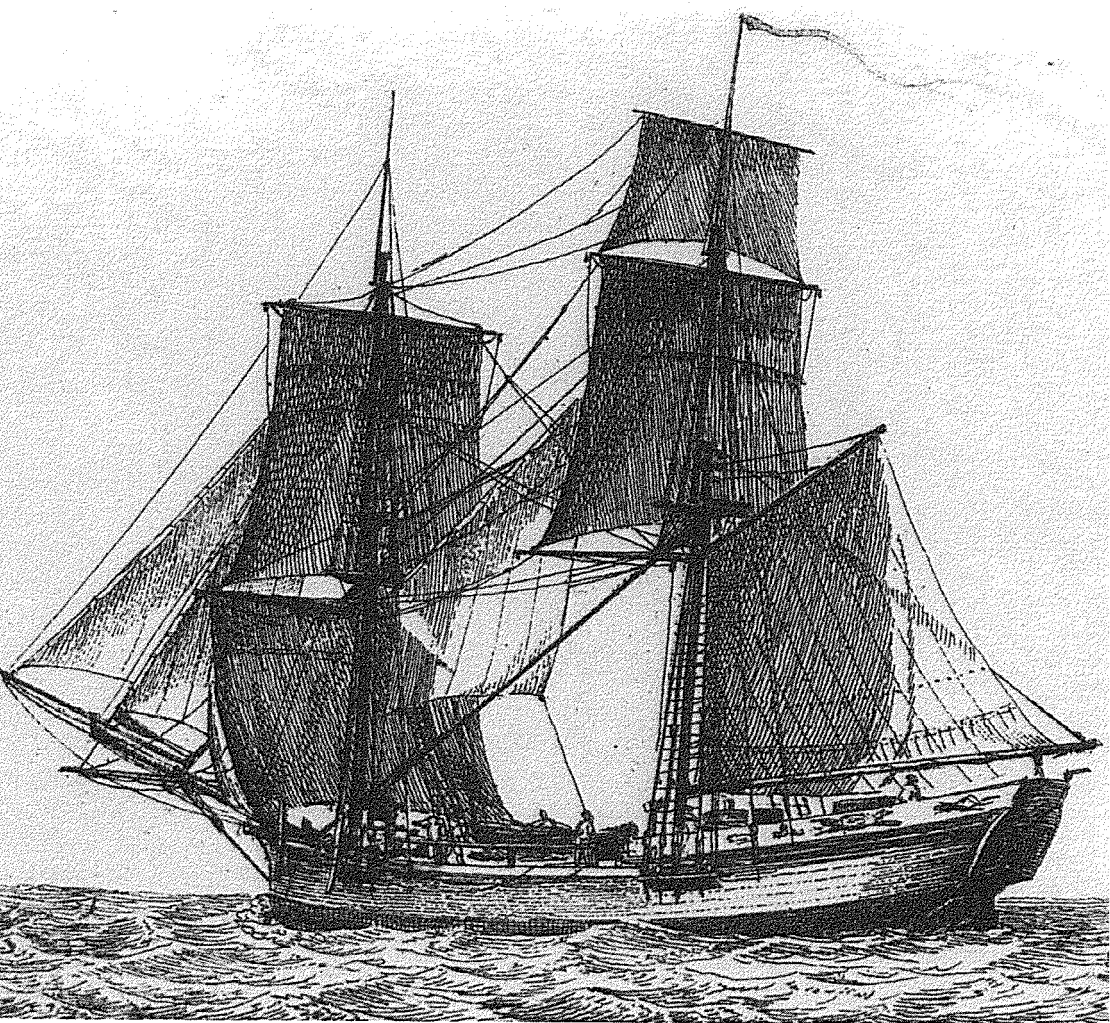
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EUROPEAN THEATER
From January 1 to March 31, 1778



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SUMMARY

From all appearances as the year 1778 began, it would not be long before France entered the American War of Independence. British movements toward reconciliation with their rebellious colonies acted as a goad to the French to hasten their entering an alliance with the United States; naval preparations at Brest and Toulon proceeded apace; and the French ministry had promised a naval escort to convoy safely to sea a number of ships laden with munitions for America, assembling at Nantes. British intelligence of the convoy increased the likelihood of a confrontation between British Navy cruisers and the French warships providing the protection.

The British ministry early in the year determined that the damage done to the British cause by shipments of war supplies from Europe to the Continental Army outweighed the danger of pushing the French into a declaration of war. The Admiralty issued secret orders that all vessels suspected of carrying aid to the rebels were to be stopped, even if escorted by French naval ships. At the end of January, H.M.S. *Hector* seized the French merchant ship *Thamas Koulikan* in the Bay of Biscay on suspicion of carrying munitions intended for the rebels in America.

John Thornton, whom the American Commissioners in France commissioned late in 1777 to investigate the conditions of captured American sailors held as prisoners in Britain, visited the prisons of Forton and Mill and made a report. In the meantime, under the patronage of Lord Abingdon, philanthropic Britons raised a subscription to improve the prisoners' living conditions. British officials allowed the visits of the American agent and the delivery of private aid, but still refused to negotiate a prisoner exchange.

In mid-February Parliament adopted conciliatory bills proposed by Lord North by which Parliament offered to forsake its right to tax the American colonies. A new commission, eventually to be known as the Carlisle Commission, was to be sent to America to negotiate peace on the basis of that offer. In early March, in the wake of a parliamentary inquiry into the damage the American war was causing to seaborne trade, Lord George Germain sent orders for the coming season's campaign to Sir Henry Clinton, who took over Sir William Howe's command in America on the latter's resignation. Barring the likelihood of a decisive engagement with the Continental Army, the British Army was to forego offensive operations on land and engage in amphibious operations along the northern seacoast. Clinton's objective would be destruction of the rebellious Americans' capacity for "raising a Marine, or continuing their Depredations upon the Trade of this Kingdom, which has been already so much annoyed by their Ships of War and Privateers." In the autumn, British operations were to move to the south, with the goal of taking possession of Georgia and South Carolina.

On 6 February an event took place at Versailles that pressed the seal of futility on British efforts at reconciliation and required a complete revision of British campaign plans. On that day the American Commissioners and representatives of the French King signed two treaties, a commercial treaty to last for thirty years, and a military alliance. A week following the signing, Captain John Paul Jones of the Continental Navy ship *Ranger* exchanged gun salutes with a French squadron in Quiberon Bay, France's first formal public recognition of the American flag.

The American munitions convoy finally departed Quiberon Bay on 26 February. With them sailed the new Continental Navy frigate *Deane* and the purchased Continental Navy frigate *Queen of France*. A French squadron under Chef d'Escadre La Motte-Picquet escorted the convoy well into the Atlantic before returning to Brest without incident.

At Nantes, John Paul Jones changed *Ranger's* ballast and reduced the ship's masts and spars to improve her sailing qualities, while he lobbied for a larger and faster ship. He planned some bold exploit under cruising orders from the American Commissioners that gave him wide discretion in his choice of means to harass the British.

American privateering activity off the Spanish coast declined sharply during the winter of 1777–1778. The taking of neutral vessels by Americans incurred the displeasure of the Spanish crown, and, along with strong British diplomatic protests, led to the expulsion of many privateers. With the growing presence of British warships, most American privateers left Spanish waters looking for a safer way to make a profit.

Captain Gustavus Conyngham, in command of the Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*, remained active on the Spanish coast, capturing six vessels during the first three months of 1778. Although Conyngham received aid from officials and merchants in El Ferrol and Bilbao, two festering issues made it increasingly difficult for him to operate out of the northern ports. First, Spanish officials continued the imprisonment of the prize crew of the *Britannia*, prize to Massachusetts privateer *Hawke*, because of the prize master's false declaration concerning *Britannia's* ownership. Second, when Conyngham seized British goods on board a French ship destined for the Spanish market, Spanish protests moved the American Ministers in France to reprimand the *Revenge's* captain and declare support for the continental European policy that "free ships make free goods." As their government was not yet ready to join France in a war with Britain, Spanish officials bowed to British diplomatic pressure by expelling Conyngham from their ports. Leaving northern Spain in early March, Conyngham quickly took five prizes and put into Cadiz for repairs and provisions, receiving a warm welcome despite official policy.

After the signing of the Franco-American treaties, Louis XVI ordered completion of the fitting out and manning of the fleets at Brest, under Comte d'Orvilliers, and Toulon, under Comte d'Estaing. First Lord of the British Admiralty Lord Sandwich feared a junction of the Toulon squadron with that at Brest that would portend an invasion of Great Britain, while Lord Stormont, the British ambassador in Paris, surmised that the Toulon squadron was to be ordered to the East Indies. D'Estaing's true destination was the coast of North America. The French ministry believed that a French naval squadron operating in North American waters would bolster American will to continue the struggle with Britain as well as support French war aims, especially the protection of their West Indian possessions.

The break of relations between Great Britain and France finally came on 13 March when the Marquis de Noailles, the French ambassador in London, informed the British ministry of French recognition of American independence. At once both Stormont and Noailles were recalled from their respective posts.

George III's cabinet responded to the impending entry of France into the war by issuing Sir Henry Clinton new instructions. Reconquest of the rebellious colonies on the continent of North America was now to be of subsidiary importance to the protection of the Crown's Caribbean possessions. The British Army was to abandon Philadelphia and to seize St. Lucia, in the French West Indies. Vice Admiral Viscount Howe also received new instructions. He was to detach a squadron to support the army's conquest of St. Lucia and to return some twenty frigates and sloops to assist in the defense of the British Isles.

The composition of the American Commissioners in France changed in March. Silas Deane boarded a French warship for America, and to take his place John Adams arrived at Bordeaux on the last day of the month, having crossed the Atlantic on board the Continental Navy frigate *Boston*.

Events in Europe during the first three months of 1778 brought about a fundamental change in the nature of the American war. French recognition of the independence of the United States pointed the way ineluctably to the merging of the War of Independence with a world war.

January 1

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth*]

Janu^y 1st. 1778 Thursday raw cold wth Rec^d. for New Years day for Each Mess a plum Pudding & a Six penny Loaf as a Present from M^r Heath & his Parish & by him we Learn that there is a Subscription raising for the relief of the American Prisoners confined in England. ! Blessed News to a Starving People.¹

Our Friends in London have Employ'd a Gent^{lⁿ}. to Come down in Order to see & Inspect into Our treatment & Provisions, & Cap^t H^y Johnson & M^r Shoemaker² went into offices to Inform him of the particulars

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. On the subscription for the relief of the American prisoners, see Almon's *Remembrancer*, at 8 Jan., below, and Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 83–84. Deacon Robert Heath (1741–1800), merchant of Plymouth Dock and deacon at the Calvinist Methodist Plymouth Tabernacle, had begun visiting and dispensing aid to the prisoners at Mill Prison by the autumn of 1777. Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 79–83, and Sheldon S. Cohen, "The Preachers and the Prisoners," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 126 (Jan. 1990, No. 1): 1–26.

2. Capt. Henry Johnson, Continental Navy, and Anthony Shoemaker.

SILAS DEANE TO CONRAD-ALEXANDRE GÉRARD

[*Paris, ca. 1 Jan. 1778*]

Sir,

You did me the honor to promise a Letter to M^r Chaumont as soon as a determination should be taken, respecting the Convoy.¹ as no Letter has been received

conclude that it is still undetermined. M^r Chaumont has authentic Advice, that Four or Five sail of English Men of War, are actually at Anchor, in the Road of Belle Isle, waiting undoubtedly to intercept Our Vessels, in this Situation of Affairs it is impossible to put to Sea, without being taken, unless protected by the French Flag—We have therefore prayed M^r Chaumont, to wait on You, and to learn what is the final determination, on this Subject, as it is certain, very wrong information has been giv'n. I have the honor of inclosing to you a Copy of Our Commission Authenticated, on the other Subject it may be more proper, that We should explain Ourselves in a personal Conference than by Letter, which we wish to have an Opportunity of doing as early as may be agreeable—I most sincerely wish you a happy New Year & have the honor to remain [&c.]

Silas Deane

Stevens's Facsimiles, vol. 8, no. 767. Endorsed: "~~Sr~~ Dean."; "Sans date. de la fin de 1777 ou du commencement de 1778." Translation: "Mr. Deane. Without date. From the end of 1777 or the beginning of 1778."

1. For the French court's promise to provide a convoy for the American supply ships, see the American Commissioners in France to the Continental Foreign Affairs Committee, 18 Dec. 1777, *NDAR* 10: 1117. Gérard was the senior official in the French foreign ministry involved with negotiating treaties with the United States.

January 2

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL HOOD, R.N.

By &c.

Whereas we have receiv'd Intelligence to be depended on, (a Copy of which you will receive in this, in addition to the Intelligence transmitted in our Order of the 18th. of last Month)¹ that several French Ships have sailed; and that others are soon intended to sail from different Ports in France, having on board Cargoes of Warlike Stores, and other Supplies for the use of the Rebels in N^o. America: All which Ships it is reported from good Authority are to be convoy'd off the Coast of France by Ships of War belonging to that Nation; And whereas it is of the utmost importance to His Maj^{ty}. Service that the aforesaid Ships should be intercepted; We do therefore hereby require and direct you to use your utmost diligence in the Ship you command² (directing the several Captains under you³ to do the like) in looking out for the said Ships, and in case of falling in with, to examine them, notwithstanding any remonstrance from the Officer commanding the Convoy to the contrary; And being satisfied the Ships you so examine are those pointed out to be employ'd as above described, to seize and bring them into One of His Maj^{ty}. Ports; taking care the several Articles on board are effectually secured from loss or embezzlement: and sending our Secretary a minute Account of your proceedings.

In complying with these Orders, you are to conduct yourself in respect to the Officers commanding the Convoy (the same being to be enjoin'd to the Captains under you) so far as is consistent with the execution thereof, in such terms of civility, that, if any remonstrance is made on the part of France, there may not be any ground to alledge a Charge of failure therein.

For the more effectually performing this Service, you are not to allow your Ships to be less than two in Company: And you are to continue on your Station fourteen days longer than you are directed to do by your former Orders.

In the Orders you issue to the Captains under you, you are to enjoin them to the strictest secrecy and to observe the same yourself. Given &c. the 2^d. January 1778.⁴

Sandwich
J. Buller
H. Palliser

By &c.

G. Jackson D.S.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 34, 39. Addressed below close: "Cap^t Sam^l Hood, *Courageux*." Notation: "By the *Porcupine*—Return'd & Cancelled." Docketed: "ORD. 2 January 1778./Sir Samuel Hood—*Courageux*." The orders were actually entrusted to Capt. Evelyn Sutton of the *Proserpine*, not of the *Porcupine*, to deliver to Hood, who was cruising north of Cape Ortegal. *Proserpine* sprung a leak and the mission to carry the orders was transferred to Capt. George Balfour, of H.M.S. *Culloden*. Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Sutton, 2 Jan., and to Balfour, 4 Jan., *ibid.*, 40–41, 47.

1. For the enclosures see "Intelligence lately receivd from good Authority," immediately below, and "Extract of Secret Intelligence with respect to ships fitting out for the Americans," UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 37–38. Concerning Hood's orders of 18 Dec. 1777, see Philip Stephens to Captain Thomas Graves, R.N., and Admiral Sir Thomas Pye, 18 Dec. 1777, in NDAR 10: 1116.

2. H.M.S. *Courageux* (74 guns).

3. Capt. Sir John Hamilton, H.M.S. *Hector*; Capt. Sir Richard Bickerton, H.M.S. *Terrible*; and Capt. Mark Robinson, H.M.S. *Worcester*.

4. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty issued similarly worded orders to search for enemy arms convoys as follows: On 2 Jan. instructing Captain Richard Hughes in H.M.S. *Centaur* to cruise for five weeks north of Cape Finisterre, in company with H.M.S. *Trident*, Capt. John Elliot; and on 9 Jan. instructing Captain John Brookes of H.M.S. *Belle Isle* to cruise for five weeks off Cape Finisterre, in company with H.M.S. *Bienfaisant*, Capt. John Macbride. UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 45–46, 49–50. See also Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Captain Robert Digby, R.N., 26 Jan., below.

[Enclosure]

"INTELLIGENCE LATELY RECEIVD FROM GOOD AUTHORITY"

13th. Dec^r. 1777.

The *Le Brune* of 5 or 600 tons & the *Le Sage* of 3 or 350 tons saild from L'Orient, or rather from a Village near the Mouth of the River. They are navigated with French Men, & loaded with common salt; the former hath 46 Cannon in her hold coverd with Salt; the number of Cannon the other carries cannot be ascertained: they are bound to America.

The *Anonime* of 450 or 500 tons is loading at L'Orient for the same destination.

The American Frigates, the *Raleigh* & *Alfred*, and another, a small Vessel, it is confidently said were to sail from L'Orient the 19th. Dec^r. It is said they were to steer towards Nantz to join the *Randolph* another Frigate¹ with three Merchant Ships that are loaded there, & all sail in Company.

The *Le Brune* is probably Commanded by One Mallet & the *La Sage* by One Michell. If they meet our Cruizers they will pretend they are bound to St Pierre or Miquillon; and the salt will give colour to it

The *Beaumont*, an old India Ship of 1000 tons at L'Orient had been declar'd during her lading to be for Cadiz but on the 19 Dec^r When the Men were to receive their Advance wages, Boston was declar'd to be their destination 18 Dec^r—

One Nicholson is set out for Nantz to command the *Lyon* an American Frigate of 36 Guns.² He is to sail with the fleet, and it is supposed carries despatches for the Congress. A M^r Carmichel goes with Him.³

Several People lately pick'd up who escaped from Prison in England are going out in the fleet as Pilots for the coast of America. Their Rendezvous is about Nantz; L'orient; Perhaps Belle Isle.

M^r Deane's Brother is going with despatches, and embarks on board a Frigate of 36 Guns, which has been sometime laying in the River of Bourdeaux.⁴

D, UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 35–36. Enclosure to Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Captain Samuel Hood, R.N., 2 Jan., above. Docketed: "Intelligence/lately received from/good Authority/respecting Ships fitting/out for the Americans."

1. For the mistaken British intelligence that the *Randolph* was at Nantes, see Lord Stormont to Comte de Vergennes, 25 Dec. 1777, NDAR 10: 1146–48, and especially note 1.

2. Samuel Nicholson commanded the Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, formerly the *Lyon*.

3. William Carmichael.

4. Simeon Deane.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO
CAPTAIN ROBERT BIGGS, R.N.

By &c.

Whereas we have receiv'd Intelligence that an American Privatier of 20. Guns, called the *America* and commanded by one Johnson, was in Dunkirk Roads a few days ago, waiting to complete her Provisions and Water, And whereas we intend that the Ship you command¹ together with one of His Maj^{ty}s. Sloops named in the Margin² shall proceed immediately to the Northward of Dunkirk to endeavor to intercept the abovemention'd Privatier should she attempt to put to Sea & shape her course that way; You are hereby required & directed to take such one of the two Sloops before named under your command as Rear Admiral Roddam³ shall direct, and having receiv'd on board a Pilot properly qualified for the North Sea, & the Commander of the Sloop having done so likewise (we having ordered two to be sent immediately down to Sheerness for that purpose) and put to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather & proceeding down the Swin⁴ stretch over to the Coast of Flanders and endeavor to fall in with it to the Northward of Dunkirk where you are very diligently to cruize, on such Station as shall appear to you to be most likely for answering the abovemention'd purpose for the space of fourteen days using your best endeavors to take or destroy the abovemention'd, or any other Privatiers or Ships or Vessels belonging to the Rebellious Colonies of N^o. America which you may be able to come up with, and then repair to the Downs and remain there until you receive further Order, sending to our Secretary an Account of your arrival and proceedings

But whereas Vice Adm^l Buckle is directed to send two Cutters off Dunkirk in order to discover what may be doing there, and to gain Intelligence of the Motions of the abovemention'd Privatier, ordering one of them to repair afterwards to your

station to communicate the same to you, You are in case you shall through that or any other Channel receive Information which can be depended upon, that the abovemention'd Privatier hath left Dunkirk & sailed to the N^oward to proceed in quest of her so long as there shall appear any probability of your being able to come up with her, and to use your best endeavors to take or destroy her, repairing afterwards to the Downes as before directed. Or if she shall not have left that Port but remains there in apparent readiness to push out, you are at liberty to extend the time of your cruize as much longer as you shall see any probability of her coming out, And then having taken, destroy'd or driven her away, or being satisfied that it is to no purpose to remain on the abovemention'd Station any longer in expectation of her repair to the Downes as above directed.

In case from the Intelligence which shall be bro^t to you by one of the Cutters beforemention'd, or which you shall otherwise receive you shall judge it necessary to continue on the Station assign'd you longer than the time before limited, you are to send the said Cutter to the Downes, with a Letter to be transmitted to our Secretary, acquainting him therewith, and with the reasons for such longer continuance; and if the Cutter shall join you before the expiration of the time so limited you are at liberty during that time to send her back off Dunkirk if you judge it necessary to make further Observations and collect further Intelligence and then to return to you with an Account thereof, that you may regulate your proceedings as above directed accordingly. Given &c. 2^d. January 1778.

Sandwich
J. Buller
H. Palliser

By &c.

G. Jackson D.S.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 42–44. Addressed below close: "Cap^t. Biggs—*Lively*—Nore." Docketed: "ORD, 2^d. January 1778./Cap^t. Biggs—*Lively*"; "Q^y/If not ent^d. already?"

1. H.M. frigate *Lively* (24 guns).
2. *Hawke* and *Speedwell*.
3. Robert Roddam's promotion to rear admiral dates from 23 Jan. 1778.
4. The Swynne, a channel in the mouth of the Thames River.

COMMISSIONERS FOR SICK AND HURT SEAMEN TO PHILIP STEPHENS

Copy

Office for Sick & Hurt Seamen
the 2^d. January 1777 [1778]—

S^r

We desire you will acquaint the R^t Hon^{ble}. the Lords Comm^{rs}. of the Admty, that the Keeper & Agent of Forton Prison has informed Us, by his Letter of the 31st. past, that, "A M^r Thornton was at the Prison yesterday and desired to speak with some of the Prisoners, the Agents Clerk attended him, when he told the Prisoners that he had Orders to supply them with Cloathing and Necessaries at the expence of the Congress, he sent in 56^{lb}. Tobacco and said he should send 100 Great Coats, he desired he might have leave to send a Joint of Meat occasionally to the Officers, and to Glaze the Windows of their Apartments."¹ And we beg leave to observe that the Agent has Orders to permit the Prisoners to be supplied with any Articles not improper for them to receive & that in consequence of your Letter of

the 15th. last Month, he was told that the Prisoners were not to be prevented from receiving Cloathing provided by Subscription, and we should not therefore have troubled their Lordships upon this Business were it not for the particular expression; that M^r Thornton did it at the expence of the Congress: and we beg leave to add that the Prisons for Prisoners of War were not Glazed. We are &c^e

J Bel

Walter Farquharson

Vin Corbett

Copy, UKLPR, S.P. (Naval) 42/52, fols. 5–6. Addressed at foot of first page: “Hon^{ble}. Philip Stephens Esq^r” Docketed: “In the Lords of the Admiralty, / January 3^d. 1778.” Enclosed in Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the Earl of Suffolk, of 3 Jan., *ibid.*, fols. 3–4.

1. For John Thornton and his instructions from the American Commissioners in France, see *NDAR* 10: 1086.

CAPTAIN JOHN JERVIS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS

Sir,

Foudroyant in Hamoze the 2^d. January 1778

In reply to your letter of the 29th of Dece^r¹ I desire you will report to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I had not the smallest suspicion that the Nine Men describ'd in my letter of the 16th of the same Month, or any one of them, intended to desert, the first four, as they are plac'd in the Margin² were taken in the *Lynch* Schooner,³ and serv'd under the restraining Bill, the two next were turn'd over from other Ships, and the three last were Volunteers; Rich^d. Griffith who enter'd two years ago with Lieu^t. Duckworth at Bristol, had receiv'd such marks of favor and generosity from the Officers and myself, that I had the most unreserv'd confidence in him—the instant discovery was made, that part of them had absconded from the rigging House, and the others did not return to the Ship, when their leave expir'd, which they had always done before, with the most exact precision, the strictest inquiry was made after them, and upon receiving intelligence, that they had been seen on the Road to Kingsbridge, two Officers with partys were detach'd through Kingsbridge, to Salcombe, and a deck'd Longboat arm'd, sent off the Mouth of that little Port, and descriptions were dispatch'd to the Collector of the Customs, to the Commanding Officer of the Marines, and of the 13th Regiment; and the Regulating Captains were written to, from one end of the Coast, to the other.

I offer'd five Guineas reward for the apprehending each Man, and I have had two Men in Pay ever since, to look out for them; from these Men, whose Names, I am under a promise not to discover, I learn that they were harbour'd and conceal'd by one or more People of Opulence in the Town of Plymouth, but they cannot, or will not, ascertain them; and the Officers have discover'd from amongst the Ships Company, that a £50 Bank Note was seen in the possession of Joseph Kent, a little time before his going off, this circumstance will explain to their Lordships, the grounds of my suspicion, that they would hire a Vessel to go over to France, they will also see, that no pains or expence have been wanting on my part to intercept them; and I have a conscious Pride in observing to their Lordships that the *Foudroyant* has not only been Mann'd by the industry of her own Officers, but that her Complement has been constantly kept up without the Assistance of a Man from any commanding Officer, or by indirect Means. I am [&c.]

Jervis

L, UkLPR, Adm. 1/1987. Docketed: "6 Jan/send a Copy within [] to L^d Suffolk in answer to his/Lordships Letter of 27th. past."

1. In response to an inquiry by Lord Suffolk, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty were investigating the desertion of eight Americans and one Irishman from the *Foudroyant*. See Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Lord Suffolk, 7 Jan., in *ibid.*, S.P. (Naval), 42/52, fols. 7-8.

2. "Joseph Kent/Jn^o Shea/Sam^l Vaughan/Jos^h. Mounteford/Geo^c Phillips/Lathan Case/Eph^m. Hanson/Rich^d. Griffith/Tho^s Morrison."

In his letter of 16 Dec. 1777, in which he reported the men missing, Jervis gave the following descriptions: "Richard Griffith, Age 42 years, Stature 5^{ft.}..6 3/4ⁱⁿ brown Complexion, Dark brown Hair, a Cut on his Nose, Born at Philadelphia. Ephraim Hanson, Aged 24 years, Stature 6^{ft.}..1 1/2ⁱⁿ Sallow Complexion, Dark brown Hair, born at Piscataqua North America. George Phillips, Aged 22 years, Stature 5^{ft.}..5 1/4ⁱⁿ Fair Complexion, light brown Hair, a Scar over the right Eye. Born at Rhode Island N^o. America. Lathan Case, Aged 23 years, Stature 5^{ft.}..8 1/2ⁱⁿ Brown Complexion, long black Hair[.] Born at Rhode Island N^o. America. Joseph Kent, Aged 30 years, Stature 5^{ft.}..6ⁱⁿ Fair Complexion, light brown Hair generally worn in a queue. Born in Boston N^o. America[.] John Shea, Aged 29 years, Stature 5^{ft.}..7 1/4ⁱⁿ Dark Complexion, dark brown Hair, mark'd J:S on the left hand, born in Boston N^o. America. Samuel Vaughan, Aged 31 Years, Stature 5^{ft.}..5 1/4ⁱⁿ fair Complexion, Dark brown Hair, has a Wen on his left Shoulder, born in Boston N^o. America[.] Joseph Mounteford, Aged 27 Years, Stature 5^{ft.}..4ⁱⁿ Ruddy Complexion, Dark brown Hair, Born at Boston, North America. Thomas Morrison, Aged 27 Years, Stature 5^{ft.}..5ⁱⁿ Fair Complexion, San[dy] Hair, little pock'd Mark'd. born at Londonderry, Ireland." John Jervis to Philip Stephens, UkLPR, Adm. 1/1987.

3. *Foudroyant* captured Massachusetts schooner packet *Lynch*, Capt. John Adams, on 9 May 1777. NDAR9: 390-91.

January 3

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL LORD SHULDHAM

By &c.

Whereas we have received Intelligence that the *Raleigh* of 32. Guns, & three other Privatiers from 20 to 24 Guns, are now cruising between Scilly & the Ramhead; that they have taken one Ship & sent her into France; & that they give out that they intend to intercept the West India homeward bound Fleet; your Lordship is hereby required and directed, in case His Maj^{ty}s Ship the *Boyne* should return to Plymouth before the expiration of her present Cruise, to order Captⁿ. Drake, who is appointed her Commander, to proceed with her to Sea again, without a moment's loss of time, and to cruise between Scilly & Ushant, looking out very diligently for, and using his best endeavours to take, or destroy, the before-mentioned, or any other Privatiers or Ships or Vessels belonging to the Rebellious Colonies of North America which he may be able to come up with; and to return, at the expiration of one Month after his first arrival upon the aforesaid Station, to Plymouth for further Orders; sending Us an Account of his arrival & proceedings. Given &c. the 3^d. Jan^y. 1778.

Sandwich
J Buller
H. Palliser

By &c

G. J. D.S.

LB, UkLPR, Adm. 2/104, pp. 9-10. Addressed at foot: "To/The R^e Hble Lord Shulldham/Vice Adm^l of the Blue &c &c./Plymouth." Notation: "By Express at 1/2 past 8. P.M."

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1778

Saturday, Jan. 3. London.

The *Flying American*, from Georgia to a port in France, with a valuable cargo of rice, tobacco, &c. is taken by one of his Majesty's frigates, and carried into Lisbon.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

3^d. Saturday rainy & Blowing w^e This Gentleman (whoose Name is Lyon & is an Attorney at Law) has Provided two Hundred & fifty Blanketts & the said Lyon was sent by regular Committee Chosen by the Doners for Our relief; by him we Learn that Ticonderoga is retaken by Gen^l Starks & Col. Warner at the Head of an Army for that purpose

Likewise Sir H^y Clinton is return'd from up the N. River to New York Again.

Rec^d. 100 lb of Tobacco, 72 Cakes of sope. It Appears that there is Quite a Different S[p]irit r[e]igns in this Country from what there was before, Since the Capture of Gen^l Burgoyne

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO LIEUTENANT BOUX

Sir

Paris 3^d. Jan^y 1778

We have wrote Capt. Nicholson who will procure you a Passage to America & we hope it may be such a one as will be agreeable. Inclosed you have a Letter for the Hon'ble the Marine Board which you will send to them & attend their future Orders. Capt. Nicholson will give you notice where to meet him, or the Ship in which you can have a passage. We are wishing you much Success Sir. Y^{rs}. &c.

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed at foot: "L^t Boux."

SILAS DEANE TO JOHN ROSS

D^r Sir

Paris 3^d. Jan^y 1778

Y^e favours of the 23^d. & 27 Ult.¹ I duely rec^d. & should have replied sooner but from the dailey expectation that a Courier express would set out. He is still delayed & for aught I know may be a day or two longer. I approve much of y^e sentiments as to Vessels of War expressed in yours of the 27th. & most sincerely hope it may be soon in our Power to put something of consequence in Execution—for some time past and even at present I find difficulties on every side: want of independent Funds, want of Bold Spirited Protection with many other Items of the kind Clog & weigh us down whenever we would attempt any thing of consequence. I have the highest Opinion of the merits of Capt. Jones & of his active Zeal for the service believe me Sir he shall not trifle away a moments time at Paris on my acc^t But tho' my whole time is Devoted to Business at the same time I must necessarily give attendance to that which first & most immediately presses, especially in proportion to its importance. I am glad to find that Capt. Green will be ready with the other Vessels & depend you will make the necessary regulations on that subject.

Capt. Nicholson will be ordered for Boston or Portsmouth in New England, the Com^{rs}. Judging those to be the most certain Ports under the present situation of Affairs. I am very sorry to find that M^r Hodge has been ill, but hope it is only some sudden turn which the News of the taking of Philadelphia may have had on his Spirits[.] He is a worthy honest plain young man & I really Love & esteem him. I shewed your Letter² on the Subject of Cunninghams Cutter to M^r Lee but as yet have no Answer. I thank you most sincerely for y^r Kind hints and Cautions—they are just, they are Seasonable & come I am sure from a heart which wishes me well and is anxious for my present situation. I have not been regardless of the gathering Clouds & have long since Known that what can be done will be done ag^t me; yet should it so happen that these men should be victorious rest assured that their Victory will finally prove their ruin, & public Disgrace—at least I will never take measures to Counteract them which would make me appear little in my own Eyes, & little I must be, when put on their Level. I send you inclosed a Letter for M^r Hodge, if you Know his direction send it to him. My last Letters from Spain mention that Cunningham had taken several Prizes & Sold them in the Ports of Spain without difficulty. The Com^{rs}. may or may not agree to the proposal I made you & M^r Hodge; it is for them to determine immediatly. The Subject is properly laid before them & of Course I am clear of any blame in it; let it be delayed or not.³ We are in hopes dailey of receiving news that the troops & militia to the South have exerted themselves & put Gen^l Howe on a footing with Gen^l Burgoyne, but at this moment we are really destitute of News of almost any Kind that may be relied on you must excuse my not answering y^r several Letters earlier & accept of the present if not as a payment in full at least as being on acc^t I am &c.

S. D.

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed at foot: "M^r Ross."

1. The former letter is extracted in *NDAR* 10: 1142. For the latter letter, which urges the obtaining of a larger ship of war for John Paul Jones, see *Deane Papers* 2: 289–91.

2. Probably John Ross to Silas Deane, 16 Dec. 1777. *NDAR* 10: 1106–8.

3. Deane proposed that William Hodge and Ross either purchase the United States' half interest in the cutter *Revenge* or act as agents for Congress in management of the vessel. Deane to Ross, 2 Dec. 1777, *Deane Papers* 2: 263–64.

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o: 74Corunna 3^d January 1778.

My Lord

I most humbly beg leave to refer to my last of the 15th. Past.¹

Cunningham has sent in no other Prizes since those mention'd in my Letter N^o. 72.² both which have been sold. The repeated Remonstrances I have made on these Occasions to the Captain General, and the Censure given him by Count Floridablanca in consequence of My Lord Grantham's Representations of his Partiality to the American Privateers, have only served to exasperate him, and thereby to render my Situation extreemly unpleasant and hazardous, he still continues to favor them to the utmost of his Power—

The *Gallardo* of 74 Guns is fitting out in Ferrol.

By the inclosed Letter³ which I humbly intreat may be sent to the Navy Office Your Lordship will be pleased to observe the great Loss sustained by the

Newfoundland Trade for want of Convoy to the Ports of their Destination. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

H Katencamp.

L, UklPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 26–27. Addressed at the foot of the first page: "The R^t Hon^{ble}: Lord Viscount Weymouth." Docketed: "Coruña 3 Jan^{ry} 1778/Consul Katenkamp/Nº 74/R. 31^a."

1. NDAR 10: 1104–5.

2. Brig *Syren*, James Renolls, and brig *Dispatch*, Emanuel Le Gete. NDAR 10: 1065.

3. Herman Katencamp to the British Navy Board, 3 Jan., immediately below.

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO THE BRITISH NAVY BOARD

Copy.

Corunna 3^d. January 1778

Gentlemen,

I have the Honor to acquaint You of the arrival here of the Brig *Flora*, John Robins Master of Topsham with 61 Seamen belonging to the Vessels hereafter mentioned, who were put on board of her off Santander by James Babson and Jeremiah Hilbert, Masters of the Rebel Privateers the *General Mercer*, and *Hawke*. Babson also took the *Flora*, but restored it to the master, in order to convey these Seamen to England, but he supplied them so sparingly with Provisions, that They were obliged to make the first Port, and arrived here in extream great Distress, having had nothing to eat for a considerable time before their Arrival.¹

I sent them immediate Relief, and am providing them with a Month's provisions to carry them to the first Port in England, an account of which I shall take the Liberty to send You. Meanwhile I beg leave to observe, that as the master of the *Flora* had his vessel restored on Condition of conveying these men home, and that the Provisions have been supplied by me, he cannot expect any further Reward for their Passage. I have the honor &c^a.

H Katencamp.

The Brig, *Minehead*, John Mathews of Teinmouth from Newfoundland to Bilboa, taken the 29th of November, by the Privateer *General Mercer*.

The Brig, *Mary*, William Pearce of Exeter from Newfoundland to Bilboa, taken the 30th November, by the *General Mercer*.

The Snow, *Mary*, William Ashweek of Dartmouth, from the Coast of Labrador to Santander, taken the 15th November by the *Hawke*, Privateer.²

The Brig, *George* David Elsworthy of Poole from Newfoundland to Bilboa,³ taken the 28th November, by the *General Mercer*.

The Brig, *Hawke*, George Best of Poole, from Newfoundland to Bilboa, taken the 1st of December, by the *General Mercer*.

The Brig, *Active*, David Mauger of Jersey, taken the 2^d. November, by the *Hawke*.

Copy, UklPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 28–29. Addressed at foot of first page: "The Hon^{ble}./Commissioners of the Navy." Docketed: "Copy of a Letter from/Consul Katenkamp/to the Hon^{ble}. Commiss^{rs}./of the Navy./Corunna, 3^d January/1778." Enclosed in Herman Katencamp to Lord Weymouth, 3 Jan., above.

1. For a general account of these captures see James Gardoqui to Arthur Lee, 10 Dec. 1777, NDAR 10: 1085.

2. NDAR 10: 1094.

3. NDAR 10: 869.



Collection of the New-York Historical Society

Captain Gustavus Conyngham

January 4 (Sunday)

CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Gentlemen

S^t sebastian Janry. 4th. 1778

Since I wrote you last I went on A Cruze and fell in With the Brig *Gracieux* M^r Augustin Letournois from London Bound to Spain with A Cargoe of Dry Goods the most of the Bills of Lading Consignd to Order.¹ On my Asking the Cap^t If he new that his Cargoe was British property or not he made Answer, I seen where he Loaded and that I had A Good prize On this Answer I askd him if he was Willing to proceed to America he said his Vessell was not in condition but would Agree to Go to any port in the Bay I propos^d What port he said Nants I Object^d, he then Mention^d Bilboa I agreed he then demanded one hundred pounds his Vessell ensured and the ten p^r Cent primage this I agreed too And Oblig^d to Give him from Under my hand in Writing before he would proceed, When Going Away he Desired I should Assist him with Some hands as he Was only seven in Number And the Vessell Made much Watter that the sand had Got to the pumps and the[y] often got choalkd that if a Gale of Wind Should happen he would Lose his Vessell and we our Cargoe on this I let him heave five men with Orders to Obey the french man as he was still master of the Vessell And had Agreed to Deliver the Cargoe to me in Bilboa, that it Can not be Said we Offerd any insult to the french flag that for A sufficient proof he Brought his Vessell to S^t sebastian instead of Bilboa that he might as well have Gone to his first desird port,² the Cargoe is taken into the hands of the Admiralty What will be the Result I know not. I have Claimd the Cargoe that is Consing^d to Order the rest is but little And Addressd to Spaniards I have not, Altho by A British Act of parliment All America produce Or any Nation trading with them Only On Suspicion if they can be brought into their ports the[y] are Condemned, Gentlemen I must beg of you to make strickt enquiry And find out Any foreign Vessell the english has took for havng Americane produce On board Or the[y] have took On Suspicion of Going or Coming from America or prizes that has been sold by the Americans to french or Spaniards And Afterwards taking by the english On Suspicion that they had been prizes, I do beg you will find Some of them or the most parallel Circumstance with Our Case And have it Drawn in form and sent imeadly Under Cover to m^r Leraldo³ in S^t Sebastian's, Who is the Gentlemen M^r Gardoqui Recommended me to And I find is Verry Deligent in business I am [&c.]

G. Conyngham

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 48, no. 149. Addressed: "To/M^r Sileas Dean/Paris." Docketed: "S^t Sebastians/1776/4th. Jany Letter/from Cap^t G Cunningham."

1. Conyngham captured the *Gracieux* on 21 Dec. 1777.

2. Conyngham appears to have concluded that American interests were not so well served at San Sebastián as they were at Bilbao. Floridablanca wrote that the merchants of the former area constantly appealed to the government for help in solving problems created by American privateers and their prizes. Conde de Floridablanca to Conde de Aranda, 13 Jan. 1778, SpVAS, Estado, libro 183, fols. 24–25.

3. Larralde, Diuteguy et fils, merchants at Bilbao.

January 5

WILLIAM KNOX TO PHILIP STEPHENS

Philip Stephens Esq^rWhitehall 5th: Jan^y 1778.

Sir,

It being judged expedient to strengthen the *Leviathan* Navy Transport appointed to convey Stores to North America, for the use of the Fleet under the Command of Lord Viscount Howe, with a Party of His Majesty's Troops; I am directed by Lord George Germain to desire you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a Party, consisting of a Commissioned Officer & Non Commissioned Officer & 20 Privates, is ordered to embark on board the said Ship; and you will be pleased to move their Lordships to give the necessary Orders, that suitable Accomodation be provided for the said Party, and also for their being victualled during the Voyage. I am &c^a.

W^m. Knox.

LB, UKLPR, C.O. 5/254, pp. 190–91.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

5th. Munday Pleas^t w^r this Day served With Oatmeal & Leeks to put into our Pot Liquor to make broth, also with Potatoes & some Turnips. Now we Live Like fighting Cocks.

NB. this Extra is from the Subscription Aforesaid

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

January 6

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO CAPTAIN HENRY ST. JOHN, R.N.

By &c.

Whereas His Majesty's Ship & Sloop named in the Margin¹ are appointed Convoy to the Trade bound to the West Indies which was to have been ready to sail from Cork about the middle of last Month; And whereas we intend that the Ship you command² shall accompany the said Convoy as far as the Latitude of 40°..00" N^o. for their greater security; You are hereby required & directed in case they are not sailed when this comes to your hands, to put to Sea with them the Moment Wind & Weather will permit, & to see them in safety til' they get into that Latitude accordingly (the Commanders of the abovemention'd Ship & Sloop being directed to obey your Orders during the time you and they shall continue together); And then leaving them to pursue their Voyage, make the best of your way in the Ship you command to Plymouth sound, and remain there until you receive further Order; sending Us an Account of your arrival and proceedings.

You are to be particularly careful to the Ships & Vessels of the abovemention'd Convoy; using your best endeavours to secure them from the Privatiers belonging to the Rebellious Colonies of North America, and to take or destroy any such Privatiers, or other Ships or Vessels belonging to those Colonies, which you may fall in, or be able to come up with, without exposing the said Convoy to danger by chasing too far from them. Given &c the 6th. January 1778.

Sandwich
J Buller
H Palliser

By &c. G. J.³

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/104, fols. 77–78. Addressed at foot: "Hble Captⁿ. St John, *Torbay*, Cork."

1. *Camel* and *Cupid*.
2. H.M.S. *Torbay*.
3. George Jackson, deputy secretary of the Admiralty.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO EDWARD THURLOW

By &c

Whereas the King hath thought it for His Service that another Commissioner or Principal Officer of the Navy should be established for the better superintendance & dispatch of His Naval Affairs in North America, His Majesty's Will & pleasure is that you do forthwith prepare a Bill for His Royal Signature to pass the Great Seal of Great Britain constituting & appointing Edward Le Cras Esq^r One of the Commiss^{rs} in quality of a Principal Officer of His Majestys Navy to reside at such Place in North America as shall be hereafter directed with full power & Authority to the said Edward Le Cras Esq^r to sign Contracts, Bills & Orders and to do all other things appertaining to the Duty of a Principal Officer & Commissioner of His Majestys Navy & particularly that he be a Commissioner for the Naval Affairs in North America & that he doth constantly reside at such Place as shall be appointed for his residence there. To see to and take care of the faithful vigorous & frugal management of all Matters & Things relating to His Maj^{ty}s Naval Service in North America and to observe such Instructions relating to the said Office & Duty as he shall at any time receive from the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being. The said Commission to continue during His Majestys Pleasure only, with the Salary & Allowance of Five Hundred Pounds ꝯ Ann^m, to be paid, Quarterly, by the Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy & to commence from the date hereof; together with such a number of Clerks, at such Salaries & Allowances to them, as shall be allowed by the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral for the time being. For which this shall be your Warrant. Given &c & the Seal &c 6th Jan^y 1778¹

Sandwich
J Buller
H Palliser

By &c PS

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/104, fols. 78–79. Addressed at foot: "To/Edward Thurlow Esq^r/His Maj^{ty}s Attorney General."

1. Members of the Navy Board were referred to as Principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy and were appointed during pleasure by letters patent under the Great Seal. Edward Le Cras, a Royal Navy captain as of 4 Feb. 1755, following his appointment as Commissioner resident in North America referred to in this document, would serve as an Extra Commissioner from 10 April 1778 until 11 Feb. 1793, and as Deputy Controller from the latter date until his death, 20 Dec. 1793. *Navy Board Officials 1660–1832*, compiled by J. M. Collinge, Volume VII of *Officer-Holders in Modern Britain* (London: University of London, Institute of Historical Research, 1978), 18–21, 118.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL LORD SHULDHAM

My Lord.

[*Admiralty Office*] 6th. January 1778.

My Lords Commiss^{rs}: of the Admiralty having appointed His Majesty's Ship the *Boston*, Captain Dudingstone,¹ to lay in Kingroad to be ready at all times to proceed to Sea when he shall receive Information of any American Privatiers being in Bristol or S^t George's Channel; I am commanded to signify their Lordships direction, if you should at any time receive Intelligence of Privatiers in those Parts, or bound thither, that you acquaint him therewith, sending at the same time the like Information to Cap^t: Hamilton,² the Regulating Captain at Bristol, that in case of the Absence of the said Ship from that Port, he may convey it to her Commander. I am &c^a:

PS:

LB, UklPR, Adm. 2/556, fols. 289–90. Addressed at foot: "Vice Admiral Lord Shuldham/at Plymouth." In the margin: "To send any Information he may recive of Rebel Privatiers to the Comm^r of the *Boston* in KingRoad or Regulating Captain at Bristol."

1. Capt. William Dudington, R.N.

2. Probably Capt. William Hamilton, R.N.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

6th. Tuesday Clody weath^r: Here is No regulations with regard to Our Extra Allowance as yet—to Day served with a white Loaf Extra. The Rev^d. M^r: Heath made us a Present of 7 lb Sugar 1 lb tea a Bible 1 Sermon Book & two Psalm Books.

According to Our Petition we've Peas Allowed in Lieu of Cabbage which was served this Day

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^{ble}. Gentlemen

(N^o 119)

Nantes Jan. 6. 1778.

I am just returned from Painbeuf where I have been with Cap^t Nicholson to quiet a Discord between the french & american Sailors, which we have in a great measure effected; and I hope the Steps agreed on between the Commissary at Painbeuf, the Commander of a french Vessell of War, and ourselves, will soon put an end to it. We have offered free Liberty to every french Sailor that does not like the Voyage to go on shore, provided he will return the money he has recv^d, declaring that we only wanted willing Fellows & at the same Time giving them proper encouragement to stay: In addition to this the french Officer tells them that when

they leave the Ship he shall have occasion to take them for the King; This I imagine will have the desired Effect.

I must however observe to you that the Commissary & the Sea Officer above-mentioned have such orders that the Ship cannot go from Painbeuf without a permission from the ministry; else she would have been now at St Nazare. I therefore hope Cap^t Nicholsons assurances will soon be followed with a particular Permission, for us to do as we please.

I have to inform you that the *Dolphin* is seized by the Officers of the Admiralty at the Suit of one Tannay¹ a french Sailor who makes an impudent Demand of Wages & Prize money after forfeiting all by Deserting the Service.—The Fact is this. This Tannay shipped as Sailor in the Service of the united States one year. Cap^t Nicholson gave him the Command of a Prize and ordered him to bring her into France. He carried his Prize into Liverpool & declared her french Property, their being only Frenchmen on board. He drew a Bill on M^r Morris for £147 Sterling which was accepted & which if not already, must at all events be paid. Cap^t Wickes after hearing that the Vessell was arrived in England released the English Captain² supposing the Ship to be from that time lost to us. The Cap^t knew where to find her & nobody can suppose he has been so foolish as to let her alone.—Tannay then came to France and refused to give any acc^t of his proceedings 'till his Wages & prize money should be paid, which of course was refused him. He then sued Cap^t Nicholson & I employed a Lawyer to defend the Cause—Tannay was at last obliged to shew Acco^t to the Admiralty by which he makes 12 Guineas to be due to him over above the £147 Sterling which is so much dead Loss, and then (when too late) he offer'ed to transfer the Property which I suppose has been long since in possession of its former english owners, upon Condition however that his Wages for the whole time shall be paid & his prize money secured.—The admiralty have thought proper to give a Judgment in favour of this man, which is the more extraordinary as it is the first Instance in which they have thought themselves authorised to judge & condemn our prizes, for by according to this Tannay his proportion, they in fact approve of the whole. They have however termed it the profits of the Navigation of the said Vessell, which I suppose is a term to cover themselves by.—³

Cap^t Nicholson will not on any acco^t consent to a Sol being paid. His Reasons are 1st. That as he was engaged for a Year he is now to all intents & purposes a deserter from the Service & therefore not intitled to anything. 2^d He had no right to carry the Vessell into Liverpool as his orders were to come to France whither he should have come at all risques & by breaking his orders he deserves rather punishment than reward 3^d That his Conduct has already subjected us to the Loss of £147 Sterling and his refusing to acco^t for anything till the affair is irretrivable proves that he would not have accounted at all had he succeeded.—I think it my duty to lay this matter before you as it is come to an extremity which I imagine you only can properly decide upon. In the mean Time the *Dolphin* remains seized.

M^r Grand observes to me by this post that you have not established an augmentation of Credit for me as I requested. I beg you will do it as delay may occasion a want of that Confidence so necessary in all commercial Concerns.

I have with Cap^t Nicholson agreed that our French Captain⁴ shall wear the Congress uniform when the Ship goes out, agreeable to his Title of supernumer-

ary Liut. according to the articles made with him & approved by you, thereby to show to all his Crew that as he himself is in our Service under Cap^t Nicholson they must be so also, which will tend to preserve good harmony aboard.—I beg leave to reccommend this Young Gentleman to your notice as a very worthy active & intelligent man who has given me great satisfaction—I have the honour to be [&c.]

J Williams

L, ViU, Lee Family Papers. Addressed at the foot: "The Hon. The Commrs/of the United States." Docketed: "J. Williams to Commrs: U.S. 6 Jan^y 1778." Notations: at top of first page, "Seizure of the *Dolphin*"; at top of last page, "Seizure of *Dolphin* &c &c January 6th 1778—D."

1. Jean-Baptiste Tanaÿs fils, prize master of the brig *Betsy*, taken by *Reprisal*, *Lexington*, and *Dolphin*. NDAR 9: 408.

2. John Montgomery.

3. On 31 July 1777 Tanaÿs showed up at the French embassy in London, where he told the Marquis de Noailles his version of the story. He signed on the Continental Navy cutter *Dolphin*, Capt. Samuel Nicholson, in the capacity of a prize master, with the promise of a promotion once they reached Philadelphia. The cutter sailed on a cruise in company with the *Reprisal* and *Lexington* on 4 June 1777. On 18 June, in St. George's Channel, Tanaÿs was given command of the prize brig *Betsy*, with orders for Nantes. His prize crew consisted entirely of Frenchmen. The mate of *Betsy*'s original crew, however, had been left on board long enough to allow him to tamper with the brig's compass. Misled by the faulty compass, after two days' sailing Tanaÿs found himself at the entrance of the port of Liverpool. Surrounded by English vessels, and fearing to be lost on the coast or being captured, he entered the port. There, lacking money to pay port expenses, he arranged to freight salt to Ostend on the account of the merchant firm of Marwade and Nissen. But now his crew deserted him and signed on board a vessel that sailed for the Guinea coast. Left only with his mate, and unable to engage an English crew—he spoke no English—he could not sail. Sounding out the sentiments of the merchants, he finally explained his predicament to one of them, a German speaking passable French who believed merchants should trade with all nations. The merchant promised Tanaÿs secrecy, and Tanaÿs left the ship in Marwade and Nissen's hands to send it to France or Holland, while he travelled to London where he was to attempt to contact Thomas Morris, the American agent in Nantes. Marwade and Nissen paid the debts Tanaÿs had accumulated in port for himself and the brig, and he gave them a draft on Morris amounting to £147. Tanaÿs arrived in London on 15 July, where he attempted to draw additional sums using a letter of credit from Marwade and Nissen. Those merchants, however, wrote their agent in London informing him that the customs collector at Liverpool had placed a guard on the brig and in consequence directing against giving Tanaÿs any money. On hearing Tanaÿs's tale, Noailles reprimanded him for imprudence, gave him some expense money, and advised him to return to France as quickly as possible. Marquis de Noailles to Comte de Vergennes, 1 Aug. 1777, with enclosures, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 526, fols. 138–42. Back in Nantes, Tanaÿs had the *Dolphin* arrested in an attempt to recover his expenses not covered by sums he had been able to draw in England. In December, the Nantes Admiralty Court found in favor of Tanaÿs and in addition released him of responsibility for repaying the bill of exchange for £147 drawn on Thomas Morris. The court reserved to Nicholson the right to recover the *Betsy*, "on demand of the deed of ownership" which Tanaÿs produced and offered to resign. On 21 Jan., the court gave Nicholson two weeks to pay Tanaÿs's claim. Extracts of the Nantes Admiralty Court, enclosed in Williams to Franklin, 21 Mar., below.

4. Lt. Boux.

SUPPLEMENTARY ACCOUNT OF CONTINENTAL NAVY CUTTER *DOLPHIN*

[Nantes, 6 January 1778]

N^o. 11Supplement to Sloop *Dolphin*

1777—

May 15 To	Francois Spun yarn om ^d .		20.. 2..—
Oct ^r 19	Cap ⁿ . Brown, ¹ Expences going to S ^t Malo	56..—..—	
	Boathire	<u>21.. 4..—</u>	77.. 4..—
Nov ^r 24	Unspiking a Cannon . . 3 [#] Bread at Painbœuf	16 ^s . 4	19.. 4..—
	Paid Cap ⁿ . Thomson expences to S ^t Malo by Order	}	
	W ^m . Lee Esq ^r . (see his Letter 2 Nov ^r .) ²		240..—..—
	Paid for 50 ^{lb} . Tobacco		150..—..—
	Paid for a Mast		<u>250..—..—</u>
	Carried Over—		756 10..—
	Supplement to Sloop <i>Dolphin</i> bro ^t Over		756..10..—
	Paid the Marechausse securing the Sailors		18..—..—
Dec ^r 27.	Paid Honoré Carpenter		50..16..—
Jan ^x 6	Paid Ravilly Pilot		<u>27..—..—</u>
	Commission 2 th C ^t .		852.. 6..—
			<u>17..11..—</u>
			<u>£869.. 6..11^s</u>

Copy, CtY, Jonathan Williams Account Books. Number 11 in "Accounts and Vouchers Refer'd to in the Account Current between Jonathan Williams Jun^r and the Hon^{ble}. The Commissioners of the United States of America."

1. Capt. Francis Brown.

2. Letter not found.

3. Notation: "Compared Nantes 17th. Augth. 1779/(Signed) J—J— J—N— J—C— J—G—." The initials are those of Joshua Johnson, Jonathan Nesbitt, James Cuming, and Joseph Gridley. They were merchants who, in the summer of 1779, at the request of Benjamin Franklin, audited Williams's accounts with the American Commissioners in France.

MARSTON WATSON TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

May it please your Honour

I had the honour of Addressing you the 9th: Ult^o.¹ on the Affair of M^r. Allen in the Schoo^r *Hawk's* prize Brigg *Britannia*, w^{ch} has been seiz'd by the Marquiss Basecourt Gen^l of S^t. Sebastian; the Vessell unrigg'd, the Cargo unloaded & dispos'd of, & the Crew confin'd in Prison, with a design of Confiscation, on a specious pretence of Piracy. However valid their pretence, & how far warrantable their process, on the premises transmitted to you, your honour must be a Competent Judge:—but to all concern'd it is perfectly mysterious how the s^d Gen^l can justify his Conduct without any other pretence than her being a pirate; for since I wrote your honour I procur'd the fullest evidence of the legality of the Capture, both from the Coasting pilots, & the former master & his Crew, w^{ch} together with Cap^t Hibbert's commission has been translated into Spanish & the whole regularly Authenticated by a Notary & Attested by several principal Merchants, before a Magistrate:—these Sir, with a second & third petition have been laid before his Ex^{cy} the s^d Gen^l but to no other purpose than his bare acknowledging “he had been petition'd:”—& to the great damage of our Voyage our men are Still detain'd prisoners on the Scanty allowance of 6^d Sterling per Day.—

Upon our finding that our fate would finally Issue from Madrid,² we made application to our friend & Agent at Madrid M^r. James Gardoqui, with a full representation of the Case; such as the Authority of Cap^t Hibbert; positive evidence of the legality of the Capture; the process of M^r. Allen y^e master; that of the Gen^l & his Serv^t; my application & the event; & the present situation of our Interest & people at S^t. Sebastian.—As it is necessary for us Sir, to be on our passage homewards, we must entreat your Intercession for the restoration of our Intrest & people; more particularly the latter, who suffer on a suspicion, w^{ch} in a Court of Justice would long since been dispel'd by our full evidence.

If your honour, may have occasion to direct a reply to our remonstrances, please to direct to M^r. Jno: Emery in y^e house of Mes^s. Jos. Gardoqui & Sons at Bilbao. mean time I have the honour to be [&c.]³

“Bilbao Jan^y 6th. 1778”

Marston Watson

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 20. Addressed: “The Hon^{'b}l Benj^a Franklin Esq^r/Paris.—” Docketed: “Marston Watson/ab^t a Prize at St./Sebastian.”

1. Not found. For background on the incident see *NDAR* 10: 1145–46 and 1157.

2. American and Spanish documents on the matter were forwarded to Madrid for judgment. Marques de Bassecourt to Conde de Floridablanca, 16 Feb., below.

3. The Spanish government released Capt. John Allen and his prize crew by July 1778. John Emery to Arthur Lee, 29 July 1778, *Benjamin Franklin Papers*, 27: 180.

January 7

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT HOWE

My Lord..

[*Admiralty Office*] 7th: Jan^y: 1778..

I had the honor to receive on the 1st: of December, by Major Cuylor,¹ your Lordships several Dispatches from N^o: 38 to 43 inclusive, giving accounts of the proceedings of His Maj^{ty}: Ships left in Hudson's River under the Command of

Commodore Hotham as well as those more immediately under your Lordships Eye up to the 23rd: of October last, & inclosing a List of the appointment of Officers since the 13th: of Feb^r: minutes & sentences of Courts Martial; List of Vessels seized as Prizes since the 28th: of May with the State & Condition and Disposition of the Fleet under your Lordships command; And having communicated the said dispatches with their several Inclosures to my Lords Commiss^{rs}: of the Admiralty, I am to acquaint your Lordship that Copies of such of them as were necessary to be laid before His Majesty were without loss of time transmitted to Lord George Germain for that purpose.¹

After expressing their Lords^{ps}: concern for the loss of the *Augusta & Merlin* Sloop in the Delaware; I have it in command from them to inform your Lordship that what you have represented as to the want of Slops, was immediately transmitted to the Navy Board with directions to send out by the first opportunity such Supplies as may prevent the Seamen from suffering in their Healths by the want thereof.² Their Lordships hope your Apprehensions on that head will have been removed by the arrival of the additional Supplies which they understood were sent out in the *Grampus* Storeship to New York, & the *Dunmore* to Halifax (after the departure of the *Buffalo*) both of which sailed from England the 28th: of August. The further Supply which is now ordered to be sent out, Your Lordship may expect to receive by the *Leviathan*, late *Northumberland*, reduced to a Storeship, which has already fallen down to Blackstakes & will sail with the first Convoy from England, laden with a large Assortment of Naval Stores for the use of the Fleet under your Lordships command.

My Lords approve of the Commissions your Lordship have given to Lieu^{ts}: Pakenham & D'auvergne the former to continue in the command of the *Viper* Schooner, the latter to command a Vessel fitted out at Rhode Island as a Galley and called the *Alarm*.³

Their Lordships have no doubt of your having been e'er now informed that the *Fox* could not be got ready to proceed from Halifax to Newfoundland under the protection of the *Bienfaisant* which was sent to Halifax by Vice Adm^l: Montagu partly for that purpose. They nevertheless hope that she may be put into a proper Condition for Service in America, & that your Lordship will in such Case employ her as a part of your Squadron conformable to the directions contained in my Letter of the 23th: of August last;⁴ or on the other hand, if she cannot be fitted for such Service at Halifax, that you will find the means of sending her safely to England; But their Lordships are of opinion that in either case it will be improper for Capⁿ: Fotheringham to have the charge or command of her, until an Enquiry has been made into his Conduct by a Court Martial, which they have no doubt will be done with all proper Dispatch as recommended by my Letter beforementioned.⁵ I have the honor to be [&c.]

PS:

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/556: fols. 299–300. Addressed at foot: "R^t: Hon^{ble}: Lord Viscount Howe." Notation: "Duplicate sent by the Packet 5th February 1778."

1. Marginal note: "Our Rec^d & acq^d: that Copies of such parts of his Dispatches as were thought necessary are laid before His Majesty." Lt. Col. Cornelius Cuyler, Sir William Howe's aide-de-camp, carrying dispatches, sailed from the Delaware on board the *Harriot* packet, at the beginning of November 1777. NDAR 10: 779. For dispatch No. 38, see *ibid.*, pp. 75–76; No. 39, p. 226; No. 43, pp. 287–93.

2. Marginal note: "Acq^d: with a Supply of Slops being sent out."

3. Marginal note: "Approve of the Commissions given to Lieu^{ts}. Pakenham & D'Auvergne." For Pakenham's and d'Auvergne's appointments, see *NDAR* 10: 226.

4. *NDAR* 9: 596–97.

5. Marginal note: "Directions respecting the *Fox* & recommend not to suffer Cap^t Fotheringham to have the charge or Command of her till an Enquiry has been made into his Conduct by a C^t Martial."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER OF H.M.S. *PANTHER*

Tuesday, February 3. London.

A letter from an Officer on board the *Panther*,¹ to his Friend at Portsmouth, dated at Sea, Jan. 7, says, "On the 4th inst. at day-break, we discovered two ships and a brig, and presently saw them bearing down to us. The admiral,² judging them to be Americans, ordered the ship to be cleared; they brought up within gun shot, and began firing upon us, which we briskly returned; the Admiral ordered us to work for the nearest of them, who on our approach, judging her situation would be too warm, began making off, but a shot of our's taking away her main-topmast, she immediately struck. We sent a boat to her, and luffed for the other two, and in passing them received a smart broadside from each, when they directly stood off, and we after them, but as we soon found they were our superiors in sailing, and our convoy being nearly out of sight, we tacked and joined our companions. The vessel we have taken is the *Spider* privateer, Capt. Budd, of eight carriage guns and ten swivels, with 60 men, from Charles Town; those which escaped were the *Argus*, of 20 guns, Capt. Mullins, and *Congress's Delight*, of 22 guns, Capt. Ward. In this action we had seven men wounded, but none dangerously; the *Spider* had a Midshipman killed, and three Seamen wounded. She had taken two brigs with fish, and sent them to Spain. The Admiral intends taking her into the service, as she sails extremely well, and is in appearance like a yacht."

Lloyd's Evening Post, and British Chronicle (London), 2–4 Feb. 1778.

1. H.M.S. *Panther*, of 60 guns, was put into commission on 16 Sept. 1777 and sailed with a convoy for the Mediterranean on 29 Dec.

2. Vice Adm. Robert Duff.

JAMES MOYLAN TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Honorable Gentlemen

L'Orient 7th. Janua^y 1778

I beg leave to refer you to my letter of the 2^d. instant, and altho' I am not yet in the situation you prescribed for me to transact your Bussiness here, I am nevertheless induced, as well from the season of the year, as the reports of Captains Thompson & Green, to inform you, that the Ship *Durass* of near Eight hundred Tons Burthen, w^{ch}. is here for sale, wou'd be a cheap purchass at 50 to Fifty five thousand Livers, w^{ch}. sum I think she may be procured for. those Gentlemen told me, they gave you a particular discription of this Vessel in writing,¹ w^{ch}. leaves me only to add, that she may be fitted ready for the sea in the next month, was she to be put in hands soon, and that from the temper of the people's minds here, a sufficient number of seamen may be had in this port to navigate her &^{ca}, in case of no new obstacle

was such a speculation to take place, I wou'd beg leave to recommend the purchass of cordage from the Kings stores in Brest; it may be had cheap, on acc^t of

it's being already used by Ships of War, and from the samples I have seen here of it, I am persuaded it wou'd be a necessary article at the other side of the Water

operations of this Kind may be conducted in this Port with facility, even under the common circumstances, from it's vicinity to the sea and it's exports to the East Indias

the Captain of the Ship *Berrier*² who arrived here a few days ago from India, tells me, that he spoke with Captain Butler of the Privateer Brig *Molly* of fourteen guns belonging to Boston, the 21st ult^o off of Bordeaux, who inform'd him, that he left said port of Boston about the 15th. November, that he had taken four prizes, one of w^{ch}. a Ship of three hundred Tons in company with him from Oporto with Wine &^{ca} and that he intended for some port of Spain

the Captain got no other news from him I have the Honor to be [&c.]

James Moylan

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 22. Addressed: "The Honorable The Commissioners/of the United States of America." Docketed: "Jan^y 7th 1778/Letter from M^r Moylan/L'Oreint."

1. Captain Thomas Thompson to the American Commissioners in France, 20 Dec. 1777, in *NDAR* 10: 1129–30, assesses the ship *Duc de Duras*, which would become the Continental Navy ship *Bonhomme Richard*. Captain Green is John Green, master of the ship *Brune*.

2. Possibly the 900-ton ship *Berryer*, carrying 20 guns, formerly of the disbanded *Compagnie des Indes*. René Estienne, *Les armements au long cours de la deuxième Compagnie des Indes (1717-1773)*, Archives du port de Lorient (Paris: Service historique de la Marine, 1996), 75.

January 8

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COMTE DE VERGENNES

A Versailles, le 8. Janvier, 1778.

J'ai fait prendre des éclaircissements, Monsieur, sur ce qui concernoit la Corvette Américaine nommée le *Dauphin*, qu'on disoit être à Painbeuf, et sur laquelle on prétendoit qu'il y avoit eu entrepôt soixante dix Matelots et des Officiers de tous grades, destinés à former l'Équipage d'un Bâtiment de 24. Canons, et sur ce qui concernoit les Matelots qu'on prétendoit avoit été mis en prison à Nantes à la réquisition du Capitaine Anglo-Américain; parcequ'ils avoient voulu quitter ce Bâtiment, et quoiqu'ils fussent Anglois et eussent déclaré que leur intention étoit de s'en retourner chez eux; et il résulte de ce qui m'a été mandé, que les allégations faites sur ces différents objets sont entierement dénnées de fondement, et qu'on n'a absolument connoissance à Painbeuf d'aucune chose qui ait pu donner lieu à ce qui a été avancé à ce sujet.¹

À l'égard du Navire l'*Indépendance*, il paroît que ce Bâtiment n'est connu que pour Bâtiment du Commerce; au surplus suivant ce qui m'a été marqué, il a eu ordre de partir et doit l'être actuellement.²

Je vous ai marqué le 28. du mois dernier que j'écrivi à l'Orient pour qu'on tint la main à ce que le *Raleigh* et l'*Alfred* ne différassent pas davantage leur départ, s'ils étoient encore à l'Orient, et qu'il est fût usé de même pour le *Randolphe*, s'il étoit en ce Port; suivant ce qui m'a été mandé du dit lieu par une lettre du 29., le *Raleigh* et l'*Alfred* en étoient partis le même jour, et par une autre lettre du 2. de ce mois, que je reçois, on me mande qu'on n'a pas connoissance qu'il y ait en à

l'Orient un Corsaire Américain nommé le *Randolph* et à l'égard des armes et munitions de Guerre qu'on disoit avoit été embarquées sur ces Bâtimens, et leur avoit été fournies de nos Ports, je vois par cette d^{re} lettre que ce qui a pu donner lieu à ce qui avoit été dit à ce sujet, c'est que le rembarquement des Canons et des munitions d'Armement du *Raleigh* et de l'*Alfred* n'a été fait que depuis leur mise en rade, mais on m'assure qu'on n'a aucune connoissance qu'il y en ait eu d'autres, et qu'il avoit veillé avec la plus grande attention à ce qu'il n'y en fut pas embarqué.³ J'ai l'honneur d'être [&c.]

de sartine

[Translation]

Versailles, 8th. January 1778.

I have caused inquiries to be made, My Lord, concerning the American corvette named the "*Dauphin*", which was said to be at Painbeuf, and on which it was asserted there were seventy sailors and officers of all ranks, intended to form the crew of a vessel of 24 guns, and also concerning the sailors, who were stated to have been put in prison at Nantes on the requisition of the Anglo-American Captain, because they had wished to leave this vessel, although they were English and had declared their intention of returning home. I gather from what has been told me that the allegations made on these different points are entirely void of foundation, and that absolutely nothing is known at Painbeuf which could have given rise to what has been alleged on this subject.¹

With regard to the vessel *Independence*, it appears that it is only known as a trader; moreover, according to what has been pointed out to me, it has received orders to depart, and must now be gone.²

I informed you on the 28th. of last month that I wrote to L'Orient requesting that the departure of the "*Raleigh*" and the "*Alfred*" should be delayed no longer, if they were still at L'Orient, and that the same action should be taken towards the "*Randolph*," if it was in that port. According to information sent me from that place by a letter of the 29th., the "*Raleigh*" and "*Alfred*" had left the same day; and by another letter of the 2nd. of this month, which I have just received, I am informed that they are not aware that an American privateer named the "*Randolph*" has been at L'Orient, and with regard to the arms and ammunition which were said to have been embarked on these vessels, and supplied to them from our ports, I learn by this last letter that what gave rise to what has been said on this point is, that the re-shipping of the guns and ammunition of the "*Raleigh*" and "*Alfred*" did not take place until after they were in the road, but I am assured that there is no knowledge of any other shipments, and that the greatest attention had been paid to see that none was embarked.³

I have the honour to be [&c.]

De Sartine

L, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 521, fol. 30. Addressed at foot of first page: "M. Le C^{te} De Vergennes." The translation is from *Stevens's Facsimiles*, vol. 21, no. 1826.

1. Marginal notation: "nul fondement à l'allegation au Sujet du Baüiment le *Dauphin* qu'on disoit etre a Painbeuf l'entrepot de 70 matelots"; "no foundation to the allegation respecting the ship *Dauphin* which was said to be at Painbeuf, and on which were seventy sailors." In fact, Jonathan Williams, Jr., Continental agent in Nantes, was using the cutter *Dolphin* to lodge seamen intended to man Continental Navy frigate *Deane*. On the imprisonment of reluctant seamen, see the notation of a payment to the maréchausee for "securing the sailors," in the Supplementary Account of Continental

Navy Cutter *Dolphin*, at 6 Jan., above. For the British complaint, see Lord Stormont to Lord Weymouth, 10 Dec. 1777, *NDAR* 10: 1081–82.

2. Marginal notation: “depart du Batiment americain l’*Independance*”; “Departure of the American vessel *Independence*.”

3. Marginal notation: “certitude du depart de l’orient des Vaux americains le *Raleigh* et l’*Alfred*, on n’a point connoissance du Vau le *Randolph*”; “Certainty of the departure from L’Orient of the American vessels *Raleigh* and *Alfred*, there is no knowledge of the vessel *Randolph*.” For the mistaken British intelligence that the *Randolph* was at Nantes, see Lord Stormont to Comte de Vergennes, 25 Dec. 1777, *NDAR* 10: 1146–48, and especially note 1.

WILLIAM LEE TO THOMAS MORRIS

Thomas Morris esq^r—Nantes

Sir,

Chaillot 8 Jan^r 1778

I had y^e pleasure of writing to you the 4th. Instant by M^r Stevenson¹ a countryman of yours & a Gentleman that I trust you will find very deserving of y^r civilities & who I think you may safely trust any letters to, as he carries several dispatches to Congress w^{ch}. he is to deliver himself & consequently will go in Cap^t Nicholson.² I understand y^t. Cap^{ts}. Thompson & Hyndman refused to let you have any thing to do with the prizes they bro^t into L’Orient—that they have accounted, or say they will account, with the Gentlemen at Passi for the Congress share of the prizes, & y^t. to y^m. only have they applied & been directed Since they came to L’Orient. Judge yⁿ. what must be my Surprize to have y^e other day presented for payment bills to y^e am^t. of near Seventy thousand Livres drawn by these cap^{ts}, on you & me. I saw these cap^{ts} twice while they were up here, but they never communicated to me one Syllable of their affairs & I only know f^m. Common report that they are in the Continental Service. There is something very odd in this transaction & I c^d. wish you w^d. find out by whose orders they drew so largely on us at y^e moment they were about to sail. As you are much in the way & will frequently have opportunities of recommending consignments f^m. y^s. country to y^r. Brothers house in America, you will excuse me for hinting that I sh^d. think you ought not to neglect any opportunity of that Sort. I hear y^t. M^r Deane’s Brother, M^r Simeon Deane is just sent out to America to settle a House in Virginia, as Mess^{rs}. Simeon Deane & C^o. and y^t. he is promised most of the Consignments from y^s. Country and Holland. Who compose y^s. Com^y. you know as well as I do, for I have not heard that. M^r Williams will not I suppose hesitate to tell you who Signed the letter to him, directing him to undertake the sale of prizes made by Continental armed vessels, this letter I have repeatedly endeavor’d to get recalled, & was solemnly promised it sh^d. be done, but I am informed it never.³

LB, ViHi, William Lee Folders, Letter Book (August 1777–June 1778), 158–59.

1. William Stevenson was a merchant in Maryland before the mid-1760s, when he moved to Bristol, England. In early January 1778 the American Commissioners decided to send duplicate official dispatches to Congress by his hands but then decided to send them by William Carmichael instead. Stevenson ended up carrying only private letters. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 406–7.

2. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*.

3. For Morris’s and Williams’s accommodation of the question of authority over Continental prizes, see Jonathan Williams, Jr., to the American Commissioners in France, 6 Dec. 1777, *NDAR* 10: 1072. For the background of the dispute, see *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 24: lii–liii, 245–47, 248–49, 263–64, 305–7, 313, 328–29, 451–53; 25: 337–38.

JOHN THORNTON'S MEMORANDUM FOR THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Memorandum

[Between 5 and 8 Jan. 1778]

In Company with some American Gentlemen, it was dropped in conversation that it was surprising the Commissioners at Paris Knowing the deplorable situation of the American prisoners confined in the several prisons in England, that they had not sent them any relief; this induced me to wait no longer for an answer from Lord North,¹ to run all risks and to set off that Evening for Portsmouth in order to visit and relieve if possible such of the prisoners as were in want, before either Government or the Committee at the Kings Arms had sent them any relief.² so far I succeeded that I provided them with necessaries, Tobacco and money, on the 30th Dec^r when I came away from Forton, nothing had been delivered to them, but what I had sent.

I arrived at Forton the 28th Dec^r did all I could to speak to some of the American Officers, was permitted to do it thro' the Rails only, and that in the presence of two Officers of Marines and one of the Goalers. I informed the prisoners that I was sent by the Commissioners at Paris to administer to them every relief possible, the Conversation was very short, as I was desired by the Officers to go away; M^{rs}: Harrison³ whom I was told by some of the prisoners had been very good to them, I called upon, she informed me that by the means of one of the Goaler I might convey to any of the prisoners letters or any thing Else, I sent for the Goaler, and with the never failing argument, he carried a letter to Cap^t: Nicholson,⁴ this Goaler with some of the Invalids had carried several letters for them, altho' Expressly forbidden, without their first being open by the Agent.⁵ I desired in my letter that some of the Officers would be at a certain place of the prison at 4 o'Clock that afternoon to speak to me, I [*torn*] to bribe the Invalid Centries to per[mit me] to speak to the prisoners without their hearing the conversation, or disturbed by any body Else. so far I succeeded beyond my expectations, as I got a full and concise account from Cap^t: Harris, Doct^{rs}: Smith, Dowler⁶ and many more of the officers of their situations and the numbers confined. on Monday the 29th. I demanded admittance from the Agent, and leave to visit and be permitted to get into the Prison, to converse with the prisoners, which was granted me on the following conditions, that his Clerk, (a M^r: Douglas) should be present and that my visit should be short. on my entering the Yard of the Prison, I was surrounded by every one of them, enquiring if there was any likelihood of their misery ceasing. I informed them, that I had been sent to England by the Commissioners at Paris, to inspect into the treatment they had received, and to supply them with every necessaries they might be in want, that application had been made for the Exchange of prisoners, and that I hoped their imprisonment would be, but of a [short] duration, that, if they had not been re[*torn*] before now, it was Not the fault of [the] Commissioners, that they had long ago endeavored to find means to do it; they Seem'd happy and they expressed their thanks to the Commissioners. many of the officers had not a Shilling, to pay for their Washing and some of them only a Shirt, a p^r of Stockings and bad Shoes, I took the Names of such as were in that condition, and immediatly provided them with it. the Officers complained to me of the small quantity of provisions allowed them by the Agent, which lead me to offer that every other day, they should have a joint of meat such as they liked to each Mess and that M^{rs}: Harrison under the inspection of the Reverend M^r: Wren⁷ would provide them with it.

they express their thanks and seemed much happier of my visit. I should have distributed a greater quantity of Cloathing but I was informed by the Agent's clerk, that Govern^{mt}: had ordered Jackets, Stockings [and] Breeches to be served out to them, [and] had also ordered all sort of necessaries sent down.

By the Account I had from Plymouth, there were in Milles Prison^s 289 of which 40 were Officers.

Lord North told M^r Hartley last Saturday the 3^d: of Jan^{ry} 1778 that he Knew of Several persons that had come to London from Mess^{rs}: Franklin, Deane & Lee & that Doctor Bancroft had been in London, and was informed had been sent by those Gentlemen from Paris on Stock Jobbing business.

An Exact Account of the treatment of the American Prisoners taken from their own mouths & from the Reverend M^r Wren to the 29th: of Dec^r: 1777 that I visited them at Forton Prison.

at this time there are 119 American Prisoners in Forton Prison near Gosport, their imprisonment is of a truth exceedingly rigorous owing partly to the severity of the Orders given in charge to the Agent, and partly owing to the weakness of the Prison itself, which is a perpetual temptation to them to brake out, for on their being detected in attempting to escape or retaken after having got out, they are punished with an unexampled severity for such an Offence and tho' many things that have appeared in the papers concerning the cruelty of [*torn*] Keepers have been exaggerated, yet, there [*torn*] many capricious and vexatious [acts?] arising [fro]m this quarter, which add greatly to the weight of their misery. there is not the least distinction made between the Officers and common Sailors, and the prison having no Glazed windows, they can not have any light without having the Northern and Westerly Winds; their provisions are but scanty at best, generally good of the quality, they are divided into Messes 4 in each, and each mess's allowance for the four is 3^{lb} of meat, 1^{lb} of bread & 1 Quart of Beare for each man for the 24 hours, as there is not any thing delivered to them from the Agent but at noon.⁹ there are now in the Infirmary 20, and few days' ago 27 in the black hole which is nearly filled makes it a dreadful punishment, some of them had not Cloaths nor other necessaries to Keep themselves clean so that the Air doth not only become foul, but the stench some time insupportable, the 27 were confined the 2^d: December, and till lately they were not let out at all, how-ever they are now let out 3 hours every other day the time of their confinement for attemp[ting] to Escape is 40 days. Captain [*torn*] are at this present time [*torn*] sometime so delirious at [*torn*] detriment of the others. during [*torn*] these men have only the half allowance of provisions and indeed hardly half, for each man has for the 24 hours 1/2 lb of bread, 1 pint of beare, and what should be 6 ounces of meat, but the bones makes it seldom exceed 4 Ounces. the Agent declares that it's the orders of the Sick and Hurt, that during the time of confinement these men shall not be permitted to have either money, or victuals from any person whatever but their half allowance. tho' lately means have been found out to send in some small quantity of provisions to them, the prisoners have been and were when I arrived there extreemly bare of Cloaths. the Agent had distributed few necessaries such as 40 pairs of Shoes, 50 Shirts & upwards leaving still great many wanting. there are many of the prisoners that have been confined 18 & 20 Months. Captain Nicholson of the *Hornet* was 7 months in Irons in the West-Indies, some French prisoners of Ranks [*torn*] amongst them.¹⁰ Their whole bedding [*torn*] Hamock, a Pillow filled with Straw & [*torn*].

[Mr. Wr]en a Presbiterien Clergyman at Portsmouth has been of the greatest service, and has behaved with great Humanity to the American prisoners providing

some with the means of making their Escapes, and assisting those that were unable or prevented from getting away. the first comittement at Forton was on the 13th of June 1777, at which time he got acquainted with the officers of the *rising states*, assisted them, and gave them Cash for their Congress Notes, the only mode of assisting them, the Agent would allow of. from the 13th of June to 13th Oct, there has been about 7 Comittements to which he has always attended, last Sept^r at his repeated Sollicitations the Agent allowed him to distribute to the necessitous 2 Shill^{gs} to each man, shortly after that he was permitted to advance them, as far as one Dollar ~~per~~ man. from the 12th Ju [torn] to the Midle of Decem^r the prisoners were very inhumanly treated by the Agent & Goalers. but upon Lord Abington speech in the House of Lords¹¹ the Keepers begun to abate goodeal of their Severity M^r Wren soon after the Advertisement of the Committee at the Kings Arms appeared in the Papers, received Letters from London, Bristol, Liverpool & several other places [torn] Know the situation of the pr [torn] M^r Wallace of Liverpool [torn] time a note of £30 to be [torn] should think proper amongst the prisoners [torn] Worthy Clergyman has visited every other day the Prison, and has supplied them from time to time with triflying sums, and those in the black hole with provisions.

L, MH-H, Arthur Lee Papers. By permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University. Docketed: "Original Letter from M^r Thornton/to the Commissioners at Paris." The date is conjectural, suggested by the internal reference to "last Saturday the 3^d of Jan^y 1778," and the date of Thornton's return to Paris, 8 Jan. See Richard Henry Lee, *Life of Arthur Lee* (Boston, 1829; reprint ed. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Press, 1969), 2 vols., 2: 374-75. Tears on the edges of several sheets have removed several words of the original text. For the enclosure, see "List of the American Prisoners confined in Forton Prison," which follows, below.

1. For Thornton's commission from the American Commissioners, see NDAR 10: 1086. For the American Commissioners' letter to Lord North, see *ibid.*, 1095-6. Lord North granted Thornton an interview on 19 Dec. but gave no answer to the Commissioners' letter. Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 87.

2. On 24 Dec. 1777 a public meeting for raising a subscription "for the purpose of relieving the distress of the American prisoners" was held at the King's Arms Tavern, in Cornhill, London. Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 83-84. See also Almon's *Remembrancer*, the first document following the enclosure, below.

3. Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison, the prison's chief cook. Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 88.

4. Continental Navy sloop *Hornet*, Capt. John Nicholson, commander, was captured on 27 Apr. 1777 off Florida. Her officers were in prison in England by September. NDAR 8: 454; 9: 124-25.

5. John Newsham, keeper of Forton Prison, agent of the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen and the Exchange of Prisoners.

6. Virginia Navy Captain John Harris, captured in brig *Musquetto* off Barbados in June 1777 (NDAR 9: 46); Clement Smith, Surgeon, Continental Navy brig *Lexington* ("List of the American Prisoners Confined at Forton," below); and Eliphalet Downer, "Surgeon and Passenger" in *Lexington* (*ibid.*).

7. Thomas Wren (ca. 1725-1787), minister of the Presbyterian Chapel in Portsmouth. Sheldon S. Cohen, "The Preachers and the Prisoners," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 126 (Jan. 1990, No. 1): 1-26. See also Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, *passim*.

8. Mill Prison, Plymouth, England.

9. In the margin: "One Man's allow^{ce} for 24 Hours. 1 Pint of Beare 1 lb of Bread 12 Ounces of meat."

10. See the last two entries in the "List of the American Prisoners confined in Forton Prison," immediately below.

11. Willoughby Bertie, 4th Earl of Abingdon, a member of the Parliamentary opposition, had spoken against passage of the act suspending the Habeas Corpus Act under whose authority Americans were held prisoner. On 11 Dec. he moved in the House of Lords that the government provide accounts relative to the treatment of American prisoners held in England and announced his intention to promote a subscription for the relief of those prisoners. *Rebellion in America: A Contemporary British Viewpoint, 1765-1783*, [extracts from the *Annual Register*] edited by David H. Murdoch (Santa Barbara, Calif., and Oxford, England: Clio Books, 1979), 453, 545-46; Abingdon's speech is reported in *The Parliamentary History of England* 14: 592-95.

"LIST OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS CONFINED IN FORTON PRISON DEC^R: 29TH: 1777"

[Enclosure]

Men's Names	Stations	Where born	Places of Residence in America.
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Taken in a Prize belonging to the *Warren* Privateer 20th. Nov^r: 1776

Jn ^o : Palmer	Prize Master		
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Sam ^l . Blasdel	Sailor		
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Sam ^l . Brown	D ^o		
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Fran ^s . Jones	D ^o :		
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Taken in the *General Montgomery*.¹

Jam ^s . Bryant	first Lieutenant	Boston	Massachusetts's Bay
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Tho ^s . White	2 ^d : D ^o :	Salem	Ditto
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Geo: Segar	Surgeon's Mate	Queen Ann's County	Maryland
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Will ^m : Baxter	Master's Mate	Nantucket	Massachusetts's Bay
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Jam ^s . Lee	Prize Master	Manchester	D ^o :
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Moses Bigar	Serj ^t : of Marines		Pensylvania
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Jam ^s . McMaham	D ^o :	Ireland	D ^o :
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Jo ^s : White Jun ^r : ²	Sailor	Salem	Massachusetts's Bay
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David Cross	D ^o :	Marble Head	D ^o :
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Jn ^o : Carries	D ^o :	Beverley	D ^o :
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Dan ^l . Stewart	D ^o :	Ireland	D ^o :
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W ^m . Murphy	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
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Jerem: Evans	D ^o :	Pensylvania	Pensylvania
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Rob ^t . White	D ^o :	Philadelphia	D ^o :
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Ja ^s . Berkley	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
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Ja ^s . Redman	D ^o :	Norwich England	Philadelphia
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Jn ^o . Murray	D ^o :	Ireland	D ^o :
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Cha ^s : Blee	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
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Cha ^s . Cainney	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
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Pat: Read	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
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Ge ^o : Wilson	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
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Ja ^s . Gentle	D ^o :	Sheetland	D ^o :
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Jn ^o Cooper	D ^o :	Norfolk	Virginia
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Jn ^o . Bounet	D ^o :	France	Nova Scotia
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Ja ^s . Grammar	D ^o :	Mount Holly	New Jersey
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Crew of the *Rotterdam* Brig³ taken in a Prize 8th: Feb^ry 1777/

W ^m . Tryon	Lieutenant	Weatherfield	Connecticut
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Jn ^o Leonard	Passenger	France	
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Jn ^o Bap: Ferrez	D ^o :	D ^o :	
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Joseph Lapara	D ^o :	D ^o :	
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Pet: Andrian	D ^o :	D ^o :	
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Tu: Avenar	D ^o :	D ^o :	
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Lewis Burrevan	D ^o :	D ^o :	
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The Brig the *Rising States* taken the 15th of April 1777 from Boston⁴

Joseph Lunt	Second Lieutenant		Massachusetts's Bay
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Christ: Clark	Carpenter	D ^o :
Ja ^s . Woodward	Gunner	Boston
Eliz: Bowen	Master at Arms	D ^o :
Jn ^o Rogers	Chief Cook	D ^o :
Jos: Lunt Jun ^r :	Gunner's Mate	D ^o :
Edward Manning	Carpenter's Mate	D ^o :
Will ^m . Humber	Sailor	D ^o :
Oliver Johannet	D ^o :	D ^o :
Ge ^o : Pease	D ^o :	D ^o :
Rub: Lock	D ^o :	D ^o :
Aug st . Coolidge	D ^o :	D ^o :
Tho ^s . Burges	D ^o :	D ^o :
David Carnes	D ^o :	D ^o :
Ja ^s . Holtan	D ^o :	D ^o :
Eliab: Allen	D ^o :	D ^o :
W ^m . Jasper	D ^o :	D ^o :
Jos: Martin	D ^o :	D ^o :
W ^m . Graves	D ^o :	D ^o :
Orlando Denny	D ^o :	D ^o :
Benj: Lambert	D ^o :	D ^o :
Tim ^o : Connor	D ^o :	D ^o :
Benj: Oates	D ^o :	D ^o :
Johnson Lunt	D ^o :	D ^o :
W ^m . Stevens	D ^o :	D ^o :
Boston Ruddock	D ^o :	D ^o :

Sloop *Hornet* taken 27th: April 1777/⁵

Jn ^o Nicholson	Captain	Charles Town	Maryland
Edw ^d : Legar 2 ^d :	Lieutenant	D ^o :	South Carolina
W ^m . Radford	Lieu ^t of Marines	Frederick's County	Maryland
Ja ^s . Brehon	Surgeon	Ireland	D ^o :

The *Jenny* Schooner belonging to the Comon Wealth Virginia taken 6th: May 1777/⁶

Jn ^o Author	Lieutenant	England	New London
Mich ^l : Smith	Cap ^t : Clerk	Ireland	Maryland
Jn ^o Dormont	Sailor	England	Virginia

Oliver Cromwell Private Ship taken 20th: May 1777⁷

Jn ^o . Crow	Boatswain	Italy	Philadelphia
W ^m . McCray	Sailor	Philadelphia	D ^o :
W ^m . Green	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
George Gettell	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
W ^m . Base a Boy	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Jn ^o Connor	Sailor	Ireland	D ^o :
Rob ^t : Cameron	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :
Ja ^s . Thompson	D ^o :	England	Maryland
Dan ^l : Pryor	D ^o :	Nantucket	Massachusetts's Bay
W ^m . McCulloh	D ^o :	Ireland	Pensylvania

Musketo Brig belonging to Virginia Comon Wealth taken June 25th. 1777/⁸

Jn ^o : Harris ⁹	Captain	Italy	Virginia
Alex ^c : Dick	Cap ^t : of Marines	Virginia	D ^o :
Alex ^c : Moore	Midshipman	Scotland	D ^o :
Jn ^o : Smith	Boatswain	England	D ^o :

Taken in a Prize Belonging to the *Yankee* Privateer in June 1777¹⁰

David Hall	Sailor	Barbadoes	Connecticut
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The Continental Ship *Reprisal* taken 4th. July 1777/¹¹

Eben: Newcombe	Sailor	Cape Cod	Massachusett's
Jos: Wheeler	D ^o :	New Castle	Pensylvania
Ja ^s . Mullen	D ^o :	New York	New York
Rob ^t : Owen	D ^o :	Ireland	Philadelphia
Arch: Reonalds	D ^o :	Scotland	D ^o :
Jos: Bonny	D ^o :	Ireland	D ^o :
Jn ^o : Harding	D ^o :	England	D ^o :
Dan ^l : Townshend	D ^o :	D ^o :	Maryland

Taken on board the *Percilla* Brig, retaken 19th. July 1777¹²

Epha: Wall	Sailor	Boston	Boston
Tho ^s . McKenzey	D ^o :	D ^o :	D ^o :

Taken on board a Prize 30th Sept^r. 1777 belonging to the *Independence* Sloop¹³

Wm. Small	Sailor	New York
Jn ^o Ogden	D ^o :	D ^o :
Pat: Quin	D ^o :	D ^o :
Fran ^s : Braham ¹⁴	D ^o :	Boston

a Prize of the Sloop *Revenge* taken 26th. July 1777/¹⁵

Benj: Bailley	Prize Master	Wallingford	Connecticut
Ja ^s . Ashley	Sailor	England	
Red: Anderson	D ^o :	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Fran ^s . Vernell	D ^o :	France	
Amiable Tilloy	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Cha ^s Chamelle	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Jn ^o Richards	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Lewis Le Counte	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Fran ^s . Rouslin ¹⁶	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Savoy Bowin	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Nicolas Blanche	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Mich ^l Covin	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Jos: Verbal	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Pet: Magonin	D ^o :	D ^o :	
Hen: Till	D ^o :	D ^o :	

of the *Lexington* Privateer¹⁷

Clem ^t : Smith	Surgeon	Roxbury	Baltimore
Eliz: Downer	Surgeon & Passenger	D ^o :	D ^o :

Mons^r Viebert¹⁸ L^t Co^l & Engineer France taken at Fort Washington
 Mons^r Baubetrang¹⁹ L^t Co^l acting as Aid de Camp to Gen^l Lee & taken with him

D, PHi, Benjamin Franklin Papers. Docketed: "List of American Prisoners, in/Forton." Enclosure to "John Thornton's Memorandum for the American Commissioners in France," between 5 and 8 Jan., above. A nearly identical version, differing chiefly only in the order of the names and a few of the spellings, is in MH-H, Arthur Lee Papers, with Thornton's Memorandum. The text of the latter manuscript, however, is marred by heavy wear on one long edge.

1. Pennsylvania privateer brigantine, Capt. Benjamin Hill, captured by H.M.S. *Levant*, 7 Mar. 1777. NDAR 8: 343-44.

2. "Tho^s White Jun^r" in the copy in MH-H, Arthur Lee Papers.

3. A mistake for South Carolina Navy brigantine *Notre Dame*.

4. Massachusetts privateer brigantine, Capt. James Thompson, captured by H.M.S. *Terrible*. NDAR 8: 768-69.

5. Continental Navy sloop, Capt. John Nicholson, commander, captured by H.M. sloop *Porcupine*. NDAR 8: 454.

6. Virginia privateer schooner, Capt. George Ralls, commander, captured by H.M.S. *Seaford*, 24 May 1777. NDAR 9: 102, 123.

7. Pennsylvania privateer ship, Capt. Harmon Courter, commander, captured by H.M. sloop *Beaver*. NDAR 8: 999.

8. Virginia Navy brig *Musquetto*, Capt. John Harris, commander, captured by H.M.S. *Ariadne*, 4 June 1777. NDAR 9: 19-20.

9. Harris was "said to have been born in Wales." Robert Armistead Stewart, *Virginia's Navy of the Revolution* [Richmond, Va., 1933], 198.

10. Massachusetts privateer sloop, Capt. Henry Johnson, commander.

11. Taken, presumably, in a prize of Continental Navy ship *Reprisal*, Capt. Lambert Wickes, commander, probably the ship *Grace*. See NDAR 9: 472, 521-22.

12. *Priscilla*, brig, captured by Massachusetts privateer ship *General Mifflin*, Capt. William Day, 6 July 1777, and recaptured by British letter of marque ship *Union*, Capt. Stop, commander. NDAR 9: 593.

13. Probably Continental Navy sloop *Independence*, Capt. John Young, commander.

14. "Branham" in MH-H, Arthur Lee Papers.

15. Brig *Northampton*, taken by Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*, Capt. Gustavus Conyngham, 21 July 1777, and recaptured by H.M. tender *Kitty*, Lt. John Moore, commander. NDAR 9: 517-19, 534-36.

16. "Brouslin" in MH-H, Arthur Lee Papers.

17. Continental Navy brigantine *Lexington*, Capt. Henry Johnson, commander, captured by H.M. cutter *Alert*, 19 Sept. 1777. NDAR 10: 855-57.

18. Antoine-Felix Wuibert de Méziers, Lt. Col. of Engineers, Continental Army.

19. René-Etienne-Henry Gaiault de Boisbertrand was a Lt. Col. in the French calvary and volunteer with the Continental Army. He had been with Maj. Gen. Charles Lee only three days when, on 13 Dec. 1776, Lee and his entourage were captured by surprise at Basking Ridge, N.J. For more on Boisbertrand, see *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 27: 356-57.

ALMON'S REMEMBRANCER

In the course of the war, several Americans had been made prisoners, and brought to England, who were chiefly confined in gaols at Portsmouth, Plymouth, &c. These were mostly sailors. A temporary law had been made from year to year suspending the Habeas Corpus Act, in their particular case. The treatment they met with was in general harsh, and in some instances exceedingly cruel. Their peculiar situation, and the miseries they underwent, excited some humane gentlemen, in the city of London, to call a public meeting on the 24th of December, 1777, of such persons as thought the sufferers objects of compassion. They opened a public subscription for money, to buy blankets, shoes, linen, coats, &c. &c. for the prisoners; the number of whom was between five and six hundred. The sum of £4657 was collected in a few weeks; when the managers thought proper to close the subscription, to the great disappointment of many persons, in every part of the

kingdom, who wished to shew their humanity by adding to this subscription, and their disapprobation of those measures which had made this bounty necessary.

The following is a copy of a petition, sent to certain noble Lords, from some of the prisoners at Portsmouth:

We the subscribers, natives of America, being at this time prisoners of war, and closely confined in his Majesty's prison at Portsmouth, do most earnestly entreat your Lordship, in behalf of ourselves and others, our companions in gaol, who are not able to sign with us, to permit us to state to your Lordship our present most pitiable case and situation. We beg pardon of your Lordship for the great liberty we are taking, and for the mode we have adopted to make our sufferings known; which, though it may not be thought strictly regular or according to forms, they humbly hope will be excused, when our very distressed state and condition is considered, and when we assure your Lordship, that petitions presented to the Admiralty *last year*, in behalf of certain sick prisoners then in severe confinement, were utterly disregarded. And after having done this, we will entertain a hope, through your Lordship's merciful interposition, and the influence of other compassionate rulers of the land, that we shall not be suffered to perish in a Christian country (*for the body of which we still retain an affection*) and in the midst of plenty. More especially do we hope for relief, on account of those of us who have left *large families* at home, which must sink or swim with us.

In number we are at Portsmouth about one hundred and forty; all of us in want of warm cloathing, so necessary at this severe season, as well as of almost every other comfort; and many are actually without a *shoe or stocking to their feet*. And to add to these hardships, we have for an overseer, a man, who seems to be totally void of humanity.¹ He detains every charitable supply sent us by humane neighbours, or *sells it*, (as lately in the case of some wine sent for our refreshment) and *retails the money at his pleasure*, and in so parsimonious a manner, as to render it of little or no use. He has denied us the common supplies of *milk*, by prohibiting persons ordered to our relief with that necessary refreshment, from entering the prison yard. We are not allowed *candle or fire* in this extreme season, which must prove fatal to many in a cold and exposed prison. Our allowance is only eight ounces of meat each man per day, including the bone, (which is sometimes full one half) and *beer* that is very *small* indeed.

Captains and other officers, who have ever been used to very different treatment, and are blessed with education, who have feelings and sentiments, which upon this occasion they shall suppress, are penned up all together like cattle, with the *common sailors*, and with their *own servants*.

We are at a loss to conceive the reason of these severities, when we know how very different the treatment of English prisoners is in every part of America. We again beg your Lordship's pardon and pray for redress.

Given under our hands in the prison at Portsmouth, the 1st day of December, 1777.

Harman Courter, Commander of the *Oliver Cromwell*.

Byrd Chamberlayne, First Lieutenant of the *Muschetto*.

Robert McCaver, Prize-master belonging to Captain Weekes.

George Chamberlayne, Second Lieutenant of the *Muschetto*.

William Williams, Master of the brig *General Montgomery*.

John M'Nikal, Surgeon of the *Muschetto*.

John Cochran, Boatswain of the *Yankee*, in prison 18 months.

Joseph Smith,

Thomas Clark,

James Gideon Worth,

James Motry.²

Sailors.

A subscription was opened in Bristol for the purpose of relieving the American prisoners, where near 400 l. was collected in a short time. Other subscriptions were begun in different parts, as Yorkshire, Norwich, &c. but upon the subscription being closed in London, those in the country were closed likewise.

The Remembrancer; or, Impartial Repository of Public Events. For the Year 1778. (London: John Almon, 1778), 102-3.

1. John Newsham.

2. Capt. Harmon Courter, commander of the Pennsylvania privateer ship *Oliver Cromwell*, captured by H.M. sloop *Beaver*, 19 May 1777, committed to Forton 13 Oct. 1777; Byrd Chamberlayne, first lieutenant of the Virginia Navy brig *Muschetto*, captured by H.M.S. *Ariadne*, 4 June 1777, committed to Forton 8 Aug. 1777; Robert M'Caver, or McCarver, master's mate, Continental Navy, captured in *Reprisal's* prize *Grace*, committed to Forton 9 Aug. 1777 (see NDAR 9: 472, 521-22); George Chamberlayne, second lieutenant of Virginia Navy brig *Muschetto*, committed to Forton 8 Aug. 1777, escaped and recaptured 12 Oct., and sent to the Black Hole; William Williams, master of the Pennsylvania privateer brigantine *General Montgomery*, Capt. Benjamin Hill, commander, captured by H.M.S. *Levant* 7 Mar. 1777, committed to Forton 8 Aug. 1777; Archibald McNickle, surgeon of Virginia Navy brig *Muschetto*, committed to Forton 8 Aug. 1777 (Robert Armistead Stewart, *The History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution* [Richmond, Va., 1933], 39, 219, 276); John Cochran, boatswain of Massachusetts privateer sloop *Yankee*, Capt. Henry Johnson, commander, captured 3 July 1776 by its prisoners and brought into London, committed to Forton 14 or 26 June 1777, escaped and recaptured, put in the Black Hole 30 July, escaped Dec. 1777 (see NDAR 6: 516-18, 538-39, 554); Joseph Smith, of *General Montgomery*, committed to Forton 8 Aug. 1777; Thomas Clark, of Massachusetts privateer brigantine *Rising States*, Capt. James Thompson, commander, committed to Forton, 14 June 1777; James Gideon Worth (not identified); James Motry or Mootry, of *Oliver Cromwell*, committed to Forton 13 Oct. 1777. Dates of commitment to Forton are based on Marion Kaminkow and Jack Kaminkow, comps., *Mariners of the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Md.: Magna Carta Book Co., 1967).

INVOICE OF GOODS SHIPPED IN CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *DEANE*

Invoice of Sundry Merchandize received by Jon^a. Williams from various Places & Shipped by order of the Hon^{ble}. the Comm^{rs}. of the United States on board the Continental Frigate *Deane* Sam^l Nicholson Esq^r Commander bound for North America on Account & Risque of Congress and Consigned to their Order.

vizt

FD. ¹	8 Casks said to contain 2000 [¶] Shoes. Contents of each Cask not received by Jon ^a Williams.
N ^o . 1 a 14	14 Hhds Said to contain 2000 Suits of Soldiers Cloaths
1 a 40.	40 Casks Compleat Contents of each Hhds & Cask not received by Jon ^a Williams.
313 a 357	45 Casks said to contain 1276 Suits of Soldiers Cloaths
a 336	Containing each 54 Coats except N ^o . 318. 329. 330. 336. which contain only 49 Making together 1276 Coats.
337 a 346	Containing each 128 Waistcoats except N ^o . 346. which

		contain only 124 making together 1276 Waistcoats.	
347 a 357		Containing 116 B Breeches making together 1276 B Breaches	
JAO 1 a 30	30 Piggs of Pewter said to weigh		10120 lb
DMT 18 a 28	11 Cases of Copper in Sheets		6215
	616 Sheets of Ditto	Loose	8939
29 a 41	13 Bbbs of Ditto	Nails	3625
MAR 11 a 14	4 Bbbs of Ditto	ditto	2300
MG	32 Casks of Ditto	Ore	36606
R.			

Nantes January 8th. 1778.
Errors Excepted.

Jon^a Williams J

DS, ViU, Lee Family Papers.

1. Bolded figures in the left hand column correspond to markings on the casks, barrels, or other packaging, indicating the owner or consignee.

INVOICE OF GOODS SHIPPED IN THE SHIP *DUC DE CHOISEUL*

Invoice of Sundry Merchandize received by Jon^a. Williams from Various Places & Shipped by order of the Hon^{ble}. the Comm^{rs}. of the United States on board the Ship *Duc de Chiseul*. Heraud Commander bound to North America on Account and Risque of Congress and Consigned to their Order vizt

FD

N ^o . 41 a 114.	74 Casks said to contain 2000 Suits of Soldiers Cloaths Compleat
41 a 80.	Containing each 51 Coats except N ^o . 50. 69. 70. 80. which Contain only 41 each making together 2000 Coats.
81 a 98.	Containing each 111 B Breeches except N ^o . 97. 98. which Contain 112 B making together 2000 B Breeches
99 a 114.	Containing each 126 Waistcoats except N ^o . 111. 112. 113. 114 which Contain only 122 each making together 2000 Waistcoats.
115 a 188	74 Casks said to contain Soldiers Cloaths Contents not received by Jon ^a . Williams.
C	27 Bails Said to Contain together 1000 Suits
CP	13 Casks of new invented Soldiers Cloaths with Quatres Casques & ^c & ^c . Compleat Contents of each Bale & Cask not Received by Jon ^a . Williams.
CMO.	12 Brass Six Pound Cannon. 34 Cases Containing each 30 Stands of Arms except N ^o . 34 which contains only 10 making together 1000 Stands of Arms with Bayonets & ^c . Compleat.

Mem^o. N^o. 1 a 26 marked **CMO**: Were sunk in the River
before their Reception at Nantes and have all been
repacked, by this accident the Varnish is taken
of but the Arms otherwise not hurt.¹

Nantes January 8th. 1778.

Errors Excepted

Jon^a Williams J

DS, ViU, Lee Family Papers.

1. For the sinking of the fusils, see Jonathan Williams, Jr., to the American Commissioners in France, 16 Oct. 1777, in *NDAR* 10: 917.

INVOICE OF GOODS SHIPPED IN THE SHIP *DUCHESSE DE GRAMMONT*

Invoice of Sundry Merchandize received by Jon^a. Williams from various places &
shipped by order of the Hon^{ble}. the Comm^{rs}. of the United States on board the
Ship *Duchesse de Grammont* Poidras—Commander bound for North America on
Account and Risque of Congress & Consigned to their order. vizt

FD.

N ^o . 1 a 110	110 Bales Containing 5520 Coats. 6000 Waistcoats and 6000 [⌘] Breeches.
15 a 54.	40 Hhds said to q ^t 2709 Suits of Soldiers Cloaths. Contents not received by Jon ^a . Williams
55 a 78.	24 Hhds said to q ^t 2500 Soldiers Coats, Contents not received by Jon ^a . Williams.
189 a 225.	37 Casks said to q ^t . . . Suits of Soldiers Cloaths Contents not received by Jon ^a . Williams.
226 a 267.	42 Casks Containing 2500 Soldiers Waistcoats & Breeches
268 a 312.	45 Casks 1224 Suits of Soldiers Cloaths
C	16 Cases Containing each 50 [⌘] Pistoles making together 800 P ^r . Numbers as follows. vizt
N ^o .	42 68 184
	43 69 185
	44 70 186
	65 71 <u>187</u>
	66 182
	<u>67</u> <u>183</u>
	31 Cases Containing each 25 Carbines making together 775 Stands. Numbers as follows.
N ^o .	45 50 55 61 188 193
	46 51 56 62 189 194
	47 52 57 63 190 195
	48 53 58 64 191 211
	<u>49</u> <u>54</u> <u>60</u> <u>65</u> <u>192</u> 212
	<u>213</u>
	54 Cases Containing each 25 Rampart Fuzils ¹ making together 1500 Stands Numbers as follows.
N ^o .	143 179 202 280 289 298

146	180	203	281	290	299
147	181	204	282	291	300
158	196	205	283	292	301
159	197	206	284	293	302
160	198	207	285	294	303
176	199	208	286	295	304
177	200	209	287	296	309
<u>178</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>310</u>

Invoice Continued.

WM.N^o. 1 a 23.23 Cases Containing 1400 ³/₄ Holsters.

N ^o . 1. 60	N ^o . 7. 54	N ^o . 13. 55	N ^o . 19. 50
2. 60	8. 55	14. 54	20. 50
3. 58	9. 54	15. 55	21. 100
4. 54	10. 55	16. 56	22. 100
5. 56	11. 54	17. 55	23. <u>100</u>
6. <u>55</u>	12. <u>56</u>	18. <u>54</u>	400
343	328	329	329
			328
			<u>343</u>

1400 ³/₄ Holsters.

24.
25 & 26.

1 Cask of Straps.
2 Cask q^t 50
51

101 Cartouch Boxes.

27 a 34.

8 Cases q^t

N ^o . 27. 13	N ^o . 31. 13
28. 13	32. 12
29. 13	33. 11
30. <u>13</u>	34. <u>12</u>
<u>52</u>	48
	<u>52</u>

100 Saddles.

In N^o. 33. there are 102 Belts & 11 Packs Buckles there are also
distributed, with the Arms & Saddles 176,200 Corks

Nantes January 8. 1778.

16 Cases Cont ^s	800 ³ / ₄ Pistoles	@ 8 [#]	6400.-.-	
	16 Cases	@ 10 [#]	<u>160.-.-</u>	6560.-.-
31 Cases Cont ^s	775 Stands of	9 [#]	6775.-.-	
	Carbines.			
	31 Cases	10 [#]	<u>310.-.-</u>	7085.-.-
54 Cases Cont ^s	1500 Stands of Fuzils	8 [#]	12000.-.-	
	54 Cases	10 [#]	<u>540.-.-</u>	12540.-.-
24 Cases Cont ^s	1400 ³ / ₄ Holsters &	7.15	10850.-.-	
	Straps			

	24 Cases	10 [#]	<u>240.-</u>	11090 ..- ..-
8 Cases Cont ^g	100 Saddles	26 [#]	<u>2600.-</u>	
	8 Cases	10 [#]	<u>80.-</u>	2680 ..- ..-
2 Cases Cont ^g	101 Cartouch Boxes	5 [#]	<u>505.-</u>	
	2 Cases	10 [#]	<u>20.-</u>	525 ..- ..-
102 Belts & 11 Packs Buckles		8 [#] .5 ^s		841..10..-
176200. Corks distributed with the Arms & Saddles				<u>792..18.-</u>
Nantes Jan ^y 8. 1778				42114.. 8.-
	Commissions @ 2 ³ / ₄ Ct			<u>842.. 7.-</u>
Errors Excepted.				<u>42956..15.-</u>

N.B.² In Cask N^o 33 there are 203 Belts instead of 102 as expressed in

the Invoice above @ 8.5	101 is	833.. 5
Commissions @ 2 ³ / ₄ Ct		<u>16..15</u>
		850 ..- ..-
Amount of the within Invoice		<u>42956..15.-</u>
		43806..15.-

Nantes May 28. 1778

Errors Excepted Jon^a Williams J

DS, ViU, Lee Family Papers.

1. A rampart fusil, also called a wall gun, is a heavy musket, designed to be fired from a fortress wall while resting on a stud under the barrel or on a swivel fork on the forestock, sometimes employed as mobile light artillery.

2. The text from this point on is written sideways in the left-hand column.

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o2.

Madrid 8th. Jan^{ry} 1778.

My Lord,

In a Conversation which I have had with M. Floridablanca since I had the Honour of writing last to your Lordship,¹ he Shewed me a Letter which he had just received from Don Felix O'Neile, now Commandant at Coruña. It appeared from this Letter that M. O'Neile had received fresh Orders to prevent the Sale of Prizes, or at least to have the Value of their Cargoes, if sold, deposited; that he had likewise received the Instructions, mentioned in mine, N^o 67 of the last year,² to your Lordship to forbid Cunningham's Entrance into any Port of Spain,³ and to do Justice to such Sailors as might claim to be released.—With regard to what had passed M. O'Neile offered the most trivial Excuses, pretending an Ignorance of the Facts, which is as improbable as it was unsatisfactory to me, and I may add, to the Minister to whom they were addressed. All the Documents relative to Prizes at the Ferrol and at Coruña, as well as at other Ports on the northern Coasts of Spain are ordered to be sent here, and M. Floridablanca has promised to give the fullest Attention to them.

I took occasion to mention to him the Notification, which the House of Guadoqui had given to their Correspondent in America;⁴ He repeated to me the Terms of the Licence which had been granted to that House. I know a Person who has seen the Licence itself and confirms its being grounded upon, and confined to the Expectation of some Remittance in Tobacco. So that the Minister at the same Time that he was obliged to allow the artfull Use made of it by the Guadoquis, ab-

solutely disavowed the Extent to which, they pretend, the Licence was granted, and the Formality with which they have drawn up their Communication of it.

In the Course of this Conference, I took occasion to mention, as from myself, the Subject of an Ambassador to our Court. M. Floridablanca assured me that I should have the earliest notice of the Resolution which should be taken, and that the appointment not being yet made was owing to Reasons which he would likewise explain to me. I believe the Marquis d'Almadovar will be appointed, but that he will not be called from Lisbon 'till notice arrives in Europe of the respective Governors in South America having received the treaty between this Court, and that of Portugal.⁵—I have the Honour to be [&c.]

Grantham.

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 12–13. Addressed at the foot of the first page: "The Lord Viscount Weymouth; /&c^a &c^a &c^a." Docketed: "Madrid 8 Jan^y 1778/Lord Grantham/(N2)/R. 28th."

1. 1 Jan. 1778. UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 5–6.

2. This policy is confirmed in Conde de Floridablanca to Francisco Escarano, 16 Feb., FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol. Angleterre, vol. 528, fol. 354.

3. NDAR 10: 1140.

4. NDAR 8: 797–98. Reference to this correspondence is found in a letter from Elbridge Gerry to Joseph Gardoqui and Sons, 1 Sept. 1777, taken by the British from on board an American ship, NDAR 10: 1044–45. For Gerry's letter see *Letters of the Delegates*, 7: 582–84.

5. This sentence is in cipher in the original.

JOHN HORT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o. one

Lisbon th^y 8 Janu^y 1778

My Lord

I did myself the honour of writing to your Lordship on the 25th. past: Since which his majesty's expected ship *Pelican* captain Goodall, is arrived in this river.

The intended convoy by the *Egmont* has been diverted, by intelligence received of two rebel privateers cruising off the island of Madeira: in pursuit of whom, captain Elphinstone¹ sailed from hence on the first instant: previous to his departure, he acquainted me with his expectation of returning from that service in about ten days; and of then convoying such British vessels as may be ready to sail for Great Britain.

I have the honour of directing under your Lordship's cover a packet for the board of Admiralty; containing several denials of Mediterranean passes; and a letter from captain Elphinstone. I am [&c.]

John Hort

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 89/85, fol. 12. Addressed at foot of first page: "Lord Viscount Weymouth."

1. Capt. John Elphinston, commanding H.M.S. *Egmont*.

January 9

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT HOWE

My Lord..

[Admiralty Office] 9th. Jan^y 1778

I had scarce closed my Dispatches of the 7th. Instant,¹ when I had the honor to receive your Lordships Letter N^o 44 dated from the Delaware, the 23th. Nov^r. last,²

giving an Account of the Preparations made on the part of the Fleet, & the Success which attended them in reducing the Works which the Rebels has constructed to prevent an open communication with Philadelphia, I lost no time in communicating the same to my Lords Commiss^{rs}: of the Admiralty who were pleased immediately to transmit a Copy thereof to Lord George Germain for the Kings Information.³ My Lords received great satisfaction in the testimony your Lordship, as well as General Sir William Howe, has given of the spirited behaviour and conduct of the Officers & Seamen of the Ships under your command upon the Services aforementioned.

Their Lordships approve of the proposition you have made of purchas^g: the *Delaware* Prize; and as, on comparing her dimentions with those of the 20 & 24 Gunships, she seems nearly of a Size with them, consequently capable of serving as a Port Ship,⁴ My Lords therefore leave it to you, if you agree with them in opinion, to establish her as such, & to appoint Lieu^t: Watt, (whose conduct has so highly merited your Lordships recommendation) to the command of the Sloop whose Captain shall be promoted into the *Delaware*, but if you think her unfit for a Port Ship, they recommend it to your Lordship to use her as a Sloop & appoint M^r: Watt to be her Commander.

With respect to your Lordships request for an additional Number of Flag Officers to be sent out to you, I am directed by their Lordships to acquaint that they will take the same into immediate consideration, & that the result thereof shall be communicated to your Lordship by the next conveyance.

I have only to add that with your Letter abovementioned I received your Letter N^o 45 dated the 2nd: of Dec^r: giving an Account of the arrival of the *Venus* with Convoy at Sandy Hook, and that I have the honor to be &c^a:

PS:

LB, UkLPR, Adm. 2/566, fols. 301–2. Addressed at foot: "R^e Hon^{ble}: Lord Viscount Howe./Duplicate sent by the Packet 5th Feby 1778."

1. See 7 Jan., above.

2. NDAR 10: 583–87.

3. Marginal notation: "Our Rec^t: have sent a Copy to L^d G. Germaine."

4. That is, a post ship. Marginal notation: "Approve of purchasing the *Delaware* Prize & directions thereon to appoint L^t Watt to command her."

PHILIP STEPHENS TO WILLIAM KNOX

Sir

Admty Office 9th Jan^y 1778.

Having laid before my Lords Commiss^{rs}: of the Admiralty your Letter of the 2^d: instant, enclosing Extracts of two Letters from W^m Mathew Burt Esq^t: Gov^r: of the Leeward Islands dated the 17th of Sep^t: last, giving an acco^t: of the Steps he had taken (& the success with which they had been attended) for accommodating the Disputes which had arisen between certain of the Inhabitants of Antigua & the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships on that Station, in consequence of the Directions he had received from Lord Geo. Germaine;¹ I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for Lord George's information, that as it appears that the Disputes abovemention'd are entirely accommodated, the Earl of Sandwich has signified to the Board of Admiralty His Majestys pleasure that the produce of the American Vessels taken by non-commissiond Ships fitted out by the

Inhabitants of Antigua & the other Leew^d. Islands & condemned as Droits of Admiralty, be paid to the owners of such Non-Commiss^d. Ships; & that the necessary Orders for that purpose will be dispatched from hence so soon as their Lordships have received from the Judges of the Admiralty Courts the requisite materials to ground such Orders upon, & which have been called for, some time since. I am [&c.]

Ph^r. Stephens

L, UkLPR, C.O. 5/128, fols. 9–10. Addressed at foot of first page: "W^m. Knox Esq." Docketed: "Admiralty Office 9th Jan^y 1778/M^r. Stephens./ W.K./R, 10th"; "(1"; "In/Ent^d."

1. For the accommodation reached between the British authorities and owners of the non-commissioned armed vessels from Antigua, see Vice Admiral James Young to Philip Stephens, 27 Oct. 1777, in *NDAR* 10: 326.

THE LONDON PACKET; OR NEW LLOYD'S EVENING POST
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1778

Friday, January 9. London.

An American privateer, called the *Pennsylvania*, mounting ten carriage guns and six swivels, was stranded the 23^d ult. on the rocks of Magilligan,¹ on the northern coast of Ireland, and all the crew (save the mate and a boy) consisting of forty-seven men, were drowned.

1. Magilligan Point, cape on east side of entrance to Lough Foyle.

January 10

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO BRITISH COLONIAL GOVERNORS IN AMERICA

(Copy.)

Circular.

Whitehall, 10th. Jan^y. 1778

Sir,

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having authorized you to grant Commissions of Marque against the Rebels, it is to be expected that Vessels bearing such Commissions will bring their Prizes into the Ports within your Government, and you may be under some Embarrassment in respect to the Disposal of the Prisoners, I have therefore received the King's Commands to signify to You His Majesty's Pleasure, that when any Prisoners taken in any Rebel Privateer or armed Cruiser shall be brought into any of the Ports within your Government, you do commit them to the common Goal or other Place of safe Custody and apply to the Assembly for an Allowance for their Maintenance and other Expences attending their Confinement, and in case the Assembly shall not think fit to take upon themselves the providing for such Expences, you are to draw upon the Lords Commiss[ioners] of the Treasury for the Amount, taking care that every thing be done in the most frugal and careful manner, and accompanying your Bills with the proper Vouchers; and when any Opportunity offers of putting them on board any of His Majesty's Ships, you will deliver them to the Commanders, in such Numbers as they can be received, in order to their being sent to England, under the Admiral's Direction and in case you cannot so dispose

of the whole, you may agree with the Masters of different Merchant Ships, to take the Remain[der] in small Numbers and carry them to England as Prisoners, their Passage to be paid here upon Certificates of their Delivery on board any of His Majesty's Ships at Plymouth, Portsmouth, in the Downs, or at the Nore; and you are at the same time to transmit to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty one or more Affidavits properly authenticated that such Prisoners were taken in an armed Vessel commissioned by the Rebels. In regard to the Crews of any trading Vessels belonging to the Rebels, such of them, as the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships do not think fit to press into the King's Service, must be left at Liberty. I am, &c.

Geo. Germain.

Copy, UKLPR, Adm. 1/488, fols. 254–55. Addressed at foot of first page: "Governor of New York." Docketed: "Copy of circular Letter/from Lord Geo. Germain/to the Governor of New York, &c. dated/Whitehall, 10th. Jan^{ry}. 1778"; "N^o. 2/In Lord Howes N^o. 59."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO LIEUTENANT PHILIP WALSH, R.N.

By &c.

Whereas we have received Information that several Privatiers belonging to the Rebellious Colonies of North America are cruizing between Cape Pinas & Bilboa in order to intercept the Newfoundland Ships and other Trade of His Maj^{ty}'s Subjects bound that way. (Which Privatiers are of very inconsiderable Force) and that there was lately, in that Port, a Ship called the *Rambler* laden with a large quantity of Rigging, Harpoons and other Goods bound, as it is said, to Hudsons Straits to Whale and trade with the Esquimaux Indians and furnished with English, French, Spanish and American Papers & Colours as more particularly mentioned in the inclosed Extract of the said Intelligence. You are hereby required & directed to put to Sea in the Cutter you command with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, and proceed & cruize between the abovementioned Cape and Cape Machacaca for the protection of the Trade of His Maj^{ty}'s Subjects & to use your best endeavour to take or destroy the abovementioned or any other Privatiers, or Ships or Vessels belonging to the Rebellious Colonies abovementioned which you may be able to come up with.—

You are to continue upon the above Station, for the space of one Month after your arrival thereupon and then make the best of your way back to England, repairing into Plymouth Sound, where you are to remain until you receive further Order; and sending Us an account of your arrival & Proceedings.

You are to keep a good look out for the abovementioned Ship the *Rambler*. If she should put to Sea and in case you shall be convinced that She belongs to any of the Colonies abovementioned, to use your best endeavours to seize her and bring her into Port. Given &c. 10th. Jan^{ry}. 1778.

Sandwich
J Buller
H Palliser

By &c P:S:

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/104, fols. 83–84. Addressed at the foot of the letter: "Lieut. Walsh—*Rattlesnake* Cutter/upon her arrival in the Downes."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO CAPTAIN JOHN GELL, R.N.

By &c.

Whereas we have received intelligence that the *Revenge*, an American Privatier mounting 14 Carriage and 20 Swivel Guns manned with 50 Men and commanded by one Cunningham hath lately taken several Newfoundland and other Ships within sight of Corunna, and that, between the said place and Bilboa, not less than 18 Sail of the said privatiers were then cruising. You are therefore the moment the provisions & stores of the Ship you command¹ are completed (for which we have given directions to Vice Admiral Lord Shuldhham), and wind and weather will permit, hereby required & directed to put to Sea in the Ship you command and to proceed with all possible dispatch off Corunna, and upon your arrival, to send your Boat in with a Letter to the British Vice Consul for Intelligence and if you find that any Privatiers are in that neighbourhood, you are to proceed in quest of them, and to use your best endeavours to take or destroy them, cruising very diligently for that purpose on such Stations as from the Intelligence you may receive shall be most likely to fall in with them; and having so done for the space of one Month after your arrival off Corunna make the best of your way back to Plymouth and remain there until you receive further Order, sending Us an account of your arrival & proceedings.

But if on your arrival off Corunna you shall learn that there are not any Privatiers in that or the neighbouring Ports, or on the adjacent Coast you are to proceed and cruize for the like purpose, and for the like time, off St^c Andero, and then make the best of your way back to Plymouth as above directed. Given &c. 10th. Jan^y 1778.

Sandwich
J Buller
H Palliser

By &c P.S:

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/104, fols. 84–85. Addressed at the foot: "Capt. Gell—*Thetis*—Plymouth."
1. H.M. frigate *Thetis* (32 guns).

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, 1778*]

Jan^y 10th. Sat'day Cloudy weath^r. By a Gent^l from the Subscription Committ^e, at Bristol, we Learn the Subscription there raised for Our relief Amounted to £ 260 & at London to 2660 £. the Bristol Com^{tee}. have Assess'd to Each Prisoner 1 penny Per^d day. Rec^d. 300 red herring with a 3^d Loaf Extra to a mess—

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JAN. 10"

"Arrived the *Hannah*, Capt. Bray, from South Carolina to Nantz, with rice, indigo, and tobacco, which was taken by his Majesty's ship *Bedford*, on a cruise."

London Chronicle, 13–15 Jan. 1778.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR.

Sir

We desire you would advance to Capt. Paul Jones, of the *Ranger*, five hundred Louidores, for which your draught upon us will be paid. We are Sir
[&c.]

(Signed) B. Franklin

Passy, Jan^y 10.

Silas Deane

1778—

Arthur Lee

(A True Copy taken at L'Orient in August 1780 by Tho: Hutchins)

Copy, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6685-86. Addressed at foot: "Jonathan Williams Esq^r/Nantes." Docketing: "From the American Commissioners/—Letter of Credit—/Passy January 10th 1778—/rec^d. passy January 10th. 1778—/X/En^d/Cop^d."

PAUL WENTWORTH TO WILLIAM EDEN

[Extract]

Dear Sir

Paris the 10 January 1778.¹

... The instructions to Cap^t Nicholson of the *Lion* Frigate,² are that He shall regulate the Signals with the Captains of the other Ships But, in Case M. La Motte shall order a Convoy all the way to America, He is to take His Signals & Instructions from this Commander—His Orders are to proceed to Boston or the first safe port in N England. The other Captains have Orders to keep with the Commander of the fleet, & in Case of seperation to make the first safe port in N England. Be pleased to attend to the stations off Isle of Shoals, Cape Ann, & Cape Cod as given some time ago—The Light House lays between, in Boston Bay; may not the ships unite, surprize & destroy the Light House—so as to Confound this fleet who would be ignorant of it, & be engaged to seek for it & so delay, or change their route on the Coast. The next great guide on this Coast is Cape Ann. ... M. dumas³ writes to 72 & 51⁴ that three prussian ships have sailed from Embden with woollens, Linnen & Tea, for America, as He had been informed. No news from America had reached the Commissioners at 5 o'Clock the 9. Inst. When I speak of the fleet going to N England, I mean that with Stores for war—Other Ships are moving, & haps in fleets to both Ends of the Continent—I am Confident one will go towards N London in Connecticut—loaded with Salt Chiefly—for Provisions—another will go to Virginia & Maryland for this purpose also. ...

P. Wentworth.

Stevens's Facsimiles, vol. 3, no. 335. Portions not printed here relate to Silas Deane's wagering on French recognition of American independence, the climate of various parts of North America in relation to the preparation of salted beef and pork, and a list of the state of the French fleet, among other matters.

1. In a portion not printed here, Wentworth states that he actually wrote the letter the night of 9 Jan.

2. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, Capt. Samuel Nicholson, commander.

3. Charles-Guillaume-Frédéric Dumas was a Swiss man of letters residing in Holland whom Benjamin Franklin enlisted in 1775 as American agent and correspondent at the Hague.

4. Written above the line, in Eden's hand: "Franklin & Deane."

JOHN ROSS TO SILAS DEANE

[Extract]

The Hon^{ble} Silas Deane Esq^r

Nantes 10 January 1778

Dear Sir—

I received your favour of 3^d Instant. being now before me, do note its contents.¹ Green's Ship will be ready as soon as Nicholson's² am in hopes, unless the Ice Retard our operations, which at present float abundantly. . . .

If nothing can be done for Captain Jones³ in Europe, in Consequence of the Order from the Navy Board, proper he keep by the *Ranger*, permitting him at same time, to pursue his own Inclination's for the Service of his Country, after seeing the Convoy to be joined, at a certain Longitude, Clear of the European Sea's—Thus I take the Liberty to mention, concludeing his Cruize may be attended with more Advantage, by the full freedom of exercising his own Judgement.—Excuse the liberty I take in writing you so freely—& I am [&c.]

J: R

L, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. In the portions not printed, Ross recommends patience in negotiating for foreign assistance, and requests the sentiments of the American Commissioners in France on Ross's and Deane's proposals relating to the Continental Navy cutters *Dolphin* and *Revenge*.

1. Silas Deane to John Ross, 3 Jan., above.

2. Ship *Bruno*, John Green, master, and Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, Capt. Samuel Nicholson, commander.

3. Continental Navy Captain John Paul Jones.

JAMES GARDOQUI TO ARTHUR LEE

Arthur Lee Esq^r

Honour'd Sir

Bilbao the 10th Janry 1778—

We Crave your kind Referance to what had the pleasure of salutting you last with on the 31st ult^o. wherein informed you Cap^t Cuninghams Resolution of setting out for S^t Sebastians in order to Release if Posable the prize he made of valuable Bale goods on Board of a French Brigg¹ & tho' we suppose that he will have informed either yourgoodself or M^r Dean of his Proceedings as have advice that he has the affair on a very good disposition flatter ourselves that it will be accommodated fully to his wishes.

We have now to Acknowledge ourselves Indebtted to your very Esteem'd & agreable favour of the 28th. ult^o. in Repply whereof have to informe you that Cap^t James Babson haveing determined to dispatch if possible this weeke direct for Boston or Newburryport on account of the owners of his Privateer the *Generall Mercer* loaden with salt his prize Schooner the *Nancey*; having prevailed on him to spare us as much Room as he posibly can to fullfill part of your dispositions, have now to informe you that we are now bussy in packing up as many Blanketts & Stockings as are ready in hopes that our next will hand you Invoice thereof, & as this Vessell is destined to the Northren ports the goods will be consigned on account of Congress to the Honourable Elbridge Gerry Esq^r with directions to Major Generall James Warren Esq^r at Boston to Receive them: it is apitty that your orders for Blanketts had not Reached us Two months sooner, as in that case even 20,000 might have been ready, butt unluckly at present the contractors of our Troops & those of the Caracas—Company are collecting them, however depend on our

Excerting ourselves. For the purpose & hope shall be able to procure the quantity wantted, at foott you'l find the weight & size of them taken with an English yard for your goverment—

As we suppose that it will be greatly eassier for you & more adventadgeous the Exchange to gett bills on this place & Madrid prefering allways those payable in this Towne would advise you to Remmitt us the 50000 livers you are pleased to mentione assured of our most particular atention to place them to your Creditt—

As we have apretty frequent communication wth. Hamborough we must informe you that our Correspondents there are Mess^{rs} Anthony Sampelaio & C^o on whose Integrity & Care you may allways confy'd in.

English & Dutch woolen goods are allways to be mett in plenty with us & on Reasonable Terms; butt as have three of the finest Roape-walkes we Can have any quantity of Rigging made at a very short space of time; there is also a fine assortment of Russia Duck & small Duck in Towne all for your Goverment—We must sincerely present you the Complements of the season & Remmain with perfect Esteem—[&c.]

J: G: & C^o

English dementions of one our Blanketts—

It weighes 5 pounds 11 ounces—

Length 7 feitt 5 ½ Inches—

broad 5 d^o 6 Inches—

L, MH-H, Arthur Lee Papers.

1. *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master.

January 11 (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

11th. Sunday Pleas^t weath^r We are Serv'd with 1/2 pint of Peas 4 Days in the week to Each Man Viz & broth the three Other Days

D, McHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *HECTOR*, CAPTAIN JOHN HAMILTON

Jan^y 1778

Sund^y 11

D^o [Cape Ortegall] S^o 2 E^t Dis^t 45 Lg's

Light Airs hauld down y^e Steering Sails still in Chace At 7 AM 5 Sail in sight sett all Sail alow & Aloft. punishd 5 marines for selling their Cloaths at Noon y^e Chace bore SW saw another Sail to y^e Southw^d.

Cape Ortegall S^o 27 W^t D^t 35 Lg's

Light Winds & pleasant W^e at 4 in Chace of a large Ship¹ to y^e S.W at 8 y^e Ship WbS at 9 blowing strong with heavy Squalls still in Chace of y^e Ship hand^d & set y^e Top Gall^t sails between y^e Squalls at 11 pm Came up with y^e Chace fired 2 Guns & she

hoisted French Colours sent y^e boat but Could not board her
it blowing very hard hoisted in y^e Boat

D, UklPR, Adm. 51/466.

1. French merchant ship *Thomas Koulikan*, Noël Le Peru, master.

January 12

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO CAPTAIN RODDAM, R.N.

By &C

Whereas the Three Transports named in the Margin,¹ the former having on board British, & the others Hessian, Recruits for the army under the command of Sr William Howe in N^o. America are now at Spithead under Orders to proceed to Cork where the said Troops are to be distributed amongst the Storeships taking in Provisions for the said army; And whereas we intend that they shall proceed to that place under Convoy of the Ship you command,² You are hereby required & directed to take them under your Convoy & putting to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather proceed with them to Cork accordingly, And having seen them in safety to that Place, You are to open the enclosed Sealed Pacquet & carry into execution the Orders³ you will find contained therein for your further proceedings. Given &C 12th Jan^y 1778

Sandwich
H Penton
H Palliser

By &c PS

LB, UklPR, Adm. 2/104, fols. 86–87. Addressed at foot: "Cap^t Roddam—*Cornwall*—Spithead."

1. "*W^m & Mary Preston Resolution*."

2. H.M.S. *Cornwall* (74 guns).

3. Not identified, but on 14 Jan., the Lords Commissioners instructed Roddam, as senior captain at Portsmouth, to convene several courts-martial. Ibid., fol. 89.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

12th. Munday Very rainy to Day rec^d. 1 penny Each Man of the Bristol Donation which is the first we've Rec^d.

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JOSEPH GARDOQUI AND SONS TO CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM

Capt G. Cuningham

Bilbao 12th. Jan^y—78

Dear Sir

We duelly observe by your agreable & Estemed favour of the 8th. & 10th. Instant the disposition the Affaire you went upon stands in¹ & yet hope the disposition the Affaire you went upon stands in & yet hope thro the Assistance of the friends you are recommended to that you will come out as you wish in which case should you want the advance you require we wrote In this opportunity to Mess^{rs}. Larralde² that we will willingly discharge those Bills to the Amount you desire We have also

Acquainted M^r Beach not only to prepare the Cutter³ but desired him to call for money in Order to keep the people content on board & to fulfill your Orders which he has promised us that he will do & Accordingly expect him Tommorow in the Compting house to receive Money for the purpose. five Sailors have come in from Nantz for the Cutter of which have apprized M^r Beach & as there is time for no more we Only wish to see M^r hodge safe in towne along With you⁴ & Cordially Remmaine [&c.]

Coppy

Joseph Gardoqui & sons

Copy, ScHi, Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS No. 31.

1. Conyngham traveled to San Sebastián to obtain release of the cargo he had taken from the *Gracieux*. James Gardoqui to Arthur Lee, 10 Jan., above.

2. Larralde, Diusteguy, et fils, merchants at Bilbao.

3. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.

4. John Beach, first lieut. of *Revenge*, and merchant William Hodge.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *HECTOR*, CAPTAIN JOHN HAMILTON

Jan^y 1778

Cape Ortegal S^o 27 W^t D^t 35 Lg's

Mond^y 12

at 8 AM hand^d F & Mⁿ. Top Sails sent down y^e Top Gall^t Yards at 7 AM y^e Chace¹ bore down under our Stern sent y^e boat on b^d her & found she was a French Ship loaded w^h. Cannon &c^t sent a Lieu^t a Mate & Midshipⁿ w^h. 20 Men on b^d her to take Charge of her D^o S^o. 45 E^t

Fresh Breezes & Squally W^r a heavy Sea from y^e W^d. Emp^d in bringing on board y^e prisoners Cloaths at 4 pm made Sail w^h. y^e prize in Company²

D, UklPR, Adm. 51/466.

1. French merchant ship *Thamas Koulikan*, Noël Le Peru, master.

2. On 13 Jan., Hamilton sent a corporal and four marines on board the French ship and removed her officers and passengers. Ibid.

January 13

PHILIP STEPHENS TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SICK AND HURT SEAMEN

Gentⁿ.

Admiralty Office 13 Jan^y 1778

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 12. instant giving an account of the Escape of two of the Prisoners part of the Crew of the *Lexington* Privatier who were sick in the Hospital,¹ and proposing if they shall be retaken to apply to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships in the Downes to receive them on board; and I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that they approve thereof, and if any other of the Crew of the said Privatier are still on shore for Cure, it is also their Lordships direction that they be sent on board when they shall be fit to be removed. I am [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

L, UklNMM, Adm./M/404. Addressed at foot of first page: "Commiss^{rs} for Sick & Hurt." Docketed: "Recd—14." Notations: "M^r Peck to be wrote to"; "Wrote M^r Peck in consequence same day."

1. Two wounded seamen, James Bearn and another man, taken in the *Lexington* had escaped from the hospital at Deal and arrived in Dunkirk by 15 Jan. Francis Coffyn to the American Commissioners in France, 20 Jan. and 18 June, in *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 495, and 26: 656.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO THE SENIOR OFFICER IN THE DOWNS

S^r[Admiralty Office] 13th. Jan^y. 1778

The Commiss^{rs}. for Sick &. Hurt having acquainted my Lords Commiss^{rs}. of the Admiralty with the Escape [*Escape*] of two of the Rebel Prisoners late belonging to the *Lexington* Privatier from the Hospital at Deal;¹ And their Lordships having directed, in Case they should be retaken, that they be sent on board some of the Ships in the Downes,² I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to receive the said Men, as also such other Prisoners from the Hospital as the Commiss^{rs}. for Sick &. Hurt may send on board. (they having directions to apply to you to take them when fit to be removed from the Hospital.) And you are to send them by the first Opportunity that may Offer to Portsmouth to be committed to Forton Prison I am &c.

P.S.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/556, fol. 307. Addressed at foot: "Senior Officer—Downes."

1. Marginal notation: "To receive Prisoners from the Hospital at Deal and send them to Forton Prison."

2. See Philip Stephens to the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen, 13 Jan., immediately above.

BRITISH NAVY BOARD TO PHILIP STEPHENS

Sir

Navy Office 13 January 1778.

The R^t Honorable the Lords Comm^{rs}. of the Admiralty having by their order of the 23^d. past directed us to propose and transmit to them for their approbation a proper plan for forming an Establishment for a Naval Yard at Rhode Island, New York, Philadelphia, or such other place as upon a consultation with Lord Howe shall be agreed upon for refitting the Ships under his Lordships command in North America, in addition to the Port of Hallifax, and having informed us that they judged it expedient that a Commissioner of the Navy with proper Assistants should go over in the first Ships for N^o America to form such Establishment We desire you will acquaint their Lordships that correspondent with their Intentions we have revised the several Establishments that have heretofore been settled for different Foreign Yards, & are of opinion that in order to carry on this Service it will be proper to appoint the following officers to act under the direction of a Commissioner. Viz^t

A Master Attendant

Master Shipwright

Clerk of the Checque & Clerk of the Survey in one.

Storekeeper.

With the same Salary of £200 [⌘] Annum to each and allowances of Clerks, & H^o. Rent as are now made to the Officers of the Yard at Hallifax. Two Officers in the first mentioned Stations are acting at New York by orders from Vice Adm^l Lord Visc^t Howe with an Allowance of 5s [⌘] day in addition to their pay as master & Carpenter of the *Eagle*, and a Naval Officer and Storekeeper attends the Fleet under their Lordships appointment.

With respect to Artificers we send inclosed for their Lordships information the Establishment of the Yard at Hallifax, which we have communicated to Captⁿ.

LeCras,¹ and in the present uncertain state of this undertaking, we cannot propose to their Lordships what N^o. of Artificers and Workmen may be necessary to carry it into execution, as it must depend in a great measure upon the situation of the place fixed upon, and many circumstances that may arise upon the spot, therefore we would propose giving this Establishment to him for his guidance, and to recommend him to govern himself thereby according to the best of his discretion consistently with the tenor of his Instructions, which will be very full and explicit, and the nature of the Service.

But as it will be necessary that a certain N^o. of the following Classes of artificers should be sent out from hence, in order to begin the Establishment we would propose that the N^o. expressed against each Class should be procured from such of his Maj^{ty}. Yards here from whence they can be spared with least inconvenience; under the usual encouragement given to Artificers serving in the Foreign Yards. Viz^t

Shipwrights	12 N ^o .
Caulkers	8
Smiths	4
Sailmakers	2
N ^o . Carpenters	4

which N^o. we must depend upon increasing hereafter by the best means that offer, as the present State of the Workmen in his Maj^{ty}. Yards at home does not admit of our drafting a further N^o. from thence without distressing the Service.

We have ordered proper Careening Geer to be provided, together with such Materials & Stores as appear to be necessary for the use of a Foreign Yard, in order for their being dispatched by the first opportunity, & shall recommend it to Capt^m. Le Cras to let us know as soon after his arrival as possible whether it will be necessary to send on a Hulk or whatever else may appear to him to be proper for carrying on the Service with the most convenience & dispatch. We are &^{ct}.

Copy, MiU-C, Shelburne Papers. Addressed at foot: "Philip Stephens Esq^r"

1. Capt. Edward Le Cras, R.N., had just been appointed Commissioner of the Navy resident in North America. See Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Edward Thurlow, 6 Jan., above.

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1778

Postscript. London.

The *Hancock and Adams*, a ship of 300 tons, bound from Nantz to America, is taken by the *Swallow* privateer, and carried into Falmouth.

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[Forton Prison, Portsmouth, 1778]

January the 13th Mr Wrenn and Mr Duckett came and told us that the Officers was to receive 5 Shilling and the men 2 pe^r week and we were to have such cloths (Pussers) as we stand in need of from Government likewise from donations both officers and men,¹

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777-79, collection 2272.

1. Thomas Wren (ca. 1725-1787), was minister of the Presbyterian Chapel in Portsmouth; Mr. Duckett was an almoner from Gosport. Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 79. For the subscription for the relief of the American prisoners, see Almon's *Remembrancer*, at 8 Jan., above, and Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 83-84.

January 14

THOMAS ERSKINE TO EARL OF SUFFOLK

[Extract]

N^o. 1.Gothenburg 14th. Jan^y. 1778.

My Lord,

The 20th. ult^o. I had the honour of writing your Lordship, advising of Cap^t. Woodhouse Sailing,¹ since I have a Report of him being in an out harbour near to Arendahl on Coast of Norway, where he received the Powder from the Swedish Sloop.

I am honour'd with your Lordships favour N^o. 5—The two American schooners remain still in Marstrand, I am at a loss to guess what has detain'd them so long. I suppose they were affraid to Venture to Sea on such a Voyage at so late a Season, now they are detain'd by the Ice, and not likely to get away for a month or six Weeks at soonest—the largest one is about 60 Tons Burden Will^m. Ripley master, the other is only about 40 Tons T. Didget master—they appear both to be Vessells that has been employ'd in the Fishing, they have no particular marks or painting to distinguish them, only black, poorly fitted out & weakly mann'd—at first they got on board only a parcell of Teas to the Value of 900 to £1000—lately they got from hence circa 8,000 yards of an inferior Sort of Sail-Cloth, some Nankine Cloth, and a trifle of Steell—I suppose them to be destined for one Quarter, some of the Southern provinces. . . .

Tho^s. Erskine

L, UkLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 95/128. Addressed at foot: "R^t Hon^{bl}. Earl of Suffolk." The portion not printed here relates to Benjamin Franklin's correspondence with Henry Grieg, merchant at Göteborg.

1. See NDAR 10: 1033, note. Marginal notation: "Extract sent to the Admiralty." Woodhouse was the master of the American brigantine *Molly*, which he had renamed *Syrene* under Swedish colors.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

14th. Wednesday Rainy w^t. The Rev^d. M^r. Heath is Appointed Superintendent here for the Donation & M^r. Sorrey a Merch^t. his Assistant¹—By whome we Learn that the Officers ar Allowed five Shillings P^r. Weeks & the people two Shillings, also a Quantity of Clothes was to be serv'd to us

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. Miles Saurey, a Plymouth linen draper. Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 117.

DESEGRAY BEAUGEARD, FILS, & CIE. TO SILAS DEANE

[Extract]

Sir

S^t. Malo'es 14th. Jan^y. 1778.

. . . . Here is, sir, the Note you ask of the money we have paid to several American seamen that Came this way, amounting to £ [*blank*] which we begg you'll pay for our account at your leasure to our M^r. Beaugeard Jun^r if you think it proper, to which Note is Joined another of Several sums advanced likewise by us to American, of which the Reimbursement is promised to us.—

We'll take Care for the future to advise other Americans That may Come this way to embark Directly from here to the United states of America, when Occasion offers (there is but one ship now here for that Country, all the others being gone) & otherwise to go to Nantz or L'orient for a speedy shipping to avoid Expences as much as possible, & we'll take a proper Note of what state they belong to, their names &c^a—

... John Risdall of the *Reprisal* (whom we mentioned formerly) is still here, in a pretty good health, & is Kept up by a very Rich good natured Lady, who pays for his being instructed in french, Religion &c^a.

It would not be amiss indeed to send some person from time to time to the different Ports to Examine into the state of American Prisoners, & to appoint proper Agents there &c^a, chiefly if there is (as it is strongly reported & we wish it may be a fact) a treaty signed betwixt you & the hon^{ble}. Commissioners of the Congress in Paris, & our Gouvernement. We think that such examination Would serve to lett you Know the Better who are the best & Usefulest friends to the American Welfare, & that we should not be obmitted in the List.—We have the honour to be [&c.]

Desegray Beauguard Jun^r

L, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed: "A Monsieur/Monsieur Silas Dean/Rue Royale Place de Louis Quinze/à Paris.—" Docketed: "St. Malo's Jan^y 14th/1778 Desegray Beauguard/& C^e Lett^r" Notation on cover: "Salt Petre." Portions not printed here relate to the shipment of saltpeter and aid to a Capt. and Mrs. Baker. This letter responds to two of Deane's, dated 25 Nov. and 28 Dec. 1777. See *Deane Papers* 2: 241, 291.

January 15

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT HOWE

My Lord

[*Admiralty Office*] 15th Jan^{ry} 1778

I had the honor to receive on the 18th. Ult^o. by Cap^{tn}. Reynolds your Lordships Dispatches of the 6th. &. 10th. of Dec^r. Numbered 47 and 48 giving an account of your proceedings and of the Arrangement you had made of the Squadron under your Command¹. All which were immediatly laid before my Lords Commiss^{rs}. of the Admiralty and Copies thereof transmitted to Lord George Germaine for His Majesty's Information.

With respect to the Extra Supply of Medicines mentioned in your N^o. 48. I have it in command from their Lordships to acq^t. you that they understand from the Navy Board that the necessary directions are given for sending out such supply thereof as may be judged sufficient, &. with respect to supplying the Ships of the higher Rates² which may be sent to your Lordship with additional Stores to the establish'd Allowance, I am to acquaint you that orders will be given to the Navy Board as well as to the Captains of the Ships for that purpose.

My Lords command me to desire your Lordship will not understand the tenor of the Letter which I had the honor to write to you by their Orders on the 20th. of August³ was meant to convey any idea that the service committed to your care had not been adequately performed or that they disapprove of the arrangement You had made of Your Squadron;⁴ On the contrary I have it in command to acquaint

your Lordship that they have seen no Cause to disapprove of the disposition which has been made of the Ships under your command.

In one of my Letters of the 7th. Ult^o. I informed your Lordship that the Navy Board were directed to prepare a Plan for the Establim^t of a Naval Yard in North America in addition to the Yard at Halifax. I have it now in command from my Lords to send Your Lordship a Copy of that plan which has been approv'd of^s and to acquaint you that in consequence thereof the Master and Carpenter of the *Eagle* who are now doing the Duty of Master Caulker & Master Shipwright by your Lordships orders will have firm appointments to those employments, that M^r Fowler the present Storekeeper will be appointed Clerk of the Checque and Clerk of the Survey and that a Storekeeper will be sent from hence with Commiss^r. Le Cras⁶ for the New intended Yard.

My Lords have resumed the consideration of your Lordships request of an additional number of Flag Officers to serve under your Command and in consequence thereof have appointed Vice Admiral Byron and Rear Adm^l. Gambier to hoist their Flags,⁷ the former on board the *Europe*, the latter on board the *Ardent* who will be ordered to join your Lordship without delay.

I have the honor to send your Lordship a continuation of the Secret intelligence⁸ transmitted to you in My Letter of the 7th. Ult^o. and to repeat the assurances of my being with great consideration My Lord &c.

PS.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/556, fols. 315–16. Addressed at foot: "Vice Adm^l. Lord Vis^t. Howe/North America—By the Pacquet/Duplicate by the *Andromeda*."

1. NDAR 10: 675–76, 700–702. Notation in margin: "Our Rec^t"

2. Notation in the margin: "Acq^d that an Extra Supply of Medicines are ordered And, an additional Supply of Stores for the Ships of the higher Rates."

3. Ibid., 9: 577–79.

4. Notation in the margin: "Explain the tenor of a former Letter respecting the arrangement of his Squadron."

5. See British Navy Board to Philip Stephens, 13 Jan., above. Notation in the margin: "Send a Plan for the Establishment of a Naval Yard, and acq^d with the Appointment of the Officers."

6. Capt. Edward Le Cras, R.N., appointed Commissioner of the Navy resident in North America.

7. Notation in the margin: "Acq^d with the appointm^t of Vice Adm^l Byron & Rear Adm^l Gambier to serve under his Command."

8. Notation in the margin: "Send a continuation of Secret Intelligence."

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN ROBERT RODDAM, R.N.

Sir

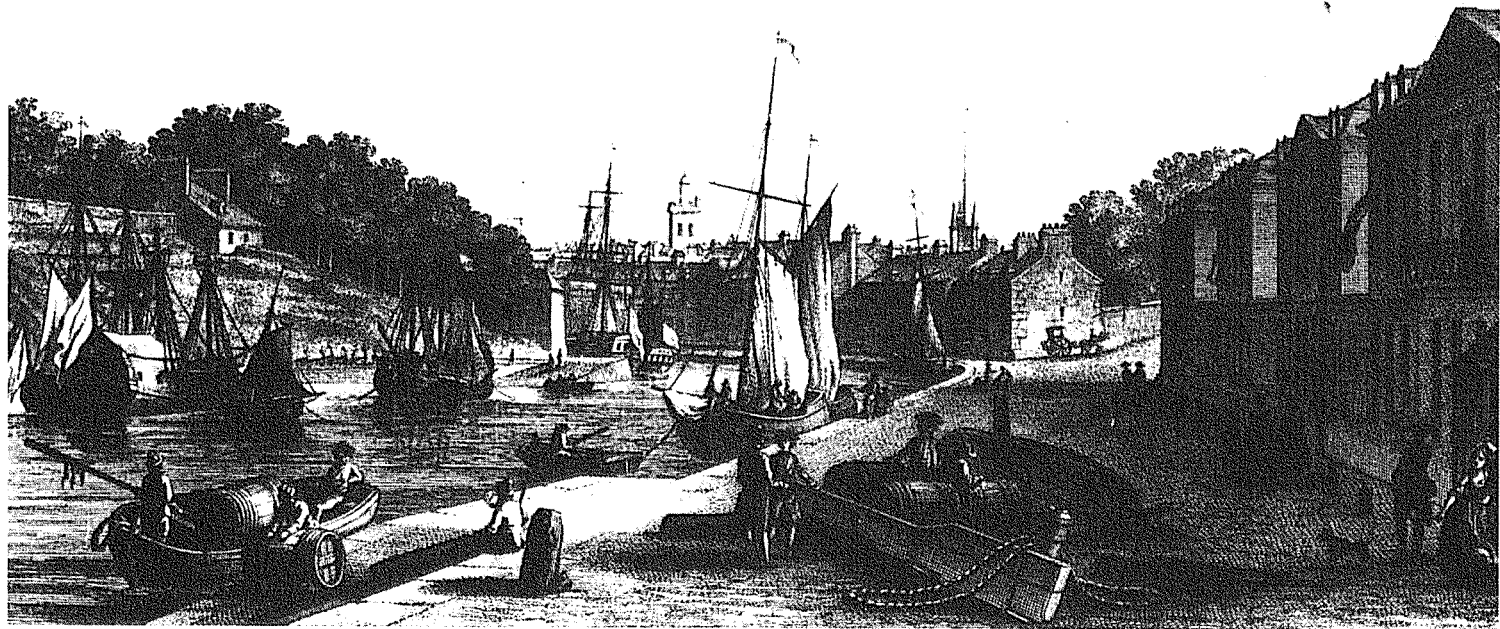
[Admiralty Office] 15 Jan^y. 1778

I have communicated to my Lords Commiss^{rs}. of the Admiralty your Letter of Yesterdays date giving an account of the arrival of the *Bedford* & *Proserpine*.

Their Lordships observing by the State and Condition of the former that there are on board her ten Rebel Prisoners who belonged to the *Sturdy Beggar* Privatier; It is their direction that you take the proper measures to have them committed to Forton Prison I am &c.

P.S.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/556, fol. 317. Addressed at foot: "Cap^m. Roddam, Senior Officer, Portsmouth." Notation in the margin: "Our Rec^t. & directed to cause some Rebel Prisoners to be committed to Forton Prison."



Collection of the New-York Historical Society

The port of Morlaix

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

15th. Thursday Very Showery W^r Several Gentlemen to see us; One who was a Quaker Offer'd to be at the Expence of Glassing two Windows that we should be Better Accomodated with light

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Paris, Jan. 15 1778

Whereas we understand that Capt. Jones has in View to strike a Stroke upon the Enemy that may be greatly to their Damage, but in its nature not probably profitable to his Ship's Company, unless some Reward be received from the Congress adequate to the Service done. And we being of Opinion that Rewards in such Cases are not only necessary for Encouragement, but are really Acts of Justice: do hereby promise that in Case of the good & gallant Behaviour of the People under his Command and their punctual Obedience to Orders, so as to obtain Success in the Undertaking as far as depends on them, we will warmly recommend them to the Congress for a generous Gratification proportion'd to their Merit.

B Franklin
Silas Deane
Arthur Lee

DS, DNA, PCC, item 168, vol. 1, pp. 23–25 (M247, roll 185). Docketed: "from the American Commissioner[s]/—Passy—/Paris Jany 15th. 16th. 17th. & 18th. 1778/Rec^d. Paris Jan^y 16th. & 19th. 1778." The docketing refers, in addition to this document, to the Commissioners' letter of 16–18 Jan., and Lee's demurer of 17 Jan., both below.

SILAS DEANE TO JOHN ROSS

Dear Sir

Paris 15 Jan^y 1778

I have convers'd with D^r Franklin on the Subject of yours of the 3^d, who is of Opinion that the giving Protection or Encouragem^t to the Importation of British Manufactures into America will be in direct Opposition to the Resolution of Congress & at a time when the Advantages of the American Commerce are held out as one principal Enducement to other Nations to afford us Aid would be to the last Degree impolitic as well as inconsistent & Dangerous. on Reflection I doubt not you'l subscribe to the Justice of this Opinion in which I am fully with the Doctor—Yours of the 10th. I rec^d last Evening¹ & am very sensible of the Importance of your Observations on the present Situation of our Affairs, & assure you that neither the Honor or Dignity of our Country shall suffer in the least by any Engagem^{ts} of ours. I wrote M^r Hodge & am very uneasy about his Health, but a large Share of Exercise may do him good, he loves Action & hates thinking that is in a studious contemplative way. his Confinem^t in the Bastile affected him in his Health & the Distress w^{ch}. he must be in for the Fate of his Family affects him & Action may divert him. Cunningham had on the 20th Dec^r carried in two prizes to Carogne, one of which sold for 6000 p^s 8 & the other for 4500. & was gone out on

a second Cruize. Cap^t Nicholson writes that he fears your Vessels will not be ready to go out with him, which I hope will not be the Case as I wish he may not be detain'd after being ready for Sea. I am very sorry that Cap^t Jones is disappointed in the Frigate he expected,² I have the same Opinion of him as you have & wish we could get him a stronger Force than meerly the *Ranger*, he will set out for Nantes in a few days & I shall improve the oppor^o: writing to you again by him By the last Acco^s from London Stocks have fell prodigiously the News of taking Mud Island raised them a little, but actual Hostilities between the two Kingdoms would sink them to nothing I am [&c.]

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed at foot: "John Ross Esq^r"

1. John Ross to Silas Deane, 10 Jan., above.

2. *Indien*.

January 16

DEPOSITION OF PETER LIEGE

London (to wit) Peter Leige of London Merchant, maketh Oath That in the month of September last he went from London to Nantes in the Kingdom of France on the behalf of and as Agent for divers Merchants and others all leige Subjects of his Britannick Majesty and the Owners and Proprietors of the Ships called the *Clarendon* (whereof Thomas Cowell was Master) and the *Hanover Planter* (whereof Thomas Luny was Master) and the Cargoes on board both the said Ships, which had been taken and seized by one or more Ship, or Ships Vessell or Vessels belonging to or fitted out by some of his Britannick Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America and acting under a pretended Commission or Commissions from the pretended States of America, as this Deponent hath been informed apprehends and believes, and this Deponent so went to Nantes in order to Claim the said Ships *Clarendon* and *Hanover Planter* and their respective Cargoes in the Name and on the behalf of the several Owners and Proprietors thereof and did accordingly obtain Restitution of both the said Ships and their Cargoes to be made to him for the use of his Constituents And he further maketh Oath That whilst he was at Nantes (to wit) in or about the month of October last, he was there informed and believes That the Ship *Ann Susanna* (whereof John Taylor was Master) the Ship *Jamaica* (whereof David Watt was Master) and the Ship *Manning* (whereof John Brewer was Master) and their respective Cargoes consisting of Rum Sugar and other things, and all the property of his Britannick Majesty's Leige Subjects as he hath been informed and verily believes had been taken by some Ships or Vessels belonging to or fitted out by some of his Britannick Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America and acting under pretended Commissions from the pretended States of America, that the said Ship *Manning* was brought into, or near the mouth of the River of Nantes, and that the Ships *Ann Susanna* and *Jamaica* were carried into or near Port L'Orient in the Kingdom of France that thereupon the Deponent as Agent for the West India Merchants frequently made diligent enquiry concerning the said Ships *Ann Susanna* *Jamaica* and *Manning* and their Cargoes of several Persons most likely to give the Deponent Information

about the said Ships and their Cargoes And the Deponent was informed at Nantes by some Person or Persons but whom the Deponent cannot now particularly recollect, and he believes that the said Ships *Ann Susanna*, *Jamaica*, and *Manning* had been unladen or partly unladen that the greatest part of their Cargoes had been taken out of the said Ships and put on Board Dutch Ships hired for the purpose of conveying the said Sugars to Holland, That the Brokers who procured the said Dutch Ships were Monsieur Odiette de la Bouche and Monsieur Boudet sworn Interpreters and Brokers for foreign Ships resident at Nantes That the Deponent during the time he was at Nantes had frequent Occasions to and did converse with the said Monsieur Odiette de la Bouche concerning the said Ship *Hanover Planter* and her Cargoe and with the said Monsieur Boudet concerning the said Ship *Clarendon* and her Cargoe, that the said Monsieur Odiette de la Bouche frequently at such times discoursed also of the Captures of the said ships *Ann Susanna*, *Jamaica* and *Manning* by the Americans and at one of such times but the particular day the Deponent cannot now set forth, the said Monsieur Odiette de la Bouche with great seeming Satisfaction told the Deponent that he had had an Account by Letter that some of the Sugars from on Board the *Ann Susanna*, *Jamaica* and *Manning* were already safely arrived at Rotterdam in Holland And the said Monsieur Odiette de la Bouche at the same time observed That he did not know how soon some of them might be stopped in the Channel, thereby meaning as this Deponent then understood and now believes, he did not know how soon some of the Dutch Ships carrying the said Sugars might be stopped by English Cruizers in the British Channel on their Voyage from France to Holland And he further maketh Oath That while he was so at Nantes he received intelligence that some Sugars had been arrested at Amsterdam, and soon after the Deponent having occasion to be with one of the Principal Persons employed in the Counting House of the said Monsieur Boudet whose Name the Deponent cannot now recollect, the Deponent observed to him that he understood the Cargoes or part of the Cargoes of the said Ships *Ann Susanna* *Jamaica* and *Manning* or some of them had been carried to Amsterdam by three Dutch Ships and arrested there, to which he replied that it would be a difficult matter to prove the Sugars to belong to th[ose] Ships as they had their Clearances from Nantes or to that effect¹ And he further made Oath That on or about the eleventh day of December last he saw the said Ship *Ann Susanna* lying at a place called Pelring in the River of Nantes and about ten Miles below Nantes, that she was then a light Ship and without any Cargoe on board, and unrigged, that he had several times before seen the said Ship *Ann Susanna* and well knew her and is very sure that the said Ship which he so saw lying at Pelring and the Ship *Ann Susanna*, hereinbefore mentioned was the same Ship—
Sworn the Sixteenth day of

P. Liege

January in the Year 1778—

Before me at Guildhall

James Esdail Mayor²

DS, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 521, fols. 255–57. Notation at head: “avec la lettre de M. de Sartine du 11. fev^{re} 1778.”

1. For a Dutch Admiralty court's investigation of British complaints that American prize masters were transferring prize cargoes to Dutch ships at sea, see “Interrogation of Captain Ary Kunst.” *NDAR* 10: 1034–37.

2. Notarized attestations to the affidavit's authenticity follow.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

16th. Friday rainy but warm wth M^r Heath has Order'd 4 penny Loaf to Each Mess Extra. This Day year I've cause to Lament which was the Day the *Charming Salley* was taken¹

Arived from Philedelphia Express Lieu^t Gen^l Cornwallis, his Aid-de-Camp & have set out for London. No news come to hand as Yet, but is Generally tho^t to be upon business of Importance We Long to know the particulars that L—d Cornwallis has bro^t home, as Our fate is Depending. Tis said L—d North is going to Make a Motion for an Exchange (when Parliament meets) to take Place in the Spring, & is tho^t will be Complied with—

D, McHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. Rhode Island privateer sloop *Charming Sally*, Francis Brown, commander, captured on 16 Jan. 1777 by H.M.S. *Nonsuch*. NDAR 8: 527–28.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Capt. Jones.

Paris Jan^y 16th. 1778.

Sir,

As it is not in our Power to procure you such a Ship as you expected, we advise you after equipping the *Ranger* in the best manner, for the Cruise you propose, you proceed with her in the manner you shall judge best, for distressing the Enemies of the United States, by Sea or otherwise, consistent with the Laws of War, and the Terms of your Commission. If you take Prizes on the Coast of France or Spain, send them into Bilboa, or Corogne, unless you should apprehend the Danger too great in which Case, we advise you to send them either into L'Orient, or Bordeaux, directing the Officers who may have them in charge to apply at L'Orient to M^r Moylan or M^r Goulade, and at Bordeaux to Mess^{rs}. Sam & J H. Delaps, and inform us immediately, of their arrival and Situation; if you send to Spain, or should put into the Ports of that Kingdom apply at Bilboa to Mess^{rs}. Gadroqui, et fils, at Courogne to Mess^{rs}. Leoganieri & C^a if you make an Attempt on the Coasts of Great Brittain, we advise you not to return immediately into the Ports of France, unless forced by stress of weather, or the pursuit of the Enemy, and in such Case, you can make the proper Representation to the Officers of the Port and acquaint us with your Situation; We rely on your Ability, as well as your Zeal, to serve the United States, and therefore do not give particular Instructions, as to your Operations. We must caution you, against giving any cause for complaint, to the Subjects of France, or Spain, or of other Neutral Powers, and recommend it to you, to shew them every proper mark of Respect, and real Civility, which may be in your Power. You will communicate to your Officers and Seamen the encouragement we have given them,¹ and explain to them that tho' it was not in our Power to be particular as to the Rewards they should be intituled to, yet they may safely Rely on the Justice of the Congress. Before you sail it will be proper to settle with M^r Williams the Account of your Disbursements and send the Account up to us. We most heartily wish you Success and are with much Esteem Sir [&c.]

B Franklin
Silas Deane

L, DNA, PCC, item 168, vol. 1, pp. 19–22 (M247, roll 185).

1. See American Commissioners in France to Captain John Paul Jones, 15 Jan., above.

ARTHUR LEE TO CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNTHAM

Sir

Rue de Bataille at Challiot pres paris

Mess^{rs} Gardoques have informed Me of your putting in at Bilboa and that he is giving you the necessary Assistances for the Repairs of your Vessell, As the public is Concerned only in half your Ship¹ you should pay Mess^{rs} Gardoques half of the expence of her Repairs, And for the Rest he will draw on the Commissioners here—A proposal has been made to Me for my Consent to making over the public share to a private person, upon Condition of his Reimbursing the public Expence—You are best able to judge how far that proposal is eligible by the prospects you have of making prizes—I therefore desire your Opinion upon the subject—²

It is proper to inform you that in what Concerns the public business in France, you should Addressed your Letters to Doctor Franklin M^r Deane and Myself, who are joint Commissioners for France, unless you had particular Orders to the Contrary, And in what Concerns the public in Spain you are to apply to Me as sole Commissioner for that Country—It is a disputed point whether the Enemy Goods in a Neutral Vessell Can be made a prize of, unless they are Contraband, The Attempting therefore to make Captures of their ships gives great Offence to our friends, and should be desisted from in future—³

Mess^{rs} Gardoques will shew you my Address to the American Captains, And the Same has been sent by Us all to the ports of France, for the future therefore you will endeavour to shew particular Respect to all French and Spanish ships to Remove the Offence that has been given—I am [&c.]

Paris Jan^y 16th 1778—

(Signed) A Lee

Copy, DLC, Benjamin Franklin Papers. Addressed at the foot: "To Cap^t Conyngham." Docketed: "Copy of a Letter from/A. Lee Esq^r to Capt. Cun—/ningham 16 Jan. 78—."

1. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.

2. For arrangements regarding the sale of the public's share of *Revenge*, see NDAR 10: 1040–41, 1064, 1107, and 1108.

3. Lee is refering to Conyngham's capture of the French brig *Gracieux*.

WILLIAM HODGE TO CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNTHAM

Dear Sir/

Bilboa Jan 16th. 1778

I received your Letter this Morning and am pleased that you have reason to believe that both you and your People will be released in a few Days.¹ Lieutenant Beach² with a Copy of your Commision saild last tuesday, having on board one hundred and ten Men from the other armed vessels he received upwards of forty, he has already taken a ship³ which is valuable & is at Present in pursuit of the Tobacco Brigg⁴ which was taken near this Place by a Small Schooner.⁵ I have not the least doubt but the expedition will meet your approbation, I think it is Probable that I shall spend some weeks here, as I have got a Letter from M^r Ross at Nants which came by five American Seamen which he sent me, He informes me the Cutter⁶ will not sail for some time yet. Nothing new besides from your obedient and Hum^{ble} Serv^t

A Copy

W^m Hodge

Copy, ScHi, Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS No. 31.

1. Conyngham had traveled to San Sebastián to obtain release of the cargo he had taken from the French brig *Gracieux*. James Gardoqui to Arthur Lee, 10 Jan., above.
2. Lt. John Beach, Continental Navy.
3. Ship *Hope*, William Butler.
4. *Hooper*, William Knapp.
5. Guernsey privateer schooner *Active*, Peter Agnew, commander.
6. Continental Navy cutter *Dolphin*.

January 17

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

17th. Saturday rainy w^e. We are Advis'd by our friends Not to Attempt to make Our Escape, as they are trying to bring about an Exchange for us—

By Mr. [*Robert Heath?*] & Sorrey [*Miles Saurey*], We've Rec^d. our Donation Clothes
D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

ARTHUR LEE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND SILAS DEANE

Gentlemen

I am sorry that the things to which I objected having been continued in the Instructions for Cap^t Jones prevent me from giving my signature to them except in the manner which I have the honor to send you. I am [&c]

Challiot

Arthur Lee

Jan^y 17th. 1778

N.B. I shall go to Versailles to-day; if there is any thing I can do there, be so good as to send me a Note of it.

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 42. Addressed at foot: "Benjamin Franklin & Silas Deane Esq^{rs}." Docketed: "A. Lee to/BF. & SD."

ARTHUR LEE TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES,
WITH POSTSCRIPT FROM BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND SILAS DEANE

To Cap^t Jones.Paris Jan^y 17th. 1778

Tho I approve in general of the precedeing Instructions,¹ yet I cannot sign them because they contain an order to put the sale of prizes into other hands than those of the commercial Agents, which I have always thought unjust; & recommend M^r Goulard, tho' that Gentleman & his Company, have forfeited our confidence in the business already entrusted to them.

Arthur Lee

As M^r William Lee, one of the Commercial Agents in whom we could have placed a Confidence, has quitted that Service, (and we can have none in the prudent Conduct of the other, M^r Thomas Morris,) we did not think it convenient to recommend your consigning your Prizes to their Care[;] And as we know of nothing done by M^r Goulard, whereby he ought to forfeit our Confidence, we see no reason to change the Advice within given. Paris Jan. 18. 1778

B Franklin
Silas Deane

L, DNA, PCC, item 168, vol. 1, p. 22 (M247, roll 185). Addressed at foot: "To Cap^t Jones."

1. American Commissioners in France to Captain John Paul Jones, 16 Jan., above.

JOSEPH GARDOQUI AND SONS TO CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM

Cap^t Gustavus Cunningham
Sir

Bilboa the 17th Jany 1778—

By your very agreeable & Esteem'd favour of the 14th Instant¹ are glad to see the fair disposition your affair stands in, thro the assistance of the Gentleman you are recommended to, & flatter ourselves that they will be able to compleat the same to your Intire Satisfaction—We suppose you are already informed that the Cutter² departed hence on Tuesday last in order to retake if posible a Tobacco Brigg,³ that was given up by the forgery of the Spanish Pilott to a Jersey Privateer⁴ not further than a Muskett Shott from the Spanish land, which resolution we had the Pleasure to be approved of by our worthy Friend M^r Hodge who arrived safe in Town the day before yestarday, as such doubt not your being pleased therewith, Expecially when have to informe you that the same day she went out, she fell in and took a ship from the Land⁵ bound to this port with 2373 Quintales of Fish & 59 Ton of oyl on board of whom Cap^t Beach⁶ putt in as a prize-Master Jeremiah Hibbert Master of one the american Privateers in the river who went as a volunteer in the Cutter; the Ship tho' believe bound to this Place has not yet made her appearance with us, butt when does; depend on our giving you punctual advice, mean while remain with sincere reggards—[&c.]

Joseph Gardoqui & sons—

NB We are just this Instant inform'd that the Ship is safe in our river aGourno
A Copy

Copy, ScHi, Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS No. 31.

1. Not found.
2. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.
3. *Hooper*, William Knapp.
4. Guernsey privateer schooner *Active*, Peter Agnew, commander.
5. Ship *Hope*, William Butler, master, from Newfoundland.
6. Lt. John Beach, Continental Navy.

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o: 75.

Corunna 17th: January 1778.

My Lord.

Nothing material has happen'd in this neighbourhood since I had the Honor to address your Lordship my last Letter,¹ but Letters from Biscay by this Post inform us that the *Gracieux*, Emanuel le Tournois, the french vessel which in N^o: 72 I took the Liberty to mention² was expected here with a valuable Cargoe of woollen Goods from London, was taken by the famous Cunningham in Sight of S^t Sebastions and carried into that Port the 21st: of last month. I flatter myself however that very little Benefit will accrue to him by this Capture the Comander in

Chief of that Province having immediately put an Embargo on the Ship and Cargoe, and the merchants of this Town being determined to reclaim their Property.

A few Days after, Cunningham put into Bilboa, where he still was repairing his vessel when the Post came away.

A strong Rumour prevails that the Army will soon be reduced, and the navy proportionably augmented by the Incorporation of the Regiments which are to be reformed. The Prencipe Regiment was added to the marine of this Department some Time ago as I had then the Honor to acquaint your Lordship, and the Regiment of Cantabria is now on its march in the Depth of winter for Ferrol, and it is conjectured for the same Purpose. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

H Katencamp.

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fol. 34. Addressed at the foot of the first page: "The R^d Hon^{ble}. Lord Viscount Weymouth." Docketed: "Coruña 17 Jan^{ry} 1778/Consul Katencamp/(N^o 75)/R. 13 Feb^{ry}."

1. Herman Katencamp to Lord Weymouth, 3 Jan., above.
2. *NDAR* 10: 1065.

January 18 (Sunday)

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

[*Paris, between 15 and 18 Jan. 1778*]

I ask the Commissioners

Whither they do or do not mean that the *Ranger* should depart before her Prizes are Realized.

Whither the advance paid to the Seamen must be deducted from their Prize Money, and at what Rate?—

And Whither it is not inexpedient for a Ship that is Crank—that Sails Slow—and that is of a trifling force, to pursue a tract where there is almost a Certainty of Meeting with the Enemies fast Sailing Ships of Superiour Force.

D, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 56(i), no. 75. Docketed: "Capt Jones's/Questions."

January 19

PHILIP STEPHENS TO SENIOR OFFICER, PORTSMOUTH

Sir

[*Admiralty Office*] 19th. Jan^y 1778

Captain Cotton of His Majesty's Ship the *Pallas* which is arrived from Jamaica having transmitted to my Lords Commiss^{rs}. of the Admiralty the enclosed List of Rebel Prisoners on board that Ship: I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to take the proper measures for having John Murphy &c. the others who were taken in Arms committed to Forton Prison; to distribute such of those who were taken in Trading Vess^{ls}. as well French Men as English as are fit for His Majesty's Service on board such Ships at Spithead as are in want of Men &c. to discharge the rest, if any shall then remain, letting me know their Names I am &c.

PS

[Enclosure]

A List of Prisoners brought home in the *Pallas*

Taken in Arms	Taken in Trading Vessels	Frenchmen Taken in American Traders
John Murphy Cap ¹	Silas Baseum	Pierre Berrichon
David Gray ²	D ^l . Leadbeater	Jean Casseau
Rob ^t . Wilcocks ³	John Holyday	Jean Bap ^t . Verdeleh
Mat. Cox	Jos ^h . Smith	Jean Bourdie
Sam ^l . Haywood ⁴	Bar ^w . Reardon	Jean Biberon
Phil ^p . Corey ⁵	Peter Evernie	And ^w . Lafond
Sion. Arnold ⁶	John Watson	Esprit Figure
Rob ^t . Upham ⁷	Tho ^s . Melton	Peter Le Bon
Thad ^s . Manchester ⁸	Will Lewis	Jerom Bange
Jos ^h . Haywood ⁹	Reubin Folger	Fran ^s . Capdecon
Benj ⁿ . Hicks ¹⁰	Tho ^s . Snow	Mich ^l . Martine
Jon ⁿ . Lillibridge ¹¹	Enoch Bulls	
Cha ^s . Lascell	Arch ^d . Fisher	
James Tew ¹²	Will ^m . Green	
Elijah Perkins ¹³	John Stewart	
Geo. Smith ¹⁴	Tho ^s . Cave	
Rich. Ryland ¹⁵	Day ^d . Birch	
Rob ^t . Webb ¹⁶	Ja ^s . Prudden	
	Ja ^s . Rob	
	Peter Kirgill	
	And ^w . James	
	And ^w . Morehead	
	John Collins	
	Cha ^s . Curtis	
	Cha ^s . Lewis	

The whole of the above Prisoners were received from the different Ships at Portroyal, Jamaica.

Row^d. Cotton

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/556, fols. 326–27. Addressed at foot of letter: "Senior Officer Portsmouth."

1. Captain of Rhode Island letter of marque sloop *Swallow*, captured by H.M.S. *Aeolus*, 12 Sept. 1777. *NDAR* 9: 921. Murphy and his crew listed below were committed to Forton Prison on 23 Jan. Marion Kaminkow and Jack Kaminkow, *Mariners of the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Md.: Magna Carta Book Co., 1967), 137.

2. Lieutenant of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 78.
3. Master of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 207.
4. Samuel Hayward, gunner of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 87.
5. Seaman of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 44.
6. *Ibid.*, 6.
7. Boy of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 195.
8. Seaman of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 126.
9. Joseph Hayward, seaman of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 87.
10. Master's mate of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 89.
11. Seaman of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 117.
12. Captain of marines of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 187.
13. Surgeon of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 150.
14. Prize master of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 174.
15. Seaman of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 160.
16. Seaman of the *Swallow*. *Ibid.*, 202.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

19th. Munday Thunder & showers—Rec^d. 1/4 lb Beef to a man Extra. M^r Rowe the Master Maison Here to Contrive about building two Chimneys, One for the Officers, & the other for the people; but is Not Agreeable to the Officers as there is No Distinction made between the Officers & People's Apartments. therefore not According to the plan Proposed by Our friends who was at the Cost. I understand that all these favours, was Granted in & thr^o. the Humane L—d Abington's Influence

D, McHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

[*Nantes*]

Jan^y 19th. 1778 Extract, On my arrival at Brest I went to the Commandant of marine to ask permission for the Ship¹ to go to S^t Nazare to which I rec^d. a refusal for want of orders. I represented to the Commodore² (at Quiberon) the inefficacy of the Convoy if we had not liberty to go to S^t Nazare that he said he could not help as the Commander at Paimbuef was not under him & I must wait the decision of the minister,³ On my return to Nantes I find that orders are come from the minister to clear out the *Lion* permitting the Americans to be entered on the Roll as Passengers which we are now doing and Then she will go down to S^t Nazare, but this will not be possible 'till the next spring tides—when I was pressing for this permission the Tides were at the highest & the Ship could have gone down, now I have got it the tides prevent & this natural obsticale cannot be surmounted these 6 or 8 Days.

Extract, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 37, no. 131. Enclosed in Jonathan Williams, Jr., to Benjamin Franklin, 5 Mar., below. Docketed: "Extracts of Letters from/M^r J Williams from/Decem^r to 19 Jan^y—"; "Extracts of Letters from J Williams/to Comm^{rs}. to 19 Jan^y 78."

1. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, formerly called *Lyon*.

2. Chef d'Escadre Toussaint-Guillaume, Chevalier de La Motte-Picquet.

3. Gabriel de Sartine.

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o. 4Madrid. 19th. Jan^y. 1778.

My Lord,

An Appeal relative to the Prize, *Syren*, taken by Cunningham is laid before the Council of War, notwithstanding all the Attempts made by General O'Neil to prevent it.¹

I have taken all the Steps, which I can with propriety, to have this Matter represented to that Tribunal in its true Light. The Decision of it will be of consequence, as it will determine the Sense, in which such Captures will be finally considered.

His Majesty's Consul at Coruña² has been applied to concerning the Ransom of some Prizes, and has very properly demurred upon giving his Opinion. As, al-

lowing them to take place is certainly acquiescing in the legality of the Capture. He will of course be glad to receive your Lordship's Directions upon that Head.

Advices are received, by way of Portugal, of great Hardships exercised by the Spaniards against the Portuguese at the Nova Colonias, but I do not conceive it will be much taken notice of here.

Don Joseph Galvez is on the Point, as I am well informed, of executing his plan for laying the Trade from this Kingdom to America open to all the Ports. A Measure very problematical, and contrary to the old & first Principles adopted here, since the Discovery of the new World. It bids, however, as fair as anything can do for exciting a more general Industry, than has hitherto prevailed, excepting in Cataluña, which is by many Degrees the most active part of this Kingdom.

The News of the Elector of Bavaria's Death arrived here in the end of last Week. Whether this Event is likely to have any other Consequences besides a regular Succession, is a Subject upon which from this Court nothing as yet can be said.

Count Aguilar, Ambassador from this Court at Turin, is thought most likely to succeed to the Embassy to Vienna, now vacant by the Death of Count Mahoni; and the same Arrangement relative to the Embassies to London and Lisbon, which I have already communicated to your Lordship, seems still likely to take place. I have the Honour to be [&c.]

Grantham

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fol. 40. Addressed at the foot of the first page: "The Lord Viscount Weymouth; /&c^a. &c^a &c^a." Docketed: "Madrid 19 Jan^{ry} 1778/Lord Grantham/(N^o 4)/R. 6 Feb^{ry}."

1. NDAR 10: 1065.

2. Herman Katencamp.

January 20

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

20th. of Jan^{ry} Tuesday rainy w^{ch} M^r Heath & Sorrey & Cap^t Ralls¹ are Serving out Clothes to the people; a Disagreeable Jobb, as it is Impossible to please Everyone this Day Parliament meets this Day Rec^d. Oat meal & Greens to put into Our Pot Liquor

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. Capt. George Ralls, commander of privateer schooner *Jenny*.

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[*Forton Prison, Portsmouth, 1778*]

January 20th this day Parliament setts after Christmas holidays the same day the Officers moved from our Prison to their new apartment and in leaves us more room—

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777–79, collection 2272.

JOHN ROSS TO SILAS DEANE

the Hon^{ble} Silas Deane Esq^r
Dear Sir,

Nantes 20th. January 1778

I am indebted to your Respected favour of 15th. Instant.¹ In Answer, Am persuaded Your Reasons are weighty & Sufficient, for Refusing your Countenance & protection to English Adventurer's in the lines proposed by me, As Such, I have no right to urge my Opinion Contrary to that of Doctor Franklins and yours—I had only in view to hint at what I thought might be usefull to the Country, did it command the concurrence & approbation of the Hon^{ble}. Commissioner's, and I presume you have conceived it so.—At same time being informed when at Paris, a friend or two of mine had been indulgd with passports for Vessels under English Collours dispatched with Salt Cargoes If it is agreeable to the Hon^{ble}. Commissioner's to grant me a similar protection on same plan, they may be assured I shall make no improper use of it, I have at present a ship in England, which I think may be employed in that line to be of Service to the Country.—therefore hope to obtain your approbation & the Countenance of the Commissioner's by obliging me with a permit for Security on one Side.—

I am glad the observation I took the liberty to make to you has not given offence, & happie in the assurance's You give me.—The American Trade can bear no Restraint, a free & open intercourse with all the world has been the great object of America in our present Contest, And Shou'd any restriction's on the produce of this or that State be extorted by treaties, it must be considered partial and create unavoidable discontent.—The Strength of England being so considerably Reduced by a declaration of our Independancey, More than Ballance's every aid & assistance we can Receive from all the Power's in Europe, And if we are but Acknowledged as Such, Let us enjoy our freedom equally independant of all Europian treaties, as the most certain to preserve a lasting Peace undisturbed.

Nicholson's fear's are groundless—Am of opinion he know's as litle of his own forwardness for Sea, as that of Greens² tho he writes on the Subject—I wish he may be ready a[s] soon as my Concern's, the Cursed method of Conducting business interfiered not a little with my views in the dispatch expected but I shall overcome it now in a short time am in hopes.—& proceed as soon as the Captain.—Unlucky something Coud not be done for Capt: Jones in the line Recommended by the Navy board—Shoud any more new Ships however, be fited out in this Kingdom, beg You adopt different plans. Nicholson's (on seeing the Accounts) will, am confident lead You to see the necessity of it.—I shall only add further today, that I am [&c.]

Jn^o Ross

L, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers.

1. Silas Deane to John Ross, 15 Jan., above.

2. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, Capt. Samuel Nicholson, commander, and ship *Brune*, John Green, master.

January 21

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

21st. Wednesday rainy weather Finished serving the Donation Clothes; & we return'd a Letter of thanks to the Doners for Our Relief—

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE
TO GOURLADE, BÉRARD FRÈRES & MONPLAISIR

Gentlemen

Paris 21 Jan^y 1778

We wrote you the 12 inst.¹ on the Subject of the Letter returned to M^r Beaumarchais since which we are without any of your favours, except of the 12 inst^l which relates to the Sales of the Cargo of the *Amphitrite*, the acc^t of which sales you will please to favour us with a Copy of for our Settlement with that Gentleman. It is a little surprizing that Capt. Thompson should count on the Cargo of the *Amphitrite* to make good his disbursements, as he really had no Conversation with us on the Subject, nor ever gave us reason to suspect that the disbursements of the Frigates² would exceed the prize money due the Public. However you were before this informed of our having accepted the Bills and of their being paid. I have nothing material to add but in behalf of self & Colleagues have the honor to remain [&c.]

S. Deane

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed at foot: "Mess^{rs}. Berard freres Gourllade & Montplaisir."

1. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 467.

2. Continental Navy frigate *Raleigh*, Capt. Thomas Thompson, commander, and Continental Navy ship *Alfred*, Capt. Elisha Hinman, commander.

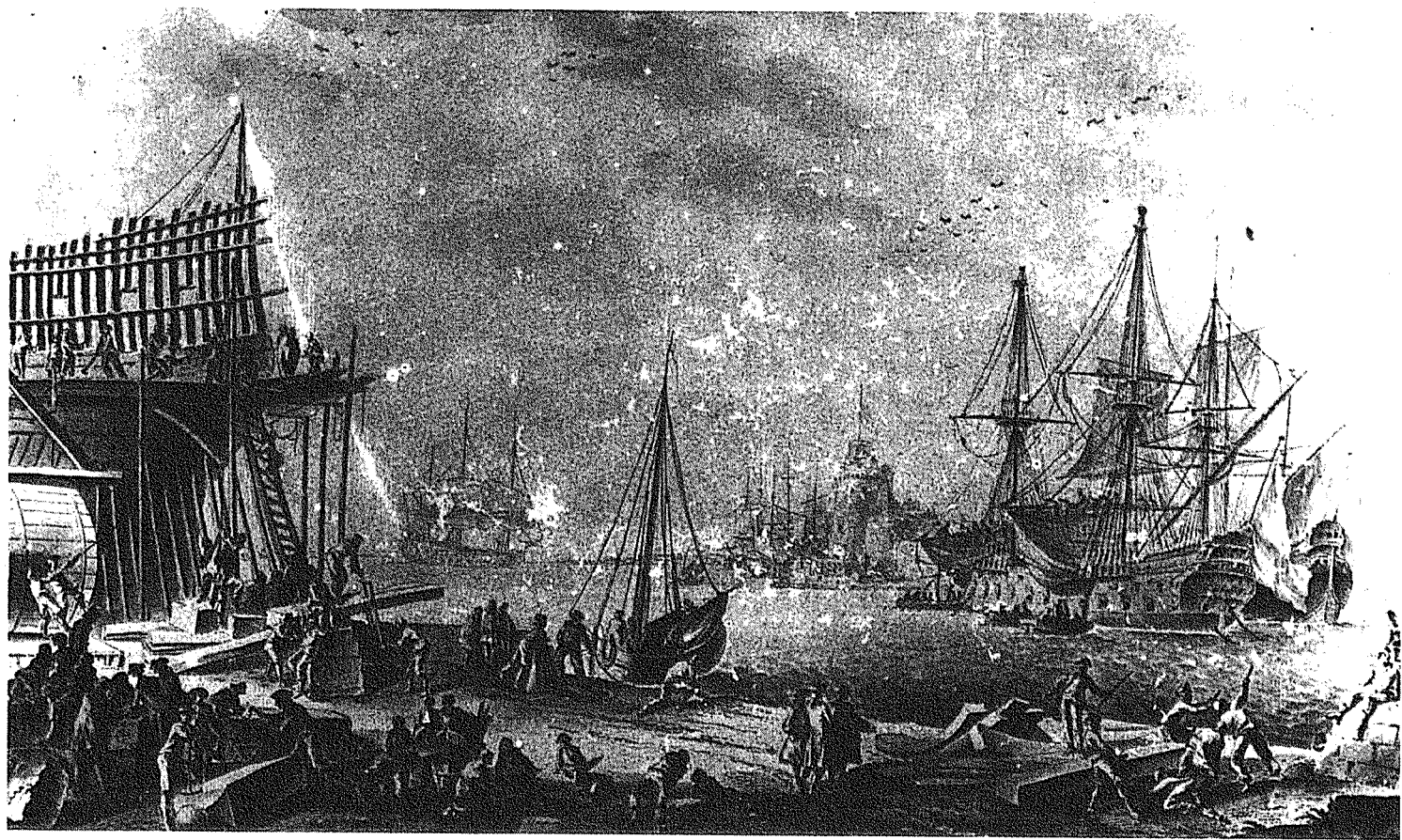
SILAS DEANE TO CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM

Capt Cunningham

Paris 21st Jan^y 1778

Sir—

I have received your letter of the 4th. inst^l and consulted on the Contents with my Colleagues. it is very unlucky that you fell in with that Vessel,¹ every such Adventure gives our Enemies an Advantage against us by representing of us as Persons who regard not the Laws of Nations. Your Idea that you are at Liberty to seize English Property, on board of French or other Neutral Vessels is wrong; it is contrary to the established Laws among the maritime Powers in Europe, though it is true that the English in the last War, paid little or no regard to this Law, but their superiority at Sea carried them thro', they have practiced the same this war but their Situation, and ours is very different in point of Force, tho' not so, in point of right. You will, therefore, represent the case to the Admiralty just as it was conducted, as you have represented in your Letter to us, & drop your claim, and in future let French, Spanish, and other Neutral Vessels pass, without detaining of them, unless you find them loaded with warlike Stores, and bound to the Ports of



Building warships in France

our Enemys, in which Case only, they may be detain'd agreeable to the Laws, and Treaties between the Maritime States in Europe, I hope M^r Hodge is with you by this Time who can give you particulars than is proper for me to write, Wishing you Success I am [&c.]

Silas Deane

PS. over Leaf

I have not as yet received the Ransom money nor have I any Answer to my last Letter on the Subject² in which I sent forward the Letter of the Hostage & Copy of yours to me—

L, ScHi, Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS No. 31.

1. French brig *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master.

2. To Rodolphe-Ferdinand Grand. NDAR 10: 1153.

GOURLADE, BÉRARD FRÈRES & MONPLAISIR
TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Gentlemen

L'orient 21st: Jan^y: 1778

In Consequence of your letter of 12th: Inst^{nt}^l we have acquainted M^r Beaumarchais we were ready to account with him for the whole Proceeds of the Cargoe of the *amphitrite* of which we have already remitted to him part of the amount and Shall continue. If our accounts of disbursments for the two frigattes² have exceeded your expectations you cannot with any Justice lay any blame on us for it. we have Suplied your Captains in every thing they wanted and of the [*torn*] best materials according to their demands, they [*torn*] examined with Care all said accounts and aproved of them, if you think any article charged at too high a Price we desire you will point them to us who will give you proper Satisfaction. your expressions on said transactions are disagreeable. little did we expect such would have been the reward of the Care good management, and honour with which We have transacted your affairs. you have appointed here M^r Moylan³ we desire you will Send him all our accounts that he may examine the same from the Vouchers will Serve him and clear your doubts; if any errors appears you may depend it shall be rectified:

The Circumstances that have attended the *amphitrite's* Consignment M^r Beaumarchais whom we Know to be connected with you laying an attachment on said [*torn*] in our hands in a very Strange manner, [*torn*] Gentlemen ordering us to account with him for said Proceeds without any deduction of our advances, giving us no reimbursement nor any assurances on said Advances appointing here an Agent M^r Moylan without giving us any information of it, naturally must have alarmed a confidence which at any time you could have Commanded, had we given you any reason of Complaint we should ever regret the loss of your Correspondence, but Since attention Zeal and candour could not assure us that Satisfaction and inspire you greater Confidence, it would have been better never to have existed at all, and if we have not been able to Captivate your Confidence, we hope to have deserved your esteem We are [&c.]

Gourlade
Berard freres & Cie
demonplaisir

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 52. Addressed below close: "To Mess^{rs}. Franklyn Dean & Lee deputed for/the united States of America." Docketed: "Monplaisir Goulard &c./Letter Jan^y 21st 1778."

1. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 467.

2. Continental Navy frigate *Raleigh*, Capt. Thomas Thompson, commander, and Continental Navy ship *Alfred*, Capt. Elisha Hinman, commander.

3. James Moylan.

ABRAHAM-MARIE BERTIN TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE

Extrait de la lettre de M. Bertin, dattée de Marseille, le 21 Janvier, 1778

Le Navire la *Céres*, de 90. Tonneaux, équipé de 10. hommes, et commandé par le Capitaine Icard, est parti de la Martinique le 1^{er} 8^{bre}. dernier.

Le lendemain de son départ de la Colonie, près de la Dominique, à deux lieues de distance du Roseau, il a été assailli par trois Chaloupes Angloises Royalistes, équipées de quarante hommes, parmi lesquels il y avoit trois Officiers armées comme des Forbans qui ont commencé par s'emparer du Bâtiment où ils ont exercés de mauvais traitements contre les Gens de l'Equipage qui ont essuyé plusieurs coups de sabre. On a saisi et arraché des mains du Capitaine tous ses papiers, il a été enfermé dans sa Chambre et gardé par deux Fusiliers, le Bâtiment a été visité en entier, on a enfoncé des Barriques, endommagé des marchandises, coupé beaucoup de cordages, ce qui a duré environ trois heures après lesquelles on s'est retiré. Je suis &c^a/.

[Translation]

Extract of the letter from M. Bertin, dated Marseilles 21 January 1778

The ship la *Ceres*, of 90 tons, with a crew of 10 men, and commanded by Captain Icard, left from Martinique last October 1.

The day after her departure from the Colony, she was attacked near Dominica, two leagues from Roseau, by three Royalist English sloops, manned by forty men, including three Officers armed like Pirates who after taking possession of the Ship, abused the Crew, who submitted to several sabre blows: They seized all the Captain's papers right from his hands, then locked him in his Cabin and kept him guarded by two Fusiliers; they searched the Ship from bow to stern, punched holes in Barrels, damaged merchandise, and cut a great deal of rigging; this lasted about three hours and then they left. I am &c^a/.

Copy, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fol. 180. Docketed: "dans la lettre de M. de Sartine du 28"; "a M. de Sartine." Enclosure in Gabriel de Sartine to Comte de Vergennes, 28 Jan. 1778, *ibid.*, fol. 177.

January 23

LLOYD'S EVENING POST, AND BRITISH CHRONICLE (LONDON),
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1778

Friday, January 23. London.

The *Count of Provence*, Sheal, was taken by the *General Washington* privateer,¹ and after being plundered was sent for Boston; but on her passage was retaken by

the *Revenge* letter of marque, and carried to Barbadoes, from whence she is arrived at Cork, after having received considerable damage in bad weather.

1. Brig *Countess of Province*, Thomas Sheal, master, from Cork to Newfoundland (*Lloyd's Register of Ships, 1777–1778*), and possibly Massachusetts privateer brigantine *General Washington*, William Rogers, commander.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

23^d. Friday rainy weather Our Established Allowance from the Donation is 4^d Loaf 1 lb of beef 1 penny worth of Tobacco to a mess Every Day but saturday then Pork in Lieu of Beef besides Oat meal & greans to put into our Broth & sope to was wash Our Clothes—this Evening Indulged with a Candle light Upon our own Cost. which is the first I've Seen since I've been in Prison; a Great Indulgence

D, McHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[*Forton Prison, Portsmouth, 1778*]

January 23^d this day 48 more prisoners came on shore for of them was French men and 13 Officers with them Cap^t Murphy, Cap^t Oakman, Cap^t Chew, Cap^t Slocum, &c &c.¹

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777–79, collection 2272.

1. John Murphy, captain of Rhode Island letter of marque sloop *Swallow*; Tobias Oakman, prize master of Massachusetts privateer ship *General Mifflin's* prize ship *Rebecca*; Benjamin Chew, sailing master, Maryland privateer brig *Sturdy Beggar*; and Gabriel Slocum or Slacom, prize master, *Sturdy Beggar*.

JAMES MOYLAN TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

[Extract]

Honorable Gentlemen

L'Orient 23^d. Jan^y 1778

. . . the Ship *Duras*,¹ (I mention'd to you in my last letter to be for Sale here) I find on enquiry to be too old for any profitable purpose.—the expences that wou'd attend her repair, wou'd be more than adequate to her value when properly fitted, altho' her Rigging & Cannon are in tolerable good order. . .

James Moylan

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 57. Addressed: "To/The Honorable Commissioners/of the United States of/America." Docketed: "M^r Moylans Lettr/23^d. Jan^y 1778/L'Orient." Portions not printed here relate rumors of American recapture of New York and Rhode Island.

1. *Duc de Duras*, the future Continental Navy ship *Bonhomme Richard*.

January 24

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1778

Saturday, Jan. 24. London.

The *Hannah*, Capt. Castleton, from South Carolina for Nantz, with rice, indigo, and tobacco, is taken by a letter of marque, and sent to Falmouth.

January 25 (Sunday)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, JAN. 25."

"Arrived and came into Harbour the *Thamas Koulikan*, Capt. Le Pierre,¹ a French ship, frigate built, with a tier of guns, twelve pounders, laden with cloathing, cannon, &c. and an American Gentleman, with several French passengers on board. The Captain says, he took in his cargo at Croisic, and was bound for St. Domingo. She was taken in the Bay by the *Hector* man of war, Capt. Hamilton, who sent her into this Port."

Lloyd's Evening Post, and British Chronicle (London), 23–26 Jan. 1778.

1. Noël Le Peru, master.

January 26

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO CAPTAIN ROBERT DIGBY, R.N.

By &c^a.

Whereas we have received Intelligence, upon which great reliance may be had, and of which You will herewith receive three Extracts,^{*1} that a great number of ships, as well French as American, have been loaded in the different Ports of France with Cargoes of Warlike Stores and other Supplies for the use of the Rebels in North America, that several of them are assembling, particularly from the Ports of Nantz, Rochelle & Bourdeaux, in order to sail in company; and that they are to be convoyed a considerable distance from the Coast of France by a Squadron of French Men of War; And Whereas it is of the greatest importance to His Majesty's Service that the Ships laden with the Cargoes beforementioned should be intercepted; You are therefore, in pursuance of His Majesty's pleasure signified by the Earl of Sandwich, hereby required and directed to proceed with the Ship You command,² and the several Ships named in the Margin³ (whose Captains are directed to follow your orders) and cruize on the Meridian of Cape Finisterre between the Latitude of 47°.00' North and the said Cape for the time hereafter mentioned, most diligently looking out for the Ships above described; And in case of falling in with them, You are to examine them, notwithstanding any remonstrance that may be made against it by the Commanding Officer of the Convoy, and if you shall be satisfied that the Ships you so examine are the Ships pointed out by the enclosed Intelligence, and that they are laden with Cargoes for the purpose thereinmentioned, You are to seize them, and to bring or send them, under the charge of proper Officers, into one of His Maj^{ty}s Ports; taking care that the several Articles on board be effectually secured until His Majesty's farther pleasure shall be known, and that notice of their arrival, with the grounds & circumstances of their seizure, be sent to our Secretary, by Express, for our information.—But in the execution of those Orders you will take care that the intercourse you may have with the Commanding Officer of the Convoy be (so far as is consistent with the proper discharge of your duty) conducted in such terms of civility on your part that, if any remonstrance shall be made from the Court of France there be no ground to charge you with any failure therein.

You are, while employed on this Service, to use your endeavours to take or destroy any Armed Vessels or others belonging to the Rebellious Colonies that you may meet with; And you are to give such protection to the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects that may fall in your way, as they may stand in need of, and may be consistent with your attention to the main Object of these Instructions.

You are to continue upon this Service for five weeks after you arrive upon your Station, and then return with the Squadron under your command to Spithead, sending Us an account of your arrival, & proceedings, and waiting there until you receive our further orders.

In the Orders you issue to the Captains of the Ships under your Command, while employed on the forementioned Service, you are to enjoin them to the strictest secrecy, and you are to observe the same Yourself. Given &C^a. 26th. January 1778.

Sandwich
H. Palliser
Mulgrave

By &c. PS.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 51–53. Addressed at foot: "To/Captain Digby/Commander of His Majesty's/Ship *Ramillies*." Notation at the foot: "Not to be opened til off Portland." Docketed: "26 January 1778./Cap^t Digby—*Ramillies*"; "ORD."

1. In the margin "Same as to Cap^t Hughes of the *Centaur* mark'd N^o 2 N^o 3. Secret Advices rec^d 15 & 17 January."

2. H.M.S. *Ramillies* (74 guns).

3. *Resolution, Culloden, Cornwall, Bedford, Asia, Proserpine.*

LLOYD'S EVENING POST, AND BRITISH CHRONICLE (LONDON),
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, TO MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1778

Monday, January 26. London.

The *Lady Elizabeth*, Scott, from Guadaloupe to South Carolina, with cloathing, and 1000 stand of arms, &c. on board, is taken and carried into Quebec.

JOHN ROSS TO SILAS DEANE

The Hon^{ble} Siles Deane Esq^r
Dear Sir/

L'Orient 26 January 1778

I came here two days ago in consequence of a most inconsistent ungenteeled Piece of Treatement of my famous factors Mess^{rs}. Berrard & C^o. Such indeed as no house of reputation could possibly think of in my situation with them—My acco^{ts} was furnished to me at Nantes accompanying his bills for the ball^a. & instructions to stope the *La brune*^d in case I refused Acceptance without assigning me a single day to examine my acco^{ts}.

The mans character who Supperintends the business of this house is much injured if they deserve that confidence of answering their demands, previous to a fair Examination & Settlement, as such I determined to see my accounts here, & the vouchers in support of them.—they were exhibited in Such irregularity & confusion as no person could admit many of them as prooffe, and I therefore desired Copy's of the Several bills which am determined to have fully examined & brought to reference if not satisfied in every particular charge.—I have retained a ballance

of £12000 open in the Account received untill I have the necessary prooffe's, and to remove every ground of complaint against me, as to the impropriety of conduct in the refusal thereof have tendered him Security for any such ballance as are found to be due on a fair Settlement.—

This House threatned me not only to stop the Ship, but to represent me to the Minister, unless I submitted to their term's, had I acted inconsistent or unjust, such threats might have had some weight, therefore shall convince Berrard & C^o that I am not to be bullied in to an unfair compliance

I depart for Nantes in a few hour's, and hope to find every thing in that forwardness which will permit the *La Brune* to proceed to take the goods on board without any detention, consequently expect I shall be in readiness notwithstanding this unexpected trouble & plague given me by those Gentlemen here;—With advanced Wages which you know comes heavy in outfits on our plan as French Property, I find the *La Brune*, Six months provisions for Eighty Men, Guns &c^a &c^a &c^a will cost above £100'000.—Yet far cheaper then any Vessel of hir size fitted out hitherto in this Kingdom. Nevertheless—the provisions Watter, Guns &c^a on board as a Ship of War, will interfere greatly with the Room allotted for the goods intended to be shipped, in so much, that I am Realy affraid she can't take in that quantity of goods which will entitle the Owners to a freight Adequate to the expences incurred in fitting out the *La Brune* as a ship of Force in the manner already done—I shoud regrave to be suspected of making a charge against the Public in the line of a Freight or any thing else, too favourable for my Self, it being my invariable rule to consult their Interest as much as my own at least, in the business committed to me.—That being the case, and to gaurd against every Reflection which the most invious can possibly Suggest, I have come to the resolution of consulting you on this business as part owner, that we may join to act with every consistency for the benefite of the American States—If therefore you view the matter in the light I do, woud it not be best to assign this Ship intyrelly to the Public at first cost,² and give them every Advantage, the Cargo being their property & of course the Risque of the whole.—By this assignation the States have in readiness a good ship well fitted, intyrelly under the immadiate direction of the Commissioners to proceed with Nicholson in Concert.—I shall get Green² to submit to what you and I may approve of, but don't chuse to make the proposal to the Commissioners, untill I am favoured with Your Opinion—Am largely in Advance for the States already my disbursements for the *La Brune* if assigned to the Public will add to the Charge, and must reimburse your Advances so soon as I receive the first funds.—Our motives for these engagements you know, was Principally to get home some Tobacco and I think my Representation to the Committee³ may engage their attention to employ the Ship even in that Line,

Private Adventurers be assured cant get money in a Ship fitted so expensively as the *La Brune*, and unless properly Manned, hir force will be of no Service—this youl please Consider of, being inclined to consult Your Interest as well as my own.—The *La Brune* carrys a compleate Battery of Twenty double Fortified Six's on her Gun deck, and as convenient as any Frigate in England—You may from this Suppose hir a cheap Vessel for the Public, or Private Adventurer's who might employ hir in a Proper Line.—If you concurr with me in the Assignation proposed

Captain Green must have a Continental Commission. I shall pledge my honour, he will not discredit the truste in the Service of his Country.

Since my arrival here had several litle confabes with M^r Moylan, who communicated your correspondence with him, to me, & that of his answers—You must permit me to Recommend every precaution in the choice of connections here and if my opinion merit any attention from you, I shoud Rather approve to form no manner of connection with french houses as by no means to be depended on in point of Regulartty, nor even confidence with some.—If the Commissioners have any speculative plans to prosecute, or a desire of collecting from other Nations Articles Suitable for the outfits of any American Ships of War, let them advise me, and I shall get it done for them through my Correspondents with every Security and on the first terms furnishing me with that liberty to take a reimbursement by bills on Paris—I have as good a correspondence over all Europe as any in France, and that you may gaurd against those impositions too much experienced by You, I offer my service to the Commissioner's—This I mention to you, that you may do in it as you see Proper, shoud circumstances Require a collection of certain Articles for public use.—Brass Gun's in Particulare ought to be provided in Sweden. However, as you must know best what is wanting, not necessary to ennumerate the markets for certain Articles—

When I return to Nantes shall communicate some further occurances in the meantime hope to hear from You in Course, and with Respect I am [&c.]

Jn^o. Ross

L, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed: "To/The Hon^{ble}./Siles Deane Esq^r/Paris—." Docketed: "M^r Jn^o Ross/Letter 26th Jan^y/—1778—."

1. The future Continental Navy frigate *Queen of France*.

2. John Green.

3. Perhaps the Continental Commerce Committee, although Ross may mean the American Commissioners in France. See his letter to the Commissioners of 6 Feb., below.

January 27

LLOYD'S EVENING POST AND BRITISH CHRONICLE (LONDON),
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, TO WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1778

Tuesday, January 27. London.

The *Hooper*, Capt. Knapp, from James's River, in America, to Bilboa, with 200 hogheads of tobacco, &c. is taken by the *Active* letter of marque, of Guernsey, Capt. Peter Agnew, after the following manner: Agnew lying off a port in the Bay of Biscay, (under the 13 stripes) where Knapp had put in to repair some damage his ship had sustained by bad weather, a Pilot came off and asked Agnew if he wanted any thing; on which he told him he would be glad to have some fresh provisions, and gave the Pilot English and French money to pay for the same. Agnew at the same time enquiring if there were any ships in port, the Pilot answered there were none, but that there was an American brig with tobacco, for Bilboa, ready to sail, and doubted not but the Master of her would be glad the privateer would take her under convoy, if he was going that way. Being told that he was, the Pilot mentioned it on going ashore, and Knapp soon came out; but on drawing near the privateer,

he perceived his mistake, and he and his crew immediately left the brig, and rowed on shore. Soon after Agnew boarded the vessel, and found no living creature on board, except a cat and dog; they retreated so precipitately, that they left all their papers on board. Agnew brought the vessel safe into Guernsey the 16th instant; her cargo is thought to be worth 10,000l.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Gentlemen

Nantes 27th. Jan^y 1777

I have the honor to inform you that from Paris I reached this place in 56 hours.—As I have in my possession repeated Orders from Congress to Afford Aid & protection to the American Commerce.—I conceive it to be my duty to give my best protection and Safe conduct to the Squadron with Supplies now nearly in readiness to Sail from hence, until they are at some distance from the Coast of Europe—I can then leave the Ships to proceed under the care and protection of the next Officer in Command.

This will afford me an Opportunity of proving the Sailing and best Trim of the *Ranger* Whereof I am at present in great suspense—and as I find it I will regulate my conduct after leaving the Squadron[.]

It is my Duty to communicate these my intentions to you—not doubting but that they will meet with Your entire Approbation, especially as my present purpose will not impede my first intentions.—I shall therefore Order the Captains &^{ca}. to put themselves under my command by Virtue of my Seniority and of my instructions from Congress.

I submit to your superior wisdom whither it will not be expedient, in case of taking Prizes containing Cloathing, Warlike or Naval Stores, that such Prizes be Ordered to America instead of being sent into any Port in Europe? I have the honor to be [&c.]

Jn^o P Jones

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 5, no. 35. Addressed: "The Honorable/Benja. Franklin, Silas Deane and/Arthur Lee—American Commissioners/&^{ca}. &^{ca}. &^{ca}. /Paris." Docketed: "Captⁿ. Jones. 27 Jan^y./1777." The dateline and docketing both mistake the year, which was 1778.

RECEIPTS FOR THE VIRGINIA NAVY BRIGANTINE *Mosquito*Nantes Jan^y 27 1778

Received of Jonathan Williams thirty Guineas on Acc^t of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the use of myself George Chamberlayne & John McNickle Officers of the *Moschetto* Armed Brig^t John Harris late Commander belonging to the said Commonwealth which Sum I promise to Acc^t with the Commonwealth for & for which I have signed three Receipts of this Tenor & date to serve as one

£31..10 Sterl^s

Byrd Chamberlayne John McNickl
George Chamberlaine

[on verso]

[Nantes] Feb. 5. 1778 Rece^d six Louis [in a]ddition to the within on the same acco^t & to acco^t for in the same manner being two Louis for each

£144 Livres

Byrd Chamberlayne
George Chamberlaine
John McNikal

D, DNA, PCC, item 90, p. 638 (M247, roll 118). Docketed: "Chamberlayn's & McNickal £31.10/Sterling & 144 Livres."

January 28

LLOYD'S EVENING POST, AND BRITISH CHRONICLE (LONDON),
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, TO WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1778

Postscript. London.

The Master of a West-Indiaman, taken by an American privateer, and set on shore at Nantes, since arrived in London, gives the following account of the *Thomas Koulikan*, taken by the *Hector* man of war, Capt. Sir John Hamilton, and brought into Portsmouth: He says, that whilst he was at Nantes, waiting for remittances from England, the above ship was loading there with bale goods, hardware, stores of all kinds, and a quantity of gunpowder and shot. She is about 450 or 500 tons burthen, frigate-built, and had ports for 32 guns, 24 twelve pounders on the main deck, 6 pounders on the quarter-deck, and two on the forecastle; she then had no guns mounted, and he was told they were to be stowed in the hold till she arrived whither she was bound. A number of American Gentlemen were waiting to go out in her; among the rest an American supercargo, who had the care of her loading, and a Mr. Nicholson,¹ who was to be Captain of her when they arrived in America: The manner of sending her out was only to avoid the French ordinance concerning military stores being sent to America, for which reason she was laid out for St. Domingo, and which Port they were to declare for if met with any King's ship, but as soon as opportunity offered make for any part of the Continent of America, in the hands of the Congress.—The above Nicholson has a brother at Baltimore, Commander of a large privateer,² which has been blocked up some time by our frigates, cruizing off the Capes of Virginia; this Nicholson is called Commodore among the Provincials.

1. Capt. Samuel Nicholson, commander of the Continental Navy frigate *Deane*. The report that he was to command *Thamas Koulikan* was in error.

2. Continental Navy frigate *Virginia*, Capt. James Nicholson, commander.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

28th. Wednesday fair weather M^r Rowe Superintendant of Mill Prison¹ has been here to see About firing Our Apartment Agreeable to the Requisition of L—d Abington, & the Maisons set to work. M^r Heath has this Day serv'd Our Cash as Usual. Besides the Rearage Due to the whole Viz 6 pence to Each Man

One Todd from Newhaven has this Day been here who Informs me he's been from home two Years, & Now belongs to the *Foudroyant*.

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. The master mason. See Journal of Dr. Jonathan Haskins, 19 Jan., above.

January 30

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

30th. Friday Cloudy w^c two Maisons Employed in plastering the Roof of our Prison

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

HENRI-MAXIMILIEN GRAND TO RODOLPHE-FERDINAND GRAND

[*Portsmouth, England, 29 and 30 January 1778*]

Copie de la lettre de M^r Henry Grand à bord du Navire le *Thamas-Koulikan*, à Portsmouth le 29. Janvier 1778.

J'embrasse avec empressement l'occasion que me procure un ami pour vous entretenir plus amplement du sujet dont vous informait mes précédentes, qui auront été surement interceptées.

Le 11. de ce mois nous apperçumes sur les 10. heures du matin, un vaisseau que nous ne pumes reconnaître pour être de Guerre que dans l'après-midy, sur le 4. heures. Nous nous apperçumes bientôt qu'il nous donnait la chasse, et n'ayant rien à craindre, nous ne fimes pas plus de voile que nous n'en avions fait dès le moment que nous l'apperçumes. Vers les 11. heures du soir, à l'aide d'un grand vent, il eut l'avantage sur route, et dès qu'il fut à portée du Canon, il nous fit amener à l'aide de 2 coups à boulets qu'il nous tira. L'impossibilité où le grand vent et la nuit le mettait de mettre son Canot à la mer pour venir nous visiter, lui fit différer cette formalité jusqu'au lendemain. Le vent avait été si considerable qu'il y avait près de 3. pieds d'eau sur le premier pont qui tenaient le Vaisseau couché d'un coté, au point de préjudicier considerablement à notre marche, il ne releva que lorsque le vaisseau de guerre nous eut fait amener, sur les 10. heures du matin, deux officiers vinrent nous visiter, et parurent extremement murmurer de nos Canons, dans le calibre, selon eux, n'était pas pour le Vaisseau. Les cent louis de sel ensuite à bord ne leur plurent pas d'avantage; et après avoir été examiné la quantité de poudre avec une chandelle, et nous avoir causé les plus grandes alarmes pour cette imprudence, ils remonterent sur le pont et demanderent si nous avions des Anglais à bord, sur quoi Baylord leur dit qu'il était Américain et passager pour S^t Domingue, d'où il espérait trouver à s'embarquer pour l'Amérique; n'ayant rien à dire à cela, ils demanderent s'il y en avait d'autres; Boyd la dessus fut demandé, et la peur qu'il avait d'être fait prisonnier une seconde fois, malgré l'impossibilité vû notre destination, et la paix qui regne entre la France et l'Angleterre, le fit trébucher, mentir &c. ce que voyant les deux officiers, ils l'emmenerent à bord de leur Vaisseau, d'où nous vîmes venir ensuite un 20^m. de Matelots, et leur bagage, ce qui nous fit voir suffisamment qu'ils voulaient nous prendre; et comme le plus faible cède toujours au plus fort, nous ne témoignâmes même pas la moindre humeur. Six heures se passerent dans cette confusion qui ressemblait parfaitement à un place abandonné au pillage d'un ennemi plus fort, qui se prévalait de ses avantages.

Je ne dois pas vous cacher que je suis actuellement en bonne santé, mais que pendant ces entrefaites, j'étais entre la vie & la mort. Pour combler la mesure, le Capitaine ordonna que Baylor, l'Etat majeur et moi, excepte le Capitaine le Peru fussions transporté à bord, pour y être plus scrupuleusement examiné. Je ne saurais mieux vous dépeindre le danger que nous courumes dans cette traversée, qu'en vous disant qu'on fut généralement étonné de notre bonheur. Ce n'est pas tout, à peine fumes nous arrivés, que nous apprimes indirectement que leur vaisseau était encore pour 2. mois en mer. La crainte de passer ce temps là à croiser, me fit solliciter de parler au Capitaine, ce qui ne me fut permis que quelque temps après. Je le priai donc en grace vu mon état languissant et mes affaires de ne me pas retenir prisonnier, tandis que j'avais une occasion de me rendre en Angleterre par notre Navire qu'il y envoyait là-dessus, il eut la bêtise, après m'avoir examiné, ainsi que toutes mes hardes et mes papiers, de me dire que si je voulais avoir quelque chose, il m'accorderais ma demande; je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire qu'elle fut ma réponse; quoi qu'il en soit elle ne fut pas telle qu'il la voulait pour justifier sa démarche inique et impérieuse. Trois jours furent à peine écoulés et voyant qu'il ne pouvait rien tirer de moi, qu'il jugea à propos de ne nous pas retenir plus longtemps, mais de nous laisser profiter de l'occasion de notre Navire. Nous partîmes donc en laissant Boyd et nos Matelots à l'exception de 4 ou 5.

Arrivés ici le Capitaine envoya à Londres pour avoir des ordres à notre égard; nous sommes encore à les attendre. C'est ce cruel état d'incertitude qui m'a fait prendre le parti d'écrire à Milord Holderness,¹ et j'espère que ma lettre fera l'effet désiré.

J'apprends que l'on présume ici que notre Navire nous sera rendu; je n'en ai jamais douté d'un seul instant, pourvu que la Guerre ne nous soit pas déclarée. Mais pour raisons que je ne puis pas vous dire veuillez ne pas perdre un instant pour faire réclamer ce Navire. Si vous pouvez obtenir, même un exprès cela ne serait que mieux. Enfin je serais tenté de croire que plus de célérité vous apporterés dans cette affaire et mieux cela sera.

Nous avons pour nous:

- 1°. Tous les papiers du Capitaine qui sont parfaitement en règle pour St Domingue, et qu'on nous a oté.
- 2°. Tout l'état major qui prêtera serment de cette destination
- 3°. Une lettre de Baylor de Nantes, qui, ayant appris que j'allais à St Domingue me demande un passage, c'est par hasard que je l'ai gardée.
- 4°. Ma réponse en conséquence
- 5°. Ses lettres de Crédit pour cet endroit

On me dit; mais d'où vient que vous n'avez point de sac de lettres, Comme il est ordinaire pour les Vaisseaux qui vont aux Isles? Je réponds à cela qu'au Croisic, nous n'étions pas à même d'en recevoir.

On me reproche ensuite le Sel qui est à meilleur marché là bas qu'icy. Je réponds 1°. que je ne le crois pas, et qu'en suite si au cas que vous vous étiez trompé dans le choix des articles de la Cargaison les conséquences n'en retomberent que sur vous mais que à qui vous a fait présumer que cet article rendrait bien au cap, c'est sa proximité avec l'Amérique Septentrionale où il est porté à un prix fou.

Ils me disent que nos canons sont trop forts pour notre navire étant de 18. Je leur réponds 1°. qu'ils se trompent et qu'ils ne sont que de 12. qu'ensuite les 14.

sabords que nous avons à bord et qui ne sont pas neufs, grande circonstance contre eux; prouvent suffisamment que nos 14. Canons sont destinés pour notre usage en cas de Guerre, et qu'ils ne sont point un article de Cargaison.

Tout ce que je crains c'est qu'ils ne gagnent quelqu'un de nos matelots qui sont à bord du *Hector*, et qu'un d'eux en se parjurant ne fasse condamner notre Navire. Ce serait pour lors une volerie impardonnable; et Comme le traitement que j'ai essuyé n'est pas propre à me rassurer à cet égard, je voudrais prévenir le retour de *Hector* par notre célérité à faire rendre le Navire comme prise illégale.

Imaginé que nos voiles toutes neuves, comme vous savez sont en loges par l'excellente manœuvre de ces Messieurs, un cable de 50. louis en pièces, un Canot de perdu, je ne parle pas de la petite différence que leurs matelots ont apporté dans nos vivres et dans notre eau de vie; mais une de mes grandes récréations à bord est de leur entendre répéter à chaque instant que jamais ils n'ont été à pareille fête.

Je ne doute nullement que vous ne sentiés comme moi la nécessité de ne pas différer un moment de prendre les mesures que je viens de mentionner, et dont le Capitaine Anglais sent si bien le mauvais effet pour lui qu'il a deffendu à M^r Le Peru notre Capitaine, d'écrire.

Dès que j'aurai ma liberté, j'irai adresser mes plaintes à Monsieur de Noailles, notre Ambassadeur, à Londres et j'attendrai vos ordres avant de rien faire.² J'ai chargé M^r Le Peru, notre Capitaine, de ne s'occuper que de ce qui serait nécessaire pour se mettre en regle afin que rien ne periclite. C'est sa precaution d'avance, car il n'en est pas encore là. A suivre le cours ordinaire des choses, nous serions 6. mois avant de savoir si nous avons raison ou tort.

Je sais des choses que je n'ose pas confier ici, ainsi je me tairai.

Autre du 30. qui a été ouverte et dont on n'a laissé que ce qui suit.

L'indignation qui me fait naitre ce procédé injuste et tirannique me fait desirer on ne peut plus ardemment de mettre un clou rivé à pareille liberté, par les dedomagers considérables que je suis déterminé à reclamer, si vous ne le trouvez pas mauvais, tant pour vous que pour moi. Mon intérêt ne s'y trouverait pas, que je croirais de mon devoir de servir mon pays en agissant ainsi. Ce procédé est si revoltant, qu'il y a peu d'Anglais qui ne comte, et qui n'espere, que ce Navire nous sera rendu, vû, disent ils fort bien, que pareilles actions ne sont faites que pour indisposer les nations étrangères contr'eux. J'apprends qu'un Navire Hollandais a été dans le même cas; ils en ont été quitte pour en rembourser la Valeur. J'espere et je souhaite que cette second repetition les rendent un peu moins hardis.

Une autre cruauté, c'est de retenir ce Navire ici, et nous tous prisonniers à bord depuis 12 jours passé, sans s'en embarasser en aucune façon, mais en requerant la parole d'honneur du Capitaine, longue pour besoin il obtient la permission d'aller à terre pour une couple d'heures, qu'il n'écrit pas, vous voyez par là qu'ils craignent qu'il ne se justifiait de qu'on ne les trouve en défaut. J'ai desiré que M^r Le Peru me donne ses plaintes par écrit, que je redigerai s'il est nécessaire et que je présenterai avec les miennes, sans perte de temps, en arrivant à Londres.

Il m'a dit avoir déjà été traité de même dans la précédente Guerre, et qu'il finit par subir un intérogatoire d'un nombre infini de questions. On apperçoit facilement la subtilité de pareil procédé; mais je lui ai dit que c'était à lui à questionner et à demander pourquoi on l'a pris. Il ne doit pas avoir peur d'être pris

une seconde fois, et bien loin de subir un interrogatoire, il n'a qu'à se referer 1°. à ses papiers, qui disent où il va, et d'où il vient, et enfin à satisfaire à toutes les questions qu'on peut lui faire. 2°. à sa Cargaison pour les demandes à ce sujet mais sur toutes choses, de ne point s'envisager comme prisonnier mais plutôt comme un opprimé, qui a non seulement droit de se plaindre, mais droit encore de se faire rendre la justice qui est dur. Dès que l'Etat major aura permission de descendre à terre je lui ai recommandé d'aller affirmer par devant Notaire et par acte, notre vraie destination. C'est la le plan que je me propose d'adopter pour suivre cette affaire. J'y ai beaucoup réfléchi, mais j'y changerai telle partie qu'il vous plaira et je ne manquerai pas de suivre les bons conseils que vous voudrez bien me donner soit par vous même, soit par les amis qu'il vous plaira de m'indiquer.³

Ce Paragraphe de la Gazette du 29. Courant ne vous réjouira pas moins que moi.

"La Cour d'Amirauté vient de faire un Protest, contre le Capitaine du Vaisseau de Guerre qui a envoyé un Vaisseau Français à Portsmouth sous prétexte qu'il contenait propriété, c'est à dire, de Marchandises Américaines. On craint qu'on ne puisse pas trouver de preuves pour le démontrer quoi qu'on n'en doute pas un instant."

[Translation]

Copy of the letter from M. Henry Grand aboard the ship *Thamas Koulikan*, at Portsmouth, 29 January 1778

I eagerly seize this opportunity offered me by a friend to give you more details on the subject I was discussing in preceding letters, which will surely have been intercepted.

On the 11th of this month around 10 a.m., we saw a vessel that we were unable to identify as a warship until afternoon, around 4 p.m. We soon realized that she was giving chase, but since we had no reason to fear, we sailed no faster than when we first spotted her. Around 11 p.m., with the help of a strong wind, she caught up to us, and as soon as she was within cannon range, she forced us to haul down our sails by firing 2 shots at us. However, the wind and the darkness made it impossible for them to send their launch over to us, so this formality was postponed to the next day. The wind had been so strong that there was almost 3 feet of water on the first deck, which kept the ship listing to one side and severely impeded our progress. She only righted when the warship forced us to hoist on board two of their officers at 10 a.m. These officers seemed to object vehemently to the caliber of our cannon, which, according to them, was inappropriate for our ship. The 100 louis of salt on board did not please them either, and after having examined our stores of gunpowder with a candle (an act that alarmed us a great deal in its imprudence), they went back up on deck and asked us whether we had any Englishmen on board, to which Baylord responded that he was American en route to Saint-Domingue, where he hoped to find a ship bound for America. Having nothing to say to this, they asked if there were any others. Boyd was brought up from below, and his fear over possibly being taken prisoner a second time¹ (albeit it an unfounded fear given our destination and the current peaceful situation between France and England) made him stumble and lie. Seeing this, the two officers took him on board their ship, and sent back a score of sailors and

their baggage, at which point we realized they intended to seize our ship. And since the weak always yield to the strong, we tried to be gracious about it. Six hours went by in the type of chaos that results when a town is abandoned to pillage by a stronger enemy who takes full advantage of its superior force.

I should point out that I am currently in good health, but that during these goings-on I hovered between life and death. To make matters worse, the captain ordered that Baylor, the officers (with the exception of Captain Le Peru), and myself be brought over to their ship for closer examination. The fact that they were surprised to see us in good spirits on our arrival should indicate to you the danger we were in during the crossing. But that is not the whole of it; hardly had we arrived when we found out indirectly that their ship was to remain at sea two more months. My fear at spending this amount of time at sea prompted me to request a meeting with the captain, a request only granted to me much later. I begged him—in view of my deteriorating condition and the business I needed to conduct—not to hold me prisoner while I had an opportunity to go to England via our ship that he was sending there. After having examined me, along with all my clothes and my papers, he had the stupidity to tell me that if I wanted anything, he would grant my request. I need not tell you what my answer was, but whatever it may have been, it certainly did not justify his vile, arrogant behavior. In any case, seeing he would get nothing out of me, and deeming it proper not to hold us any longer, he allowed us to take advantage of our ship bound to England three days later. We then departed, leaving behind Boyd and all but 4 or five of our sailors.

When we arrived here, the captain sent to London for orders as to what to do with us; we are still awaiting them at this time. It is this cruel and uncertain predicament that led me to write to My Lord Holderness,² and I hope that my letter will have the desired effect.

I have learned that it is generally presumed here that our ship will be returned to us; I too am of this opinion so long as England does not declare war on us. But for reasons that I cannot divulge, please do not lose one second in reclaiming this Ship. If you are able to procure an express messenger, so much the better. Finally, I am of the persuasion that the faster you proceed in this affair, the better.

In our defense we have:

- 1) All the captain's papers, in perfect order for Saint-Domingue, that were taken from us.
- 2) All the ship's officers, who will swear as to this destination.
- 3) A letter from Baylor from Nantes, who, on learning that I was going to Saint-Domingue, asked to be taken along as a passenger; It just so happens I still have it.
- 4) My response to the above-mentioned letter.
- 5) His letters of credit for that place.

They say to me: how is it that you have no bag of mail, as is customary for vessels going to the Islands? My reply is that while at Croisic we did not receive any.

Then they rebuke me for the salt which fetches a better price there than here. To that I respond, first of all, I do not believe it, and second, in the event you were mistaken as to the choice of a cargo, the consequences would be your own to bear, since that which led you to believe that this article would do well at the Cape

[François] was the Cape's proximity to America, where salt sells for absurdly high prices.

They tell me that our 18-pounder cannon are too powerful for our ship. To this I inform them, first, they are mistaken, that our cannon are only 12-pounders; and second, the 14 gun ports we have on board, which are not new (and so support further our case against their charge), are sufficient proof that our 14 guns are intended for self-defense in case of war and are absolutely not items of cargo.

My remaining fear is that they will win over one of our sailors who are on board the *Hector*, and that one of them will perjure himself and in so doing get our ship condemned. As this would be an unpardonable theft, and since the treatment to which I was subjected does not reassure me in this regard, I would like to have the *Hector* recalled as soon as possible so that we can have the Ship surrendered as an illegal seizure.

Imagine our sails, brand new as you know, in rags thanks to the excellent maneuvering of these gentlemen, a cable costing 50-louis in pieces, and a launch lost, not to mention the small difference their sailors made in our victuals and brandy; but one of the great amusements on board is to hear them exclaiming over and over that they had never been to a better party.

I do not doubt for one minute that you feel as I do the necessity of taking as quickly as possible the measures I have just mentioned; it is clear the English captain understands well the bad effect these measures would have for him, for he forbade M. Le Peru, our captain, to write.

As soon as I am free, I will address my complaints to M. de Noailles, our ambassador, in London, and will await your orders before taking any action.³ I directed M. Le Peru, our captain, to worry only about what he had to do to put things in order so that nothing will jeopardize our case. This is his advance precaution, since he has not yet done this. If things proceed ordinarily, it may take 6 months to find out whether we are in the right or the wrong.

I know some things that I dare not reveal here, so I shall keep silent.

Another letter dated the 30th, which had been opened and left only the following:

The indignation I feel at this unjust, tyrannical conduct instills in me an intense desire to curtail such liberties by means of the considerable damages I am determined to claim, if you are not averse, for you as much as for myself. My interest in doing so is only to serve my country. This procedure is so abhorrent that few Englishmen consider or hope that this ship will be returned to us, since, they assert, actions such as these are perpetrated for the sole purpose of antagonizing foreign countries. I have learned that when a Dutch ship was in the same situation, they got off by providing reimbursement for its value. I hope and pray that this second repetition would make them less brazen.

Another cruelty lies in keeping this Ship here with all of us prisoners on board for the last 12 days, not bothering with us in any way, but requiring that the captain give his word of honor not to write, in order that he may obtain permission to go on shore for a couple of hours; this makes it quite obvious that they fear he can only prove his case by revealing the flaws in their own. I wanted M. Le Peru

to give me his complaints in writing, which I will edit if necessary and present along with my own, as quickly as possible, upon our arrival in London.

He told me he had been treated the same way in the last war, and he ended up being subjected to an endless barrage of questions. The underhandedness of such a procedure is quite obvious, but I told him it was up to him to ask questions and demand to know why he had been seized. He must not be afraid of being seized a second time, and does not have to submit to an interrogation. He has only to refer to: first, his papers, which say where he is going, where he is coming from, and which finally answer all the questions there could be. and second, his cargo, for all questions on that subject. But most important, he must not see himself as a prisoner but rather as an oppressed person who not only has the right to complain, but the right to see exacting justice served. As soon as the officers have permission to go on shore, I recommended that he go to declare before a notary public and affirm by document our true destination. That is the plan I am proposing to adopt in this affair. I have thought much about it, but I shall change any part of it you wish, and I shall not fail to follow the good advice you will kindly pass on, either from yourself or through friends, if you would be so kind as to identify them to me.⁴

This Paragraph, from the Gazette dated the 29th Instant, will please you no less than it did me.

“The Court of Admiralty has just lodged a protest against the captain of a warship that sent a French ship to Portsmouth under the pretext that it contained property—that is, American merchandise. They fear that not enough proof will be found to demonstrate it, although they do not doubt it for an instant.”

Copy, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fols. 179–81. Henri-Maximilien (Henry) was son of Rodolphe-Ferdinand (Ferdinand) Grand.

1. Alexander Boyd, probably the same Captain Boyd to whom Silas Deane wrote on 10 Sept. 1777, congratulating him on his “escape from the Enemy.” *Deane Papers* 2: 133.

2. Robert D'Arcy, fourth Earl of Holderness (1718–1778), died on 16 May.

3. Henri-Maximilien Grand to the Marquis de Noailles, 29 Jan. Ibid., fol. 178.

4. Rodolphe-Ferdinand Grand wrote to the Comte de Vergennes on 5 Feb., to protest the taking of his ship as an infringement of international law. He enclosed a statement regarding the *Thamas Koulikan's* fitting out, sailing, cargo, and destination, and a crew list, showing forty men and five officers, all French. Ibid., fols. 232–34.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ON BOARD THE *WILLIAM AND SARAH*, BOUND
FROM CORK TO THE WEST-INDIES, WITH PROVISIONS.”

“We left Cork with a fine wind, which continued till we got into the lat. 38. 10, when we fell in with an American privateer, a brig mounting ten guns, and we suppose upwards of 60 men, she hailed us, and bade us strike to the congress, we saw what she was at a distance, and therefore prepared to receive her; our not answering, brought a shot, which we returned with our broadside, which seemed to do some execution amongst them, the engagement now began on both sides, and she being a low vessel, was thereby exposed to our small arms, which were however but few, our great guns (of which we had sixteen six pounders) we kept well-manned and served: the privateers guns were but ill-worked, for out of fifty shot, scarcely one hulled us, we continued engaging near an hour, and pretty closely, when a shot from us carried away her fore-top-mast, which falling on the deck, occasioned

a good deal of confusion, when if we had been so minded, we might easily have run along-side of her and taken her, but the number of hands on board her prevented our taking this step; we therefore hauled off and left her, when she paid no attention to us, but seemed wholly taken up in repairing the damage we had done her. What is very remarkable we had not a man killed or wounded, except one by a splinter in the calf of his leg, which is likely to do very well. We spoke with a Dutchman at sea, who brings you this."

London Packet; or New Lloyd's Evening Post, 28–30 Jan. 1778.

JAMES MOYLAN TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Honorable Gentlemen

L'Orient 30th Jan^y 1778

I am not honor'd with the receipt of any of your favors since my last to you of the 23^d. current.¹

I am this day informed, that Government has order'd 2,000 Seamen to be raised in Nantes & 2,500 more in St^e Malo, besides a number of Bakers of this Town, w^{ch}. are all to proceed immediately to Brest; likewise, that there are positive directions in all the Sea Ports, not to admit the Fishing Vessels (as usual) to go to New found Land.—I do not know whether you will find this information fresh, but I think it nevertheless my duty to acquaint you of it

The unsettled State I am yet in here, obliges me once more, to request your answer to my letter of the 2^d. Instant.² I have the honor to be [&c.]

James Moylan

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 77. Addressed: "To/The Honorable Commissioners/of the United States of/America." Docketed: "30th. January 1778/J Moylans Lett"

1. See James Moylan to the American Commissioners in France, 23 Jan., above.

2. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 396–97.

JOHN EMERY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR

Sir

Bilbao 30 Jan^y 1778—

Inclosd you have bills Lading & Invoice of 35 Bb^s Gunn powder Shipd you on different Bottoms and also account Sales of the 378 Quintals of fish ꝑ Cap^t Fletcher,¹ I had orderd the Amount of the fish Shipd in Soldiers Blanketts from another quarter in the month of August last for this place but last week Recievd Advise that the Vessell they were Ship'd in was Cast away on Ushant & the Cargo Intirely lost but as I had taken the precaution to Insure them here I hope the Loss will be Trifling—as it would be very late before they could be Reshipd & got here I was loth to Loose this Opportunity of Shipping at this Season & in armd Vessells & have therefore advanced the money for the Powder in Order that you might have it in good Season without waiting to make up the Insurance which was made where the Goods were Shipd Should there be any Loss on making up the Same Shall place it to the debitt of the Board of Warr—as I had no Orders from you to Insure the goods from hence home they are not Insured.

Wishing these Safe to hand & that the Ill success of the small adventure may not discourage the Board of Warr from making me Serviceable to them while here I am [&c.]

J Emery

[Enclosure]

		The Hon ^{ble} . Board of Warr in Boston to John Emery—	Dr.
1778	29	To 26 Barrells Gunn Powder	11,700.
Jan ^y		shipd them onboard the Armd	
		Brig <i>General Mercer</i> James	
		Babson Commander for Cape	
		Ann on their acc ^t & Risque	
		as ₧ Bill Lading Inclosed	
		@ 450 Reals ₧ Bbl	
	30	To 4 Barrells ditto ₧ the	
		Armd Schooner <i>Hawke</i> Jerimiah	
		Hibbert Com ^r for Newbury	
		Port @ 450	1,800
	30	To 5 Barrells ditto ₧ the	
		Armd Schooner <i>Lively</i> Mich ^l	
		Dupre Com ^r for Newbury Port	
		... @ 450	<u>2,250</u>
			15,750
		Commission thereon 5 ₧ C ^t	<u>787.17</u>
			16,537.17
		To my Commission on 27,993	
		[R ^s . Vellon] being the Gross	
		Sales of 378 Quintals fish	
		English W ^t . J Fletcher } 5	
		₧ C ^t	<u>1,399.[03]</u>
			17,937—
Supra C ^r			
1777			
June	16	By Nett proceeds of 378 Qu ^s .	
		Fish Rec ^d . ₧ the <i>Success</i>	
		John Fletcher Master & Sold	
		at 4 on C ^r as ₧ acc ^t Sales	
		of Joseph Gardoqui & Sons	
		Inclosd	
			18,692.20
			Bilbao Jan ^y 30 1778
			Except Errors—
			J Emery

L, M-Ar, Mass. Archives Collection, vol. 198, 408. Addressed: "Honb^l. Samuel Phillips Savage Esq^r/President of the Board of Warr/Boston/ ₧ Babson." Docketed: "Letter from John Emery/inclosing Bills Lading &/Invoice of Gun Powder/Bilboa, Jan^y 30th 1778."

1. Capt. John Fletcher, commanding Massachusetts privateer schooner *Success*.

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o. 76.Corunna 30th: Jan^y: 1778.

My Lord.

I most humbly beg leave to refer to my last Letter of the 17th. Instant.

His majesty's Ship the *Thetis* Captain Bell¹ arrived here the Day before yesterday. 11. ofk, blewppbrwlyw.² and having recieved the best I could give sailed again this morning.

The Captain General sent for me to know the Reason of his coming into this harbour, to which I answer'd with M^r Gells Consent that a small Leak had been discover'd in the Ship's Bows which could not be stopt at Sea on Account of the bad weather which then prevailed, but that the Ship would remain here only a few Hours as the People were already at work upon the Leak, and had nearly stopped it. On coming on Shore Captain Gell went to pay his Compliments to the General but was not received. I do not know the Reason, if it was not that the Frigate did not salute the Town because an equal number of Guns was refused to be returned.

The *Revenge* Privateer Capt: Cunningham is still in Bilboa, and since he took the French Brig³ of which I had the Honor to make some mention in my last Letter, has taken another Newfoundland Ship⁴ with three thousand Quintals of Codfish and carried her into that Port.

The *Gallardo* of 74 Guns and two *Snows* of twenty Guns each which have been fitted out in great Haste are ready to sail from Ferrol to Cadiz. The *San Pedro* of 74 Guns is arming, and Orders are said to have been received for the imediate Equipment of two other Ships of the Line.

I most humbly beg leave to recommend myself to the Continuance of Your Lordship's powerful Protection, and have the Honor to be with the highest Respect and Veneration [&c.]

H Katencamp

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fol. 62. Addressed at the foot of the first page: "The R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Viscount Weymouth." Docketed: "Coruña 30 Jan^{ry} 1778/Consul Katencamp/(N^o 76)/R. 23 Feb^{ry}."

1. Capt. John Gell, R.N.

2. An interlineation above these letters reads "for Intelligence."

3. *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master.

4. *Hope*, William Butler, master.

January 31

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO LORD WEYMOUTH

My Lord

Admiralty Office 31st Jany^{ry} 1778

Having, since our letter to your Lordship of the 19th. instant upon the subject of the Ship *Thomas Koulikan*, which has been seized and sent to Portsmouth by Sir John Hamilton Captain of His Majesty's Ship the *Hector*, directed our Procurator to lay the Case before the King's Advocate and the Advocate for the Admiralty and to take their opinion whether it may be proper for the said Ship to be brought before the High Court of Admiralty for Adjudication; And having this day received their opinion thereon; We send your Lordship herewith copies thereof for His Majesty's information, and are to desire your Lordship will receive and signify to us His Majesty's pleasure respecting the said Ship as soon as conveniently may be. We are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich

Lisburne

H Palliser

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Naval) 42/52, fols. 54-55. Addressed at foot of first page: "Lord Viscount Weymouth." Docketed: "Admiralty Office/31 Jan^{ry} 1778/Lords of Admiralty/R. D^o at midnight./2 Inclosures."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO GEORGE HARRIS, WITH HIS OPINION

[Enclosure]

Copy.

[London, 31 January 1778]

You are desired to peruse the several Papers left herewith respecting the Seizure of the Ship *Thomas Koulickan*, Noel Le Verr¹ Ma^r the same consisting of

A Letter from Sir John Hamilton Commander of His Majestys Ship *Hector* to M^r Secretary Stephens dated Jan^y 11th 1778 inclosing a Declaration made & signed by Alex^r Boyd one of the Persons on board the *Thomas Koulikan* at the time of the Seizure.

Copy of said Declaration dat^d. said 11 Jan^y 1778.

A further Letter from D^o. to D^o. dated 14 Jan^y

A Letter from Lieu^t M^cCleverty to M^r Secretary Stephens dated Spithead 18th Jan^y

And to give Your Opinion whether you think it proper for the said Ship to be brought before the Court for Adjudication And upon the whole what you think most adviseable to be done.

I have read the Case and the Papers annexed to it, by which it is evident if Credit is given to Boyd, that the *Koulickan* was not only going to Trade at Carolina; but also that great part of her Cargo consists of Warlike Stores and is American Property.

If it should appear when the Witnesses are examined that Papers have been thrown overboard, this circumstance will give great Credit to Boyd and others of the Crew who may be questioned about the Ships destination.

There seems on the whole to be a very sufficient Foundation to detain the Ship, and to proceed to the examination of the Captain, the Passengers, and particularly of the Person, who is said to be the Supercargo, and when those and other proper Witnesses have been examined, and the papers, if there are any have been inspected, it will then, I apprehend, be the time [to] form an Opinion, whether the Captor ought to permit the Ship to sail, or to lay the Evidence before the Court for an Adjudication.

Geo. Harris

Drs Commons 31 Jan^y 1778

Copy, UKLPR, S.P. (Naval) 42/52, fols. 56–57. Docketed: “Case for the Opinion of/the Admiralty’s Advocate/D^r Harris, & copy of his/Opinion 31st Jan^y 1778”; “In Lords of Admiralty’s/31 Jan^y 1778.”

1. French merchant ship *Thomas Koulikan*, Noël Le Peru, master.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO JAMES MARRIOTT, WITH HIS OPINION

[Enclosure]

Copy.

[London, 31 January 1778]

You are desired to peruse the several Papers left herewith, respecting the Seizure of the ship *Thomas Koulikan* Noel Le Vera Master,¹ the same consisting of

1. A Letter from Sir John Hamilton Comm^{rs} of His Majesty’s Ship *Hector* to M^r Sec^y Stephen’s dated Jan^y 11th. 1778 inclosing Declaration made and signed by Alex^r Boyd one of the Persons on board the *Thomas Koulickan* at the time of the seizure.

2. Copy of said Declaration dated said 11th Jan^y

3. A further Letter from D^o. to D^o. dated 14th Jan^y

4. A Letter from Lieu^t. M^cCleverty to M^r Sec^y Stephens dated Spithead 18th Jan^y

And to give your Opinion whether you think it proper for the said Ship to be brought before the Court for Adjudication, and upon the whole what you think most adviseable to be done.

I have considered the several Papers annexed to this case and am of Opinion that there is a sufficient ground to Justify the Captor for proceeding to examine, without delay, the persons found on board, upon the standing Interrogatories, which are in preparatory to a farther Proceeding to an Adjudication. These Interrogatories are in the hands of the Commissioners of the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty at the Outports, before whom the persons are to be examined: and the Examinations are to be transmitted together with all the Ships Papers found on board at the time of the Capture to the Office of the Registry of the High Court of Admiralty: after which a more solid Opinion may be formed for proceeding farther or not to a final hearing, by taking out a Monition in the usual Course of Admiralty proceedings affixed to the Royal Exchange "against all persons having interest in such a Ship &c. &c. to appear and shew cause why the same should be condemned as lawful Prize forfeited to His Majesty &c. &c."

So far as the Captor is concerned in his eventual Interest dependent upon His Majestys it will be right for him to pursue such Steps as are strictly agreeable to the 4 and 5th Articles of His Majestys Instructions by Order in Council and the Act of Parliament of the 16. of his present Majesty whereby the Judge is bound to certain forms of proceeding in Prize causes without variation; His Majesty having only power reserved by that Act to make such farther additional Rules as His Majesty in Council shall judge proper:

This Act extends not only to the Ships & Goods of the enumerated Rebellious Colonies but to all other Ships with their Cargoes &c. which shall be found going to Trade or coming from Trading in any such port or place which are declared to be become forfeited to His Majesty as the Ships and Goods of open Enemies. At the same time must be taken into consideration the modes of proceeding prescribed by Treaty particularly the XXV Art. of the Treaty of Navigation & Commerce of Utrecht March 31. 1713 also the law and usage of Nations respecting the exclusive Commerce of their own Colonies and the principles of adoption. All which is most humbly submitted to superior Wisdom.

James Marriott

College of Advocates

Doctors Commons Jan^y 31st 78.

Copy, UKLPR, S.P. (Naval) 42/52, fols. 58–59. Docketed: "Case for the Opinion of/The King's Advocate/Gen^l & copy of D^r Marriot's/Opinion. 31 Jan. 1778"; "In Lords of the Admty's/ 31st. Jan^y 1778."

1. French merchant ship *Thamas Koulikan*, Noël Le Peru, master.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, January 1778*]

31st. Saturday Cloudy w^r. About 2 Minutes past 9 P.M. Cap^{ts}. Henry & Johnson Boardman Dale & Treadwell,¹ Eloped from from this Prison & took two Centinals

with them, who were Discover'd before they got 10 Rods off A Great Stir to no purpose

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. Capt. Henry Johnson, Continental Navy; Eleazer Johnson, Jr., commander of Massachusetts privateer brig *Dalton*; Offin Boardman; Master's Mate Richard Dale, Continental Navy; Samuel Treadwell.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH."

"The prisoners with us,¹ being 289, live now (in a comparative sense) like gentlemen, having every necessary, and have no longer cause to complain, as in time past, of hunger and nakedness; and we hear of no attempts now to break prison."

London Chronicle, 29–31 Jan. 1778.

1. American sailors held at Mill Prison.

PIERRE-AUGUSTIN CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO
JEAN-BAPTISTE-LAZARE THEVENEAU DE FRANCY

[Extract]

M de Francy.

Paris 20 X^{bre}. 1777.

Je Profite, Mon cher Francy, de toutes les occasions pour vous donner de mes Nouvelles, qu'il en soit ainsi de Vous je Vous prie.

Quoi qu'il Soit aujourd'hui Le 20 X^{bre} 1777, Mon Grand Vaisseau¹ n'est pas encore parti, Mais c'est un Sort a peu près commun à tous Les Vaisseaux Marchands destinés pour L'Amerique. Le Ministere² a craint que le Commerce n'enlevat à la fois trop de matelots dans un tems où Il peut en avoir besoin d'un moment à l'autre. les ordres les plus rigoureux ont été donnés dans tous les ports, Mais surtout dans celui où J'arme.

Il paraît que la Capacité de mon Navire a fait faire au Lord Stormont quelques levées de boucliers sur les quelles le Ministere a craint qu'on ne le Soupçonnât de Favoriser une opération qui, dans le vrai se fait sans lui et même malgré lui. prêt à mettre à la voile mon artillerie ma été enlevée, et l'embarras de la ravoir ou d'en fournir une autre est ce qui me retient au Port. Je lutte contre des obstacles de toute nature, mais Je lutte de toutes mes forces, et j'espère de vaincre avec de la patience du Courage et de l'argent. Les pertes énormes que tout cela me cause ne paraissent toucher personne. Le Ministre est inflexible il ny a pas jusqu'à MM. les députés de Passy qui ne prétendent aussi à L'honneur de me contrarier; moi le meilleur ami de leur Pays! à l'arrivée de L'*Amphitrite* qui enfin a débarqué à l'orient un faible chargement de ris et d'indigo; ils ont eu L'injustice de S'emparer de la Cargaison en disant quelle leur était adressée et non à moi. Mais comme dit fort bien M. De Voltaire:

"L'injustice a la fin produit L'indépendance.

On avait apparemment pris ma patience pour de la faiblesse et ma Générosité pour de la sottise. Mais autant je suis attaché aux intérêts de l'Amerique autant je me suis tenu offensé des libertés peu honnêtes que les députés de Passy ont voulu prendre avec moi.

je leur ai écrit la lettre³ dont Je vous envoie Copie et qu'ils ont laissé sans réponse jusqu'à ce moment, en l'attendant J'ai fait arrêter la Cargaison entre les mains de MM. Berard Freres de L'Orient, et en cela je n'ai point cru déroger à ma conduite Franche, et genereuse enver le Congrès, mais seulement user du droit le plus légitime sur le premier et très faible retour d'une avance énorme. Cette Cargaison ne vaut que 150 m. L. vous voyez qu'il y a bien loin de Cette Goute d'Eau à l'Océan de mes Créances.

Quant à vous, mon Cher, je vous crois arrivé.⁴ Je Crois que vous avez obtenu du Congrès un acompte raisonnable et tel que la Situation des affaires d'Amerique a permis qu'on vous le donnât. Je crois suivant mes instructions que vous avez acquis et acquerez encore tous les jours des tabacs avec les Fonds remis par le Congrès, et Je Crois que mon ou mes Vaisseaux trouveront leurs retour prêts a embarquer aussitôt qu'ils arriveront où vous êtes. J'espere encore que si les evenemens Les retardaient ici plus que je ne le crois vous aurez suivi le Conseil de notre ami Montieu,⁵ et que Vous m'enverrez au moins par le *Flamand* et tel autre adjoint que vous pourrez lui donner, en usant du Superflu de l'armement dont Landais⁶ a Surchargé ce Vaisseau, une Cargaison qui me tire un peu de la presse horrible où je Suis.

Je vous enverrai Giroud⁷ que vous m'avez demandé, par Mon Grand Navire, mais en attendant, Cette Lettre Vous Sera remise ou par L'estargette⁸ qui part par Charles Town ou par notre ami Carmikael⁹ qui part pour Boston ou par quelqu'autre navire qui sera plus heureux que moi dans ces premiers momens Car je l'écris par quatriplicata. Je ne sais si Je me flatte mais Je Compte Sur L'honnéteté Sur L'Equité du Congrès Comme Sur la Mienne & la v^{re}. Les députés ici ne sont pas a leur aise Et le besoin rend Souvent les hommes peu delicats: Voila Comment J'explique L'injustice qu'ils ont essayé de me faire. Je ne désespere pas meme de les ramener à mon Sens par la douceur de mes representations et la fermeté de ma Conduite. Il est bien malheureux, Mon ami, pour cette Cause que Ses interets en France ayent été confiés a plusieurs personnes à la fois. un seul eut bien mieux réussi, et Sur ce qui me regarde, je dois a M. Deane¹⁰ la Justice qu'il est honteux et Chagrin tout a la fois de la Conduit de ses Collegues avec moi.¹¹

Jéprouve aussi des desagremens de la part du Congrès Provincial de la South-Caroline Et Jecris par Lestargette a M. Le President Rutlidge pour demander Justice de lui même à lui même. Lestargette, qui Correspondra avec vous vous apprendra quel Succès aura ma Juste representation.

A travers tous ces desagremens, les nouvelles D'Amerique me Comblent de Joye. Brave Brave Peuple! dont la Conduite Militaire Justifie mon estime Et le bel enthousiasme que l'on a pour lui en France.

Enfin Mon ami, je ne veux des retours que pour être en Etat de le Servir de Nouveau, pour faire face a mes engagemens de Façon a pouvoir en Contracter d'autres en sa faveur.

Il me Semble Si J'en Crois les Nouvelles que nos Français ont fait des Merveilles dans toutes les Batailles de Pensilvanie. Il eut été bien honteux, pour moi pour mon Pays, Pour le Nom Français, que leur Conduite n'eût pas répondu à la Noblesse de la Cause qu'ils ont épousée, aux efforts que Jai fait pour procurer de L'employ à la plus part d'entre eux, enfin a la réputation des Corps militaires dont ils ont été tiré.

La Ville de Londres est dans une Combustion épouvantable. Le Ministère Est aux abois—L'opposition triomphe et meme avec dureté. Et le roi de France Comme un Aigle puissant qui plane Sur tous ces evenemens, se reserve encore un Moment le plaisir de Voir les deux partis Flottant entre la Crainte Et l'esperance de sa décision qui doit être d'un si grand poids dans la querelle des deux hemispheres.

Vous prescrire pédantiquement Votre Conduite a 2. mille Lieues de moi, Mon Cher ami, serait imiter la Sottise du Ministre Anglais qui a voulu faire la Guerre et dessiner la Campagne de son Cabinet. Je mets a proffit Sa leçon. Servez moi de Votre mieux, C'est le Seul moyen de vous rendre utile à moi, à Vous, Et de devenir interessant à l'Amerique Elle même.

Faite Comme moi meprisez les petites Considerations, les petites mesures et les Petits ressentimens. Je Vous ai affilié à une Cause magnifique, vous êtes l'agent d'un homme Juste et Genereux. Souvenez vous que les Succès Sont à la fortune, Que l'argent qui m'est dû est au hazard d'un Grand Concours d'evenemens, Mais que ma reputation est a moi Comme Vous êtes aujourd'hui L'artisan de la votre, quelle soit toujours bonne, Mon ami, et tous ne sera pas perdu quand tous le reste le Serait.

Je vous Salut Comme Je vous estime et vous aime.

Roderique Hortalez & comp^e

P.S.

Je vienes d'acquérir La Triste Certitude Que Mon Grand Vaisseau N'ira pas au Continent. Et Cela par une parole donnée au lord Stormont pendant mon absence. J'ai fait L'impossible pour l'obtenir sans pouvoir y réussir quoiqu'on ait paru assez touché de mes raisons et des pertes enormes que cette defense me ferai Supporter, ainsi pour Servir L'amerique de ma personne et de mon argent. J'ai à lutter Contre la Mer, L'Angleterre, La France et même l'Amerique. Croiriez vous qu'indépendament de l'injustice de MM. de Passy qui m'ont voulu retenir la Cargaison de l'*Amphitrite* pendant que je suis prêt a perir ici de besoin pour avoir trop Comté sur leur parole dhonneur et Sur les retours qu'on m'avait promis. J'apprends de S^t Domingue que M. Dorsier¹² agent du Congrès General a Charlestown en recevant plusieurs petits Vaisseaux Chargés pour moi a S^t Domingue au lieu de m'envoyer des retours raisonnables a Chargé sur mes Vaisseux de lapare du Congrès de l'indigo pour un Négociant de S^t Domingue, et n'y a mis que quelque peu de riz, une Misere pour mon Compte. Je suis donc destiné a être le Jouet de tout le monde. Je vous recommande en faisant prendre lecture de Cette Lettre a MM. du Comité Secret de leur porter mes plaintes les plus Graves de tout ce qui M'arrive.

Je vous ai Chargé de Solliciter et de recevoir du Congres 50. ou 60. M. L. S^{gs}. Si Je Pouvais croire qu'on vous eut fait le moindre difficulté la dessus Je me Croirais ruiné Sans ressource, Mais Je ne me repais point d'une aussi funeste idée, Elle me tuerait.

Voice Ce que Je pense relativement à mon Grand Vaisseau. Je ne puis manquer à la Parole que j'ai donnée a M. de Maurepas¹³ que mon vaisseau ne servirait qu'à porter à S^t Domingues 7. à 800. hommes de Milice, et que Je m'en reviendrais sans toucher au Continent. Cependant la Cargaison de ce vaisseau est

très interessante pour le Congrès et pour moi Elle Consiste en habits de soldats tous faits, en draps, Couvertures &^a.

Il Porte une Artillerie de 66. Canons de Bronze dont 4 Pieces de 33.^L 21. pieces de 24.^L 20. Pieces de 16. L. 10 de 12.^L & 9. de 8. Livres de Balles plus 33. pieces d'Artillerie de 4. L. de Balles. Ce qui fait en tout 100. Canons de Bronze et beaucoup d'autres Marchd^s.

À Force d'y rêver J'ai pensé que vous pourriez vous arranger Secrettement avec la Comité pour qu'on envoie un ou deux Corsairs Americains sur le Champ à la hauteur de S^t Domingues. L'un d'eux enverrait Sa Chaloupe au Cap Français ou bien Il fera le Signal Convenu depuis Longtems pour tous les Navire Americains qui Viendront au Cap de Mettre une Flame blanche, d'arborer Pavillon hollandais au Grand mât, en de tirer 3. Coups de Canon alors M. Carrabasse¹⁴ ira abord avec M. De Montant¹⁵ Capitaine de mon vaisseau Le *Fier Rodrique*. Ils S'arrangeront pour Que la Sortie de Mon vaisseau le Corsaire S'en emparre Sous quelque pretexte que ce soit, et qu'il L'emmene. Mon Capitaine protestera de Violence et fera un Procès Verbal avec Menace de Ses plaintes au Congrès. Le vaisseau Sera Conduit ou vous êtes. Alors le Congrès desavouera hautement le brutal Corsaire rendra la liberté au vaisseau avec des excuses obligantes pour le Pavillon Français pendant ce temps vous ferez mettre à terre la Cargaison Vous emplirez Le Navire de tabac, et vous me le renverrez bien vite avec tous Ceux que vous aurez pu y joindre. Comme M. Carmikael Va fort vite, vous avez le tems de Faire cette Manœuvre soit avec le Congrès, soit avec un Corsaire ami discret par ce moyen M. de Maurepas se voit dégagé de sa Parole avec Ceux à qui il l'a donnée, et moi de la mienne envers lui, car nul ne peut s'opposer à la Violence, et mon operation aura eu Son succès malgré tous les obstacles dont mes travaux sont semés.

Voila Sur quel fond d'idées Je vous prie, Mon Cher ami, de Travailler Fructueusement et Vite, Car Mon Vaisseau Partira avant le 15. de Janvier. Il aura ordre d'Attendre de Vos Nouvelles au Cap français.

D'Après tout Ce que je fais le Congrès ne doutera plus Jespere, que Le plus Zelé Partisan de la Republique en France ne Soit Votre ami. . . .¹⁶

20 J^{er} 1778

Depuis ma lettre écrite M^{rs} Les Deputés a qui j'ai porté vivement mes réclamations ont enfin donnée l'ordre a Lorient de compter avec moi du modique produit de la vente de ce qu'apporte l'*amphitrite* cela nira pas a 150 m. L.¹⁷

Mon grand vaisseau n'est pas parti ce Sont de nouveaux fonds considérables arretés. De promesses en Esperances J'attens toujours une levée de son Embargo. Mais Je pérís au milieu de tout cela faute de pouvoir acquiter mes engagements qui Saccumulent sans cesse. . . .¹⁸

31 J^{er} 1778

J'apprens dans linstant par un vaisseau arrivé de Boston en espagne que vous Etes enfin a bon port a Portsmouth. Dieu soit loué. J'aurais eu grand plaisir a recevoir de vos nouvelles personelles Je suppose que vous ne l'avés pas pu Et que vous Saisirés toutes les occasions de m'en donner. Cest M^r Carmikael qui vous porte cette lettre Il y a plus d'un mois qu'il est a Nantes, ce qui fait que Je ne puis confirer avec lui a son départ. mais Il ny a de nouveau ici que la rentrée du

parlement d'angleterre qui etait en vacance depuis la mi de^{bre} Jusquau 20 J^{er}. Et les débats les plus furieux entre le royalisme et l'opposition.

Tout le monde chez moi se porte bien. Je vous salue et vous aime.

C. De B.

[Translation]

M. de Francy.

Paris the 20 December 1777—

I make use my Dear Francy of every opportunity to write you, and I desire you will do the same to me.

Altho it is now the 20th. of December 1777. My large ship¹ is not yet dispatch'd but that is a fate common to all Vessells bound to North America, the Minister² is apprehensive that Commerce may employ too many seamen at once, at a time when he may want them most, the most rigorous Orders have been given in every Port and particularly in that where my Ship is.

It seems that the size of my ship has occasioned some uneasiness in Lord Stormont, on which the Minister has feared he should be suspected of favouring my operations, which in truth is carried on without his assistance and even against his will, ready to go to sea, her Guns were taken away and the trouble of getting them back or procuring another sett, keeps her yet in Port; I struggle against obstacles of all kinds, but I struggle with all my strength and with patience, courage, and Money, I hope to Conquer; the enormous losses this occasions me, seems to be indifferent to everyone; the Minister is inflexible, Even the Deputys at Passy pretend to oppose me who am the best Freind to their Country. On the arrival of the *Amphitrite*, who at last has landed at Lorient a small Cargo of Rice and Indigo, they have had the injustice to take hold of it pretending it was consigned to them and not to me, but as M. Voltaire Observes.

Injustice at last produces Independance.

They probably considered my Patience as a mark of weakness, and my Generosity as folly, but as much as I am attached to the Libertys of America, as much as I was offended at the uncivil Libertys with which those Gentlemen treated me, I wrote them the Letter³ of which I send you copy, to which I have received no answer yet, untill I do I have seized the Cargo in the hands of M^{rs}. Berard brothers at L'orient, and by so doing I think I do not derogate from my free and generous conduct towards the Congress, I only claim a just right to the first and weak return of an enormous advance, this cargo will amount to 150 thousand livers, which will be but as a drop of water to the Ocean of my demand.

As to you my Dear I hope you are arrived,⁴ and believe you have obtained from Congress a reasonable payment on account, and such as the situation of American affairs could permit, and I hope you will or have employed the money receivd from Congress in tabacco, and that my Vessell or Vessells at their arrival where you are, will find their Cargos ready; I further hope, that if the delays be longer than I imagine you will follow the advice of our Freind Montteu,⁵ and that you will send me at least by le *Flamand* and any other associate you may give him, making use of what Landay⁶ has over loaded in that ship, a Cargo which may relieve me from the horrible uneasiness in which I now am.

I will send you Giroud⁷ as you desire by my large ship, but this Letter will be deliverd to you by Lestargette⁸ who goes Via Charles town, or by our Freind Carmikael⁹ who goes Via Boston, or by some other Ship more lucky than I am at

present, for I write four of them, I do not know if I flatter my self or us, but I depend on the honour and Equity of Congress as on my own and yours. their Deputys here are not in Easy circumstances, and necessity often render men less delicate. this is the way I judge of the injustice with which they endeavour'd to treat me, and I do not despair of bringing them to my way of thinking, by the mildness of my representations, and the firmness of my Conduct. it is unhappy my Freind that its concerns has been intrusted into several hands at the same time in France, one only would have succeeded better, and as to what concerns me, I must do M. Dean¹⁰ the Justice to say, that he is both sorry and ashamed at the behaviour of his Colleague¹¹ towards me.

I also experience some disagreement from the Provincial Congress of South Carolina, I write by Lestargette to President Rutledge, to demand of him Justice against himself; Lestargette who will correspond with you, will inform you of the success of my just demand.

Notwithstanding all those disagreeable matters, I am overjoy'd at the American News. Brave, Glorious, People whose Military conduct justifies my Esteem, and the Enthusiasm the French Nation have for them.

In short my Freind, I want remittance, only to be in a condition of serving them again, to answer my Engagements, so as to Contract others for their service.

It appears to me if I may credit the News, that our French Men have done wonders in all the Battles in Pennsylvania, it would be shamefull for me, for my Country, and for the French Name, if their conduct had not answerd the Glory of the cause they espoused, the pains I took to place most of them, and the reputation of the Military Corps to which they formerly belong'd.

The City of London is in a horrible confusion, the Ministry in despair, the Minority triumph, even in a haughty manner, and the King of France like a Powerful Eagle, hovers in the Air, and considering those Events, observes with pleasure both parties actuated by fear and hope of his determination, which must be of so great a Weight to those two parts of the Globe.

To direct your conduct in a Pedantic manner, at two thousand Leagues distance, my Dear Freind, would be to imitate the Folly of the English Minister, who undertook to carry on the Warr, and Plan the Campaign in his closet; I shall profit by his example, Serve me in the best manner you can, it is the only means of being usefull to me, to yourself, and necessary to America.

Do as I do, despise trifling considerations, measures and resentments, I have introduced you into a Magnificent cause, you are the Agent of a just and generous Man, remember that succes depends on Fortune, that the Money due to me must run thro many hazardous Events, but that my reputation is my own, as you are the Author of yours, let it be a good one my Freind and all will not be lost, tho all the rest should.

I salute you as I esteem and Love you

Roderigue Hortalez & Comp.

P.S. I have just received the sad and certain information that my large Ship can not go to the Continent, and that by a promiss to Lord Stormont during my absence; I have done impossibilities to succeed without being able to obtain redress, my reasons have been felt; and the prodigious losses this detention exposes me to have been conceived, thus, to serve America in my Person and with my Money. I have to

struggle against the sea, England, France and America; for besides the injustice of the Gentlemen at Passy, who endeavoured to deprive me of the Cargo of the *Amphitrite*, whilst I am here perishing for want, by having laid too great a dependance on their word of honour, and the remittances they promised me, I am informed from hispannola that M Dorsier¹² the Congress's Agent at Charlestown, instead of making me reasonable remittances by several small Vessells loaded for me at hispannola and sent to him, had shipped on the said Vessells for account of Congress, Indigo to a merchant of hispannola, and remitted me only a trifling pacell of Rice on my account; I am thus become the sport of every one. I charge you when you communicate this Letter to the Secret Committy to make the most earnest complaints of all that happens to me.

I recommended you would sollicit and receive from Congress 50 or 60 thousand pounds sterl^g, if I could imagine they could make the least difficulty on that head, I should think myself ruined without ressource, but I can not form so fatal an Idea, it would kill me.

What I think in regard to my large ship is as follows, I will not avoid fulfilling my promiss to M de Maurepas,¹³ that my Ship shall only go to Hispannola to carry 7 or 800 Militia Men, and would return without going to the Continent, however this ships Cargo is very interesting for the Congress and myself, it consents in soldiers clothing ready made, Wollen cloth, Blankets &ca.

She carries an Artillery of 66 brass Cannon of which 4 of 33^{lb}. 21 of 24^{lb} 20 of 16^{lb}. 10 of 12^{lb}. 9 of 8^{lb}. and 33 more of 4^{lb}. shott, which amounts to 100 Brass Cannon, and many other Goods.

After numerous reflexions, it has occured to me, that you might secretly agree with the Committy, to send immediatly one or two American Privateers to hispannola, one of them should send his barge into the Cape or make the signal heretofore agreed upon for all American Vessells who come to the Cape, which is, to hoist a French pendant and a Dutch Flag at his main top mast head, and fire three Guns. On this M Carabasse¹⁴ and M de Montant¹⁵ the Capⁿ. of my Ship the *Fier Rodrigue*, will go on board, they will agree that on my Ship going out of the harbour, on some pretext or other they will take her, and carry her away. my Capⁿ will protest against this Act of violence, and threaten to complain to Congress, the Ship will be conducted where you are, Congress will disavow the behavior of the Privateer, give liberty to the ship, and make an obliging excuse for the insult committed against the French Flag; during this you will land the Cargo. fill her with Tobacco, and send her to me with all dispatch, and with whatever others may be got ready. as M Carmikael goes immediatly, youll have time to settle this affair either with Congress or some freindly and discreet commander of a Privateer. by this means, M de Maurepas will be discharged of his promiss towards those to whom he has given it, and I of mine to him. for no one can oppose an Act of violence, and my scheme will have its success, in spite of all the obstacles which obstruct my endeavours.

This is on what ideas my Dear freind I beg you will act Advantageously and quickly, for my Ship will sail before the 15 of January, and will have Orders to wait for your directions at Cape François.

After all I have done, I hope Congress will no more doubt, but that your Freind is the most zealous Partizan their Republic has in France.¹⁶

January 20. 1778.

My large ship is not yet sailed, which occasions a fresh stoppage of a considerable capital, from promisses, I have hopes to have the embargo which she lays under taken off, but notwithstanding I am distracted, not being able to fulfill my engagements, which accumulate every day.¹⁸

Since my Letter wrote, Mess^{rs}. The Deputies to whom I made heavy complaints, have at last given orders to remit me the moderate amount of the *Amphitrite's* Cargo, which will not be 150 thousand Livers.—¹⁷

January 31—1778.

I am this instant informed, by a Vessell arrived from Boston to Spain, that at last you landed safe at Portsmouth, God be praised. I should with great pleasure have received a Letter from you, but I suppose you could not then, but will take every opportunity to write to me. M. Carmikael will deliver you this Letter, he has been above a month at Nants, for which reason I cant confer with him before he goes; there is nothing new here, the English Parliament are now met, which had Adjourned from the middle of December to the 20 January, and the debates are very violent, between the Royalists and the opposition.

Every one are well here they Salute you and Love you.

C de B.

Copy, with contemporary translation, ScHi, Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS No. 9. Docketed: "Roderique Hortalez and Co. to/Mons^r de Francy—Paris 20th Xbr./1777"; translation docketed: "M. de Beaumarchais to/M. de Francy—Paris 20th/Dec^r 1777."; "A Scheme to impose on/the British Court."

1. *Fier Rodrique*.

2. Antoine-Raymond-Jean-Gualbert-Gabriel de Sartine, Secretary of State for Marine and Colonies.

3. Beaumarchais to the American Commissioners in France, 6 Dec. 1777, *Benjamin Franklin Papers*, 25: 251–52.

4. Francy arrived on board *Flamand* in Portsmouth, N.H., 1 Dec. 1777.

5. Jean-Joseph Carié de Montieu owned the *Amphitrite*, whereas Beaumarchais claimed the cargo.

6. Capt. Pierre Landais, Continental Navy.

7. — Giraud, an employee in Beaumarchais's firm. *Beaumarchais Correspondance*, edited by Brian N. Morton and Donald C. Spinelli (Paris: Editions A.-G. Nizet, 1969–), 4: 126.

8. Louis Lestajette, French-born merchant, settled in Charleston, S.C. *Benjamin Franklin Papers*, 23: 37–38.

9. William Carmichael.

10. Silas Deane.

11. Obliterated, but printed in the version published in *Beaumarchais Correspondance*, 3: 233: "dont le tort appartient tout entier à M. Lee"; "of which the wrong belongs entirely to Mr. Lee."

12. John Dorsius, merchant and Continental Agent at Charleston, S.C.

13. In the original French, the "aurepas" of "Maurepas" is interlined above suspension points.

14. — Carabasse, Continental Commercial Agent at Cape François.

15. De Montault, Capitaine de Vaisseau, French Navy.

16. A paragraph relating to money that Baron Von Steuben owed Beaumarchais and which the contemporary translator marked as pointless to translate is omitted here.

17. American Commissioners in France to Bérard frères, 24 Dec. 1777, *Benjamin Franklin Papers*, 25: 342. Note that the English translation reverses the order of this and the succeeding paragraph in the French version.

18. A paragraph relating to Montieu's having won his case and his wife's having given birth to a child, and which the contemporary translator marked as pointless to translate, is omitted here.

CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM TO ARTHUR LEE

Si^r

St^h Anthoneys Jn^{ry} 31st 78

I received your estem^d favour of the 16th. Instant Wherein you have mentiond that the publick is Only Concerned for half and in Consequence the Other half

being private property I shall Obey your Orders in Reimbursing messrs. Guaadoqui, I must Oserve that you have made a mistake in the Vessell as you Call her A Ship.¹ Wheras she is Only A Sloop Mounting at preasant eight Guns Which is too small to Cruze as the most of merchantmen Goes Armd. in Consequence it Can not be expected that many prizes can be made with her—in Respect of the Crew I have had to deal With, Verry little Could be expected for I do Assure you Such trouble I never experienced before, had it not been for the preasant Dispute, I should not have taken such pains to have kept them together—I shall Observe your Directions as I do Assure you I never had any Directions One way or Other, but I was Rather at a Loss how to Act as I never had any particular Orders ~~how to Act~~ and in Consequence Oblidged to Act my-self²—you have made mentione that its Disputed Whether the enemies Goods in a Neutral bottom Can be made A prize of. do not An Act of the British parliament expresly Say all America produce be it taken in Whatsoever Bottom to be all a Legall prize, And we all well know the[y] have put it in execution, have we not a write to retaliate. In this pointe as in every Other, it may be Observed We brought Our prize into A foreigne port. we are not in Alliance neither is england. in Consequence the[y] ought to stand Neutar or Otherwise the[y] Give a National Offence. We make no claime to the Vessell nor ever put the french Cap^t. Out of Command. I should have been Verry Glad you had been at madrid When the papers went up as no doubt you Could have Seen that Justice Should been done us I now must beg of you that this Cargoe may not be Given up to the former Owners As beyond Any doubt the[y] will try to make it Appeare to be spanish property. I am [&c.]

GC—

LB, UKLPR, H.C.A. 32/441/7, pt. 1.

1. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.

2. Conyngham is referring to his capture of the French brig *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master, on 21 Dec. 1777, carrying a British-owned cargo.

MEMOIR ON FRENCH NAVAL STRATEGY

[à Versailles] Janvier 1778.

mémoire sur les operations auxquelles on pourroit employer nos forces navales contre l'ang^{re}.

Suivant l'Etat de la marine remis par M. de Sartine le Roi a actuellement 50 v^x. de ligne; Savoir 17. a Toulon et 33. a Brest. de Ce departement 2. sont stationnés l'un a la martinique et lautre aux indes. Restent donc a Brest 31. v^x. et 17. a toulon en tout 48.¹ Sa M^{te}. aiant offert de faire passer de Ce dernier departement 10. v^x. a Cadix pour y etre aux ordres du roi dEsp^e et aiant promis de tenir a Brest 25. v^x. bien armés p^r occuper les Anglois jusqua Ce que les deux flottes du mexique et de Buenos aires soient rentrées en Esp^e,² il resulte que Ce qui restera dans lun et lautre departement de forces oisives Seroit insuffisant pris séparément pour rien entreprendre de remarquable. dailleurs il faut veiller a la defense interieure de la Mediterranée; se menager en cas de besoin des Remplacemens et se tenir en mesure detablir des croisières pour favoriser notre commerce et intercepter Celui de nos ennemis.

La guerre survenant il paroît indispensable d'armér 3. ou 4. v^x de ligne a Toulon pour apuyer les fregates qui auront ordre de croiser dans la mediterrannée et p^r tenir net le Canal qui separe la Corse de la France. Si les anglois nenvoient pas une Escadre de quelque Consideration dans la mediterrannée, les v^x de Toulon pourroient en automne avoir ordre de passer le detroit d'ou se rendant sur la cote daffrique ils pourroient si on le jugeoit utile tenter de recouvrer le senegal, ou au moin den ruiner le fort, ainsi que Celui de la riviere de Gambie ainsi que les autres Etablissemens que les Anglois peuvent avoir le long de cette Cote. peu de troupes suffiroient pour Cette opération; suiv^t les avis qu'on a pû se procurer les anglois sont tres foibles dans Cette partie.

des Six v^x. desarmés a Brest on pourroit en destiner un ou deux avec un pareil nombre de fregates pour Etablir dans Le Courant de L'Été une croisiere au nord du Canal d'Allemagne afin d'intercepter Les navires Anglois qui reviendroient d'Arcangel et de la Balthique avec des munitions navales. cest de ces parage que langleterre les tire tous maintenant depuis que lamerique septentrionale lui est fermée; il ne faut pas setendre en Raisonnemens pour rendre sensible L'Embarras ou se trouveroit Cette puissance si les approvisionnement de Ce genre lui etoient rendus difficiles.

nos Vaisseaux aiant Lazile dans la mer du nord des ports de Gothenbourg et de Marstrand qui appartiennent a la suede auroient une Retraite assurée dans le Cas ou lang^{re} enverroit une force superieure Contre Eux.

L'inquietude de l'Esp^e par raport au Retour de ses Gaillons du mexique et de sa flotte de Buenos aires aiant engagé le Roi a faire une disposition de ses forces navales qui occupe une portion Considerable de Celles d'Angleterre, il semble dune bonne politique de ne negligér aucune demonstration qui en excitant et nourrissant L'inquietude de cette puissance loblige a un plus grand partage de ses efforts.

Les troupes qu'on fait passer en Bretagne y sont necessaires pour la sureté de Cette province et p^r la conservation si pretieuse de Brest, mais il ne faut pas se flatter qu'elles donnent une vive allarme a langleterre. La flotte destinée a Contenir nos escadres Eloigne toute idée de débarquement et dinvasion de Cette part. des demonstrations sur les cotes de normandie et de Flandres seront dun tout autre effet. elles peuvent sexecuter avec ou sans le Concours dune force navale si Les anglois n'en ont pas toujours une pour y faire obstacle. c'est dans Cette Vue qu'on proposeroit d'assembler un Camp en normandie et un autre entre Dunkerque et Boulogne. ils devroient Etre chacun de 30 bataillons et munis de tout Ce qui est necessaire pour acreditér le dessein d'une expedition. on pourroit a cet effet mettre un Embargo sur tous les batimens du canal quon jugeroit propres a un transport. Cette demonstration qui ne seroit nullement dispendieuse forceroit Les anglois a tenir une Escadre en Croisiere dans l'interieur de la manche Sans Les dispenser den avoir une beaucoup plus forte a louverture d'ouessant. on ne parle pas ici de l'Emploi des fregates et d'autres batimens inferieurs que le Roi tient armés ainsi que de l'encouragement a donner a la course. on a vû Ce que les americains malgré l'Eloignement ou ils sont de langleterre sont venus faire sur les Cotes. L'Exemple qu'ils ont donné doit faire naître Lemulation de le suivre.

apres avoir proposé ce qu'on estime praticable dans un moment ou toutes les vûes doivent se porter a rassurer l'Esp^e Contre les allarmes quelle Conçoit p^r ses

flottes, il semble necessaire d'avisér a un plan plus actif pour le moment ou le Roi degagé des Entraves qui le circonscrivent pourra donner plus d'Etendue a ses vûes. Sa M^{te}. ne semble avoir que deux interets essentials dans La guerre qui menace de sallumer, Celui de Conservér ses possession en amerique et Celles de l'Esp^e et Celui de pretér une main assés secourable aux americains pour les aidér a secoûer la dependance de l'Angleterre et a assurér Leur independance Civile sur les fondemens inalterables. il est donc important de Combinér les mesures a prendre de maniere a servir Ces deux interets. on estime en consequence que rien ne conduiroit plus directement a Ce but que l'envoi d'une escadre françoise sur les cotes de l'amerique septentrionale. Si La Guerre, Co^e il est a desirér Continue dans Cette Contrée elle ne trouvera point les forces navales des anglois en masse; une partie sera employée a apuyér les operations de terre pend^t que l'autre dispersée sur l'immensité de Cette Cote veillera a interceptér La Course et Le Commerce des americains. Cest Le Cas ou un chef intelligent pourroit frapér un coup bien avantageux en Se portant directement vers Le théâtre des operations pour y attaquer les forces de mer angloises, et tachér de detruire avec Leurs v^x. de Guerre Ceux de transport qui seroient sous leur abry. Ce Coup frapé avec succès, La sureté de nos isles seroit pleinement Etablie puis que les anglois seroient sans moiens pour allér les inquiéter. On ne fait pas mention ici de la Reconnoissance q'un service de Cette Consideration imprimeroit chez Les americains. Cette premiere operation consommée L'escadre, n'ayant plus de force majeure a Craindre pourroit se divisér. La moitié cinglér vers Le Sud en netoiant la mer de tous Les Croiseurs quelle pourroit y rencontrér, et termineroit par allér hivernér a Saint Domingue. L'autre division remonteroit vers Le nord et pourroit se porter sur terre neuve et y detruire la peche et Les Etablissemens de peche des anglois. on pourroit si La chose Etoit jugée plus utile laisser au Command^t La Liberté de se portér a Boston et de pretér secours aux nouveaux angleterriens pour secondér L'Entreprise qu'ils pourroient vouloir formér sur halifax et La nouvelle Ecosse.

on ne peut que presentér Lapercû des mesures auxquelles on peut se fixér, Cest aux gens de l'art a les détaillér et a en preparér Les moiens. Si L'Envoi d'une escadre au nord de l'amerique n'Etoit pas agréé, il seroit alors necessaire den destiner une pour Les antilles. Sa station La plus naturelle seroit a la martinique par Ceque de la elle veilleroit sur tous les Etablissemens du Roi sous le Vent. on pourroit encore sen servir pour Reprendre la dominique et la grenade, mais Ces avantages seroient bien foibles p^r Compenser ceux qu'on pourroit se promettre d'une diversion dans le nord, dont Leffet sil Etoit Couronné du Succès abregeroit infailliblement la guerre.

on doit encore Considerér que Cette diversion seroit tres utile a l'Espagne en ce qu'attirant dans le nord et y concentrant une grande partie des forces angloises, elle auroit plus de facilité p^r faire reussir Les Entreprises quelle jugeroit devoir formér.

de pareils projets ne pouvant reussir qu'autant qu'on est en mesure de prevenir L'Ennemi, Ce nest quen menageant scrupuleusem^t le secret, et quen ne negligant aucun moien p^r Lui donnér Le Change qu'on peut avoir un espoir fondé de succès.

quoiqu'il ne puisse Etre question d'une grande expedition aux indes orientales peut être ne seroit il pas inutile den faire germér L'opinion et meme de l'accré-

itér par quelques demonstrations. Cepend^t co^e il nest pas possible d'abandonner nos Etablissemens dans Cette Contrée p^rpalem^t les iles de France et de Bourbon³ dont la conservation est tres interessante si la france ne Veut etre a jamais Exclue de linde, on pourroit formér une flotille de 3. fregates qu'on construit en hol-lande auxquelles on joindroit La *Consolante*. Ces quatre fregates qui ont beaucoup de creux, pourroient porter facilement et Sans genér LEquipage un renfort de mille a douze Cent hommes quon juge devoir etre suffisant p^r mettre Ces deux isles a labri de toute insulte. La force de lartillerie de Ces fregates et La Legereté de leur marche ne peuvent Leurs faire Craindre la rencontre d'aucune force Superieure.

[Translation]

[Versailles] January 1778

Report on operations in which our naval forces could be employed against England

According to the state of the navy submitted by M. de Sartine, the King currently has 50 ships of the line, as follows: 17 at Toulon and 33 at Brest. Of the latter group, one is stationed in Martinique and the other in the Indies, which leaves 48 total ships remaining: 31 at Brest and 17 at Toulon.¹ His Majesty having offered to release 10 of these 48 ships to Cadiz where they would be under the orders of the king of Spain,² and having promised to keep 25 well-armed ships at Brest to occupy the English until the two fleets from Mexico and Buenos Aires return to Spain, it results that the forces remaining on hand in each of the two departments would be insufficient taken separately to undertake any significant action. Moreover, it is essential that the internal defense of the Mediterranean be looked to as far as supplying needed replacements and in being prepared to deploy cruisers that would favor our commerce and intercept that of our enemies.

The war arriving suddenly, it seems paramount to fit out 3 or 4 ships from Toulon in order to provide back-up support for the frigates that will be patrolling in the Mediterranean and to keep the channel between Corsica and France clear. Provided the English do not send a squadron of considerable force into the Mediterranean, the Toulon ships could be ordered in autumn to pass the strait, an act that would place them on the African coast. From there, they could, if judged useful, attempt to recapture Senegal or at least to destroy the forts there and on the Gambia River, in addition to any other settlements the English may have along that coast. According to the information that we have been able to procure, the English are very weak in that region; thus a few troops alone would suffice for this operation. One or two of the six unarmed ships at Brest, with an equal number of frigates, could be designated for the establishment (over the course of the summer) of a cruising station to the north of the North Sea, which would allow for the interception of English merchantmen returning with naval munitions from Archangel and the Baltic. The English currently draw all of their naval stores from these waters since North America is closed to them. No further elaboration should be needed to convey the embarrassment in which this power would find itself if supplies of this sort were made difficult to procure.

With refuge available in the Swedish ports of Göteborg and Marstrand in the North Sea, our ships would have an assured retreat should England send out a superior force against them. Spain's concern over the return of its galleons from

Mexico and its fleet from Buenos Aires having engaged the King to put at its disposal his own naval forces currently occupying a considerable portion of England's forces, it seems a good policy not to overlook any demonstration that, while exciting and feeding England's anxiety, may require a larger share of its efforts.

The troops sent to Brittany are needed there for that province's security and for the preservation, so essential, of Brest, but one need not be deluded into thinking that their presence alarms the English. The fleet intended to sustain our squadrons dismisses any possibility of disembarkation and invasion from this quarter. Demonstrations on the Normandy and Flanders coasts will have an entirely different effect. They can be executed with or without the participation of a naval force provided the English still do not have their own force there creating an obstacle. In view of these facts, we propose that one camp be assembled in Normandy and another between Dunkerque and Boulogne. Each camp ought to be of 30 battalions and furnished with everything necessary to substantiate the expedition's mission. To this end, an embargo could be placed on every Channel ship judged appropriate to use as a transport. This demonstration, which would be not at all expensive, would force the English to keep a squadron cruising in the English Channel without relieving them of the need for a much stronger one at the mouth of Ushant. We do not speak here of using frigates and other lesser ships that the King keeps armed, nor of the encouragement to be given privateering. We have seen what the Americans, despite their distance from the English, have been able to do on their coasts. We should all follow their example.

After proposing what we deem feasible during a time when all views should aim to reassure the Spanish regarding their concern over their fleets, it seems necessary also to recommend a more active plan for the future, when the King, freed from the fetters that bind him, will be able to give greater reign to his views. His Majesty appears to have but two essential interests in the war that threatens to ignite: preserving his and Spain's possessions in America and sufficiently aiding the Americans in breaking free from their dependence on England such that their civil independence established on a firm foundation will be assured. It is therefore important to act in such a manner as to serve these two interests. Seemingly, nothing would lead more directly to this goal than the installation of a French squadron on the coasts of North America. If the war continues in that region, as is to be desired, finding the English naval forces en masse would be unlikely as some of their forces would be supporting ground operations while the rest, scattered along the immensity of that coast, would be working to intercept the commerce and cruising ships of the Americans. This being the case, an intelligent leader could strike a very advantageous blow by going directly to the theater of operations to attack the English sea forces there, and to try to destroy the English warships and the transport vessels under their protection. Once accomplished, the security of our islands would be fully assured since the English would then be without the means to disturb them. Perhaps it is worth mentioning here the extent to which a service of this magnitude would impress the Americans. This first operation completed, the squadron, no longer having a major force to fear, could be divided with half its contingent moving southward to winter at Saint-Domingue while clearing the sea of all cruisers encountered in its path; the other division heading back northward to Newfoundland and destroying the fishery and English

fishing settlements there. Or, if judged more useful, the commander could be allowed the discretion to head for Boston to assist the New Englanders in any undertakings they might want to form against Halifax and Nova Scotia.

Presented here is just a conceptual notion of the operations to which we could commit ourselves; we leave it to the experts to flesh out the details and arrive at the means to execute them. If sending a squadron to North America is not agreed upon, it would then be necessary to send one to the Antilles. The most logical station for this squadron would be at Martinique because from there it could watch over all the King's windward settlements. It could also be used to recapture Dominica and Grenada but any advantages gained there would not be so great as those sustained from a diversion in the north, a move which, if successful, would undoubtedly shorten the war.

It is also worth taking into account that this diversion would be very helpful to Spain in that it would keep the English forces occupied in the north thereby making it easier for Spain to succeed in its undertakings.

Given that such projects can only be successful inasmuch as one is in a position to forestall the enemy, it is only in carefully protecting the secrecy of our strategy and in assuring all means of throwing the enemy off the scent that one can hope for success. While there is no possibility of sending a large expedition to the East Indies, it might be useful at least to consider the idea and even lend it credibility by engaging in some demonstrations. However, as it is not possible to abandon our settlements in that region, particularly Ile de France and Ile de Bourbon³ whose preservation is vital if France does not want to be forever excluded from India, a squadron comprised of three frigates (currently being built in Holland) and the *Consolante* could be formed. These four frigates with their great depths of hold could easily carry, without inconveniencing the crew, a reinforcement of between a thousand and twelve hundred men which should be sufficient to protect the two islands against any insult. The artillery force and sailing speed of these frigates render them virtually fearless of an encounter with a superior force.

D, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Espagne, vol. 588, no. 78, fols. 212–15. Internal evidence indicates that this memoir, intended for the edification of the Spanish government, was prepared at the end of January 1778. See note 2, below. Doniol attributes this memoir to Vergennes. Henri Doniol, *Histoire de la participation de la France à l'établissement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique*, 5 vols. in 6 (Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1886–99), 3: 31.

1. On 18 Jan., Louis XVI approved fitting out twelve of the ships of the line at Brest and ten of those at Toulon. Jonathan R. Dull, *The French Navy and American Independence: A Study of Arms and Diplomacy, 1774–1787* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1975), 101.

2. On 28 Jan., Louis XVI approved the offer to send ten ships of the line to Cadiz to protect the expected Spanish treasure fleets and the promise to keep twenty-five ships of the line fitted out at Brest. Spain declined the offer of the ten ships on 16 Feb., and confirmed the refusal in March. *Ibid.*, 100, 110.

3. Former names of Mauritius and Réunion Islands, Indian Ocean.

February 1 (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth*]

1st of Feb^y 1778. Sunday Cloudy w^e this Morning M^r Cawderey¹ Not being Satisfied with taking Cap^t Hy Johnsons Chest. but has made a General Search for

Clothes Belonging to the Elopers; & took all they could find of theirs; also Geo. Thayer's Clothes which they return'd again²

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. William Cowdry, keeper of Mill Prison.

2. George Thayer, Master's Mate, Continental Navy, had been captured in Continental Navy brig *Lexington* with Capt. Henry Johnson.

JOURNAL OF CHARLES HERBERT

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth*]

February 1. Sunday [1778]. Last evening, between seven and nine o'clock, five of the officers in a separate prison, who had agreed with the sentry to let them go, made their escape and took two sentries with them. The five officers were Captain Henry Johnston,¹ Captain Eleazer Johnston,² Offin Boardman, Samuel Treadwell and one Mr. Deal.³ Captain Henry Johnston having several suits of good clothes, he gave each sentry one, which they put on, and left their regimentals at their posts, with their firelocks, and made off; they were soon discovered by the guard, and pursued, but not taken.

Charles Herbert, *A Relic of the Revolution* (Boston, 1847), 94.

1. Capt. Henry Johnson, Continental Navy.

2. Eleazer Johnson, Jr., captain of Massachusetts privateer brig *Dalton*.

3. Master's Mate Richard Dale, Continental Navy.

February 2

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1778

Monday, February 2. London.

The *Hero*, Stirling,¹ from London, for Antigua and Jamaica, fell in with a rebel schooner, near Antigua, and in the engagement blew up, and only the Mate and ten of the people saved.

1. A ship of 350 tons, S. Starling, master, armed with twelve six-pounders and built in 1766.

Lloyd's Register of Ships, 1777–1778.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February, 1778*]

2^d. Munday Cloudy & rainy w^c Since the Departure of our friends¹ it seems as tho some were Deceas'd from our family—The pursuers have taken up several persons upon Suspicion of they being the Deserters; but to no purpose at Present

D, McHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. See Journal of Dr. Jonathan Haskins for 31 Jan., above.

CAPTAIN HENRY JOHNSON TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon'ble Gent^{rs}:

Rotterdam Feb^r 2 1778

Yesterday I arrived here, from England after effecting my escape from Mill Prison. I have in Company Cap^t Eleazer Johnson of the *Dalton*. I am going on to Dunkirk as fast as

possible Shall be Obligated to your Honours if you'd let me Know whether it will be necessary for me to come to Paris. I shall wait at Dunkirk for your answer—I shall not now endeavour to give you the particulars of the Loss of the *Lexington*, neither of the shocking Treatment of our bretheren in Mill Prison till I have the pleasure to see or hear from your Honours.—I am with wishing your honours every valuable blessing [&c.]
Henry Johnson

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 53, no. 61. Addressed: "To/The Hon'ble Silas Deane Esq'/a/Paris." Docketed: "H. Johnson Rotterdam/Feb. 2. 1778."

SALES OF THE PRIZE BRIG *MARY* AND CARGO

Sales of the Prize Brig *Mary* & Cargo sold by Mess^{rs}. Thomas Morris & Jonathan Williams on Account of the Hon^{ble}. the [C]ontinental Congress & Captors

1777			
Decem ^r 15 th .	By Bridon de la Mallasdieste		
	Vessell & Cargo sold him		12500.. ..
	Charges		
Decem ^r 10 th	Paid M ^r Green	24 ^s	
20 th .	Brokers Account	159..17..9	
	Pilotage to Noirmoutier	36.. ..	
	Commis ^s . on £12500 at 5 [⁄] Ct	625.. ..	844..17..9
	Neat Proceeds, half to the Credit of T Morris		£11655.. 2..3
	for Congress & half to the Captors.		

Nantes Feb. 2. 1778
Errors Excepted for T Morris & self.
Jon^a Williams J^l

DS, DNA, PCC, item 193, pp. 45–46 (M247, roll 200). Docketed: "Account Sales of the *Rangers*/Prize the Brig *Mary*/By T Morris & J. Williams Esq^{rs}/Nantes 2^d Feb^y 1778/N^o. 3."; and, in the hand of John Paul Jones, "The Only Account of Sales I ever/have received from any Agent."

1. A copy book transcript, DNA, PCC, item 132, pp. 15–16 (M247, roll 144), contains the following written below the signature:

- 1 Share to the deserving in the Top
 - 2 to the deserving on the forecastle
 - 2 to the Quarter Masters
 - 1 to the Quarter Gunners
 - 1 to Palmer
 - 1 to Gale
 - to Palmer
 - 1 Gale
 - Meeds
 - 9.
- One share remains unbestowed.

February 3

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, 1778*]

3^d. of Feb^y Tuesday Cloudy wth By M^r Sorrey we're Inform'd that the Agent has forbid any more Gold coming in for the Officers

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen

Nantes Feb. 3. 1778.—

I have been for several Days down to the Ship¹ & left her at S^t Nazare. I have done with both the French Ships.²—I beg you will please to apply for an order to wait in Quiberon 'till all the ships join else I am afraid the *Brune* will be left. Poor M^r Morris³ has finished his affairs in this world. I am much concerned at being absent, but every care was taken of him & all possible Respect paid to his Remains.—I am [&c.]

J Williams J

L, PPAmp, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 37, no. 128. Addressed: "The Hon^{ble}/The Commissioners of/The/United States." Docketed: "Jon^a Williams Nantes/Feby 3. 1778."

1. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*.
2. *Duc de Choiseul* and *Duchesse de Grammont*.
3. Thomas Morris died on 31 Jan.

February 4

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

4th. Cap^t Lee¹ Very Ill with the Gout; but Can't get any relief from the Doct^r who say Nothing Ails him

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. Capt. John Lee, commander of Massachusetts privateer brigantine *Fancy*.

February 5

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL LORD SHULDHAM

My Lord,

[*Admiralty Office*] 5 Feb^r 1778

I have communicated to my Lords Commiss^{rs}. of the Admiralty your Letter of the 1st: Instant, inclosing the Information given by William Atwell who was taken out of the *William Zelanders* a Dutch Ship at Falmouth, and acquainting them you had received Information from Lieu^t: Governor Blackett that five Rebel Prisoners made their Escape from Mill Prison on the 31st: of last Month among whom are Johnson late Master of the *Lexington*, & Burnell late Master of another Privatier¹ also two Soldiers of the 13th: Regiment who were Centinels had deserted with them, also of the *Centaur's* arrival in the Sound & that her Maintopmast had been carried away & inclosing her State & Condition. I am &c^a:

PS.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/556, fol. 364. Addressed at foot: "R^t: Hon^{ble}: L^d. Shuldham} Plymouth." Marginal notation: "Our Rec^t."

1. Capt. John Burnell, commander of Maryland privateer schooner *Montgomery*.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

5th. Thursday thick Dirty weath^r Cap^t Lee has with Much Difficulty obtain'd Liberty to go to the Hosp^t three Maisons At work a plastering M^r Cawderey¹ Allows coals in pot to burn to Dry our New plaster'd Roof (when he is in good Humour, but Don't Allow people to stand by it; to take the Benefit of the fire

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. William Cowdry, keeper of Mill Prison.

ACCOUNT OF ARMS DELIVERED TO THE CONTINENTAL SHIPS *RANGER* AND *DEANE*

[Nantes, February 5, 1778]

N^o. 27

Account of Arms, taken from the Magazine and deliver'd to the Continental Ships *Ranger* and *Deane* which being charg'd in their Outfits are carried to the Credit of the Commissioners—

Feb ^y 5	Cha to <i>Ranger</i>	20 p ^r pistols	200.	
		30 Cutlasses	<u>90.</u>	
				290..—..—
	Cha. to <i>Deane</i> in M ^r Peltiers Acco ^t Outfits			
		100 Musketts	800.	
		6 d ^o . with Bayon ^{ts} .	<u>60.</u>	
	Carried Over		860	290..—..—
	Account of Arms taken from the Magazine bro ^t over			290..—..—
	Char. to <i>Dean</i> bro ^t over		860..—	
	100 p ^r of Pistolls		1000..—	
	200. Cutlasses		800..—	
	50. Boarding spears		150..—	
	6. Blunderbusses		108..—	
	400. Flints and 2 M[oul]ds		<u>50..—</u>	
				2968..—..—
	Received of John Ross f[or] repairing Arms		<u>43..16..—</u>	
				3301..16..— ¹

Copy, CtY, Jonathan Williams Account Books. Number 27 in "Accounts and Vouchers Refer'd to in the Account Current between Jonathan Williams Jun^r and the Hon^{ble}. The Commissioners of the United States of America."

1. Notation: "Compared and approved Nan[tz 17th Au]gst 1779 (Signed) J. J.—J. N. J. C.—J. G." The initials are those of Joshua Johnson, Jonathan Nesbitt, James Cuming, and Joseph Gridley. They were merchants who, in the summer of 1779, at the request of Benjamin Franklin, audited Williams's accounts with the American Commissioners in France. Presumably the amounts are reckoned in pounds.

CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM TO SILAS DEANE

Sir

Bilboa, 5th. february 78

I received your letter of the 21st. Janr^y.¹ I am Sorry to find that this french Vessel² Should be the means of Giving Our enemies Any Advantage Over us, it Appears Verry Odd to me What the[y] every day Committ themselves that the[y] should even make the least Complaint off. I should imagine the[y] Ought Rather hide it as Undoubtly the[y] gave the example as every power of Europe is well acquainted with. you have mentioned that my Idea is wrong in seizing english property on board neutral Vessells Sir At my Arrivall in S^t. sebastians had the[re] not been A precedent of the same nature On Record And the most Ablest men of the place Declaring and Assuring the prize Good, I Should not have made Any Claime Could I have Withdrawn, but as I am Situated and every thing Carryd on to shuch Lengths. I must intirly leave this matter to be Desided by the Gentleman at S^t. sebastians how [*i.e.*, *who*] took it first into his hands. I will Desire of him to Drop the claime as you have Requested of me and shall take particular Notice for the future As by you Directed, m^r. hodge is been heare for Some time past and is putting the Vessel³ Under new regulations When the Vessel is ready for Sea he can enforme you more particular than I can at preasant I am [&c.]

G C—

LB, UKLPR, H.C.A. 32/441/7, pt. 1.

1. Above.

2. French brig *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master, taken by *Revenge* on 21 Dec. 1777.3. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.

February 6

“PROCEEDINGS IN THE LORDS RESPECTING THE COMMERCIAL
LOSSES OCCASIONED BY THE AMERICAN WAR”

Feb. 6. In the Committee on the State of the Nation, the duke of Richmond desired Mr. Alderman Wooldridge might be called to the bar, and examined.

Mr. *Wooldridge* was accordingly called in. He stated the number of ships lost by capture, or destroyed by American privateers, since the commencement of the war, to be 733, of which, after deducting for those retaken and restored, there remained 559; the value of which, including the ships, cargoes, &c. amounted, upon a very moderate calculation, to 1,800,633*l.* 18*s.* Of these ships, 247 were ships trading to the West Indies and the island of Jamaica. In proof of the correctness of this statement, he produced an account, which he declared he had made out, with the assistance of Mr. Hake, secretary to the subscribers to Lloyd's coffee-house, where a book, containing a faithful register of all the ships that sailed outward, or were entered inward, from and at all the ports in Great Britain and Ireland, with the names of the owners and captains, the account of their last voyage, tonnage, state of repair, and quality, was kept, with the most minute correctness; and from which book his account was taken. The alderman further stated, that the average value of a ship and cargo, trading to Jamaica, was 8,000*l.* on her outward, 10,000*l.* on her homeward voyage. That the average value of a ship and cargo, trading to the other

West India islands, was 6,060*l.* outward, and 8,000*l.* homeward. That insurance before the war was 2 per cent. to America, and 2 1/2 per cent. to North Carolina, Jamaica, &c. That insurance to America, Africa, and the West Indies, was now more than double, even with the convoy, and without convoy, unless the ship was a ship of force, 15 per cent.¹ That seamen's wages were now raised from 25 and 28, to 55, and in some instances up as high as 65 shillings, per month. That the increased value of sugars, &c. paid the merchants sufficiently for the increased price of insurance, but the weight fell on the consumer of the commodities exported and imported. That the various articles formerly imported from America, were now considerably advanced in price. Tobacco from 7*d.* 1/2 a pound to 2*s.* 4*d.* Pitch from 8*s.* a barrel to 35*s.* Tar, turpentine, oil and pig iron had risen in the same proportion. Indigo, and some other articles, had increased in price, but not quite so much as the articles above-mentioned.² That there had been upon the seas during the war 173 sail of American privateers; the first of which, that the merchants heard of, was the *Yankee* privateer,³ taken in May 1776. That about 34 of the 173 had been taken and destroyed by our men of war, cruizers, armed ships, &c. That in the said 173 American privateers, there were at least 13,000 and odd seamen, and 2,000 and odd carriage guns, exclusive of swivels and cohorns. In proof of the correctness of these accounts of the number of American privateers, seamen and guns, the alderman declared, that he made out his list from the letters received by the owners of English ships (which had been taken) from the captains of such ships, who always stated in their letters where they were, where they were taken, the names of the captors, the size and tonnage of their ships, the number of their guns, and the number of their men, and also from the Admiralty office account of captures by the King's ships, published in the London Gazette. That he had averaged the men at 80 in each ship, which was a calculation of a very moderate nature, since he believed the number of seamen in the 173 American privateers were nearer 20,000, than 13,000.⁴ The alderman gave his opinion, that the manufactories of this kingdom, especially that of iron, were not increased in point of export since the war began; that the American war had been the cause of many bankruptcies; that when the Prohibitory Act passed, there might be about two millions due to the merchants of Great Britain from America; that in the six months allowed by the Act for the continuance of an intercourse between the two countries, the Americans had transmitted about 500,000*l.* worth of goods, in part of payment of their debts to their creditors at home; that those 500,000*l.* worth of goods, were they now on hand, would be worth two millions, from the increased price of the various articles; that at present, there was due from America to the merchants of Great Britain, at least 1,500,000*l.*; that upon an average, the debt was not worth 5*s.* in the pound; that it was more or less valuable, according to the provinces in which the debtors resided; that in North and South Carolina, and such parts as had not been the seat of war, where the persons of the inhabitants and their property had not been destroyed by fire and sword, the merchants thought their money tolerably safe, should an intercourse be again brought about between Great Britain and America; but that in the province of New York and Pennsylvania, the debts due to English merchants were of little worth; that there was a debt of 72,000*l.* due in particular to the house in which he had lately been a partner; that, to speak for one, he would gladly sell it for 10*s.* in the pound. He further stated,

that the trade to America and the West India islands, previous to the commencement of the war, might amount to about eleven millions annually. After answering of other questions of a less important nature, the evidence was desired to withdraw.

Beeston Long, esq. was next called. The answers given by Mr. Long to the few questions put to him, confirmed what Mr. Wooldridge had stated, relative to the careful manner in which the register of ships was kept at Lloyd's coffee-house, and the general idea of its authenticity which prevailed with the merchants, insurers, underwriters, &c.

Mr. *Abraham Hake* also corroborated the testimony of Mr. Wooldridge, declaring that he was secretary to the society of merchants at Lloyd's, and that he kept the register books. Mr. Hake also gave proof of the pains that were taken to preserve it from error, and render its authenticity indisputable.

William Creighton, esq. not only corroborated the alderman in the most material points, but added many new facts which had fallen within his own knowledge. He stated the losses suffered by the merchants, in consequence of the captures made by the American privateers, to have amounted to at least two millions in October last, and that by this time they could not be less than 2,200,000*l*. That the first losses of the merchants were occasioned by the prohibition of their sending out a single pound of powder in their ships, which was strictly enforced previous to the merchants being stimulated to petition the privy council, and obtain licenses to arm their ships. That letters of marque were hardly worth taking out, as they were of little service, unless those who had them fell in with an American tobacco ship, and that was as much a matter of chance as the obtainment of a 10 or 20,000*l*. prize in the lottery. That the windward islands had been most exposed to the depredations of the Americans, from having an insufficient number of ships to guard and protect them. That the island of Tobago, in particular, had for a long time no man of war near it, and that in consequence the Americans had landed and ravaged the plantations, carrying fifty negroes at a time off one estate. That at length he, with other merchants, had applied in form to the lords of the Admiralty, and desired that two ships might be sent there; that the greatest attention had been paid them at the Admiralty office, and the prayer of their petition had been instantly complied with. That he foresaw that Tobago would share the fate it did, long before it happened from viewing its situation in the charts, and knowing that the ships on the West India station were inadequate to the protection of so many islands. That the prohibition of the merchants having gunpowder on board their ships, merely to prevent powder and ball being conveyed to the rebels, was ill founded, because that as long as America found money, there could be no doubt of her obtaining ammunition, &c.

G. Olive, esq. proved the damage done the Newfoundland traders; fifty of whose ships he declared had been taken, of about the average value of 2,000*l*. each, beside a great many small vessels, of about 2 or 300*l*. value upon the banks.—Upon his cross-examination, he declared that the trade was much improved of late, and that in consequence of the Americans being deprived of the means of pursuing it, we sent more fish to Bilboa and the foreign markets than ever, and that if men and ships could be procured, it would turn out a very benefi-

nor if possible).

In faith whereof the respective
Ambassadors, Lewis on the
part of the most Christian King
Richard Gordon were assisted
by the Sieur. Hastings, for one
of his Majesty's Council of State
and on the part of the United
States Benjamin Franklin
Deputy to the General Congress
from the State of Pennsylvania
and President of the Convention
of the same State, John Deane
first of our Deputy from the State
of Connecticut & Arthur Lee Coun-
sellor at Law have signed the
above Articles both in the French
and English Languages testifying
nevertheless that the present
Treaty was originally composed
and concluded in the French
Language; and they have
hereunto affixed their Seals

Done at Paris, this sixth Day of
February one thousand seven hun-
dred and seventy eight.

John Deane Benjamin Franklin

Si moins ou plutôt, si faire se peut.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires
respectifs Savoir de la part du Roi
Pierre Chretien Le Sieur Conrad, Alexandre
Gerard. Secrétaire royal de la ville de
Strasbourg et Secrétaire du Conseil d'Etat
de Sa Majesté, et de la part des
Etats unis Le Sieur Benjamin Franklin
Deputé au Congrès général de la part
de l'Etat de Pensylvanie et Président
de la Convention du même Etat, John
Deane Cy devant Deputé de l'Etat de
Connecticut et Arthur Lee, Conseiller
à la Loi ont signé les articles ci
dessus, tant en langue française qu'en
langue Angloise, déclarant néanmoins
que le présent Traité a été originairement
redigé et arrêté en langue française,
et ils les ont munis du cachet
armes.

Fait à Paris le premier jour du mois
de Février mil sept cent soixante et huit.

John Deane Arthur Lee

cial branch of commerce; but that the fishermen's price was increased from 8 to 14*l.* a voyage, and the seamen's wages from 35 to 70*s.* a month.⁵

John Shoolbred, esq. of Mark-lane, declared himself an African merchant and an under-writer. He confirmed the accounts of the book at Lloyd's, and stated that the African trade had been materially injured in consequence of the American war: that upwards of 200 sail were generally engaged in that trade, previous to the war: that not a fourth of that number, not above 40 ships, were now sent out: that 15 of the ships and cargoes had been taken by the Americans: that the average value of the cargo of a ship to Africa, outwards, was about 7,000*l.* and her homeward freight of slaves worth about 9,000*l.*: that each slave was worth at least 35*l.*: that the value of the ships lost was 140,000*l.* upon a very moderate calculation: that the first ship was taken in March, 1777: the Americans not having before that time any market to carry the cargo of African ships to; and that all the ships were taken near, and most of them in sight of Barbadoes, after having got over every natural risk of the voyage.⁶—Upon his cross-examination, he allowed, that those who carried on the African slave trade formerly, had lately sent ships to fish on the coast of Africa; that the whale trade there promised to turn out exceedingly advantageous, and that this trade was formerly enjoyed by the Americans.

Edward Payne, esq. of Cornhill, proved little new; he chiefly corroborating what the other witnesses had said.

The lords who principally concerned themselves in the examination of these witnesses were the dukes of Richmond, Bolton and Manchester; the marquis of Rockingham, lords Effingham and Camden. The Lord President, and lords Sandwich, Dunmore, Sondes, Lyttelton, and Derby.⁷

The Parliamentary History of England 19: 708–13.

1. "Insurance to America and the West Indies was risen from two to five per cent; and to the Streights, Portugal, and Spain, from one to three." *London Chronicle*, 5–7 Feb. 1778.

2. "The price of tar and turpentine [was risen], from 6 and 8 to 30*s.* per barrel. Sugar from 30*s.* to 3*l.* per cwt. Oil nearly in the same proportion; pearl and pot ashes likewise; iron and indigo considerably; tobacco from 7½*d.* to 2*s.* per pound." *Ibid.*

3. Massachusetts privateer sloop *Yankee*, Captain Henry Johnson, commander, was commissioned on 23 May 1776. On 3 July prisoners taken out of prizes rose and took the sloop. They subsequently took her into England. George Ross and James Hodges to Philip Stephens, 31 July 1776, *NDAR* 6: 516. On 6 June, H.M.S. *Milford* captured Massachusetts privateer brig *Yankee Hero*, Captain James Tracy, which received its commission on 20 Feb. 1776. Master's Log of H.M.S. *Milford*, 6 June 1776, *NDAR* 5: 391–92.

4. "He stated the number of prisoners, taken aboard the 34 privateers, to be about 3000." *London Chronicle*, 5–7 Feb. 1778.

5. "Being asked whether since the prohibitory act, a new trade, adequate to the former, was not followed by fishing on the coasts of Africa? He granted there was, which perhaps may employ as many ships as before, but the great difficulty lay in manning them, which reduced their number considerably. The ships upon this trade proved not to be above sixty before the war, and their cargoes generally not worth above 2000*l.* each." *Ibid.*

6. He "said, that most of the African vessels that had been taken, were made prizes of within sight of the islands, by American ships that had not been out but a few hours." *Ibid.*

7. For the continuation and conclusion of this debate, see "Proceedings in the Lords Respecting the Commercial Losses occasioned by the American War," at 9 and 11 Feb., below.

MARQUIS DE NOAILLES TO COMTE DE VERGENNES

[Extract]

N^o. 7.

A Londres le 6 fevrier 1778.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur le comte, la lettre N^o. 4 que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 31 du mois passé, et à laquelle j'ai trouvé joint un nouveau rapport re-

latif à des excès commis par trois Chaloupes angloises dans les Parages de la Martinique contre un Bâtiment françois nommé la *Cerès*.¹ La connaissance de ce grief ne m'étoit point encore parvenue, quand j'ai été chez le Lord Weymouth. Mais je ne manquerai pas de l'en informer à la première occasion. En attendant, je crois m'être expliqué clairement avec lui sur ce qui fait le sujet continuel de nos plaintes et de notre juste mécontentement.

J'ai pris mon texte d'une lettre que je venois de recevoir de Portsmouth d'un nommé Henry Grand qui me prioit de lui faire avoir sa liberté.² J'ai laissé l'original entre les mains du Secrétaire d'Etat et j'ai l'honneur de vous en envoyer la copie.³ Vous verrez, Monsieur le Comte, qu'il s'agit du Bâtiment françois le *Thamas Koulikan* qui a été arrêté dans le Golfe de Gascogne et regardé comme prise américaine, quoiqu'il partit de nos Ports et qu'il fut expédié pour St. Domingue.

L'interprétation dont la lettre en question m'a paru susceptible a été, ainsi que je n'ai pu m'empêcher de l'observer au Lord Weymouth,⁴ que tout tendoit visiblement à la guerre, lui ajoutant qu'il étoit difficile de croire désormais qu'on eut ici tant d'envie de l'éloigner, lorsque les actions contredisoient constamment et habituellement les assurances de Paix et d'amitié qu'on se contentoit de répéter sans en faire connoître la Réalité qu'il n'étoit pas juste que la guerre que l'Angleterre faisoit aujourd'hui en Amérique entraînat des mesures oppressives pour le Commerce à la navigation des Puissances neutres; qu'on ne conviendrait jamais de rien d'utile et qui prévint les difficultés, si l'on s'écartoit de l'unique principe: que tout Bâtiment françois devoit être respecté sans aucune restriction lorsqu'il se trouvoit en pleine mer, et qu'à l'exception de la représentation des Lettres de mer, il ne pourroit être soumis aux recherches et à la visite des vaisseaux Anglois, qu'autant qu'il approchoit de trop près les Côtes de L'Angleterre ou les Côtes de L'Amérique: que si on laissoit les soupçons et la méfiance s'exercer librement, les abus les plus intolérables et qui se sont infiniment multipliés depuis l'établissement des Lettres de marque, continueroient de se manifester de la manière la plus fâcheuse pour nous, et que ce seroit là le prix de la modération de Sa Majesté et des efforts de son Ministère pour conserver la tranquillité générale.

Milord Weymouth me repliqua que les Ministres du Roi mon maître n'arrivent jamais prétendre justifier les Particuliers,⁵ qui entreprendroient de faire passer aux Américains des munitions de guerre et des approvisionnements de toute espece; que vous, Monsieur le Comte, et M. le Comte de Maurepas aviez dit au Lord Stormont, que s'il se commettoit des abus à l'insçu de notre Gouvernement, c'étoit à l'Angleterre à se faire justice et à faire arrêter, quand elle le pourroit, les Bâtiments qui seroient soupçonnés d'être chargés en fraude pour l'Amérique. Il m'ajoutoit que la visite et les recherches dont je me plaignois devenoient tous les jours plus nécessaires, attendu que les Américains prénoient souvent le Pavillon françois; que communément au moment où se faisoit la reconnaissance en mer, on jettoit les vrais papiers pour ne produire que des Expéditions simulées; qu'enfin il regnoit tant de collusion dans les Entreprises particulières qui étoient faites pour le compte des Américains, qu'on ne pouvoit découvrir la vérité sans prendre beaucoup de précautions. La dernière observation du Lord Weymouth fut qu'il falloit considérer l'intention; qu'elle seule faisoit l'insulte de Cour à Cour; qu'il me répondoit à cet égard de tout ce que nous pouvions attendre de la sienne pour le desir de conserver la Paix et de nous procurer le redresse-

ment de nos Plaintes lorsqu'elles se trouveroient fondée en justice. Il me promet de m'envoyer incessamment une réponse, qui me prouveroit que le Bâtiment que j'avois réclamé en dernier lieu nommé l'*aimable Reine* étoit un Bâtiment hollandois acheté à Dunkerque au mois de novembre 1776, et destiné à porter des marchandises à la Caroline.⁶ Je lui répondis que le Roi mon maître verroit sans peine, lorsque ses sujets servoient en faute, qu'ils fussent punis; mais lorsqu'ils seroient innocents, que Sa Majesté ne souffriroit pas qu'ils restassent dans l'oppression. J'ai toujours conclu en faveur de mon premier principe, objectant au Lord Weymouth, que d'après les raisons mêmes qu'il venoit de me donner, on ne sauroit plus à quels signes distinguer, si un Bâtiment devoit être respecté comme françois ou jugé de bonne prise comme Américain. Loin de retracter les Sentimens que je lui avoit exprimés, je l'ai fort assuré que ces Sentimens étoient entierement conformes à la façon de penser de tous les Ministres de Sa Majesté.

Je lui representai aussi par forme de conversation, et non ministeriellement,⁷ que s'il y avoit quelque fondement à certains avis que je pourroit lui citer, ce seroit bien une autre imprudence que de laisser les Vaisseaux de guerre Anglois établir leur croisière trop près des Côtes de France. Le Lord Weymouth m'interrompit pour me prier de ne pas ajouter foi à tout ce qui étoit dit lundi dernier dans la chambre des Pairs, où le Lord Cambden avoit avancé que les Ports de France étoient bloqués, la guerre inévitable avant un mois, et qu'il n'y avoit aucun lieu de douter que nous ne fussions entrés en négociation avec les Américains.⁸

Je ne fus pas embarrassé de lui persuader que je ne m'attachois en aucune façon au discours du Lord Cambden; qu'ayant vu une lettre de Nantes écrite par un des principaux Négotiant de cette Ville, j'avois lû qu'on s'y regardoit comme bloqué par des Vaisseaux Anglois; que c'étoit la crainte que ce récit n'eut quelque apparence de verité qui m'avoit engagé à lui en parler, parceque ma Cour n'en seroit pas plutôt informée qu'elle enverroit promptement les ordres les plus précis, pour qu'on fit retirer les Vaisseaux Anglois, et qu'on les obligeât de se tenir à une distance convenable de nos Côtes.

Passant ensuite de lui même aux affaires d'Allemagne . . . ; j'écoutai le Lord Weymouth et je finis par lui dire que dans la position où je me trouvois il me permettroit de lui avouer qu'il n'y avoit point de nouvelles auxquelles je prisse plus l'intérêt qu'à celle qui m'apprendroit ici la restitution d'un Bâtiment françois. Ce furent les dernier mots de notre entretien. Qu'ai-je obtenu du Lord Weymouth, et que puis-je vous laisser esperer, Monsieur le Comte, pour la Saison qui va rétablir l'activité du Commerce et de la Navigation, ou plutôt fournir à ce Pays-ci des occasions plus fréquentes de troubler l'un et l'autre à notre préjudice? . . . J'ai l'honneur d'être [&c.]

Le M^{is}. de Noailles

[Translation]

No. 7

London 6 February 1778

Your Lordship, I have received letter No. 4 which you were kind enough to write me on the 31st of last month, to which you attached the latest report relating to the abuses perpetrated by three English sloops near Martinique against a French ship called the *Cères*.¹ Knowledge of this unfortunate incident had not yet reached me when I was visiting Lord Weymouth. But at the first opportunity, I will most certainly inform him. While waiting, I believe I explained myself

clearly to him with regard to the source of our continual complaints and justifiable displeasure.

I took my text from a letter which I had just received from Portsmouth from a man named Henry Grand who begged me to procure him his freedom.² I left the original with the Secretary of State and I am pleased to send you a copy of it.³ You will see, Your Lordship, that it concerns the French ship *Thamas Koulikan*, which was stopped in the Bay of Biscay and considered an American capture, although it had left from our ports and was headed for *Dominica*.

The interpretation suggested by the letter was—just as I could not help observing to Lord Weymouth⁴—that things were obviously leaning toward war, and I added to him that from now on it would be difficult to believe that people here were eager not to get involved in one, since their actions continually and regularly contradicted the assurances of peace and friendship they kept blithely repeating, while ignoring the reality, which is that it is unfair for England's war in America to entail oppressive measures taken against the commerce and shipping activities of neutral powers; it would serve no good purpose and has created difficulties to diverge from the principle that any French ship has to be respected without restrictions when at sea, and—with the exception of showing ship's papers—that a French ship could be searched and boarded by English ships only if it came too close to the coast of America or the coast of England; that if we allowed suspicions and mistrust to run rampant, the most intolerable abuses, which multiplied several times over following the establishment of letters of marque, would continue to occur, angering us considerably, and that this would be the price of His Majesty's moderation and the efforts of his Minister to preserve the general peace.

My Lord Weymouth replied to me that the Ministers of my master the King have never managed to prove the innocence of the individuals who were trying to pass war munitions and supplies of all kinds to the Americans;⁵ that you, My Lord, and My Lord the Comte de Maurepas had said to Lord Stormont that if abuses were being perpetrated without the knowledge of our government, then it was England's responsibility to see justice served and to stop when possible the ships suspected of smuggling goods to America. He added to me that the boarding and searches about which I was complaining were becoming more and more necessary, since the Americans often hid behind the French flag; that usually as soon as an inspection at sea was imminent, they tossed their real papers overboard in order to produce only fake papers; that finally, there was so much collusion among the various private enterprises that have thrown their lot in with the Americans, the truth could not be discovered without taking a good many precautions. Lord Weymouth's last remark was that the intent had to be taken into consideration; that the intent alone was enough to serve as an insult from one Royal Court to another; that his answer to me in this regard was the only thing we could expect from his Royal Court in the interests of preserving the peace and obtaining redress for our complaints, if in fact they were justified. He promises me a response that will prove that the ship I had claimed most recently, called *l'Aimable Reine*, was a Dutch ship purchased in Dunkirk in November 1776, and was intended for carrying merchandise to Carolina.⁶ I answered him that my master the King was not averse to his subjects being punished if in fact they were at fault, but when they were innocent, His Majesty would not tolerate their continued oppression. I continued to

uphold my first principle, objecting to Lord Weymouth that by the criteria he had just given me, it would be impossible for anyone to distinguish whether a ship should be respected as French or judged a lawful American prize. I did not retract the sentiments I had just expressed to him, but rather assured him firmly that these sentiments reflected the opinion of all His Majesty's Ministers.

I told him also, by way of conversation and not of ministerial business,⁷ that if there were any foundation to certain opinions which I could cite, it would be rather unwise to allow English warships to sail too close to the coast of France. Lord Weymouth interrupted me, saying I should not take seriously what was said last Monday in the House of Lords, where Lord Camden had suggested that the ports of France were blockaded, that war was inevitable within one month, and that there was no reason to doubt that we had begun to negotiate with the Americans.⁸

I was quick to assure him that I placed no faith in Lord Camden's speech, that having seen a letter from Nantes written by one of the leading merchants in that city, I had read that they considered themselves blockaded by English vessels; that it was their fear which had led me to speak to him of it, since no sooner would my Court have been informed of it, then very specific orders would be issued to require the English vessels to withdraw and keep them at a proper distance from our coast.

He switched to the subject of Germany . . . ; I listened to Lord Weymouth, and concluded by telling him that the best news I could hear would be that a French ship had been returned. These words ended the conversation. What did I get out of Lord Weymouth, and what hope can I give you, My Lordship, for the coming season to reestablish commercial activity and shipping, or rather to provide this country more frequent opportunities to harass our commerce and shipping to our detriment? . . . I have the honor to be [&c.]

The Marquis de Noailles

L, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fols. 260–66. Endorsed: "M de Rayneval"; "Reçu le 10."; "Rep le 14 N. 6."; translation: "Monsieur de Rayneval"; "Received the 10th"; "Replied the 14th, No. 6." Portions of the letter not printed here report on debates in Parliament over troop levies and the number of prizes made by the Americans and its effect on British commerce; other portions report on Royal Navy deployments and officer appointments.

1. For the *Cérés*, see Abraham-Marie Bertin to Gabriel de Sartine, dated 21 Jan., above. In the margin: "Relation qui Sera faite à M^d. Weymouth du excès commis contre le bâtiment la *Cérés*"; "Account that will be made to My Lord Weymouth concerning the excesses committed against the ship *Cérés*."

2. In the margin: "Remise faite à M^d. Weymouth d'une lettre d'un nommé Henry Grand au sujet du vaisseau le *Thamas Koulikan* pris dans le Golfe de Gascogne." "Delivery made to My Lord Weymouth of a letter from one named Henry Grand regarding the ship *Thamas Koulikan* seized in the Bay of Biscay."

3. Henri-Maximilien Grand to the Marquis de Noailles, 29 Jan. Ibid., fol. 178. In the margin: "au 29. Jan^{er}"

4. In the margin: "Divers représentatives faites à M^d. Weymouth à l'occasion de la prise du vaisseau le *Thamas Koulikan* sur les hostilités continuelles de l'ang^{ce} contre les vaisseaux françois même en pleine mer." "Various representations made to My Lord Weymouth on the occasion of the taking of the ship *Thamas Koulikan*, concerning the continual hostile acts committed by the English against French ships, even on the high seas."

5. In the margin: "M^d. Weymouth soutient que nous avons autorisé les précautions qu l'ang^{ce} prend pour empêcher le transport de munitions aux américains par des V^x françois." "My Lord Weymouth maintains that we authorized the precautions the English are taking to obstruct transport of munitions to the Americans by French ships."

6. In the margin: "M^d. Weymouth promet de donner la preuve que le navire l'*aimable Reine* étoit un Bâtiment hollandois adapté pour porter des marchandises à la *Caroline*." "My Lord Weymouth

promises to give proof that the ship *aimable Reine* was a Dutch ship fitted to carry merchandise to the Carolinas." For *l'Aimable Reine*, see Ruste de Rezeville Frères to Comte de Vergennes [on or before 6 Feb.], below.

7. In the margin: "M^d. Weymouth prie M. de Noailles de ne point ajouter foi aux propos du Lord Cambden lui avoit dit que les ports de France étoient bloqués par des Vaisseaux Anglois." "My Lord Weymouth begs M. de Noailles to give no credit in relation to Lord Camden's having said to him that the ports of France are blockaded by English ships."

8. In the margin: "M de Noailles cite à M^d. Weymouth une lettre de Nantes qui annonçoit qu'on s'y regardoit comme bloqué par les anglois." "M. de Noailles quotes to My Lord Weymouth a letter from Nantes that said that people perceived the city as being blockaded by the British."

On 2 Feb., during debate in the Committee on the State of the Nation, Lord Camden said: "Notwithstanding the pacific assurances, and the delusive private promises and public acts, which had been boasted of with so much parade, it is now known that the ports of L'Orient and Nantz are blocked up by a British naval force. Three frigates are now cruising off those ports, to intercept succours going to America, and to put a stop to that very commerce which the French king, in his public edicts, pretends to prohibit. If ministers should carry their threats into execution, and, from remonstrating, resort to open force, he had not a doubt but a war must be the consequence." *The Parliamentary History of England* 19: 665.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th Feb^{ry}. 1778

I have receiv'd &. communicated to my Lords Commiss^{rs}: of the Admty your Letter of the 7th Sep^r informing them of the arrival of the *Badger* &. that you had remov'd Cap^m Everitt her Commander into the *Antelope* Capt^m. Judd having been oblig'd to quit her on account of his ill state of health & appointed Lieu^t Mich^l Everitt to succeed to the Command of the *Badger* &. M^r Manley Dixon Lieu^t of that Sloop in his room which I am to acq^t you meets with their Lordships approbation &. it is their direction that you give them firm Commiss^{ns}: conformably thereto.¹

I have likewise receiv'd your Letter of the 25th. Oct^r &. laid the same before their Lordships who approve of your sending the *Porpoise*, at the request of the Governor of Jamaica, to remove Troops from one Part of that Island to another &. of your giving the like assistance in future, when the Governor shall apply for it, &. does not interfere with other more essential services.²

Their Lordships likewise approve of the Orders you have given, upon the *Badgers* arrival in so bad a Condition, for repairing her if possible &. if that could not be done of your purchasing another armed Vess^l as you intend to serve in her room.³

I am also to signify their approbation of your having ordered a Vess^l to be purchased for the men expeditiously watering the Ships as the Sloop *Flying Fish* is not of herself sufficient for that purpose.⁴

Their Lordships are very much pleas'd with the account you give of the Gallant behaviour of M^r Jordan who you appointed to act as Lieu^t in the comm^d of the *Racehorse* Armed Sloop (during the Indisposition of Lieu^t M^cNamara) in taking a Rebel Privatier of 12 Guns &. also with that of his Officers &. People &. they approve of your intention of giving him a Commissⁿ. appointing him a Lieut^t⁵

Your Letter of the 17th Nov^r by the Packet has likewise been receiv'd in which you give an account that it having been found impracticable to refit the *Badger* &. she had upon survey been condemned You had ordered a Brig to be purchased into which you had remov'd her Officers &. People &. directed the Naval Storekeeper to draw upon the Navy Board for the Amount of her purchase, &. the

Master Shipwright to refit her as an Armed Vessel which I am to acquit you their Lordships approve of.⁶

They also approve of your stationing an Armed Vessel constantly in the Bay of Honduras during the Present Rebellion as the Inhabitants of those parts had represented to you that an American Privatier had been there & cut out three of their Vessels & of your having always an Armed Vessel at Turkey Island to prevent the Rebels having an Intercourse with the Inhabitants of those Islands if the Ships & Vessels under your command will enable you to do it consistently with other Services.⁷

You have their Lordships approbation of purchasing an Armed Vessel in Lieu of the *Ostrich* (which you had sent home with a Convoy) & of your giving Mr Jordan the Command of her with a Lieutenant's Commission.⁸

My Lords approve of the assistance you order'd to the Ship laden with Provisions for the Government Service bound to Pensacola which had put into Jamaica, with His Majesty's Ship the *Daphne*, with the loss of her foremaster. . . .⁹ I am &c.

P.S.

P.S

Their Lordship have acquit the Committee of West India Merchants with what you mention in your Letter of the 17th Nov^r respecting the sending Convoys thro' the Gulph at that Season of the Year.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/556, fols. 367–69. Addressed after the close: "Vice Adm^l Gayton Jamaica/By the Active.]"

1. In the margin: "Approve of several appointments." For Gayton's letter of 7 Sept. 1777, see *NDAR* 9: 894.

2. In the margin: "Approve of employing the *Porpoise* as requested by the Governor." For Gayton's letter of 25 Oct. 1777, see *NDAR* 10: 294–96.

3. In the margin: "Approve of the orders given for the repair of the *Badger*."

4. In the margin: "Approve of the purchase of a Vessel for Watering the Squadron."

5. In the margin: "The Board are much pleased with the gallant behaviour of Mr Jordan in the *Racehorse*, and approve of his intention to appoint him a Lieutenant." The vessel Jordan captured was the letter of marque sloop *Guest*, Edward Kaller, commander. *NDAR* 10: 217.

6. In the margin: "Approve of a y^e purchase of a vessel in the room of the *Badger* &c." For Gayton's letter of 17 Nov. 1777, see *NDAR* 10: 523–25.

7. In the margin: "Approve of stationing an armed vessel in the Bay of Honduras, and one at Turks Island."

8. In the margin: "Permitted to purchase a Vessel in lieu of the *Ostrich*."

9. In the margin: "Approve of assistance given to a Storeship." A paragraph relating to a complaint of the master shipwright of Jamaica against a Royal Navy officer is omitted here.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

Most Confidential

Paris friday night feb. 6 1778

My Lord—

as I cannot alter the falsehood and perfidy of this court my principal object must be to disclose it more and more and to this essential Part of my Duty I direct my constant attention.

I have just rec^d the following important information from such a Quarter as I must say leaves me no doubt of the Truth of it.

M. La Motte Piquet who is now lying off Bellisle with three Ships of the Line and four frigates will by positive orders from this Court convoy the following

american and french Ships which will sail from Nantz on Tuesday or Wednesday next. viz

a Frigate pierced for 36 Guns but mounting only 28 Nine Pounders, laden with stores and goods for the Congress and commanded by Capt Nicholson He has with him a french captain and french officers, his crew too is french except seventy English and Irish Sailers. He is but badly manned.¹

a Ship mounting Eighteen Guns, commanded by Capt Young, richly laden for the Congress.²

The Brune a french East India Man purchased by one Ross agent for america Her Cargo which is for the account of the Congress is valued at Fifty thousand Pound Sterling The whole Crew is french except a M^r Brown³ an american super-cargo.

Two other ships laden on account of the Congress by M^r Williams the Rebel Agent at Nantz.⁴

Two french Ships laden also for Ditto, but fitted out on private french account.⁵

a french Ship very richly laden belonging to M. Pennet a Merchant at Nantz This Ship has all french Papers for S^t Domingo & will not sail with the Rest. She is bound to South Carolina. All the others are bound to Boston.

The *amphitrite*, now called the *Ranger*,⁶ commanded by Capt Jones mounting 18 Guns is to join in convoying the abovementioned ships to a certain Latitude and is then to proceed upon a Cruise I have read Jones' General cruising orders in which he is enjoined to carry his Prizes to Bilboa or the Corunna.⁷

M. La Motte Piquet is to convoy these ships to a certain Latitude only My informer could not tell me the exact Latitude but says the Convoy is to sail with them about two hundred and fifty Leagues. He, La Motte, has been hovering about the Coast for some time waiting for these ships and complains of delays. He is at this moment as I have already said in the Road of Bellisle. on application from the Rebel agents who rec^d a Courier from Nantz on wednesday morning orders were sent Him that Night to wait for the ships from Nantz which are certainly to sail the middle of next week

I think I am now able to speak to Your Lordship with some Precision with regard to the Treaty between this Court and the Rebels. My Informer assures me it is actually signed. but D^r Franklin not thinking himself authorized to grant all the Demands made by France has signed sub spe Rati.⁸

It is a Commercial Treaty for thirty Years. What the Conditions are I do not yet know. They are probably highly advantageous to France and in return for these advantages She agrees to support the Independency of the Colonies and assist them with Ships of War What Number of ships my Informer could not tell me, but is positive there is such a Stipulation in the Treaty. I questioned him upon that Point again and again & his answers were Uniform.

The original of this Treaty was as Yr Lordship knows sent by Deanes Brother⁹ a Duplicate is now sent by Capt Nicholson who has given a Receipt for it. Carmichael refused to take charge of it as he found himself suspected and the particulars of the Treaty concealed from Him.

The french Ministers have desired the Rebel agents to avoid any thing that could tend to bring on any disagreeable Discussion between England and France

till such Time as the Ratification of the Treaty arrives from america after its arrival France promises to take an open and decided Part.

Franklin is authorized to open a Loan of Two Million Sterling on account of the United States as they call themselves. I have read his Instructions upon that Head He says the Loan fills very fast.

Tho my Informer is positive that M La Motte Piquet has at present only three Ships of the Line and four frigates Yet He may soon collect a larger Force as there are certainly several Ships at Brest that are quite ready to put to Sea. I have no Doubt that he has orders to protect the Ships under his Convoy at Every Hazard and as I am persuaded our Rivals do us the Justice to believe that if these Ships fall in our way we shall not let them pass, it is very natural they should expect immediate war. so much depends upon Celerity in such Times as these that I certainly should have dispatched an extraordinary Messenger on this occasion if it had not happened that General Smith¹⁰ who is so good as to take charge of this Dispatch sets out tomorrow Morning and will I dare say travel as fast as any Messenger. I am [&c.]

Stormont.

Stevens's Facsimiles, vol. 21, no. 1857. Addressed at foot of first page: "Lord Visct Weymouth." Docketed: "Paris 6th. Feb. 1778/Lord Stormont/(most confidential)/R. 12th Feb./by Gen^l Smith."

1. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*.
2. Continental Navy sloop *Independence*.
3. John Green. The captain of John Ross's other vessel, the *Henrietta*, was Patrick Brown.
4. *Duc de Choiseul* and *Duchesse de Grammont*.
5. *Henrietta* and *Trois Amis*.
6. Stormont was misinformed about the identity of the *Ranger*.
7. American Commissioners in France to Captain John Paul Jones, 16 Jan., above.
8. "In the hope of a decision."
9. Simeon Deane did not leave Brest until 8 Mar. on board the French frigate *Sensible*.
10. Probably Lt. Col. Edward Smith, British Army.

RUSTE DE REZEVILLE FRÈRES TO COMTE DE VERGENNES

A Monseigneur Le Comte De Vergennes
Ministre & Secretaire d'Etat au
Departement des Affaires Etrangeres./
[Paris, on or before 6 Feb. 1778]

Les Sieurs Ruste de Rezeville frères, Negociants a la Martinique ont l'honneur de mettre sous Vos yeux les Pieces relatives a la Prise de leur Navire l'*Aimable Reine* au Sujet de laquelle Monsieur De Sartine a bien Voulu Vous ecrire au mois de Janvier d^{er} sur les representations de la Chambre de Commerce de Dunkerque & de M^{rs}. Emery pere & fils neg^{ts} et leurs Commettants au dit lieu./¹

Ce Batiment expédié de Dunkerque en 8^{bre} 1776 pour la Martinique a fait sa traite a S^t Pierre d'où il est reparti le 16 Juillet 1777 avec un Chargement de Sucre, Caffé, Rhum, Indigo & Tabac.

Il approchoit des Côtes de France sans avoir fait aucune Escale, lorsqu'il a été arrêté par une flotte de Onze Navires Marchands Anglois qui portoient des Vivres a l'armée Royale dans le Continent de l'Amerique./—

Le S^t Paul Berthelot Capitaine du Navire l'*aimable Reine* Cedant a la force fut obligé d'Essuyer la Visite de sa Cargaison par le S^t William Madeows capitaine du Navire Le *Cigne*² et Commandant de la flotte Angloise. On luy declara que la Tabac

& l'Indigo qu'il avoit a bord estoient des objets de Contravention Comme Productions de l'amerique Septentrionale: Malgré Ses representations, on saisit son Brigantin et Ses Papiers, et on le Conduisoit a New-Yorck, ou il arriva le 1^{er} 8^{bre}. /—

Le Cap^{ne}. Berthelot essuya les traitements les plus durs dans Ce pays là où la Guerre suscitoit alors la plus grande disette des choses les plus necessaires a la Vie. Ce fut avec la plus grande peine qu'il parvint a deffendre sa Cause par une procedure reglée. elle eut enfin lieu et par Jugement de l'Amirauté de Neuw-Yorck du 2. Decembre, On prononca la Confiscation de 45 Boucauds de Tabac et 23 futailles d'Indigo. Le Cap^{ne} Berthelot eut ensuite la liberté de remontre son Batiment. apres s'etre reparé et avituallé, il mit a la Voile le 19. X^{bre}. & arriva a Dunkerque le 20. Janvier 1778. Cependant il avoit fait des Protestations pardevant un Notaire de Neuw-Yorck, tant Contre la Saisie, la Procedure, & la Confiscation, que contre le refus qui lui a été fait de lui remettre l'acquit a Caution qui Justifioit de son Chargement regulierement operé á la Martinique. /—

Les S^{rs}. Ruste de Rezeville Freres Joignent icy cette Protestation avec La procedure Angloise et les Connoissemens ainsi que les factures legalisés à Dunkerque pour supplier l'acquit a Caution retenu a Neuw-Yorck, & dont il peut etre demandé au besoin une 2^{eme} Expedition a la Martinique.

Tel a été le Procedé des Anglois contre l'Injustice desquelles S^{rs}. Ruste de Rezeville Freres reclament Votre Protection, Monseigneur, pour qu'il vous plaise en Ecrire a Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de France a Londres où les lenteurs et le Subtilité de la Justice Angloise ne leur presentent, sans ce Secours, qu'une perspective affligeante. Il s'agit en effet de poursuivre contre les Armateurs du Navire Le *Cigne* comme garanti des Excès de leur Capitaine le Recouvrement tant du prix des Denrées Confisquées, que des Dispenses excessives faites a Neuw-Yorck pour la Procedure, la Subsistence de l'Equipage, & les Reparations et avituaillements du Navire, Independamment des Dedommagements resultant du Retard dans l'expédition et du deperissement tant du Batiment qui est hors d'état de Navigue que de la Cargaison qui est entierement avariée et par consequent est pure perte. Les Circonstances presentes ne peuvent qu'augmenter les Allarmes des supliants qui traitoient en toutes Confiance d'après les assurances données par le Ministere François d'accord avec le Ministere Britanique que l'on pourvoit en toute Sureté charger aux Isles Françaises, même les Denrées du Crû de l'amerique Angloise sans egard pour les moyens par lesquels elles y auroient été importées. /—

L'un des fr^s. Rustes de Rezeville, actuellement a Paris, Vous supplie, Monseigneur, de Vouloir bien le rendre porteur de Votre Depêche pour M. l'Ambassadeur. Il se propose de passer incessamment a Londres pour y suivre son action suivant les Loix du Royaume et les Principes de la Politique envers lesquels il n'a Commis aucune infraction. /³

[Translation]

To Comte de Vergennes
Minister and Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs
[Paris, on or before Feb. 6, 1778]

Messrs. Ruste de Rezeville Brothers, merchants from Martinique, have the honor to show you items relating to the seizure of their ship *L'Aimable Reine*, a sub-

ject about which M. de Sartine was kind enough to write you last January, including statements from the Chamber of Commerce of Dunkerque and from Messrs. Emery, father and son, merchants and their principals from the said place.¹

This ship left from Dunkerque in October 1776 for Martinique and did her trading at St. Pierre, from which she departed again on 16 July 1777 with a lading of sugar, coffee, rum, indigo, and tobacco.

She was heading for the coast of France without having put into any port, when she was stopped by a fleet of 11 English merchant ships which were carrying provisions to the Royal Army on the Continent of America.

M. Paul Berthelot, Captain of the ship *L'Aimable Reine*, was forced to submit to an inspection of his cargo by Mr. William Madeows, captain of a ship called the *Swan*² and commander of the English fleet. They told him that the tobacco and indigo he had on board were contraband, since they were products of North America: in spite of his explanations, they seized his brigantine and his papers and escorted her to New York, where she arrived on 1 October.

Captain Berthelot was subjected to very rough treatment in that country, where the war was creating the greatest scarcity of vital necessities. It was with the utmost difficulty that he managed to present his case through established procedure. The trial finally took place, and by judgment of the Admiralty Court of New York on 2 December, they pronounced the confiscation of 45 casks of tobacco and 23 casks of indigo. Captain Berthelot was then released to return to his ship, and after making repairs and obtaining fresh supplies, he set sail on 19 December and arrived in Dunkerque on 20 January 1778. However, he had lodged some protests through a notary in New York against the seizure of his ship, his trial, and the confiscation of his cargo, as well as their refusal to return to him his custom-house bond which was proof of his lading according to regulations at Martinique.

Messrs. Ruste de Rezeville Brothers attach to this formal protest the English trial record and shipping papers, as well as the invoices authorized in Dunkerque for obtaining the custom-house bond retained in New York and which will require a second journey to Martinique.

Such was the English trial against justice, from which the Ruste de Rezeville Brothers seek your protection. Sir, if you would be kind enough, please write to the French ambassador in London, where the slowness and underhandedness of the English justice system presents them, without this aid, only a vexing outlook. What needs to be done is to sue the outfitters of the ship the *Swan*, as they are responsible for the excesses of their captain, and for reimbursing the price of the confiscated goods, as well as the excessive expenses incurred in New York for the trial, subsistence for the crew, and the repairs and fresh supplies for the ship, apart from damages resulting from the delay in the voyage and the deterioration of the ship, which is not seaworthy, and of the cargo, which is completely spoiled, and in consequence a sheer loss. The present circumstances can only increase the fears of the petitioners, who were trading in full confidence because of the assurances given by the French Minister in agreement with the British Minister that they could in complete safety ship goods to the French islands—even raw materials from English America—without regard for the means by which they might have been imported there.

One of the Rustes de Rezeville Brothers, currently in Paris, begs you, Sir, to please allow him to carry your express dispatch to the ambassador. He proposes to go straight to London to follow up on his suit according to the laws of the kingdom and the principles of policy which he has never violated in any way.³

Copy, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fols. 256–57. Notation below the date line: “6 fev. 1778.” Notations in the margin: “ecrit à M^{rs}. de Noailles le 6 fev. 1778”; “Le V^{au}. l’*aimable Reine* reclamation de Tabac et Indigo Saisis Sur ce navire”; “6 Feb. 1778”; “wrote Marquis de Noailles on 6 February 1778”; “The ship l’*Aimable Reine*, reclamation of Tobacco and Indigo taken on this ship.”

1. Sartine forwarded to Vergennes the claim of Emmercy, Father and Son, to the goods seized from l’*Aimable Reine* on 11 Jan. Ibid., fol. 83. Vergennes passed the claim on to the Marquis de Noailles, the French ambassador in London, who brought it to the attention of Lord Weymouth. Noailles to Weymouth, 27 Jan. Ibid., fols. 169–70. Weymouth referred the matter to the Admiralty, and they referred it to Commodore William Hotham to investigate at New York. Weymouth to Noailles, 28 Jan., ibid., fol. 171; Philip Stephens to William Hotham, 4 Feb., UKLPR, Adm. 2/556, fol. 365.

2. Ship *Swan*, William Meadows, master, 500 tons, built in Virginia in 1767, rebuilt and lengthened to carry 18 guns in 1776. *Lloyd’s Register of Ships, 1777–1778*.

3. Having received a copy of this letter, Noailles wrote Weymouth again to protest the seizure of l’*Aimable Reine*’s cargo. Noailles asserted that the North American produce became neutral French property on its transfer at Martinique. Marquis de Noailles to Lord Weymouth, 24 Feb., NDAR 8: 608–9, where it is misdated 1777.

JOHN ROSS TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

The Hon^{ble}. the Commissioners.

Nantes 6 February 1778.

Hon^{ble}. Gentlemen

I had the honour to address you on the 29 Ult^o. on the business of M^r Thomas Morris late Commercial Agent now deceased, and tho not as yet favoured with Your answers, doubt not Your attention to those measures, Proper to command possession & a liberty of Inspection into those Books & papers now under Seals.—

The Ship *La Brune* under the direction & command of Captain John Green of Philadelphia, being now I trust at Noirmoutier, taking the goods on board for his intended Voyage, will barring Accidents be in readiness to proceed in a few days as Soon as any of them, and Compleatly fitted as a Ship of Force with Twenty double fortified Sixes on his Gun Dack, which with Stores, Six months provisions & Watter for Seventy to Eighty men, take up much Stowage.—

I have purchased the *La Brune* last Sept^r on Private Acco^t. allotting the present Cargo, to make an outward Freight for her, but finding now, that she may not probably, (with Stores provisions &c^a. already on board,) Carry so much goods as will entitle the Owners to a Freight adequate to the expences incurred in those outfitts as a ship of force. At the same time, from that desire which I hope ever to make my invariable Rule, of gaurding against every reflection and Cause of even suspicion, as being too Interested in any Part of my management in the Concerns of the Public.—I have come to the Resolution Hon^{ble}. Gentlemen, to Propose to you, to assign and make over with your approbation, the *La Brune* to the American united States at first Cost, and As such to Proceed intyrelly on their Account & Risque, the Cargo now shipping being the property of the Public.—Am pretty Considerably in Advance already for the United States, and tho this adds to the Account, hope soon to Receive my Reimbursement by one means or other—By this Proposed Arrangement Gentlemen the Stipulation of Freight prove’s unnecesary, and the Public will have a good Ship, exceedingly Cheap, & fitted with much

greater Economy, then any of hir Size & goodness, hitherto fitted of equal force in either Europe or America for the States—

Your Opinion therefore on this subject hope to Receive in Course, to govern me in the necessary dispatches for Captain Green. Meantime should you approve and accept of my Proposal for the benefite of the Public, I must take the liberty to Solicite a Continental Commission favour of Capt: Green, which if agreed to, I shall venture to pledge my honour he will not discredit the truste Reposed in him in the Service of his Country. In which case he will also Proceed under the Particulare instructions of the Hon^{ble} Commissioners, in Concert with Nicholson.¹ should it appear to them necessary.

I should wish to know, whether this fleet is destined for the Northern or Southern States.—that the Small Vessels may keep by them, if approved of likewise—I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jn^o. Ross

N:B—Should the Public Accept of the *La Brune* in Consequence of this—it is necessary the Commission to Capt: Green be filled up under your own directions—Accordingly beg you May be pleased to give any other Name to this Ship, you judge Proper—Burthen about 450 Tons or thereabouts—mounting Twenty Cariage Guns, and Navigated by [*blank*] Men. All my dispatches will be in readiness before I can Receive Your answer, & hope the Ship at Quiberon bay with the fleet preparing to take the first fair wind—So soon therefore as your answer to this reach me, am to forward my Letters by express.—J:R.

L, CtY, Mason-Franklin Collection. Addressed at foot of last page: "To the Hon^{ble}. Benjamin Franklin/Siles Deane and Arthur Lee Esq^s/Commissioners of the American States at Paris." Docketed: "Jn^o Ross Esq^r Lettr^r/Feb^r 6th. 1778—" and "Feb^r 6. 1778."

1. Captain Samuel Nicholson, commanding Continental Navy frigate *Deane*.

February 7

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY
TO COMMMANDER ALEXANDER AGNEW, R.N.

By &c

You are hereby required & directed to put to Sea in the Sloop you command¹ with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather & proceed & Cruize between S^t Abbs-head & Cromarty for the protection of the Trade of His Majestys Subjects and diligently to look out for and to use your best endeavours to take or destroy any Privatiers or other ships or Vessels belonging to the Rebellious Colonies of N^o. America which you may be able to come up with And also to intercept Seize & bring into Port agreeable to the Printed Instructions for that purpose which you will receive herewith any Ships or Vessels having Wool Brandy or other Prohibited Goods on board or which may be carrying on any unlawful Clandestine Trade

And in case you should receive Intelligence which may be depended upon of any such Ships or Vessels being in parts contiguous to, tho not within the Station hereby assigned You, You are at Liberty to proceed in quest of them; taking care to return to the said Station when you shall have taken or destroyed them, driven them away or be well convinced that none such are there

You are to avail yourself of all opportunities of procuring Men for His Majestys Fleet & after completing your own Complement, to bear the remainder on a Supernumerary List for Victuals until you shall have an opportunity of putting them on board one of the Tenders employed under the direction of the Hon^{ble} Cap^t Napier² who superintends & Regulates the Service of raising Men for His Majestys Fleet at Edinburgh & Leith; taking care to Deliver with them a List of their Names with the times they respectively enter'd or were Pressed into the Service that they may be borne for Wages accordingly on the Books of the Ships wherein they may be appointed to serve; and to send to our Secretary from time to time an Account of the number you may procure & how you dispose of them.

During your continuance on the above mentioned Station & Service you are to call at Leith as often as you conveniently can to enquire for Orders & not finding any to the contrary to return and Cruize & call there again in like manner until you receive further order. Given &c 7th Feby. 1778

Sandwich
J Buller
H. Palliser

By &c PS

Two Press Warrants (same as in Vol. P.

Two Printed Instructions (same as in Vol. P.

signd Sandwich
S Spencer
H. Palliser

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/104, fols. 126–27. Addressed at foot: “Cap^t Agnew—*Hazard* Sl^o. Nore.”

1. H.M. sloop *Hazard* (8 guns).

2. Hon. Capt. Charles Napier, R.N.

JAMES SUTTON AND COMPANY TO LORD WEYMOUTH

My Lord

We beg leave to lay before your Lordship the following Extract of a letter received by us this day from Mess^{rs}. Lynch Killikelly & Morony of Bilbao, informing us of the Capture of the ship *Hope* Cap^t William Butler & her Cargo, bound from Newfoundland to a market the property of M^r Robert Eustace & C^o. of Waterford, by a Cutter¹ belonging to the Rebel Privateer—commanded by Cunningham.

James Sutton & C^o

Bilbao 21 Janu^r 1778

“By ours of the 31st. Ult^o. we advised how the storm had drove in here Cap^{ts}. Cunningham, Babson, & Hibbert, & are now sorry to tell you that a Virginia man with Tobacco coming to Mess^{rs}. Gardoquis from San Ander being taken by a Guernsey Privateer near S^t. Oña they dispatched immediately Cunninghams Cutter as a prime Sailor double mann’d in quest of her & the same day he sailed which was the 10th. he fell in with the *Hope* Capⁿ. William Butler, took Her & the 16th. sent her in here but Capⁿ. & Crew remain on board the privateer, we immediately presented a petition to our Consulado to have the bar pilot of the prize sworn to declare the distance the Ship was from Soare when taken but to no Effect for he deposed it was the day after she was taken he got on board & that about four Leagues from Castro, our B P Killikelly is gone to Castro & S^t. Oña to see if he can get any

Insight of the distance, but we fear our diligences will prove ineffectual—the Cutter continued her course towards Guernsey & its probable, Butler & Crew will be put on Shore far from hence—we know not as yet if our Court will permitt the landing here of this cargoe but of what occurs shall advise you—all this please to impart to M^r. Eustace for whose Loss are very sorry & wish him better luck hence forw^d.”

By the above your Lordship will be sensible of the manner in which M^r. Eustace has been deprived of his Property, we therefore humbly hope your Lorship will be pleased to order such Measures to be taken as your Lordship may judge conducive to the recovery thereof. We are [&c.]

James Sutton & Compy²

Dyers Court Aldermanburry
the 7 February 1778

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fol. 54. Docketed: “Dyers Court Aldermanburry/7 feb^y 1778/M^r. James Sutton & C^o/R. D^o.”

1. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*, Capt. Gustavus Conyngham, commander.
2. Enclosed in Lord Weymouth to Lord Grantham, 20 Feb., below.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

7th. Saturday Pleas^t. w^r. Finished Plastering our Roof M^r. Rowe has again Rec^d. orders from the Board Relative to our Chimneys

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

SILAS DEANE TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Dear Sir

Paris Feb^y 7th 1778

Before y^e Rec^t of yours proposing to take the Shipp^s under Convoy that are bound for America the Commiss^{rs}. had taken a diff^t. Arrangement which they cannot alter. They are sensible of your Zeal and Attention to the Interest of the United States & must leave it to Your Own Judgment whither or not to accompany these Shipp^s off the Coast, you may probably be of mutual service to each other and you will soon if not already acquainted with the reason for our not Complying literally with Your proposal I have the honor to be &c &c— SD

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed at foot: “J. P. Jones Esq^r”

February 9 (Monday)

“PROCEEDINGS IN THE LORDS RESPECTING THE COMMERCIAL LOSSES OCCASIONED BY THE AMERICAN WAR”

[Extract]

Feb.9. The order of the day being read, for taking into further consideration the State of the Nation, the House went into a Committee.

The Earl of *Sandwich* said, that the noble duke (of Richmond) had brought a number of persons to prove certain facts relative to the commerce of this country; that in order to prevent an *ex parte* evidence from going abroad, without having the other side enquired into, such as what losses the rebellious colonies had sustained, to balance our loss, he would beg permission to call Mr. George Gostling. . . .

Mr. *George Gostling* was ordered to the bar, who, upon several questions put to him, answered substantially as follows: That he was a proctor in the court of Admiralty. [Here lord Sandwich delivered him in a list of prizes taken from the Americans, to the number of 38, and asked him whether he could swear to the condemnation of these ships? Mr. Gostling answered, he could, except two out of the list, which were then under condemnation. Aye, says my lord, that is the same thing.] Mr. Gostling then said, there were eleven more to be added to this list which were considered as Droits of Admiralty. Being cross-examined by the duke of Richmond, whether ships under condemnation were the same as ships absolutely condemned? He answered not, however probable it was they would be so. In respect to the value and appropriation of the cargoes, he answered, he could not exactly state the former, but the general appropriation of them were two-thirds to the captors, upon lawful prizes, and one-third when they were Droits of Admiralty. Being asked how the residue of the money was applied, and whether it was not given to discharge arrears of several of the officers of the Admiralty? He replied he had heard so. And being further asked by what law, or precedent the judges disposed of that money, and whether he, as a practitioner, could recollect any precedent for it being disposed of thus optionally? He said, he could not; but that he believed there were some precedents for it in queen Anne's wars.

Mr. *Samuel Enderby* deposed substantially as follows: That since the Prohibitory-Act, a new trade had been carried on in the southern fisheries of America, in which he was a considerable adventurer; that there were 15 ships then on the trade, and that their average tonnage was 170 ton each, and that the spermaceti whale was much more considerable in value than the common whale formerly taken. [Here lord Sandwich made a calculation, that supposing these ships brought but 100 tons each, the calculation would be 105,000*l*.] Being examined by the duke of Richmond and lord Camden, he said, that the general freight back run from 40 to 50 ton only, that he could not tell what might be their success this year, as the ships were not expected until about June; but he hoped it would be still increasing. He likewise spoke of two other fisheries, one on the coast of Africa, and the other on the banks of Newfoundland, which promised to turn out very considerable: that the ships that went on these voyages were manned generally with British sailors (except four Americans to each ship, who instructed the rest in harpooning) and that the profits of the outset of those ships, &c. centered with Great Britain, which formerly, as well as the profits of the fishery, were engrossed by New England men. Being asked, supposing this war at an end, whether the Americans, who he allowed to be more expert in this business than our people, would not be able to conduct this fishery to greater advantage, and undersell us at foreign markets? He believed they might. Being likewise asked what the price of insurance was upon this new trade? He answered 15 per cent. Being further asked, whether the very increased price of spermaceti whale, though it may be profitable

to individuals, did not hurt the general trade, so as to fall heavy on the consumers? He candidly replied, he could not speak precisely to the former part of that question: all he had to say upon it was, that his endeavours were to get as much by it as he could.

Mr. *George Davis* said he was 26 years concerned in the whale and cod fishery. In respect to the former he tried to take whales with men from England, but though they could strike them, and had struck several of late, he had not as yet taken one; but he was in hopes of succeeding better in a little time. In respect to the cod fishery, it was not decreased, but they wanted men for that service, and he had no doubt, if the lords of the Admiralty would discontinue pressing, there might be enough found for that service.—Adjourned.

The Parliamentary History of England 19: 714–15. For the beginning of these proceedings, see above at 6 Feb.; for their conclusion, see below at 11 Feb.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SICK AND HURT SEAMEN

Gentlemen

Admiralty Office 9 Febr'y 1778.

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 6th instant, with the Extract of one from your Surgeon and Agent at Liverpoole, relative to the American Prisoners brought in there; I am to acquaint you that their Lordships have sent the same to the Earl of Suffolk in order to receive His Majesty's Pleasure upon the Subject; and in the mean time it is their Lordships direction that you signify to your Agent that he is not to prevent the Prisoners receiving any Supplies that may be offer'd by the Committee of Subscribers for the Relief of American Prisoners, mentioned in the said Extract, or by any other Persons. I am [&c.]

Php Stephens

L, UKLNM, Adm./M/404. Addressed at foot of first page: "Commiss^s for Sick & Hurt." Notation at top of first page: "Recd—10th & wrote to the Agent at Liverpool the same day."

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO THE MARQUIS DE LA PRÉVALAYE AND JEAN-FRANÇOIS-XAVIER FAISSOLE DE VILLEBLANCHE

[à Versailles]

Copie de la lettre du Ministre de la Marine à M^{rs}. de la Prevalaye et de Faissolle, en datte du 9. Fevrier 1778.

J'ai prevenue M^{rs}. M. de la Prevalaye par ma Lettre particuliere du 7. de ce mois que le Roi m'a adressé Les ordres pour faire armer à Brest une Escadre de 18. Vaisseaux. Je joins ici la Liste de ceux que Sa Majesté a choisis et je fais Savoir à M. de la Prevalaye par une autre de mes Lettres quels Sont les Officiers auxquels elle en a confié le Commandement.

Comme la Carenne du V^{au}. La *Couronne* est fraiche, ainsi que celle de l'*Artesien* et du *S^t Michel*, que le *Solitaire* a déjà reçu la Sienné, et que Sans doute vous vous ferez occupés de faire executer dans les Bassins celles du *Zodiaque* et de l'*Alexandre*, et à flot celles du *Glorieux* et du *Palmier*, du *Bienaimé* et du *Dauphin Royal*, j'ai fort assuré Sa Majesté que l'exécution de Ses ordres Souffrira d'autant moins de retardement qu'il est à presumer que l'*Orient*, le *Conquerant* et le *Magnifique* n'ont

pas besoin de Carenne et qu'ainsi il ne Sera plus question que est pourvoir à celle des Vaux. le *S^t Esprit*, le *Robuste*, le *Fendant*, l'*Intrepide* et l'*Actif*.

J'ai à vous observer par raport à l'*Intrepide* qui doit être rentré dans le Port, quil faut S'occuper tout de Suite de Sa Carenne et de son Rearmement.

A l'égard du *Reflechi* et de l'*Eveillé* l'intention du Roi est quil's restent en Rade jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

Le *Fendant* rentrera dans le Port aussi après Son arrivée et Sera Carenné et rearmé.

Le *Robuste*, l'*Actif* le Seront Successivement, et quoique le *Rolland* et le *Bizarre* ne fassent pas partie de la nouvelle Escadre, il faudra lorsqu'ils Seront de retour les laisser armés jusqu'à ce que le nombre des 18. Vaisseaux Soit [*illeg.*] complétés en rade où ils représenteront *Robuste* et l'*Actif* qui ne pourront S'y rendre qu'après avoir été Carennés et armés.

En exeptant le *S^t Esprit* et la *Couronne*, tous les Vaisseaux pourront entrer en armement; les autres y entreront à mesure que leurs Carences Seront achevées.

Tous prendront 6. mois de vivres et quatre mois d'eau.

Les ordres pour les Levées ont été donnés de maniere à faire acclereler le plus quil Sera possible leur arrivée dans le Port.

Je vous recommande de m'informer des progrès de l'Armement et de demandes et ordres pour la mise en rade des Vaisseaux qui Se trouverront prête.

Je suis bien persuadé au Surplus que vous ne négligerez rien pour que les ordres du Roi Soient executés aussi promptement que la multiplicité des operations et les circonstances pourront le permettre.¹

J'ai lh. d'être &^{cc}. Signé de Sartine.

Pour Copie.

[Enclosure]

Liste des Vaisseaux qui doivent composer l'Escadre dont le Roi a ordonné l'armement.

Savoir.

Le <i>S^t Esprit</i> de	80. Canons.
La <i>Couronne</i>	id.
L' <i>Orient</i>	74.
le <i>Robuste</i>	id.
le <i>Glorieux</i>	id.
Le <i>Conquerant</i>	id.
le <i>Fendant</i>	id.
le <i>Magnifique</i>	id.
le <i>Palmier</i>	id.
l' <i>Intrepide</i>	id.
l' <i>Actif</i>	id.
le <i>Zodiaque</i>	id.
le <i>Bienaimé</i>	id.
le <i>Dauphin royal</i>	id.
L' <i>Artesien</i> de	64.
le <i>Solitaire</i>	id.
l' <i>Alexandre</i>	id.
le <i>S^t Michel</i> de	60.

[Translation]

[Versailles]

Copy of the letter from the Minister of the Marine to Messrs. de La Prévalaye and de Faissolle, dated 9 February 1778.

I informed M. M. de La Prévalaye by my private letter of the 7th of this month that the King had given me orders to have fitted out at Brest a squadron of 18 ships of the line. I enclose forthwith the list of those ships His Majesty has chosen and I have made known to M. de La Prévalaye in another of my letters the officers to whom he has entrusted their command.

As the careening of the ship the *Couronne* is recent, as well as those of the *Artésien* and the *S^t Michel*, and as the *Solitaire* had already been completed, and given that you are undoubtedly in the process of drydocking both the *Zodiaque* and the *Alexandre*, and making repairs while afloat of the *Glorieux*, the *Palmier*, the *Bienaimé*, and the *Dauphin royal*, I have strongly assured His Majesty that the execution of his orders will not be delayed, as it is presumed that the *Orient*, the *Conquérant*, and the *Magnifique* do not require careening nor will there be any longer the matter of providing it for the ships of the line the *S^t Esprit*, the *Robuste*, the *Fendant*, the *Intrépide*, and the *Actif*.

Regarding the *Intrépide* specifically, which ought to be returned to port, I must point out that it should be careened and refitted immediately.

In regard to the *Réfléchi* and the *Eveillé*, the King's intention is that they remain in the Roads until further orders.

Also after its arrival, the *Fendant* will be returned to port to be careened and refitted there.

The *Robuste*, the *Actif* will do so successively, and although the *Roland* and the *Bizarre* do not make up part of the new squadron, on their return they must be left armed until 18 ships of the line are readied in the Roads. Until such time, the *Roland* and *Bizarre* will stand in for the *Robuste* and the *Actif*, which will not be able to arrive there until they have been careened and fitted out.

With the exception of the *S^t Esprit* and the *Couronne* all the ships of the line will be able to enter while fitting out; the others will enter there as their careening is completed.

Each ship will carry six months' supply of provisions and four months' of water.

The orders for the raising of men have been given in a fashion to speed as much as possible their arrival in port.

I recommend that you inform me of the progress of the fitting out and of any requests or orders for sending the ships into the Roads as they become ready.

I am well persuaded, moreover, that you will overlook nothing so that the King's orders may be executed as promptly as the multiplicity of the operations and the circumstances may permit.¹

I have the honor to be etc. Signed de Sartine.

Copy.

[Enclosure]

List of Ships of the Line that should constitute the Squadron that the King has ordered fitted out.

Viz.

Le <i>S^t Esprit</i> of	80. Guns.
La <i>Couronne</i>	do.
L' <i>Orient</i>	74.
le <i>Robuste</i>	do.
le <i>Glorieux</i>	do.
Le <i>Conquérant</i>	do.
le <i>Fendant</i>	do.
le <i>Magnifique</i>	do.
le <i>Palmier</i>	do.
l' <i>Intrépide</i>	do.
l' <i>Actif</i>	do.
le <i>Zodiaque</i>	do.
le <i>Bienaimé</i>	do.
le <i>Dauphin royal</i>	do.
L' <i>Artésien</i> of	64.
le <i>Solitaire</i>	do.
l' <i>Alexandre</i>	do.
le <i>S^t Michel</i> of	60.

Copy, FrBAPM, série 1E 190, fols. 273–75. De La Prévalaye was chef d'escadre and directeur de l'arsenal at Brest and Faissolle de Villeblanche was commissaire général.

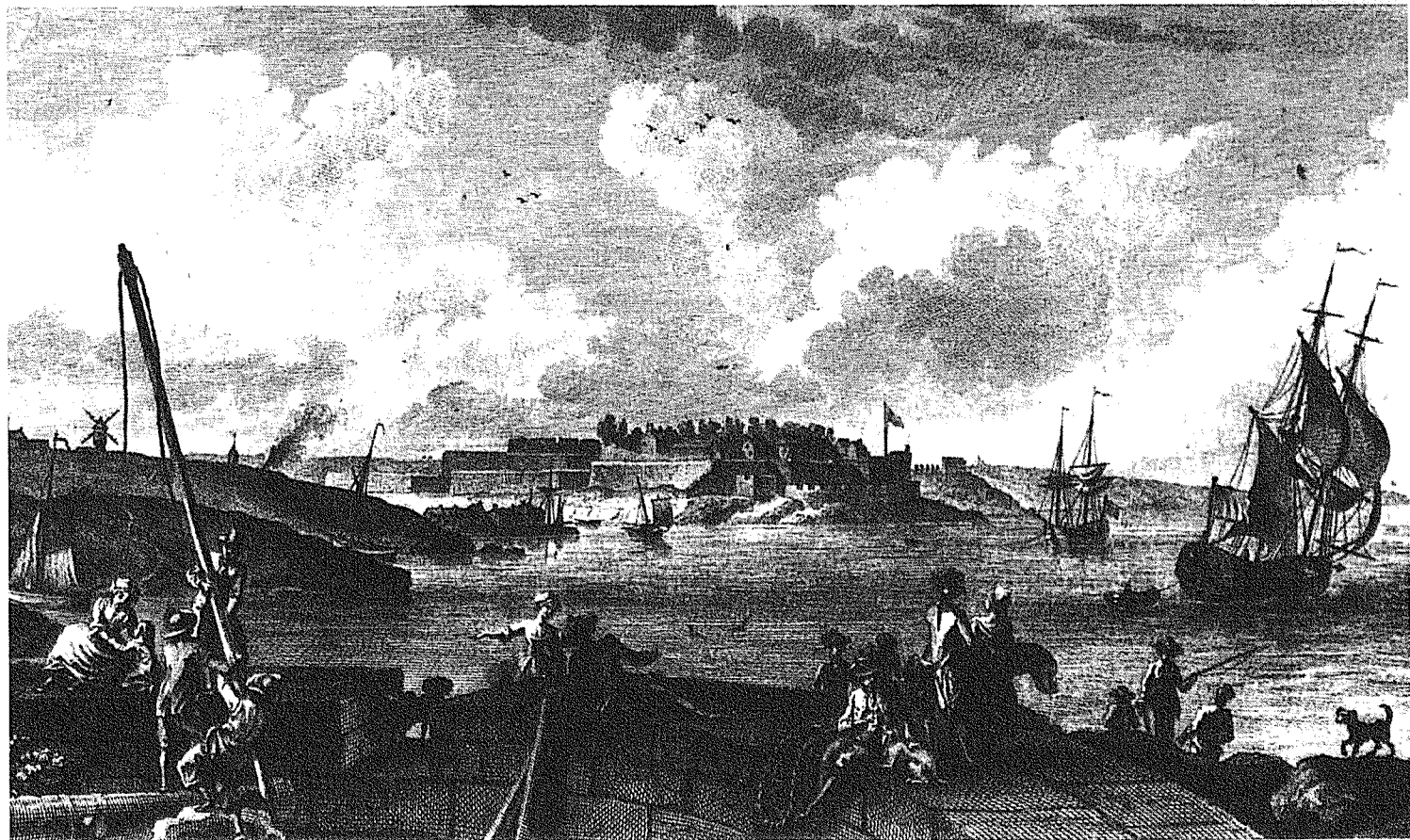
1. A month later, Sartine ordered seven more ships of the line at Brest fitted out: *Bretagne* (110), *Ville de Paris* (100), *Duc de Bourgogne* (80), *Réfléchi* (64), *Éveillé* (64), *Roland* (64), and *Bizarre* (64). He also ordered the remaining seven ships of the line at Toulon added to the first ten fitting out there. Sartine to de La Porte, 8 Mar., *ibid.*, fol. 521; Sartine to St. Aignan, 9 Mar. (the latter cited in Jonathan R. Dull, *The French Navy and American Independence: A Study of Arms and Diplomacy, 1774–1787* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1975), 105.

LIEUTENANT BOUX TO CAPITAINE DE VAISSEAU JACQUES BOUX

[Translation]

[Nantes, after 9 Feb. 1778]

You'll be perhaps Surprised to hear that I am Still at Nants & that I am not at S^t Nazere on board the *Lion*¹ which is the fregate I was destined for but I Shall tell you the whole of it & in the most minute details then you will See it is not my fault & how disagreeable it is to live with the Officers of this marine—Sunday last 8th. Inst^d I went on board, I was bearer of a Letter for the Cap. M^r Nickelson,² at first this man Received me politely enough for a Seafaring man & An American, but Some time after he told me he could not give me a passage for want of place on board his Ship & that he did not know how to lodge me, that M^r Dean³ had wrote to him to give me a Cabbin but there was none, I Answerd him that I did not want one & that in time of war there should be none on board but that I had My Hammock & requested he would give me a place to hang it, he told me there was none, after some pause, he told me all & that I can do for you is to put you over the Powder Room, If that can Suit you I'll get a couple of planks put there to divide it in two, I accepted it & Spent the night in this place it was impossible for me to Stay there, it having but 4 feet 6 Inchs length & 14 Inches breadth, it is impossible to move or breath in so Small a Space & the least one can have is one's length & breadth, the Next day Monday the 9th. I told him I could not Stay any longer in that place & that there was not Room enough, well Says he go on Shore & take your passage on board another Vessel if you chuse, for I cant do any thing



The entrance to Quiberon Bay

better for you, I begd he would give orders to lodge my chests Or have them put where they would not exposed to the injurys of the Air or to being Rummaged, he grew Angry & said, those foutu frenchmen what have they to do with us, certainly they're without any Ressources in their Own Country Since they Strive to Come to ours, to better their fortune & occupy places that are due to the Natives. when I heard that I lookd out for an opportunity to get up to Nants he gave me letter for M^r Williams⁴ & engaged him to procure me a passage on board another Vessel, this Gentleman told me that my passage onboard Another Vassel would Cost 20 Guineas & that he had orders to put me on board the *Lyon* because it belonged to the States. & for that reason he could not take upon him to put me elsewhere & Since M^r Nickelson Could not take me, I must Remain & wait another opportunity—

You know, my dear Uncle, that I Conceal Nothing from you, I know your tenderness for me, it encourages me to open my mind to you on the Subject of those people & to tell you the little I know of them, it is somewhat late, but however Soon enough to be on our gaurds, all the Frenchmen who go there with any rank is very ill Received, especially amonst the Seamen & I have Seen enough to be Convinced of the truth of what had been told me, the Small Stay I made on board has been made as Mortifying and Disagreeable as possible both by the Captain & officers there are eight Lieutenants on board, who if they had not an Uniform you would take them to be hired Coach Drivers & when the Captain Says any thing to them its only in Swearing & treating them like Slaves All those who Command do the Same So that I See if I go & embark according to my rank on board Any Vessel I'll be no More Spared than the others & Still lose as a frenchman, all the officers lookd on me with an air of Contempt & when I Spoke to any of them they turnd their backs in saying foutu frenchman.

I can assure you my dear Uncle that all this has given Me an Utter dislike to my project, & I rather be a great deal inferior than be exposed to be illtreated by animals of that kind—I can't say that I will not go there as I have no will of my own & that I shall always Submit to what ever You please. I wait with impatience Your Answer & Shall rule my Conduct according to the orders it will contain.⁵

Translation, PU, Annenberg Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Benjamin Franklin Papers. Docketed: "5./Translation of Boux's/Letter." The original letter has not been found.

1. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, formerly *Lyon*.

2. Captain Samuel Nicholson, Continental Navy.

3. Silas Deane.

4. Jonathan Williams, Jr.

5. See Jonathan Williams, Jr., to the American Commissioners in France, 24 Feb., and Lieutenant Boux to the American Commissioners in France, 26 Feb., below.

February 10

*LLOYD'S EVENING POST, AND BRITISH CHRONICLE (LONDON),
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, TO WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1778*

Tuesday, February 10. London.

The *Alfred*, and *Raleigh* American privateers, the former of 32 guns, and the latter of 30, having not been heard of for some months past, it was supposed they

were gone to intercept some of the homeward bound East Indiamen before their arrival at the Island of St. Helena, where in future they mean to wait for a convoy; but the late news received from France on Friday last, which gives an account of a French East Indiaman having touched at the above Island, and brought the disagreeable news, that two American privateers had attacked the *Duke of Grafton* East Indiamen,¹ homeward-bound, which was lying there for convoy, leaves no room to doubt but that the *Raleigh* and *Alfred* privateers, were those who cut the above ship out. Accounts received by yesterday's Holland Mail say, that she sailed from the Cape of Good Hope the 27th of October. We do not find these reports authenticated at the India House.

1. An East Indiaman, S. Bull, master, 804 tons, built in 1768, J. Durand, owner. *Lloyd's Register of Ships, 1777-1778*.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Gentlemen,

Ranger Paimboeuf 10th Feb^y 1778.

I had the honor of writeing to you from Nantes the 27th Ult^o the affair of Quiberon¹ (which I did not then know of) is now in every Brokers mouth.—Strange! that nothing can remain Secret.—should I find that Force likely to depart within a few days I will Avail myself of its protection, especially as it is the general Opinion, that I can be of Service to the supply Ships, however unless something is determined very soon I shall depart alone. I heartily Congratulate you on the pleasing News, contained in the within paper² which I believe may be entirely depended upon as the informant appears to me to be very intelligent and well Affected to America.

Were any Continental Marine power in Europe disposed to Avail of the present Situation of Affairs in America, and willing to deserve our Friendship, a single Blow well directed would now do the needful.—Ten or Twelve Sail of the Line with Frigates well Equipped and provided would give a good Account of the Fleet under Lord How, for as that Force would be superiour to any One of How's divisions, the strongest being once taken—the Victorious Squadron might sail in quest of the next in Strength and reach it before Advice.—I know the genius of the English Seamen, haveing lived long on Salt provision would induce them to enter on the strongest Side where they would find better fare—the American Seamen would enter of course and in all probability many of the Officers would pull off the mask, and declare in favor of Heaven and America, Small squadrons might then be formed to scour the Coast and cut off the Enemies supplies while our Army settled the Account current.

However extravagant this calculation may appear on a slight View, it will not be found so in reality Had Lord How or any Commander in the Enemies Fleet an Idea or expectation of such a Visit—it is certain that the Attempt would be Folly and Madness, but as our Enemies ride in perfect Security—that Security would prove their ruin and insure our Success.—Whoever can surprize well must Conquer. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Jn^o P Jones

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 103. Addressed: "The Honorable B. Franklin/S. Deane, and A Lee Esq^{rs}." Docketed: "Captⁿ. Jones/10 Feb. 1778."

1. John Paul Jones to the American Commissioners in France, 27 Jan., above. The affair of Quiberon was the plan for a number of merchant ships laden with munitions for the revolutionary forces in America to sail together under a French naval convoy.

2. See "Franklin's Copy of News Brought by Captain Jenkins," *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 673-74.

February 11

"PROCEEDINGS IN THE LORDS RESPECTING THE COMMERCIAL
LOSSES OCCASIONED BY THE AMERICAN WAR"

Feb. 11. The Duke of *Richmond* rose, and after a short speech, wherein he recapitulated the evidence which had been given, acquainted their lordships that he had a few motions to make in consequence of that evidence, which were plain matters of fact, and which would be grounds for their lordships' farther deliberation. His motions were; 1. "That it appears to this House, that in the course of trade, a very considerable balance was always due from the merchants in North America, to the merchants of Great Britain, towards the discharge of which remittances were made in goods to a great amount, since the commencement of the present troubles, and whilst the trade between this kingdom and the colonies were suffered to remain open. 2. That since the passing the several Acts for prohibiting the fisheries of the colonies in North America, their mutual intercourse with each other, and all trade and commerce between them and this kingdom, and for making prize of their ships, and distributing the value of the same, as if they were the effects of our enemies, amongst the seamen of his Majesty's navy, the number of vessels belonging to Great Britain and Ireland, taken by ships of war and privateers, belonging to the said colonies, amount to 733. 3. That of the said 733 vessels, it appears that 47 have been released, and 127 retaken; but that the loss on the latter, for salvage, interest on the value of the cargo, and loss of a market, must have been very considerable. 4. That the loss of the remaining 559 vessels, which have been carried into port, appears from the examination of merchants, to amount to at least 2,600,000*l*. 5. That of 200 ships annually employed in the African trade, before the commencement of the present civil war, whose value, upon an average, was about 9,000*l* each, there are not now 40 of the said ships employed in the said trade, whereby there is a diminution in this branch of commerce of 160 ships, which at 9,000*l* each, amount to a loss of 1,440,000*l*. per annum. 6. That the price of insurance to the West Indies and North America, is increased from 2, and 2 1/2, to 5 per cent. with convoy, but without convoy, and unarmed, the said insurance has been made at 15 per cent. but generally ships in such circumstances cannot be insured at all. 7. That the price of seamen's wages is raised from 30 to 65*s*. per month. 8. That the price of pot-ash is increased from 8 to 70*s*. per cwt. 9. That the price of spermaceti oil has increased from 35*l*. to 70*l*. per ton. 10. That the price of tar is raised from 7 and 8*s*. to 30*s*. per barrel. 11. That the price of sugars, and all commodities from the West Indies, and divers sorts of naval stores from North America, is greatly enhanced. 12. That the present diminution of the African trade, the interruption of the North American trade to the West Indies, and the captures made of the West India ships, have greatly distressed the British colonies in the West Indies. 13. That the numbers of American privateers, of which authentic accounts have been received, amount to 173; and that they carried 2,556 guns, and at least 13,540 seamen, reckoning 80 men in each ship. 14. That of the above privateers, 34 have been taken, which carried 3,217 men, which is more than 94 men to each vessel."

The Earl of *Sandwich* said, he all along, from the moment this enquiry into the state of the nation began, dreaded it; not on his own account, but on account of the general hurt it may produce, that of laying open difficulties and embarrassments (which he confessed this country was under) and which should not be laid open. If the noble duke who began this enquiry had calculated the losses of the country by capture of vessels, &c. before that should be admitted, there should be deducted the value of all the prizes taken by the English from the Americans, which, setting the number of prizes at 904, and each prize worth 2,000*l.* amounted to 1,808,000*l.* His lordship said, great advantages were gained by the new fisheries, and concluded, that though nobody wished an end to the war more than he did, yet the continuance of it was, in many respects, advantageous to this country, and would be more so.

The Duke of *Richmond* said, he was surprised to hear his lordships' detail urged as an argument for not deciding on this motion, as it did not mix with any other matter, but resulted from facts proved at their lordship's bar. He was, however, more surprised at the conclusion drawn from that detail, "that because a number of vessels had been taken, they were to be balanced by another number of vessels taken, on the other side, and consequently no loss to the nation upon the whole." I do not mean, said his grace, to be particularly pointed to individuals; and I hope the noble lord will permit me to separate at present the man from the office. I therefore say, speaking to be so understood, I do not wonder at all the distresses which have overwhelmed this country, when a noble lord at the head of the marine department of this nation, betrays such ignorance. What, my lords, when the merchants of this country have lost 733 ships, valued at above two millions of money; to say that the commerce of this country is not affected by such a loss, because an equal number of ships have been taken from the enemy, and the prizes distributed to British seamen! This is so far from being a balance in our favour, it adds to our loss, for if we were not at war with America, the value of all these cargoes in the circuitous course of trade must center with Great Britain. His grace then adverted to his question, which was no more than for the committee to allow, as a resolution, part of what had been already evidenced at the bar, and which would enable their lordships the better to see the grounds they stood on in respect to America, and consequently know what line to take.

The Earl of *Suffolk* opposed the motions on the impropriety of acknowledging what ought not to be acknowledged at so critical a period, the weakness of the nation: he said, the best way of going on in this business would be, to let all the papers lie on their lordships' table for general information, and do the best they could either to remedy defects, or otherwise, but by no means to resolve upon the national imbecility.

The Duke of *Grafton* called upon their lordships to consider the question they were to decide upon, which was a fact already established, and which their lordships could not refuse their assent to: he said, he did not know, nor was it material to know, what the noble duke afterwards meant to go into; so much was clear ground, and would be a very proper one for their lordships to form some resolutions upon respecting the present war with America.

A debate ensued about the mode of disposing of the question. Some were for putting it affirmatively or negatively, others a previous question; but as the latter

could not be adopted in the committee, a motion was made for lord Scarsdale quitting the chair, and the House divided: Contents 80; Non-contents 32. The committee being dissolved, the Lord Chancellor¹ resumed the woolpack, when the previous question, "That this motion be now put," being put separately, on the duke's Resolutions, they all passed in the negative, without a division.

The Parliamentary History of England 19: 715–18. For the beginning of these proceedings, see above at 6 and 9 Feb.

1. Henry Bathurst, 2d Earl Bathurst.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE
COMMISSIONERS FOR SICK AND HURT SEAMEN

By the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain & Ireland &c.

In addition to what was signified to you by our Secretary's Letter of the 9th instant relative to the American Prisoners lately taken & brought into Liverpool;¹ you are hereby required and directed to cause the said Prisoners to be victualled, and supplied with Cloths and necessaries in the same manner as the Prisoners who are confined in the Prisons at Portsmouth & Plymouth, until you receive further Order concerning them. Given under our hands the 11th of Feb^r 1778.

By command of their Lordships
Ph^p. Stephens

J Buller.
Lisburne
Mulgrave

L, UKLNMM, Adm./M/404. Addressed at foot: "To/The Commissioners for taking/care of Sick and Hurt Seamen." Docketed: "Rec^d. 13th. Feb^r 1778/And wrote to the Admty & to Liverpool."

1. Philip Stephens to the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen, 9 Feb., above.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON

Sir

[*Admiralty Office*] 11th. Feb^r. 1778.

The Committee of West India Merchants & Gentlemen of considerable Property in the Island of Jamaica, having upon their late attendance on my Lords Commiss^{rs}: of the Admiralty represented to their Lordships that some Rebel Privatiers had landed Men on the Northern Side of that Island, and had greatly alarmed, as well as done some Injury to the Inhabitants upon that part of the Island; I have it in command from their Lordships to signify their direction to you to station such part of the Squadron and your Command upon the Northern Coast of the Island of Jamaica, as may be proper for the protection & Security thereof, it falling as much within the principal Object of their Lordships Instructions to you as other parts of the said Island.¹ I am &c^a:

PS:

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/557, fol. 17. Addressed at foot: "Vice Admiral Gayton/or the Commander in chief of/His Majesty's Ships/at Jamaica." Notations: "Enclosed to S^r Tho^s Pye, Vide Letter to him"; "By the *Active*/Duplicate by the Pacquet 10 Mar."

1. See Proceedings of Jamaica House of Assembly, 19 Nov. 1777, *NDAR* 10: 544–48, for a detailed account of privateer activity at Jamaica and complaints against Gayton for failure to provide sufficient protection.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO JOHN ROSS

M^r Ross

Sir

Paris Feb^y 11 1778

Yours of the 6th. came to hand in Course;¹ as M^r W Lee will be with you before the receipt of this we refer you to him for what has been done as to the Late M^r Morris's Papers &c. In regard to the Ship purchased by you, Commanded by Capt. J. Green² which you Offer to Assign over to the Public account we are Content that you do it & Charge the amount to their Debit, either in part of the Sum advanced you through us or against the Sums you may have received from them. We depend that you will see every thing that relates to the equipping of this Ship Settled and adjusted in the best manner for the intrest of the Public, that so she may turn out to them, what you assure us of, the cheapest Vessel they have either purchased or equipped—Inclosed is a Blank Commission for Capt. Green³ which you will fill up & Deliver him—As he has a Cargo on board he must Act only on the Defensive on his Passage out—after his arrival he will attend such Orders as he may receive. If he sail in Company with Capt. Nicholson, let him do all in his Power to Keep with him thro: his whole Passage & for that Purpose he is to apply to Capt. Nicholson for his Signals, & orders on that Subject before he sails—Our Orders to Capt. Nicholson are to get into Boston or Portsmouth if he can, as we Consider those Ports as being the safest of any on the Continent at this Season we have nothing to add but are with Esteem Sir &c. &c.

S.D. in behalf of Com^{rs}.

Tell Capt. Nicholson his Brother has escaped from Prison & is arrived at Dunkirk & will be here in a day or two.⁴

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers.

1. John Ross to the American Commissioners in France, 6 Feb., above.

2. *Brune*, John Green, master.

3. Immediately below.

4. Capt. John Nicholson, Continental Navy, the brother of Capt. Samuel Nicholson, Continental Navy, had been held in Forton Prison.

JOHN GREEN'S COMMISSION AS CAPTAIN IN THE CONTINENTAL NAVY

IN CONGRESS.

The DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, TO John Green Esq^{re} of Philadelphia*

WE, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be Captain & Commander of the armed Frigate called the Queen of France in the Service of the United States of North-America, fitted out for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Commander & Capt. by doing and performing all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as Commander. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and

Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United States, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, the Usage of the Sea, and the Instructions herewith given you, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

DATED at Paris 11th. Februy 1778—

By Order of the CONGRESS,

ATTEST. Cha^s Thomson sec^y

John Hancock PRESIDENT.

D, DNA, PCC, item 137, vol. 2, p. 31 (M247, roll 149). Printed document with blanks filled up. Underlining indicates handwritten portions. This commission was part of the supply the American Commissioners in France kept of blank commissions signed by the president of Congress.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COMTE DE VERGENNES

A Versailles, le 11 Février, 1778

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire et les deux pieces qui y étoient jointes, et qui vous ont été remises par M. le V^{te}. De Stormont, relativement à la propriété de l'*Ann Suzanna*¹ par l'examen que j'ai fait de ces pieces, j'ai vu que ce Bâtiment est le même que celui que cet Ambassadeur à réclamé au mois de Décembre dernier, par une note qu'il vous avait remise, et suivant laquelle, en prétendoit que ce Bâtiment étoit au Pellerin près Nantes, où on travailloit à le défigurer pour lui faire porter le nom de la *Mignon*.² Vous vous rappelleriez sans doute que dans le temps, j'ai fait prendre à ce sujet des renseignements du résultat desquels j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire part le 28. du même mois, et d'après lesquelles, sur les représentations des Armateurs, j'ai permis l'expédition de ce Navire, qui étoit destiné pour S^t Domingue; les nouvelles pieces produites constatent bien que les S^{rs}. Breston Long,³ George Drake, Samuel Long, et autres cointéressé, étoient propriétaires d'un Bâtiment nommé l'*Ann Suzanna*, pris au mois d'Octobre dernier par un Corsaire Américain nommé le *Raleigh*, mais pour que leur réclamation put mériter quelques égards, il faudroit qu'ils pussent également prouver que ce Navire a été amené dans un Port de France, et qu'il est le même que celui qui sous le nom de *Samuel* a été vendu à Vannes par le S^r Crémelan au S^r De Coesne, Négociant à Nantes qui après l'avoit fait venir au Pellerin, l'a vendu aux S^{rs}. Gallssay, autres Négociants de Nantes qui lui ont donné le nom de la *Mignone* et l'ont expédié pour S^t Domingue; c'est ce qu'ils ne font pas. Je ne vois en conséquence aucun nouveau moyen de revenir sur cette affaire. Je vous remets cy joint les pieces que vous m'aviéz fait passer. J'ai l'honneur d'être
[&c.]⁴

de Sartine

[Translation]

Versailles, February 11, 1778

I received, My Lord, the letter you were kind enough to send me, and the two items you included which were sent to you by His Lordship the Viscount Stormont, relating to the ownership of the *Ann Suzanna*.¹ In examining these items, I saw that this ship is the same one this ambassador claimed last December, in a note he had

sent you, in which it was asserted that this ship was in Pellerin near Nantes, where it was being altered to carry the name the *Mignone*.² You no doubt remember that at the time I made some inquiries on this subject, the results of which I shared with you on the 28th of that same month, according to which, on the basis of the shipowners' statements, I authorized this ship to sail to St. Domingue. The new items submitted show clearly that Messrs. Breston Long,³ George Drake, Samuel Long, and other interested parties were owners of a ship called the *Ann Suzanna*, taken last October by an American privateer called the *Raleigh*. In order for their claim to merit any regard, they must also prove that this ship was brought into a French port and that it is the same as the one that was sold at Vannes under the name of *Samuel* by M. Cremelan to M. De Coesne, merchant at Nantes, who after bringing it to Pellerin, sold it to Messrs. Gallssay, other merchants of Nantes, who gave it the name the *Mignone* and sent it to St. Domingue. This is what they are not doing. Consequently, I see no other way to resurrect this matter. I am sending back with this letter the items you passed along to me. I have the honor to be [&c.].⁴

de Sartine

L, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 521, fol. 249.

1. *Ann Susanna*, 250 tons, from London to Jamaica, owned by Long & Co., built in 1773 on the Thames River, mounting eight guns, 6-pounders and 4-pounders. *Lloyd's Register of Ships, 1777-1778*.

2. Lord Stormont to Comte de Vergennes, 2 Dec. 1777, in NDAR 10: 1060-61.

3. Beeston Long.

4. In the margin: "[illeg.] qui empêchent de revenir sur la question de la propriété du navire *l'ann-Suzanne* qu'on dit avoir été défiguré sous le nom de la *Mignone*." "[Factors] that prevent returning to the question of the ownership of the ship *Ann Suzanne* which they say was disguised under the name the *Mignone*."

February 12

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DUBLIN, FEB. 12"

"The *Martin*, a brig, laden with tobacco and flax-seed, a prize to the *Cochran* letter of marque,¹ belonging to Glasgow, was driven into our bay by a hard gale of wind at N. E and brought up in shallow water under the South Bull, where on the ebb tide she must have gone to pieces, and all the crew, consisting of ten persons, been drowned, but the Dunleary pilots, at the hazard of their lives, brought her into safe riding."

London Chronicle, 21-24 Feb. 1778.

1. Ship of 200 tons, T. Bolton, master, built at Whitby, England in 1770, belonging to Cunningham & Co. *Lloyd's Register of Ships, 1776*.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

Most Confidential

Paris Thursday Morning
feb. 12 1778

I have this Moment learnt and my Intelligence comes from a Person often well informed that the Real Reason of assembling so many Troops at Brest and arming so many Ships there is either to send them to North America or to make a

sudden attack upon our West India Islands in Case the Congress accepts the Conditions proposed by France.

I can by no Means Warrant this Intelligence. The Hurry and Trepidation that for some days were so apparent both here and at Versailles & the extreme Celerity with which the orders were carried into Execution seem to indicate a sudden alarm which I still believe was the immediate but not the only Cause of the Resolution taken.

I am more and more convinced, My Lord, that there never was a Moment that called louder for instant Vigilance than the present. M. de Maurepas' manifest Reserve in his Yesterday's Conversation with a Friend of Mine and the Silence the french Ministers observe with regard to the seizure of their ships in Europe, (which Measures I know they highly resent) are additional Proofs to me that they are meditating some treacherous Design. Notwithstanding all this all the Difficulties of our situation I am persuaded that firm steady and spirited Measures will carry Us through with Dignity and Honor and if our Rivals see that we are prepared and ready to meet them they will think twice before they strike the first blow I am [&c.]

Stormont.

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 78/306, fols. 204-5. Addressed at foot of first page: "Lord Visct Weymouth."

CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

On Board the *Deane* Quiberone Bay Feb^{ry} 12th. 1778

Honorable Gentⁿ.

This will informe You of my Arrival here this Day with only the *Duke DeShasell* & Brigg *two Friends* of our Convoy,¹ the other ships not being ready, but I am in hopes the greatest part of them will Joyn us here in the course of this Week; on my Joyning the Fleet I Salluted the Commadore² and Imediately Waited on him with my French Captⁿ.³ to Whome he gave his signals, he has been very Impatiently wait^g for us upwards of 4 Weeks & Would have sailed Imediately on my Joyning him had it not been for the representation of M^r Carmichael,⁴ the French Fleet Consists of 5 Ships of the Line 3 Frigates & 2 luggers as tenders,—by the Orders of the M^r Lees⁵ I have M^r Stevenson⁶ Passenger on board who I am Convinced with the Assistance of M^r Loyd⁷ at Nantes as been very busey in endeavouring to find out all your Transactions that they can make turn to the Prejedice of You and Doct^r Franklin in America, I believe M^r R—⁸ is A Corespondant of Yours, if so You may depend he is A Snake in the Grass & not Your Friend—I am well Pleased with the sailing of the *Deane*, I have had A Tryal of her Come^g here in Comp^y with the *Duke deShasell* who is no Match for us, my Crew Consists of about 80 Americans & 80 raw French Men four fifths of them being Landsmen, Shall do all in my Power to train them while under the Convoy of the French Fleet I assure You I have A deal of Trouble & Vexation with them. the Commadore says he possetively will wait no longer than Sunday, in Consequence of w^{ch} I shall dispatch A Sashmarie⁹ with one of my Officers the Morrow to hurry the other Ships, as I am in hope if the Commadore dont receive possetive Orders for his Sailing by Sundays Post, he may be Prevailed on to wait two or three Days longer—

My Ship is very full, Scarce Roome for my People, I have been Obliged to take out 50, odd Hhds of Goods in Order to make roome for my Water & Provisions, & have Scant allowance for my passage to America—I expect M^r Williams¹⁰ with us too Morrow or next Day I am [&c.]

Samuel Nicholson

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 108. Addressed: "To/The Honorable Silas Deane Esquire/Paris." Docketed: "Capt. Nicholson 12th Jan^y 1778."

1. *Duc de Choiseul* and *Trois Amis*.
2. Chef d'Escadre Toussaint-Guillaume, Chevalier de La Motte-Picquet.
3. Capt. "Corvisen." See Captain Samuel Nicholson to the American Commissioners in France, 18 Feb., below.
4. William Carmichael.
5. Arthur and William Lee.
6. William Stevenson.
7. John Lloyd.
8. John Ross.
9. A chasse-marée, a swift, three-masted coasting vessel.
10. Jonathan Williams, Jr.

February 13

SILAS DEANE TO CONRAD ALEXANDRE GÉRARD

Sir

Passy 13 Feb^y 1778

I have met with an American Captain of approved Fidelity & Courage who is a good Pilot on the American Coast, particularly on New England. He Lately commanded a Privateer out of New England, & was taken after an Engagement with an English Frigate in which he lost 31 Killed & more than 20 wounded.¹ He was afterwards put into Prison & escaped—This man I think will answer our Purpose exceeding well & will be ready with our Dispatches on Sunday or monday next at Farthest²—He will want to take a Companion or waiter with him who escaped with him from Prison. Please to say if this man cannot embark at Brest—It will be much more Convenient, & as neither He nor his Companion Speak French He will be able to do it with as much & more Secrecy than can be done by his going to Corogne by Land with a guide which he must necessarily have—From hence he can go to Brest and embark without the danger of being Suspected, as he is not Known in France; but this is Submitted to your Judgment, & waiting your determination I have the honor to remain with much respect Sir &c

S.D

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed at foot: "Mons^r Gerard."

1. Harmon Courter, of Philadelphia, captured by H.M.S. *Beaver* 19 May 1777 in Pennsylvania privateer ship *Oliver Cromwell*. NDAR 8: 999, 1029.

2. The American Commissioners in France appointed Courter to carry their dispatches to America on board the French Navy frigate *Nymphe*. American Commissioners in France to Harmon Courter, 17 Feb., below.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO WILLIAM CARMICHAEL

My dear Sir

Ranger 13th Feb^y 1778 off Quibron

You will confer a singular obligation upon me by presenting my respects to the French Admiral¹ Whom I mean to salute with thirteen Guns Under American

Colours—provided he will Accept the Compliment and return Gun for Gun.—this proposal I hope will be the more Acceptable to him as it may be a prelude to future amity between the United States and his Court.

I shall be happy to see you here as soon as possible after you have the Admiral's Answer Mean time pray excuse this trouble—I am [&c.]

Jn^o P Jones

L, CSmH, Charles T. Harbeck Collection, no. HR 204. Addressed: "William Carmichael Esquire." Docketed: "Paul Jones Esq^r/*Ranger* Quiberon Bay/13th. Feby 1778."

1. Chef d'Escadre Toussaint-Guillaume, Chevalier de La Motte-Picquet.

WILLIAM CARMICHAEL TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Dear Sir

[*Quiberon, 13 February 1778*]

I receivd yours by Captn Hill, Having din'd on board the Admiral & having left Him indisposd I did not wait on Him but wrote to Him, His answer to your request, you have inclosd.¹ I would have deliverd it in person, had I not been afraid that your ship was too far from us, for I have the greatest desire to take My Friend Williams by the hand & to assure you How much I am your Very Humble Ser^t

W^m. Carmichael

P.S.

I am no Judge of the etiquett amongst you Gentlemen of the marine, but I think it would be best to accept his return. M^r Du Chaffault gave that Number or seven I forget which to the *Mifflin* at Brest.² We wait M^r Williams arrivel with impatience & as the interval is so short I do not write Him—

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6692. Addressed: "John Paul Jones Esq^r" Docketed: "Quiberon Feby 13th/1778/N^o 3/from W^m. Carmichael Esq^r/inclosing a letter from Mons^r/La Motte Picquet."

1. Immediately below.

2. On entering the roadstead of Brest in late July 1777, the Massachusetts privateer ship *General Mifflin* saluted the French king's flag with thirteen guns, and Admiral Duchaffault returned three. NDAR 9: 525–26, 613.

CHEF D'ESCADRE TOUSSAINT-GUILLAUME, CHEVALIER DE LA MOTTE-PICQUET
TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Monsieur

[*Baie de Quiberon*]

Si la fregatte la *ranger* et le brique l'*independance* saluent le pavillon du roy de 13 coups de canon en cas quils soient commandés par des officiers du congrés je leur rendray neuf coups ils sont au surplus très fort les maitres de ne point saluer. j'ay lhonneur de vous assurer des Sentimens respectueux avec lesquels je Suis [&c]
ce 13^e f^{er} la motte picquet

je seray enchanté de voir mr villiams voulés vous bien monsieur luy faire mes remercimens et a mr carmichael jay lhonneur de souhaitter le bon Soir a mr le marquis de vienne.

[Translation]

Sir

[*Quiberon Bay*]

If the frigate the *Ranger* and the brig the *Independence* salute the King's colors with thirteen guns, in case they are commanded by officers of the Congress, I shall

return nine guns. They are, moreover, quite free to choose not to salute at all. I have the honor to assure you of my respectful sentiments, with which I am [&c.]

13 February 1778

la motte picquet

I shall be delighted to see Mr. Williams. Will you, sir, convey my thanks to him and to Mr. Carmichael. I have the honor to bid the Marquis de Vienne good evening.

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6694. Enclosed in William Carmichael to John Paul Jones, 13 Feb., immediately above.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Quiberon Bay, France*]

Friday, 13 Feb.—Set sail for Quiberon Bay Mr Williams & Brother on board,¹ in company with us Brig *Independence*, anchored in the Bay about six in the Evening, 4 Ships of the Line besides Frigates in the Bay.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Jonathan Williams, Jr., and John Williams.

February 14

PHILLIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT HOWE

My Lord

[*Admiralty Office*] 14th Feb^{ry} 1778

Lord George Germain having transmitted to my Lords Commiss^{rs} of the Admiralty a Letter from His Maj^{ty} Postmaster General desiring that Ships¹ may be taken to obtain the Exchange or Release of the Captain's Flynn & Nicholls late Comm^{rs} of Pacquets² in the Service of their Office who have been made Prisoners by the Rebels; I am commanded to send a Copy thereof to your Lordship, and to recommend it to you to take the proper measures for getting them released or Exchanged I am &c.

PS.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/557, fol. 34. Addressed at foot: "Vice Adm^l Lord Howe/North America} By the *Andromeda*/Duplicate by the *Ardent* 12th March."

1. That is, "steps."

2. Paul Flynn, H.M. packet sloop *Weymouth*, and — Nichols, H.M. packet boat *Eagle*.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

14th Saturday a Report is Circulating that those two Centinals who Deserted with Our Officers a taken by being in Liquor¹

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. See Journal of Dr. Jonathan Haskins for 31 Jan., above.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO WILLIAM CARMICHAEL

Ranger in the entrance of Quberon

Feb^{ry} 14th 1778—

Dear Sir

I am extremely sorry to give you fresh trouble but I think the Admiral's Answer of yesterday requires an explanation. the haughty English return Gun for

Gun to foreign Officers of equal Rank and two less only to Captains by flag Officers.

It is true my Command at present is not important Yet as the Senior American Officer at present in Europe it is my duty to claim an equal return of respect to the Flag of the United States that would be shewn to any other Flag whatever.

I therefore take the liberty of inclosing an appointment perhaps as respectable as any which the French Admiral can produce besides which I have others in my possession. If however he persists in refusing to return an equal Salute I will Accept of two Guns less as I have not the Rank of Admiral.

it is my Opinion that he would return four less to a privateer or a Merchant Ship therefore as I have been honored oftener than once with a Chief Command of Ships of War—I cannot in honor Accept of the Same terms of Respect.

You will Singularly oblige me by waiting upon the Admiral—and I ardently hope You will Succeed in the Application—else I shall be under a necessity of departing without comming into the Bay. I have the honor to be [&c.]

NB. the thirteen Guns your greatest Salute America yet if the French Admiral should prefer a greater number he has his choice on condition.

Df, DNA, PCC, item 168, vol. 1, pp. 27–29 (M247, roll 185). Addressed below the close: “W^m. Carmichael Esq^r” Docketed: “William Carmichael Esq^r on board/the *Deane/Ranger* off Quiberon Bay Feb^y 14th. 1778/ N^o. 2”; “Rel. To Saluting the/French Admiral”; “*Ranger* in the entrance of/Quiberon Bay Feb^y 14th. 1778/To William Carmichael Esq^r/on board the *Deane*.”

WILLIAM CARMICHAEL TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Dear Sir

Quiberon 14th Feby 1778

I should have been extremely happy to be able to contribute to your satisfaction & to the honor of our Country which in this early period of our Empire you so nobly assert, but from the Conversations which I have had the honor to hold with the Admiral & the other Commanding Officers here I am perswaded a farther application will be fruitless. The Admiral says he has no orders to render any other than the common salute which is 3 guns for 21, but that to shew his respect for the flag of the congress, he is willing to return three times the ordinary number. I could wish, that this could be accepted, if it does not too much differ from your own opinion. Captⁿ Jones character & the different commands on which he has acted for His Countrys service were well known to the Admiral & Others. He is therefore expected with much impatience by all the Fleet

There are many reasons which might be urg'd of a Political nature & which I would do in person were I not indispensably engag'd to dine on board the *Bizarre*, where we must go at 12 oClock. Those of the danger from the Enemies cruizers I do not mention to you, altho' we have acc^{ts} of many very near us, because I trust much to your prudence. If You should not come into the road this day, I will endeavor in the afternoon to pay My respects on board the *ranger*, Happy at all times to assure you How much I am [&c.]

Wm. Carmichael

You must excuse the innaccuracies of my Letters for I write Surrounded by 20 different Officers

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6698. Docketed: “Quiberon Feb^y 14th. 1778/N^o 4/from W^m. Carmichael Esq^r”

LIEUTENANTS IN *RANGER* TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Sir,

Ranger Feb^y 14th 1778

We beg leave to inform you, that at the time of our departure from Portsmouth in America, it was thought by us, that Captain Matthew Parke of the Marine department, embarked on board the *Ranger*, with a view of acting according to his Rank, in a Frigate which you were to take the command of, on our arrival in France.

As we humbly conceive and are also inform'd, that no Captain of marines is allow'd to any Ship or Vessell, under twenty Guns, we take it as a hardship peculiar to us, that a person in his Capacity, should remain in the Ship, to take the fourth part of the Three twentieths which are the Shares belonging solely to us (as Lieutenants and Master of the Ship) of any Prize money to be divided for her Officers and Men.

We therefore request the favour of you, (as our Commander,) to dispose of Captain Parke in such a manner, that he may not interfere with us, in any future division, a late instance of that kind has been very disagreeable. Confiding in your good intentions, and wishes for the Satisfaction of every Person under your Command, We are Sir— [&c.]

Thom Simpson
Elijah Hall
David Cullam

L, MdAN, Rosenbach Collection. Addressed below close: "To John Paul Jones Esquire/Commander of the/American Continental Ship of War./ *Ranger*."

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*[*Ranger, Quiberon Bay, France*]

Saturday, 14th Feby.—Very Squally weather, came to Sail at 4 o'clock P.M. saluted the french Admiral & rec'd nine guns in return this is the first salute ever pay'd the American flagg.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

February 15 (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

15th. Sunday squally weath^r The Steward of the Royal Hospital¹ Came here to Inquire into the Quality of our Beer we are served with in Order to make report Accord'y

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. The Royal Naval Hospital in Plymouth.

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[Forton Prison, Portsmouth]

Feb^y 15th this day William Humber and George Pease¹ made their escape over the Peals and got clear off

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777-79, collection 2272.

1. Both of Massachusetts privateer brigantine *Rising States*.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR.

Dear Sir

Ranger Quiberon 15th Feb^y 1778.

As I purpose to sail thro the Fleet in the *Independance* this forenoon I am for the present prevented from having the Pleasure of seeing yourself and my friend M^r Carmichael. I purpose to salute the Admiral in open day that no Evasion may afterwards be made. The *Ranger* wants Ballast, instead of 45 Tons, the quantity of Lead which I at first ordered for Ballast, I find there hath been only 31 Tons put on board this mistake, or Omission must be immediately remedied—perhaps Captain Nicholson will be so obligeing as to spare me 15 or 20 Tons of Lead as he has more than sufficient on board the *Dean*—if he will not that quantity must be had from some other quarter.—I understand that M^r Ross has Lead at Normontier. I will see you in the afternoon—unless you will call on board the *Ranger* after the *Independance* has anchored.

My respects await Captⁿ Nicholson & the Gentlemen on board the *Deane* and I am [&c.]

Df, DNA, PCC, item 168, vol. 1, p. 31 (M247, roll 185). Addressed below the close: "Jon^a Williams Esq^r." Docketed: "Jonathan Williams Esq^r on board/*Deane*/*Ranger* Quiberon Feb^y 15th 1778/N^o 2."; "Rel^t to saluting the French/Admiral"; "*Ranger* Quiberon Bay 15th Feb^y/1778/Jon^a Williams Esq^r"

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*[*Ranger*, Quiberon Bay, France]

Sunday, 15th Feb'y.—Brig *Independence* saluted the french Flag which was return'd.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

February 16

EDMUND BURKE TO LORD WEYMOUTH

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship some important papers transmitted to me by a respectable House in Bristol. They contain an account with the proper Vouchers of the Capture, by American Privateers, of two Newfoundland Ships, in a great part the property of my constituents. One of these Vessels has been taken into Bilboa, the other into S^t Andero. I am desired by the owners & Insurers to request that your Lordship will make a requisition to the Court of Madrid that these Vessels & their Cargoes, or their Value may be restored to the

proprietors. I am authorised to inform your Lordship that if any further information or explanation should be wanting, it will, as far as possible, be procured.

The Gentlemen, from whom I recieved these papers express, in very strong Terms their apprehensions, that if the American privateers continue to receive countenance & assistance in the Spanish Ports, the Trade of our City, already overloaded with high Insurances, & the exorbitant wages paid to Seamen, maybe totally ruined; & particularly that valuable Branch to Newfoundland. I have representations of the same kind from other Gentlemen concerned in the Fisheries. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Westm^{er} Feb. 16. 1778.

Edm Burke

[Enclosure]

Memorandum of the Papers transmitted in M^r Burke's Letter to Lord Viscount Weymouth of the 16th Feb^{ry} 1778. and sent in original on the 20th of that Month to Lord Grantham at Madrid

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- (N^o. 1.) Letter from Mess^{rs}. Lynch Killikelly & Morony to Mess^{rs}. James Rogers & C^o. at Bristol. dated Bilbao. 31st. Dec^r. 1777 concerning the *Nancy* Cap^t Underhill.
- (N^o. 2.) Letter from D^o. to D^o. dated Bilbao. 7th. Jan^{ry} 1778.
- (N^o. 3.) Certificate of the proper Hand writing & Firm of the House of Mess^{rs}. Lynch Killikelly & Morony. Sworn at Bristol the 12th. Day of Feb^{ry} 1778. Before a Master Ext^{ry} in Chancery by James Rogers.
- (N^o. 4) *Nancy's* Protest Cap^t Underhill.
- (N^o. 5) Letter from Mess^{rs}. Lynch Killikelly & Morony to M^r James Bonbonous dated Bilbao. 21 Jan^{ry} 1778.
- (N^o. 6.) Certificate of the proper Hand writing & Firm of the House of Mess^{rs}. Lynch Killikelly and Morony. Sworn at Bristol the 12th. Day of Feb^{ry} 1778 before a master Extraordinary in Chancery by James Bonbonous.

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 59–60. Docketed: "Westminster 16 feb^{ry} 1778/M^r Burke/R, D^o."

CAPTAIN PATRICK FOTHERINGHAM, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS

Sir,

Fox Spithead Febry 16th. 1778

You will please to Acquaint the Right Honble the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I Sailed from Hallifax the 27th. of January in Company with his Majestys Ship *Milford*, the *Dunmore* Store Ship, two Briggs and a Schooner; the Briggs and Schooner tho' under my Convoy I parted Company with the 2^d. of February in the Afternoon, from Sir William Burnabys hailing me, and Acquainting me, that his Ship was Leaky and without carrying more Sail than it was possible for them to do to keep up with us he thought the Ship was in danger; the next day we Saw a strange Sail to the Eastward and it being but very little out of our Course I gave chase to her as did the *Milford* and the Store Ship, but by Steering different Courses in order to cut her off we parted Company and tho' I saw the *Milfords* Lights that Night, made Signals, and lay too 'till next day at twelve OClock, I never afterwards could join her or the Store Ship, I therefore made Sail for this Port where I Arrived this day: I inclose you Lord Viscount Howes Letter for

my Resuming the Command of the Ship and a Copy of Sir George Colliers Order for my proceeding to this Port¹

I hope their Lordships will please to give Orders for the Ship's being Refitted as in particular the Rigging is extreemly bad, And likewise give an Order for my Conduct being inquired into by a Court Martial for the loss of his Majestys Ship *Fox* on the Banks of Newfoundland 1777.² I am [&c.]

Pat^k: Fotheringham

L, UKLPR, Adm. 1/1790, fol. 357. Addressed: "On his Majestys Service/To,/Philip Stephens Esq^c/Admiralty Office./Whitehall." Docketed: "*Fox* at Spithead/16 February 1778/Cap^t Fotheringham/inclosing Copy of a/Letter from L^d Howe, of an/order from Sir George/Collier, and the said/ship's state & condition."

1. Vice Adm. Viscount Howe to Fotheringham, 20 Aug. 1777, *ibid.*, fol. 359; Capt. Sir George Collier, R.N., to Fotheringham, Jan. 1778, *ibid.*, fol. 358.

2. For the capture of H.M.S. *Fox*, 7 June 1777, by Continental Navy frigates *Boston* and *Hancock*, see *NDAR* 9: 47, 85–88, 304–6, 361. On 21 Feb., the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty ordered Adm. Sir Thomas Pye to assemble a court-martial to inquire into the cause of the loss of the *Fox*. UKLPR, Adm. 2/104, fols. 149–50.

MARQUÉS DE BASSECOURT TO CONDE DE FLORIDABLANCA

Ex^{mo}. Sor.

Mui Sor^o mio: En Cumplimiento de lo que se sirve V.E. Ordenarme con fecha de 7 del corriente, dirijo a sus manos el adjunto extracto de todo lo ocurrido y providenciado acerca del Navio Ingles nombrado la *Bretaña*, mandado por Juan Allen, y apresado a la altura de Santander por Geremias Hilbert Capitan del Buque Corsario Anglo Americano nombrado el *Hawke* O *Gavilan* subsistiendo en arresto la Marineria no como procedente del referido Corsario (pues este nunca se ha presentado ni aun a la vista de este Puerto) sino como Capitan y Tripulacion del Navio la *Bretaña* que vino a este Puerto sin legitimos Documentos para navegar, y con tanto cumulo de papeles fingidos, de que participe a V.E. con fecha de 5 de Diciembre ultimo, y en cuya vista se sirvio prevenirme en Orden de 15 del mismo, que S.M. aprobava lo practicado por mi en este caso, y que queria la determinaba segun justicia con arreglo a las Ordenanzas de Corso, y libre apelacion al Supremo Consejo de Guerra.

Juan Emeri no es Capitan de embarcacion alguna como me indica VE en su citada orden de 7 de este, sino un Apoderado o Factor de los Anglo Americanos residente en la villa de Bilbao, segun la relacion, que de el me han hecho.

Fuedo a las Ordenes de V.E. y ruego a Dios Guarde su vida en toda felicidad^d. m^s. a^s. Sⁿ. Sevastⁿ. 16 de Febr^{ro}. de 1778. Ex^{mo} Señor [&c.]

el Marq^s De Bassecourt

[Enclosure]

Extracto de todo lo ocurrido y providenciado acerca del Navio que se supuso Anglo Americano nombrado la *Bretaña* mandado por Juan Allen de la misma Nacion.

En 2 de Diziembre prox^o. pasado entro en el Puerto de Sⁿ. Sebastian con Vandera Anglo Americana y carga de Bacalao el Navio nombr^o. la *Bretaña* su Capitan Juan Allen, y fue admitido a Platica y Comercio en virtud de la Patente de Sanid^d. y demas Documentos que presentó como procedente de uno de los Puertos de las colonias Anglo Americanas, y ser su Carga de licito Comercio.

El Comand^{te}. Gen^l tubo secreto aviso de que era falso cuanto el referido Capitan Allen relaraba, y fingida los Papeles que presentaba, por lo que providenció inmediatam^{te}. que de le tomare su Declaracion jurada, y en su vista se procediera a lo demas a que huviere lugar, y con efecto haviendose egecutado y prestado su juramento segun el estilo de su crehencia y Nacion declaro, Que el 25 de Octubre havia salido mandando dho Buque con nueve hombres de Tripulacion del Puerto de Newrah y distante 75 leguas del de Boston con Carga de Bacalao y Grasa, y destino p^a. alguno de los Puertos de España o Francia: Que havia venido al de Sⁿ. Sevastian a consignacion de Dⁿ Ricardo Bermingham de Nacion Irlandes a quien havia envyado los Conscimientos de la Carga (y el que anterior a esta diligencia se havia presentado al Comand^{te}. Gen^l manifestandole los conscim^{tes}. y Carta de consignacion) y cuya carta de consignacion [*illeg.*] Que no tenia Patente o Pasaporte para navegar, Despachos de Aduana, Carta Partida, Contrato de Fletamento, Lista de Equipage ni otro Documento, que lo autorinase a la Navigacion mas que la Patente de Sanidad, que havia ya presentado a su entrada, la citada carta de consignacion y Conscimienta, la orden de los Dueños del Buque, que lo eran los S^{rs}. Thracey et Tracey para seguir su viaje una letra librada por estos sobre el Importe de la Carga y el Diario de su Navegacion, y que la falta de los demas Documentos indispenablos para navegar derivaba de las Turbulencias de su Pays, con otras muchas responcias falsas a las preguntas y Cargos que en su declaracion se le hiaeron.

En su consecuencia con arreglo a los Articulos 4^o. y 72^o. Titulo 5^o. trad^o. 6^o parte primera de las ordenanzas du Marina al Artic^o. 707 de la orden^{zas} de 7^o. de enero de 1757, y posteriores R^s. Resolucionas providencio el Gen^l con Acuerdo de so Avesor el Arresta del mencion^o. Juan Allen y su Tripulacion y Secuestro del Buque y Carga, y que se tomasen sus confesiones a los nueve Marineros.

Estos declararon sin discrepancia lo mismo que su capitan, y haviendo pasado al Embargo en prevado se hallo en la Camara y Baul del Capitan una carta en fecha el 29 de Noviembre firmada por Geremias Hilbert, Capitan de la escora o Galeta Corsaria nombr^a. el *Hawke* o *Gavilan*, en que previene a Juan Allen “que aquella Presa de se dirigiere a Sⁿ Sevastian en donde de seguir las instrucciones que le diesen los Comerciantes a quienes benia consignado: Que hiciere un Diario procurando evitar Errores, principiandolo desde 25 du Octubre, y disponiendo lo con toda la arte y maña que fuese posible, que cuidase que toda su gente fuese de una palabra (esto es que todos respondieren una misma cosa) Que alli le remidia una carta de Sanidad, y algunas cartas que cuidase hacerlas or ponerlas tan viejas como su Diario, y que este parezca como si fuese a la Mar desde el 25 du Octubre: Que como Baiton havia escrito aquella Renglones se lo imbiaba para instruirte como queria qe se governase” y por Post Data: “Procure VM de no dejar a su gente de dar soplo a descubrir el Viage”

Ya puestos en prision, sea temerosos de su suerte si se descubria la verdad, o (lo mas cierto) noticiosos de haverse hallado la mencionada Carta, prrieron el Capitan Allen, y cuasi todos los Marineros, que querian hacer segunda declaracion, y haviendose presentado el SS^{rs} de la Causa e Yinterprete, depusieron, Fue cuanto havian testificado en sus primeras confesiones era falso: Que la Verdad era que ellos eran parte de la Tripulacion de la Goleta o Scora Corsaria Anglo Americana el *Hawke* del mando de Geremias Hilbert, Que el Navio la *Bretaña* era

Presa que havian hecho a los Yngleses 3 leguas distante de Santander: Que havian venido a este Puerto siguiendo las ordenas del citado Hilbert su Capitan, sin reflexionar los riesgos a que se exponian.

Como la Carga es genero que no puedo conservarse se ha vendido en publica subasta con arreglo a lo que previene el Citado Titulo 5º y tratº de Presas, y por que por las mismas Ordenanzas debe ser confiscada como tambien el Buque, aunque un emite con prevencia de loque previene el Articº 53 del mismo Titulo.

En este Estado se presento Juan Emery, que dijo ser Anglo Americano y residente en Bilbao, presentando Poder del expresado Capitan Geremias Hilbert para reclamar la Presa, pero se declaro a Emery por no parte atenta la cualid^d de la causa por la criminalidad que tan manifestam^{te} resulta contra Hilbert, Fautor de tantos falsos Papeles, y entre ellos de una Carta o Patente de Sanidad, por que a ningun criminal ausente se le oye por Poderes si el mismo no se presenta.

Posteriormente se presento Jon Wohod Capitan Apresado del Navio la *Bretaña* pidiendo el Buque y su Carga por haver sido injustamente apresado con bulnacion del territorio de España a las inmediateciones del Puerto de Santander sobre cuya demande se han presentado en Autos hasta ahora considerable porcion de Scritos y probanzas tanto por parte del referido Wohod apresado como por la de Allen Cabo de Presa arrestado.

En el Curso de la Causa ha presentado Dⁿ Franciso Larralde Diurequi del Comercio de esta Ciudad de Sⁿ Sevastⁿ. Otra peticion pidiendo la Soltura de Juan Allen y su tripulacion, a que se [*two words illeg.*] de que presentase scriptura Guarentigia haciendo causa propria del Negocio Ageno, pero hasta la fecha de esta no lo ha egecutado.

Con fecha de oy se ha provisto Auto Asesorado mandando recibir la Causa a prueba con mutuas Citaciones de ambas partes, para que prueban lo que a sus derechos combenga con termino de 15 dias, y que se ratifiquen los hechos que sin citacion de partes, se hallan presentados en Autos; Y es el Estado en que se halla la Causa.

San Sevastian 16 de Febrero de 1778.

De Bassecourt

[Translation]

Most Excellent Sir

My Dear Sir: In compliance with your orders dated the 7th instant, I am sending you the attached extract of all that occurred and was decided concerning the English ship named the *Britannia*, commanded by John Allen, and seized off Santander by Jeremiah Hilbert, captain of the Anglo-American privateer named the *Hawke*, or *Gavilan*; still in custody is the ship's company, not of the aforementioned privateer (since the latter has never appeared in, or even within sight of, this port), but the captain and crew of the ship *Britannia*, which came to this port without proper documents for sailing, and with a great many false documents, of which I informed your Excellency on 5 December last, and in consideration of which you saw fit to advise me in an order of the 15th of the same month that His Majesty approved what I did in this case, and that he wanted the matter resolved with justice in accordance with the privateering ordinances and with free recourse to the Supreme Council of War.

John Emeri is not captain of any vessel, as Your Excellency indicates to me in your aforementioned order of the 7th of this month, but a representative or agent of the Anglo-Americans residing in the town of Bilbao, according to the report that they have given me concerning him.

I remain at Your Excellency's service, and may God keep your life in complete happiness for many years. San Sebastian, 16 February 1778. Most Excellent Sir [&c.]

The Marqués de Bassecourt

[Enclosure]

Extract of everything that has happened respecting the Ship *Bretagne*¹ supposed to be English American property, commanded by John Allen of the same nation.

The ship called the *Bretagne*, Captain John Allen carrying an English American Flag, laden with Codfish, entered the port of St Sebastian the 2^d Decem^r last. On examination of his Bills of Health & other documents which showed that he came from the Colonies, he was admitted to trade, his Commodities being in other respects admissible.

The Commandant General having been secretly informed that all what Captain Allen had related was false, & his sea papers were forged, directly ordered him to make his declaration under oath in order to act accordingly. He therefore declared that he sailed the 25th Octo^r Master of the said vessel with a Crew of Nine Men from the port of Newberry 15 Leagues from Boston with a cargo of Codfish & Hog Lard for some Spanish or French port: That he came to St Sebastian Consigned to M^r Richard Bermingham an Irishman to whom he delivered Bills of Lading of his Cargo, similar to that he had presented to the Commandant General, & the letter of consignment: That he was furnished with neither a Register nor permit for sailing nor with a Custom House clearance, Charter party, Bill of Freight, Shipping paper nor any other document authorizing him to navigate excepting the Bill of Health presented at his Arrival, the aforementioned letter of Consignment & bill Lading, the order of Mess^{rs} Jyhacey & Fracey owners of the vessel to pursue his voyage, a Bill of Exchange from them for the amount of the Cargo & the journal of his voyage—that the want of the other papers was owing to the troubles of his country: & to the questions put to him he made many false answers.

Therefore according to the 4 & 72 Articles title 5th of the 6th. Treaty the first part of the Ordinances of the Marine Art. 101 of that of the 1st. Janu^y 1756 & other positive decisions of the King, The Commandant General ordered with the consent of his council, that the said John Allen & his Crew should be seized the vessel & cargo sequestered & that the nine Sailors should be examined.

The latter made the same declaration as the captain. The Embargo was executed. A letter was found in the Captain's Trunk in the Cabbin dated 29th. Novem^r signed Jeremiah Hilbert Captain of the Privateer called the *Hawke*, by which John Allen is ordered "to go with this prize to St Sebastian where he was to follow the instructions of the merchants to whom he was consigned; that he sh^d make out a journal without committing any mistkes, beginning it the 25th Octo^r & to use every art & address in framing it: that he should be careful that all his people should tell the same story, that is to say that they sh^d answer to the same questions; that he would find a Bill of Health & some other papers which he sh^d. endeavour to make

appear as old as his journal, as if he had been at sea ever since the 25th. Octo^r that as Baiton had written on the subject in question, he referred him to him for his instructions that he might know how to govern himself." he added in the Postscript, Endeavour to prevent your people from blowing or discovering your voyage.

Being in prison & apprehensive off their fate should the truth be known, or what is more probable, being certain that the aforementioned letter was discovered, the Captain & almost all the Sailors demanded to be heard in order to make a second declaration. The Clerk & Interpreter having presented themselves for the purpose they acknowledged all that they had advanced was False, that they really were part of the crew of the English American privateer the *Hawk* Cap^t Jeremiah Hilbert the ship *Bretagne* was a prize taken from the English 3 Leagues from Saint André that they came to this port agreeable to the orders of their Cap^t Hilbert, without attending to the risk they run.

As the Cargo could not be kept it was sold to the highest bidder agreeable to the 5th title of the Treaty of prizes, as it was subject to confiscation agreeable to the same ordonnances as well as the vessel according to what is said in the 53 Article of the same treaty title.

In this state of Affairs John Emery presented himself calling himself an English American residing at Bilboa, & furnished with a power of Attorney from Cap^t Jeremiah Hilbert to claim the prize: but he was informed that he could not be accepted as a party from the nature of the cause which rendered M^r Hilbert Criminal on account of so many false papers, amongst which was found the Bill of Health & that no criminal could be heard by Attorney unless he presented himself.

Lastly John Wood, captain of the ship *Bretagne*, came to claim his vessel & Cargo as having been unjustly seized, as an infraction on the territory of Spain being near the port of S^t André, of which many witnesses & proofs have appeared at the trial on the part of Wohod & Allen under arrest.

During the Trial Don Francis Larralde Diustequi trading at S^t Sebastian demanded the enlargement of John Allen & his crew; on which it was ordered that he should present a writing as guaranty for taking the affair of another on himself; but he has not as yet done that.

It has this Day been ordered, with the citation of the two parties, that each of them shall prove within the term of a fortnight whatever they may judge fit in support of their rights by certifying the facts which without the concurrence of parties are found in the process. This is the state of the cause. St Sebastian 16th. Feb^r. 1778

(signed) de Bassecourt

Faithfully translated from the Original by John Pintard.

L, SpMAH, Estado, legajo 3884, expediente 2, document 7; contemporary translation of enclosure: DNA, PCC, item 83, vol. 1, pp. 199–214 (M247, roll 110). This translation is of a copy of the letter in French enclosed in a letter from Arthur Lee to the Continental Congress, dated 8 Apr. The successive translations from Spanish to French to English resulted in some corruption of the text. For instance, the original Spanish report names the pretended owners of the *Britannia* as "Trhacey et Tracey," the French version has "Jrhacey et Fracey," and the English, "Jyhacey et Fracey." In naming the owner, Prize Master John Allen apparently meant the prominent Newburyport mercantile firm of Nathaniel Tracy and John Tracy, owners of the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*, Capt. Jeremiah Hibbert. Arthur Lee most probably obtained his copy of the enclosure from Conde de Aranda, to whom Conde de Floridablanca sent it in response to Arthur Lee's inquiry about the case of John Allen and his crew. Floridablanca to Aranda, 2 Mar., SpVAS, Estado, libro 183, fol. 86.

1. Note that the contemporary English translation is from a French version and uses a French spelling for the name of the *Britannia*.

CONDE DE FLORIDABLANCA TO FRANCISCO DE ESCARANO

au Pardo le 16. fev^{er} 1778

J'accuse la réception de vos dépêches des 23 Janvier. Vous m'y rendés compte de la conversation que vous aviés eus la veille avec le Lord Weymouth, et de celle qu'avoit eus avec lui l'ambassadeur de france, qui toutes deux ont eu pour objet principal de sa plaindre des insultes commites par la marine angloise. Nous avons été étonnés du langage du Lord Weymouth, lorsqu'il vous a parlé du Corsaire Cunningham, langage contraire et opposé aux faits que l'ambassadeur Grantham ne peut ignorer, et qu'il doit avoir communiqué à Sa Cour, puisqu'indépendamment de la neutralité qu'on observe ici en général relativement aux Corsaires Américains, il y a pour Cunningham cette particularité, qu'on ne lui permet d'entrer dans aucun des ports du Royaume, depuis qu'on s'est apperçu qu'il vouloit en abuser. Il est bon que vous le tachiés pour le dire aux Ministres, quand vous en trouverés l'occasion, et il sera bon que vous insistiés sur la satisfaction et les restitutions qu'on nous doit. Du reste je puis vous assurer que votre conduite et votre zele ont l'approbation de Sa M^{te}.

[Translation]

The Pardo, 16 Feb. 1778

I acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches of 23 January. In them, you give me an account of the conversation that you had the previous day with Lord Weymouth, and of the conversation the ambassador of France had with him, both of which had for their principal object the complaints against the insults committed by the English navy. We were astonished at the language of Lord Weymouth when he spoke to you of the Privateersman Cunningham, language contrary and opposed to the facts, of which Ambassador Grantham could not be ignorant and which he must have communicated to His Court, since, independent of the neutrality observed here in general relative to American Privateers, there is for Cunningham this particularity, that he is not permitted to enter any of the ports of the Kingdom, after it was perceived that he wished to abuse them. It would be good for you to try to tell this to the Ministers, when you find the occasion for it, and it would be good for you to insist on the satisfaction and restitutions owed us. For the rest, I can assure you that your conduct and your zeal have the approval of His Majesty.

Copy, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fol. 354. Notation: "C^{te} de Floridablanca/[à] Escarano/[*illeg.*] de l'Espanol."

February 17

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

17th. Tuesday fair but Cold—the 9th. Ult. we were served with Candles in Our ward from Mr.— the Bristol Donation Annulled or have in with the London D.—

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO
THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR

Gentlemen

Paris Feb^y 17 1778

This will be handed you by Capt Courter who goes express with our Dispatches to Congress & is to inform you that we have wrote by the Cap^t of the Frigate in which Cap^t Courter takes Passage,¹ for you to Pay the Cap^t of s^d. Frigate the Sum of 15000 Liv^{es}. money of France which Letter of ours we are Confident will meet with due honor; & we have further to ask you to furnish Capt Courter with every thing necessary for his making the greatest Dispatch on his way to Congress—We most Cordially Congratulate you on the very favourable turn w^h. American affairs have lately taken & have the honor to remain with great Esteem Gentⁿ Your &c.

B.F

S.D.

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed below close: "Hon'ble the Committee of War/at Boston."

1. French Navy frigate *Nymphé*, Lieutenant Commandant Nicolas-Antoine, Chevalier de Beaudot de Sainneville, commander.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO CAPTAIN HARMON COURTER

Sir,

Paris Feb^y 17 1778.

We Deliver you herewith our Letters & Dispatches for Congress which you will take Care of, & on no acc^t Let them go out of your Possession until you deliver them up to the Hon'ble Committe of Foreign Affairs. On your embarking secure them in a Proper manner for being Sunk, in Case of being actually taken by the Enemy. We give you 100 Louis D'ors for your expences, of which you will Keep an acc^t & render the same to the Congress, to whom we have recommended you, for such further Consideration as shall be judged adequate to the Services you will render them & the Public, by delivering these dispatches in Safety

We wish you a good Voyage & with recommending the strictest Prudence & Economy remain Sir Your &c.

B.F.

S.D.

A.L.

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Addressed at foot: "Capt. Courter."

JOSEF DE LA VILLA TO CONDE DE FLORIDABLANCA

Ex^{mo} Señor.

Señor.

Hallandome exerciendo el empleo onorifico De Alcalde maior x^a. R^l y hord^a. De esta Villa Del puerto De Santoña por S. M. (q^e. Dios gue.) y como tal y en su R^l. nre., Alcalde, y Castellano De los Castillos De los Castillos De Sⁿ. Martin, y Sⁿ. Carlos De ella; faltaria al Cumplim^{to}. De mi Obligaz^{on}, si omitiese poner en Noticia De V.E. el ynsulto acaecido en esta Costa el día Onze De Enero prox^{mo}. pasado; y hes que aviendo Salido De la Zuidad De Santander (donde estubo De arribada) el Bergantin nombrado *Hooper* su Capitan Guillermo Knapp Cargado De Tavaco De

Oxa con destino para la Ciudad De San Sebastian, llego hasta las Zercanias De este puerto Junto del Arenal De Noxa, en donde obserbo el Capⁿ. q^c. un Barquichuelo a manera De Pescador sin Bandera ni Devisa De su Nazion le Venia Seguiendo y Reconociendo ser Corsario Garnesi armado en Cache Marin¹ se arrimo a dho Arenal con animo De Barar, lo q^c. no pudo Conseguir por haberle acosado al Remo, y haziendo fuego hallandose a Distancia De tiro De fusil Del mismo Arenal, p^r. loque dho Knapp con su Jente hecharon el Vote a la Agua y Salieron todos a tierra llebandose el Corsario el Bergantin apresado y acosendose a mi dho Capⁿ. me hizo Relaz^{on}. De el hecho como a Juez De Fuerra por me díó [*illeg.*] un Pedim^{to}. solicitando le Recibiese ynformazíon a su tenor q^c. se executo así, con diez y seis testigos, los quatro De la Tripulación, y los doze, q^c. hallaron presentes, y todos dan contestes en sus Deposiz^{es}. seg. Resulta Del testimonio q^c. acompaña. Y como el Capⁿ. tiene yntroduzidas sus protestas, y solicita se proceda contra dho Cache Marin su Capⁿ. y Jente, siempre q^c. se verifique arribar a este puerto o qualqa. de sus Zercanias, y estos dias sea dexado ver a corta distancia De este puerto, lo participo a V.E. para q^c. siendo de su agrado me Ordene lo q^c. Devo hazer p^a. Obedezer los preceptos De V.E. a quien deseo prospere el Zielo de la todos años: Santoña y febrero 17 de 1778.

Ex^{mo}. Señor Conde de Florida Blanca

A. L. P. de V. Ex^a.

Josef De la Villa

[Translation]

Your Excellency:

Finding myself exercising the honorific position of high mayor for His Majesty (whom may God keep), for this town of the port of Santoña, and as such and in his royal name, mayor, and governor of the castles of San Martin and San Carlos; I would fail in doing my duty if I omitted giving notice to Your Excellency of the insult that took place on this coast last January 11. Having departed the city of Santander, where it had just arrived, the brigantine named *Hooper*, navigated by Captain William Knapp, laden with leaf tobacco intended for the city of San Sebastian, arrived at the outskirts of this port adjacent the beach of Noxa, where the captain observed a small boat with the appearance of a fishing craft without flag or sign of its nationality, approaching and recognizing it to be an armed Guernsey privateer cachemarin,¹ he drew himself near to the beach with the intent of running aground, but he was unsuccessful because he was being closely pursued and fired on when at a distance of musket shot from the same beach. Therefore, the said Knapp and his people put the boat in the water and went on shore, leaving the privateer to take the brigantine prize. And approaching me the said captain made a formal report of the deed as to a judge, for he gave me a petition seeking information to this effect, which was thus executed, with sixteen witnesses, four of the crew and twelve persons who happened to be present. All gave answers in their depositions according to the testimony that is attached. And as the captain insists on introducing his protests, and solicits proceedings against the said cachemarin, its captain and people, whenever it is verified to arrive in this port or any of its neighborhood, and these days it has been seen a short distance from this port, I inform Your Excellency of it so that you may give me orders of what I must

do to obey the precepts of Your Excellency, whom I wish heaven to favor all the years: Santoña February 17, 1778

Most Excellent Lord Conde de Florida Blanca
At the feet of Your Excellency

Josef De la Villa

L, SpMAH, Estado, legajo 3884, expediente 2, document 8.

1. A cachemarin is a small two-masted craft used in Brittany and on the coast of northern Spain. Another account describes the privateer as a small boat, from Jersey, carrying eight cannon and a crew of forty. Diego de Gardoqui to Bernardo del Campo, 20 Jan. 1778, SpMAH, Estado, legajo 3884, expediente 2, document 4.

February 18

MINUTE OF CABINET

[*London*] February 18th 1778.

Present:

Lord President¹
Lord Privy Seal²
Lord Suffolk
Lord Sandwich
Lord George Germain
Lord Weymouth
Lord North

It was at this meeting unanimously agreed to send orders to the commanders-in-chief on the foreign stations to search and take American ships, or ships loaded for the American colonies now in rebellion, though under convoy of other powers, if they meet them in the open sea.

Sandwich Papers 1: 270.

1. Earl Gower.
2. Earl of Dartmouth.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GENERAL SIR WILLIAM HOWE

(N^o. 26)

Whitehall 18th Feby 1778.

The Hon^{ble}: Sir William Howe.

Sir,

The inclosed Duplicate of my Letter to you of the 4th. instant,¹ by the Packet, will inform you that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to acquiesce in your Request of Leave to quit your Command, and return to England, provided Sir Henry Clinton shall not have left America before that Letter reaches your hands. I now avail myself of the Opportunity of a Ship of War, dispatched express for the purpose of conveying to you and Lord Howe, in the speediest manner, Advice of the salutary measure under the consideration of Parliament, of which you will be fully informed by my separate Letter of this day's Date,² to add, to what I have expressed in my former Letter, that His Majesty, from the Experience He has had of your Zeal and Attachment, to His Service, has the fullest Confidence that whilst

you continue in the Command, you will lay hold of every Opportunity of putting an End to the Rebellion, & inducing a Submission to legal Government, by a due Exertion of the Force under your Orders.—Every means will be employed to augment that Force, and I have the Satisfaction to acquaint you that His Majesty has received the most uncommon Testimonies of Affection and Support in the Prosecution of the War, if the Obstinacy of the Colonies, in rejecting the generous Terms now held out to them, shall make it necessary to continue it, not only from Parliament, but from the People in general.

Several Noblemen & Gentlemen of extensive Influence, and some great Cities, have undertaken to raise new Corps, and in London, Bristol, & many other Towns, considerable Sums have been subscribed to be given in Bounties to Recruits for the old Regiments; nevertheless as the Season must be far advanced before so large Reinforcement can be sent out as might be sufficient to enable you to act at any distance from the Sea Coast His Majesty's Intentions are that you should begin your Operation as early as possible by detaching such a number of Troops as can be spared, consistent with the defensive Plan you have proposed, and, in Conjunction with the Fleet, may be sufficient to attack the Sea Ports in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, for the purpose of destroying their Ships of War and Privateers, by which the Trade of this Kingdom has been so greatly annoyed, and incapacitating them from fitting out others with the like Intent.

You will therefore lose no time in concerting with the Admiral the best means of effecting this very essential Service. I am &c^a.

Geo: Germain

Copy, UKLPR, C.O. 5/95, fols. 30–32.

1. *Documents of the American Revolution 1770–1783 (Colonial Office Series)*, edited by K. G. Davies (Dublin, Ireland: Irish University Press, 1976), vol. 15, *Transcripts 1778*, 37–38.

2. Circular Letter from Lord George Germain to Commissioners for Restoring Peace, General Sir William Howe, Governor William Tryon, Lieut.-General Sir Henry Clinton, Commanding Officer at Rhode Island, Governor Patrick Tynyn. *Ibid.*, 48. “The salutary measure[s] under the consideration of Parliament” were conciliatory bills proposed by Lord North in his speech in Parliament on 12 Feb. On the basis of the terms of those bills, which included the renunciation of Parliament's right to tax the American colonies, a new commission, eventually to be known as the Carlisle Commission, was to be sent to America to negotiate peace. Charles R. Ritcheson, *British Politics and the American Revolution* (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954; reprint ed., Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1981), 258–71.

REGULATING CAPTAINS TO PHILIP STEPHENS

Extract of a Letter from the
regulating Captains to M^r Stephens
dated Tower Hill 18th. February 1778

Please to inform their Lordships y^t Yesterday we received Information of two Americans being on board the *Kent*; lying at Dukes Shore; a Sloop bound to Dunkirk upon which we directed Lieutenant Drew to go on board the *Kent* & secure them, which he immediately affected, (about an hour before the Sloop sailed) on examining them this day we find that one of them, John Carr, was born at Newberry Port, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, that he sailed from thence in the *Dolphin*¹ an Armed Vessel, and was bound to Nantz in France, was taken on her Passage by His Majesty's Ship *Raisonable*, and on her arrival he was sent to Mill

Prison at Plymouth, from whence he made his escape, with Johnson² who commanded the *Lexington*.

the other John Sutherland, was born in Norfolk County Virginia, was taken in the *Lexington* Privatier, & made his escape from Mill Prison with the abovementiond Carr, Johnson and others: we have ordered them into close Confinement & beg their Lordships directions how they are to be disposed of.³

Copy, UkNMM, Adm./M/404. Docketed: "Recd in M^r Stephens Letter of 23^d Feb^y 1778."

1. An error for *Dalton*, a Massachusetts privateer brigantine that sailed out of Newburyport on 15 Nov. 1776 and which H.M.S. *Raisable* captured on 24 Dec. the same year. *NDAR* 7: 802.

2. Capt. Henry Johnson, commander of Continental Navy brigantine *Lexington*.

3. In his letter to the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt in which he enclosed this extract, Philip Stephens conveyed the instructions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the prisoners be recommitted to Mill Prison. *Ibid*.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, 1778*]

18th of Feb^{ry}. Wednesday fair w^r The Governor of Plymouth with his Lady here to Look upon us who says it is Expected that the Americans will be soon Discharged from Prison; but I'm afraid, not true.

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Honorable Gentⁿ.

Quiberone Bay Feb^{ry}. 18th. 1778

I wrote you the 12th. Inst^t from this Place at w^{ch} time I thought we were all Happy on board,¹ but fortunately I believe I may Venture to say, Capt Corvisen & my self had some small difference, on acc^t. of w^{ch}. he and his Officers have done all in their Power to throw every thing into Confusion, but very fortunately M^r Williams² Came on board the next Day, who with the Unprejudiced part our worthy Commedore³ Acted; has setteled the Matter to my satisfaction, & I am convinced will turn out for the Publick Good, Matters at first were related I make no doubt much to my Prejudice, but as things has, & allways will speak for them selves; I believe every Officer in the Fleet, by this time are well Convinced I have been very Ill treated; & nothing but the Good of my Country cou'd have made me put up with; I will say no more on the subject but leave the whole of my Conduct from the first of this affair, to M^r Williams, who I make no doubt will give you A true & Impartial Acc^t of the whole—all is well now on board & there is only 18 French men left us Officers Included & the greatest part of them I refused to take, they being encapubale of any kind of duty I am [&c.]

Samuel Nicholson

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 118. Addressed: "To/The Honorable Silas Deane/Esq/Paris." Docketed: "Capt. Nicholson Feb. 18 1778."

1. See above.

2. Jonathan Williams, Jr.

3. Chef d'Escadre Toussaint-Guillaume, Chevalier de La Motte-Picquet.

AGREEMENTS CONCERNING WAGES AND PRIZE MONEY
OF CONTINENTAL NAVY CUTTER *REVENGE*'S CREW

[*Bilbao, Spain, 14-18 February 1778*]

[1.]

En la Ville De Bilbao le seize fevrier mil sept Cent soixante dix huit, sont comparus anthoine Joseph Chartrelt, Dominique Marchon, andré de Dua, Pierre françois de Niept, marc Joseph Vidor, Joseph Marin, Et Jean françois Robert qui ont Dit quavec Joseph alexandre, Jean Bagner, Jean Jorge Soltner, vincent Sandar, anthoine Puch, françois de la Seca, Beessy [,] Blondiiy, Pierre Escanett, Pierre leshon, philippe ferbor, et leclerc, avoir navigué en Course, Contre la nation Britanique, Dans la Chaloupe De guerre nommée la *Benganza*, Capitaine Gustave Cuninghame, americain avec laquelle ils ont fait plusieurs prises, et entré en cette ville, lesquels Desirant regler avec leur d. Capitaine, et attendre quil nest pas possible de liquider au Juste ce qui Peut leur revenir, attendre quon ne Sçait point si quelqu'unes de leurs prises ont été reprises ou non, et que dautres ne sont point encore Vendües, pour quoy le Sieur Guilhem hodge agent De la d. Chaloupe auroit offert aux d. comparans lesquels ont reçu pour toutes leurs pretentions dans les d. prises, et chacun Deux huit pieces faisant cent soixante Dix Reaux comme Il Paroit par la carte de Payement ou Ils ont Declaré se tenir contens et satisfaits, et a laquelle se sont Conformés les d. Joseph alexandre, Jean Bagner Et Consorts, Contre laquelle les sus d. Comparans Declarent que quoyquils ayant convenus des d. propositions se reserver leurs droits leurs Droits en cas quil leur revienne meilleure Part aux sus d. prises, faisant la presente protestation pour quils puissent Demander et repetter tous leurs Droits, sans que les Conditions quils ont fait, puissent leurs prejudicier, laquelle reserve et protestation faite par les sus d. sept Comparans a Celles fins que la carte de Payement ne puisse leur prejudicier, contre laquelle ils protestent tout ce quon peut protester, et ce en presence de Mathieu Martin delongaray leur procureur, lequel a pretté le serment requis pour les d. comparans, le d. Jour et an que Dessus, signés chartrel, J. marin, Pierre de Nieppe, et comme leur procureur Mathieu Martin delongaray

En presence de SS^m. de Vesine de cette noble Ville de Bilbao, a Comparu personnellement le Sieur quiery, pratique de la langue françoise qui a dit que Joseph Marin, et michel Marchon, de la meme nation, qui aussi presens, ont requis que pour que la protestation par eux faite par Devant m^e. delongaray leur pro^{eur}. Valide Et ait sa force, soit Verifié et par nous scellée et aprouvée en notre office de notaire setenir contents et Satisfaits, reconnoissant etre finanelement payés par cette Deliberation par laquelle ils ont obligé comme ils obligent en leurs personnes tous leurs Biens, Se desistant et desistent de tous droits qui peuvent leurs correspondre, ainsy a Été conclu et arreté en presence du d. longaray interprete, et Ecrivain: Joseph alexandre, Jean Wangner, Jean Sorge Soltner: Vizante Sandar: Recler, Blandin, pierre leciums: chartrel, Marin Manuel Mahmaon, mathieu martin delongaray presence de Dominique de Vgartte, et du N^{re}. public en la possession duquel et en Son office aresté la presente occupé par manuel anthoine de aranguren No^{re}. public du Sa majesté de cette ditte noble ville de Bilbao, laquelle a été affirmée et Signée par Son Secretaire, fait et passé au d. Bilbao le 17. f^{er} 1778. pour temoin lecler Manuel anthoine de aranguren

Delivré la presente Exp^{on}. a Joseph Marin. lequel a payé 16 Reaux de veillon

[2.]

Mathieu Martin de longaray, acompagné d'anthoine Chartral, anthoine lamberto, andré Marran, joseph Vidor Et consorts, ont comparu et dit que Desirant traiter avec leur Capitaine americain pour quil leur soit payé a chacun ce qui peut leur appartenir et Eviter toutes procedures ils ont pris lavoye amiable et choisy un Interprete pour Expliquer leurs Raisons, qui competent a chacun des dits comparans, et ce en presence du d. capitaine, qui a celles fins consent payer aux d. representans ce qui Peut leur revenir, et declarent que se quils fairont par le present Ecrit aura la meme force et valeur quen justice, &^a le d. longaray a la tete de la presente repetition, a déclaré que pour la part qui revient Separement a ramon Naulan, comme il paroît Et resulte par le precedent verbal du capitaine, ainsy que par les attestations qua presenté le d. Ramon, a Eté choisy pour mediateur le Reverend Pere, vicaire de Cahadas, en consequence le d. interprete a demandé que les pretentions du d. Raimon fussent liquidéé, comme celles de tous les interessés, et a faute de ce que le d. Raimon se pourvoiroit comme il aviseroit Bon Etre ou pour quil ni eut pas derreur ni illusion sa part Et portion fut quittéé a Son cousin, en vertu de quoy nous arretons par cet Ecrit dapeler et requerir son d. cousin a celles fins en donner avis au pilote major lequel a eté mandé par M^{rs} prieur et consuls de cette université de cette ville de Bilbao, fait au d. Endroit le 14 fevrier 1778. Signés arechaga: Gonzalo: Mena: anttemy Manuel anttonio de aranguren, certifié veritable: Manuel anttonio de Aranguren.¹

En la ville de Bilbao le 16. f^{er} 1778. en presence du mediateur et pour Se conformer a ce qui a été convenu a l'Ecrit precedent, le S^r com^r Guillermo hoogue agent de la chaloupe de guerre nommée *Benganza* Capitaine Gustave coningam, lequel a comparu pour manuel Ramon, et requis apeller les nommés, Joseph alexandre, jean Bagner, jean jorge Solrrer, Vizantte Sandar, anthoine Such, François delaseca, Berly, Blandyn, Pierre Escarent pierre leshon, philipe ferbor, lecler, anthoine joseph chantele, Dominique marchoin, andrè de dua, pierre françois de miet, marc joseph Vidor, joseph Marin, et Jean françois Robert, qui ont dit que par la mediation de leur interprete, ils confessent et Declarent que pour toutes leurs pretentions qui peuvent leur competer des prises et du tems quils ont navigué avec la d. chaloupe de Guerre, avec le d. capitaine Gustave, et ce au tribunal de M^{rs} les prieur et consuls de luniversité de cette d. ville et après avoir Expliqué leurs raisons avoir reconnu et arreté quil revenoit a chacun deux pour tout reste de toutes pretentions cent soixante dix Reaux, de quoy ils Se Sont contentés totalement et demis de tout recours contre le d. capitaine ou autres, et en consequence confessent en presence du d. seigneur Ess^{no}. et de mathieu Martin de longaray leur procureur avoir Recu En Monnaye Dargent les d. cent Soixante dix Reaux, chacun Deux, au nombre de dix neuf, Denommés en tete du present, De quoy ils confessent apostolique, et procureur du N^o. de cette, M. N^o. y. M. L. Seigneur de Viscaya, lequel a affirmé et signé au pied de la d. protestation De sa main propre et acoutuméé, et Pour quelle sorte son plein et entier Effet en tout ce quelle Contient, Jay certifié en ce Papier Commun, le timbre netant pas usité que foy Doit etre ajoutée en tout son Contenu En foy de quoy Jay signé la presente et Passé En la d. ville de Bilbao le 17. f^{er} 1778.

Signés, [?]ntes [?]im P^a. clerc. Jean Bapⁿ. de Basarsilbaso. S^o. R^l. P^{co}.

Nous Deputé de la nation françoise Residant dans cette ville de Bilbao Certiffions a qui il apartiendra que Jⁿ. Bapⁿ. de Basarsilbaso dont la signature est cy Dessus est no^{re}. Royal et quen cette qualité toute foy doit etre ajoutée aux actes passés par Devant luy tant en Jugement que Dehors, en foy de quoy et pour quil Courte ou Besoin sera, nous donnons le present auquel avons opposé le Scel de Sa majesté a Bilbao ou le papier timbré nest point en usage le 18. fevrier 1778. signé Dabadie./.

[Translation]

[1.]

In the city of Bilbao, the 16th February 1778, appeared Anthoine Joseph Chartrelt, Dominique Marchon, André de Dua, Pierre François de Niept, Marc Joseph Vidor, Joseph Marin, and Jean François Robert, who said that, with Joseph Alexandre, Jean Bagner, Jean Jorge Soltner, Vincent Sandar, Anthoine Puch, François de la Seca, Beesdÿ [,] Blondiiÿ, Pierre Escanett, Pierre Leshon, Philippe Ferbor, and Leclerc, they had sailed on a cruise against the British nation in the sloop of war called the *Revenge*, Captain Gustavus Conyngham, American, with which they made several prizes; and having come into this city, they wish to settle with their said captain, with the understanding that it is presently impossible to determine exactly what could come due to them, it being not yet known whether any of their prizes have been recaptured, and others being not yet sold. In payment for all their claims in the said prizes, each of the said parties here appearing has received eight pieces, amounting to 170 reales, as it is shown on the payroll, a sum with which they have declared themselves content and satisfied, and to which the said Joseph Alexander, Jean Bagner, and associates have agreed; and although the above mentioned persons here appearing have agreed to the said propositions, they declare that they reserve to themselves their rights in the event there a better share in the above mentioned prizes comes due them, which would thereby render the present protest contestable, such that the parties be permitted to request and reclaim all their rights and not be held bound to the conditions that they have currently accepted. Both this stipulation and the protest made by the above mentioned seven persons here appearing are made so that the payroll might not be able to prejudice them, against which they protest all that can be protested, and this in the presence of Mathieu Martin de Longaray, their attorney, who has sworn the required oath on behalf of the said persons here appearing, the said day and year as stated above, signed Chartrel, J. Marin, Pierre de Nieppe, and as their attorney, Mathieu Martin de Longaray.

In the presence of M. de Vesine of this noble city of Bilbao has appeared in person M. Quiry, practitioner of the French language, who said that Joseph Marin and Michel Marchon, also present and of the same nation, require that the protest made by them through their attorney M. de Longaray be verified and by us sealed and approved in our notary office in order to be valid and in effect; and declaring themselves content and satisfied, acknowledge receipt of payment resultant from this deliberation by which they have obligated as they have obligated all their goods, and relinquish all rights that can pertain to them. Thus has been concluded and resolved in the presence of the said Longaray, translator and scribe: Joseph Alexandre, Jean Wangner, Jean Sorge Soltner: Vizante Sandar: Recler, Blandin, Pierre Leciums: Chartrel, Marin[,] Manuel Mahmaon, Mathieu Martin

deLongaray in the presence of Dominique de Vgartte, and of the notary public (the post being presently occupied by Manuel Anthoine de Aranguren, notary public of His Majesty of this said noble city of Bilbao), and affirmed and signed by his secretary, done and passed in the said Bilbao, the 17th February 1778. Witness the clerk Manuel Anthoine de Aranguren
 Delivered the present copy to Joseph Marin,
 who paid 16 reales de vellon.

[2.]

Mathieu Martin de Longaray, accompanied by Anthoine Chartral, Anthoine Lamberto, André Marran, Joseph Vidor, and associates, have appeared and said that, desiring to negotiate with their American captain for payment of what is due each man, and to avoid all legal procedures, they have decided on an amicable settlement and chosen a translator to represent their interests to the said captain, as far as what is due each of them. To this end, the captain, has consented to pay to the said representatives what is due, and they declare that what is decided in the present agreement will have the same force and effect as if done in a court of justice; and the said Longaray, at the head of the present claim, declared that in the matter of deciding that which is due separately to Ramon Naulan, as it appears and results by the preceding statement of the captain, as well as in the attestations presented by the said Ramon, the Reverend Father, vicar of Cahadas, has been chosen as mediator; in consequence, the said translator has requested that the claims of the said Raimon may be dispensed in the same manner as those of all other interested parties, and failing this, the said Ramon proceed as he deems best or so that he may have neither error nor illusion, his share and portion be dispensed to his cousin, by virtue of which we delay as of this writing, in order to summon and request his said cousin to these ends in giving notice to the chief pilot who has been sent by the Messrs. prior and consuls of this university of this city of Bilbao. Done in the said place, the 14th February 1778. Signed Arechaga: Gonzalo: Mena: Anttemy, Manuel Anttonio de Aranguren, certified accurate: Manuel Anttonio de Aranguren.¹

In the city of Bilbao the 16th February 1778, in the presence of the mediator and in order to conform to that which has been agreed to in the preceding document, Commander William Hodge, agent of the sloop of war called *Revenge*, Captain Gustavus Conyngham, who has appeared for Manuel Ramon, and requested to summon the named, Joseph Alexander, Jean Bagner, Jean Jorge Solrrer, Vizantte Sandar, Anthoine Such, François Delaseca, Berly, Blandyn, Pierre Escarent, Pierre Leshon, Philipe Ferbor, Lecler, Anthoine Joseph Chantele, Dominique Marchoin, André Dua, Pierre François de Miet, Marc Joseph Vidor, Joseph Marin, and Jean François Robert, who said through the mediation of their translator that they confess and declare that for all the claims that can be due them from the prizes and from the time that they sailed with the said sloop of war, with the said Captain Gustavus, and this in the tribunal of the Messrs. prior and consuls of the university of this said city, and after explaining their reasons, have acknowledged and determined that there will come due to each of them 170 reales in payment for all outstanding claims, a sum with which they are totally content, and resign all recourse against the said captain or others; in consequence each of the nineteen parties named at the head of the present document confess

in the presence of the said lord and of Mathieu Martin de Longaray, their attorney, and swear on the Apostles to have received in silver coin the said 170 reales; attorney of the notary of this, Lord de Viscaya, who has affirmed and signed at the foot of the said protest in his own hand and has confirmed, so that it bears its full and entire effect in all that it contains; I have certified on the ordinary paper, the stamp not being used, that full credit may be given to all its contents, in faith of which I have signed the present and passed in the said city of Bilbao, the 17th February 1778.

Signed, [*illegible*] clerk. Jean Bapⁿ. de Basarsilbaso. S^o. R^l. P^{co}.

We, representing the French people resident in this city of Bilbao, certify to whom it may concern that Jⁿ. Bapⁿ. de Basarsilbaso, whose signature appears above, is Royal notary and therefore full faith ought to be given to the acts passed before him as much in judgment as outside, in faith of which and for whatever need will be, we owe the present to which we have attached the Seal of His Majesty at Bilbao, where stamped paper is not used, the 18th February 1778. Signed Dabadie.

Copy, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 57, no. 13. Docketed: "affaire/de Cuningham."

1. In the margin: "Ecrit de payement"; "Agreement of payment."

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o: 78.

Corunna 18th. Febr 1778—

My Lord

This Day sennight I had the Honor to address to your Lordship my last Letter.

I have lately received from M^r Edmund Elsdon of Lynn a Letter acquainting me that Application had been made to your Lordship in order to procure the Release of James Grice¹ (Ransomer to the Brig *Patty*) now Prisoner on board the Rebel Cutter commanded by Gustaf Cunningham.² I am therein desired, in case his Liberty cannot be obtained unconditionally, to pay Cunningham or his Agents the Ransom. I have had similar Directions from the Owners of other vessels which have been taken and sent into the Ports of my Department, but having some Doubt respecting the Propriety of ransoming them as it can only tend to encourage the American Privateers to continue in these Seas, and appears inconsistent with the Application made to the Court of Spain not to permit the Disposal of such Prizes in its Dominions. I did not think to undertake it without express Orders from Lord Grantham. His Excellency has just wrote me that he had applied to the Spanish minister for the Release of James Grice unconditionally, but seems to be of my Opinion respecting the Propriety of paying the Ransom, hence before I take any Steps therein I most humbly beg to be honor'd with your Lordship's respected Commands for the Rule of my Conduct.

This Port has received no visits from American Privateers since Cunningham's Departure who is said to be still in Bilbao where his last Prize was permitted to be sold publicly without the least Interruption—

I most humbly beg leave to recommend myself to the Continuance of your Lordship's Favor and Protection thro' which I flatter myself to be removed to a better Consulship when a vacancy will admit of it, and have the Honor to be with the greatest veneration. [&c.]

H Katencamp

L, UklPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 88–89. Addressed at the foot of the first page: “The R^t Hon^{ble}. Lord Viscount Weymouth.” Docketed: “Coruña 18 Feb^r 1778/Consul Katenkamp/(N^o 78)/R. 12 March.”

1. NDAR 10: 901–2.

2. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*, Captain Gustavus Conyngham, commander.

February 19

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

19th. Thursday fair weath^r. Mr. Heath & Sorrey bro^t Each of the Prisoners a Linnen Handkerchief—Also left Money 3s. for Each of the Commission’d Officers, which is the first they have Rec^d. since the Elopement of our Officers, which is all in Silver. This Day finished y^e. Chimney which has been all Winter in Agitation; the Maisons are Now Employed in the Itchy ward.¹

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. The “itchy ward” was a portion of the prison hospital set aside for sufferers from mange.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW PARKE TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Sir,

Ranger Feb^r 19th 1778

I have before me a Copy of a petition from the Lieutenants and Master to you, requesting you would dispose of me that I might not interfere with them in the division of prize money, as the Three twentieths belongs solely to them, that no person of my Rank is allowed on board any Ship under Twenty Guns.¹ I know of no such Resolves however, the two Prizes taken on our Passage,² I have an undoubted right to my part of, according to Resolves of Congress. On our arrival in France I expected to have the Happiness of going on board the Frigate you was to have had the command of,³ this has failed, and these officers are very much dissatisfied at my continuing on board any longer in my Station.

Sir, considering my future happiness and the welfare of the service, I do request a discharge from this Ship (tho’ very disagreeable) that I may return in the Frigate *Deane* to America. I am [&c.]

M. Parke

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6700. Addressed on cover: “John Paul Jones Esq^r/Commander of the Continental Ship of War”; addressed below the close: “John Paul Jones Esq^r/Commander of the American Continental Ship of War/*Ranger*.”

1. Lieutenants in *Ranger* to Captain John Paul Jones, 14 Feb., above.

2. Brigantines *George* and *Mary*.

3. *Indien*.

WILLIAM HODGE TO JOHN ROSS

M^r John Ross

Dear Sir—

Bilboa Feb^r 19th 1778—

You will probably think that I have been very Neglectfull in not writing to you oftener, And the only Apology that I Can offer is, that I have been engaged in the

most troublesome affair that ever I undertook And had I expected that I Should have had half the trouble to Encounter with, the Cutter¹ might have Remained years in Bilboa, before I would have taken the Management of her, but as I engaged with you and M^r Deane that I would take Charge of her, I am determined that Nothing Shall be wanting on my part—All Our Seamen had left the Cutter before my Arrival at Bilboa, but the New England Seamen going on board to pursue the Tobacco Brig, Occasioned our people to go on board likewise, but as Soon as She Returned to S^t Anthonys Our people again left the Vessell—I Immediately went up to S^t Anthonys, and when I went on board, there were a greater [*number*] of prisonners than of Our Men, and its being an Open port, I Wonder that they did not take the Vessell from our people—After my going on board with Six Men as a Reinforcement, there was Still danger, but thank God, we brought her Safe into Bilboa, and I have had nothing but trouble with Our people ever Since—I have been obliged to Settle with them for their Wages and prize Money, and after all One half have left the Vessell. The Wages and disbursements upon the Cutter Am^{ts} to R^s. of Vellon 109284 and the Share of prize Money to the Officers & Crew Amounts to 137750 R^s. of V. Besides their Share of prize Money of the Ship *Hope* and Cargo (which was brought into this port Since my Arrival) in which they Shared one Third and forty two Volunteers who Shared at the Rate of One half, The Ship *Hope* N^r R^s. of V 239..458..24 which Money together with Some More I have been Obliged to take up to discharge the demands against the Cutter—A Letter from the Hon^l Arthur Lee Esq^r To Cap^t Conyngham has been of Considerable detriment to Me and has puzzled Me to know how to Act in Regard to the Accounts, it appears very Artfull and Wicked—As well as a Letter he wrote to Corrunna, likewise One Wrote to the Gardoquies,² who he desires to furnish the Cutter with a Credit only for One half of her disbursements and Charges, Or only half he Says belongs to the Congress—I Shall Enclose you a Copy of the Letter to M^r Ligoniere at Corunna and likewise a Copy of the letter to Captain Conyngham—I hope you will employ Your pen with this Gentleman and Send the Copys to M^r Deane—

The Vessell is very indifferently Manned, Nevertheless I Shall Set Sail to Morrow for Martinique, to which place I hope you will Write Me And inform Me what Answer you have from Arthur Lee Esq^r—M^r Beach³ our first Lieutnant has left Us and will be with you in a few Weeks, he will be a proper person to take Charge of the Cutter that is with you,⁴ if She is not disposed off, I would Recommend that you would Send her to Martinique if She is delivered up to Us—Cap^t Conyngham's unfortunately taking the French Brig,⁵ has been the Occasion of Upwards of Ten Thousand dollars being Stopped in Our friends hands at Corunna, and how the Affair will End I know not—I Shall leave Cap^t Conynghams Accounts of wages and disbursements upon the Cutter to be forwarded you by Mess^{rs}. Gardoques—I am Obliged to hurry out of the port as it is possible that an Order may Come against the Cutter, in Consequence of her takeing the French Brig—Cap^t Conyngham Request me to inform you that there is a ballance due him And in Case any Accident Should happen, that you would take Care that his Wife might Receive it—My Compliments to all friends—And Accept the Same from your friend—& humble Serv^t—

Signed W: Hodge

L, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Docketed: "M^r Hodge to M^r Ross/Bilboa 19 feb. 1778"; "M^r Jn^o. Ross Lett^r. 12th March 1778."

1. Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.
2. Probably the letter written on 15 Nov. 1777, NDAR 10: 996.
3. Lt. John Beach, Continental Navy.
4. Continental Navy cutter *Dolphin*.
5. French brig *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master, taken on 21 Dec. 1777.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP
PELICAN, DATED LISBON, FEB. 19."

"We have taken two American vessels, which we sent for England under convoy of the *Sprightly* cutter, but have since heard they were lost in bad weather.¹ We have since put to sea on a cruize, and sprung our bowsprit, and carried away our mizen-topsail-yard and gib-boom in a gale of wind, which has obliged us to return to the Tagus to refit."

London Chronicle, 24–26 Mar. 1778.

1. *Sprightly* capsized off Guernsey in December 1777.

February 20

LORD WEYMOUTH TO LORD GRANTHAM

N^o. 4/

My Lord,

St. James's 20th February 1778.

The Letters from Your Excellency to N^o. 6¹ have been received and laid before The King.

His Majesty approves of Your Excy's having given proper Attention That the Appeal of the Prize *Syren* taken by Cunningham should be represented in it's true Light to the Council of War; and I am to recommend to you this important Object.

His Majesty learns with great Satisfaction That M. d'Almodovar is appointed Ambassador from His Cath^k. Majesty to this Court, and That he would be instructed to use his best Means to preserve good Harmony between the two Courts. Your Excy will please to signify This to M. de Florida Blanca and renew the Assurances so often & so sincerely made of His Majesty's earnest Desire to remove every Cause of mistrust.

I very much hope That I shall shortly receive a Confirmation of the Report mentioned in your's N^o. 5² That Cunningham had been sent from Ferrol, and had received orders not to return to any Spanish Port. The assistance that has been so long & so frequently given to this Pirate does not agree with the Assurances so often renewed by His Catholick Majesty's ministers of his Desire of avoiding every real Cause of Complaint from this Court.

I transmit to your Excy Copy of a Letter³ I have received from Mess^{rs}. James Sutton & C^o. relative to the *Nancy* Schooner; also Copy of a Letter⁴ from Edm^d Burke Esq^r; one of the Representatives of the City of Bristol, with several original Papers inclosed in his Letter, containing an Account of the *Hope* & the said *Nancy* Schooner being taken by American Privateers and carried into the Ports of Spain. I am to direct your Excy to pay all Attention to the matter contained in these several Papers, and use your best Endeavours to recover the Property for the owners.

I also inclose to your Excy Copy of a Letter⁵ from Lord Macartney to Lord George Germain with five Inclosures. You will represent the Matter therein complained of to M. de Florida Blanca, and represent to that Minister how essential it is That Instructions should be sent to the Governor of Trinidade to use his Endeavour to suppress such Piracies and Robberies as are there stated, and to cause proper Compensation to be made to the Sufferers. I am &c.

Weymouth

L, UkLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 56–58. Addressed: “20, Feb^r 1778/To His Excellency/Lord Grantham/N^o 4.”

1. Lord Grantham to Lord Weymouth, 29 Jan., UkLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 48–50.
2. Lord Grantham to Lord Weymouth, 22 Jan., UkLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 36–37.
3. A note in the margin reads: “7 feb^r.” Printed above at 7 Feb.
4. A note in the margin reads: “16 feb^r.” Edmund Burke to Lord Weymouth, 16 Feb., above.
5. A note in the margin reads: “24 Oct^r 1777.” NDAR 10: 277–78.

HENRI-MAXIMILIEN GRAND TO RODOLPHE-FERDINAND GRAND

Extrait de la lettre de M^r Henry Grand.

Londres le 20. fevrier 1778

Je profite, Mon cher Papa, de l'occasion qui s'offre par M^r Barchmann, pour vous entretenir plus ouvertement de nos affaires.

Je suis ici depuis huit jours. Mes premières démarches ont été d'aller voir M. L'Ambassadeur; après l'avoir mis au fait de notre affaire,¹ il m'a fait espérer que le Navire serait réclamé, mais qu'il n'avait point eut d'ordres. Il est encore je crois à les attendre. Il m'a remis à dimanche pour savoir si j'entamerais un procès pour réclamer le Navire par voye juridique, ou s'il en ferait son affaire. Pour moi je suis grandement d'avis que si les ordres ne sont point encore venus, ils ne viendront jamais, et si tant est cela deviendra une très mauvaise affaire.

J'ai entendu dire que le Gouvernement français se proposait de ne point réclamer les navires pris en dernier lieu, mais qu'il se contenterait de les faire escorter. Je crois qu'on aurait bien tort de mettre celle nouvelle entrave à notre commerce; je l'envisage telle, par ce que je conclus de là qu'on ne réclamera pas plus les navires qui sont encore à prendre, et je puis vous assurer qu'ils ne seront pas en petit nombre si l'on montre une pareille faiblesse.

Je ne sais si nous devons à pareil motif, un ordre très rigoureux, que l'Amirauté vient de donner à tous les Capitaines de Vaisseaux du Roi, de s'emparer de tous les vaisseaux français, n'importe où, l'orsqu'ils leur trouveraient l'ombre de munitions à bord. Ceci n'est point une nouvelle en l'air; je la tiens de M^r Nesbitt, membre du Parlement, à qui elle a été dite par le Second Lord de l'amirauté.² Ceci joint à un grand bruit qui court, que la France vient de signer un traité de Commerce avec les Américains, et un Emprunt de 200. millions de Livres tournois qui va s'ouvrir ici, me fait croire que le Public n'a pas tort de croire la Guerre très prochaine.

J'ai été aujourd'hui à l'amirauté, pour obtenir ma liberté; j'y ai laissé une requête que notre Ambassadeur a goûtée, et je dois demain avoir une réponse du secrétaire.

J'ai reçu depuis mon arrivé ici, deux lettres de notre Capitaine;³ il me marque qu'on a presque tous déchargé le navire, qu'on lui a offert de lui rendre toute sa

pacotille s'il voulait avouer quelque chose et par contre menacé d'une étrange manière. Il a fait dresser, ainsi que je l'en avais chargé, un acte par le quel, lui et ses Lieutenants, déclarent leur vraie destination. Il a ensuite un acte par le quel un matelot déclare lui avoir été offert de l'argent pour dire que nous allions à l'Amérique Septentrionale, et en même tems, qu'il serait exemplé de la prison, qui sera la punition infaillible du reste de l'équipage, à ce que lui disait l'officier qui commande à bord, et que le Capitaine serait pendu. Je ne conçois pas comment ce pauvre Diable à pû résister à tout cela.⁴

[Translation]

Extract of the letter from M. Henry Grand.

London 20 February 1778

I make use, my dear Father, of the occasion offered by M. Barchmann to apprise you more openly about our affairs.

I have been here eight days. My first steps have been to visit the ambassador; after bringing him up to date about our affair,¹ he gave me hope that the vessel would be reclaimed, but he had not yet had any orders. I believe he is still expecting them. He sent to me on Sunday to inquire if I would begin a process to reclaim the vessel through legal means, or if he should make it his affair. For myself, I am largely of the opinion that if the orders have not yet come, they will never come, and if such is the case, the affair will turn out very badly.

I have heard said that the French government has decided not to reclaim the most recently seized vessels, but that it will content itself with having its ships escorted. I believe that it would be a mistake to put this new impediment on our commerce. I foresee such, because I conclude from it that the ships that are yet to be taken will not be reclaimed, and I can assure you that there will not be a small number of them if one displays such weakness.

Perhaps attributable to a similar cause a very rigorous order that the Admiralty has just given to all the captains of the king's ships, to seize all French vessels, anywhere, when there is found the slightest trace of munitions on board them. This is not merely rumor—the information comes from Mr. Nesbitt, a member of Parliament, to whom it was told by the Second Lord of the Admiralty.² This combined with the rumor that France has just signed a commercial treaty with the Americans, as well as a loan of 200 million livres tournois that is going to be opened here, leads me to believe that the public is correct in its belief that war is imminent.

I went today to the Admiralty to obtain my liberty. While there I left a request that our Ambassador has approved, and to which I should have a response from the secretary by tomorrow.

Since my arrival here, I have received two letters from our captain;³ he tells me that the ship has been almost completely unloaded, that he has been offered his private venture if he would swear to something and, if not, threatened in a strange manner. As I had directed him to do, he had a document drawn up in which he and his lieutenants declare their true destination. There followed a document by which a sailor certifies that he was offered money to say that we were going to North America, and at the same time, that he would be exempted from prison, which would be the certain punishment of the rest of the crew, as the offi-

cer who commanded on board said to him, and that the captain would be hanged. I cannot conceive how this poor devil was able to resist all that.⁴

Copy, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fols. 292–93. Docketed: “joint à la lettre du M^r Grand du 24 Fev^r 1778”; “enclosed with the letter from Mr. Grand of 24 Feb. 1778.”

1. The affair was that of the British seizure of the French merchantman *Thamas Koulikan*.

2. See Minute of Cabinet, 18 Feb., above. The second lord of the admiralty was John Buller.

3. Noël Le Peru.

4. Louis Teissier, whom Rodolphe-Ferdinand Grand employed to represent his claim to the *Thamas Koulikan* in the British courts, wrote that “it is said publicly in the quarter of the court that an officer or passenger of the *Thamas Koulikan* had declared under oath that he had received a gratuity for taking the ship into some port in the possession of the rebels.” Teissier to Rodolphe-Ferdinand Grand, 10 Feb. FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fol. 294.

*LLOYD'S EVENING POST, AND BRITISH CHRONICLE (LONDON),
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1778*

Friday, February 20. London.

The *George* privateer, Hasmore,¹ has taken and sent into St. Augustine, two Carolina ships, and retaken a large ship, the *Neptune*, Wallace, from Quebec to Canso, which had been taken on the 15th of October by two privateer schooners, commanded by Leech and Smith, both belonging to Salem,² and, it is supposed, she was sent for that place.

1. East Florida armed ship *George*, John Hosmer, commander.

2. Massachusetts privateer schooners *Dolphin*, John Leach, commander, and *Cutter*, Silas Smith, commander.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

20th. of Feb^r Friday Cloudy w^c M^r Cawdrey has Order'd the Officers that are in the Long P.¹ Down here All that were Committed as such the Others he would Not suffer to come

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. The Long Prison, a two-story, windowless structure along the north side of Mill Prison. Cohen, *Yankee Sailors*, 36.

ARTHUR LEE TO CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM

Cap^t Cunningham,
Sir

Chaillot Feb^r 20th. 1778

I have received your Letter,¹ and I am sorry for the Difficulty you have met with. I have done all I could to extricate you, however the Court of Spain is determined not to allow any Prizes ta[ken] in the manner you have yours,² to be regarded as good P[rizes] you must not however let the present Difficulties discourage you, as I think you may be sastify'd they will not last long. M^r Lagonere of Corogne ment[ioned] that you have left your Prizes at the sole disposal & order of M^r Deane. Where there is no commercial agent what ever concerns the Public of this Kind, should be left under the Direction of the Commisioners or Commisioner of Congress, for that Country. To single out one of the Commisioners, when there is Three it is not right & may be attended with Inconveniences, If

this was done by mistake, I have nothing more to Say concerning it, but if by a particular order, I desire you will send me a Copy of that Order I am [&c.]

A Copy

Arthur Lee

Copy, ScHi, Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS No. 31.

1. Probably Captain Gustavus Conyngham to Arthur Lee, 31 Jan., above.

2. Lee is referring to Conyngham's capture of the French brig *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master, on 21 Dec. 1777.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

Most Confidential

Paris friday night [20 Feb. 1778]

My Lord

The Importance of the Crisis occasions, and will I hope justify the Constant Trouble I give your Lordship. I avail myself of the opportunity of a safe conveyance to inform you, my Lord, that this Court seem now to be ashamed of the strange precipitate Measures they took upon the idle Report of our intended attack upon Brest. The Colonels will have Leave to return to Paris and two of the Regiments that were ordered to march out of Normandy are countermanded. But the Naval Preparations are carrying on both at Brest and Toulon with the utmost Diligence and Vigour. La *Bretagne* now at Brest a first Rate man of war of 110 Guns and reckoned the finest Ship in the french Navy is put in Commission. Great Numbers of men are constantly at work building new ships and arming and equipping every ship that is fit for Service. The Intelligence I had some time ago of orders sent to the Toulon Squadron to join that at Brest has been confirmed to me from several Quarters. I am likewise assured that fourteen or fifteen Frigates have sailed lately from Toulon, that is have stolen out one by one, but what their Destination is I have not yet been able to learn.

There seems the greatest Reason to believe that M. de la Motte Piquet who is now at Brest has received orders to sail immediately with Seven Ships of the Line Three of 74 and four of 64 Guns, and five or six frigates, to convoy all the Ships that are ready to sail for North America. Nommement four pretty large Ships from St Maloes laden with arms, warlike Stores, and various Goods for the use of the Rebels, and some thousand uniforms for the Rebel army. as these uniforms are ready made and totally different from any the French Soldiers wear, they will afford an irrefragable Proof of the Real Destination of these Ships.

M. de La Motte Piquets orders are express not to let these ships be Searched much less seized by us. as the Public in general do us the Justice to believe that we shall not depart from the just and wise Resolution we have taken to stop every foreign ship bound for North America Those who know the orders given to M. la Motte think that Hostilities are now inevitable. indeed My Lord, Should we suffer these ships so protected to pass unmolested, the Consequence is clear, Numbers will follow in the same Manner and the Rebels be amply supplied from hence with Every thing they can want. After all I know all I have seen, it is impossible for me, My Lord, to doubt an Instant that this Court is determined to give them every sort of secret succour is resolved, in a word to do us Every Injury we will endure.

one Informer tells me that M. La Motte is to sail with exactly the same ships he had in his last Cruze, but I am inclined to credit the larger Number. I am positively assured that a Company of Merchants at St. Maloes are going to send out no

less than Twenty Ships laden with Stores and diffit Merchandise for the Use of the Rebels. These ships are probably bound for one of the southern Provinces as they are to bring back Tobacco.

Count Clonard's Second Son¹ who is just returned from England and who it seems has visited all our Ports endeavours to ingratiate himself here by giving a Bad account of our Navy. He says it is far from being in the flourishing State in which we represent it and that many of our Ships are worm eaten and much decayed. The Time is perhaps drawing near when our Rivals who greedily swallow this Intelligence will learn the contrary to their Cost. I am [&c.]

Stormont

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 78/306, fols. 228–29. Addressed at foot of first page: "Lord Visct Weymouth." Docketed: "Paris friday night 20 feb. 1778/Lord Stormont/most confidential/R. 26th by M^r Wilbraham."

1. Thomas Sutton, Comte de Clonard, an officer in the Irish Brigade, had four sons. Two, John and Richard, also became officers in the Irish Brigade. The other two sons, Robert and Thomas, entered French naval service. Richard Hayes, ed., *Biographical Dictionary of Irishmen in France* (Dublin: M. H. Gill and Son, 1949), 292; Christian de La Jonquière, *Les Marins Français sous Louis XVI Guerre d'Indépendance Américaine* (Issy-les-Moulineaux, France: Muller Édition, 1996), 66.

February 21

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, FEB, 21."

"The American prisoners here¹ have received a share of the bounty of the subscribers to their relief, which, I suppose, with cloating, and some little money given them, may amount to about 3*l*. per man; they seem very happy now, and particularly in the notice that has been taken of them. Our dock yard is all hurry and bustle, and will remain so, I suppose, till the end of spring, when the ships will all be fitted for sea."

London Chronicle, 28 Feb.–3 Mar. 1778.

1. American sailors held at Mill Prison.

MICHEL LAGOANERE & CIE. TO WILLIAM HODGE

Monsieur

La Corognele 21 fevrier 1778

Nous avons reçu la lettre que vous nous avés fait lhonneur de nous écrire le 4 du courant.¹ Le courrier est arrivé fort tard et nous n'avons que le temps de répondre a une partie de votre lettre nous reservant de le faire plus amplement le courrier prochain en vous remettant les comptes que vous nous demandés. Par la lettre que nous avons écrite au Cap^e Conyngham² & quil vous aura sans doute communiquee vous aurés vu que par une Suit malheureuse de la prise du navire Français³ nous ne pouvons plus disposer librement des fonds que nous avons a lui dans nos mains. Des nouveaux recours des negociants de cette place appuyés d'un requisitoire du Capitaine General de S^t Sebastian ont forcé nôtre commandant a faire saisir enfin judiciairem^t dans nos mains ces mêmes fonds et nous attendons a tous moments quon nous en ensignifie l'acte. Il nous a été impossible malgré tous nos efforts & toutes nos sollicitations de prevenir ce coup qui nous met dans limpuissance de nous conformer a vos desirs et decreditter pour le present MM

Gardoque du solde de N/C avec le Cap^e Conyngham. Cependant Ce cap^e nous ayant fait entendre qu'il auroit a Se prevaloir sur nous d'une Somme qui lui estoit necessaire pour l'equipement de son navire nous lui avons promis d'accepter ses traites et malgré ce nouvel incident nous sommes disposés a tenir nôtre promesse et dans la Crainte demure au bien de ses affaires en retardant son expedition nous accepterons ses traites ou les vôtres Jusqu'a la Concurrence de six a Sept mille piastres fortes en attendant qu'un obstacle aussi desagreable soit levé & que nous puissions suivant vos ordres disposer de la totalité de la Somme que Se trouve dans nos mains. Cest bien sincerement que nous vous assurons de tout le desagrement qu'un pareil contretemps nous fait eprouver dans cette occasion.

Par la Coppie de la lettre de M. Arthur Lee que nous avons remise au Cap^e Conyngham⁴ vous aurés vu egaleement qu'en Sa qualité de Commissionnaire du Congres il nous somme de retenir dans nos mains et a sa disposition La moitié du produit net des prises qui appartient selon lui au Congrès, nous ne doutons point que vous ne vous entendies avec lui pour faire, où lever, ou Confirmer une disposition que nous lui egaleement les mains

Nous ne pouvons que regrettons egaleement levenement qui nous a privé du plaisir de vous vois ici de vous temoigner combien nous sommes sensibles a vos obligeants expressions & avec quel zèle nous saiserons toutes les occasions de vous enmarques nôtre reconnoissance & la parfaite Consideratⁿ avec laquelle nous avons lhonneur d'être [&c.]

Lagoanere & Comp.

[Notation]

Monsieur Franklyn à bien voulu promitter d'envoyer a mess^{rs}. de lagoanere et compagnie une Lettre ostensible qui leur servirois de temoignage de sa confiance et Les autoriserois en même tems a prevenir Les v^{aux}. ameriquains qui relacheroient soit a la Corogne soit dans quelque mer des ports du royaume de galice de s'adresser a eux.⁵

[Translation]

Sir

La Corunna 21 February 1778

We received the letter that you did us the honor of writing us on the 4th of the current month.¹ The mail arrived very late and we have time only to respond to a part of your letter, reserving for the next mail a fuller reply, with which we shall send the accounts that you asked of us. By the letter that we wrote to Capt. Conyngham,² and which he will no doubt have communicated to you, you will have seen that by an unhappy result of the taking of the French ship³ we can no longer dispose freely of the funds that we have of his in our hands. New appeals of the merchants of this place bearing on a requisition of the Captain General of St. Sebastian have forced our commandant at last judicially to have seized in our hands those very funds and we expect any moment that we will be informed of the act. It has been impossible for us, despite all our efforts and all our solicitations, to prevent the blow that puts it out of our power to conform to your desires and discharge for the present Messrs. Gardoqui's account with Capt. Conyngham. However, the captain having made us understand that he will have to ask us for a sum that he needs to equip his ship, we have promised him to accept his drafts, and despite this new incident we are disposed to keep our promise, and in fear of

delaying his sailing we will accept his drafts or yours up to the amount of six to seven thousand hard piasters, expecting that an obstacle as disagreeable may be raised and that we may be able, following your orders, to dispose of the totality of the sum that is in our hands. It is very sincerely that we assure you of all the displeasure that such a mishap makes us feel on this occasion.

By the copy of Mr. Arthur Lee's letter that we have sent to Capt. Conyngham,⁴ you will have seen as well that in his station as Commissioner of Congress he has summoned us to keep in our hands and at his disposition half the net proceeds of the prizes that belong, according to him, to the Congress; we do not at all doubt that you have come to an arrangement with him concerning what to do, either to remove or to confirm a disposition that also binds our hands.

We can only regret, as well, the occurrence that has deprived us of the pleasure of seeing you here and of testifying how much we are sensible of your obliging expressions and with what zeal we shall seize every occasion of showing you our gratitude and the perfect consideration with which we have the honor to be [&c.]

Lagoanere & Comp.

[Notation]

Mr. Franklin has kindly promised to send to Messrs. Lagoanere and Company an open letter that would serve them as a testimony of his confidence and would authorize them at the same time to alert the American vessels that may put into either Corunna or some of the seaports of the kingdom of Galicia to address themselves to them.⁵

Copy, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, part 1, no. 127. Addressed at foot of first page: "M^r Guillaume Hodges." Docketed: "Lagoanere/Feb^r 21st 1778/Rec^d. open from/D^r Franklin/to answer/April 6th/A. L." The "A. L." refers to Arthur Lee.

1. Not found.

2. Not found.

3. French brig *Gracieux*, Emanuel de Tournois, master, taken by *Revenge* on 21 Dec. 1777.

4. Arthur Lee to Lagoanere & Cie., undated, DLC, Papers of Benjamin Franklin, no. 2668.

5. This notation, in a hand different from that of the letter itself, appears on the verso of the page containing Arthur Lee's endorsement.

February 22 (Sunday)

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE

Gentlemen

Ranger Quiberon Bay 22^d. Feb^r 1778

The within papers N^o. 1 a 4 will best speak for themselves¹ and will I hope account to you for my proceedings since the 22^d of Dec^r when I last had the honor of addressing you.²—the propriety or impropriety of these papers it is not my province to determine—deeply sensible of the Honor which Congress hath conferred on me, communicated in the Orders of the Secret Committee to the Commissioners,³ I can bear the disappointment with Philosophy yet I confess I was rather hurt When, at Paris, I understood that the New Frigate at Amsterdam⁴ had never been intended for me before my appearance but for the Constructor.⁵—

I am happy in having it in my power to Congratulate you on my having seen the American Flag for the first time recognised in the fullest and amplest manner by the Flag of France.—the Brigantine *Independence* Accepted of my convoy from

Nantes to this place—I was off this Bay the 13th. and Sent my Boat in to know if the Admiral⁶ would return my Salute—he Answered that he would return to me, as the Senior American Continental Officer in Europe, the same Salute which he was Authorized by his Court to return to an Admiral of Holland or of any other Republic—which was 4 Guns less than the Salute given.—I hesitated at this, for I had demanded Gun for Gun—therefore Anchored in the entrance of the Bay at a distance from the French Fleet.—but after a very particular enquiry, on the 14th. finding that he had really told the truth—I was induced to Accept of his Offer—the more so as it was in fact an Acknowledgement of American Independence—the Wind being contrary and Blowing hard it was after Sunset before the *Ranger* got near enough to Salute La Motte Picquet with 13 Guns—which he returned with 9—however to put the Matter past a doubt I did not suffer the *Independence* to Salute till next morning when I sent the Admiral word that I should Sail thro' his Fleet in the Brig and would Salute him in open Day—he was exceedingly pleased and returned this compliment also with 9 Guns.

This Squadron consisting of Five ships of the line and three Frigates is Officered by a very well Bred Set of Men they have all Visited the *Ranger* and expressed great satisfaction allowing her un parfait Bijou—When M^r Carmichael and myself Visited their Ships we were received with every mark of respect and Gladness and Saluted with a Feu de Joie.—So much have they endeavoured to Prepossess us in their favor by their constant attention and Civilities that if they are not Serious they are the greatest of all Dissemblers.

I have in contemplation several enterprizes of some importance—the Commissioners do not even promise to Justify me should I fail in any bold attempt—I will not however, under this discouragement, alter my designs.—When an Enemy think a design against them improbable they can always be Surprised and Attacked with Advantage.—it is true I must run great risque—but no Gallant action was ever performed without danger—therefore, tho' I cannot insure Success I will endeavour to deserve it. I have the honor to be [&c.]

NB. The Fleet which I chased off Ushant on my way from America to Nantes was from Giberalter under Convoy of the *Invincible*.

Df, DNA, PCC, item 58, pp. 143–46 (M247, roll 71). Addressed at foot: “The Honorable the Marine Committee.” Docketed: “N^o. 35/*Ranger*, Quiberon Bay/22^d Feb^r 1777—/The honorable/The Marine Committee.”

1. The enclosures were probably copies of two letters from Jones to William Carmichael, of 13 and 14 February, and of two from Carmichael to Jones, of the same dates, printed above.

2. NDAR 10: 1135.

3. Secret Committee of the Continental Congress to the American Commissioners in France, 9 May 1777, in NDAR 8: 941.

4. *Indien*.

5. Jacques Boux.

6. Chef d'Escadre Toussaint-Guillaume, Chevalier de La Motte-Picquet.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE CONTINENTAL SECRET COMMITTEE

[Extract]

Gentlemen

Ranger, Quiberon Bay 22^d Feb^r 1778

Accept my unfeigned and most grateful thanks for the very singular honor conferred upon me by your Orders of 9th. May last, in my behalf, to the

Commissioners in Paris.¹ The preference which Congress then gave me, without my knowledge or solicitation,—and which you have expressed in terms so much to my honor, hath made the deepest and most lasting impression on my Heart.—but I want words to express my sense of the reasons which you have given for showing me such preference, when I find among them mention made of my “Zeal” and “Signal Services” which it is the intention of Congress to “reward”—I can only say that I beg of you Gentlemen to Assure Congress it shall be the Ambition of my life to merit the continuance of their Approbation which I shall always esteem as the greatest honor and the most ample “Reward.” . . .²

Df, DNA, PCC, item 58, p. 147 (M247, roll 71). Addressed at foot: “The Honorable The Secret Committee.” Docketed: “N^o. 36/*Ranger*, Quiberon Bay/22^d. Feb^r. 1778/The Honorable/The Secret Committee.” On 5 July 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the Secret Committee with the Committee of Commerce.

1. Secret Committee of the Continental Congress to the American Commissioners in France, 9 May 1777, in *NDAR* 8: 941.

2. The paragraph not printed refers to an ode Jones enclosed.

February 23

LLOYD'S EVENING POST, AND BRITISH CHRONICLE, (LONDON),
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1778

Postscript. London.

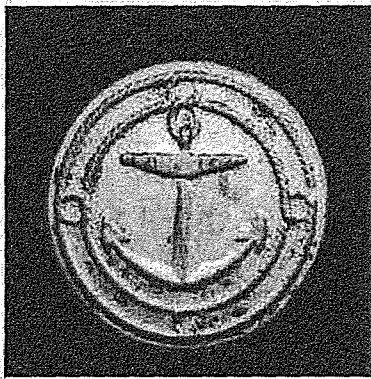
Letters from Dublin by the last Mail mention, that Capt. Wilson, of the *Hibernia* snow, from the Cape de Verde Islands for Corke, had been taken the 29th of December last by an American privateer, of 16 guns, called the *Alligator*, which had made prizes of an English ship from the Coast of Guinea, and a brig bound from Corke to the Madeiras; that several of the crew belonging to the Rebel privateer being English and Irish, a plan was laid by them, and the prisoners, to seize the ship, which was accordingly put in execution in the night of the 2d of last month, upon changing of the watch. The conflict lasted several hours, in consequence of the Lieutenant of the *Alligator* having secured himself, and several of his people, in the great cabin. They at length, however, capitulated, and the British Sailors carried their prize into the Bay of Fonchal. Seven of the Americans were killed upon this occasion, and five of the Insurgents, amongst which were Capt. Wilson, and Mr. Lucas, a young Gentleman who had considerable property on board the *Hibernia*.

INTELLIGENCE FROM PARIS

[Extract]

Paris le 23 Fevrier 1778.

M^e de la Mothe-Piquet, qui commande Cinq Vaisseaux, et Trois Frégates, a mis à la Voile de Quiberon, pour convoyer au loin Quinze gros Navires sortis de Nantes, et richement chargés pour Boston; c'est M^e Franklin qui a fait charger ces Batimens de 25 Mille Habits Uniformes, et autres Provisions de Guerre: M^e de la



*Seal on letter of Captain John Paul Jones to Captain Hector McNeill, 23 February 1778,
and uniform button belonging to John Paul Jones*

Mothe-Piquet a deffense de les laisser visiter; on peut s'en raporter à Lui pour cela. Il est parti avant hier 150 Chirurgiens et Cent pour Toulon. . . .

[Translation]

Paris, 23 February 1778

M. de La Mothe-Piquet, who commands five ships of the line and three frigates, sailed from Quiberon to convoy out to sea fifteen large merchant vessels departing from Nantes and richly laden for Boston. It is Mr. Franklin who had these ships freighted with 25 thousand uniforms and other materials of war. M. de La Mothe-Piquet has forbidden access to these ships and his judgment in this matter will be respected. The day before yesterday 150 surgeons departed, one hundred of them for Toulon.

D, UklPR, Adm. 1/3965, fol. 62.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE CONTINENTAL NAVY
BOARD OF THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT

Gentlemen

Ranger, Quiberon Bay 23^d. Feb^y 1778

The inclosed papers¹ will I hope Justify me in having allowed Captain Parke of the Marines to return to America in the Frigate *Deane*—it is certain that such an Officer is unnecessary in this Ship—Yet I cannot applaud the Motive which hath been urged for removing him.

My reason for complying with the desire of the Lieutenants and Master is that peace and Unanimity may prevail when I command

I am now single and alone in Europe—Surrounded with Enemies—and having several enterprizes in Contemplation—any Misunderstanding among my little Crew might prove fatal to my designs as well to my reputation in the Service These considerations will, I am sure, have their due weight with you—they are submitted with due respect by Gentlemen [&c.]

NB. I beg leave to refer you to Captain Parke for the particulars of my situation and Proceedings since I left Portsmouth.

Copy, DNA, PCC, item 168, vol. 1, pp. 35–36 (M247, roll 185). Addressed at foot: “The Honorable Eastern Navy Board Boston.” Docketed: “*Ranger*, Quiberon Bay/23^d. Feb^y 1778/The hon^{ble}./The Eastern Navy Board/Boston”; “The Hon^{ble}. The Eastern Navy Board/Boston/*Ranger*, Quiberon Bay Feb^y 23^d. 1778./N^o 2.”

1. Probably copies of Lieutenants in *Ranger* to Captain John Paul Jones, 14 Feb., and Captain Matthew Parke to Captain John Paul Jones, 19 Feb., printed above.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL

My dear Sir,

Ranger, Quiberon bay 23^d Feb^y 1778

I promised myself the pleasure of seeing you in France before this time. A War is kindling up in Europe—with which I am afraid America will be but too nearly connected and too much involved.—I anticipate this connection with real pain at a time when America is in fact Independent; for our Enemies have no more Troops to send out and those now in America must soon be swallowed up.—Since no power in Europe hath fought our Battles I can see no reason why we should fight theirs.

For the particulars of my peregrinations since I left Portsmouth I must refer you to Captain Parke who returns to Boston in the Frigate *Deane*.—I have sent in a Box to Gen^l Whipple¹ 2 P^r Satin Slippers for your young Ladies of which I beg their Acceptance,—when I am to return from Europe to Boston I will hope to procure some more worthy of their Acceptance—for the present tho' bespoke, are not at all to my liking. My best Compliments and wishes await M^{rs}. M^cNiell and the Family, and I am with Sentiments of real Esteem [&c.]

Jn^o P Jones

L, MdAN, Manuscripts Collection, No. 211. Addressed: "Hector M^cNeill Esquire/Boston." Docketed: "Jn^o Paul Jones/Feb 23^d/1778."

1. William Whipple.

CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM TO LIEUTENANT JOHN BEACH

D^r Sir, portegalt¹ [*Spain*] Feb^y, 23^d. 1778.

Since I left you I have nothing but trouble from one thing to Another When you Arrive heare and receive this letter Apply to Mess^{rs}. Guardoqui Who I left Orders to supply you with What is Nessary And I beg of you to take Care of Tom. I should Advise you to Go from heare to Bordeaux And Apply theare for a passage to Martinique, As I leave this port with the intention of Going to martinique if possible, and theare try our luck for nothing is to be done in Europe At Burdeaux Apply to Mess^r Delap and make use of the Vessels Name you belong^d too And he may be of Service to you. if you should Go to Nants M^r John Ross will Assiste you, What ever expence you will be at for the Boy Tom you may Depend on being thankfully paid. I remaine [&c.]

G. C.

LB, UKLPR, H.C.A. 32/441/7, pt. 1. The addressee was first lieutenant of the Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.

1. Portugalete.

February 24

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT HOWE

My Lord

[*Admiralty Office*] 24th. Feb^{ry}. 1778

Your Lordship having in Your Letter of the 23^d. of Nov^r. last¹ expressed wishes that my Lords Commiss^{rs} of the Admiralty would take into their consideration the particular Officers in whom they will permit you to vest the authority with which you are intrusted, in case of your inability to execute the various duties of the very complicated Service committed to your care, which you seem to be apprehensive your impaired constitution will not allow you to attend with the punctuality that the nature & importance of it requires; & the Earl of Sandwich having signified to the Board that from some information he has received there is a possibility that Your Lordship may wish to return to England.

I have it in comm^d. from their Lordships to acq^t you that Vice Adm^l. Byron will be sent to join your Lordship with the utmost dispatch, &c. that if upon his arrival your Lordship should from the ill state of your health or from any other motive

wish to return to England they are pleased to permit you to do so in the *Eagle* or any other Ship of your Squadron you may make choice of leaving in such case the Command of the Squadron with Vice Adm^l Byron, with such Instructions as your Lordship shall Judge proper to give him for carrying into execution the various important Services which have been committed to your care; But their Lordships command me at the same time to express their most sanguine hopes that you will find no occasion to avail Yourself of this Leave but that you will continue in the Command which you have hitherto executed so much to their satisfaction, so much to the credit and advantage of His Majesty's Service. I have the honor to be with great consideration My Lord &c.

P S.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/557, fols. 93–94. Addressed at foot: "Vice Adm^l Lord Howe &c. &c./N^o America)." Notation at foot: "By the *Andromeda*—Returned being too late, and sent by the *Ardent*. Duplicate sent by the *Lowestoffe's Prize* 23rd. March 1778."

1. NDAR 10: 583–87.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

Most Confidential

Paris Monday Night

My Lord,

feb. 23. 1778

It begins now to be pretty generally known that M. de La Motte Piquet has orders to sail immediately (if he is not actually sailed) either with five or Seven Ships of the Line. The accounts vary but as I have already told Your Lordship I am inclined to credit the larger Number. It is likewise known that He is to take several Merchant Men under his convoy according to the best Information I have been able to collect He will convoy all the Ships that are ready to sail for North America. They amount to Eighteen or Twenty, perhaps More and will join Him from Different Ports, from St Maloes, Nantz, L'orient, La Rochelle, &c. These Ships whatever Clearances they may take out are certainly bound ultimately for North America, and are laden with arms, ammunition, Regimentals and various Sorts of Merchandise for the use of the Rebels. Several of them have I believe, american as well as french Captains and will carry occasionally either French or american Colours.

This Measure which as Your Lordship well knows has been in agitation for some time and which is a direct Violation of all Friendship, all Good Faith, has, I am told, been pushed on by M de Sartine and M. de Vergennes who are now secretly connected and have of late taken the french Kings orders upon several Points, unknown to M. de Maurepas. I do not however, My Lord, mean to say that M. de Maurepas was a stranger to the whole of this Measure, on the contrary he certainly was privy to the original Project, but from that Irresolution which is habitual to Him, sometimes approvd it, sometimes dreaded the Consequences, and whilst he was in this State of Suspence, Mess^{rs} Sartine & Vergennes, as I have some Reason to believe, got the french King to authorize the giving the order to M. La Motte Piquet. Be this anecdote true or false, the order is certainly gone and has reached M. La Motte who will take the first opportunity of carrying it into Execution. My opinion is that he is actually sailed. however, My Lord, he will prob-

ably hover about the Coast of France for some days to give the different Ships that He is to convoy time to join Him.

Your Lordship sees that this Measure coincides exactly with the Rest of the insidious Policy of France, which as I have repeatedly said is to give the Rebels every secret assistance, and endeavour to avoid the odium of appearing the aggressor by forcing us to strike the first Blow. They have now carried their Mean and insidious Policy to its utmost Verge and have brought Things to a short decided Point by leaving us but one and that a very disagreeable alternative. If we attack La Mottes Squadron and seize the ships he convoys war is inevitable, if we suffer them to pass unmolested an almost open Trade will be carried on between France and America and the Rebels be fully supplied with Every thing they can possibly want. I am sensible, My Lord, that I am repeating in Effect what I have said more than once, but such Repetitions are I hope excusable upon a Point which I am free to own engrosses my whole Thoughts, and upon which so much depends.

I shall not, My Lord, seek an opportunity tomorrow of speaking upon the Subject either to M. de Maurepas or M. de Vergennes. It seems to me that by sending such orders which I have the best Reason to believe M. de Maurepas will not revoke, France has on her Part thrown the Die, all that I should get from the french Ministers would be a Round assertion that the Ships M La Motte is to convoy are french Merchantmen bound to some of the french West India Islands, and a trite observation perhaps that Every Nation has a Right to protect her Trade.

It appears to me My Lord that this is a Crisis in which few Words are to be used. The Tongue of an angel would not charm the Serpent, and cure France of her Perfidy. It remains then with Us to disclose that Perfidy and instantly avenge it, or dissemble and be silent till the Day of Retribution comes, if his Majestys Wisdom shall determine that the present is Not that Day.

M de Maurepas is thoroughly apprized of the Secret Connexion formed between M. de Sartines and M. de Vergennes, is highly displeased with the latter whom he considered as his Creature, and will probably be too strong for them both. He has already got the french King to forbid his Ministers taking any one Step without M. de Maurepas previous Knowledge and approbation.

I saw yesterday a Letter from Rouen which says that there is a total stagnation of Trade occasioned by a Sort of Embargo laid upon their shipping. It is not an Embargo properly so called but as No Sailors are granted to navigate Merchantmen they are all necessarily stopt for want of Hands. Most of the Sea Port Towns of France complain of the same Inconvenience Your Lordship knows that None of the Registered Seamen can enter on board a Merchant Man without a positive Permission. I am [&c.]

Stormont

PS. Tuesday Night feb 24

I was assured this day that M. la Motte Piquet is sailed with five Ships of the Line and three frigates, but that he is gone only upon a Cruise, and is not to convoy any ships whatever. I mention this Intelligence to your Lordship tho I consider it as of very doubtful authority.

The Duke of Chartres¹ who had promised to return to Paris for Thursdays seennight² on which day the Duchess will give the Queen a Ball, remains at Brest.

M. de Sartines has given orders to purchase all the Hemp that is to be found in any of the Sea Port Towns of France

S.

Stevens's Facsimiles, vol. 22, no. 1869. Addressed at foot of first page: "Lord Visct Weymouth." Docketed: "Paris 23 Feb^{ry} 1778/Lord Stormont/most confidential/R. 1st March, at night/by a private hand."

1. Louis-Philippe-Joseph, Duc de Chartres, lieutenant général des armées navales.
2. In the margin: "next thursday."

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIEUTENANT DE VAISSEAU
CHARLES-MARIE TROLONG, CHEVALIER DU RUMAIN

Instruction pour M. le Ch^{er} du rumain lieutenant de
vaisseau commandant la corvette du Roy la *curieuse*

M. du Romain commandant la *curieuse* appareillera de la rade de Brest sitôt que le vent le lui permettra et il fera route pour établir sa croisiere depuis Brehat a plimouth.

le but de Sa mission est de prendre connoissance de toutes les Escadres, flottes et convois considerables qu'il pourroit rencontrer, de la route qu'elles feroient, de l'objet qu'elles pourroient avoir, de la quantité des Vaisseaux et fregattes de guerre et du nombre des batimens de transport dont elles sont composées.

pour s'assurer les moiens de remplir [plus?] surement sa mission M. le ch^{er} du rumain ne s'occupera point de chasser les batimens qu'il pourra rencontrer pendant Sa croisiere a moins qu'il ne les jugeat des mouches ou decouvertes des Escadres ou flottes dont il lui est prescrit de surveiller les operations; il ne se livrera même a aucune chasse qui puisse lui faire abandonner sa croisiere au point de ne pouvoir la reprendre dans la journée ne perdant point de vüe l'importance dont il est qu'il la tienne tant que les circonstances de la navigation le lui permettront, affin que la correspondance qu'il doit entretenir avec les autres batimens placés en differents points de la manche soit la plus active qu'il sera possible et les avis a donner a Brest le moins interrompus: s'il en avoit d'importants a donner et que les vents ne permissent pas a M. le Ch^{er} du rumain de les faire passer promptement a Brest par mer, il enverra a terre a l'endroit qui lui paroistra le plus susceptible de les faire arriver sans retardement en s'adressant a la personne qui se trouvera revetüe de l'autorité du Roy dans le dit lieu pour qu'elle procure sur le champ tous les moyens qui pourront en acclereler le depart, et le double de ces mêmes avis quand ils seront importants, Seront adressés par la poste au Ministre de la Marine.

M. le Ch^{er} du rumain tiendra sa croisiere pendant vingt deux jours au bout desquels il sera relevé, s'il ne l'etoit pas après avoir attendu deux jours il fera route pour Brest.

il portera ses bordées de la côte de france a celle d'Angleterre en evitant de se trouver assés affalé a cette derniere pour être obligé d'y chercher un port; si les mauvais têmes le forcoient a relâcher il le feroit dans le port de france le plus a sa portée ou il croira trouver plus de facilité a sortir pour reprendre sa Station, en ne restant absolument dans les ports et rades que le moins qu'il pourra.

il se servira des signaux de reconnoissance et de correspondance qui lui ont été remis pour les avis qu'il pourroit donner a Oüessant ou aux batteries de Brest,

il se servira de même de ceux qui y sont joints pour la reconnoissance entre les batimens qu'on va Etablir par Echelon depuis oùessant jusqu'au Cap la hague.

si un des batimens françois en station jugeoit qu'un de ceux qu'il aura reconnu pour être ainsi que lui destiné au même objet, qu'il seroit plus propre a faire parvenir promptement des avis a Brest, soit par sa position ou par sa marche, après que le dernier auroit bien repondu aux Signaux des reconnoissances il lui feroit le Signal de correspondance qui Enonce les avis qu'il auroit a donner, pour lors. ils manœuvreroient l'un et l'autre de la maniere la plus convenable pour que les avis parviennent promptement a Brest Soit par mer ou par terre.

il ne recherchera point l'ap proche des batimens croiseurs de Sa Majesté britannique qu'il pourroit rencontrer, il ne cherchera point non plus a les Eviter avec precipitation, il manœuvrera de maniere a ne donner aucun soupçon sur sa conduite et a faire voir qu'il est dans toute la securité de la paix et le desir de la maintenir, sans pour cela negliger aucunes des precautions avec lesquelles les vaisseaux de guerre doivent se communiquer; ses reponses aux questions qu'on pourroit lui faire seront fermes et precises comme elles doivent l'être Emanant de tous les droits que lui donne partout le pavillon du Roy.

M. le Ch^{er} du rumain ne negligera point de faire raisonner les barques du commerce qui par leurs reponses a ses questions peuvent lui donner des avis interessants; il enverra tous les huit jours a la poste a Brehat pour donner des avis et prendre les ordres qui pourroient lui être adressés.

M. le ch^{er} du rumain rentrant en rade donnant des avis que les ennemis viennent a Brest, il ira mouiller un peu en terre de l'isle longue de maniere a être protégé des batteries de plougastel et de l'isle longue et s'opposer par son feu aux batimens a rames qui voudroient tourner ces batteries.

a Brest le 24. fevrier 1778.¹

[Translation]

Instructions for Chevalier du Romain lieutenant de
vaisseau commanding His Majesty's corvette the *Curieuse*

M. du Romain, commanding the *Curieuse*, will set sail from the roadstead of Brest as soon as the wind permits, and will set a course for his cruise from Bréhat to Plymouth.

The purpose of his mission is to reconnoiter all the Squadrons, fleets and convoys of substantial size that he may encounter, to find out where they are heading, their objectives, the number of ships of the line and frigates of war, and the number of transport ships of which they are composed.

To ensure that he fulfills his mission, Chevalier du Romain must not chase ships he may encounter during his cruise unless he believes them to be tenders or scouts from Squadrons or fleets whose operations he is ordered to keep under surveillance; nor must he embark on any chase which would cause him to abandon his cruising area to the point of being unable to resume it that day. He must not lose sight of the importance of his mission when the circumstances of navigation permit, so that the communication he keeps up with other ships located at different places in the Channel is kept as active as possible and the reports to be sent to Brest are made with the fewest interruptions. If he has important news to deliver and the winds do not enable Chevalier du Romain to send it promptly to Brest by

sea, then he must send it on shore wherever would most likely ensure prompt delivery of the message, find there someone with authority conferred by the King to summon the means for a hasty departure, double this if the message is especially critical, and send this message by the post to the Minister of the Marine.

Chevalier du Romain must continue his cruise for twenty-two days, after which time he should be relieved; if someone has not arrived to take over for him, he must wait two days and then sail for Brest.

He must tack back and forth between the coast of France and the coast of England, but avoid slipping so close to the latter that he is driven to find a port there; if bad weather forces him to moor, he must do so in the closest French port, one he believes will provide for the easiest return to his station, and remaining as short a time as possible in ports and harbors.

He must use the recognition and communication signals given to him for the purpose of reporting to Ouessant or the batteries at Brest, and likewise use the others included therewith for recognition between ships which will be deployed in echelon between Ouessant and Cape de La Hague.

If one of the French ships on station believes it recognizes another sharing the same destination but which is better able to bring news to Brest, either due to its location or its speed, then after the second ship has responded properly to the recognition signals sent by the first one, the latter must send a communication signal out to announce the report to be given. Both ships must maneuver to a position best enabling the report to be carried in the most convenient and promptest manner to Brest, either by sea or by land.

He must not approach cruisers of His Britannic Majesty which he may encounter, but must not rush to avoid them, either; rather, he must maneuver in such a way as not to arouse suspicion about his conduct and act as if he were under the safety of peacetime and the desire to maintain it, without however ignoring any of the precautions with which warships must communicate; his responses to questions must be firm and precise, as they should be, originating as they do from the rights accorded him everywhere by the King's flag.

Chevalier du Romain must be sure to hail merchant ships, which by their responses to his questions may provide him with interesting news. Every week he must send for the mail at Bréhat, both to give his intelligence and to pick up any orders that may be awaiting him there.

Chevalier du Romain, on returning to the roadstead with information that the enemy is coming to Brest, must anchor a little inshore near the long island in order to be protected by the batteries of Plougastel and the long island, and to be able to fire on oared ships which will try to get round these batteries.

at Brest, 24 February 1778.¹

D, FrPNA, Marine B⁴ 286, fols. 30–32.

1. Similar orders were issued as follows: on 26 Feb. to Lieutenant de Vaisseau Guy-Pierre, Chevalier de Coëtnempren de Kersaint, commanding the corvette *Favorite*, to cruise between Île Bréhat and Torbay, reconnoitering Jersey and Guernsey; on 27 Feb. to Lieutenants de Vaisseau Chevalier de Mengaud de La Haye and Jean-François de Galaup, Comte de La Pérouse, commanding the corvettes *Perle* and *Serin*, to cruise between Ouessant and the Lizard; and on 28 Feb. to Enseigne de Vaisseau Ambroise-Bernard Lejar, Vicomte du Clesmeur, commanding the lugger *Espiègle*, to cruise between Cape de La Hague and the Isle of Wight, reporting to Cherbourg. Each of these vessels was assigned an anchorage at Brest from which it could prevent oared vessels from getting round the batteries in case of attack. Other cutters and luggers were to be prepared to relieve those on cruises every twenty to twenty-five days. *Ibid.*

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen(N^o 146)

Nantes Feb 24. 1778.

M Boux has been on board the *Lion*¹ for a passage, Cap^t Nicholson wished to accomodate him as well as he could, but on acco^t of the many amⁿ [*American*] Passengers who have escaped hither from England he has not been able to make such provision as he desired & as M Boux expected. He therefore returns to Nantes, & seemed rather disgusted with his Reception, telling me at the same time that in consequence he could not go to america at all.²

To Day he informed me, he had recv^d Letters desiring his Departure, & I accordingly tried to get a passage for him on board of one of M Montieus Ships, offering to pay the Expence on your acco^t; but M Peltier says he has absolutely prohibition from M Montieu to take any passenger whatever, M Boux is therefore obliged to remain & all I can do is to get a passage when it is in my power. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jon^a Williams J

L, ViU, Lee Family Papers. Addressed: "The Hon^{ble}. The/Commissioners of the/United States." Docketed: "Feb^y 24th 1778 J Williams"; "Letter/Boux"; "to Com^{rs}. U.S."; "(N^o. 146)."

1. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*.

2. See Lieutenant Boux to Capitaine de Vaisseau Jacques Boux, after 9 Feb., 1778, above, and Lieutenant Boux to the American Commissioners in France, 26 Feb., below.

JOHN ROSS TO SILAS DEANE

The Hon^{ble} Silas Deane Esq^r.Nantes 24th Feb^{ry} 1778

Dear Sir

I am indebted to one or two of your Letters to which shall reply soon, as I will likewise to one from the Hon^{ble}. Commissioners by next post if possible, when a litle settled & relieved from the hurry & plague I had for some time

Yesterday I returned from Noirmontier, after dispatching Green¹ to Join the Convoy at Quiberon Bay & doubt not his being with them on Sunday morning—haveing sailed on Saturday—Capt: Brown² of the *Henrietta* was likewise dispatched both with Continental Property of a considerable Vallue but a Ship of M^r William's,³ engaged by me to take in some goods being kept back by his Absence, have not been able to get clear of here, tho every thing has been Ready long since of mine, to be put on board—Several other Vessels are Still in the River not Joined, & cant say whether Ready or not—Some of my purchases will be left behind notwithstanding the shipping prepared by me, however, as a large Property well assorted of Linnuns & Woolens are already dispatched in this fleet, what may be left is of less consequence, intending to get some small Vessels if possible to forward it by, without loss of time.—Youl no Doubt have a full detail of M^r Lee's⁴ Adventures stated in his own way—And to finish the business compleately, I have learn't Since my Return he has carryed off, the whole Books & Papers, Public & Private, left by the Deceast M^r T: Morris—Time Permit me only at present to add that I am [&c]

Jn^a. Ross

L, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers.

1. Capt. John Green, commanding Continental Navy frigate *Queen of France*, formerly the ship *Brune*.

2. Patrick Brown.

3. Jonathan Williams, Jr. His ship was the *Trois Amis*.

4. William Lee, joint Continental Commercial Agent at Nantes with Thomas Morris.

February 25

PHILIP STEPHENS TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SICK AND HURT SEAMEN

Gentlemen,

Admiralty Office 25 Feb^y 1778.

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your three Letters of the 13th, 17th, & 23^d. instant, on the Subject of the American Prisoners carried into Liverpoole, I am to acquaint you that their Lordships have sent directions to Cap^t. Worth¹ the Regulating Captain at that Place to send a Tender with the said Prisoners to Plymouth that they may be committed to Mill Prison, and for that purpose to send with them proper Evidence of their having been taken in Arms; you will therefore give the necessary directions to your Agent at Liverpoole for the removing such of the said Prisoners who are now in a fit State of health to be removed to the Tender accordingly; and for applying to Cap^t. Worth to secure the others when they are fit [to] be removed. I am [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

L, UKLNMM, Adm/M/404. Addressed below close: "Comiss^{rs} for Sick & Hurt." Notation: "Recd 26 & wrote M^r Shertcliffe in consequence same day."

1. Cap^t. James Worth, R.N.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

25th. Wednesday squally wth the Largest snow that has fell this winter about 4 Inches Deep I hear L—d North has proposed to the Parliament to repeal of the Acts pass'd since the Year 1763 (Respecting America) & Acknowledges he's been Disappointed in the Success of his Majesties Arms in America; & it is Agree'd in Parliamint by a Clear Majority to Appoint Commissioners to go to America & to treat with the Congress Or any Other body Person or Persons they think proper in Either of the S^{ts}. But tis tho^t America have Enter'd into a Treaty with the Court of France; these proposals short of Independence will Take No Effect

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GUERNSEY, FEB. 25."

"The *Brigantine*, a prize to the *Active* privateer, belonging to this island, is safe arrived here, has been already condemned, and the vessel and cargo put up to sale: She is a new ship, and was built at Newbury. Her lading consists of 198 ho[g]sheads of tobacco, which reckoning at only 90l. a hogshead, amounts to upwards of 17,000l.—a fine booty for a small privateer, whose outfit was not above 2000l."

London Packet; or New Lloyd's Evening Post, 9–11 Mar. 1778.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*[*Ranger, at sea*]

Wednesday, 25th Feb'y.—Fleet got underway and left us at anchor contrary to Expectations, about 12 O'clock it being very windy we came to sail, ran out of the

Bay without a Pilot, attempted to the Northward of Belisle, but did not succeed, put back hoping to run into the Bay again, but could not weather the Rocks. in the midst of our Trouble having narrowly escap'd over setting the Ship, were alarm'd with the cry of Fire—after all our endeavours to procure a Pilot were in vain, & night coming on, bore away and ran out to the Leward of the Island, very squally still.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

February 26

*THE LONDON CHRONICLE, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, TO THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 26, 1778*

Thursday, Feb. 26. London.

The *Eagle*,¹ Morgan, from Yarmouth to Genoa and Leghorn, was taken the 30th of Dec. by two American privateers,² one of 32 guns, and the other of 20, but by stress of weather and a dark night, the Captain left them and is got safe into port.

1. Brig. J. Morgan, master, 120 tons, built in 1767, repairs in 1775 and 1777, Manning, owner. *Lloyd's Register of Ships, 1777-1778.*

2. Possibly Continental Navy frigate *Raleigh* and ship *Alfred*.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, February 1778*]

26th. Thursday fair weath^r Grand wars at Snow Balling

D, McHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO SILAS DEANE

Honored Sir,

Ranger, Quiberon, 26th February 1778

I duely received your favor of 7th curr^t—I suppose you have already heard of the Interchangeable Salute in this Bay for the first time between Freedoms Flag and that of France.—however as the Account you may have received has not perhaps been particular—you will please to accept of the following.—

The *Independence* accepted of my Convoy from Nantes to this place—I was off here the 13th and sent my Boat in to know if the Admiral would return my Salute—he answered that he would return to me, as the Senior American Continental Officer in Europe, the same salute which he was Authorized by his Court to return to an Admiral of Holland or of any other Republic, which was 4 Guns less than the Salute given. I hesitated at this, for I had demanded Gun for Gun—therefore Anchored in the Entrance of the Bay at a distance from the French Fleet, but after a very particular Enquiry, on the 14th understanding that he had really told the Truth, I was induced to Accept of his Offer—the more so as it was in fact an Acknowledgement of American Independence.—the Wind being contrary and blowing hard, it was after Sunset before the *Ranger* got near enough

to salute La Motte Picquet with 13 Guns, which he returned with 9.—however to put the matter past a doubt I did not suffer the *Independence* to salute till next morning, when I sent the Admiral word that I should sail thro' his Fleet in the Brig and would salute him again in open day.—he was exceedingly pleased and returned this Compliment also with 9 Guns.—this Squadron is Officered by a very well bred set of Men—all of whom have Visited the *Ranger* and expressed great Satisfaction; calling her un parfait Bijou—when we visited their Ships we were received with every mark of Respect and Gladness and saluted with a Feu de Joie—so much indeed have they endeavoured to prepossess us in their favor by their constant Attentions and Civilities, that if they are not Serious they are the greatest of all dissemblers.—Inclosed I now transmit you a Copy of a hand bill¹ which I found necessary to publish when I took this Command and which hath since been fully approved by the Marine Committee—this little publication had the desired effect in America for I found no difficulty in Manning the *Ranger*. I submit to you whither the Publication in the English papers of the Encouragement in our Navy as expressed in the middle of the Bill might not induce English as well as American Seamen to come over to France or to any other part of Europe that might be pointed out where they could meet with a proper reception?—I gave a Copy to M^r Carmichael some time ago, who told me that the middle part would be published in England—if so it will I think make it's appearance before this reaches you—if it does not it remains with you to publish or Suppress it.

As I now understand that this Fleet goes to Rochfort for a reinforcement—I determine to proceed alone as I see that the Supply Ships stand in no further need of my Protection. From the Accounts which I hear I am induced to hope that the New Frigate² will yet be given up.—I have much in Contemplation.—I cannot insure Success—but I will endeavour to deserve it.—If I am fortunate you will soon hear from me again—in the mean time please to present my best Respects to Doctor Franklin, and believe me to be [&c.]

John Paul Jones.

(Copy)

Copy, MH-H, BMS Sparks 49.3 (7). Addressed below the close: "The Hon^{ble}/Silas Deane." Docketed: "J P Jones. Quiberon/Bay Feb 26. 1778."

1. Recruiting poster, reproduced in *NDAR* 9: 208.

2. *Indien*.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Quiberon Bay, France*]

Thursday, 26.—Arrived in Quiberon-Bay again the Evening after a short but very tedious & unprofitable Cruise.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

LIEUTENANT BOUX TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Messieurs

vous avez appris par mon oncle¹ les raisons qui me font rester à terre et l'impossibilité qu'il y a à que Je puisse partir Sur le *lion*, comme vous me l'avez ordonne

par votre derniere. vous avez aussi sçu les petites mortifications que Jai eu avec le Capitaine Nikleson.² Je ne vous cacherai pas que Je Suis aise qu'il ne se soit pas trouvé de place pour m'y loger, car pendant la traversée nous aurions eu peut etre quelques chismes, et Il auroit été assé douloureux pour moi de commenser ma Cariere dans le nouveaux Service ou Jai l'honneur d'entrer par quelques pour parlé, et peut être une affaire.

M^r Williams à eu pour moi toutes sortes d'honnetetes, et cest donné tous les mouvements paussible pour me procurer mon passage sur deux Vaisseaux qui sonts prêts à partir mais l'armateur ne veut pas prendre de pasagers. cette involunté de la part de ce Monsieur m'obligera de rester quelques tems à terre, mais Je ferai tout ce que Je pourrai de mon coté pour me procurer un passage et de profiter de la premiere ocation qui se présentera pour courir à mon devoir; vous trouverez sy inclus une lettre de M^r Williams qui vous ecrit à mon sujet.³

Les préparatif que ai ete obligé de faire pour mon embarquement n'ont pas lessé que de me démunir du peu de fonds que Javois, et m'en trouvant à court, Je m adresse à vous Messieurs pour vous prier de donner vos ordres, pour que Je puisse toucher les apointements qui me sonts due et la pension que Jai payé depuis qui Je Suis isy de même que celle que Je serai oblige de déboursé dans mon séjour à Nantes. ce Sonts les promesses que vous avez donné à mon oncle. Jattend avec une entiere satisfaction l'honneur de votre réponse; Je suis [&c.]

Boux; neveu

a Nantes Le 26 fevrier 1778.

[Translation]

Gentlemen:

You have learned from my uncle¹ my reasons for remaining on shore and how impossible it was for me to leave on the *Lion* as you commanded me to do in your last letter. You have also learned of the petty annoyances I suffered through Captain Nikleson.² I shall not conceal from you the fact that I am glad there was no place for me on board as during the crossing we would perhaps have had some schisms, and it would have been quite painful for me to begin my career in the new service I have the honor to enter by disputes and perhaps a scandal.

Mr. Williams has shown me many civilities and took every possible pains to procure my passage on the two vessels ready to leave port but the ship owner does not wish to take passengers. This unwillingness on the part of that gentleman obliges me to remain for some time on shore but I shall do everything I can on my part to procure a passage and to take advantage of the first opportunity to hasten to my duty. You will find enclosed herewith a letter from Mr. Williams who writes you on this subject.³

The preparations I was obliged to make for my embarkation diminished the small amount of funds in my possession, and finding myself without resources, I am addressing you Gentlemen to request that you will see that I receive my pay which is due and the board which I have paid since I have been here as well as the amount I shall have to expend during my stay in Nantes. This is what you promised my uncle. I await with entire satisfaction the honor of your reply. I am [&c..]

Boux; nephew

Nantes, 26 February 1778.

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 135. Docketed: "Boux, Nantes/26 fev. 78."

1. See Lieutenant Boux to Capitaine de Vaisseau Jacques Boux, after 9 Feb. 1778, above.
2. Capt. Samuel Nicholson, commanding Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, formerly *Lyon*.
3. Jonathan Williams, Jr., to the American Commissioners in France, 24 Feb., above. The ship owner was Jean-Joseph Carié de Montieu.

JOHN ROSS TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Extract of a Letter from John Ross to the Hon^{ble}. Benj^a Franklin Silas Deane & Arthur Lee Esq^{rs} American Com^{rs}. at Paris.

Nantes 26 Feb. 1778

"The Ship *three friends* ownd by M^r Williams & C^o. being detain'd still here owing principally to the want of hands, will am in hopes from the assurances of the Cap^t & owners depart tomorrow." — "I have since advis'd them (the Committee of Congress) of the Change of property in the Ship *La Brune* in Consequence of your accepting of the Ship on public Acc^t agreeable to the proposal made by me for the sole purpose of guarding against every insinuation of being too much attach'd to my Interest in settling a freight unfavorable to the public." — I have accordingly fill'd up Cap^t Greens Commission giving the name of the *Queen of France* to the Ship—and charging the Coast of this Vessel to acc^t of the American United States with me.—*La Brune* is a cheap Ship.—If she should not be deem'd such by the navy Board, I shall gladly assume the Ship as my property, charging the Public with the freight of the Goods."

Copy, DNA, PCC, item 83, vol. 2, p. 379 (M247, roll 110). Notation by Arthur Lee: "N.B. If the Ship was lost, She woud be charg'd to the public, if not, M^r Ross woud either sell her or receive the freight. In this manner the public was always sacrificed."

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen.

(N^o. 151)

Nantes Feb. 26. 1778.

All the Vessells have now I imagine joined the Fleet, the wind therefore will only prevent its immediate Departure which I expect every Day to hear of.—

I cannot find another Vessell on any terms here. I would give as high as 150 Livres, but none are to be had.—I have to day heard of a Ship which is at L'orient I have written about her, If I can get her on Freight I shall do it, but I shall not purchase without, your orders: I therefore request you to say by return of Post whether you will allow me to purchase, if not otherwise to be obtained.—I have remaining 3000 Suits of Cloaths all the Hose & about 400 Cases of arms from the magazine.

Time does not allow me to write so Full as I wish must therefore refer you to a Future post for any particulars I may have ommitted. I have the honour to be [&c.]

J Williams

L, ViU, Lee Family Papers. Addressed: "The Hon^{ble}. The/ Commissioners of the/United States." Docketed: "(N^o 151"; "Feb^r 26th/Goods remain^g./J. Williams"; "J. Williams/to/Hon^{ble}. U.S. Com^{rs}/(26 Feb^r (1778)."

February 27

EARL OF SANDWICH TO LORD NORTH

Admiralty, 27th February 1778.

My dear Lord—Having received the enclosed extract from Lord Weymouth,¹ I cannot avoid pointing out to your Lordship how necessary it seems to me that further exertions should be made in order to keep pace with the French naval equipments. If they have commissioned a ship of 110 guns, surely it is time to commission the *Victory* and every line of battle ship that can be got fit for service; they will otherwise have the start of us considerably in their preparations; and if it should appear that with the assistance of Spain they have more ships in Europe ready for sea than we have, we shall either be obliged to leave our distant possessions defenceless or remain with an inferior force to guard our own coast.

We are at this office taking what new measures we think advisable for getting more seamen (which is what we chiefly wanted), as far as it can be done without an embargo and the recalling of protections, which I am aware should not be practised but in the certainty of a war; I cannot however refrain from suggesting to your Lordship that every other measure for adding to our naval strength should, I think, be carried into execution, in case credit is given to Lord Stormont's information and to what we receive from France through other channels. I am ever your Lordship's [etc.],

Sandwich

Sandwich Papers 1: 342–43.

1. Probably Lord Stormont to Lord Weymouth, 20 Feb., above.

February 28

JACQUES-DONATIEN LE RAY DE CHAUMONT TO JEAN HOLKER

Copy of a Letter wrote by M^r De Chaumont to M^r Holker dated at Passy the 28 February 1778.—

Sir.

The two American Frigates the *Hancock* & the *Boston* commanded by Cap^{ns} Babson and Hendrick conducted into the Port of Nants the 13th. of August last two English Ships loaded with sugar, which they entered as Dutch Ships coming from S^t Eustache, the consequence of this false declaration occasion'd the confiscation of those two ships, and the King after having satisfied his justice listened to the representations made to his goodness, and I am directed Sir to authorise you to pay to the Owners and others concerned in the two American Frigates the *Hancock* and the *Boston* the sum of Four hundred thousand livres French money which the two English ships with their Cargo's conducted to Nants might have been worth.¹ I must confess Sir that I am delighted in giving you so agreeable a Commission which will convince the Americans of the Goodness and justice of our Sovereign. you may draw Bills on me for Four hundred thousand Livres and send me from time to time the vouchers of the payments you shall have made. If since two months I

could have remitted securely a Letter you would sooner have been able to settle this affair I have the honour to be [&c.]

sign'd Le Ray de Chaumont
honorary Intendant of the
Royal Hotel of Invalides—

Copy, DNA, PCC, item 96, pp. 9–10 (M247, roll 124).

1. Chaumont has confused the facts. Massachusetts privateers *Fanny* and *General Mercer* captured the Jamaicamen *Clarendon* and *Hanover Planter*, and entered them as the American ships *Hancock* and *Boston*, bound from St. Eustatius. It was the owners of *Fanny* and *General Mercer* who were to be compensated.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon Gentlemen

Nantes Feb. 28. 1778.

The Fleet sailed from Quiberon the 25th Instant, but the Winds have since been rather unfavourable.—I am extreemly sorry to inform you that the *Duchesse of Grammont* is according to appearance left behind—This Ship sailed three Weeks ago to join the Fleet, but being badly stowed was obliged to put back, she has since been at the mouth of the River altering her Stowage, & was there the 25th in the Morning; therefore unless she joined the Fleet when under Sail she must yet be at Anchor. M^r Peltier has sent an Express down the River, to ascertain this, which is not yet returned, giving orders at the same time that if not able to join the Fleet to remain till further Order: I beg your answer by return of Post to know whether (should the Ship still remain) she is to go at all hazards or not—for this it will be necessary to agree with M^r Montieu that his orders & yours may agree

I find my Credit with M^r Grand is again full I must therefore beg you to authorise a Continuation of my Bills 'till I can furnish you with all my acc^t which I shall now soon do.—

The *Ranger* has cost a great deal of Money her acc^{ts} will also be soon handed to you, but I must beg leave to remind you of the agreement made with the late M^r Morris by which I was to acco^t with him for all Sales & purchases that I should make in consequence of his authority ch[argin]g the Commission of 5 th Ct allowed by the Committee of Congress, between him & myself;¹ I therefore beg to know whether I am to consider the *Ranger* as part of his Business or whether I am to consider my Conduct as in consequence of your Power only. & I request this Distinction as the Powers you gave me you may remember were disputed and I understood were² [torn] tho' this has not been done [torn] formed here The matter has be [torn] According as your orders may be on this Head. I shall render my Acco^{ts}. I have the honour to be [&c.]

J Williams J

PS. Cap^t Johnson of the *Lexington* is escaped & has drawn on me for £60 Sterling—I have accepted the Bill presuming you will approve of it.—

L, MH-H, Arthur Lee Papers. Addressed below the close: "The Hon^{ble} The Comm^{rs} of the United States."

1. An extract contains the following calculation: "5 p^r C^t Commissⁿ. on the *Ranger's* disbursements 3,378.13.3 on the *Independence* 238.9.11." ViU, Lee Family Papers.

2. The preceding two words, missing from the letter, are supplied from a copy. The remainder of sections torn from the letter are also lost from the copy from deterioration of the sheet's bottom edge. ViU, Lee Family Papers.

JOHN ROSS TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

To the Hon^{ble}. Commissioners
Hon^{ble}. Gentlemen

Nantes 28 February 1778

I had the Honour to Address you by last Post,¹ when I flattered my self the *La Brune* & *Henrietta* had Joined the Convoy.—Yesterday we had certain accounts of the Convoys Sailing last wednesday 25th. in a heavy Severe Storm from North West. and the Wind this two weeks past lieing Such as prevented several ships in Nantes River to Join, they are left behind—of the Number is the *Henrietta* (if my information is to be depended on) and you may believe gives me much uneasiness. the Cargo in the vessels on public account being very Vallueable.

On receiving the intelligence I despatched express to know the certainty of it, advising Captain Brown² of the Convoys Sailing, and that he must Proceed at all Risques under the protection only of his clearance's & privates despatches for Hispaniola to carry him clear of the European Sea's.

He is under Hamburg Collour's, as such, I conceive the Risque going from hence much less, then those of French Vessels, under this Idea I gave my instructions, and shall be glade of your approbation, havg. acted in every Respect as if the Interest had been my own.—before next post shall know if in the River, & will advise. The Farmers Agent upon a very flimsey Pretence Seized & detained this Ship some days when I was at Noirmoutier—but had her released upon giving Security—And have since Represented circumstances to the Minister & Director of the Farms, through my Friends Mess^{rs}. Gerard S Haller & C^o.—which hopes may have the desired Effect.—The *La Brune* has certainly Joined & Sailed, tho I have had no Letters from Green³

Lord Norths Motion & representation in the House of Commons, being Just come to my hand, breathing the Spirit of Peace. I realy think it may be productive of something favourable in bringing it speedily to an Issue.⁴

Your Sentiments never the less (to be depended on) might Regulate my Measure's with much more Security in my operations, and in case you realy think we have any Prospect of a treaty & Cession of Hostillitys, I woud Judge it adviseable to detain the *Henrietta*, and others with Public property, for some weeks, to be forwarded with much better Security.—Be assured Property in French Vessels runs greater Risque then in those of America if a treaty shoud once be entered into—

This however, I beg leave to mention for your consideration in Particulare from a desire to act in every Respect (as far as I have the truste of Public Property) with your approbation, & as much as Possible by Your Advice.—I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jn^o. Ross

L, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers. Docketed: "Jn^o. Ross^s Lett^r/28th Feb^y 1778."

1. 26 Feb., above.

2. Patrick Brown, master of the *Henrietta*.

3. John Green.

4. Lord North proposed conciliatory bills in his speech in Parliament on 12 Feb. On the basis of the terms of those bills, which included the renunciation of Parliament's right to tax the American colonies, a new commission, eventually to be known as the Carlisle Commission, was to be sent to America to negotiate peace.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. JOHN LOWDEN COLE, BILBOA, FEB. 28."

"I sailed from St John's the 11th of Jan. and had a fine passage to Cape Ortegal, where I was boarded by the *Thetis*¹ frigate, who informed me that privateers were about Bilboa; I then resolved to steer for St. Andera,² and on Saturday Feb. 7 at dawn of day, I saw a schooner coming right after us: and at nine o'clock she came up with us, and brought us to by her shot, at about a league distance from the Spanish shore, to the windward of St. Andera: the captain ordered me to follow him into St. Andera road, where he boarded us in the Spanish pilot boats, took me and all the crew on board the privateer, and carried us (and the *Dove* followed) directly to St. Antonio,³ about half way to Bilboa. I found the schooner to be the *Hawke*, Jeremiah Hubbert⁴ commander, of ten carriage guns, and about 30 men: he kept us close prisoners, and sold both vessels and cargo the Spaniards in a lump, and on Saturday the 14th instant convoyed the *Dove* down to this place (having a Spanish crew, and under Spanish colours: he still kept us close prisoners not allowing any boats to come near, nor any person to speak to us; however, a Portuguese of mine eluded their vigilance, and swam ashore in the night after we came in, and applied to all the merchants in Bilboa; but this was of no service to us: on the contrary, we were the more strictly watched. But on the 25th, the prize-money having been paid, and the crew with most of the officers being on shore, at night-fall in a hailstorm, I jumped into the boat, cut the painter, and got out of gunshot before I was missed. Six stout fellows, well armed, came directly after me, and pursued me three miles on the road to Bilboa, and certainly would have caught me; but luckily for me, one broke his thigh, and another his leg in the pursuit, and I having a ferry to cross, was just landed when they hove in sight, and the ferryman nobly refused the fellows a passage; the captain swore if he could catch me I should remain in irons until he got to Boston. I reached Bilboa in a wretched condition, being seven miles from the vessel, and the road along which I travelled being the worst you can form an idea of, I am not able to walk yet: I was in hopes to have recovered my vessel, but find by Mr. Gomez, a considerable merchant here, that I need entertain little hope of that; he says the Americans are favourites here, and thinks nothing can be done in our case. There are now here three American pirates, ready to sail for a cruize,⁵ and they keep close to the shore, so as not to be seen by our cruisers. I shall stay and see what can be done about the *Dove* and cargo. If my efforts should not prove effectual, I shall take my passage in a Spanish vessel for Bristol."

London Packet; or New Lloyd's Evening Post, 16–18 March 1778.

1. H.M. frigate *Thetis*, Capt. John Gell, commander.

2. Santander, Spain.

3. Santoña, Spain.

4. Capt. Jeremiah Hibbert, commanding Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*.

5. Most likely a reference to the Massachusetts privateer brigantine *General Mercer*, the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*, and the Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*.

March 1 (Sunday)

JONATHAN WILLIAMS'S ACCOUNT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE CONTINENTAL NAVY BRIG *LEXINGTON*, FROM AUGUST 1777 TO MARCH 1778

[Nantes, 1 March 1778]

N ^o . 5—				with Jon ^a . Williams C ^r			
D ^r Henry Johnson Esq ^r Comm ^r Brig <i>Lexington</i>							
1777—				1777			
Aug st	—	To Capers, Anchovies, & Olives	83.. 3.—	Aug st	20	By the Comm ^{rs} . for an Acc ^t . of Disbursem ^{ts} . furnish'd to that Date for the <i>Lexington</i>	} 2372.. 2.. 4
		To 1 m Corks	4..10.—				
		To Cash adv ^{ed} . G. Thayer	96.—..—				
Sept ^r	16.	To his draft to Delap 5 th . Sept ^r	264..17.. 7				
October	6.	To d ^o . to Cornic . . 16 th . Sep ^r	2137.. 2.. 4	1778—			
		To d ^o . . . ditto . . 16 th . Sep ^r	225.—..—	March	1.	By Ballance for which he is to Acco ^t . with the Commiss ^{rs} .	} 1809..19.. 2
1778—							
March	1	To d ^o . to Johnson London 19 th Feb ^{ry}	} 1371.. 8.. 7				
		5 d ^s /s ^t . . . £ s ^{lg} . 60					
			4182.. 1.. 6				4182.. 1.. 6 ¹

D, CtY, Jonathan Williams Account Books. Number 5 in "Accounts and Vouchers Refer'd to in the Account Current between Jonathan Williams Jun^r and the Hon^{ble}. The Commissioners of the United States of America." For the enclosure, see "State of the Account Furnished by Capn Henry Johnson of his Disbursements against the Brig *Lexington* of which he was Commander," NDAR 9: 584-86.

1. Notation: "Compared and approved Nantes 17th. Augst 1779.—(Signed) J.J. J.N. J.C. J.G." The initials are those of Joshua Johnson, Jonathan Nesbitt, James Cuming, and Joseph Gridley. They were merchants who, in the summer of 1779, at the request of Benjamin Franklin, audited Williams's accounts with the American Commissioners in France.

March 2

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778]

2^d. Munday Pleas^t. weath^r. a Nother Beer Celler at the Gate; Now the people
Can have beer without going to the Age[n]t for it: Since which Indulgence there
has been two, or three Duels fought Every Donation. which keeps the people in
the Yard in great Confution. the Most of the Time

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS'S ACCOUNT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE CONTINENTAL NAVY BRIG *INDEPENDENCE*

[Nantes, 2 March 1778]

N^o. 10—The Continental Arm'd Brig *Independence*
John Young Esq^r Commander To Jon^a. Williams —D^r

1778—

6	To Cash	paid Cap ⁿ . Young	600..—..—
	a Bullock, bo ^t of a Peasant near Quiberon		94..10..—
Feb ^r 6	Minert & C ^o .	a Table	499.. 8..—
3	Recottillon	Coulours	44.. 9..—
6	Duchesne	Barrel Rice	112.. 7.. 6
	ditto Kings Broker, Expedition &c ^a		214..14..—
	Cash . . . Gauche	Files &c ^a .	40..18..—
7	Belleveau	Plates glasses &c ^a .	18.. 9..—
5	Gaudin	Cannon Ball	376..18..—
7	Cassard	Table linnen	64..10..—
10	Bricaud	Sugar &c ^a .	263.. 2..—
3	Tea	10 [#]	30..—..—
	Chauriau . . . 29 2/3 velts ¹	Rum	163.. 4..—
12	Odea	Sundries at Painbœuf	1656.. 9..10
19	Hallie, Pilot from Painbœuf to Quiberon		113..—..—
Mar 2	Guerin, at Auray	Biscuit &c ^a .	369.. 8..—
		Comm	7.. 7.. 9
		1/3 of 60 allow'd	} 20..—..—
		Beutis, for Chaye	
		attend ^g the Ship	
			<u>396..15.. 9</u>

Commissⁿ. 5 [⌘] C^t

4788..15.. 1
239.. 8.. 9
£5028.. 3..10

N3 The Commission is Charged at 5 [⌘] C^t half being carried to the
 Credit of the late Tho^s Morris Esq^r.—²

D, CtY, Jonathan Williams Account Books. Number 10 in "Accounts and Vouchers Refer'd to in the Account Current between Jonathan Williams Jun^r and the Hon^{ble}. The Commissioners of the United States of America."

1. *Velte*. A measure of capacity, about seven quarts.

2. Notation: "Compared and approved Nantes 17th. Augst. 1779—(Sign'd) J.J. J.N. J.C. J.G." The initials are those of Joshua Johnson, Jonathan Nesbitt, James Cuming, and Joseph Gridley. They were merchants who, in the summer of 1779, at the request of Benjamin Franklin, audited Williams's accounts with the American Commissioners in France.

FRANCIS COFFYN TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^d Gentlemen

I had the honnor of writing to you the 14th. ultimo by M^r Jonathan Nesbitt, to which I take the liberty to refer,¹ being since deprived of your respected favours, this cheafly serves to inform you of the arrival at this place of Capⁿ Henry Johnson, late Commander of the Continental Brigⁿ. *Lexington*, and Eliazad Johnson Capⁿ of the Brigⁿ. *Dolton* Privateer of Newberry.² They both broke out of Plymouth prison with two of their officers, which were since press'd in London; but the former had the good fortune to get a passage on board the *Prince of orange* packett from Harwich to Hellevoet-Sluis, and from thence came over here by land. Capⁿ Henry Johnson is so much fatigued that he is not able to write to you this day; I beg you would communicate to him and to me your intention relating his future destination. he had some thoughts of proceeding to Paris with his fellow traveller, but I advised him to wait your orders which you'll be pleased to give me as Soon as convenient and mention wether I may Suply him with necessarys and money, and to what amount. interim I have also to inform you of the arrival of Capⁿ. John Chandler of the brigⁿ. *Triton* of Newberry, bound to Bilbao with a Cargo of Fish, which was taken off Cape Finistere by the *Tetis*.³ This Capⁿ with John Thompson⁴ (who is almost recovr'd of his wounds) will be sent to Nantes by the first vessell bound to that port, but the other man call'd James Barnes, has lately by a fall broken his arm, which put me under the necessity to send him to the hospital I am afraid it will be some time before that man will be able to embark.

The Brigⁿ. *L'hyrondelle* Capⁿ. Longuelpée, who sail'd from this port the 16. ult^{mo}, bound to Martinico stranded at Calais, and her Cargo composed of dry goods sutuble for the American Markett, to the amount of Twenty Thousand pounds Sterling, is totally damaged, this loss grieves me the more, as some of your Friends and mine, will suffer considerably by this accident, and the people of America will be deprived of a great quantity of very necessary articles at this Juncture. I have the honnor to remain [&c.]

Dunkerque 2^d March 1778.Fran^s. Coffyn

L. PPAmp, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 143. Addressed: "To/The Hon^{ble}. Benjⁿ. Franklin, Silas/Dean, and Arthur Lee Esq^s./at Passy." Docketed: "Fr Coffyn. 2. March/1778."

1. The letter has not been found. Nesbitt was an Irishman of Philadelphia who had come to Europe to buy military supplies and established himself in L'Orient. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 26: 12.

2. Massachusetts privateer brigantine *Dalton*, Capt. Eleazer Johnson, commander.

3. *NDAR* 8: 536.

4. Gunner in *Lexington*. *NDAR* 8: 238, 875; 9: 505. For his being wounded in action with *Alert*, see *ibid.*, 9: 657.

March 3

LORD NORTH TO THE EARL OF SANDWICH

[London] Tuesday, March 3rd 3 P.M.

My dear Lord—I heard on Sunday evening from tolerable authority that one Captain Jones, who has now the command of the *Amphitrite*, which has changed its name and is now called the *Ranger*, will soon insult some part of the coast of Great

Britain. My informer could not say exactly what his destination was, but he apprehended that he was to land at Shields near Newcastle and do all the damage in his power. He was barely to land; and when he had done the mischief intended he was to return with all possible expedition.

Shall your Lordship be soon able to send a shipload of American prisoners to be exchanged in America? I am [etc.],

N—

Sandwich Papers 1: 270–71.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COWES, MARCH 3.”

“Arrived here the *Sally*, an American schooner, bound from Providence to Charlestown; she was taken the 25th of January last by the *Andrew* armed ship, Capt. Guzer,¹ from New York, from whom she parted in a gale of wind.”

London Chronicle, 3–5 Mar. 1778.

1. Ship, John Geyer, master, 300 tons, built in Philadelphia in 1773, James Mather, owner. *Lloyd's Register of Ships*, 1777–1778.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, 1778*]

3^d. of March Hazy Weath^r this Day the two Centinals who Deserted from their posts the 31 Ult. passed by to the Castle to be Tryed by a Court Martial

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Bénodet, France*]

Tuesday, March 3rd.—Weigh'd anchor and came to Sail in fine weather & smooth water, sail'd along the Coast about 25 Leagues and came to anchor in a small Bay near a small village called Benodett,¹ had a curious Adventure with a french Pilot who came on Board to pilot the Ship but would not be compell'd to take charge of her.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Bénodet.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen

Nantes March 3. 1778—

Since my last of the 28 Ult^o I have recv^d advice that the *Duchesse of Grammont* still remains at St Nazarre.—I hear that two Ships of War which were designed to join the Fleet are returned to Rochfort, we have therefore judged proper to detain the *Grammont* 'till further orders, in hopes that you will be able to obtain these Ships for a new Convoy: M^r Ross's Ship the *Henrietta* also remains with the *Grammont*.—

This Day arrived here the Brig. *Nantes* Cap^t Chapman² from Boston, but brought no public Letters: This Brig is from the Board of War at Boston to the ad-

dress of Mess^{rs} Pliarne Penet & Co. I have the honour to inclose you two Newspapers which were given me by Cap^t Chapman. I have rec^d a Letter from my Father dated Jan. 23. 1778 in which he says he has no News to communicate. I therefore conclude that since the beginning of December, Affairs have remained in the same Situation. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jon^a Williams J

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 37, no. 132. Addressed below close: "The Hon^{ble}/The Comm^{rs} of the United States." Docketed: "Jon^a Williams/Nantes March 3^d 78."

1. Above.

2. Capt. Joseph Chapman.

CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM TO ARTHUR LEE

S^r

portugalett March 3^d 78

I received your letter datt^d Feby 20th,¹ and sorry to find that the court of Spain will not Allow Our prize² to be good. On this Subject A Great deal Could be said, the Only thing I could With a Speedy inpedance Sett^l^d, And fall right on france & Spain, from such usage as we meet with from them I think it must be so, if we are imprisond, or A prize Given up its all policy, theare it ends and those that Bears the Burthen of the day is pay^{'d} With Dam^d. policy—

Such payment may do at Court but will not Answer Sailors, You mentione that m^r Lagoanere has wrote You that I left particular Orders that my prizes was left to the sole Disposall of m^r Deane—which is verry true this I did of myselve, as to I arrived at Bilboa I had Not the honour of knowing that you was A Commissioner or that their Was any Other in Europe but Doctor franklin & m^r Deane and by leaving the prizes at the Disposall of m^r Deane I imagined made know [no] difference the[y] being Joint Commissioners—

in Respect of Any Order I do assure you as I wrote before I had none but on the Contrary at a Loss how to proceed, and if I have Commit A fault Or been Neglectfull I am Sorry for it As my endeavours Was to the Contrary I am [&c.]

LB, UKLPR, H.C.A. 32/441/7, pt. 1. Addressed at the top: "Arthur Lee Esq^r"

1. Above.

2. French brig *Gracieux*.

March 4

THE LONDON PACKET; OR, NEW LLOYD'S EVENING POST,
MONDAY, MARCH 2, TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1778

Wednesday, March 4. London.

Capt. Jolly, in the *Ellis*,¹ who arrived here on Tuesday last from New York, on the 23d ult. about one o'clock in the morning fell in with and took the sloop *Endeavour*, captain Potter, from Eddington in N. Carolina, bound to St. Eustatia, burthen about 50 or 60 tons, a fine new sloop, loaded with 43 hogheads of tobacco, and the remainder flour and staves. After taking out the master and four men, leaving only a boy on board, and putting on board his first mate, James Campbell, and three men, he parted with her in about four or five hours, blowing

hard. She had plenty of provisions and water.—On the 26th she fell in with and took the schooner *Nancy*, captain Gross, from Essequiba, in Demeraia, bound to Boston, burthen about 80 tons, loaded with rum, cotton, coffee, &c. say about 115 hogheads, rum, and after taking out the master and three men, leaving one man and a boy, and putting on board his second mate, Richard Brown, and four men, he parted with her the 9th instant, blowing fresh. She had plenty of provisions and water on board.

1. Ship *Ellis*, T. Jolly, master, 350 tons, built at Liverpool in 1775, armed with sixteen 6-pounders, owned by William Boats. *Lloyd's Register of Ships*, 1777–1778.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778*]

4th. Wednesday Pleas^t w^c. This Day James Dick¹ were Bro^t to the barr for the Crime of Profanely Damning of the Honrbl. Continental Congress of the United States of America. for which Crime he was Cobbed 1 Dozⁿ.

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. James Dick, Seaman, Continental Navy brig *Lexington*.

March 5

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, TO
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1778

Thursday, March 5. London.

... The *John*, Casaman, from the Mississippi to London, was taken the 13th of Oct. in the gulph, by a privateer called the *Notre Dame*, Seymour,¹ and afterwards retaken by an armed brig in government's service, and carried into St. John's river, between Georgia and Florida. ...

The *Active*, a letter of marque, Capt. Agnew, has taken and brought into Guernsey two armed prizes, one a schooner of 130 tons burthen, bound from Nantucket to Nantz, and the other a brig, bound from Boston to Bourdeaux.

1. See *NDAR* 10: 400.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO GOURLADE & MOYLAN

Gentlemen,

Ranger Quimper Bay March 5th: 1778

Having unfortunately discovered symptoms of the Small Pox breaking out on Joseph Ratcliff a Valuable Boy belonging to the American Continental Ship under my Command—to prevent (if possible) its spreading among the Crew a great Part of whom have never been Inoculated—I have sent him on Shore at Point l'Abbé, and as Monsieur Le Roy of that place has had the goodness to undertake that the Boy shall be taken proper care of until he is recovered—the Commissioners at Paris having recommended that I should apply to you in Case of emergency—I do request that you reimburse Monsieur Le Roy for the Contingent expence and also have the Boy taken care of until he can be returned to me or to some other

Commander in the American Navy in case you should not hear further from me within the space of two months.—should you think proper to apply to Jon^{as} Williams Esq^r of Nantes he will repay you.—I am &c^a—

LB, MdAN, John Paul Jones Letter Book, Mss. No. 236, p. 1. Addressed at foot: "Mess^{rs}/Mess^{rs}: Goulade & Moylan/à L'orient."

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Quimper Bay, France*]

Thursday, March 5th.—Went with Joseph Ratcliff to Pontlably¹ and procured good lodgings for Him supposing the Eruption (which came out last night) to be Small Pox—we were treated with great respect as we were Americans, were waited on near half a mile to the Boat and on parting gave them 3 Cheers which was answered with vive Le Congres.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Pont-l'Abbé.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Dear & hon^d Sir.

Nantes March 5. 1778.

I have recv^d your obliging Favour of the 28 Inst. and am much rejoiced at M^r Chaumonts success;¹ I hope he will retain a Dedomagement for his Trouble and Kindness. If this Money is to be paid in America how am I to be reimbursed my Expences & p^d Commissions? but I suppose the 50,000 Livres will be paid here; I beg Sir you will obtain this for me, for a Reimbursement from America may never reach me, more especialy as the owners of these privateers are numerous and all unknown to me—

I must think a little relative to M^r Lee's Intention before I decide, and it would be of great Service to me in this Decision if I knew whether or not the Commissioners intend to put a period to my doing Business by their Authority; for while they continue to support me, I surely cannot wish for the Authority of M^r Lee.² Besides, I much Doubt his powers, as I have good Information that his Commission makes no mention of a Substitute and therefore obliges him to act himself or leave it to the former agent.³ He is dead, but previous to his Death he vested me with at least as good powers as M^r Lee can give, a Copy of these powers, and the Condition of my accepting them you have inclosed. I entered into this Agreement with M^r Morris by his particular Desire, to prevent any more Difficultys between us, and took Charge of the *Ranger* & hir prize in consequence; M^r M 'tis true did not fullfil his part of the Agreement, for instead of letting the whole prize money come into my hands, he (unknown to me) recv^d 1500 Livres more than the Congress part, & left me to settle with the People with that deficiency (I was obliged to make it good, for not a Man would have staid by the Ship, if their prize money had been kept from them,) and for about 60,000 Livres expended on the *Ranger*, he has not advanced a Sol. I therefore wrote to the Comm^{rs} last post⁴ to be informed whether I was to look on this Business as done by M^r Morris's Authority or theirs; if they conclude that the Powers from M^r Morris are superiour to theirs, I shall also think them superiour to those of M^r Lee; if they conclude that their

Powers are superiour to those of Mr Morris, Mr Lees must again fall in the lightest Scale. These Circumstances through [*i.e.*, *throw*] me into a Dilemma which I cannot be releived from till I hear from the Commissioners, and it will particularly oblige me if you will favour me with your opinion on the Subject. In the mean Time if Mr Lee throughs any Business in my way as a Factor for him, I will chearfully transact it & endeavour to deserve his Friendship by my Conduct, as I shall to any person who employs me in the Line of my profession.

The Latter part of your Letter is easily answered. The only reason that the *Lion*⁵ did not sail so soon as I wished & as the Commodore expected is that Government had put the Ship under an arrest which was not taken off till after the Fleet had waited many Days in Quiberon, & when it was taken off the Tides would not permit hir to go from Painbeuf and our men had all deserted by her laying along side other Shipping. The Difficulties I have had to encounter have been extremely vexatious & almost innumerable. I should tire you by a repetition but I request you to ask for my Letters to the Comm^{rs} of the 6 Dec^r 16 Dec^r 30 Dec^r 6 Jan. 9th Jan. & 19 January⁶—You will there see Sir that but for Difficulties which I could not surmount & of which Government only are the Cause, the Ship might have left the River the beginning of last Jan^{ry}. When she did get down to St Nazare, She was all in disorder, and had many things to do relative to the Police on board, and the Instruction of the Men in their Duty, which it was impossible to do where she lay before, but which as I have said before would have been all compleat by the beginning of Jan^{ry} had I been left to go on my own Way: Nay if I had dared to act openly that Ship should have sailed in November.—

As to the Package of Hatts, I assure you I feel ashamed to defend so silly a Charge, that a Frigate of her Importance should wait for such a Trifle can never be supposed by any person the least acquainted in Business, & those who make this Complaint, if they had no regard to Truth, should at least have paid some attention to probability.—I give you my Word & Honour Sir that there is not to my knowledge, nor did I ever intend there should be a single Hat on board that Ship more than what is designed for the use of the Crew, and these with all the other Goods went on board in the Lighter mentioned in my Letter of the 16 Decem^r, There may indeed be some Hatts among the Uniforms sent from Paris but these I know nothing of as I did not open the Packages, however all these were on board in December.

Upon the whole any Person who knows anything of me in this Business, knows I have been a Slave to it, so much so that for the last month of her Stay I have not allowed myself the smallest relaxation from Business not even for the common enjoyments of Society.—

I beg you will please to inform me how you succeed about the 50,000 Livres, You may remember what I told you when at Paris & if this money is not allowed here by Gov^t I shall be under a Necessity of giving that Reason for so much deficiency in my Acco^t with the Comm^{rs}.—

I have made extracts from my Letters to the Comm^{rs} mentioned on the other side to save you the trouble of turning to them—⁷

I beg my Love to Billy.⁸ My Brother Jack⁹ will sail in a Day or two I imagine too soon to be bearer of any Letters from Paris, but shall be glad if you will send a Line

or two for him which contrary Winds may give time for.—I am ever Your dutifull & affec' Kinsman

J Williams J

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 37, no. 131.

1. In his letter of 28 Feb., Franklin reported that Jacques-Donatien Le Ray de Chaumont had obtained an order for the payment to the owners of the Massachusetts privateers *Fanny* and *General Mercer* of the value of the Jamaicamen *Clarendon* and *Hanover Planter*, which had been taken by the privateers but confiscated by the French government and returned to their British owners. Franklin also inquired about the basis of complaints about the delay of the sailing of American ships under French convoy. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 731–32.

2. William Lee.

3. Thomas Morris.

4. Jonathan Williams, Jr., to the American Commissioners in France, 28 Feb., above.

5. Continental Navy frigate *Deane*, formerly the *Lyon*, Capt. Samuel Nicholson, commander.

6. For the Dec. 1777 letters, see *NDAR* 10: 1072–73, 1108–9, 1163–64; for the 6 and 19 Jan. letters, see above; for the 9 Jan. letter, see *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 456.

7. One such extract is Jonathan Williams, Jr., to Benjamin Franklin, 19 Jan., above.

8. William Temple Franklin.

9. John Williams.

March 6

MARQUIS DE NOAILLES TO COMTE DE VERGENNES

[Extract]

Nº 16.

À Londres le 6 mars 1778.

... Plus je souhaitois, Monsieur le Comte, de voir hier le Lord Weymouth . . . il se présente un nouvel incident que pourvoit prévoir le Lord Weymouth, s'il a été exactement instruit de ce que j'ai annoncé à son Colleague le Lord Suffolk. Je le prévins, ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous le mander qu'en faisant la réclamation du *Thamas Koulikan*, je ne me preterois pas à ce que le S^r Henry Grand, un des Passagers de ce Bâtiment, qui se trouvoit actuellement à Londres, subit aucun Interrogatoire, l'affaire ne pouvant être soumise aux formes ordinaires de la Justice du moment que je m'en étois emparé par les ordres de ma Cour. Nonobstant cet avertissement, la Cour de l'amirauté a fait signifier mardi dernier au dit Sieur Henry Grand, l'ordre de comparoitre dans six jours pour être interrogé, sous peine d'emprisonnement. Mes réflexions ont été bientôt faites, et j'ai persisté dans la même résolution.

Si le *Thamas Koulikan* avoit été pris dans quelques Parages de L'Angleterre, il y auroit matiere à Discussion judiciaire, et je ne me croiroit pas en droit d'arrêter le cours de l'ordre civil. Il faudroit constater si le Bâtiment s'est trouvé où il ne devoit pas être par un accident de mer ou par mauvaise intention de la part des gens de l'Equipage. Ici le cas est tout á fait différent. C'est une Navire françois, aiant ses Expéditions en regle, qui est saisi en pleine mer, hors des bornes de la Jurisdiction maritime de L'Angleterre. L'offense qui a été commise est donc évidemment contraire au droit des gens, et à la teneur des Traités. Je ne connois dès lors aucun Tribunal particulier, et je dois attendre que Sa Majesté Britannique me fasse Savoir, par la voie de son Secrétaire d'Etat, la décision qui auroit été portée, pour la transmettre à ma Cour. Je ne prens point au reste de voies détournées. Car je viens d'envoyer au Lord Weymouth l'ordre qui a été signifié au S^r Henry Grand, et

Copie de la Lettre que j'ai écrite en conséquence. Je vous soumetts aussi les mêmes pieces, Monsieur le Comte;¹ Puisse le zele qui m'anime dans cette occasion vous paroître aussi éclairé qu'il est pur. . . . J'ai l'honneur d'être [&c.]

Le M^{is} de Noailles

[Translation]

No. 16.

London, 6 March 1778.

. . . I was also hoping, M. le Comte, to see Lord Weymouth yesterday. . . . A new incident presented itself, which Lord Weymouth could have foreseen, had he been exactly apprised of what I had announced to his colleague, Lord Suffolk. Just as I had the honor of informing you, I indicated to him that in reclaiming the *Thamas Koulikan* I would not countenance that Sieur Henry Grand, one of the Passengers from this Ship, currently in London, should undergo any Questioning, since the affair, from the very moment I took cognizance of it under orders of my Court, did not fall under the ordinary forms of Law. Despite this notification, the Admiralty Court served the said M. Henry Grand last Tuesday with orders to appear in six days for questioning, under penalty of imprisonment. My opinions on the subject were soon rendered, and I persisted in the same determination.¹

If the *Thamas Koulikan* had been seized in English waters, it would be a matter for judicial discussion, and I would not believe it my right to interfere with the civil order. It would be necessary to prove whether the Ship was where it should not have been by an accident at sea or by malicious intent on the part of the crew. Here the case is entirely different. This is a French Merchantman, with its papers in order, which was seized on the high seas, beyond the boundaries of England's maritime jurisdiction. The offense that has been committed is therefore evidently contrary to the laws of nations and to the terms of treaties. I have not been aware since then of any specific Tribunal, and I should expect that His Britannic Majesty will inform me, through his Secretary of State, of the decision which should have been made, in order to transmit it to my Court. I do not at all go about resolving this with indirect means. For I have just sent to Lord Weymouth the order that was served on M. Henry Grand, and a copy of the letter that I wrote in consequence. I submit to you the same items, M. le Comte;² may the zeal that inspires me on this occasion appear to you as well-informed as it is pure. . . . I have the honor to be [&c.]

The Marquis de Noailles

L, FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 529, fols. 30–38. Addressed at foot of first page: "M. le Comte de Vergennes." Notations: "M De Rayneval"; "Rec le 11" (Received the 11th); "Rep le 14 N. 12" (Replied the 14th, No. 12). In the portions of the letter not printed here, Noailles reports on the establishment of the Carlisle Peace Commission, and on debates in Parliament relating to reconciliation with the American colonies and to rumors of a treaty between France and the United States.

1. For the seizure of *Thamas Koulikan*, see Henri-Maximilien Grand to Rodolphe-Ferdinand Grand, 29 Jan., above. Noailles instructed Henry Grand not to submit to questioning concerning the case, and Grand replied that he would follow Noailles's instructions, despite the certainty of his being imprisoned in consequence. Marquis de Noailles to Henri-Maximilien Grand, 5 Mar., *ibid.*, fols. 26–27; and Henri-Maximilien Grand to Marquis de Noailles, 15 Mar., *ibid.*, fols. 123–24. See also Marquis de Noailles to Lord Weymouth, 6 Feb., above, and Noailles to Weymouth, 24 Feb., in NDAR 8: 607–9, where it is misdated 1777. Noailles's arguments parallel Gabriel de Sartine's in his letter to Comte de Vergennes, 9 Feb., FrPMAE, Arch. dipl., Corr. Pol., Angleterre, vol. 528, fols. 292–93.

2. Enclosures were: a copy of an order from the High Court of Admiralty, dated 3 Mar., to the master, mate, and first lieutenant, of the *Thamas Koulikan*, and two passengers, John Baylor and Henry Grand, to appear to undergo examination in six days under penalty of attachment; Noailles to Henri-Maximilien Grand, 5 Mar.; and a copy of a letter from Noailles to Weymouth, dated 6 Mar., transmitting copies of the High Court of Admiralty's order and of the letter from Noailles to Henri-Maximilien Grand. *Ibid.*, vol. 529, fols. 16, 26–27, 39.

EARL OF SANDWICH TO LORD NORTH

Admiralty, 6th March 1778.

My dear Lord—As you say in your letter, with which you have lately honoured me, that you join with me in opinion that our military preparations should be pressed with great diligence, and that you are ready to have our naval situation discussed in the Cabinet without delay, I conclude you mean that that should be part of our business at our dinner tomorrow; I therefore think it proper to lay before your Lordship the fullest information it is in my power to give you of the present state of the Navy, together with my ideas upon this very critical and important subject.

By the accounts this day received from France, it appears that the Duc de Chartres is actually at Brest taking upon him the command of the fleet, which consists of 21 ships of the line and 35 frigates; and that there are at Toulon 12 of the line and 13 frigates, making in all 33 of the line and 48 frigates in commission and ready for service. Spain has also, I believe, 32 of the line and 8 frigates, so that the House of Bourbon have in Europe an actual force of 65 of the line.¹

You will find enclosed a note, seemingly unintelligible, about brandy merchants: that note was brought to me yesterday from my friend at Morlaix, and is his mode of conveying to me that every exertion in point of preparing the fleet at Brest is now going on. Surely there is no longer any fear of our alarming France by our preparations; on the contrary, it seems to me that their preparations ought to be considered as very alarming to this country, and that not a moment should be lost in using every exertion on our part to make ourselves at least equal to our enemies; and this is the more necessary as there is every reason to expect that Captain Digby will fall in with Monsieur de La Motte-Picquet, which must occasion an immediate war. But even if that does not happen, I own I see a French war inevitable at a very little distance.

The present state of our fleet at home is:

41 ships of the line ready for service,

6 others in some forwardness,

3 just commissioned.

50

From these are to be deducted the ships belonging to the three admirals going out² and the *Worcester* of 64 guns under orders for Newfoundland, and also any ship or ships of the line that may be sent to carry out the Commissioners. As to frigates, we are very bare indeed, but we have luckily got eight armed vessels that are stationed for the protection of some of the principal trading towns, which will tend essentially to quiet the alarms we may expect as the spring advances.

Your Lordship will observe that out of the 50 ships which is our whole stock at present, only 41 of them can be said to be in readiness, and some men are wanted even for their equipment; the others cannot be got to sea without some extraordinary measures are used for raising seamen. I therefore think that we should begin to think anxiously of preparing for a general press from protections, to be executed as soon as is thought advisable.

I should also immediately commission every ship that is in any forwardness, whether actually ready to receive men or not, as they will be assembling their offi-

cers and thereby furnish more hands for raising seamen. Of this sort, I think about 12 might be had, some of them quite ready and others not at a great distance.

In the year 1755, when a war was thought to be approaching, 52 ships of the line and 11 of fifty guns were ordered to be fitted between the 10th of January and 26th of April; by this early preparation we were far in advance of the enemy, and fell upon their trade before they had made any arrangement for its defence. Now, if they go on preparing and we stand still, it is evident that the tables will be turned upon us, and that our trade at least will be at their mercy. As the French have commissioned their capital ships, can there be grounds for a moment's hesitation about putting the *Victory* into commission? And when the Duc de Chartres is at Brest, why should not Admiral Keppel be at Portsmouth?

I own I think our situation so alarming, that I cannot avoid unburdening my mind and begging of your Lordship most seriously to revolve this business in your thoughts, and to consider how fatal it may be to this kingdom if another hour be lost in our naval equipments.

I think it should be a matter of consideration whether, if we see a war with France to be inevitable, we should not recall ten or twelve of our frigates from America. I am [etc.],

Sandwich

Sandwich Papers 1: 349–52.

1. "A letter from Admiral Duff to Sandwich, dated *Panther*, Gibraltar Bay, March 5, 1778, gives a list of the Spanish ships at Cadiz on February 16. There were 20 sail of the line, said to be manned and victualled for six months; five more were expected to join from Ferrol and one from Carthagená." *Ibid.*, p. 349.

2. "Gambier and Byron to North America, Barrington to the Leeward Islands; only Gambier actually left England at this time." *Ibid.*, p. 350.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger*, at sea]

Friday, March 6th.—This morning (being fine weather) came to sail, in the morning went through of Passage Duroi;¹ saw a large Ship to the leward which we thought was a Frigate & the same we saw yesterday: She fail'd in attempting to get through the Passage and stood off.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Passage du Raz, between Pointe du Raz and Île de Sein.

March 7

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM FALMOUTH, MARCH 7."

"This day arrived here the *Lapwing* privateer, of London,¹ and brought in the ship *Union*, of 350 tons burthen, loaded with masts and lumber, bound from Boston to Nantz, in France, consigned by the board of war at Boston to several merchants in Nantz, for sale and returns, signed by Samuel Philips Savage, at Boston."

London Chronicle, 10–12 Mar. 1778.

1. Probably brig *Lapwing*, H. Pearch, master, 120 tons, built at Hull in 1745, thorough repairs in 1763, owned by W. Burstall. *Lloyd's Register of Ships*, 1777–1778.

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[Forton Prison, Portsmouth, 1778]

March 7th this day 16 Prisoners broke out but was all taken again, Mr Tryan and Manning¹ was among them and all put into the Black hole but Manning who by hiding escaped the hole for the first night and the next morning had liberty to stay out to dinner after dinner he made another trial and got clear off after he got out he found a friend that both supplied him with Money and cloths and immediately set out for London and jest as he got into the bounds of London the Press-Gang came across him and prest him and carried him on board of the *Nightingale* tender off the Tower I do not expect to see him again as they are in great want of men

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777-79, collection 2272.

1. Lieutenant William Tryon, South Carolina Navy brigantine *Notre Dame*, and Edward Manning, Massachusetts privateer brigantine *Rising States*.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*[*Ranger, near Brest, France*]

Saturday, March 7th.—Came to anchor in Baldavids Bay¹ not far from the River of Brest.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Baie de Davie.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen

Nantes March 7 1778.

The *Duchesse of Grammont* is still waiting your permission to proceed to sea.

I have been trying several people to get a Ship to carry out what Goods remain, without success. The Ship at Lorient I mentioned in my last¹ does not turn out to my Satisfaction.

Mr Gruel has a Ship here which is a good Sailor. I know her to be such because she lately came from America & the amⁿ Captain gives her that Reputation; he will not let her under 350 Livres all round the Tonnage to be reckoned on the Ships measurement: this is exorbitant & I have of course refused it. To Day Mr Gruel offers me his Vessell for Sale, his price is 45000 Livres 1/3 Cash the other 1/3 in three months.² I can't purchase without your orders but if you approve I will do the best I can. It will certainly be necessary to have a Ship, for (as I have already often times mentioned to you) I have 400 Cases of Arms 12000 p^r Hose & 3400 Suits of Cloaths besides other articles on hand. I have one other offer for Frieght to pay Cash down before the Ship Sails at a very moderate Price, but as Frieght is not payable unless the Goods arrive safe, this Freight ought not to be more than if there were no risque at all; the person asks 87[#] on these Conditions, but he ought to come down if you agree to his Terms. This Ship is the famous *Duc de Chartres* that I formerly had so much Trouble about.—³

Mr Grand mentions to me to day that you have not yet given your Approbation of a Continuation of my Drafts, which I beg you to do immediately as Delays in these delicate points affect ones Reputation or if you rather choose the

mode give me an enlarged Credit for a Stipulated Sum. I shall furnish you with the Acco^{ts}. for the *Lion*⁴ the *Ranger* the Magazine the Cloathing the Shoes &c &c as soon as I can but they are too extensive to be suddenly collected in the mean Time I request your attention to my Credit with M^r Grand.—I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jon^a Williams

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 37, no. 134. Addressed: "The Hon. The Commissioners/of the United States." Docketed: "Jon^a Williams/Nantes March 7. 78."

1. See 26 Feb., above.

2. Presumably, the second "1/3" should be "2/3."

3. Williams had unsuccessfully sought to purchase the *Duc de Chartres*. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 24: 246, 268–69, 282–83, 298, 314, 329, 332–33, 343–44, 349–50, 358, 384–87, 397–98.

4. Renamed Continental Navy frigate *Deane*.

DIARY OF JOHN ADAMS

[*Frigate Boston at sea*]

March 7. Saturday.—The Same prosperous Wind, and the Same beautifull Weather continue.—We proceed in our Course at the Rate of about 200 Miles in 24 Hours.—We have passed all the Dangers of the American Coast, Those of the Bay of Biscay, remain.—God grant Us, an happy Passage through them all.—

Yesterday, the Ship was all in an Uproar, with Laughter.—The Boat Swains Mate asked one of his Superiour officers, if they might have a Frolick—The Answer was, Yes.—Jere. accordingly, with the old Sailors, proposed to build a Galley, and all the raw Hands to the Number of 20 or 30 were taken in, and suffered themselves to be tyed together, by their Legs.—When all of a Sudden, Jere. and his knowing ones, were found handing Bucketts of Water over the Sides and pouring them upon the poor Dupes, untill they were wet to the Skin.—The Behaviour of the Gullies, their Passions and Speeches and Actions were diverting enough.—So much for Jere's Fun.—This Frolick, I Suppose, according, to the Sailors Reasoning, is to conjure up a Prize.—

This Morning the Captain ordered all Hands upon Deck and took an account of the Number of Souls, on board which amounted to 172—then he ordered the Articles of War to be read to them—after which he, ordered all Hands upon the Forecastle and then all Hands upon the Quarter deck, in order to try Experiments, for determining, whether, any difference was made in the Ships Sailing, by the Weight of the Men being forward or abaft. then all Hands were ordered to their Quarters to exercise them at the Guns.—M^r Barron gave the Words of Command, and they Spent an Hour, perhaps in the Exercise, at which they seemed tolerably expert.—Then the Captain ordered a Dance, upon the Main Deck, and all Hands, Negroes, Boys and Men were obliged to dance. after this the old Sailors Set on Foot another Frolic.—called the Miller, or the Mill. I will not Spend Time to describe this odd Scène: but it ended in a very high frolic, in which almost all the Men were powderd over, with Flour, and wet again to the Skin.—Whether these whimsical Diversions are indulged, in order to make the Men wash themselves, and shift their Cloaths, and to wash away Vermin I dont know.—But there is not in them the least Ray of Elegance, very little Wit, and a humour of the coarsest Kind, it is not Superiour to Negro & Indian Dances.

Diary, MHi, Adams Family Papers, Diary of John Adams (D/JA/47), 19–20.

March 8 (Sunday)

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR HENRY CLINTON

(Duplicate)

Whitehall 8th. March 1778.

Most secret

Sir,

In my Letter to you of the 4th. of February¹ I acquainted you that, Sir William Howe having requested His Majesty's Permission to resign his Command, His Majesty had been graciously pleased to acquiesce in his Request, and that I had signified to him His Majesty's Pleasure that he should deliver up the Command to you, and put into your Possession all Orders & Instructions he has received from me, or any other of the King's Servants respecting the Troops, or the Operations in which they have been, or were to be employed. The devolution of so great a Trust would, upon any Occasion, carry with it the highest Proof of the Royal Confidence; but, in the present Circumstances, when the most essential Interests of the British Empire are so deeply engaged, and the Power, Reputation, and future Welfare of this Nation depend, in so great a degree, upon the Successful Employment of the Forces committed to your Command, the Importance of the trust increases with the Immensity of the Object, and is the fullest Manifestation of His Majesty's entire Reliance upon your Zeal & Ability.

My circular Letter of this Day's Date² will inform you of what has been done by the King & Parliament, towards opening the Way for the Return of peace; and if that be true which has been so repeatedly declared by the Colony Assemblies, and is still asserted by many persons, who pretend to be well informed of the Dispositions of the Inhabitants, that the Generality of the People desire nothing more than a full Security for the Enjoyment of all their Rights & Liberties under the British Constitution, there can be no room to doubt that the generous Terms, now held out to them, will be gladly embraced, and that a Negotiation will immediately take place, upon the Arrival of the new Commission, and be so far advanced, before the Season will admit of military Operations, as to supersede the Necessity of another Campaign. So speedy & happy a Termination of the War could not fail to give the greatest pleasure to the King, as the Peace, Prosperity & Happiness of all His Subjects has ever been the most ardent Wish of His Royal Breast. But however desirous His Majesty is of putting an end to this unhappy Contest, by the Way of Negotiation, and notwithstanding the just ground there is to expect such will be the Effect of the present Measure, His Majesty does not think fit to slacken any preparation which has been judged necessary for carrying on the War, it being His Majesty's firm Purpose to prosecute it, with the utmost Vigor, in case the Colonies shall obstinately persist in their Refusal to return to their Allegiance, and pay obedience to the Constitutional Authority of Government. It is, therefore, proper that I should now acquaint you with His Majesty's Intentions respecting the Operations of the next Campaign, should another Campaign become necessary, as far as His Majesty has yet determined upon them. The unfortunate Issue of the Canada Expedition, and the unbroken State of the Rebel Force, would make it necessary to have at least as great an Army in the

Field, to effect anything of Importance the next Campaign, as that which Sir William Howe commanded in the last; at the same time the keeping Possession of Philadelphia, in Addition to the Posts we before occupied, must occasion a considerable Deduction from the Force which was then employed in active Service. Every possible Effort will be made to send out Reinforcements; and it is with great Satisfaction I can inform you that His Majesty has received the most uncommon Testimonies of Affection & Support, in the Prosecution of the War. Several new Corps have been voted by Parliament, and many Noblemen and Gentlemen of extensive Influence, and some great Cities have undertaken to raise them, and in London, Bristol, and many other Towns considerable Sums have been contributed, by voluntary Subscription, to be given in Bounties to Recruits for the old Regiments, so that I am not without Hopes we shall be able to send out, in the Course of the Summer Ten or Twelve Thousand British Soldiers, to which I expect will be added a Regiment or two of Germans. But, considerable as such a Reinforcement, if we can effect it, must be allowed to be, in our present Circumstances, His Majesty is nevertheless of Opinion that the War must be prosecuted upon a different Plan, from that upon which it has hitherto been carried on. Care must be taken to provide for the Security of all our American Possessions. Some additional Force must be sent from hence to Canada, as well to secure that Province, as to annoy the Rebellious Colonies on that Side, and oblige them to keep a considerable Body of their Troops on foot for the Defence of their Frontiers. Newfoundland and Nova Scotia must likewise be strengthened, and the Floridas must not be left exposed to any sudden Attack. The additional Force intended to be sent to Canada will consist of one new raised British Regiment, & two German Regiments, making together about 3,000 Men. A Detachment of Artillery will be sent to Newfoundland; and it is proposed that the Governor should raise a Corps in the Island, to remain there for its Defence. Two of the new raised Regiments, together with the 70th. will be sent to Halifax, and two Others of the new Levies will be sent to St Augustine & Pensacola. When these Detachments are made, the Reinforcement, exclusive of Recruits, to be sent to the Army under your immediate Command, will be reduced to five of the new Highland Regiments, and the Edinburgh and Glasgow Regiments of 1,000. each. Three entire Highland Regiments, and five Companies of each of the other two, are under Orders to embark on the 2^d. April in the Clyde; and, if no Change happens in the Situation of Affairs in Europe, the other five Companies of those two Regiments, together with the Edinburgh & Glasgow, will follow as soon as they can be compleated. It is therefore recommended to you, if you should find it impracticable to bring M^r Washington to a general and decisive Action early in the Campaign, to relinquish the Idea of carrying on offensive Operations against the Rebels within Land, and, as soon as the Season will permit, to embark such a Body of Troops as can be spared from the Defence of the Posts you may think necessary to maintain, on board of transports under the Conduct of a proper number of the King's Ships, with Orders to attack the Ports on the Coast, from New York to Nova Scotia, and to Seize or destroy every Ship or Vessel in the different Creeks or Harbours, wherever it is found practicable to penetrate; as also to destroy all Wharfs and Stores, and Materials for Ship-building, so as to incapacitate them from raising a Marine, or continuing their Depredations upon the Trade of this Kingdom, which has been

already so much annoyed by their Ships of War and Privateers. This Service, it is imagined, will best be executed by two different Armaments; The principal One to Set out from New York, and the Other from Halifax; that, while the Connecticut Coast is attacked on the one Side, the like Attempts may be made on the Ports in the Province of Maine and New Hampshire on the Other, and both Armaments unite, or act in Concert, for the Attack of Boston, and the other Ports in the Massachuset's Bay: And it may be hoped that the Troops & Ships at Rhode Island will find a favorable Opportunity, while these Operations are carrying on, to destroy the Shipping in Providence River, & those in the other Creeks, which branch out of Rhode Island Harbour. The number of Troops & Ships necessary for this Service must be left to you and the Admiral to determine;³ but I am commanded to say to you, that the Object appears to the King of such Importance, that should you be of Opinion a number of Troops, sufficient to ensure Success in the different Enterprizes, cannot be spared with Safety to Philadelphia, it is His Majesty's Pleasure that you do consult with the Admiral upon the most proper Situation for establishing a Post upon the Delaware River, if you shall think a Post upon that River necessary, capable of being defended by a small Body of Men, and of giving Protection to the Ships, which it may be necessary to station in that River, and that, when you shall have taken such Measures as you and the Admiral shall judge necessary and effectual, for obstructing the Navigation of the River by the Rebels, you do withdraw the Troops from Philadelphia, and, leaving a sufficient Garrison in the Post you may have established, embark the rest, and proceed to New York, with such part as you shall not think necessary for the Service abovementioned. I would not however be understood to convey it to you as His Majesty's Opinion that the Possession of Philadelphia is an Object of small Importance, on the contrary His Majesty conceives the Possession of it may be attended with many Advantages, & that the abandoning it may be productive of some ill Consequences, and therefore it is His Majesty's Wish that you may be able to retain it, and He consents to your withdrawing from it only upon the Supposition that the Service I have been pointing out to you, cannot, in your Opinion, be effected while it is retained. When these Operations on the Sea Coasts of the Northern Provinces are concluded, which it is supposed they will be before the Month of October, it is the King's Intention that an Attack should be made upon the Southern Colonies with a View to the Conquest and Possession of Georgia & South Carolina. The various Accounts we receive from those Provinces concur in representing the distress of the Inhabitants, and their general Disposition to return to their Allegiance; A large Supply of Arms will therefore be sent out for the purpose of arming such of them as shall join the King's Troops, and indeed it is the King's Wish that every means were employed to raise and embody the well affected Inhabitants in all the Provinces where any Posts are maintained or Operations carried on. It cannot be expected that Farmers or men of Property, accustomed to a Life of Ease, will engage in the Military Service for an indefinite time, or expose themselves to be carried away to Places remote from their own Possessions, although they would readily enough take up Arms as an embodied Militia, officered by their own Countrymen, and act with the King's Troops throughout a Campaign, or defend a Post in the Absence of the Army. Such appear to be the

Methods taken by the Rebels for strengthening their Army, and I am commanded to recommend the Experiment to your Consideration, & while I am upon this Subject I think it proper also to suggest to you the great Advantages which must follow from drawing over from the Rebels the Europeans in their Service. Especial Encouragement should be held out to them to desert, and join the King's Forces, whether they bring their Arms, or come without them; And all Apprentices and indented Servants who desert to Us, should be assured that, when the War is over, Attention will be given to their Circumstances, and that their Loyalty will not be suffered to go unrewarded.

The ideas, entertained here of the most effectual Mode of making an Attack upon the Southern Provinces, lead to the taking Possession of Georgia, as soon as the Reinforcements arrive, or the Conclusion of the Expeditions against the Northern Provinces will admit of your making a Detachment for that purpose. A Corps of 2,000. Men it is supposed would be fully sufficient to take and keep Possession of Savannah, & when the time of their Departure is fixed, it will be proper to send Orders to General Prevost at St^e Augustine to march a Detachment of that Garrison with the Florida Rangers, and a Party of Indians, to attack the Southern Frontiers, while M^r Stuart⁴ brings down a large Body of Indians towards Augusta. The Submission of that Province cannot fail to be the immediate Consequence of these Movements, and as great Numbers of the Back-Inhabitants would probably avail themselves of the Communication being opened with Georgia to join the King's Troops there, such a Force might be collected as when the Troops destined for the Attack of Charles Town should arrive, would be capable of penetrating into South Carolina between Mount Pleasant & Purisburg, to take Possession of that Tract of Pine Land which separates the Plantations on the Sea Coast from the Back-Settlements, thereby dividing the Province in the Middle, and Opening an easy Communication with the loyal Inhabitants in North Carolina, and by cutting off all Succour and Retreat from the Planters on the Sea Coast, reduce them to the Necessity of abandoning, or being abandoned by, their Slaves, or submitting to the King's Authority. The number of Troops that it is supposed would be sufficient to reduce Charles Town is about Five Thousand, for although the Entrance of the Harbour, and the Line of the Town which fronts to it, is strongly fortified, yet it is imagined that by landing on James's Island, which is accessible to Ships of a small Draught of Water by Stono Inlet, Fort Johnson might be reduced, and a Passage secured through Wappoo Creek, for the flat bottomed Boats to get into Ashley River without danger, or that the Harbour would be so far opened, that the Ships, by taking Advantage of a fair Wind, might pass the Fort on Sullivan's Island, & the Batteries at White Point, and land the Troops behind the Works, where the Town is entirely open, & no Resistance, to be expected. Could a small Corps be detached at the same time to land at Cape Fear, and make an Impression on North Carolina, it is not doubted that large Numbers of the Inhabitants would flock to the King's Standard, & that His Majesty's Government would be restored in that Province also; But your own Knowledge of those Provinces, and the Information you can collect from the Naval & Military Officers that have been upon Service there, will enable you to give the Officer to whom you may entrust the Command, better Instructions than I can

pretend to point out to you at this distance. I will therefore only further observe to you that the Conquest of these Provinces is considered by the King as an Object of great Importance in the Scale of the War, as their Possession might be Easily maintained, & thereby a very valuable Branch of Commerce would be restored to this Country, and the Rebels deprived of a principal Resource for the Support of their foreign Credit, and of paying for the Supplies they stand in need of, as the Products of those Provinces make a considerable part of their Remittances to Europe.

While these Operations are carrying on, every Diversion should be made in the Provinces of Virginia and Maryland that the remaining Troops, which can be spared for offensive Service, in Conjunction with the Fleet, will admit of. The great number of deep Inlets and navigable Rivers in those Provinces expose them in a peculiar Manner to Naval Attack, and must require a large Force to be kept on foot for their Protection, and disable them from giving any Assistance to the Carolinas. The seizing or destroying their Shipping would also be attended with the important Consequence of preventing the Congress from availing themselves, as they have done, of their Staple Commodity, Tobacco, on which, and the Rice and Indigo of Carolina & Georgia, they intirely depend for making Remittances to Europe.

Should the Success we may reasonably hope for attend these Enterprizes, it might not be too much to expect that all America to the South of the Susquehannah, would return to their Allegiance, and in the Case of so happy an Event, the Northern Provinces might be left to their own Feelings and Distress to bring them back to their Duty, and the Operations against them confined to the cutting off all their Supplies and blocking up their Ports.

I have thus, Sir, fully stated to you His Majesty's Wishes and Intentions respecting the Employment of the Troops under your Command, and, having done so, it is my Duty to acquaint you that the King does not mean that you should consider anything which I have said upon that subject as positive Orders for your Conduct, which you are to follow under all Change of Circumstances, or unforeseen Events; On the contrary, it is His Majesty's Pleasure that you do, in all Cases, use your own Discretion, His Majesty committing to you the Planning, as well as the Execution of all the Operations, which shall appear to be the most likely means of crushing the Rebellion, and restoring the Constitutional Authority of Government in the Colonies. I am [&c.]

Geo: Germain

L, UklPR, PRO 30/55, Sir Guy Carleton Papers, vol. 9, no. 996. Addressed at foot of first page: "Sir Henry Clinton." Docketed: "Duplicate./Most Secret./Lord Geo: Germain/to/Sir Henry Clinton./8th March 1778."

1. UklPR, C.O. 5/95, fols. 28–29d.

2. Lord George Germain to Commissioners for Restoring Peace, Sir William Howe, Sir Henry Clinton, Governors William Tryon and Patrick Tonnyn, Commanding Officer at Rhode Island, dated 11 March. Ibid., C.O. 5/242, fols. 208–10.

3. Germain informed the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the same day of the king's wish that they instruct the admiral in command of the North American station to "co-operate with, and give every Assistance in his Power to the Troops in the Execution of the Plans which shall be concerted between them." Ibid., C.O. 5/128, fols. 84–88.

4. John Stuart, superintendent of Indian affairs, southern district.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*[*Ranger, Camaret Bay, France*]

Sunday, March 8th.—Weigh'd and beat up towards Brest came too in Camaritt's Bay¹ 4 Leagues from Brest.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Camaret Bay.

DIARY OF JOHN ADAMS

[Extract]

[*Frigate Boston at sea*]

1778. March 8. Sunday. The same Wind and Weather continues, and We go, at 7 & 1/2 and 8 Knots.—We are Supposed to be past the Western Islands.—

M^r Barrons our first Lt. appears to me to be an excellent Officer—very dilligent, and attentive to his Duty.—very thoughtfull and considerate about the Safety of the Ship, and about order, Economy and Regularity, among the officers, and Men—He has great Experience at Sea.—Has used the Trade to London, Lisbon Affrica, West Indies, Southern States &c—

This Morning, the Captain ordered all Hands upon Quarter Deck to Prayers.—The Captains Clerk, M^r W^m. Cooper, had prepared a Composition of his own, which was a very decent, and comprehensive Prayer, which he delivered, in a grave and proper manner. The officers and Men all attended, in clean Cloaths, and behaved very Soberly.

The Weather has been cloudy all Day—towards night it became rainy and windy, and now the Ship rolls, a little in the old Fashion—We are about 2000 Miles from Boston. . . .

Diary, MHi, Adams Family Papers, Diary of John Adams (D/JA/47), 21.

March 9

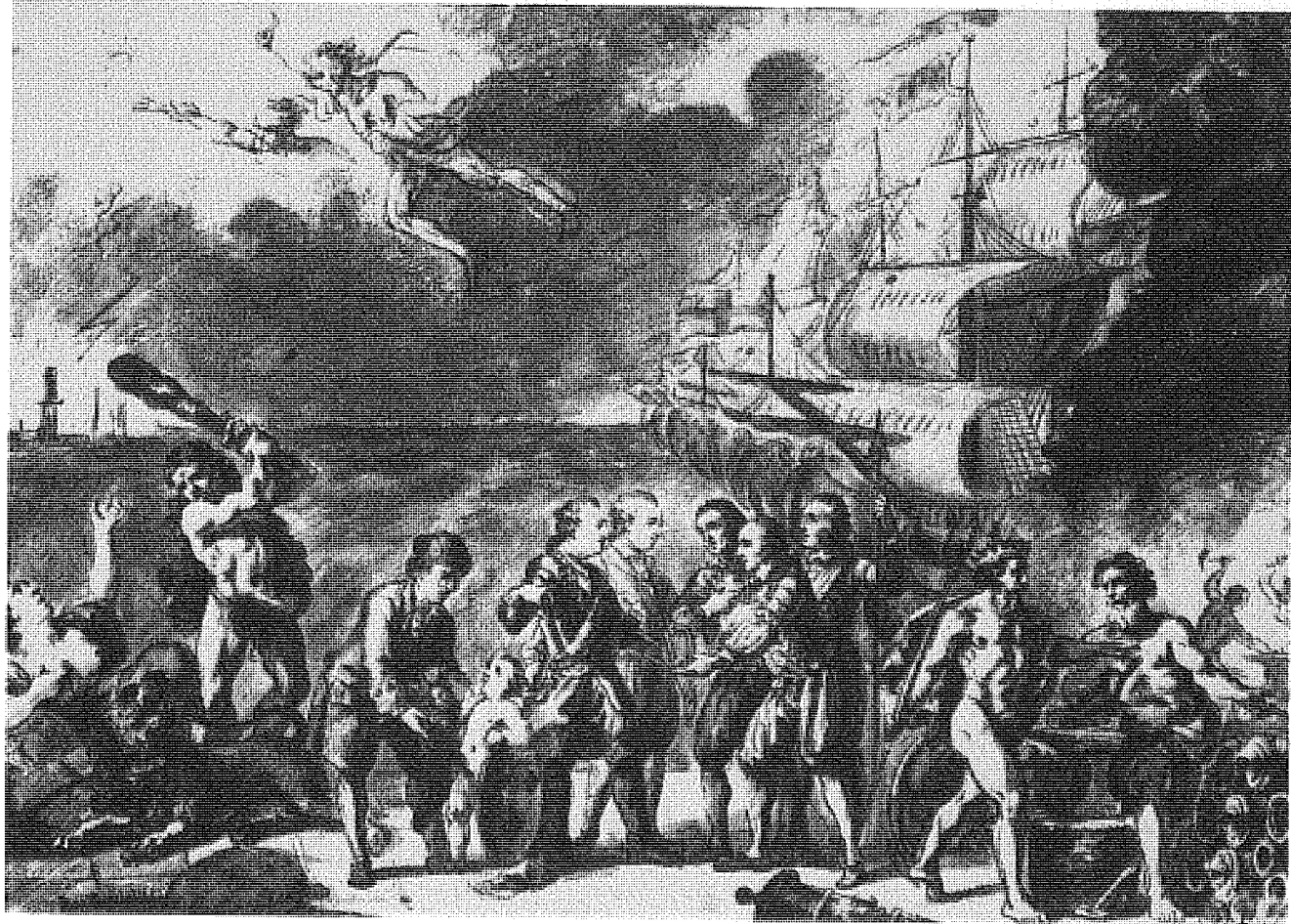
CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO GOURLADE & MOYLAN

Gentlemen,

Brest March 9th: 1778.—

I wrote to you from Quimper Bay the 5th: Curr^t: having discovered the small Pox breaking out on Joseph Ratcliff a Boy belonging to the Ship under my Command—whom I therefore left under the Care of Mons^r: Le Roy of that place.¹—I desired you to reimburse Monsieur Le Roy for the necessary and Contingent expence and to have the Boy taken care of until he could return to the Service.—

I was in hopes that this Malady would have stopped here but am disappointed.—It is now breaking out on others Viz^t: John Brown, Simon Staples, William Furness, & Solomon Hutchings, whom I therefore shall leave here at [*blank*] under the Care of Monsieur [*blank*] I desire you to reimburse this Gentleman for the Expence which may be incurred while these unhappy Men are under this disorder; and also to Supply their wants until they Can be restored to the Service.—I earnestly hope that this Calamity will stop here.—I cannot bear the



"Allegory of the Franco-American Alliance"

thought of laying up the Ship tho' the full half of her Compliment have never been inoculated.—

These Expences you will please to carry either to the debit of the Commissioners or of Jon^{as} Williams Esq^r of Nantes—and should I have Occasion for any necessaries before the Wind permits my departure myself or my Officer M^r Simpson who Countersigns this will write you a letter of Advice.—I am [&c.]

LB, MdAN, John Paul Jones Letter Book, Mss. No. 236, pp. 1–2. Addressed at foot: “Mess^{rs}/Mess^{rs}: Gourlade & Moylan/Negociants/à L'orient.”

1. Above.

March 10

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Brest, France*]

Tuesday, March 10th.—Last night eight of our People took the Cutter and went on shore and ran off leaving the Boat on the Rocks.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

March 11

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

Secret

N^o 27

Paris March 11th. 1778

My Lord

The french King did not receive the foreign Ministers Yesterday, neither did M de Vergennes come to Paris.

I have now been a fortnight without seeing either Him or M de Maurepas, but no disadvantage to his Majesty's service can arise from this Circumstance, as nothing I could say would in the present Disposition of this Court be of the Smallest Utility. France has thrown the Die, and must now await the final Event; may it be such as is due to Her Treachery.

As Your Lordship most justly observes in your Letter N^o 10, no Representations with regard to the Destination of M la Motte Piquets Squadron, could be of the least use; any Orders that could have been sent me by the last Messenger would have arrived too late, as it is certain that the Squadron is actually sailed, consisting as I am assured, of Seven Ships of the Line, four Frigates, two American Frigates, which M la Motte allowed to join Him, and from Sixteen to twenty Merchant Vessels, which He is to Convoy, but to what Latitude is not exactly known. It is generally thought that He will convoy them only to Cape Finisterre, but I am persuaded He will go much farther.

Tho' it is pretended that these Merchant Ships are bound to S^t Domingo, yet every body who is at all informed, knows that that is not their real Destination, knows that they are bound to North America, and laden with Arms, Ammunition,

clothing Regimentals for 25,000 Men, Salt, and every Article the Americans can stand in need of. What advantage the Rebels will draw from such immense supplies if they are suffered to reach America, it is but too easy to see.

On Sunday last it was reported all over Paris, that when the two American Frigates joined M la Motte they saluted Him with fourteen Guns, and He returned the salute with nine. Tho' this is positively asserted, I can by no Means warrant the Truth of it, on the contrary I have been assured that there is a Letter from an Officer on board M la Mottes Fleet, that says positively that He did not return the Salute.¹

I am privately informed that the Congress has recalled M^r Silas Deane on Account of some fraudulent Contracts in which He and Beaumarchais have been concerned, and that M^r George Adams is to be sent hither in his Room.²

M^r Arthur Lee is going immediately to Spain; I wrote Yesterday to L^d Grantham to acquaint his Lordship with M^r Lees Intention, and gave Him my Opinion of the object of this Journey, which I have no doubt is to endeavour to induce Spain openly to espouse the Cause of the Rebels, by joining in all those treacherous Measures which France has taken of late with the Knowledge and secret Approbation of Her Ally.

I have just learnt that two French Officers, who served in Washington's Army are arrived at L'Orient. The Account they give of the Situation of both Armies is very contrary to the belief, and Expectations of this Country; They represent our Troops as being in great Health and Spirits, and abundantly provided with every necessary of Life, and the Rebels as reduced to the greatest Distress for want of Shoes, Blankets, and Cloathing. They say this Distress is so great, that the Rebels must sink under it if they do not receive supplies from Europe. I own, My Lord that this Account, which tho' it may perhaps be exaggerated, has, I am persuaded a strong Foundation in Truth, makes me doubly Anxious that the ships M la Motte convoys may never find their Way to America. I am [&c.]

Stormont.

Stevens's Facsimiles, vol. 22, no. 1890. Addressed at foot of first page: "Lord Weymouth." Docketed: "Paris 11 March 1778/Lord Stormont/(N^o 27)/R. 15th by Roworth from/Dover/one inclosure."

1. Continental Navy ship *Ranger*, Capt. John Paul Jones, commander, and Continental Navy sloop *Independence*, Capt. John Young, commander, exchanged salutes with the French squadron in Quiberon Bay on 14 and 15 Feb., respectively.

2. Congress voted Silas Deane's recall on 21 Nov. 1777, officially so that he could return and report on European affairs, but in reality because of objections to the multitude of Continental military commissions he issued to French officers, and to suspicions aroused by Arthur Lee's insinuations relative to the contracts for supplies sent by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais. Congress elected John Adams, delegate from Massachusetts, in Deane's stead on 28 Nov. *JCC* 8: 946–47, 975.

Remarks on Wednesday March 11th: 1778. on Board Ship *Boston*.—¹

The first part of this 24 Hours attended with fresh Brezes of Wind and flying Clouds. at 1 PM saw a Ship to the SE. standing to the West, out one Reef of the Top sails & then gave chase, at 3 PM came up with her, I fired a Gun & they returned three and then down Collours, I ordered the Boat hoisted out & sent M^r Barron² & M^r Reed³ on Board who sent on Board us Cap^t M^c Intosh of the Prize Ship & some of the Crew, The Prize is called the *Martha*, & commanded by Peter M^c Intosh, was bound from London to New York, with a Valuable Cargo of Provision & other stores & Merchendize of different sorts.—set M^r Tucker on Board for the Night. The latter part my People imployd in bringing Prizoners & their Bagga[g]e from the Ship

The Names of the Prizoners taken in the *Martha* viz^t

1 Peter M ^c Intosh.	Comm ^r	15. Rob ^t Hutchins	27 John Cockran
2 Robert Golch	Passenger	16. Ralpf Prescott	28 Peter Nowlan
3 John Wallace	Ditto	17. John Pratt	29 James Duncan
4 M ^r Bennet	1 st . Mate	18. Andrew Berry	30 Rob ^t Wells.—
5 Andrew Munroe	2 ^d Ditto	19. Dan ^l . Swords	31 Joseph Esther
6 Hector M ^c Kenzie	Passenger	20 Tho ^s . Woodnot	32 Rich ^d . Jones.—
7 Mordecai Isaac	Ditto	21 Archibald Frazier	33 William Jordan
8 Michael Levy	Ditto	22 Peter Mitch	34 J. P. Werner. docter
9 Joseph Staggs	3 ^d Mate	23 David Morey	
10 Alex: Webster	Boatswain	24 Jeremiah Shaw	
11 John Main	Cook	25 James Bushell	
12 John Williams	Capt ^t . Stew ^d .	26 Benj ^a . Bushell	
13 [blank]	Carpenter		
14 John M ^c Kenzie	D ^o Mate		

Latt^d. P Obs: 43..45.

Course	Dist	X Latt ^d	Depart	Latt ^d . P Obs	X Long ^d in	Long ^d in	Meridian Dis ^t
S ^o 80 ^d ; E	55m	22; South	54m E	43 ^d =45 ^m	1 ^d =15; E	13 ^d =35 ^m W	2506; East

D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fms Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).
1. This entry runs from noon of 10 Mar. to noon of 11 Mar., following sea time.
2. Lt. William Barron, 1st lieutenant of *Boston*.
3. Lt. Benjamin Reed, 2nd lieutenant of *Boston*.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER TO THE CONTINENTAL NAVY BOARD
OF THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT

Coppy of a Letter sent to the Hon^{ble}. Navy Board East^t. Depert^t. Boston by Lieu^t. Hezekiah Welch, who goes prize Master of the Ship *Martha*, with the Coppy of his Orders.—

Gentⁿ. On Board the *Boston* Frigate at Sea March 11th. 1778.—
In the Latt^d. of 44^d.00^m. N^o. Long: of 16^d..30^m. West.—

These will be handed your Honours by M^r. Welch my 3^d Lieu^t informing your Honours of my present Situation, which is happy, I have met with many Troubles, since left Boston, but providence conducted safe through all—Gods name be praised.—The Prize Ship *Martha*, a Letter marque from London Cap^t. Peter M^c.Intouch¹ I took yesterday afternoon, but could not dispatch her before, the wind so high & Sea was so dangerous. Gentⁿ. I hope to pay for the *Boston*—as I told your Honours before sailing I am but poorly man'd to my Sorrow, I dare not attack a 20 Gun Ship but I hope with Gods Blessing it will not be so during the Cruize.—The Cap^t. of the Ship distroyd his papers, but I have since ascertained the Value of her Cargo, 84000 Sterl^g. Cost. the Cap^t. & Mate tells me of an Article of Tea 142 Chests & a Quantity of Bale Goods, but no Invoice. When I came down to the Ship I desired his Honour² to go below as I saw his Lower Deck Ports open, guns run out, prepared for Action not Discovering what I was coming head to him, but he told me no he would Chuse to stand the Deck, M^r. Vernon likewise. I then up Courses hailed before he could possibly discover me, he then bore away firing a broad side carried away my Mizen yard & done no other Damage. the Gentⁿ. on Deck did not Change their Countenance. by this Time I came close on Board he discovered me, and did not think himself able to get his Colours down soon enough, but horridly Scared, by these means I took her without any more Resistance & better for him it was so, and myself too.—Gentⁿ. pray excuse my sending a Lieu^t. my Prize Master, being so valuable, I thought it a great duty incumbent'd by so doing—This from Your most Obedient Hum^{ble}. Serv^t.

Sam^l. Tucker

Above is the orders.—³

LB, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fms Am 812), Letter Book.

1. Capt. Peter McIntosh.

2. John Adams.

3. See next document.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER TO LIEUTENANT HEZEKIAH WELCH

Orders On Board the *Boston* Frigate March. 11th. 1778
To Hezekiah Welch. Gentⁿ.

You are by me now appointed to the Command of the Ship *Marthey*, I desire you would make the best of your way to Boston, running up your Long: in 37.00 North as far to the Westw^d. as 68.00. West, be carefull to avoid all Vessels you may see, keeping a man at mast head from day brake untill dark at night, and if you should be so unfortunate as to be taken, Distroy my Letters with your Signals.—if you go safe Lodge my signals at the navy board, not showing them to your dearest friend;—be very cautious of your lights by night to show none in no respect; when

you arrive acquaint the Hon^{ble}. Board of every Instance that is happened on my passage, and I desire you would be as attentive to Ship in port as at Sea, keep as Regular Orders as you would do at Sea & men under the same Subjection, other orders are to your self discrestionary in defending the Ship. Your well Wisher

Sam^l. Tucker

P.S.—You are to deliver the Ship to Gaberal Johonnot Esq^r Who Acts as Agent for me and Men.—She being a Commissioned Ship we all repose a special Confidence in him

LB, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS AM 812), Letter Book.

JOHN EMERY TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Sir

Bilbao, 11 March 1778

Capⁿ James Babson of the Privateer Brig^t *General Mercer* saild from hence in company with three other privateers¹ for New England the 7th Inst^t he has left his affairs here in my care & Requested me before his departure to write you on the Subject of his prizes which he took and carried into Nantes which he has been Informd were Restored to the former Proprietors in England²

he thinks and it appears to me with Justice that the Court of France have in that affair acted very arbitrarily & unfriendly in disposing of his Property without his consent & in a manner the most forreign to his wishes—they Undoubtedly have their political Reasons for so doing but I cannot think they have Just Reasons

If they are Inclind to keep peace with England by force of Intrest it would at least be more Generous to purchase it with their own than with the Property of a few Private Armd Vessells therefore if that was their Motive in Restoring the Captured Ships it is but Reasonable they Should make some Compensation to Capⁿ. Babson for the Loss he Sustains—should they Incline to make him aney I have his Instructions for the disposal thereof for the Bennefit of the Concern'd—I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Jn^o Emery

PS. If aney thing can be done in the affair pray direct Dⁿ Juan Emery En Casa de Los Sen^{rs}. Dⁿ. Joseph Gardoqui y Hijox, Bilbao

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 163. Addressed: "Honourable Benjamin Franklin Esq^r/Passi/Parris." Docketed: "J. Emery/11 March 78."

1. Emery is most likely referring to the Massachusetts privateer schooners *Hawke* and *Lively*, and the Continental Navy cutter *Revenge*. Charles Murray to Robert Walpole, 16 Mar., below, and John Emery to Massachusetts Board of War, 30 Jan., above.

2. Jamaicaen *Clarendon* and *Hanover Planter*, captured by Massachusetts privateers *Fanny* and *General Mercer*, and seized at Nantes for false entries.

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o: 79.

Corunna 11th: March 1778

My Lord

I have the Honor to acquaint your Lordship that the *San Pedro* of 74 Guns is ready to sail to Cadiz from Ferrol deeply laden with warlike Stores, and that the *Real* of 114 Guns supposed to be the largest Ship in Europe is preparing to be fitted out.

The 6th Instant La *Nymphé* a French Frigate of 40 Guns commanded by Le Comte de Joinville¹ arrived in this Port and reports that she belongs to a Squadron now cruizing in the Bay of Biscay.

The Rebel Privateer *Hawke*, Jeremiah Hilbert Master has taken and carried into Bilboa a Newfoundland Ship² Capt: Sowder Cole, laden with 2500 Quintels of Codfish and twenty Tons of Oil

Nothing else deserving Your Lordship's Attention has occur'd since my last of the 18th. Past.

I most humbly recommend myself to the Continuance of your Lordships Protection and Favor, having the Honor to be [&c.]

H Katencamp

L, UklPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fol. 114. Addressed at the foot of the first page: "The R^t Hon^{ble}. Lord Viscount Weymouth." Docketed: "Coruña 11 March 1778/Consul Katenkamp/(N^o 79)/R. 6 April."

1. Lieutenant Commandant Nicolas-Antoine, Chevalier de Beaudot de Sainneville, commanded *Nymphé*.

2. *Dove*. See "Extract of a letter from Capt. John Lowden Cole, Bilboa, Feb. 28," above.

March 12

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, TO
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1778

Thursday, March 12. London.

When his Majesty's ship the *Fox* was engaging the two American privateers that took her,¹ the one was on her broad-side, the other on her quarter. In the midst of the action, one of the privateer's men saw a wad in a blaze in the *Fox*'s mizen chains, which probably would soon have consumed the ship; she then called to her comrade to desist firing, which they both did, and hailed the *Fox* to inform them, that their mizen chains were on fire: as soon as that blaze was extinguished, they renewed the fight till the *Fox* struck. This anecdote came out in the course of the evidence on the trial of Captain Fotheringham.

1. Continental Navy frigates *Boston* and *Hancock*. See NDAR 9: 47, 85–87, and *passim*.

JAMES MOYLAN TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Dear Sir

L'Orient 12th. March 1778

Your favors addressed to Mess^{rs}. Gurlade & Moylan of the 5th. & 9th. Curr^t. are now before me,¹ I wou'd have reply'd to the former on it's receipt, had I thought it wou'd have met you at Brest. The 7th. ins^t. I wrote M^r. Le Ray at Pont L'Abbé, desiring his care of Joseph Ratcliff the Boy you recommended to me, whose expences I promised to be accountable to him for, and make no Doubt but he will pay proper attention to my recommendation; on his recovery I desired he wou'd send him here, and I will dispose of him as you direct.—M^r. Bersolle² who will hand you this, will supply you with every necessary you may be in want of at Brest, with whom I will account for the same on having your or your officer M^r. Simpson's receipt and charge the same in course to the Hon^{ble}. Commissioners I wish you every success and am [&c.]

James Moylan

P.S. The English papers say that the *Grafton* E. India-man [illeg.] the *Raleigh* & Al[*fred*.]—³

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6704. Addressed: "Captain John Jones Esq^r/of the Continental Ship/of War *Ranger*/Brest./." Docketed: "from James Moylan Esq^r/L'Orient March 12th. 1778/rec^d. Brest March 17th. 1778."

1. Above.

2. Emmanuel-Yves Bersolle (1750-1812), merchant and postal director at Brest. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 26: 319.

3. *Duke of Grafton*. *Lloyd's Evening Post*, and *British Chronicle* (London), Monday, February 9, to Wednesday, February 11, 1778, above.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER

[Frigate *Boston* at sea]

Remarks on Thursday March 12th. 1778. on Board Ship *Boston*¹

The first part of this 24 Hours attended with moderate Gales & fair weather at 3 PM. I dismissed Lieu^t. Welch² who I had appointed Prize Master of the *Martha* & Saluted him with seven Guns, my Orders were for him to proceed for Boston. At 5 PM. the *Martha* bore WNW. Distance 2 Leagues.

The latter part flatering Winds & Cloudy.

The People employd as Usual

Latt^d: ☿ Obs: 43..29—

Course	Dist	X Latt ^d	Depart	Latt ^d ☿ Obs	X Long ^d	Long ^d in	Mered ⁿ Dist
So 63 ^d ; E	35m	16m So	31m E	43 ^d =29 N	43m E	12=52 W	2537m E

D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 11 Mar. to noon of 12 Mar., following sea time.

2. Lt. Hezekiah Welch, 3rd lieutenant of *Boston*.

March 13

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778*]

13th. Friday fair Serene weath^r. Yesterday Rec^d. 6^d Each Man for the Rearage of the two Shillings Allow'd by the D. [*Donation*] P^r week—This Day three American Officers were Com^{md}. they belonged to A Privateer Schooner Call'd the *Black Snake* Mounting 8 C. [*Carriage*] Guns W^m. LeCraw Mast^r out from Martinico; taken by the *Tarter* & *Resolution* Tenders (Jon^a Wheeler & Jn^o Buckley his Lieut^s)¹

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. For the capture of the *Black Snake*, see NDAR 9: 801, and 10: 189.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Brest, France*]

Friday, March 13th.—Seven of eight Deserters were bro't back under guard & confined in Irons.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

March 14

“ADVICE GIVEN ABOUT THE CHANGE OF THE WAR IN AMERICA”

[*London, 14 March 1778?*]

If it should be thought advisable to suspend the operations of the Army and Navy in America, it deserves consideration whether Lord Howe should not have immediate orders either to come home with the army and most of the large ships or to send Commodore Hotham with the line of battle and some 50 gun ships and frigates to the Leeward Islands, where the French are very strong in troops and where immediate danger is to be apprehended. Mr Hotham may possibly with those troops be able to take possession of St Lucia, where the fine harbour would be of the utmost use to our fleet, which if we were established there would be a constant check upon Martinique. Lord Howe has with him:

6	ships	of	50	guns
3	"	"	44	"
1	"	"	36	"
14	"	"	32	"
11	"	"	28	"
12	"	"	20	"

amounting in all to 47 capital frigates exclusive of sloops and small craft. Part of these frigates and sloops should be immediately ordered home, and some sent to the Mediterranean. A force should however be left at Halifax, and care taken of Newfoundland.

It will deserve to be remembered that, if troops are sent to the West Indies, care must be taken to victual them from home.

A Mediterranean squadron must be immediately provided and a reinforcement sent to Gibraltar.

Admiral Keppel must be directly ordered to hoist his flag and have a strong fleet for the protection of the home seas; for which purpose all the ships at Chatham and Plymouth must be ordered to Spithead, and a cutter should be sent to look out for Captain Digby and all other cruisers and to order them in, and the cutter may go on to Gibraltar with dispatches to the admiral and governor.

Jamaica and the East Indies must also be attended to, and the homeward-bound East India fleet.

If the American operations by sea and land are stopped, will it be advisable that Admirals Byron and Gambier should sail? If they do, it will be taking their ships from our strength at home; and as probably the same quantity of stores will not be wanted in America as if the operations were to continue, the storeships under Admiral Gambier, or some of them at least, should remain at home.

If the army comes home and does not go to the West Indies, it is to be presumed that none of the stores need be sent.

But if it is thought proper that Admiral Gambier should sail, he will be a very proper person to command a squadron at Halifax for the defence of that place and the River St Lawrence.

Sandwich Papers 1: 359–60. “Unsigned and with no date: a draft in Lord Sandwich’s writing endorsed as above. ? March 1778.” “Captain Digby put to sea on February 4, and Rear-Admiral Gambier sailed for North America on March 16. This paper is probably a note for the Cabinet meeting on March 14.” Ibid.

MINUTE OF CABINET

At Lord Weymouth’s house, March 14th 1778.

Present:

Lord President	Lord Sandwich
Lord Privy Seal	Lord G. Germain
Lord Suffolk	Lord North

Lord Weymouth.

It was agreed most humbly to submit to your Majesty that notice be given in both Houses of Parliament on Monday next that a message from your Majesty will be brought to them on Tuesday; that the message be a communication of the French Ambassador’s declaration and of the recall of Lord Stormont, and that an address be proposed to each House in consequence.¹

That the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland be acquainted with the French Ambassador’s declaration and Lord Stormont’s recall.

That three or four line of battle ships and three other two-decked ships be sent from America for the defence of the Leeward Islands.

That four thousand men be ordered to embark with the line of battle ships for the Leeward Islands.

That ten frigates and six ships [*sloops*] be ordered home from America.

That Admiral Keppel be ordered immediately to hoist his flag.

That a Mediterranean squadron be immediately prepared.

That ten thousand of the Militia be ordered to be embodied.

Sandwich Papers 1: 361.

1. The French ambassador to Great Britain, the Marquis de Noailles, informed the British government of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce of 6 Feb. between France and the United States. Diplomatic relations between France and Great Britain were immediately severed, with the British ambassador to France, Lord Stormont withdrawing from Paris on 16 Mar. and Noailles leaving London on 19 Mar.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778*]

14th. Saturday Clear weath^r By som Nantuckett Gent^l we Learn that Gen^{rl}. Howe is in a bad Situation. I’m Afraid not true Sam^{ll}. Treadwell taken & Com^{td}. to the B. hole

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[*Forton Prison, Portsmouth, 1778*]

March 14th this day M^r Hartly and M^r Thornton¹ came to see us and told us that we should be exchanged very soon and that he would do all that lay in his power for us and addressed the Officers to write a petition to Lord North and another to

Lord Sandwich which was accordingly done and sent them by M^r Hartly member of Parliament

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777–79, collection 2272.

1. David Hartley and John Thornton. This was Thornton's second mission to England on behalf of the American prisoners. For his first mission, see John Thornton's Memorandum for the American Commissioners in France, [Between 5 and 8 Jan. 1778], above. It was apparently during this second so-journ that he was persuaded to spy for the British. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 26–28, 692.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Brest, France*]

Saturday, 14th March.—Went to Brest with Capt. Jones & Lt. Simpson; had a slight view of the Fortifications, Shipping, and Dock-Yards—return'd in the Evening.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER

[Frigate *Boston* at sea]

Remarks on Saturday March 14th. 1778. on Board Ship *Boston*.¹

The first part of this 24 Hours attended with moderate Winds & fair Weather at 2 PM. tacked Ship & stood to the Southw^d. & West^d. at 4 Spoke with a french man from Bourdeaux. Saw a sail just at this Time standing to the Eastw^d. standing to the Estw^d. & North^d. at 5. tacked & stood to the East, at 12 halled the M S up in the Brails, handed F & M T G. sails.² M^r Barron³ in Dischargeing the 2^d Gun on the Starb^d. Bow, the Gun Bust in several Peices, by which the Worthey M^r Barron had his right Leg broke, and two Men Slightly wounded The Docter & his Mate consulted & thought it necessary to amputate the Legg which was performed in a Masterly manner. at half past 3. Spoke with a French[man] from Santo [*Do*]mingo bound to Nants.

Latt^d. ☿ Obs: 44.47. N^o.—

Course	Dist	X Latt ^d	Depart	Latt ^d ☿ Obs	X Long ^d	Long ^d in	Mered ⁿ Dist
N ^o 40 ^d ; E	70m	53 ^m N	45 ^m ; E	44 ^d =47 ^m N	1 ^d =03 ^m ; E	11 ^d =49 ^m W	2582; E

D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 13 Mar. to noon of 14 Mar., following sea time.

2. Fore and main-topgallant sails.

3. Lt. William Barron.

DIARY OF JOHN ADAMS

[Frigate *Boston* at sea]

Saturday March 14.

I have omitted inserting the Occurrences of this Week, on Account of the Hurry and Confusion, We have been in. Tuesday We Spied a Sail, and gave her Chase—We soon came up with her, but as We had bore directly down upon her, She had not seen our broadside, and knew not her Force—she was a Letter of Mark with 14 Guns, 8 Nines & 6 sixes—she fired upon Us, and one of her shot, went thro our Mizen Yard.—I happened to be upon the Q^r deck, and in the

Direction from the ship to the Yard so that the Ball went directly over my Head—We, upon this turned our broadside which the instant she saw she struck—Captⁿ Tucker very prudently, ordered his officers not to fire.

The *Prise* is the Ship *Martha*, Captⁿ M^cIntosh from London to New York, loaded with a Cargo of great Value.—The Captⁿ told me that Seventy thousand Pounds sterling was insured upon her at Lloyds, and that she was worth 80 thousands.

The Captain is very much of a Gentleman,—There are two Gentⁿ with him Passengers the one M^r R. Gault the other M^r Wallace of N. York.—Two young Jews were on board.

That and the next day was Spent in dispatching the *Prise*, under the Command of the 3^d Lt M^r Welch¹ to Boston.

after that We fell in Chase of another Vessell, and overtaking her found her to be a french Snow, from Bourdeaux to Miquelon—We then saw another Vessell, chased and came up with her which proved to be a French Brig from Marseilles to Nantes.—This last cost Us very dear.—M^r Barrons our 1st Lt. Attempting to fire a Gun,² as a signal to the Brig. the Gun burst, and tore the right Leg of this excellent Officer, in Pieces, so that the D^r was obliged to amputate it, just below the Knee.

I was present at this affecting Scène and held M^r Barron in my Arms while the D^r put on the Turnequett and cutt off the Limb.

M^r Barrons bore it with great Fortitude and Magnannity.—thought he should die, and frequently intreated me, to take Care of his Family.—He had an helpless Family he Said, and begged that I would take Care of his Children.—I promised him, that by the first Letters I should write to America, I would earnestly recommend his Children to the Care of the Public, as well as of Individuals. I cannot but think the Fall of this officer, a great Loss to the united States.—His Prudence, his Moderation, his Attention his Zeal, were Qualities much wanted in our Navy.—He is by Birth a Virginian—

Diary, MHi, Adams Family Papers, Diary of John Adams (D/JA/47), 22–23.

1. Lt. Hezekiah Welch.

2. Lt. William Barron.

March 15 (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778*]

15th. Sunday fair Weath^r Yesterday three Men for Not going in to Prison when Order'd were Com^{td}. to the B. hole

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Brest, France*]

Sunday, 15th.—I had the pleasure of entertaining the Commissaries¹ Lady & two Sisters on Board the *Ranger*.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Jean-François-Xavier Faissole de Villeblanche, commissaire général of the French Navy.

STATE OF BRITISH NAVAL FORCES IN NORTH AMERICA

Admiralty Office. 15 March 1778.

State of the force under the command of Lord Howe in North America	Proposed to be sent from thence to the Leeward Islands	Proposed to be sent to England	Force that will then remain in North America
Guns	Ships	Ships	Ships
64 ¹	6	4	2
50	5	3	2
44	3	—	1
36	1	—	1
32	14	2	6
28	12	—	8
24	3	—	2
20	8	2	5
16 (sloops)	4	—	4
14 (do.)	9	—	3
10 (do.)	2	—	2
Bombs	2	2	—
Fireship	1	—	1
	70	13	37

Besides schooners, armed vessels, galleys, and storeships, and an hospital ship.

Sandwich Papers 1: 362.

1. "In this number is included not only Lord Howe's ship (the *Eagle*), but also the *Ardent*, in which Rear-Admiral Gambier is going to join him. [Note in original.]" Ibid.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER[Frigate *Boston* at sea]

Remarks on Sunday March. 15. 1778. on Board Ship *Boston*¹

The first part of this 24 Hours attended with fresh Brezes & fine Weather. At 8 PM. discovered 2 Sails to Windw^d of us standing to the WSW. set M & F T G. sail² Middle part moderate. At 8 AM. saw 2 Sail on our Weather Bow standing to the Northw^d. & Estw^d. suppose them to be cruizing Ships,³ the one a head had a poop Lanthorn out.

Latt^d. ☿ Obs: 46.27 N.—

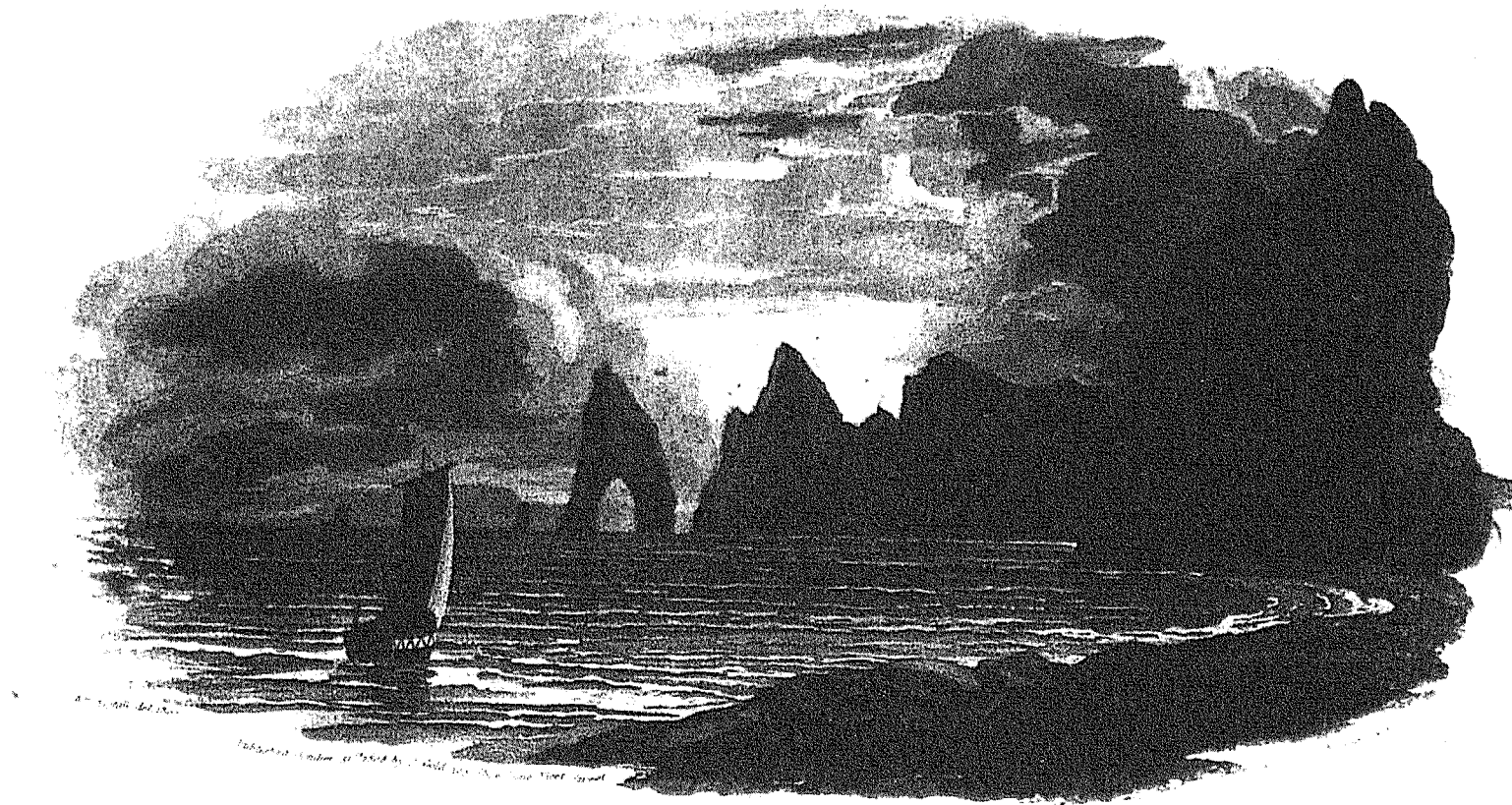
Course	Dist	X Latt ^d	Depart	Latt ^d ☿ Obs	X Long ^d	Long ^d in	M Dis ^t
N 45 ^d ; E	113	80 ^m No	80m E	46=27 N	1 ^d =55 ^m ; E	09 ^d =54 ^m W	2662; E

D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 14 Mar. to noon of 15 Mar., following sea time.

2. Main and fore-topgallant sails.

3. Probably British warships.



"View of the east end of Madeira"

CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM TO CASEY & LYNCH

[Off Madeira Islands, Portugal, 15 March 1778]

Mess^{rs}. Casey & Lynch—

this will be handed you by Cap^t Murphy who fell into Our hands A few days Agoe And Cap^t S^t Barbe, Any favour you Can do those Gentl. I shall take as A particular favour¹—The herrings You Sent by me I Was Oblidg^d to leave in S^t atro [*Santander*] As the Markett was so verry bad when I arrived the[y] have been sold since And remitted to Mess^{rs}. Conyngham & Nesbitt as you Order me—I Should be Glad you Would Write to me by the way of Martinique as I shall Continue there for some little time in hopes to pick up a few prizes, the Account Sales of my Venture I Left With you. Should be Glad to know how it was dispos^d. of, I Should be Verry Glad to See you and would Call on you but we have no Admission in to the ports of portugall I am

LB, UKLPR, H.C.A. 32/441/7, pt. 1.

1. *Revenge* captured the brigantine *Betsy*, John Murphy, master, on 10 Mar. and the snow *Fanny*, William St. Barbe, master, on 12 Mar. See Charles Murray to Robert Walpole, 16 Mar., below.

March 16

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM KINSALE, MARCH 16.”

“The *Cochran* Letter of Marque, Bolton Commander, belonging to Glasgow, mounting twenty-two carriage-guns, and twenty swivels, has brought in here an American schooner, called the *Independence*, laden with tobacco from Maryland, bound to France. She was taken in lat. 45. long. 6 30 West, and is reckoned, according to present price of tobacco, a very rich prize.”¹

Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser (London), 6 Apr. 1778.

1. “Last night arrived at Port Glasgow, the schooner *Independence*, Pattent, Master, a prize taken the 19th inst. in the Bay of Biscay, by the *Cochran* letter of marque, Thomas Bolton, Master, belonging to this place. The *Independence* was from Baltimore, in Maryland, bound for Bourdeaux, and is laden with tobacco. This is the second prize the *Cochran* has taken in those seas.” “Extract of a Letter from Glasgow, March 30,” in *Lloyd’s Evening Post*, 4 Apr. 1778. See also “Extract of a Letter from Dublin, Feb. 12,” above.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO
THE BRITISH NAVY BOARDAdmiralty Office.
16th March 1778.

We do hereby desire and direct you to cause the workmen in his Majesty’s several yards to be employed as much extra on all ships fitting, repairing, or building, as they can with advantage to forward the service; and that everything in your power may be done to get the King’s ships in readiness, you are to cause such an additional number of workmen to be entered in the several yards as can be employed for that purpose.

And you are to give orders for hastening the building the several line of battle ships which are building either in the King’s or merchants’ yards, without waiting

for their being seasoned conformable to the late regulation. We are, Your affectionate friends,

Lisburne, H. Penton, Mulgrave.

Sandwich Papers 1: 363.

AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE TO JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR.

M^r Williams

Sir

Paris 16th March 1778

The quantity of Stores you have on hand & the difficulty you find in shipping them induces Us to accept of M^r Monthieus proposal of taking his Goods out of the *Mercury* and loading entirely with the Stores of the public. M^r Montieu has made that offer taking the same rate of Freight for the whole as was agreed for the quantity actually loaded already We shall not be able to see M^r Monthieu before the Post goes to Day but shall be able to write you particularly by Wednesdays post We are &c.¹

BF
SD

LB, CtHi, Silas Deane Papers.

1. Williams's reply is at 21 Mar., below.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

Confidential

Paris March 16. 1778

My Lord

Before this Letter can reach Y^r Lordship, you will probably have received the Dispatch w^{ch} Lord Clermont was so good as to take charge of.

Count Destaing sets out for Toulon this Day or tomorrow. The Fleet which he is to command is to consist of Seventeen Sail. Ten or perhaps Twelve Ships of the Line, the Rest Frigates. The General opinion is that He is to conduct this Fleet to Brest where M La Motte Piquet has also orders to join him at his Return from the Açores. The Intention of this Court being to assemble the whole Naval Force of France in Her Ports on the Ocean, and to give Monsieur Destaing the General command of the whole which is to be divided into different Squadrons as occasions may arise, the Principal Fleet to be commanded by ct Destaing. This is the General opinion at present of those who think themselves well informed and it agrees in substance with the Intelligence I sent your Lordship some time ago. I cannot pretend to form any Judgment as to the Degree of advantage France may draw from the Execution of this plan, but I know that it is considerd here as the most advantageous that can be followed and the most distressful to Us. I own however that the open Manner in which the Destination of the Fleet from Toulon is talked of at present leads me to a suspicion that there is some Secret Design. I suspect this the more as it is difficult to see why Troops should be ordered to Toulon & the Neighbourhood as Y^r Lordship remembers they were some weeks ago, unless an Embarkation is intended. I have no Doubt that the Governors of Minorca and Gibraltar are fully on their Guard

I have this Instant learnt from very good authority that it was whispered yesterday at Versailles that Count Destaing is to go on a Secret Expedition to the East Indies. What I have said of the Intention of this Court to draw the whole Naval Force of France to the Ports on the Ocean must be understood with some allowance there will remain at Toulon five or six Men of War that are not yet fit for actual Service.

I am informed that the Seventh Inst a French Frigate I mean My Lord one of the Frigates in the French Navy sailed from Brest for Boston. I believe she carries copies of the Treaties and other Papers of Importance. Two americans who set out lately from hence for Nantz carried with them an order to all the Post Masters on the Road to expedite them with all possible Diligence.¹ The Expectation of war increases here Every Hour, and the General Petulance and Insolence increase with that Expectation. I am [&c.]

Stormont.

Stevens's Facsimiles, vol. 22, no. 1901. Addressed at foot of first page: "Vsct Weymouth." Docketed: "Paris March 16, 1778/Lord Stormont/(Confidential)/R. 19th. by M^r Hobart."

1. French Navy frigate *Sensible*, sailed from Brest on 8 Mar. with Simeon Deane on board, carrying the French treaties with the United States.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH

Private
My Lord

Paris March 16. 1778

From Information which I have this Moment received I think there is great Reason to believe that the East Indies is the Real Destination of ct Destain's fleet. Your Lordship Knows that Toulon is no improper Place for such an Expedition, and it seems certain that there are to be many Troops on board. Some of the Ships will probably be armed en flute.¹ When they are so armed they can carry a thousand Men on board each ship. M. de Bougainville² goes with ct. Destaing. There are Letters of very good authority from Spain which say that the Spaniards have twenty two ships of the Line compleatly armed and ready to put to sea I am [&c.]

Stormont

Stevens's Facsimiles, vol. 22, no. 1902. Docketed: "Paris, March 16. 1778/Lord Stormont/(Private)/R. 19th. by M^r Hobart."

1. A ship *armed en flute* has a number of guns removed or struck into the hold and is fitted as a transport.

2. The noted explorer Louis-Antoine, Comte de Bougainville (1729–1811) commanded the ship of the line *Guerrier* in d'Estaing's squadron. He led an expedition of two frigates that circumnavigated the globe between 1766 and 1769, about which he published a treatise, *Voyage autour du monde* (1771).

CHARLES MURRAY TO ROBERT WALPOLE

[*Madeira Islands, Portugal*]

Information from George Kennedy, Master of the Brigⁿ: *Peace & Harmony*, belonging to London.

He sailed in His said Brigⁿ: on the 7th: March from Lisbon, bound to London with a Load of Fruit; on the 10th: He was taken by the American Privateer Sloop the *Revenge*, commanded by Gustavus Conyngham, of 20 Guns, (6 of which were in the hold) & 57 Men.

Dito from John Murphy, Master of the Brigⁿ: *Betsy*, belonging to Dublin.

His said Brigⁿ: was loaded with Barilla & dried Fruit, from Sicily; He sailed under Convoy of His Majesty's ship the *Alarm*, from Gibralter, the 22^d: Febr^y: bound to Newry; lost the Convoy in a Gale of wind a few days thereafter, & on the 11th: March was taken by the above Privateer.

Dito from William S^r: Barbe, Master of the Snow *Fanny*, belonging to London.

His said snow was loaded from the Island of Zant,¹ with Currants, for London; He Sailed with the forementioned Convoy from Gibralter; and having also lost the Convoy, was taken, the 12th: March by the said Privateer the *Revenge*.

On the 15th: of March, off the East end of this Island, Conyngham put the said three Masters and their respective Mates, George Cranstoun, James Taugh, & John Apsey, into a Portuguesee boat, which brought them on shore here; Conyngham informed them that He had sailed from Bilboa about the beginning of March, in company with two other Privateers, one a Brigⁿ: of 14 Guns, the other a Schooner of 10²—both which were gone for America.

On Board the three Prizes He sent People from the Privateer, takeing out the Crews, whom He kept close in Irons, and would suffer none, not even the apprentices, to come onshore with the Masters and Mates, but promised to let them out of Irons, so soon as the Masters & Mates had left the Privateers, provided they would join Him; which, most or all of them, promised to do; induced thereto, by the desire of obtaining their Liberty.

The foregoing Informations given by the respective Persons, In Madeira this 16th: day of March 1778, before me.

Cha^s. Murray

DS, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 89/85, fols. 272–73.

1. Zákynthos or Zante Island, one of the Ionian Islands.

2. Most likely the Massachusetts privateer brig *General Mercer*, James Babson, and Massachusetts privateer schooner *Hawke*, Jeremiah Hibbert. John Emery to Benjamin Franklin, 11 Mar., above.

March 18

MINUTE OF CABINET

At Lord Weymouth's Office, March 18th: 1778.

Present.

Lord President

Lord Privy Seal

Lord Sandwich

Lord Geo: Germain

Lord North.

Lord Amherst

Lord Weymouth.

It is humbly submitted to His Majesty, that advice be sent to Lord Howe, that M^r La Motte Picquet is sailed to convoy some American Ships to a certain Latitude, & by some accounts that he has discretionary powers to convoy them to America with 5 or 7 ships of the Line; and that Lord Howe be directed to collect his whole force & attack him, in case of that event. If Lord Howe has no certain Intelligence of the arrival of this Fleet, which is supposed to have sailed on the 28th of Feb^y., he is then to be directed to send immediately 4 Ships of the Line, 3 of 50 guns, 2, of 32, 2, of 20 & 2 Bomb Vessels, to the Leeward Islands, to convoy 5000 Men in

Transports from Philadelphia, for the protection of those Islands, & to act offensively against the French Settlements. That they take 8 months Provisions, and depend on being supplied afterwards from England.

That Lord Howe be directed to send immediately to England 2 Ships of 44 guns, 6, of 32, 4 of 28, 1 of 24 — 1 of 20 & 6 Sloops of 14 guns. From the Pennsylvania Army 3000 Men are to be sent to the Floridas, the remainder of the Army to New York, & from thence to detach such a number as will be sufficient for the security of Nova Scotia, stating to the Commander the force that is to be sent from hence, and that the Battalion of Marines, which is now there, is to be sent home.

That the Commissioners¹ be immediately sent to New York, if they shall find no prospect of success & that the Commander in Chief should run a risque of having his Retreat cut off, or that the Provinces should raise a very superior force to drive the Troops into the Sea, he should be prepared for securing his Retreat, evacuating New York, taking the Ordnance Stores, & every thing belonging to the Army, and sending to England what shall not be wanted for other Services.

That the Commander of the Newfoundland Station, carry out with him 400 Men for the defence of that Station, & any other purposes for which he shall be directed to employ them.

LB, UKLPR, C.O. 5/263, fols. 6–7. Marginal notation: "Minute of Cabinet. —orig^l rec^d from Lord Visc^t Weymouth's Office."

1. The new commission for negotiating peace with the Continental Congress, commonly known as the Carlisle Commission, after Frederick Howard, Earl of Carlisle, appointed to its head on 22 Feb.

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, TUESDAY, MARCH 17, TO
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1778

Wednesday, March 18. London.

... Eighteen frigates are now building in the merchants yards for government, which are ordered to be got ready with all expedition. . . .

The *Dorsetshire*, Westcoate, from the Leeward Islands to Halifax, is taken by the Americans, and carried into Salem.

The *York*, M'Vey, from Glasgow to Barbadoes, is taken and carried into Martinico. . . .

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778*]

18th. Wednesday Pleas^t w^r. We understand there is a Treaty Sign'd Between the French C^t & Our Plenepotentiaries; therefore 'tis tho^t that the Commissioners¹ Have gone upon a fools Errand 'tis said Chester Castle is fixing for the Reception of the American Prisoners—

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

1. The Carlisle Peace Commission.

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[Forton Prison, Portsmouth, 1778]

March 18 this day we received letters from Cap^t Thompson at Nanze in France last Night a very hot Press thro' Portsmouth and Gosport—they Press'd 500 Men and sent on board the guard Ship at Spit-head.

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777-79, collection 2272.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO ARNAUD DE LA PORTE, INTENDANT AT BREST

à versailles le 18. mars 1778.

J'écris aux off^{ers}. de l'amirauté, Monsieur, que l'intention du Roi est qu'à la reception de ce lettre, S'il y a des navires anglois dans votre Port, ils les retiennent, jusqu'à nouvel ordre de ma part, ainsy que ceux qui pourront y arriver: vous voudrez bien en mer de même de votre côté, et Vous entendre avec M. Le C^{te}. d'Orvilliers, Si cela devenoit nécessaire. vous ferez prévenir le Commerce d'armer avec réserve, et de naviguer avec précaution. J'ay l'honneur [&c.]

de sartine

[Translation]

Versailles, 18 March 1778

I am writing to the officers of the Admiralty, Sir, that the intention of the King is, that on receipt of this letter, If there are any English ships in your Port, including those that may arrive there, they should be held there pending additional orders from me. You will, on your part, please send the same orders to sea, and consult with M. Le Comte d'Orvilliers, If this becomes necessary. You will advise the Trade to fit out with wariness and to sail with caution. I have the honor to be [&c.]

de sartine

L, FrBAPM, série 1E 190, fol. 631. Addressed at foot: "M. De La Porte à Brest." Notations: "Classes"; "R, le 23—"; "Mariners' Registration"; "Received the 23d."

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*[*Ranger, Camaret Bay, France*]

Wednesday, 18th.—Last night died after a lingering Illness for more than three weeks Will^m Reading¹—His remains were decently interr'd about 11 oclock A.M.—P.M. the Ladies came to pay Capt. Jones a visit as he was absent when they pay'd us the first Visit.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Seaman William Redden.

MICHEL LAGOANERE & CIE. TO SILAS DEANE

Monsieur

Nous avons reçu les lettres que vous nous avés fait l'honneur de nous écrire le 2. X^{bre}. 20. janvier, 17 et 20 fevrier dernier.¹ M. Hodge nous a remis la première dans une des Siennes de Bilbao ou nous croyons qu'il est encore.² Vous verrés Monsieur par la coppie Cy inclus des deux lettres que nous lui avons écrit au dit

lieu³ qu'après vos ordres et ceux qu'il nous a donné, nous avons fait remise des 7230 p^{res.} fortes 2 x 28. mrs v^{on.} dont nous vous avons crédité. Vous y verrez également ce que nous lui disons relativement aux prises faits par le Cap^e. Conyngham, a quoi nous n'avons rien a ajouter les choses etant encore dans le même etat quelles etoient alors: Cependant nous sommes prêts a lui faire remise (ou à M M Gardoqui père et Fils a qui il nous avoit donné ordre de remettre) des R^{on} 179614 que nous devons pour Solde de nôtre comte avec le dit S^e Conyngham, ou d'en faire remise a vous même, Monsieur, en nos traites sur Paris toutes les fois, que, dans tous les cas, vous voudrés bien nous promettre de nous garantir des événements & de nous faire remise ou de nous permettre de nous prévaloir sur quelque banquier que vous nous indequerier jusqu'a la Concurrence de cette somme si nous sommes obligés de la représenter en totalite ou en partie. Nous nous prêterons avec le plus grand plaisir a tout ce qui vous conviendra le mieux a cet égard et nous attendrons vos ordres a moins que dans l'intervalle nous ne venions a nous trouver libres de suivre ceux que nous a donné ous nous donnera M Hodges. S'il vient ici comme il nous l'a fait esperer, vous pouvés compter que nous ferons tout ce qui dependra de nous pour lui prouver le cas distingué que nous faisons, Monsieur, de votre recommandation.

Nous avons remis au Cap^e. Courter le paquet que vous nous avés adressé pour lui dans vôtre lettre du 20. du mois d'e⁴ nous lui avons rendu tous les Services qui ont dependu de nous et nous vous prion d'être persuadé que nous en ferons autant pour toutes les personnes que vous voudres bien nous recommander.

Nous sommes Sans nouvelles directes de M. Hodges ni de M. Conyngham depuis le 13 fevrier dernier. On nous a dit quil y aivoit eu une espèce de mutinerie parmi les gens de l'Equipage du dernier, mais le Cap^e. dun batiment françois qui a relaché a Bilbao et qui vient d'entre en ce port nous a assurés qu'il avoit mis en mer il y a une douzaine de jours. Si cela est comme nous n'est deutions pas nous esperons de ne pas tarder a le voir paroître par ici. Nous avons lhonneur [&c.]

La Corogne le 18. mars 1778

Lagoanere & Comp.⁵

[Translation]

Sir

We have received the letters that you did us the honor of writing on 2 December, 20 January, 17 and 20 February last.¹ Mr. Hodge dispatched us the first of these in one of his letters from Bilbao, where we believe he still is.² You will note, Sir, by the copies enclosed herein of the two letters we wrote him at the said place,³ that following your orders and those of Mr. Hodge, we had remitted 7,230 hard piastres, 2 reales, and 28 maravedis vellon, with which we have credited you. You will also note what we told him relative to the prizes made by Captain Conyngham; to that we have nothing to add, things being still in the same state they were before. However, we are prepared to render payment of the 179,614 Reales vellon, which we owe to settle our account with the aforementioned Mr. Conyngham, either to him (or to Messrs. Gardoqui, father and son, whom he authorized us to pay), or to yourself, Sir, via our regular drafts on Paris. In any case, kindly provide us some resolution and have sent to us the full amount of the sum, or permit us to avail ourselves of a banker whom you may suggest for the amount, if we are obligated to produce it in full or in part. We are amenable to that which suits you best in this matter and shall await your orders, unless in the interval we

should find ourselves at liberty to follow those given by Mr. Hodge. If he comes here as he has led us to expect, you may rest assured that we shall do what is necessary to prove to him the importance we give to his case, Sir, on your recommendation.

We have sent to Captain Courter the packet that you included for him in your letter of the 20th of last month.⁴ We have rendered him all the services requested of us and we would like to assure you that we shall do as much for anyone else whom you would like to recommend to us.

We have been without direct news of Mr. Hodge or Mr. Conyngham since 13 February last; we have been told that there had been a kind of mutiny among the crew of the latter, but the captain of a French ship that had put into Bilbao and who just entered this port has assured us that Captain Conyngham had put out to sea some twelve days ago. If that is as we have no reason to believe to be otherwise, we expect to see him pass through here before long. We have the honor [&c.]

La Corunna 18 March 1778

Lagoanere & Comp.⁵

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 178. Addressed at foot: "Monsieur S. Deane." Docketed: "Lagoanere/18 March 1778"; "Lagoanere/18 March 1778/recei^d open/from D^r Frank/lin to answer/April 6th/A. L."

1. For the letter of 2 Dec., see NDAR 10: 105; for those of 20 Jan., and 17 and 20 Feb., *Deane Papers* 2: 339, 375–76, and 380.

2. Hodge accompanied Conyngham when the *Revenge* departed Bilbao. William Hodge to John Ross, 19 Feb., above.

3. See 21 Feb., above, and 25 Feb., PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 132.

4. See *Deane Papers* 2: 380. For the enclosure to Courter, see "American Commissioners in France to Captain Harmon Courter," 17 Feb., above.

5. The following, in Arthur Lee's hand, appears below the close, with a large "x" drawn through it: "Answer/

Sir, Paris April 6th. 1778

We have received yours of the 18th. ult. M^r Deane being recalld, we desire you will remit from time to time till further orders whatever Monies may be due to the public upon the sale of Prizes taken by Cap^t Cunningham or any other continental Ship & put into your hands. M^r Ferdinand Grand of Paris is our Banker to whom the remittances are to be made & you may depend upon our re-imbursing whatever you are obligd to pay in consequence of the legal process of w^{ch}. you speak. We are [&c.]

By another letter he appears to have paid the money to M^r Deane's ord^r."

March 19

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, TUESDAY, MARCH 17, TO
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1778

Thursday, March 19. London.

... The *Portland*, Bailey,¹ from Malaga to London, is taken by an American privateer, and sent for North Carolina.

The schooner *Nancy*, Gross, a prize to the *Ellis*, is put into Youghall.² ...

There was the hottest press on the Thames on Tuesday night and yesterday morning ever known. The gangs took a great number of sailors, not a vessel escaped them, even those that had protections were carried off.

Several merchant ships which have taken in their lading, were ready to sail, and had got protections for their men, are now detained, all their men, notwith-

standing their protections, being taken away by the press-gangs; even Masters of fishing vessels did not escape them. . . .

Postscript. London.

. . . Last night there was the warmest press all over London and Westminster, that has been known since the last war. About ten o'clock, a gang near Charing Cross, by pretending a fight, gathered a mob about them, when they laid hold of a great many and carried them fairly off. It was somewhat ludicrous to see the sudden change and consternation of the multitude, when the mock engagement converted into actual combat. The effect was so sudden that the surprise was not evaporated to make way for their valour, before part of their number were led off in triumph.

1. Sloop, T. Bailey, master, 100 tons, built at Poole in 1772, Richard Watts, owner. *Lloyd's Register of Ships, 1777-1778*.

2. For the capture of the *Nancy*, see *The London Packet* for 2-4 Mar., above.

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778*]

19th. Thursd^y we've been Indulg'd with the Liberty of walking the Yard at Noon time about 10 Days—

D, McHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO ARNAUD DE LA PORTE, INTENDANT AT BREST

Sir, *Ranger* Camarat Mar: 19th. 1778

My unexpected detention here has given and still gives me the Utmost uneasiness and Concern; the more so as it renders my Success, in the project which I communicated to you, very uncertain, because the Ships, which were my principal object depart on or about the 20th Current.¹—I will however, govern myself by the Situation of the Winds, and of Circumstances, when I reach the proper place And if I should then find it expedient to drop my first intention, and to proceed on another project—I must rely on you to procure Orders that the Frigate may accompany me until I am past the Enemy's Ships of Superior force.—

What I communicated to you I had previously mentioned to Monsieur La Motte Picquet in Quiberon Bay, and, agreeable to his Advice, I parted from his Fleet and came here along shore.—to no other person have I said a Word on the Subject; and I have a Perfect Confidence in you both.—But as it is possible that I may be unsuccessful in Consequence of the information of the Enemy's Spies since I came here,—should I be unfortunate, I must entreat you as well as Monsieur La Motte Picquet to defend my reputation, and to do Justice to my Upright and disinterested intentions—particularly by Communicating what you Know, to our American Commissioner at your Coast.²—

And now Sir, permit me to offer you my Cordial & Sincere thanks for the frequent and very polite Attentions which you shewed me during my Stay at Brest.—I am Sir ambitious of your esteem & Friendship:—therefore I am exceedingly sorry that I cannot correspond with you in a language which you yourself Understand.—

I cannot insure Success—but I will endeavour to deserve it.—meantime I have the Honor to be [&c.]

LB, MdAN, John Paul Jones Letter Book, Mss. No. 236, pp. 2–3. Addressed below close: “Monsieur/Monsieur/De la Porte,/Intendant de la Marine/à Brest.”

1. Probably an English convoy, which Jones evidently hoped to be able to attack.
2. *I.e.*, court.

March 20

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO MARIE-ALEXANDRE-LOUIS, PRINCE DE MONTBAREY

A M Le P^{ce} de Montbarey, Secrét^{re} d'Etat au
Département de la/Guerre à La Cour.

V^{les} Le 20 Mars 1778.

J'ai l'honneur, M, de vous prévenir que Le Roi a décidé qu'il seroit embarqué mille hommes d'Infanterie des Troupes de la Guerre sur les Vaissaux qui composent l'Escadre qui est armée à Toulon sous les ordres de M le C^{te} d'Estaing. Je ne pries que m'en rapportes à ce que vous reglerez Sur le choix & la composition de ces Troupes:¹ J'ai donné les orders de mon côté pour que tout fut disposé à l'avance pour ce qui concerne leur embarquement. J'ai l'h^r d'être [&c.]

[Translation]

To M. the Prince de Montbarey, Secretary of
State of the Department of War at the Court.

Versailles, 20 March 1778

I have the honor, My Lord, of informing you that the King has decided that a thousand Soldiers of the Infantry will embark in the Ships of the Line that comprise the Squadron which is fitting out at Toulon under the command of M. the Comte d'Estaing. I ask only that you report back to me what you decide as to the choice and composition of these Troops:¹ For my part, I have given orders that everything having to do with their embarkation may be readied in advance. I have the honor to be [&c.]

LB, FrPNA, Marine B⁴ 134, fol. 199.

1. The infantry with d'Estaing's fleet were drawn, 500 men each, from the regiments of Hainault and Foix. Comte d'Estaing to Gabriel de Sartine, 13 Apr., *ibid.*, B⁴ 141, fol. 203.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO ARNAUD DE LA PORTE, INTENDANT AT BREST

à Versailles le 20. mars 1778.

Le Roi a chargé son ambassadeur en angleterre, Monsieur, de faire part a la Cour de Londres, que les Etats unis de l'amerique Septentrionale ayant fait proposer a Sa Majesté de consolider par une convention formelle les liaisons qui ont commencé à S'etablir entre les deux nations, les Plenipotentiaires respectifs ont Signé un Traitté de Commerce et d'amitié. Sa Majesté la chargé en même temps de déclarer à la d^e Cour, que les parties contractantes ont eu l'attention de ne Stipuler aucun avantage exclusif en faveur de la nation françoise. cette démarche

ou l'on reconnoit la noblesse, la franchise et la modération de Sa Majesté, n'auroit pas du troubler la bonne intelligence Subsistante entre la France et la grande Bretagne, mais le Roi d'Angleterre ayant donné ordre au Vicomte de Stormont de quitter la France, Sans prendre congé, Sa Majesté a rapellé de Londres le M^{rs} de Noailles. Cette Situation des choses pouvant amener une rupture prochaine entre les deux nations, Sa Majesté vous charge d'en prévenir les nég^t et les navigateurs, et de leur prescrire de se tenir Sur leurs gardes, de naviguer avec précaution, et d'éviter les armemens anglois.

J'en écris aux off^{ers} des Sieges dam^{ie} et je leur mande que l'intention de Sa Majesté est que les Batiments des Etats unis de l'Amérique Septentrionale, et les gens de leurs Equipages Soient traittés comme ceux des Puissances amies, que Sa Majesté prescrit également de leur rendre tous les Services qui peuvent dépendre d'eux dans les occasions ou ils seront dans le cas de les réclamer et de leur accorder toute assistance, protection et faveur; vous voudres bien en user de même en cequi pourra vous concerner; j'écris aussi pour le même objet aux off^{ers} des classes des Départemens et Quartiers dependants de votre Intendance. J'ay l'honneur d'être [&c.]

de sartine

[Translation]

Versailles 20 March 1778.

The King has ordered his ambassador to England, Sir, to notify the Court of London that, pursuant to a proposal made to His Majesty by the united States of North America to consolidate by formal agreement the relations that have begun to be established between the two nations, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed a Treaty of Commerce and Amity. His Majesty at the same time has ordered him to declare to the said Court that the contracting parties have taken care not to stipulate any exclusive advantage in favor of the French nation. This action, in which one sees the nobility, frankness, and moderation of His Majesty, should not have troubled the good relations that exist between France and Great Britain, but the King of England having ordered the Viscount Stormont to quit France without taking leave, His Majesty has recalled the Marquis de Noailles from London. As this Situation of things could lead next to a rupture between the two nations, His Majesty is ordering you to alert the merchants and navigators, and to advise them to be on guard, to sail with caution, and to avoid English armed ships.

I am also writing to the officers of the Admiralty Courts and I am instructing them that it is His Majesty's intention that the Ships of the united States of North America and the members of their Crews be treated as those of friendly Powers; that His Majesty further orders that they be rendered all the Services on which they may depend during occasions when they will be in a position to require them, and to accord them all aid, protection, and favor. You will please do the same in all that concerns you. I am also writing with the same end to the officers of maritime registration of the Departments and dependent Districts in your Jurisdiction.¹ I have the honor to be [&c.]

de sartine

L, FrBAPM, série 1E 190, fol. 655. Addressed at foot of first page: "M. De La Porte à Brest." Notations: "Classes"; "R, le 6. Avril"; "Mariners' Registration"; "Received 6 April." The addressee was Intendant at Brest.

1. For such a letter, see de Sartine to Charles Pierre Gonet, Commissaire de la Marine at L'Orient, 20 Mar., FrLAL, série 1 E⁺ 81, fol. 196.

ARNAUD DE LA PORTE, INTENDANT AT BREST,
TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

a Brest le 20 mars 1778.

J'ai, Monsieur, reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, et dont l'Interprete du Roi m'a fait la traduction.¹ Les vents lents ont empêché M. des Barre de sortir. Il avait appareillé, et il a été obligé de mouïller dans la rade. Je suis persuadé qu'il remettra a les voiles avec premier vent favorable. Je vous souhaite, monsieur, tous ceque vous pouvez desirer de plus heureux; Et je ferai très flatté d'avoir des occasions de vous prouver la consideration avec la quelle j'ai l'honneur d'être [&c.]

la porte

Je me suis entretenu ici avec M de La Motte Piquet de vos projets. Cet officier fait envois que moi des voeux pour vous; et dans tous occasions nous ferons l'un et l'autre prêts à vous rendre les temoignages que vous sont dûs. Je certifierai en mon particulier que vous n'avez pas appareiller plutôt de Camaret.

[Translation]

Brest, 20 March 1778

I have, Sir, received the letter you did me the honor to write to me, and which the King's Interpreter translated for me.¹ Light winds prevented M. des Barre from leaving. He had set sail and was obliged to drop anchor in the roadstead. I am persuaded that he will set sail again with the first favorable wind. I wish you, sir, all that you can desire; And I shall be very proud to have opportunities of proving to you the consideration with which I have the honor to be [&c.]

la porte

I have discussed here with M. de La Motte Piquet your plans. This officer sends, as do I, his best wishes; and on all occasions we both shall provide you with the testimonials due to you. For my part, I shall certify that you did not set sail sooner from Camaret.

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6708. Docketed: "N° 1/From M De la Porte./20th March 1778/N° 5."

1. Captain John Paul Jones to Arnaud de La Porte, 19 Mar., above.

March 21

GEORGE III TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR HENRY CLINTON

Duplicate

George R.

Secret Instructions for Our Trusty and welbeloved Sir Henry Clinton Knight of Our most honorable Order of the Bath, and General & Commander in chief of Our Forces in North America, Or the Commander in chief of Our Forces for the time being.

Given at Our Court at St James's the 21st day of March 1778 in the 18th year of Our Reign.

Whereas the French King, contrary to the most solemn assurances, and in subversion of the Law of Nations, hath signed a Treaty of Amity & Commerce, with certain Persons employ'd by our revolted Subjects in North America. And it being Our firm purpose & determination to resent so unprovoked, & unjust an aggression on the honor of Our Crown, and the Essential Interest of Our Kingdoms; We have come to the Resolution to make an immediate attack, upon the Island of S^t Lucia in the West Indies.

It is therefore Our Will & Pleasure, that you do with the greatest Secrecy, & Dispatch, make a Detachment of a Body of Five Thousand Men from the Troops under your command, and putting them under the command of such Officer of Rank & Experience, as you shall think most fit, to execute the Service, and adding thereto a proper Corps of Artillery, & such a proportion of Ordnance, & Stores, and a sufficient supply of Provisions. Embark the whole on board of Transports, and so soon as the Commander of Our Fleet in North America, shall appoint a proper number of Our Ships of War, to convoy the said embarkation, you do direct the Commanding Officer of the Troops, to proceed with them to the Island of S^t Lucia, and to Attack, and if practicable Reduce, and take possession of the said Island. And in case of Success, he is to retain such a part of Our Forces, as he shall Judge sufficient, for the Defence thereof, and distribute the remainder of Our Troops among Our West India Islands, in such manner, and such proportions, as from the Information he receives, he shall Judge most proper for their protection, & security, against any attack of the Enemy.

It is most essential to the success of this Enterprize, that that it be carried into immediate execution. You will therefore in concert with the Commander of Our Ships, use all possible diligence, in forwarding the departure of the Fleet, so as that it may arrive at the place of its destination, before the Hurricane Season.

It is also Our Will & Pleasure, that you do likewise detach, another body of Our Troops, under your command, to consist of Three thousand Men, together with a proper proportion of Ordnance, & Stores, and a sufficient number of Artillery Men, to complete the Company of that Corps in the Floridas: And embark the whole on board of Transports, and order them to proceed in two divisions, under proper Convoy. The one Division to consist of such part of the said Three thousand Men as you shall think proper, to go to S^t Augustine, and the other, to consist of the remainder, to go to Pensacola, with which last mentioned Division a General Officer is to proceed, in order to take upon him the command of Our Forces in West Florida.

When these Detachments are made, or at the time of making them, if you shall find it convenient, It is Our Will & Pleasure that you do evacuate Philadelphia, and having embark'd all the Troops, as also the Ordnance, Stores, Provisions, & every thing belonging to Us, or necessary for Our Troops, you are to proceed with the whole to New York, where you are to continue, & wait the issue of the Treaty, which we have authorised Our Commissioners to propose.¹

If that Treaty should prove unsuccessful, and you shall find yourself in danger of being overpowerd, & forced, by the superior numbers of the Enemy, or your retreat likely to be cut off. In either of these cases, it is Our Will & Pleasure, that you withdraw Our Troops from New York, & embarking them on board of Transports, and taking with you all the Ordnance, & Stores, and Provisions, & every thing be-

longing to Us, or useful for Our Troops, proceed with them under Convoy of a sufficient number of Our Ships of War, to Rhode Island, if that Post can be maintained, and leaving there, in such case, as many Men as may be necessary for its defence, proceed with the rest to Halifax, and if you shall have a greater number of Troops there, than you shall judge necessary for the defence of Nova Scotia, you are to detach what you can spare, to Canada, together with such light Ordnance, & Stores, and so many of the Corps of Artillery, as you shall think proper, for the service in that Province.

And in order to facilitate these removals of Our Troops, if such removals shall become necessary, You are upon your arrival at New York, to select, & set apart, such proportions of Our Ordnance & Stores as you shall Judge necessary & useful to the Army in the present circumstances, and also such further Ordnance, & stores, as may be wanted, in case an attack upon New Orleans shall hereafter become expedient, and having so done, you are to take all safe opportunities of sending to Great Britain, all such Ordnance & Stores, as you shall Judge unnecessary to be retained.

As Our Ships of War must now be supplied with their Marines, And We have given Orders that the 70th Regiment and the new raised Regiments, commanded by Colonels Maclean, & Campbell,² making together a body of 2700 Men, should proceed to Halifax from Great Britain, and they are expected to sail from the Clyde early in next Month, You are upon the arrival of the aforesaid Regiments at Halifax, to permit the Battalion of Marines stationed there, consisting of about six hundred Men, to return on board their respective Ships, or be brought to England, as Our Commissioners of the Admiralty shall think fit. But you are with all convenient dispatch, to Send to Halifax a complete Company of Artillery, together with some light Ordnance, & suitable Stores. And in case, from any Intelligence you receive, you shall have reason to apprehend, an Attack is meditated upon Our Province of Nova Scotia, or Our Naval Yard at Halifax, You are without delay, to send there such Reinforcements as you shall Judge necessary for their defence.

G R.

L, UKLPR, PRO 30/55, Sir Guy Carleton Papers, vol. 9, no. 1032. Docketed: "Duplicate./Secret Instructions/to/Sir Henry Clinton/21st March 1778"; "7. E."

1. The new commission for negotiating peace with the Continental Congress, commonly known as the Carlisle Commission.

2. The 82nd Regiment of Foot, Col. Francis MacLean, raised in Lanarkshire, and the 74th Regiment of Foot (Argyll Highlanders), Col. John Campbell, raised in Scotland. They arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, with the 70th Regiment of Foot in August 1778.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL
SIR HENRY CLINTON

Duplicate
Most Secret
Sir

Whitehall 21st March 1778

Since my Letter to you of the 8th Ins^t by Major Drummond¹ was dispatch'd The French King has by his Ambassador avow'd the having signed a Treaty of Amity & Commerce with the Rebel Agents at Paris.

The inclosed Printed Copies of the Message from His Majesty to Parliament and of the Addresses of both Houses in return² will fully inform you of the just indignation which this most offensive proceeding of the Court of France has excited. And His Majesty in consequence of the advice of His most confidential Servants has taken the resolution to avenge the insulted honor of His Crown and vindicate the injured rights of His People by an immediate attack upon the French possessions in the West Indies

The Orders which His Majesty has thought fit to give for this purpose are contained in the Instructions you will receive herewith,³ as also for the distribution of the Troops which will remain after that Service is supplied.

No more Corps than the Three Regiments I told you were destined for Nova Scotia can be spared from hence, and the measure now adopted will necessarily supercede the operations pointed out to you in my Letter by Major Drummond for the beginning of the Campaign

The Force to be collected at New York is so considerable, that I cannot doubt Your being able to maintain that important Post. The possess[ion] of which will be so necessary to give Dignity & Effect to the Commissioners negotiations; and should the war continue, I will still hope You may find means, in conjunction with the Squadron that will be left in North America, to keep up an alarm on the sea Coasts of the - Rebellious Provinces, and perhaps disable them from materialy annoying our Trade.

The large reinforcements of Troops sent lately from France to the Islands of Martinico and Guadaloupe make it highly necessary, that the Object of our Expedition should be unsuspected; And in order to divert the public attention and conceal our purpose, it has been given out here, that the Troops in America are to return to Great Britain forthwith. Should that opinion be entertained by the French Officers in the West Indies: it will serve to confirm them in it, if you also assign the same reason for the embarkation of the Troops.

It has been found necessary to employ a considerable number of the Recruits raised for the Regiments with You upon a different service. It may therefore be expected that some of those Regiments will in consequence be too much reduced to take the field. If that should be the case, it is His Majestys pleasure that you incorporate the remaining Men into other Corps, and send home the Commissioned and noncommissioned Officers to recruit I am [&c.]

Geo. Germain

L, UKLPR, PRO 30/55, Sir Guy Carleton Papers, vol. 9, no. 1031. Addressed at foot of first page: "Sir Henry Clinton." Docketed: "Duplicate/Most Secret./Lord Geo: Germain/to/Sir Henry Clinton./21st March 1778"; "No. 8 E."

1. See above. Major Duncan Drummond, Clinton's aide-de-camp.

2. The texts of the king's message concerning the French alliance with the United States and of the addresses of the two houses in response are found in *The Parliamentary History of England* 19: 912–13, 926–28. Pages 908–52 cover the debates relating to the message and addresses.

3. George III to Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton, 21 Mar. 1778, above.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO
VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT HOWE

By &c.^a

Secret Instructions for the Lord Viscount Howe, Vice Admiral of the White Squadron of His Maj^s Fleet and Comm^r in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels employed in North America.

Whereas the French King, contrary to the most solemn Assurances, and in subversion of the Law of Nations, hath signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with certain Persons employed by His Majesty's revolted Subjects in North America; And Whereas it is supposed that Mons^r de la Mothe Piquet sailed from Quiberon Bay on the 27th or 28th of last Month with a Squadron of five or perhaps seven French Ships of the Line and some Frigates in order to escort fifteen or more large Ships laden with Military Stores, Clothing and other Supplies for his Maj^s Rebellious Subjects, & that he may possibly convoy them to the Coast or into some of the Ports of North America; And whereas Lord George Germaine, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State hath signified to us that in consequence of such offensive proceedings of the French Court, it is His Majesty's pleasure that in case Mons^r de la Mothe Piquet's Squadron or any part thereof shall arrive on any part of the Coast or in any of the Ports in North America within the Limits of your Lordship's Command, You do use your best endeavours to take or destroy the said Squadron or any part thereof as well as the Ships they may have under their Convoy, And his Lordship having likewise signified to us that His Majesty having thought fit to direct the Commander in Chief of His Army in North America to detach a body of the Troops under his Command under Convoy of a proper number of His Majesty's Ships, to attack and, if practicable, to reduce and take possession of the Island of S^t Lucia; and also to make a different distribution of the remaining Forces under his Command, and to alter the plan of operations which had before been suggested to him,¹ it is His Majesty's farther pleasure we should instruct the Comm^r in Chief of His Ships to co-operate with and give all the Assistance in his power to the Comm^r in Chief of the Army in carrying the same into execution; Your Lordship is therefore hereby required & directed, in case you shall before these Instructions come to your hands have received certain Information of the Arrival of Mons^r de la Mothe Piquet or any of the Ships of his Squadron on any part of the Coast or in any of the Ports of North America, within the Limits of your Command, to collect such part of your force together as you may judge sufficient and to go in pursuit of him or any of the said Ships of his Squadron and use your best endeavours to take or destroy them as well as all such Ships laden with Supplies for the Rebels as may be under their Convoy. But if you shall not have received any certain advice of the French Squadron abovementioned being within the Limits of your Command at the time you receive these Instructions, Your Lordship is then to co-operate with the Comm^r in Chief of His Maj^s Troops in embarking on board such Transports as you shall judge necessary & proper for the purpose, the number of Troops and such a proportion of Ordnance and Stores, as he is directed to detach in order to attack, and if practicable to reduce and take possession of the Island of S^t Lucia. And when the whole shall be embarked, together with such a Number of Flat bottomed Boats as you may judge proper to send with them, You are to put the number of Ships & Frigates mentioned in the Margin² of the Classes against those numbers expressed, under the Command of Commodore Hotham, and all the said Transports under his Convoy and direct him to proceed with all possible dispatch off Carlisle Bay in the Island of Barbadoes, where he may expect to be joined by Rear Admiral Barrington or the Comm^r in Chief for the time being of His Majesty's Ships employed at the Leeward Islands, under whose Command he is, in such case, to put himself with

the Ships and Transports abovementioned, and whose Orders he is to follow for his further proceedings.

But if, contrary to expectation, he shall not meet with the Rear Admiral or Comm^r in Chief when he arrives off Carlisle Bay, You will instruct him in that case to proceed without loss of time to St^a Lucia and, in conjunction with the Troops, attack and if practicable reduce and take possession of the Island as before directed and to co-operate with & assist the Comm^r of the Troops in carrying into execution the Plan which will be more particularly pointed out in his Instructions, acquainting the Rear Admiral or Comm^r in Chief from time to time with his proceedings and considering himself and the Ships with him as a part of the Squadron employed under his Command.

It being essential to the success of this Enterprize that it be carried into immediate execution, Your Lordship will therefore in concert with the Comm^r in Chief of the Troops use all possible diligence in forwarding the departure of the Fleet so as that it may arrive if practicable at the place of it's destination before the Hurricane Season; And in order to facilitate and render more certain it's junction with the Comm^r in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, Your Lordship will dispatch a Frigate as early as possible to give him notice of the time he may probably expect to arrive off Carlisle Bay; And if any unforeseen Accident should prevent the Fleet from sailing from North America so soon as might be expected, Your Lordship will, in like manner give the Comm^r in Chief at the Leeward Islands the earliest Information of it, that he may not be detained unnecessarily at Barbadoes in expectation thereof.

The large Reinforcement of Troops lately sent from France to the Islands of Martinico & Guadeloupe make it highly necessary that the Object of this Expedition should be unsuspected, and in order to divert the public attention and conceal our purpose it has been given out there that the Troops are to return forthwith from N^o. America to Great Britain; and if that opinion should be entertained by the French Officers in the West Indies it will serve to confirm them in it, if your Lordship were also to assign the same reason for the Embarkation.

As the sudden addition of the number of Ships abovementioned to the Squadron stationed at the Leeward Islands may render it necessary to send a Supply of Naval Stores and also a Supply of Provisions along with them; Your Lordship will therefore send with Commodore Hotham such Supplies of each from the Stores in North America, as the State of the Magazines which are now there and the large Supplies going thither under convoy of Rear Adm^l Gambier will enable you to do without distressing in any degree the Ships that will remain under your Command—Your Lordship will also send with Commodore Hotham the *Jersey* Hospital Ship, if She can with any propriety be spared from under your Command, there being great reason to believe from the present State of the Hospitals and Accomodations for the Sick at the Leeward Islands that she may be essentially useful there.

When Provision has been made for the Service beforementioned, the Comm^r in Chief of the Army is instructed to detach another Body of Troops with a proportion of Ordnance & Stores to the Floridas in such Transports & under such Convoy as your Lordship shall think fit to appoint. And when these Detachments are made, or at the time of making them, if it be found convenient, the General is

to evacuate Philadelphia & proceed to New York & wait there the Issue of the Treaty which His Majesty's Commiss^{rs}. are authorized to propose:³ But if that Treaty should prove unsuccessful or the General should find himself in danger of being overpowered or of having his Retreat cut off, he is in either of those cases to withdraw the Troops from New York and proceed to Rhode Island, if that Post can be maintained, and leaving there as many Men as may be necessary for it's defence, proceed with the rest to Halifax; And if he has a greater number of Troops there than shall be judged necessary for the defence of Nova Scotia and the naval yard at Halifax, to detach what can be spared to Canada with such Artillery and Stores as may be proper for the Service in that Province, and in order to facilitate these Removals, if such Removals shall become necessary, He is, on his arrival at New York to set apart such proportions of Ordnance and Stores as are useful and necessary to the Army and take all safe opportunities of sending the remainder to Great Britain. Your Lordship is therefore hereby farther required & directed to concert with the General & to cooperate with & give all the Assistance in your power to the Troops in the several Movements and Operations abovementioned.

And Whereas His Majesty has been pleased, in consideration of His Marine Forces being now wanted to serve on board His Fleet, to direct the General to permit the Battalion of Marines serving on Shore at Halifax, to return to England upon the Arrival of the 70th. Reg^t. and the Regiments commanded by Colonels Mc-Clean and Campbell,⁴ which Regiments will probably sail from the Clyde the beginning of next Month; Your Lordship will give the necessary directions that upon the Arrival of the said Regiments the Battalion of Marines now serving on Shore in North America be embarked on board such Transports as may be necessary to receive them, and that they be sent to England under proper Convoy as expeditiously as possible.

And whereas there is at present a great want of Frigates for Channel & Home Services, Your Lordship is farther required and directed, immediately on the receipt hereof, to select and send to England as expeditiously as may be the numbers of each Class of Frigates and sloops mentioned in the Margin,⁵ directing their respective Commanders to acquaint us with their arrival and to wait our Orders for their further proceedings.

When this is done and your Lordship has allotted such a number of the other Ships under your Command for the Services before pointed out as you shall judge necessary You are to send the remainder also to England including those which may be in the River S^t. Lawrence when the approach of Winter shall render their Service in that River no longer necessary.

And having by our Secretary's Letter of the 25th. of last Month⁶ prepared your Lordship to expect that Vice Adm^l. Byron would speedily be sent out to join you; and at the same time signified our permission to you to return to England upon his Arrival, if, from the impaired State of your health or from other Motives, you should wish to do so: We are now to acquaint your Lordship that it is judged unnecessary for Vice Adm^l. Byron to proceed to North America; But that nevertheless if your Lordship from the considerations abovementioned should wish to return to England, You are at liberty to do so when you have made the necessary Arrangements for the Services beforementioned, leaving in such case the Command of the Squadron with Rear Adm^l. Gambier, and giving him such

Instructions for his guidance in carrying on the various important services that will be committed to his care, as your Lordship shall judge proper.

Given &c. 21st. March 1778.

Sandwich
H. Palliser
Mulgrave

By &c^a. P.S.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 54–61. Docketed: "ORD. 21 March 1778/R^c Hble. V. A. Lord Howe/Instructions."

1. George III to Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton, 21 Mar., above.

2. In the margin:

<u>Rate</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Ships</u>
3 ^d	— 64	— 4
4 th	— 50	— 3
5 th	— 32	— 2
6 th	— 20	— 2
Bombs if in fit		2
Condition—		—
Total—		<u>13</u>

3. The new commission for negotiating peace with the Continental Congress, commonly known as the Carlisle Commission.

4. The 82nd Regiment of Foot, Col. Francis MacLean, raised in Lanarkshire, and the 74th Regiment of Foot (Argyll Highlanders), Col. John Campbell, raised in Scotland. They arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, with the 70th Regiment of Foot in August 1778.

5. In the margin:

Guns	
44	— 2
32	— 6
28	— 4
24	— 1
20	— 1
14 Sloops	<u>6</u>
	<u>20</u>

6. Philip Stephens to Vice Admiral Viscount Howe, 24 Feb., above.

JOURNAL OF H.M. STORESHIP *BUFFALO*, COMMANDER HUGH BROMEDGE

March 1778

S^e Mary's N 9.00 E 12 Leag^s Lizard N 54.00 E 18 Leag

Saturday 21st:

At 2 AM Gro^d: 42 f^m: D^o: [Coarse sand & Shells] At 6 AM Spoke his Maj^{ty}: Ship *Thetis* who Inform'd us that 18 days ago they Slip't from Plymouth Sound After a Snow under french Colours who Appeared to be full of men that from y^e Coarse of winds Supposed her to be to y^e Eastward and believd her to be a Rebel privateer At 8 Fir'd 2 Guns & Bro^v: too a Snow She prov'd to be y^e *King of Naples* from Naples bound to Hull At 9 made Sail At ½ past D^o: saw a Sail in y^e SE Quart^r: D^o: hauld our wind and Steer'd After her At ½ past 10 perceiv'd her to be a Snow with a Strip't pendant flying At ¾ past 10 fired a Shot a head of her to bring her too' which she Return'd & hoisted a french Ensign & pendant soon After fired another Shot After her which she Likewise Return'd we then fired several Guns at her^l and Continued firing for about 10 minutes when she Bro^v: too & sent her Boat Onboard D^o: Hoisted our Cutter and sent an Officer

Onboard her, they told her Name y^e *La Favourite* a French Sloop
of war on a Cruize At Noon Hoisted in y^e Cutter & made Sail

Start NW: 6 Leagues

Fresh Gales with Thick Rainy weather At 5 PM Close Reeft y^e
Topsails & Bro^t too [with] y^e Mⁿ: Topsail to y^e mast in y^e Night
Ground from 40 to 38 f^m: & 27 D^o:

D, UKLPR, Adm. 51/82.

1. A letter from Portsmouth, dated 23 Mar., reported *Buffalo's* "several guns" as a broadside: "Yesterday arrived the *Buffalo* armed ship, who met with a French sloop of war off Plymouth, at which he fired a gun to bring her to; and the Frenchman returned it. The *Buffalo* fired a second time at her, and monsieur returned it without bringing to; after which the *Buffalo* poured into the French sloop a broadside, which brought her to. Accordingly a boat went on board and rummaged her, and then suffered her to depart. It is reported that the above sloop of war has been out ever since the first instant, cruising about this kingdom, and that she had looked into St. Helen's, Plymouth, and other ports." *London Packet; or New Lloyd's Evening Post*, 23–25 Mar. 1778.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COMTE D'ORVILLIERS, LIEUTENANT-GÉNÉRAL
DES ARMÉES NAVALES, AND ARNAUD DE LA PORTE, INTENDANT AT BREST

[à Versailles]

Copie d'une lettre de M de Sartine a M^{rs}. Le C^{te}.

Dorvilliers et de La Porte du 21 mars 1778.

La Rupture décidée entre la France et L'Angleterre a du Vous faire prévoir, Messieurs, combien le Roi desireroit que l'armement des 25 v^{aux}. qui doivent composer l'escadre fût poussé avec toute la Vivacité possible.¹ pour vous conformer aux intentions de S. M. il est nécessaire que Vous employiez tous les moyens qui Se presenteront à Vous pour accélérer les expéditions. le travail ne doit etre interrompu ni les fêtes ni les dimanches; et Si les gens de mer qui Sont rassemblés à Brest S'y trouvent en assés grand nombre pour que Vous puissiez reserver des Escouades pour travailler les Nuits, l'intention du Roi est que Vous fassiez usage de ce moyen pour accélérer les travaux.

Je Vous préviens que Vous recevrez incessamment l'ordre d'augmenter encore les armemens au delà des 25 v^{aux}. ordonnés. M. de La porte peut prendre dès à present des arrangemens relativement aux nouveaux levées que les nouveaux armem^{ts}. exigeront.

Le Roi attend tous de Notre zèle a des efforts que Vous ferez pour lui en donner dans cette occasion une nouvelle preuve, en apportant dans l'exécution de Ses ordres toute la célérité que les circonstances exigent et qui importes si essentiellement au Succès des Entreprises que S. M. voudroit ordonner. J'ai l'honneur d'être
&c Signé de Sartine

de la Main du Ministre

Regardez cette lettre comme écrite de ma main. M^{rs}. et donnez moi la Satisfaction d'apprendre à S. M. que Ses ordres sont executés avec toute la diligence dont il est possible d'user et la plus grande activité.

[Translation]

[Versailles]

Copy of a letter from M. de Sartine to Messieurs the
Comte d'Orvilliers and de La Porte of 21 March 1778.

The decided Break between France and England should have enabled You to foresee, Sirs, how urgently the King wants that the fitting out of the 25 ships of the line that are supposed to constitute the squadron be pushed with all possible Haste.¹ In order for you to follow His Majesty's wishes, it is necessary that You use all the means that present themselves to You to accelerate their preparation. The work must not be interrupted for holidays or Sundays; and If the seamen who Are mustered at Brest may be found in numbers large enough that You can set aside several Gangs to work Nights, the King's wish is that You make use of this means to speed the work along.

I am alerting You that you will receive an immediate order to increase once more the fitting out beyond the 25 ships of the line originally ordered. M. de La Porte may begin making arrangements for the newly raised seamen that the new ships will require.

The King expects that on this occasion you will demonstrate to him renewed evidence of Your zeal in bringing about the execution of His orders with all the urgency that the circumstances require and that is so essential to the Success of the Enterprises that His Majesty wishes ordered. I have the honor to be &c Signed de Sartine

In the Hand of the Minister

Consider this letter as written by my hand, Sirs, and allow me the Satisfaction of informing His Majesty that His orders have been executed with all the alacrity and the greatest dispatch possible.

Copy, FrBAPM, série 1E 190, fol. 665. Notation: "R. le 25—."

1. For the outfitting of the twenty-five ships of the line, see Sartine to the Marquis de La Prévalaye and Jean-François-Xavier Faissolle de Villeblanche, 9 Feb., and notes, above.

WILLIAM LEE TO JEAN-DANIEL SCHWEIGHAUSER

M^r John Daniel Schweighawser, Nantes

Sir,

Paris March 21st. 1778

I was duely honored with your esteemed favor of the 11th Cur^t. & note the Contents.

as the superintendence of the Commer^{al}. concerns of the Secret Committee of Congress has desolved on me solely by the death of the late M^r. Tho^s. Morris, I am happy in pursuing their recommendation by appointing you to take up & dispose of any Vessels or Cargoes that may arrive in the Port of Nantes or any other port in Brittany, on Acc^t. of said Committee, requesting you always to govern yourself in this Agency conformable to such instructions or advice as you may receive with such Vessels or Cargoes whither they are addressed to me solely or to M^r Morris & myself as joint Commer^{al}. Agents; & that you may be fully informed on that head you are hereby authorized to open any Letters that come to your hands directed to me only as Commer^{al}. Agent or to M^r Morris & myself as joint Agents for America.

In order to prevent as much as possible any interference with you, or any interruption in this business. I inclose you a certificate, & a Letter from the Chairman of the Com^{tee}. dated Feb^y 3^d. 1777 to show my authority if any one should entertain a doubt ab^t. it.¹

You will please to give the Com^{tee}. regular advice of your proceedings & also to give the American Com^{rs}. at Paris advice whenever any property arrives in which the Com^{tee}. is interested.

Should any Cargoes arrive in the above mentiond ports addressed to me, being private property, you will be pleased to dispose of the same in the best manner you can for the interest of the concernd & follow their directions in making returns for the same.

Be so good as to forward any Letters that may come to your hands directed for me to M^r Grand Banquer in Paris.

I have no doubt your conduct in this Agency giving entire satisfaction to all parties concernd & wishing you success therein. I have the Honour to be [&c].

LB, ViHi, William Lee Folder, Letter Book (August 9, 1777–June 24, 1778), 238–39.

1. The Secret Committee appointed William Lee commercial agent for Congress in Europe on 13 Jan. 1777. Secret Committee to Robert Morris, 14 Jan. 1777, in *Letters of Delegates*, 6: 102. On 31 Jan. 1777 Robert Morris wrote Silas Deane that letters authorizing Lee to act in his new capacity "will follow this immediately." *Ibid.*, 6: 176.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen

Nantes March 21. 1778.

I rec^d your Favour of the 16th Instant¹ too late to answer it by the return of Post.—

I shall observe your Directions relative to shipping on board the *Grammont*. I hope she will be able to take all the Cloaths & Hose that remain, but I shall not get a single Case of arms on board & I have at least 300 in the magazine ready to ship.

Inclosed is the acco^t of Tannay, who occasioned the *Dolphins* Seizure, & the Sentence of the admiralty upon it.²

I beg leave to refer you to my Letter of the 6th January³ for a State of the Fact. The amount of the matter is that a Congress Vessell has been seized & sold to pay a Rascal who had run away with a Prize, drawn £147 Sterlg which he has expended & deserted from the Service. I have the honour to be [&c.]

J Williams J

It gives me the greatest pain to find constant repetitions in M^r Grands Letters that you have not approved my Bills. I beg you will consider the delicacy of a merchants credit & ease me from the anxiety that this delay occasions.

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 37, no. 139. Addressed: "The Hon^{ble}./The Commissioners/of the/United States./Passy." Docketed: "Jon Williams/Nantes March 21. 78/Enclosing an Acco^t"

1. Above.

2. See Jonathan Williams, Jr., to the American Commissioners in France, 6 Jan., note 3, above.

3. Above.

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o: 80.

My Lord,

Corunna 21st: March 1778.

I most humbly beg leave to refer to my last Letter of the 11th: Instant in which I had the Honor to acquaint your Lordship of the Arrival in this Harbour of the French Frigate La *Nymphé*, and that it was reported she belonged to a Squadron cruizing in the Bay of Biscay; There is Room however for strong Presumption that

she is bound to some Port in north America, and that two American Gentlemen¹ who arrived here the 10th. Instant at night accompanied by a french Courier, embarked in her. Their names and the Nature of their Bussiness was kept a profound Secret, nor did they leave the House of the American Agent² in which they lodged, whilst they remained here, it is equally unknown when and whither they went, but as they were no longer in the Agents House after the 13th Instant when the Frigate sailed, and that I made the strictest Enquiry on the Roads leading from the Town if any such Persons had passed them, and among the muleteers who have Carriages and Horses to let, if they had supplied them with any, also among all the vessels in the Harbour excepting this Frigate, without being able to trace them, there is great Reason to think they embarked on board that vessel, the officers of which supplied themselves whilst here with a much larger Stock of Provisions and necessities than a Cruize of three or four months requires.

Having nothing further at present deserving Your Lordship's Attention I most humbly beg leave to subscribe myself. My Lord. [&c.]

H Katencamp

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 130–31. Addressed at the foot: "The R^t H^{ble} Lord Viscount Weymouth." Docketed: "Coruña 21 March 1778/Consul Katenkamp/(N^o 80)/R. 13 April."

1. The men were Capt. Harmon Courter and a fellow escapee from a British prison, appointed by the American Commissioners in France to carry dispatches to the Continental Committee of Foreign Affairs. Silas Deane to Conrad Alexandre Gérard, 13 Feb. and the American Commissioners in France to Captain Harmon Courter, 17 Feb., above.

2. Michel Lagoanere. Michel Lagoanere & Cie. to Silas Deane, 18 Mar., above.

March 22 (Sunday)

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL VISCOUNT HOWE

By &c^a.

Whereas since the signing of our secret Instructions to your Lordship of Yesterday's date,¹ We have received by Captain Cornwallis, your several Dispatches from the 5th. of January to the 4th. of February inclusive,² giving an account of your proceedings and of the State and condition of the Fleet under your Command; We judge it necessary by this seperate Instruction to acquaint your Lordship that the object of the War being now changed, and the Contest in America being a secondary consideration, the principal object must be the distressing France and defending and securing His Majesty's own Possessions against any Hostile Attempts; and that in order to carry such measures into execution it is hoped your Lordship will have a sufficient number of Ships to enable you to send the Force mentioned in our said Instructions for reducing and taking possession of the Island of St Lucia and securing the West India Islands; But if all the Ships pointed out in the said Instructions cannot be assembled in time, or shall not be in proper condition for executing this important Service, Your Lordship is in either of those cases hereby required & directed to detach from the Fleet under your Command such a number of Ships as you shall judge to be adequate to the intended purpose.³

As the *Nonsuch* will probably be one of the Ships sent on the Service above-mentioned and as from the diminution that will now be made in the American Squadron it is no longer necessary that Cap^t. Griffith should be allowed to have a Captain under him; and as from the circumstance of his being likely to meet several Cap^t. Senior in Rank to himself, it will be improper for him to wear a distinguishing Pendant; Your Lordship will therefore direct him to resume the Command of the said Ship as Captain of her and also to strike the distinguishing Pendant he now wears when he departs from under Your Lordship's Command.

Your Lordship will send back to England with as little delay as possible His Majesty's Ship the *Porcupine* (by whose Commander you will receive this Instruction) giving us an account by that Conveyance of your intended operations and of the state of things in America.

Given &c. 22^d. March 1778.

Sandwich
H. Palliser
Mulgrave

By & P.S.

LB, UKLPR, Adm. 2/1334 (Secret), fols. 62–63. Addressed below close: "To/Lord Viscount Howe/Vice Adm^l. of the White, &/Comm^r in Chief of His Maj^{ty}./Ships & Vessels in/N^o. America." Notation: "By the *Porcupine*/Duplicate sent 12. April 1778/by the *Trident*." Docketed: "ORD. 22 March 1778/R^t Hble V. A. Lord Howe."

1. Above.

2. See 5 Jan., 20 Jan., and 4 Feb., above.

3. For a draft of this much of the instruction, see *Sandwich Papers* 1: 365.

PETER COLLAS TO JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR.

Dear Sir

Plsmouth 22^d March 1778

it is with Regret I acquaint you of my Repeated misfortune Owing to this unhappy warr.¹ I Sail'd from boston 14th. Jan^y 1778 was Taken under bell Isle 14th. February by Cap^t. Agnew of Guernsey,² with a pilot On board for burdeaux, Adressed to Mes^{rs} Moris & lee, unaware of any pravatear out from England, not withstanding I avoided every Vessell, thought my Self Save there but my Pilott Deseaved me telling me that M^r. Agnew was an Amercan Prevatear as he him Self had been on board few Days before for that Reason was taken with a Packett for y^e Honorable Doct^r. Franklin as my Orders was not to Distroy it untill I was Certain of an Annemy. I have been able to Save these letters Only. One to you, One to your brother³ from your father One to Doct^r. Franklin & three French letters for Paris. I will Inclose you a Newes paper Such as I can gett. People are here very much Divided in Sentimants concerning this warr I have meet with very good frinds to the Amercan Cause & to me in perticuler I am certain to be free in a few Days from y date here of—I Intend to get to france by way of Jersey if youl be So Kind as to wright me there, it will be forwarded to me by my brother Edward Collas, Inclose yours to him I Should be Glad you'd procure me a birth in Some way or other as this unfortunate warr has all most put me at a Stand what to do next, be So Kind as to manton my name to y worthy Doct^r. Franklin Acquaint him I had a letter to him from m^{rs} Micom⁴ which y^e

uncooth prevateer men took from me not with Standing they beheaved them Selves as well as they was taught, I was a prisonner in Guernsey 8 days Some time under Guard & Some time from Guard than my frinds endeavouring to help me all they could I am now at Playmouth Expect to be Soon in Jersey eather on a parole or at liberty where I have a number of good frind that has a great influence over y Navall officer, I will Refer you to y^e paper for Intellegence where youl See Some Debates in parliment, tho not So many as I could wish to Send there is a great pres of Seamen at this place am imform they have brak true all Protection Severall Vessell put in Comision & Some Sail this day for portmouth. I have a Thousand thing on my mind but dare not manton as this my pas Examination, to me unKnown, &c

Please to geave my Compliments to your brother if matters Should be made up with America & old britain I have offers very advantageous from Guernsy to America & Jersey I have Receved Severall letters from my frind,—Intimating the Same tho I hope that America will never come to any terms but what are honorable & adventageous to her/for y^e Cruelty, & barbararious usage I have Seen I will never forgett this from your much obliged & humble Servant—

Peter Collas

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol 47, no. 105. Addressed: "M^r Jonathan Williams/Merchant/In Nantes/France." Docketed: "Peter Collas/22 mars 1778."

1. Collas had been captured at sea once before during the war. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 23: 41n.
2. Peter Agnew, commander of Guernsey privateer schooner *Active*.
3. John Williams.
4. Jane Mecom, sister of Benjamin Franklin and mother of Jane Mecom Collas, Peter Collas's wife.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MARCH 22."

"This day arrived the *Leopard*, —, from North Carolina for Teneriffe,¹ with staves and bees wax; she was taken by the *Swift* Letter of Marque of this port. Also arrived the *Thetis* frigate, and *Rattle Snake* cutter, from a cruize."

Lloyd's Evening Post, and British Chronicle (London), 23–24 Mar. 1778.

1. Massachusetts merchantman *Leopard*, Capt. Joseph Cornstock.

ANTOINE-HILARION CHEVALIER DE BEAUSSET TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Copie de Lettres Ecrite a M^r John Paul Jones Commandant Le Batiment de Guere *Ranger*.

a Brest Dimanche 22 Mars.

Jay L'honneur de vous prevenir Monsieur, de la part de M^r Le Comte Dorvilliers commandant La Marine en ce Port, que votre Mouillage a Cameret pouvant etre tres Dangereux, Si Les Vents passoint dans La partie du NO. Il Croit que vous Deveriez profiter de la premiere occasion que vous aurez D'apareiller de Cette Rade pour Entrer dans Celle de Brest, ou vous attendriez en toute Sureté que Les Vents et Le Beau temps vous permissent daller a votre Destination. Vous ferez bien Si vous prenez ce party prudent, de vous precautioner d'un Pilote Cotier qui vous fasse appareiller de Camaret quand La Marcé Sera favorable et vous entrer Dans le Goulet En Evitant Les Dangers que Sont a Louvert de ce Passage Jay L'honneur Detre [&c.]

Signé Le Ch^r de Bausset
Directeur du Port.

[Translation]

Copy of Letters Written to Mr. John Paul Jones, Commanding The Ship of War *Ranger*.

Brest, Sunday 22 March.

I have the honor of alerting you, Sir, on behalf of M. the Comte D'Orvilliers, commanding the Navy in this Port, that your Anchorage at Camaret could be very Dangerous, If The Winds were to come from The Northwest. He Believes that you Should Take the first opportunity to sail from That Roadstead to Enter into That of Brest, where you could wait in complete Safety for The Winds and Favorable weather that would allow you to depart for your Destination. You would do well to take the prudent step of taking the precaution of a Coast Pilot, who would have you sail from Camaret when The Tide will be favorable and enter Into the Narrow Entrance [*to Brest*] While Avoiding The Dangers that Are at the Opening of that Passage. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Signed The Chevalier de Bausset
Director of the Port

Copy, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 47, no. 104b. De Beausset, a capitaine de vaisseau in the French Navy, commanded the ship of the line *Glorieux* (74 guns) in D'Orvilliers' fleet in 1778.

March 23

DIARY OF DR. EZRA GREEN, CONTINENTAL NAVY SHIP *RANGER*

[*Ranger, Brest, France*]

Monday, 23rd March.—Got under way and ran up to Brest; saluted the Admiral,¹ rec'd the news of L^d. Stormont's having left Paris on receiving a copy of the Treaty with America.

Diary of Ezra Green, M.D.

1. Louis Guillouet, Comte d'Orvilliers, Lt.-Gén. des Armées Navales, French Navy.

March 24

JOURNAL OF DR. JONATHAN HASKINS

[*Mill Prison, Plymouth, March 1778*]

24th. Tuesday squally weath^r. We hear that the French Ambassador has by order from the King his Master, Informed the English Court that there was a Treaty of Amity & Commerce Sign'd between His most Christian Majesty & the Congress of the United States of America, & Acknowledged their Independence In Consequence of which the English King has Order'd the Emb'dr to Depart—

D, MeHi, Jonathan Haskins Journal.

JAMES MOYLAN TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Cap: John Jones

L'Orient 24th. March 1778

Dear Sir,

M^r Bersolle writes me from Brest the 19th. inst^t that his advances for acc^t of the Ship *Ranger* are heavy, and desires me point out to him a house in Paris on w^{ch}. he may draw for their amount. I write him this post to take your Bills on the Honorable Commissioners, or on me, payable in Paris, but that if he can defer the same untill your acc^{ts}. with him are closed, it wou^d be more agreeable, because by one Bill, them gentlemen will see the am^t of your disbursements in Brest. in either case you will please to comply, as you may depend on due honor being paid your drafts

the Admiralty Officers of this and the adjacent ports have received directions this post, to stop all English Vessels within their district untill further orders and letters from Paris likewise mention that the English Ambassador retir'd from this Court the 16th. Inst^t without taking leave. I wish it may be true.² I remain truly
[&c.]

James Moylan

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6712. Addressed: "John Jones Esq^r/Commander of the Ship/*Ranger*/in/Brest." Docketed: "from James Moylan Esq^r/L'Orient March 24th. 1778/rec^d. Brest March 28th. 1778."

1. See Gabriel de Sartine to Arnaud de La Porte, Intendant at Brest, 18 Mar., above.

2. On 13 Mar. the Marquis de Noailles delivered to the British government a copy of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between France and the United States, and three days later Lord Stormont informed the French ministry that he had been recalled. On 19 Mar., Noailles announced to the British his own recall.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

(N^o 159)

Nantes March 24. 1778.

Since my last of 21st Instant I have nothing to inform your Excellencies relative to Business, the weather having been such as to prevent any operation.

The last Post from Brest brings acco^{ts} of the Return of Mons^r la motte Picquet with his Fleet. He left our Ships in Latt. 42 Long^d 17 with a fine wind which continued fifteen Days, after Seperation Mons^r la motte Picquet fell in with 4 English Transports convoyed by a Frigate & a Sloop of war steering for the West Indies.

The *Brune* unfortunately seperated from the Fleet the second Night, not being able to carry sufficient Sail. The other Ships sail well especialy the ~~Lion~~ *Dean* & *Independance*, It gives me great Pleasure to have so good acco^{ts} of the Frigate, & I flatter myself she will be equal to any of her Size in any Navy.

I beg leave to congratulate you on the acknowledgment of our Independance by the Court of France, which I hope will prove beneficial & honourable to both Nations. I have the Honour to be [&c.]

Jon^a Williams J

L, ViU, Lee Family Papers. Addressed below the close: "Their Excellencys/The Ministers Plenipotentiary/of the United States." Docketed: "Nantes 24th. March 1778/J Williams Lett^r"; "(N^o 159)"; "Jon^a. Williams/to/The Ministers Plenp U.S."

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR., TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES

Dear Sir.—

Nantes March 24. 1778.

The last post from Brest informs me that you still remain in port, & are getting ready to sail en escorte with the *Zephir*. But I am still ignorant of your Situation, & much fear you are not free from the Small Pox, which I supposed to be the Cause of your putting in. Indeed you would have given me much Satisfaction if you had written to me & knowing the part I take in the welfare of yours, as well as every other congress Ship, I a little wonder at your silence. You have been perhaps too busy either in Engagements of Pleasure or otherwise so I will not complain.

I have not yet recvd^d. anything from Bordeaux when I do you shall be informed as soon as I know where to write to you. Your man William Hart¹ who was left behind has endeavoured to join the Ship, but unfortunately arrived too late at Quiberon the Journey has been attended with some expence which I have paid as well as for other necessarys for this man & the poor Fellow you left at Painbeuf who is since dead. I shall send Hart home in the *Hawke* Cap^t Jenkins for Nantucket.²

M^r Lloyd³ desires me to ask if M^r Stevenson⁴ recvd^d. a Letter which he directed for him under your Care at Painbeuf.

We heard that one or two small Guernsey Privateers are under Belleisle, These paltry Things have carried in two american Ships since you sailed. I wish they may fall in your way. Please to give [*torn*] Yours sincerely

J Williams J

L, DLC, Peter Force Collection, Papers of John Paul Jones, no. 6710–6711. Addressed: “A monsieur/Monsieur Jones./Commandant de la Fregatte/le *Ranger* au Service/des Etats unis/a/Brest.” Docketed: “Letter from/J Williams/24th March 1778.”

1. *Ranger*'s log for 12 Feb., see appendix below, reports seaman William Hart as having deserted.

2. Charles Jenkins sailed from Nantucket 6 Jan. and arrived at Nantes, on or about 10 Feb. *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 25: 645n, 649.

3. John Lloyd, merchant at Nantes.

4. William Stevenson.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER[Frigate *Boston* at sea]Remarks on Board the *Boston* Tuesday March 24th. [1778]¹

The first part of this 24 Hours, fresh Gales & fair Weather, at 4 PM, saw high land bearing from us SW to SE. distance ab^t 8 Leagues, at 11 S^c Antonys head² bore SSW. distance 5 Miles

Latt^d. 38 Obserⁿ: 43..40 N^o.—D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fms AM 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 23 Mar. to noon of 24 Mar., following sea time.

2. Probably Punta del Pescador near Santoña, Spain.

March 25

PETITION OF FOURTEEN AMERICANS IN FORTON PRISON TO
THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY

[Forton Prison, Portsmouth, ca. 25 March 1778]

The Humble Petion of Fourteen Persons confined in the inner Prison at Forton
To the Honourable The Lords Com^s of his Majestys Court of Admiralty—

My Lords we the Subscribers in behalf of our selves & others To the number
of Fourteen in all haveing been put into close confinement for endeavouring To
escape and haveing now patiently born that punishment of our folly ever since the
7th of March & being duly sensible of our Error we humbly pray your Lordships To
take our case into consideration and permit us again to enjoy The benefit of the
Common prison and your Lordships may be assured that we shall remain quiet
during the Remainder of our imprisonment at this place And Shall ever retain the
Strongest sence of your Lordships lenity and clemency Towards us¹

Will^m Tryon²
William Green
John Crow
John Dorman
Timothy Connor
Franc. Jones
Franc^s. Brannan

L, UKLNM, Adm/M/444. Endorsed: "rec^d in M^r Stephens's Letter of 25 March 1778."

1. The secretary of the Admiralty, Philip Stephens, forwarded this petition to the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen, with the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty "to shew as much Lenity to these People as the Nature of their Case will with any propriety admit of." The Commissioners endorsed Stephens's letter: "reced. 26th. Wrote to Keeper & Agent at Forton in consequence the 27th." Ibid.

2. William Tryon was lieutenant of South Carolina Navy brigantine *Notre Dame*. Committed to Forton on 15 July 1777, he escaped and was recaptured on 30 July and on 7 Mar. 1778. He escaped again on 23 July 1778. Jack Kaminkow and Marion Kaminkow, *Mariners of the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Md.: Magna Carta Book Co., 1967), 192.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO SILAS DEANE

Honored Sir

Ranger, Brest March 25th 1778.

When I wrote you the inclosed from Quiberon Bay¹ I had no Idea of Addressing you at this time from Brest.—As I found Mons^r La Motte Picquet a Man deserving of confidence I communicated to him a project which I have long wished to execute and which met with his entire Approbation. tho' I had other reasons, this was the principal one why I did not accompany him from that Bay.—I found the *Ranger* very crank notwithstanding my having taken in Fifteen Tons of Lead in Quiberon to make up the quantity, 46 Tons, which I had ordered before I went to Paris.—When I reached Quimperbay a disorder prevailed in the Ship which from its Symptoms was universally deemed the Small pox. to prevent if possible the infection of this Calamity I left one person at Pont l'Abbe and proceeded. On my Arrival, here in Camaret Bay, the 8th Current it being necessary to apply for a Pilot I was told by le comte d'Orvilliers, and Mons^r De la Porte the intendant

that if I would wait a day or two a Frigate should accompany me.—I was the more induced to accept of the offer as the Wind was directly contrary—and as I could in the mean time reduce the Yards & Sails—and afterwards proceed with less risque and with a better prospect of Success. I finished the reduction of the Yards & Sails and was again ready within 48 hours.—in the course of this time I received such Attentions from Mons^r De la Porte that I thought it most advisable to communicate my first project to him.—I had a conference with him Tate a Tate for this purpose—he eagerly embraced & commended my intention which at my request he communicated to the Comte and told me afterwards that the Frigate would accompany me as far as I thought proper to lessen the risque as much as possible. I, however, waited in Camaret Bay untill the day before yesterday without being Joined by the Frigate tho' I had the utmost reason to expect her every hour. the Stormy Weather which still continues induced me to comply with the invitation in the within Letter from Mons^r De Bausset²—and as I think it absolutely necessary to reduce also the *Rangers* masts, the Mainmast being 21 Inches diameter—I mean to profit of this favorable Opportunity. You will please to observe that in America necessity Obliged us to make both Steering Sails & TopGallant sails out of duck which is sufficiently heavy for Topsails from perhaps a mistaken principle of Frugality, I did not order others to be made at Nantes—but as they can be made so much sooner here I will give Orders for that purpose. I shall enter the Port to day or to morrow.—I think my own Carpenters, Sailmakers and people will with every little Assistance be able to finish this Business in little more than a Week—so that I shall be perfectly ready to depart when your return becomes due in course of Post, and in all probability the Winds and Weather will not permit it sooner. You will for the present please to excuse my not communicating my first Scheme in this Letter.—Letters may miscarry.—and the consequence might prove fatal to me. If, after the within Letter from Mons^r De la Porte,³ any thing further should be necessary I am persuaded that both that Gentleman and Mons^r La Motte Picquet will at any time do Justice to my upright and disintrested intentions.—Should I think myself too late to pursue my first Project I purpose to substitute others which may answer perhaps equally well if not better.—I had the *Ranger* in disguise at Camaret but I have now pulled off Masque as the face of Affairs are altered. I can assure you that my detention here has given me and still gives me the utmost uneasiness and the deepest concern. Responsible, as I think myself, for consequences it is with the utmost reluctance that I now write to you without being able to inform you of my Success. I wish the more to hear from you because if I meet with much Game I may perhaps continue the Sport Three months and if the Amsterdam Ship⁴ can be had in the present Situation of Affairs you will perhaps find it necessary for me to return much sooner.—You will if you please communicate this Letter with my Respects to the Commissioners. my best compliments await Doctor Bancroft, all my People are again in health.—and I have the honor to be [&c.]

Jn^o P Jones

NB. M^r Williams could not furnish me with his Account against the *Ranger* but he has Receipts for every Article. When I depart from Brest I am to Salute the French Flag being promised Gun for Gun.

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 48, no. 160. Addressed below the postscript: "The Honorable/Silas Deane." Docketed: "Cap^t Jones. Mar: 25. 1778."

1. Captain John Paul Jones to Silas Deane, 26 Feb., above.
2. Capitaine de Vaisseau Antoine-Hilarion, Chevalier de Beausset, Director of the Port of Brest, to Captain John Paul Jones, 22 Mar., above.
3. Arnaud de La Porte, Intendant at Brest, to Captain John Paul Jones, 20 Mar., above.
4. *Indien*.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO JOHN ROSS

Dear Sir,

Ranger Brest March 25th: 1778.

You will no doubt be surprized to receive a Letter of this date from me at Brest—I will Account to you for my detention before I depart. I have endeavoured to Account for it to the Commissioners.—I must inform you that I have desired some of my friends beyond Channel to address letters to your care as follows—À Monsieur, Monsieur Jones à Le soin de Mons^r Jean Ross Negociant à Nantes—I have settled the matter so that I am to receive Gun for Gun when I salute the French Flag at my departure—this looks like Independence; yet I know not whether I ought or ought not to Congratulate you on our new Alliance: I have not yet seen the Conditions but hope they are liberal and unconfined.—my stay here will admit of a line & return of Post I therefore shall expect it.—If M^r Williams has any letters for me you will please to forward them with the News of the Day.—If it will be agreeable to you to take into your hands any Prizes that may reach Europe, on Account of my Officers and Men; let me know it and I will endeavour to procure you their letter of Attorney.—If you should decline this you will oblige me by pointing out Persons in whom they may Confide—my best Compliments await M^r Williams, M^r Lloyd¹ and all Friends at Nant[es,] I dine with Le Comte D'Orvilliers, therefore must conclude and I am &c:

LB, MdAN, John Paul Jones Letter Book, Mss. 236, pp. 6–7. Addressed at foot: "John Ross Esq^r/Nantes."

1. John Lloyd, merchant at Nantes.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER[Frigate *Boston* at sea]Remarks on Board the *Boston* Wednesday March 25th. 1778.—¹

The first part of this 24 Hours moderate Gales, at 2 PM. a Pilot came on Board from S^t Antonys² stood for the Harbour close in with the Land, tacked Ship & stood to the Northw^d: to meet a brig standing Estw^d:

Latt^d. & Obsⁿ: 44..14 N^o.—

D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 24 Mar. to noon of 25 Mar., following sea time.
2. Santoña, Spain.

HERMAN KATENCAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o: 81.

My Lord

Corunna 25th March 1778.

I had the Honor last Post to acquaint your Lordship with the Arrival in this Town of two American Gentlemen¹ accompanied by a french Courier, and that it was strongly suspected they embarked on board the french frigate *La Nymphe* for

north America, I am well informed since that they came from Paris, but after the most diligent Enquiry I have not been able to learn any further Particulars concerning them, as the American Agent² with whom alone they conversed whilst here, observes strict Silence on this Subject even with his most intimate Friends.

The *San Vincent* of eighty Guns is fitting out in Ferrol, and Orders have been sent to the Intendant of Galicia to prepare for the Reception of a Regiment of Horse, and three Regiments of Foot in this Province. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

H Katencamp

P:S: A Packet which arrived yesterday from the Havanna brings Advice of the safe Arrival in that Harbour of the Flota valued at Forty Millions of Dollars.

L, UklPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 134-35. Addressed at the foot: "The R^t H^{ble} Lord Viscount Weymouth." Docketed: "Coruña 25 March 1778/Consul Katenkamp/(N^o 81)/R. 18 April."

1. The men were Capt. Harmon Courter and a fellow escapee from a British prison, appointed by the American Commissioners in France to carry dispatches to the Continental Committee of Foreign Affairs. Silas Deane to Conrad Alexandre Gérard, 13 Feb. and the American Commissioners in France to Captain Harmon Courter, 17 Feb., above.

2. Michel Lagoanere. Michel Lagoanere & Cie., to Silas Deane, 18 Mar., above.

March 26

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER

[Frigate *Boston* at sea]

Remarks on Board the *Boston* Thursday March 26th. 1778.—¹

The first part of this 24 Hours attended with fresh Gales & clear weather, at 7 PM, my Worthey 1st Lieu^t. W^m. Barron departed this Life, after enduring the greatest pain, since his having his leg cut off. I sincerely regret the loss of him he being a Worthy & Respectful Officer, at 10 AM the Corps of the deceased was brought on the Quater Deck, & after prayers being read was committed to the Deap, with all the Ceremony that possibly could be, all Hands being on the Quater Deck. all seem'd to lement his Death.—

Latt^d. ☿ Obs: 44..31.—

D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 25 Mar. to noon of 26 Mar., following sea time.

March 27

LOUIS XVI TO THE COMTE D'ESTAING

Extrait de mes instructions
du 27 mars 1778

1^{er} chef départ de Toulon rendés vous conduite pendant la route. atterage par la Delaware. qualité et quantité des forces maritimes des Anglois en Amérique consistant dans six vaisseaux de 64. dans sept de cinquante; dans un de 74 presumé parti: dans quarante et une frégattes depuis 44 canons jusqu'a vingt,

dans 21 corvettes dans quinze goelettes dans treize flottes dans trois brulots et une Galiotte a bombe et il y a un vaisseau de 50 canons et dans trois fregattes destinés pour Terre Neuve.

2^{eme} chef ordre expres et permission positive de faire ce que je croirai le plus convenable dans les differents cas qui pourront se presenter.

3^{eme} chef bruller tous les batiments qui n'augmenteraient pas la force de l'escadre. Indication de débarquer les prisonniers a terre, mais ordre d'exiger des Ameriquains la promesse expresse de ne point les relacher a que lorsque le Roy voudrat qu'ils soient échangés.

4^{eme} chef attaquer les enemis dans l'endroit ou je pourrai leur nuir davan-tage et qui me paraitrat etre le plus utile aux interets de sa Majesté et a la gloire de ses Armes agir seul ou me combiner avec les etats unis. ne point faire d'établis-sement sur le continent mais dans quelqu'isle utile au comerce et surtout a la pesche telle que l'isle de Terre neuve ou de S^t jean soit en m'en emparant de force soit en l'obtenant par negociation des etats unis de l'amerique: je mettrai cet isle a labri d'insulte.

5^{eme} chef corespondance avec les etats unis etre instruit de leurs projets hostiles les aider s'ils ont des projets sur la Nouvelle ecosse mais m'assurer aupar-avant d'une reciprocité de secours pour favoriser l'attaque ou acorder cession des établissements de la Pesche le stipuler avec les dits Etats qui seroient tenus de donner les mêmes facilites a l'Espagne

6^{eme} chef réchauffer dans les Colons de la nouvelle ecosse leur ancien at-tachement pour sa Majeste non pour y former des etablissements mais pour fa-ciliter ceux de la pesche dans les isles les plus avant et pour avoir des matelots pour le service des vaisseaux

7^{eme} chef refus que je dois faire de contribuer a la conquestte du Canada autrement que par une croisiere et par des attaques de posttes mais dans le cas où je serai convaincu que les etats réussiroient dans cette attaque autorisation de donner des declarations au nom du Roy pour promettre aux Canadiens et aux Sauvages la protection de S. M. s'ils cessent de reconaitre la suprematie de l'Angletèrre

8^{eme} chef retirer les matelots francais mais ne point les contraindre n'y de-mander main forte aux etats unis mais me servir des moyens de persuasion.

9 chef en cas que les Anglais eussent une superiorité maritime actuelle ou anoncée, il m'est ordonne de me retirer a Bostton ou dans nos isles que je trou-verais [sûres] je m'ocuperois à me procurer a Boston des vivres et des re-fraichissements et il a me serat envoye pour six mois de vivres a la Martinique si j'étois informe qu'il m'arrive un renfort j'agiroy en conséquence. j'employerai dans les isles les forces maritimes et les troupes [qui] seront tenues d'executter ce que je prescrirai je [devrai] a attaquer leur cotes [et] leur comerce et je prote-gerai le notre Je défendrai nos Colonies du vent [et] de dessous le vent leurs gouverneurs se conformeront, dans leur deffensive et pour la partie militaire a ce que je leur prescrirai

10^{eme} chef je dois avertir les gouverneurs Espagnols offrir tous les moyens qui sont a ma disposition pour les deffendre comuniquer avec leurs vaisseaux et regarder les interets des deux couronnes comme les mêmes.

12^{eme} [*i.e.*, 11^{eme}] chef j'employerai les petits batiments américains qui pourront m'être fournis comme decouverttes. je m'en servirai dans les isles et je pourai leur faire porter mes depeschés en europe.

12 secret recomandé déffence de laisser porter aucunes lettres sans les plus grandes precautions faire ma partance pour france s'il se peut de la Martinique: escortter jusqu'aux debouquements les marchands francais et Americains.

13^{eme} chef de mes instructions au sujet des aprovisionements considérables en habillements qui seront embarqués sur l'escadre j'interomps cet Article de peur de deplaïre a Monsieur Gérard¹ et d'avoir l'air de me faire valloir etcetera

[Translation]

Extract of my instructions of 27 March 1778

First head—Departure from Toulon. Rendezvous. Guidance during the passage. Landing at the Delaware River. Quality and quantity of the maritime forces of the English in America, consisting of six ships of the line of 64; seven of fifty; one of 74 presumed to have departed; of forty-one frigates, from 44 to twenty guns; 21 corvettes; fifteen schooners; thirteen armed transports; three fire ships, and one Bomb Ketch; and there is a ship of the line of fifty cannons, and three frigates destined for Newfoundland.

Second head—Express orders and positive permission to do what I consider to be the most suitable in the different cases that may arise.

Third head—To burn any warships that will not increase the strength of the squadron. An indication to disembark the prisoners, but to extract from the Americans the express promise never to set them at liberty except when the King wishes them to be exchanged.

Fourth head—To attack the enemy in the place where I shall be able to inflict the most damage, and that appears to me to be the most useful to His Majesty's interests and the glory of his arms. Either to act alone or to collaborate with the United States. Not ever to create any establishment on the mainland but on some island which would be useful to the commerce and, above all, to the fishing industry, such as the island of Newfoundland or of Saint John, whether it be by my seizing it by force or in obtaining it through negotiation with the United States of America. I shall have this island protected from insult.

Fifth head—To correspond with the United States to become apprised of their hostile projects. To assist them if they have projects planned for Nova Scotia, but to assure myself previously of a reciprocity of assistance in order to favor the attack in accord with the transfer of the fishing establishments. To stipulate with the aforesaid States that they would agree to give the same facilities to Spain.

Sixth head—To rekindle in the Colonies of Nova Scotia their former attachment to His Majesty, not for the purpose of forming some establishments there but to facilitate the fishery in the remotest islands, and to have some sailors for the service of the ships of the line.

Seventh head—Refusal that I should make a contribution to the conquest of Canada other than by a cruiser and some attacks on posts; but in case I should be convinced that the States would succeed in this attack, an authorization to make declarations in the name of the King promising the Canadians and the savages the protection of His Majesty if they cease recognizing the supremacy of England.

Eighth head—To recover French seamen, but never to compel them or to demand they help the United States, but to serve me by means of persuasion.

Ninth head—In the event the English have a maritime superiority, actual or potential, I am ordered to retire to Boston or to our islands, that I might find safety. I would initially procure provisions and supplies in Boston, and six months of provisions would be sent me later in Martinique. If I were informed of reinforcements on the way, I would act accordingly. I shall employ in the islands maritime forces and troops who will be held to execute my orders. I shall attack their coasts and commerce while protecting ours. I shall defend our windward and leeward colonies. Their governors will conform to what I ordain for their defense and for the military.

Tenth head—I must inform the Spanish governors that I offer them all my available means to defend them; to communicate with their warships and to regard the interests of both crowns as being the same.

Twelfth [*i.e.*, *eleventh*] head—I shall employ the small American ships that might be furnished as scouts. I shall use them in the islands and can have them carry my despatches to Europe.

Twelfth head—Secret Recommendation. Forbid the transport of any letters except under the greatest precautions. To make my departure for France, if it is possible, from Martinique, and escort the French and American merchant ships to the exit of the channel.

Thirteenth head—Concerning my instructions on the subject of considerable provisioning in clothing that will be embarked on the squadron. I interrupt this item for fear of displeasing M. Gérard¹ and of appearing to push myself etcetera.

D, FrPNA, Marine B⁴ 143, fols. 9–10.

1. Conrad-Alexandre Gérard was appointed French minister to the United States and was to be transported to America aboard d'Estaing's fleet.

DIARY OF JOHN ADAMS

[*Frigate Boston at sea*]

March 27. Fryday.—on Wednesday Evg. M^r Barons died,¹ and Yesterday was committed to the Deep, from the Quarter Deck.

He was put into a Chest, and 10 or 12, twelve Pounds shot put in with him, and then nailed up—the Fragment of the Gun, which destroyed him was lashed on the Chest, and the whole launched overboard through one of the Ports, in Presence of all the Ships Crew.—after the Buryal service was read by M^r Cooper.

In the Course of the last Week We have had some of the Worst Winds, that We have felt yet.—

Monday last We made the Land upon the Coast of Spain.

Tuesday We run into the Bay of St Anthonio. 4 or 5 Boats with 15 or 16 Men in each came to Us—out of which We took a Pilot.

upon Sight of the Spanish shore, which I viewed as minutely as possible through the Glasses, I had a great Curiosity to go on shore—there was a fine Verdure, near the sea, altho the Mountains were covered with Snow.—I saw one Convent—but We did not come in sight of the Town. The Moment we were about turning the Point of the Rock to go into the Harbour, a sail appeared, We put out to

See who she was, found her a Spanish Brig, and after this upon repeated Efforts found it impracticable to get into the Harbour. in the Night the Wind caught us suddenly at N.W. and We were obliged to make all the Sail We could and put to sea.—We steered our Course for Bourdeaux.—

Yesterday was a Calm, the little Wind there was, directly against Us.—This Morning the Wind is a little better. We are supposd to be within 30 Leagues of Bourdeaux River.

Diary, MHi, Adams Family Papers, Diary of John Adams (D/JA/47), 25–26.

1. Lt. William Barron, first lieutenant of frigate *Boston*.

JOSEPH HARDY TO LORD WEYMOUTH

N^o. 11)

My Lord.

Cadiz 27th March 1778

In my last N^o. 10. I informed your Lordship that the *Phoenix* and *S^t Leandro* and the Frigate *S^a Monica* were making for this Port. Those Ships are since come in and have joined the Fleet.

Three days ago a very fine Ship of Seventy guns compleatly fitted called the *S^t Pedro Apostol* arrived here from Ferrol She brings a hundred pieces of battering Cannon of different dimensions and a great quantity of Cannon Shot. The *S^t Fransisco de Assis* of Seventy guns is expected here from Ferrol very soon.

Yesterday came into this an American Privateer called the *Revenge* commanded by one Cunningham who I believe is an Outlawed Smuggler. She is a Sloop of Sixteen guns and has on board forty two Men most of them North Britons. She came last from Bilboa, and in her way took five Prizes one of them a Tender to the *Enterprize* fitted out from Gibraltar.

I this morning made a representation to the Governor against her being admitted to Pratic,¹ which I apprehend will not be attended to, however if I find that She is to be admitted, I shall repeat it and at the same time represent to him the indignity shewd to His Majestys Colours by refusing Pratic to the *Monarch* that came hither to convoy the homeward bound Trade, and is now detained by contrary Winds and bad weather. I am [&c.]

Josh Hardy

PS I am sorry to acquaint Your Lordship that contrary to the established rules of this Port the American Privateer is admitted to Pratic this evening. I have in consequence wrote a strong remonstrance to the Governor, and have given information of the whole proceeding to His Majestys Ambassador at Madrid.²

L, UKLPR, S.P. (Foreign) 94/205, fols. 138–39. Addressed at the foot of the first page: "The Right Hon^{ble}. Lord Visc^t. Weymouth." Docketed: "Cadiz 27 March 1778/Consul Hardy/(N^o 11)/R. 20 April."

1. *Pratique* is permission to land from a vessel arriving from a foreign port, usually given on compliance with health regulations.

2. Lord Grantham.

J. L. AND L. LE COUTEULX AND COMPANY TO SILAS DEANE

Sir

our Partner m^r Laur^{ce} LeCouteulx has acquainted us with the satisfaction he had lately at Paris in being introduced to the honour of your acquaintance; with

the desire likewise you manifested him of being successively informed of the arrival, imports, sales and exports, with their respective prices, Size and number of men, of the vessels that may happen to come into this port from any of the united colonies of N. America, with the news they might bring; which is a most agreeable task, as it will undoubtedly afford us frequent occasions of corresponding with a Person of your Character.

few indeed, not above half a Dozen in number, have come from those Parts these two preceding years, tho' more apparent than real is the danger arising from the proximity of Gibraltar, Since by making for first Land and Skirting along, the african Shore, unsafe for cruising frigates, these are easily and almost certainly eluded. of Late however they have arrived somewhat more numerous, about a Dozen Since Last Summer, half of them now in the Bay: inclosed we remit you a Summary note of them and their cargoes.¹

the following are the prices of their sales

Rice from	9 to 9 ½ dollars of currency	the hundred weight
tobacco	26 to 28 d°	
tar	10 to 11 d°	
pitch	11 to 12 d°	
		the Barrel of 300 ^{wt} neat
Staves	160 to 180 d°	the 1200 long Staves of 92 to 93 inches: 4½ to 9½ broad 1 ¾ to 2 thick.
		Smaller dimensions mostly from Boston have Sold very ill.

we have given ourselves these prices for the two first articles and obtained them for the three last, in which consisted the cargo of the *Casuel* a Sloop that came to our address

their returns were mostly in Salt, wines, brandy, oil, fruits &^a and some dry goods, found here in the most ample choice, of all the fabricks almost of Europe, whose prices in an average must be computed at about 20 % above the prime cost, on account of King's duties and necessary profits of trade.

but Lately we despatched to the Southern Colonies for our own and Some friends account a french vessel the *Gaston*, Cap^t p^{re} crispin Nicolas, to Sundry Consignments on these coasts, amongst them to that of Mess^{rs} Simon Dean & c^o at Petersburg thro' the information you were pleased to give of that your house to our Saint Laur^{ce} LeCouteulx; another french Vessel, *L'heroine* Cap^t J Pezet we are getting ready and loading for the same Parts and Consignments to Sail in about 20 days; in which expedition is concerned a friend of ours at Lyons, M^r john Terrasson, whose M^r B^{ny} Terrasson goes in her as owner, men of worth and character both father and Son. this Last we Shall take the Liberty of recommending to your Said house at Petersburg, to which he has our direction, getting a free entrance into James River to Consign the Cargo consisting of Salt and dry goods to the amount of 10000. Dollars would you, Sir, grant us Leave and not think it an indiscretion to intreat you, to drop occasionally in your correspondence to your house few words of recommendation in favour of M^r B^y Terrasson

the *Gaston* we chartered here at the rate of £212. *L'heroine* at Marsailles at £290. ⌘ Tun for the whole round about voyage to and from America: we intend

dispatching in this manner as many as we Shall meet on the Same terms of af-freghement.

Since the above written Cap^t Gustavus Conyngham commander of the *Revenge* a Sloop of war of the united States of America, having addressed himself to us, we applied immediately to our Governor for an order to the health office to give him entry, which has been instantly granted. m^r Conyngham is come on Shore, this moment and has made us the report about his prizes explained in the adjoining note.² his Sloop wants Some repair and provisions, for all which we will Supply him with readiness and pleasure, as well as out of affection to the cause he Serves in. We have the honour to be [&c.]

cadiz 27 march 1778

J^{es}. L^s & L^t LeCouteulx & c^o

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 48, no. 161. Addressed: "To/Silas Dean Esq^r/Paris."

1. "Ships from America Enter'd in the Bay of Cadiz since the 9th. July 1777," the first of two enclosures, below.

2. "Prises made by the sloop Privateer Cap^t Gust^c Cunningham. from the 6th. to the 20th. March 1778," the second enclosure, below.

"SHIPS FROM AMERICA ENTER'D IN THE BAY OF CADIZ SINCE THE 9TH. JULY 1777."

[Enclosure]

1777

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|--|
| July | 9. | the sloop <i>S^t Mary</i> Cap ^t John Billon from Charlestown in 53 days with Rice Indigo & Tobacco. |
| | 10. | the sloop the <i>Minerve</i> Cap ^t Joseph Marchan, french, from Charlestown, in 62 days with Rice & Indigo. |
| [Oc]tober 6. | | the sloop the <i>Casuel</i> Cap ^t Rainguenoir, french, from Newbern in 45 days with staves, Tar, & Pitch. |

1778

- | | | |
|---------|-----|--|
| Janry. | 11. | the Brig, the <i>Lefer</i> Cap ^t Zacharias Bomcan from Charlestown in 47 days with Rice & Tabacco. |
| | 12. | the Brig the <i>Susannah</i> Cap ^t Ja ^s . Mockaf from Boston in 30 days with staves. |
| | 22. | the sloop the <i>Dolphin</i> Cap ^t Henry Aker from Boston in 24 days with Planks, staves & Rice |
| febry. | 15. | the schooner the <i>Lovely</i> Cap ^t Peter Doliver from Boston in 32 days with staves. |
| [m]arch | 13. | the sloop the <i>Maco</i> Cap ^t W ^m . Newel from North Carolina in 52 days with staves. (English). |
| | 16. | the ship the <i>Robert</i> Cap ^t John Macarthy from Boston with Planks. |
| | 25. | the Brig the <i>General Gates</i> Cap ^t James Tilden from Boston in 36 days with Planks & staves. |
| | 26. | the sloop Privateer the <i>Revenge</i> Cap ^t Cunningham from Bilbao in 20 days, says having taken on Cap ^c S ^t Vincent 3 briggs, ¹ one ship mounting 16 Guns ² with Commission of war & Marchandizes, & one sloop tender; ³ that one of the 3 Briggs was retaken by an English man of war: that he had dispatch'd said prizes for America. |

D, PHi, Papers of Benjamin Franklin. Enclosed in J. L. and L. Le Couteulx and Company to Silas Deane, 27 Mar., above.

1. *Peace & Harmony*, *Betsy*, and *Fanny*. Charles Murray to Robert Walpole, 16 Mar., above.
2. Ship *Hope*.
3. Tender to H.M.S. *Enterprize*.

“PRISES MADE BY THE SLOOP PRIVATEER CAP^T. GUST^V. CUNNINGHAM.
FROM THE 6TH. TO THE 20TH. MARCH 1778.”

[Enclosure]

the Brig the *Peace & Harmony* Cap^t. Kennedy from Lisbon for London with fruits.

the Brig the *Betsy* Cap^t. Murphy from the Streights for Newry with fruits & Barrilla.

the Sloop the *Fanny* Cap^t. Sam^l. Bacb from the Streights for London mounting 8, six pounders, & loaded with Raisins.¹

the Ship the *Hope*, Cap^t. Jones from the Streights for Bristol mounting 16, six pounders, & loaded with Raisins.²

the Sloop tender³ mounting 4 two pounders & 6 suivles, armed by Sir Thomas Rich & commanded by one of his officers.—

an English ship of war for convoy to some merchantmen, and a frigate for repair ride also in the Bay.⁴

D, PHi, Papers of Benjamin Franklin. Docketed: “Account of/Ships/arrivd/at Cadiz.” Enclosed in J. L. and L. Le Couteulx and Company to Silas Deane, 27 Mar., above.

1. For more information on the capture of the first three vessels listed, see Charles Murray to Robert Walpole, 16 Mar., above.

2. Ship *Hope*, A. Jones, master, 250 tons, mounting twelve 4-pounders, built in Bristol in 1766, lengthened in 1772 and underwent great repairs in 1777, owned by Champion of Bristol. *Lloyd's Register of Ships*, 1777–1778.

3. Tender to H.M.S. *Enterprize*.

4. This line is in a different hand from that of the list above.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GIBRALTAR, MARCH 27.”

“On the 26th inst. his Majesty's frigates the *Levant*, Capt. Murray, and *Enterprize*, Sir Thomas Rich, Bart. sent into this port the *Hope*, an English merchant ship, loaded with currants, &c. she had been taken two days before by an American privateer (a Folkstone cutter of 22 guns, and 24 swivels, commanded by one Cunningham), he had also taken three other vessels, of which you will see the account at the bottom: he also took the *Enterprize* tender, and burnt her on the 22d of March. The day following the *Enterprize* fell in with the privateer, and came up with her very fast, but it falling little wind, she took to her oars, rowed to windward, and escaped through the darkness of the night. On the 24th the *Enterprize* joined the *Levant*, in the evening, who had just rescued a salt loaded vessel, bound to Newfoundland, from the clutches of the privateer, and was near enough to see him take the *Hope*, as above; but little winds, calms, darkness, and his oars, favoured his second escape. In the night the frigates took their separate routs windward and to leeward with every precaution, so as to get sight of the privateer and the *Hope* in the morning, and have them between them, and were lucky enough to take the latter, but neither saw or heard any thing of the former from

any of the vessels they spoke with in the course of the day. The *Hope* appears to be the most valuable amongst the number he has taken. This ship had ten carriage guns, and was every way calculated to defend herself, but it is reported the men would not stand to their quarters. The two frigates were keeping a diligent look out for Mr. Cunningham, when the *Hope* left them, and as the *Alarm* is added to the number, it is more than probable she will be shewn the way to Gibraltar very soon, or driven off the coast.

"Vessels taken by the *Revenge* American privateer, Cunningham, master, since she left Bilbao, about the 4th or 5th inst.

"11th March, a brig, neither master, owner, nor vessel's name remembered, but sailed in company with the two following.¹

"12th March, the *Betsey*, John Murphy, master, Rich. Godson, owner; a brig belonging to Bristol, lading fruit and barrilla, bound to Newry.

"19th March, the *Fanny*, Wm. Barb, master, a snow, from Zant, bound to London with fruits.²

"The *Enterprise* tender, burnt.

"The *Hope*, retaken by *Enterprise* frigate, and sent to Gibraltar."

London Chronicle, 25–28 Apr. 1778.

1. Brig *Peace & Harmony*, George Kennedy, master, from Lisbon to London, with fruit.

2. Snow *Fanny*, William St. Barbe, master, 170 tons, mounting six 3-pounders, built at Broadstairs, Kent, in 1767, owned by Modigliani. *Lloyd's Register of Ships*, 1777–1778.

March 28

JOURNAL OF TIMOTHY CONNOR

[*Forton Prison, Portsmouth, 1778*]

March 28 Mr Ducket came and told us the agreeable news of being sent home which the Government has ordered two ships to be got ready immediately to carry us home—¹

D, DLC, Forton Prison, England, American Prisoner's Journal, 1777–79, collection 2272.

1. A false report.

LOUIS XVI TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Très-chers grans Amis et Alliés vous apprendrez Sans doute avec reconnoissance, le parti que la conduite du Roy de la Grande-Bretagne nous a Engagé à prendre, d'Envoyer une Flotte pour Tâcher de detruire les Forces Angloises Sur les costes de L'Amerique Septentrionale. Cette Expedition vous convaincra de l'Empressement et de la Vigueur que Nous Sommes résolu d'apporter à L'Exécution des Engagemens que nous avons contractés avec vous. Nous Sommes bien persuadé que votre fidelité aux obligations que vos Plenipotentiaires ont contractés en votre nom, Animera de plus en plus les Efforts que vous faites avec tant de Courage et de perseverance.

Le S^r C^{te}. d'Estaing, Vice Amiral de France, est chargé de Concarter avec vous les operations dont nous lui avons confié la conduite, a fin que la combinaison des mesures respectives les rende aussi avantageuses à la cause commune, que les cir-

constances le permettront. Nous vous prions d'ajouter foi et créance à toutes les choses qu'il vous communiquera de notre part et de prendre confiance dans Son Zele et dans Ses Talens.

Sur ce, Nous prions Dieu qu'il vous ait, Très-chers grans Amis et Alliés, en Sa sainte garde. Ecrit à Versailles le vingt huitième jour de Mars de L'année Mil Sept cent Soixante dix-huit.

Signé Louis et plus bas de Sartine.

Pour Copie

Estaing

[Translation]

Very Dear, Great Freinds, and Allies, you will Learn without doubt with Gratitude, the Determination which the Conduct of the King of Great Britain, has induced us to take, and to send a Fleet to endeavour to destroy the English Forces on the Coasts of North America. this Expedition will convince you of the Ardour and Vigour with which we have resolved to Act, in the Execution of the Engagements we have contracted with you. We are fully persuaded that your Fidelity to the Obligations Contracted in your Name by your Plenipotentiaries, will Animate more and more the Efforts which you perform with so much Courage and Perseverance.

M. the Count d'Estaing Vice Admiral of France is directed to consult with you on the Operations, which we have intrusted to his Conduct, in order that the combination of respective measures may be rendered as advantageous to the Common Cause as circumstances will permit. We desire that you will give Faith and Credit to whatever he will communicate to you in Our Name, and to place Confidence in his Zeal and his talents.

We Pray God Very Dear, Great Freinds, and Allies, to take you under his Holy Care, at Versailles the twenty Eighth day of March in the year One thousand seven hundred & seventy Eight.

Sign'd Louis. and lower de Sartine.

Coppy Estaing.

Copy and contemporary translation, DNA, PCC, item 59, pp. 81–85 (M247, roll 72). Addressed below close: "A nos Très-chers Grands Amis/Et Alliés les Président et/Députés au Congrès général/des Etats-Unis de l'Amerique/Septentrionale"; "To our Very Dear Great Friends and Allies the President and Deputies to the general Congress of the United States of North America." Docketed: "Copy of/Count d'Estaing's/Credentials—/Entered.—28 March 1778." Notation in upper left corner: "Plein pouvoir pour le S^c d'Estaing—Vice Amiral de France"; "Full Powers for the Count d'Estaing—Vice Admiral of France."

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COMTE D'ESTAING

A Versailles 28 Mars 1778

Pour vous Seul

J'espère, Monsieur, que vous aurez fait un heureux voyage, et je recevrai avec beaucoup de plaisir la nouvelle de votre arrivée à Toulon.

Vous avez du trouver en Rade les 9 premiers vaisseaux destinés pour former votre Escadre. Je suis bien persuadé que vous ne negligerez rien pour accélérer

l'armement des trois autres qui doivent la Compléter:¹ Je ne puis que m'en rapporter à votre zele et à votre activité ordinaires.

J'ai l'honneur de vous prévenir que la personne qui doit être Chargée des affaires du Roi auprès des Etats-unis de l'amerique Septentrionale,² Sera rendue au Bourg de la Seine Le 9 du mois prochain: elle aura avec elle Deux Secretaires et quatre Domestiques. Une autre personne dont le nom et la mission vous Sont Connus,³ se rendra au même Bourg, un jour plus tôt: elle n'aura qu'un Seul Domestique.

L'intention du Roi est que vous réserviez sur votre Vaisseau Deux Chambres à l'abri du branlebas, pour les deux personnes et qu'elles soient traitées avec les égards qui sont dus à leur Caractere.

Vous voudrez bien donner vos ordres pour que ces chambres soient disposées à l'avance, et qu'il soit d'ailleurs préparé des Lits complets pour les deux personnes ainsi que pour leur Suite, que vous pourrez faire fournir par le magasin général.

Il vous sera envoyé pareillement 5 ou 6 officiers de la Marine des Etats-unis, que vous répartirez sur les principaux Vaisseaux de votre Escadre,⁴ lorsque vous serez en Mer, en en destinant un pour une des frégates où sa présence pourra vous être utile lors de votre attérage au lieu de votre destination. Je présume que ces officiers arriveront à la Seine, le 6 ou le 7 avec le Secretaire qui vous a été destiné.

Vous voudrez bien donner des ordres pour qu'il soit préparé des Lits pour ces 6 officiers.

Le Roi vous autorise à ajouter une cinquième frégate aux quatre premieres qui ont été designées pour être attachées à votre Escadre: sa Majesté vous laisse le choix de renvoyer à l'Espagne qui sera fixée, ou la *Flore* Commandée par M. de Castallane Majastre,⁵ ou l'*Alcmene* Commandée par M. Le Ch^r de Bonneval,⁶ Comme vous m'avez paru préférer de garder cette dernière; je ne doute pas qu'en arrivant à Toulon, vous n'ayez donné vos ordres pour qu'elle Soit Caronée et mise pour ses Vivres, sur le même pied que le reste de l'Escadre.

Je vous prie de mettre sous double enveloppe avec le pour vous Seul à la Suscription de la première, toutes les Lettres que vous me ferez l'honneur de m'écire, relativement à la mission dont Sa Majesté vous a chargé. J'ai l'honneur d'être [&c.]

de sartine

[Translation]

For you Only

Versailles 28 March 1778

I hope, Sir, that you have had a pleasant trip, and I shall receive with great pleasure the news of your arrival at Toulon.

You should have found in the Roadstead the first 9 ships of the line designated for your squadron. I am well persuaded that you will do all in your power to hasten the fitting out of the three other ships that are to Complete it.¹ I can do nothing else than attribute it to your zeal and customary activity.

I have the honor to inform you that the person who is to be *Chargé d'affaires* for the King in the United States of North America² will arrive in the Borough of the Seine on the ninth of next month; he will have with him Two Secretaries and

four Servants. One other person whose name and mission Are Known to you³ will arrive at the same Borough one day earlier; he will have with him just one servant.

The intention of the King is that you reserve two chambers in the shelter of your ship's berth deck for the two persons, and that they be treated with all the consideration that is due their character.

You will please issue orders that these chambers be prepared in advance, and that they may be prepared with beds complete for the two persons and their attendants, all of which furnishings may be obtained from the general stores.

You will be sent, similarly, 5 or 6 officers of the Navy of the United States, whom you will distribute among the principal ships of your squadron.⁴ When you are at sea, have one officer sent on board one of the frigates where his presence could be very useful to you on landfall at the point of your destination. I presume that these officers will arrive at the Seine on the sixth or seventh with the Secretary that has been assigned to you.

You will please give orders that beds be prepared for these 6 officers.

The King authorizes you to add a fifth frigate to the four designated to be attached to your Squadron. His Majesty leaves to you the choice of whether to send to Spain the *Flore*, Commanded by M. de Castellane Majastre,⁵ or the *Alcmène*, Commanded by M. Le Chevalier de Bonneval.⁶ As it seems to me you prefer retaining the latter, I am certain that on arriving at Toulon, you gave orders that she be Careened and Provisioned, on the same footing as the rest of the squadron.

I request you to place under double envelope, with the words for you alone at the Address of the first, all the Letters that you will do me the honor of writing relative to the mission with which His Majesty has entrusted you. I have the honor to be [&c.]

de sartine

L, FrPNA, Marine B⁴ 141, fols. 69–70. Addressed at foot of first page: "M. Le C^{ie} d'Estaing."

1. D'Estaing's squadron was increased from ten to twelve ships of the line as of 21 Mar. Jonathan R. Dull, *The French Navy and American Independence: A Study of Arms and Diplomacy, 1774–1787* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1975), 110.

2. Conrad-Alexandre Gérard.

3. Silas Deane.

4. Silas Deane selected four Americans to serve as pilots aboard d'Estaing's squadron: Continental Navy Captains Henry Johnson and John Nicholson, Massachusetts privateer Captain Eleazer Johnson, Jr., and Philadelphia merchant Captain Isaac All. *Deane Papers* 3: 184, 407.

5. Capitaine de vaisseau Henri-César, Marquis de Castellane-Majastre.

6. Lieutenant de vaisseau Pierre-René-Bénigne, Comte de Bonneval Ruffo.

DIARY OF JOHN ADAMS

[*Frigate Boston at sea*]

March 28. Saturday. Last night and this Morning We were in the thoroughfare of all the Ships from Bourdeaux—We had always a great Number in Sight—By obs. to day, our Lat. is 46^D:3^M. North about 7 Minutes, South of the Middle of the Isle of Rea.—We are therefore about 20 Leagues from the Tower of Cordoan. We have no Wind, and nothing can be more tedious and disagreeable to me, than this idle Life.—

Last Evg. We had, two little Incidents which were disagreeable. one was, the French Barber attempting to go below, contrary to orders, the Centinell cutt off

his great Toe with his Cutlass—which raised at first a little, ill blood in the French People, who are on board, but on Enquiry finding the fellow deserved it, they acquiesced.—The other unpleasant Incident, was that one of our Prisoners of War, a little more elevated than usual grew out of Temper, and was very passionate with M^r Vernon¹ and afterwards, with C. Palmes²—but it has all subsided—

M^r M^cIntosh,³ is of North Britain, and appears, to be very decided v^s America in this Contest, and his Passions are so engaged that [*the*]y easily inkindle.—

M^r Gault⁴ is an Irish Gentⁿ. and as decided v^s America, in her Claims of Independence at least, as the other. M^r Wallace,⁵ is more reserved cautious, silent and secret.—

Jealousies arise among our Men, that the Prisoners are plotting with some of our profligate People: but I believe this Jealousy is groundless.

All Day Yesterday, and all the forenoon of this Day We have been looking out for Land—about 4 OClock We found it—the Isles of Rhee and Oleron, between which two is the Entrance into the Harbour of Rochelle, which is abt half Way bet. Bourdeaux and Nantes.—The Land is extremely flat and low.—We see the Tower—The Water is shoal, 25 or 30 Fathoms, the bottom Sand.—the Reverse of the Spanish Coast on the other Side of the Bay of Biscay.—

This afternoon, a clock calm, and M^r Goss played upon his Fiddle the whole afternoon, and the Sailors danced, which Seemed to have a very happy Effect upon their Spirits and good Humour.—

Numbers of small Birds from the shore, came along to day, some of them fatigued, allighted on our Rigging, Yards &c and one of them We caught.—a little Lark he was called.—these Birds loose the shore and get lost, and then they fly untill they are so fatigued y^t y^e instant [*the*]y allight upon a Ship the[y] drop to sleep.—

Diary, MHi, Adams Family Papers, Diary of John Adams (D/JA/47), 26–27.

1. Midshipman William Vernon, Jr.

2. Richard Palmes, captain of *Boston's* marines.

3. Capt. Peter McIntosh, master of prize *Martha*.

4. Robert Gault (or Golch), of New York City.

5. John Wallace.

March 29 (Sunday)

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DARTMOUTH, MARCH 29.”

“The *Active* Letter of Marque, Captain Agnew, belonging to Guernsey, was totally lost this morning near the Start, and three men drowned.”

Lloyd's Evening Post, and British Chronicle (London), 30 Mar.–1 Apr. 1778.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER

[Frigate *Boston* at sea]

Remarks on Sunday March 29th. 1778.—¹

Light Winds & fair Weather, spoke with several Dutchmen from Bourdeaux Bound to Amsterdam, at 6 AM saw the Land bearing NNW. distance 4 Leagues, which we found to be fifteen Leagues to the Westw^d. of Bourdeaux.—

Latt^d. ꝑ Ob — 45..52.D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 28 Mar. to noon of 29 Mar., following sea time.

CAPTAIN GUSTAVUS CONYNGHAM TO A PRIZE MASTER

S^rCadiz bay 29th. march

I put in heare A few days After parting with you I hope you have got Safe in if so—you had A Verry happy escape the day we parted As no doubt you Observed the motions of the ship to Leeward, if you Can not Sell to Advantage in teneriff Or if you Can not Reship the Cargoe in Spanish or french Bottoms for Martinico Otherwise if you Could put the ship¹ undr Spanish Colours and have her Well Man^d. to take your Own men with you And push for I would Advise you But if A Saving price Could be Got I would prefer the Cash to be pay^d. and to lay in safe hands the french Consull I would prefer Or who he would Advise if at tenerif you meet with much Difficulty in selling or manning the Vessell you had best let her Lay for Some time as Verry probable I shall Call theare if you Could sell the Vessell on Condition the[y] would Deliver the Cargoe in Martinico Or Boston it would Answer well in this Case you would not take any the Seamen with you. A Great deal must be leaft to your own prudence for it is imposible to Give you advise in every Circumstance from the Character I have had of you I have no manner of doubt but your Conduct will be approved of by those Concernd with you, if you should Go to Boston you must address your selve to Messrs Jackson & treasey & treasey of Newberryport if to Martinico to M^r David Conyngham those Gent^l. will Dispose and the proceeds lay with them—who will pay each man his equal share or shares I am [&c.]

G C—

LB, UKLPR, H.C.A. 32/441/7, pt. 1.

1. Ship *Hope*, A. Jones, master. See "Extract of a Letter from Gibraltar, March 27.", above.**March 30**

THE LONDON CHRONICLE, SUNDAY, MARCH 28, TO
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1778

Monday, March 30. London.

The *Peggy*, from Cadiz to Exeter, Capt. Sweetland,¹ was taken by a vessel from Nantz, bound to America, and after rummaging the ship for cash, &c. and finding that Capt. Sweetland had none, only some salt, fruit, &c. and that he was the owner of the vessel, let him go without taking any thing. The American vessel had 20 guns and 60 men, and only four Americans with the Captain, the rest were Frenchmen.

1. An eighty-ton brig, built in America in 1770, owned by Sweetland and Company. *Lloyd's Register of Ships*, 1777–1778.

MOSES CORBET, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF JERSEY, TO P. ÆMILIUS
IRVING, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUERNSEY

Copy

Sir,

Having undoubted information that our People are kept at Granville St^t Malo &^a. & that not even a boat is allowed to stir, I think it proper to inform You of it, and as there is every reason to imagine an embarkation is intended immediately I have therefore taken the liberty to trouble you with the two inclosed¹ as you may have means to forward them at the same time that you may transmit the information on your own account. I am yours &^a.

M. Corbet L^t Govern.

Jersey 30th. March 1778.

The matter is so pressing that a moment should not be lost in dispatching this intelligence night or day—²

Copy, UKLPR, Adm. 1/806, fol. 449. Addressed at foot: "Lieut^t Gov. Irving." Enclosed in P. Æmilius Irving to Lord Shuldham, 31 Mar., see note 2, below.

1. Enclosures not found.

2. Irving forwarded the intelligence to Vice Adm. Baron Shuldham on 31 Mar.; Shuldham enclosed it in his letter of 10 Apr. to the Admiralty. Ibid., 448.

CHARLES PIERRE GONET, COMMISSARY OF MARINE AT L'ORIENT, TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE

Monseigneur

à l'orient le 30 mars 1778

Vous avez été informé avant la réception de cette lettre, que le Corsaire anglais l'*Epervier*¹ a été arrêté dans la Radde de Belle Isle par M de Kergariou de Locmaria Commandant la frégate du Roy l'*Oiseau*, et amené dans la Radde de Pennemanek, ou il a été adressé et remis à la Consignation de M de la Vigne Buisson.² Je Sais que M. de Kergariou a eû l'honneur de vous rendre Compte des Circonstances de la Saissé du Corsaire, et je me dispense de les répéter ici, personne n'ayant mieux que luy, été en état de le faire avec exactitude et précision. Voici, Monseigneur, ce que depuis l'entrée et l'amarrage du Corsaire a été portée a Pennemanek, M de la Vigne Buisson a fait pour le retenir et S'en assurer, après avoir bien voulu de concerter avec moy.

les poudres ont été débarquées; les voiles ont été dégrées; le Gouvernail a été démonté. il a été éably à bord un détachement de 23 bas officiers et Soldats tirés des Compagnies du Port, Sous le Commandement d'un officier.

quant à la police; la Consigne est de ne laisser descendre à terre qui que ce Soit des officiers ou de l'Equipage Sans permission par écrit de M. de la Vigne ou de moy; même consigne pour ny laisser aborder aucun bateau étranger. Jusqu'à nouvel ordre de votre part, Monseigneur, la permission de descendre à terre ne Sera accordée qu'au Capitaine et à un officier parlant très bien français, pour les mettre à portée de se procurer des vivres et rafraichissemens et autres douceurs de cette espece, pour eux et pour l'Equipage. Je les feray accompagner par un archer de la marine, et ils dependrent autant que faire Le parcours, par la Colle orry donnant directement dans la ville, et Sans entrer dans le Port. pour ce qui concerne la police intérieure du V^{au}. elle est conservée au Capitaine, qui a été prié de la Subordonner aux usages français, en ce qui concerne l'extinction des feux au

Coucher du Soleil, et autres précautions contre le feu, que l'on prend avec Soin dans nos vaisseaux, et qui Sont assez négligées par les anglais.

Il a encore été recommandé expressiment à l'officier commandant le détachement français de veiller avec attention à ce qu'il ne Soit pas commite plus léger désordre par le Soldat; et on luy a donné comme principe de sa Conduite àbord, que le Corsaire anglais est, il est vray, arrêté et retenu par ordres du Roy, mais qu'on n'est pas en droit de le regarder comme prise.

Je fais fournir au détachement des vivres par le munitionnaire de la marine; avec les utenciles nécessaires pour leur cuisine. J'ay fait aussi fournir une tente, pour former un Corps de garde àbord qui mette le Soldat à couvert, ce qui luy ôte lors prétexte de molester l'Equipage anglais.

J'ay rendu Compte de tous à M de la Porte,³ mais en luy observant que la lettre dont vous m'avez honoré le 19, portant ordre d'arrêter les batimens anglais, porte en même tems injonction de les retenir jusqu'à nouvel ordre de votre part, J'ay ajouté à cet Intendant, que, S'il juge nécessaire de m'en adresser qu' previennent les votres, Monseigneur, Je Suis disposé à leur exécuter. le Corsaire a été amené à Pennemanek le 28. hier 29. J'ay fait descendre le Capitaine, et telle est la déclaration que j'en ay tirée avec le Secours de l'interprete Plaud.

le Brigantin l'*Epervier* Cap^e le S. Samuel Grible, est armé de 16 Canons dont 14 de 9 et au dessous, et 2 de 12. avec 19 perriers. Il avait abord 94 hommes y compris le Capitaine, mais attendre que M. de Kergariou en a retiré 6 français, il n'y en reste plus que 88 dont 2 officiers, quelques officiers mariniens, et le reste en matelots.

l'*Epervier* appartient aux S. Robert Jonson; Joseph Jonhson; James Margesson; et andré Jonhson, de Londres où il a été armé, et d'ou il est parti le 17. février d^{er} la Commission de l'amirauté, que je me suis fait interpréter, porte permission de l'équiper en guerre, avec destination pour le Portugal, et de là les Cotes et les Ports de l'amérique; de courir sur les vaisseaux des américains Sujets rebelles; de S'en emparer, ainsi que de tous les effets et munitions à eux appartenant, et d'en disposer au profit des armateurs, après toutes fois les formalités remplies, pour faire juger les prises par les officiers de l'amirauté. rien au reste dans cette Commission, n'exprime les permission de courir sur d'autres vaisseaux, que sur ceux des américains Sujets rebelles. la Commission est dattée de Jan^e 1778. l'*Epervier* avait été expédié et couru pendant l'année derniere 1777. il n'a fait aucune prise depuis La nouvelle expédition.

le même jour est entré le petit batiment anglo americain l'*harmonie*^A parti de Charles town le 9 Jan^e 1778. chargé de ris, d'indigo, et de tabac. il n'apporte aucune nouvelle de l'amérique. Je suis [&c.]

Gonet

[Translation]

My Lord

L'orient 30 March 1778

You have been informed prior to the receipt of this letter that the English Privateer the *Hawke*^A was stopped in the Roadstead of Belle Isle by M. de Kergariou de Locmaria, Commanding the King's frigate *Oiseau*, and was brought into the Roadstead of Pennemanek, where it has been handed over to the Direction of M. de la Vigne Buisson.² I Know that M. de Kergariou has had the honor of Reporting to you the Circumstances of the Seizure of the Privateer, and I shall not repeat them here, no one having been in a better position than he to do it with exactness

and precision. Here is, My Lord, what M. de la Vigne Buisson has done, after having consulted with me, since the entry and mooring of the Privateer at Pennemanek, in order to detain and secure her.

The powder has been unloaded; the sails have been unrigged; the Rudder has been unshipped. There has been stationed on board a detachment of 23 non-commissioned officers and Soldiers drawn from the Companies of the Port, under the command of an officer.

As for the police: the Instruction is to allow neither the officers nor the Crew to leave the vessel Without the written permission of M. de la Vigne or myself; it is even ordered that no strange boat be allowed alongside. Until new orders from you, My Lord, permission to go on shore will be accorded only to the Captain and an officer who speaks French very well, so that they may procure provisions and fresh supplies and other comforts of this kind, for themselves and for the Crew. I shall have a naval officer accompany them, and they will be required to go around by way of the [Border road?] which leads directly into the city, and Without entering the Port. The internal policing of the vessel is reserved to the Captain, who has been Requested to follow French practices regarding the extinguishing of fires at Sunset, and taking other precautions against fire, which we Carefully follow in our vessels, but which Are rather neglected by the English.

It has also been expressly recommended to the officer commanding the French detachment to insure that the Soldiers commit no more minor disorders; and it has been given him as the principle of his Conduct on board that, although it is true that the English Privateer was stopped and detained by orders of the King, it is not right to regard her as a prize.

I have had the detachment furnished with provisions by the commissary of the navy, as well as the utensils necessary for their cooking. I have also had an awning supplied, to serve as a Guardhouse on board, which gives a Soldier a cover, except when he presumes to trouble the English Crew.

I have Reported everything to M. de La Porte,³ while observing to him that the letter with which you honored me on the 19th, carrying the order to stop the English ships, carries at the same time the injunction to retain them until a new order from you. I have also informed this Intendant that if he judges it necessary to issue me any orders that anticipate yours, My Lord, I Am disposed to execute them. The Privateer was taken to Pennemanek on the 28th. Yesterday, the 29th, I had the Captain come on shore, and the following is the declaration that I elicited from him with the Aid of the interpreter Plaud.

The Brigantine *Hawke*, Captain Samuel Gribble, is armed with 16 guns, of which 14 are 9-pounders or under, and 2 are 12-pounders, with 19 swivel guns. She had on board 94 men, including the Captain, but expecting that M. de Kergariou has removed 6 Frenchmen from her, only 88 remain, 2 of whom are officers, a few petty officers, and the rest, seamen.

The *Hawke* belongs to Messrs. Robert Johnson, Joseph Johnson, James Margesson, and Andrew Johnson, of London, where she was fitted out, and from which she sailed the 17th of February last. The Commission from the Admiralty, which I have had translated, gives permission to fit her out for war, with her destination for Portugal, and from there the Coasts and Ports of America; to cruise against the vessels of the rebellious American Subjects; to seize them, as well as all

the goods and munitions belonging to them, and to dispose of them to the profit of the owners, and after all the formalities have been fulfilled, to have them judged as prizes by the officers of the Admiralty. Nothing in the rest of this Commission gives permission to cruise against any other vessels, other than those of the rebellious American Subjects. The Commission is dated January 1778. The *Hawke* had been sent on a cruise during last year, 1777. She had not taken any prize on her new cruise.

The same day the small Anglo-American ship the *Harmonie*,⁴ sailing from Charlestown the 9th of January 1778, arrived laden with rice, indigo, and tobacco. She brings no news from America. I am [&c.]

Gonet

L, FrPNA, Marine B⁴ 137, fols. 298–300. Docketed: “Classes/M. Gonet/arrêt dans la Radde de Pennemanek du Corsaire anglais l’*Epervier* de 16. Canons, Conduit de Belle Isle par la frégate du Roy l’*Oiseau*, Commandée par M. Kergariou de Locmaria L^e de V^{au}.”; “M Gonet”; “Rep. Le 6. avril 1778”; “V Recif. du 18. avril 1778.” “Mariners’ Registration/M. Gonet/arrest in the roadstead of Pennemanek of the English privateer *Epervier* of 16 guns, brought from Belle Isle by the King’s frigate *Oiseau*, commanded by Lieutenant de Vaisseau M. Kergariou de Locmaria”; “M. Gonet”; “replied 6 April 1778”; “[?] of the 18th April 1778.”

1. British privateer snow *Hawke*, Samuel Gribble, master, 220 tons, built on the Thames River, owned by Calvert & Co. *Lloyd’s Register of Ships, 1777–1778*. *Epervier* is French for *sparrow-hawk*.

2. Capitaine de vaisseau Jacques-Pierre Guillaume de la Vigne-Buisson, Commandant de la Marine at the Port of L’Orient.

3. Arnaud de la Porte, Intendant at Brest.

4. *Harmony Hall*, — Alderson, master.

JAMES MOYLAN TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE

Honorable Gentlemen

L’Orient 30th March 1778

I beg leave to refer you to my last¹ of the 23^d. ins^t since w^{ch}. I am without any of your favors.

The Frigate *Oiseau* brought into this port a privateer Brig of 16 Guns belonging to London² w^{ch}. she had taken a few days since at Belle Isle, very fortunate for the Ship *Harmony Hall* Cap: Alderson loaded with 112 Hhds Tobacco 100 Barrels of Turpentine 15 Casks of Rice & some staves belonging to Newbern in N^o. Carolina, who arrived here yesterday from thence in 38 days. She is come to my address and brings no other news than the arrival of four french vessels in the port he came from. I have the honor to be [&c.]

James Moylan

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 207. Addressed: “a Messieurs/Messieurs Les Ministairs Pleni-/potentiairs des Etats Unis de/L’Amerique.” Docketed: “Jas. Moylan. Mar: 30. 1778”; “Moylan/March 30th. 1778/Rece^d. open from/D^r Franklin/to answer Ap^l 5th./A L.”

1. Not found.

2. British privateer snow *Hawke*, Samuel Gribble, commander.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER

[Frigate *Boston* at sea]

Monday March 30th. 1778¹

Light Gales & fair Weather, a Pilot came on Board at 8 AM. saw the Light House of ~~Bordeaux~~ Cordoan² Bearing EbN. Distance 3 Leagues.—

No Ob. this Day—

D, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fms Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 29 Mar. to noon of 30 Mar., following sea time.
2. Cordouan lighthouse at the entrance to the Gironde estuary.

DIARY OF JOHN ADAMS

[Extract]

[*Frigate Boston off Bordeaux lighthouse*]

March 30. Monday. This Morning at 5, the officer came down and told the Captain that a lofty Ship was close by Us, and had fired two heavy Guns—All Hands called—She proved to be an heavy loaded Snow.—

The Weather cloudy, but no Wind.—Still—except a small Swell.

The Tour of Cordouan, or in other Words Bourdeaux Lighthouse in Sight, over our larbord Bow.—

The Captⁿ is now cleaning Ship and removing his Warlike Appearances.

This Day has been hitherto fortunate and happy.—our Pilot has brought us, Safely into the River, and We have run up, with Wind and Tide as far as Pouliac,¹ where We have anchored for the Night, and have taken in another Pilot.

This forenoon a Fisherman came along Side, with Hakes, Skates and Jennetts—We bought a few, and had an high Regale.—

... The Water in the River is very foul to all Appearance, looking all the Way like a Mud Puddle.—The Tide setts in 5 Knots.—We outrun every Thing in Sailing up the River.—

... a great Number of Vessells lay in the River.—

The Pleasure resulting from the Sight of Land, Cattle, Houses, &c after so long, so tedious, and dangerous a Voyage, is very great: It gives me a pleasing Melancholly to see this Country, an Honour which a few Months ago I never expected to arrive at.—Europe thou great Theatre of Arts Sciences, Commerce, War, am I at last permitted to visit thy Territories.—May the Design of my Voyage be answered.—

Diary, MHi, Adams Family Papers, Diary of John Adams (D/JA/47), 29–30.

1. Pauillac.

March 31

CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE

Honored Sir

Ranger, Brest March 31st 1778.

As I have not the honor of being known to you I hope you will pardon the Liberty I take of inclosing the Copy of a Letter from the Secret Committee of Congress to the American Commissioners in Europe.¹ I must however Acknowledge that the generous praise which is therein bestowed on me by Congress far exceeds the Merit of my Services.

My reason for laying this Letter before you is, because I was destined by Congress to command a Frigate of a very large construction, lately built at

Amsterdam²—and as political reasons made it necessary for that Frigate to become French property—I am now induced to hope that on her Arrival in France she will again become the property of America, and of course be put under my command.

The within Extract of a Letter which I had the honor to write to the American Commissioners,³ will I hope prove to you the real Satisfaction with which I have anticipated the happy Alliance between France and America.—I am Sir, convinced that the Capture of Lord How's light ships and Frigates in America and the destruction of the Enemies Fishery at Newfoundland—both of which might be easily effected this Summer—would effectually destroy the Sinews of their Marine:—for they would not afterwards be able to man their Fleet.—as to their Army in America,—that must fall of course.

I should be ungrateful did I forget to Acknowledge the polite Attentions and favors, which I receive from Comte d'Orvilliers, Mons^r De La Porte, Mons^r La Motte Picquet, and every Officer in this place.

The Admiral has, I doubt not, communicated to you a Project of mine with which I made him Acquainted.—I am Sir, Ambitious of being employed in Active and enterprizing Services—but my Ship is of too small a Force and does not sail so fast as I would wish. If I am successful, I will return to France and hope for your countenance and protection.

I have written to you Sir, with the same Freedom which has always marked my Correspondence with Congress.—the Interests of France and America are now mutual—and as I hope to see the common Enemy humbled—I shall be happy if I can furnish any hint whereby that wished event can be effected.—Meantime I have the honor to be [&c.]

Jn^o P Jones

L, FrPNA, Marine B⁴ 459, fol. 23. Addressed below close: "A Monsieur/Monsieur De Sartine/Ministre et Secrétaire D'Etat/au département de la Marine/à la Cour."

1. Secret Committee of the Continental Congress to the American Commissioners in France, 9 May 1777, in *NDAR* 8: 941.

2. *Indien*.

3. Captain John Paul Jones to the American Commissioners in France, 10 Feb., above.

INVOICE OF GOODS SHIPPED IN THE *DUCHESSE DE GRAMMONT*

Invoice of Sundry Merchandise received by Jon^a. Williams from various places & shipped by order of the Hon^{ble} the Comm^{rs}. of the United States on board the Ship *Duchesse de Grammont*, Poidras Commander bound for North America on Account and Risque of Congress and Consigned to their Order. Vizt

LP	N ^o . 1 a	60 Casks Copper
	60	20 Sheets Ditto
M		32 Casks Flints
FLD	1 a 26	26 Bales Hose ¹
C	41 a 45	5 Hhds Containing vizt
		N ^o . 41 300
		42 300
		43 <u>163</u>
		763 ³ / ₄ Breeches

	44	400			
	45	<u>363</u>			
		763 Waistcoats			
C	15 Bales Containing vizt				
	N ^o .	29	51	N ^o .	119 51
		31	51		129 51
		32	51		132 51
		61	51		153 51
		63	51		151 51
		64	51		162 51
		84	51		163 <u>51</u>
		99	<u>51</u>		357
			408		<u>408</u>
					765 Coats

Nantes March 31st. 1778

Errors Excepted

Jon^a Williams J²

Duplicate

Original \P *Duchesse de Grammont*.

D, DNA, Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, Microcopy 332, roll 5, fol. 446.

1. A separate invoice of the same date lists the number of pairs of worsted hose, received from Paris, contained in each of the barrels, to the total of 15,002 pairs. *Ibid.*, 449.2. In his letter to the American Commissioners in France of 31 Mar., Williams reported that the gabarre that was to carry the goods on board the *Duchesse de Grammont* was loaded and was scheduled to set off that day. Even after removing 921 pounds of salt, he would still not have enough room for all the freight. "I shall have about 2600 Suits of Cloaths remaining, besides the arms and 55 Cases of Sabres." *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 26: 205–6.JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL NAVY FRIGATE *BOSTON*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER[Frigate *Boston* at sea]Remarks Tuesday March 31st. 1778—¹Fine pleasant Weather, came into the River of Bourdeaux² at 6 PM: came to Anchor at Poliack,³ another Pilot came on Board, the Latter part Dark & RaineyD, MH-H, Samuel Tucker Papers (fMS Am 812), vol. 6 (Log of *Boston*).

1. This entry runs from noon of 30 Mar. to noon of 31 Mar., following sea time.

2. Gironde River.

3. Pauillac.

DIARY OF JOHN ADAMS

[Frigate *Boston*, *Gironde River*]March 31. Tuesday. Lying in the River of Bourdeaux, near Pouliac.—a 24 Gun Ship close by Us, under French Colours, bound to St. Domingue.—
a dark, misty Morning.—

My first Enquiry should be, who is Agent for the united States of America at Bourdeaux, at Blaye &c—who are the principal Merchants on this River concerned in the American Trade? what Vessells French or American, have Sailed, or are about Sailing for America what their Cargoes, and for what Ports? whether on

Account of the united States, of any particular State, or of private Merchants french or American?—

This Morning the Captain and a Passenger, came on board the *Boston*, from the *Julie*, a large Ship bound to St Domingue to make Us a Visit.—They invited Us on Board to dine. Captⁿ. Palmes, M^{rs} Jesse and Johnny¹ and myself, went. We found half a Dozen genteel Persons on Board, and found a pretty ship, an elegant Cabin, and every Accommodation. The white Stone Plates were laid, and a clean Napkin placed in each, and a Cut of fine Bread.—The Cloth, Plates Servants every Thing was as clean, as in any Gentlemans House.—The first Dish was a fine french Soup, which I confess I liked very much.—Then a Dish of boiled Meat.—Then the Lights of a Calf, dressed one Way and the Liver another.—Then roasted Mutton then fricaseed Mutton.—a fine Sallad and Something very like Asparagus, but not it.—The Bread was very fine, and it was baked on board.—We had then Prunes Almonds, and the most delicate Raisins I ever Saw.—Dutch Cheese then a Dish of Coffee—then a french Cordial—& Wine and Water, excellent Claret with our Dinner.—None of Us understood French—none of them English: so y^t Dr Noel,² stood Interpreter. While at Dinner We saw a Pinnace go on bord the *Boston* with several, half a Dozen, genteel People on board.—

on the Q^r Deck, I was Struck with the Hens, Capons, and Cocks in their Coops.—the largest I ever saw.—

After a genteel Entertainment, Mr Griffin,³ one of our petty officers came with the Pinnace, and C. Tuckers Compts desiring to see me—We took Leave and returned where We found, very genteel Company consisting of the Captⁿ of another Ship bound to Matinique and several Kings Officers, bound out.—One was the Commandt.

C. Palmes was sent forward to Blaye, in the Pinnace to the officer at the Castle in order to produce our Commission and procure an Entry, and pass to Bourdeaux—Palmes came back full of the Compliments of the Broker to the Captⁿ. and to me—I shall not repeat the Compliments Sent to me—but he earnestly requested y^t C. Tucker, would salute the Fort with 13 Guns—&c—w^h y^e Captⁿ. did—

all the Gentn We have seen to day agree y^t Dr Franklin has been rec^d by y^e K. [King] in great Pomp and y^t a Treaty is concluded—and [the]y all expect War, every Moment.—

This is a most beautifull River, the Villages, and Country Seats appear upon each Side all the Way.—We have got up this afternoon within 3 Leagues of the Town—

Diary, MHi, Adams Family Papers, Diary of John Adams (D/JA/47), 30–32.

1. Capt. Richard Palmes, Continental Marines; Jesse Deane; and John Quincy Adams.

2. Nicholas Noël, chirurgien-major in the French army, a passenger in the *Boston*.

3. Midshipman in the *Boston*.

WILLIAM HODGE TO SILAS DEANE

Honord Sir,

Cadiz March 31st 1778

Little did I think when I left Bilboa, that my first letter would have been dated at this place but so uncertain is the the situation of a Person on board an arm'd Vessel, that he knows not the place he is destin'd for. When we left Bilboa our in-

tention was to proceed immediately for Martinique, but fortunately we met with the following mentioned Vessels which we made Prizes of. viz:

Peace & Harmony—Capt, Kenedy from Lisbon to London with four hundred & Eighty Boxes of Oranges.

Betsey Cap^t Murphy from the Streights, to Newry with Eight hundred Barrels of Raisons & upwards of an hundred tuns of Barilla an Article made use of to make sope.

Fanny—Capt S^t Barb from Zant to London with One hundred & Eighty tuns of Currans & some return'd dry goods, which three Vessels we sent to Jackson Tracy & Tracy of Newberry Port. the Prisoners we put ashore on the Island of Madeira & then steerd for the streights Mouth with an intention of cruizing in the Streights, but about West S^o. West off Cadiz; we fell in with the *Enterprize* Tender to the *Enterprize* Frigate (mounting four carriage Guns & Six Swivels,) which we took & made a blaze of. this together with taking the Ship *Hope* Capt. Jones, a letter of Marque Mounting Sixteen, Six & four Pounders, loaded with near three hundred tuns of Currans from Zant to Bristol, obliged us to put into this port. We likewise took a large Brig loaded with Salt, but it being so near an English Frigate that we were oblig'd to leave her. At the time we took the Letter of Marque Ship we had no more than ten Guns upon deck. She gave us Chase thinking that we were an American Merchant Man & fir'd at us near two Miles distance, but We never returnd it till we could put our Hands upon the Muzzle of her Guns, we then gave it to her warmly wounded their Cap^t slightly & likewise one Boy. She struck after receiving our two broad Sides, the Cap^t perceiving that [*we*] were just going to rake him fore & aft. We took this Ship in sight of a Frigate¹ & we were in hopes that by the darkeness of the Night, She had got off clear, but I am sorry to inform you that there are letters in Town from Gibraltar, which mention that she was retaken & carried into that place.

We were chased by two English Frigates² during our Cruize but we out sail'd them, from the time we left Bilboa till we arrivd here was just twenty days, we were two days of Madeira & several off the Streights Mouth. to these two places we sent our Prisoners. I would be glad you would tell my good Friends Mess^{rs}. Holkers & Co. that I am no further on my way to Martinique than here. The Cutter is now cleaning & I shall send her on a Cruize in a few days, I shall remain here myself untill I receive a letter from you & Should be glad of your Advice & Orders, as soon as possible. My Compliments to Doctor Franklin & to all friends in general & Accept the Same from Honor'd Sir, Your friend [&c.]

W^m. Hodge

[P.S.] There are at present seven small American Vessels in this Port & are narrowly watch'd.

L, PPAmP, Benjamin Franklin Papers, vol. 8, no. 215. Docketed: "W. Hodge, March/31. 1778.—" Note (in Hodge's hand): "Direct to me to the Care/of Mess^{rs}. Le Couteulx & C^o/at Cadiz." For the identity of the addressee, see William Hodge to Benjamin Franklin, 15 May 1778, in *Benjamin Franklin Papers* 26: 466-67.

1. H.M.S. *Levant*.

2. H.M.S. *Enterprize* and H.M.S. *Levant*.