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

Volume IV Part 3 of 3

Naval Operations from August to December 1799

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Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship Merrimack, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 30 November 1799

Begins with fresh gales & cloudy Weather & a large sea — the Carpenter searching for the leak, found it to be under the Night heads, could not come at it clear'd a passage for the water to the pumps, kept one pump to work steady at 5 P M reef'd the topsails at 8 in Miz<sup>n</sup> Topsail.

Middle Part fresh gales & hard Squalls with Rain & hail — at 4

A M handed F & M Topsails at 7 Set M Stay Sail

Latter part fresh breezes & cloudy with a rough Sea. At Mer<sup>da</sup> more moderat set Close R<sup>4</sup> [Reefed] F & M Tops<sup>14</sup>

Latitude Observed 32.40 N. Longtiude Observed 73.44 W.

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

[December 1799]

To His Excellency Friderici Governor General of the Colony of Surinam, from Turell Tufts, U. S. Consul, Paramaribo

To HIS EXCELLENCY FRIDERICI

Governor General of the Colony of Surinam & & &

SIR, The cause of this Letter I must acknowledge is exceedingly mortifying to me; because I conceive it to be my duty, as far as is in my power, as well to prevent transgressions by the Citizens of the U States, as to demand redress when they are injured. It appears therefore proper that I should communicate my sentiments on a late affair, in order to exculpate myself from any of its odium. —

The conduct of a party from the U States Ship Portsm<sup>9</sup> is without justification in any of its relations. I condemn it wholly — not only as destructive of all order in society, but as the most direct & efficacious method of insulting the Government of the Colony were such

insult intended.

I am therefore happy to find that no such intention existed; and that the whole transaction arose from the ignorance, folly, and indiscretion of the actors, and of their misconception of the orders of Commodore M<sup>c</sup>Neill; consequently, that the case does not partake so much of *crime*, particularly as no personal injury to any of the Inhabitants was committed, — as of Misdemeanor — a conduct highly censurable. —

Having thus so fully condemned this unfortunate affair, and desiring it may be accepted as an apology, I think I have a right to make some remarks on the means that were taken to punish the

aggressors.

Considering the nature of the case, & its most prominent features, Your Excellency must necessarily have conceived it as insulting to Your Government altho' there were no such intention; Yet, may I not be allowed to ask the question, ought such conduct to be corrected by an exertion of Force to stop & arrest Two public Ships of War belonging to a friendly Nation? — I was much chagrined when I was informed of Your Excellency's Application to the Commander of the Military Department for that purpose, for several reasons; because, I was certain no orders had been given that would justify the conduct of the aggressors; and because, I was also sure that, on a representa-

tion of the case being made — it would have been explained & a suitable apology returned, & in case of injury, reparation of it.

There is another important circumstance. An application to stop a Public Ship by military Force, implies an intention in the Commander of the Ship to abscond, — to run away. — Such an implication must be exceedingly aggravating to the feelings of an Officer. An Officer of the U. States ought to know that he cannot elude an inspection into his conduct, more than he can fly from an Enemy, without disgrace. — It was therefore peculiarly grating to Commodore MeNeill, when the General informed him personally that he should order Force to prevent his departure; and still more aggravating when The General said, he should detain the two British Sloops of War for that purpose. A very serious exhibition of valour, right or wrong in a moral or political view, might have been the consequence, had not The General relinquished the idea of using Force, and adopted another more conformable to the usage of friendly Nations, that of -"Ordering the Ships out of Port; and, if the case is of sufficient importance, of communicating it to the Executive of the Government of the Aggressor thro' its Agent."

All this I conceive Your Excellency might have done without the aid of Military force, and perhaps have obtained as full Satisfaction. This indiscreet business has produced other unpleasant things.

Commodore Me Neill has informed me that General Magan passed a severe censure upon me, directly to him, for not having paid the General my respects as Consul of the U States of America, "as His Brittannic Majesty's Commander in Chief had left him in the Command of the Military Force of this Colony." — If the General has cause of complaint for such neglect, I do not conceive that blame can possibly be attached to me, for, I knew not of the Departure of the Commander in Chief a long time after it happened, neither did I know in what manner Government was organized, or who were to Furthermore, as I was accreditted as the Consul of the exercise it. U States, which Office is in the Civil department of the U States, by Your Excellency as the Head of the Civil Department of the Colony, which acceptation was virtually confirmed by the articles of Capitulation and by the subsequent conduct of Lieut. General Trigge, and Vice Admiral Lord Seymour & of Your Excellency — and as my Office has no relation to the Military of the Colony, I personally cannot be censurable for the neglect of which The General complains. --

If such etiquette is necessary or proper I conceive, being a stranger, I ought to have been informed of it — and formally introduced.

I hope these sentiments & observations will satisfy General Magan, that, what he has been pleased to censure as neglect — is not the effect of disrespect, or of ill intention, either toward himself — or any Officer of the Government, but solely from my conceptions of its impropriety, unless regularly introduced. — Nevertheless I cannot but think it fortunate for my own feelings, that I — at first — deemed it improper to introduce myself to The General without the countenance of Your Excellency; for, having, very lately, had some private business to transact with a respectable Officer of His Majesty's Customs, He informed me — that He could not consider me as Consul of the U States. Had I presented myself to the General — he might have made the same observation. — I made no remarks

upon the declaration of the Officer - because I wished to avoid irritation, neither should I now make these, were they not strong to

my own justification.

The ground of all this irritation & complaint is seen in the Mutiny on board Captain Hopkins' Ship. - That Officer did wrong & without my advice, in putting his men into the Fort, as the Laws of the U States empower him in such cases to confine them on board; & reason dicates to apply to yo Government of the Country for aid for that purpose when the Mutiny is general. When He informed me of his procedure I censured it — as I well knew this Government did not court the trouble. I pleaded his cause in my Letter to Your Excellency — not presuming I had any right to interfere — after he had thrown himself on the Laws of the Country — because, he had acknowledged to me his error, and because, I conceived there was much impolicy in the decision of the Honorable Court in discharging from His Ship two men without trial, & which was evident to me, would cause in said Ship a general Mutiny, as it did. — I plead it now for other reasons; because I know the character of the owner of His Ship to be wholly opposed to all irregular conduct under any Government; because, Capt Hopkins himself appears to have been totally ignorant of the attrocity of the offence in which, it is said, He was an Agent; that, had he properly considered, he would not have been involved in it by the most remote action: — that, a weighty fine might ruin him & a numerous family — & injure the Owner of the Ship. — If these arguments have any influence with Your Excellency I shall be pleased. -

It seems well enough to mention — that I have paid to [space] Nagel 140 Guilders for the maintenance of Benj Rumsay and Joseph Cannell, who, I understand, were ordered to his house by Your

Excellency. -

Hoping no other occurrence will be the occasion of troubling Your Excellency with so long a Letter, I remain.

Very respectfully.

Your Excellency's Most humbe servant

T. Tufts, Consul.

(copy)

PARAMARIBO Dec. 1799.

[SDA. Paramaribo, Vol. 1, CL, 1799-1834.]

[About December 1799]

# To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from J. M. Russell

DEAR SIR Shoud we happen to meet in the night please to show Four Lights one under the other, where most easily seen — at 7 or 8 feet distance assunder; which I shall answer by bur[n]ing one false and shou'd you have occasion to speak me, you will then fire one Gun — I shall do the same if I wish to speak you. — I am with esteem your

Obed! Humble Ser!

J. [or T] M. Russell

Please to give these signals to Capt<sup>#</sup> Nicholson [NYHS. Barry Papers. Barnes Col.]

[1 December 1799]

To Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo, from Captain George Little, U. S. Navy

> DECEMBER 3rd 1799. U. States Frigate Boston at Sea

Sir On the 1st Instant I took Provissions [Possession] of a Brig from Jeremie which went there from St Thomas' loaded with flour, Beef, dry goods &c. the Captain says he was carried in there by Regaud's Barges this Brig lay in that place when I was cruising off there she is called the *Flying Fish*, and commanded by Hinson, who says he is a Burgher of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas', there is a free first Thomas', Supercargo on board, who says he is also a burgher of St Thomas' the Crew consists of americans; Frenchmans & Portuguese, when the law obliges a burgher to have two thirds of his crew Danish subjects the last vessel I sent into Cape Francois, was bound into Jeremie, which was cleared, I wish Sir to know whether this Brig which is directly from Jeremie will be condemned in the cape, If I send her there, wish you to make such inquirries as to send me your candid opinion on the Subject. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant retook the Schooner Weymouth, Thomas Burgess master, who loaded in the Cape not long since he was taken by a french privateer from Porto Rico, 7 frenchmen and Spaniards had possession of her, after making some repairs on her I shall send her to Boston, The General Green was in Company, at the taking of these two vessels, the Constitution has gone off the Station for ten days The General Green will leave the Station tomorrow morning, the Boston only will be left here who will be glad to wait upon the Coffee Ship Corvette & Brig, the above mentioned brig from Jeremie has neither register nor Log book.

I am Sir

Your Ob! Serv!

GEO PLITTLE

EDWARD STEVENS Esqre

N.B. after the above was written I fell in with the La Dilligente and her fleet not withstanding every exertion to run from the Boston she found it in vain, to my surprise again found your pasport on board the La Diligante after ordering her Captain on board the Boston in consequence permitted her to pass, for which I shall undoubtedly be blamed by the commodore, she being a national vessel, but my determination is now fixed to let no vessel escape my notice except the small craft coasting from one port to another in Toussaints Dominions, unless they have Gen! Maitlands and your pasports on board for cruising, you have my liberty to transmit this to the Secry of the Navy.

Geo? LITTLE -

[SDA. CL, Cape Haytien, Vol. 2, 1799-1800.]

[1 December 1799]

Extract from a letter from Captain Christopher R. Perry, U. S. Navy, to a Gentleman of Providence, R. I.

> [U. S. S. General Greene] off Cape-Francois, December 5, 1799.

"Since I last had the pleasure of writing to you, I have taken a schooner under Danish colours bound from Gonaives to St. Thomas, laden with coffee, cotton, &c. supposed to be French property. -Also, in company with the Boston, have retaken an American schooner, in possession of the French, and taken a brig bound from Jeremie to St. Thomas, very richly laden. She shewed Danish colours, but has every evidence of being French property.

"The American schooner leaves us to-day for Boston, where I have consented she should be sent, only in compliance with Captain

Little's earnest wishes, as he has not yet sent any thing in.

We wait Commodore Talbot's return from the Mole, where he had been for the purpose of watering, when we shall receive his advice and directions respecting the schooner taken by the General Greene, and the brig; and according to all probability, they will be immediately

sent to America.

The political situation and conduct of the government of St Domingo, I am sorry to say, wears daily more the appearance of duplicity and baseness, and I am now fully convinced that the government will no longer regard their treaty than they find it absolutely to their own interest. They have already shewn their want of faith in several instances, and have even gone so far as to imprison an officer of the Boston. By the schooner John, which left the Cape this day, I am informed that Port de Paix & Jean Rabel, have revolted, and declared in favour of Rigaud, which has caused much alarm in the Cape. The inclosed list of Toussaint's vessels you will be pleased to have published."

[LC, "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 15 January 1800.]

[1 December 1799]

#### List of General Toussaint's force by sea

The gun boat Vengeur, commanded by captain Leuroix, mounting one 6 pounder, one 12 pounder, four 4 pounders, and two 12 pound carronades, complement 80 men.

The gun boat the Dragon, capt. Lambert, mounting one 8 pounder,

complement 14 men.

The gun boat the Balune, capt. Bressal, mounting one 4 pounder, complement 12 men.

The schooner Charlotte, capt. Viand, mounting one 24 pounder, and two 4 pounders, complement 60 men.

The schooner Gen. de Salines, captain Andreforte, mounting one 8

pounder, complement 53 men.

The schooner Active, capt. Debarque, mounting two 4 pounders, and four 3 pounders, complement 42 men.

The schooner Unique, capt. Raimonel, mounting one 18 pounder, and two 3 pounders, complement 50 men.

The barque Two Sisters, capt. Hippolete, mounting one 4 pounder, complement 30 men.

Le Leyrier, a brig mounting 14 guns, commanded by captain

Dobson, complement 70 men.

The brig Elan, capt. Dufour, mounting six 12 and ten 6 pounders,

complement 120 men.

The ship Spartiate, or Egyptian, capt. Cautineaux, mounting ten 12 pounders, six 8 pounders, and two 36 caronades, complement 135

The Duex Anges, or Two Angels, mounting eighteen 6 pounders.

The Diligent, commanded by captain Dubois, mounting twelve 12

N. B. The above mentioned vessels are cruizing between Cape Nicholas and Cape Danze Marie, badly manned - chiefly with negroes.

[LC, "The Herald", (Norfolk, Va.), 25 January 1800.]

To Clement Biddle, Notary Public, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 1st December 1799

CLEMENT BIDDLE Esqre Philadelphia ---

Sir I request the favor of you to lay out 83174% Dollars in 8 pr Cent Stock, and have the transfer made to the Secretary of the Navy Secretary of Treasury and Secretary at War for the time being, Commissioners of the Fund established by Law for the payment of pensions to the Officers & Seamen of the Navy — When the Transfer is made please to call on the Secretary of the Treasury with the Comptrollers certificate and he will pay the money — The above being the whole of the fund now to be invested, you must reserve out of it your Commission —

I am with Great respect

Sir

Yr obed Servt

P. S — I wish this to be done today or tomorrow — as a report must be made this week, that it is done to Congress —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 1 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and cloudy, Lying too 7 miles to the N E of the Cape, Boston in company Captain Little waited on Captain Talbot sent 10 french prisoners on board the Boston, Supply'd the Boston with one cask of pease containing 7½ Bushels, @ ½ past 5 squally wind at N W wore to the N E and made sail, @ 7 squally with rain parted company with the Boston, Tack'd as nessasary to work off from the shore, @ 9 double reefd the Topsail and steerd N West Split the Jib and foretopmast staysail kept on a N W course in order to weather away Tortudas. @ 12 Midnight fresh Gales and squally haul'd up courses and came to the wind to the No under double reefd Topsails, @ 1 AM brought too, @ 5 in the morning bore up West and steerd along the North side of Tortudas and Made sail towards Tortudas for Cape Nichola mole @ half past 11 hauld in under the Mole land shortnd sail and Brought too, heavy squals and rain, @ 12 Wore under the south Battery and hauld to the wind to the northward the Entrance of the harbour two miles East, Fresh Gales and Rainy weather, Wind at N E

INYHS, NHSC.1

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 1 to 2 December, 1799

[Translation]

10th to 11th Frimaire Year 8.

We celebrated the crossing of the Line, all the passengers who had not crossed the Line before were baptized,

Fine weather very calm sea all sails set.

[Latitude — 22°1′ No.]

Longitude — 49°28′ W.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

#### Extract from log book of American Brig Maria Sunday, 1 December 1799

Commences very pleasant and fine fresh Breeze at N E — at ½ past 12 Meridian the Ship we Saw hove about and gave chase — and @ 2 pm under our Lee — Who hoisted English colours and we Sett ours — She then gave us a Gun We Immediatly Bore Down for her — She then Hoiste French Colours and fire a Gun — at ½ past 2 pm under her Lee — Who sent her Boat on Board — — She Proved to be the La Brulgirl Capt Cronstadt from France Who Examineq our papers and ordered us to proceed on our Course — after treating us with the Utmost politeness — and taking some stores

During the night Squaley and some Rain @ 12 Midnight Single Reef Top Sails fore & Aft -

In the morning pleasant Made Sail —

Ends pleasant and fine fresh Breeze at N E — lost one Goose — Latt in 28° 49' N -

[John Carter Brown Lib.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship Merrimack, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 1 December 1799

Begins with fresh breezes & cloudy with rough sea. at 2 P M set the Miz<sup>n</sup> T Sail close Reef'd, Set M Sail at 4 in M Sail at 8 more moderate let one reef out of the Topsails — the Ship less leaky

Middle part moderate & cloudy At 6 A M set M Sail. out reefs, at 9 up T G Y<sup>4s</sup> & set T G Sails Latter part light breezes & cloudy Put the Quarter Deck guns in

the Hold

Latitude Observed 33.55 N. Longitude Observed 72.56 W.

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

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 2nd December 1799

Capt<sup>‡</sup> Edward Prebble of the Essex —

Sir I am honored with your letters of the 21st & 23rd Ultimo—The Essex's complement of men was always intended to be 260 including Marines, consequently the Estimate forwarded for 220 only was a mistake, which my Letter of instructions of the 15th Ulto would enable you to correct, and I presume Mt Waters would consider that as sufficient authority to make up the deficiency If not I fear it will be too late to procure it, as I calculate on your being at New Port by the 15th Inst at farthest— I now forward an estimate for your full complement of men for 6 months and I am solicitous that you should take the whole on board if it can be done without delaying any time, but you must not lose a day on that account—Your remarks relative to the deficiency of certain specific articles of provisions are not strictly applicable in all points— the deficit of Butter for instance is more than compensated by Molasses, & this article also applies to the deficiency of Sewit or Raisins which are not comprehended in the Estimate—

The Muskets and Pistols you have must answer for the present cruise if it shall appear that more are necessary they shall be furnish-

ed on your first return to port

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

PS. Muskets and Pistols shall be sent you to Rhode Island. [NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 2nd December 1799

Captain Edward Prebble

of the Essex

Sir I enclose you a Commission for Lieutenant George Gardener Lee, and Warrants for

Samuel Massury — Gunner
Joseph Martin — Boatswain
Royal Gurley
Fitch Tarbett
James Henry [or Hervey] Adams
Samuel Stubbs
William Scellond
John Shattuck
John Rowe

You will require each of these Gentlemen to take the oath of Allegiance agreeably to the form enclosed, and return it to this Office

with a letter of Acceptance, from the date of which their pay and Emoluments will respectively commence —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed St

Capt David Phipps has been ordered to join you as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant — [NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799–1800.]

[2 December 1799]

### Launching of U. S. Frigate Chesapeake

"Norfolk, [Va.,] Dec. 3, [1799] — THE LAUNCH: Yesterday, at half past one o'clock, in the presence of a great concourse of people, was safely launched into her element the United States frigate Chesa-

peake, of 44 guns, commanded by Samuel Barron, Esq.

Every preparation was made for launching this Ship the preceding day, but the tallow on her ways being frozen, and the weather extremely cold, the Constructor, Mr. [Josiah] Fox, after having knocked away the shores, and the blocks being removed from under her, finding she started and went a few feet but slowly, thought it most prudent to secure the ship and wait a more favorable opportunity (especially as she had to go over some new made ground) which yesterday presented, when at the intended moment she glided into six fathoms water.

The Chesapeake's keel was laid on the 10th of December last; two hundred and sixty-five working days only have been taken to complete her, and the number of carpenters that received full pay has

never exceeded twenty.

As to the mould, strength and beauty of the frigate, we shall not be afraid to have even the eye of prejudice to pass on them its judgment."

[LC "The Norfolk Herald" (Norfolk, Va.), 3 Dec., 1799.]

#### Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Monday, 2 December 1799

Thes 24 Hours beings with Calam Wether an A Havey Swell from the South<sup>4</sup> A 6 P M Port Royal Bore N E Dis<sup>‡</sup> 3 or 4 Leages at 7 Hand the T G Sails and Stailes

The Middel fresh Breses and Clear at 6 A M Set Both T G Sails

and Stering Sails

A Mer4 Pedro Point Bor N W 1/2 N Dist 4 or 5 Leages

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 2 December 1799

Strong Gales and rain, Standing off and on Cape Nichola Mole, wore as nessasary to keep clear of the land @ 2 Bore up and ran down under the lee of the Platform 8 or 9 miles to the Westward of the Mole harbour @ half past 4 more moderate made sail in order to be to

windward of the Mole harbour in the Morning, @ 6 Squally with rain split the Miz<sup>n</sup> Staysail sail makers repairing the Mizen Staysail @ 9 More moderate set the mainsail wore and tackd as nessasary to work to windward @ daylight light airs and variable made all sail to work to windward the Mole harbour E S E 10 Miles, from daylight till 12 Meredian light airs and Variable Employd fumigating ship and working to windward.

@ 12 light airs and  $V^{p_{10}}$  from the Northward the Mole harbour East

7 or 8 miles

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 2 to 3 December, 1799

[Translation]

11th to 12th Frimaire Year 8.

During these 24 hours fine weather calm, clear sky All sails and studding sails set.

La Vengeance gave us her longitude for yesterday 42°30 ['?] being

within hail.

Latitude — 20°24′ No. Longitude — 46°20′ W.

[Boston Athenaeum. NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of American Brig Maria Monday, 2 December 1799

Commences very fresh Breeze at E N E and cloudy hazy Weather — It Being Sunday nothing Transacted more than Working Ship -

at 6 pm Blew very fresh in Top Gall<sup>‡</sup> Sails and Stay Sails — at 10 pm a heavy Squall of Wind and Rain Single Reef<sup>‡</sup> Top Sails

fore & Aft — Reef Main Sail &c —

at 6 P M Moderate out Reefs and Sett Top Gall<sup>t</sup> Sails and Stay Sails —

In the Morning & Fornoon Employ<sup>4</sup> in Repairing Rigging and some other Work — Idle jobbs such as picking Oakum — &c —

Ends pleasant and hazy Weather —

Latte in 28°, 04' N -

[John Carter Brown Lib.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship Merrimack Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding Monday, 2 December 1799

Begins with light Airs & cloudy weather

Middle part fresh breezes & Squally at A M in M Sail at 3 in T G Sails at 5 Do reef'd the T Sails —

At 10 the wind came to the N & Wo with hard squalls of wind & rain handed the Mizn T Sail & close reef'd the F & M T Sails, saw a Schooner under our lee Standing to the N & East

Latter part fresh breezes & squally with rain -

Latitude L. R. 36. 33 N. LLongitude 62.17 W.

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

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

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 3rd December 1799

Capt<sup>p</sup> Edward Preble of the Essex

A similar Let-

Congress.

Sir Instead of going but a part of the voyage with the Merchant Vessels bound to Batavia, it has been determined by the President that the Congress and the Essex ter written to should go all the way — principally with the view of Capt. James Sever of the giving protection on the return voyage to a great number of vessels, and vast amount of property our Merchants will have to come from thence about May next -

I shall put on board of Merchant Vessels here bound to Batvia, provisions enough to last the two Frigates with their stock on hand, till their return, and shall furnish at Rhode Island 10,000 Dollars specie for them to take with

them -

I shall send to the same place, muskets and Pistols to make up deficiencies — You will be pleased, to make all the preparation, you can prior to leaving Salem, with a view to this service, and reach New Port as soon after the 15th Inst. as practicable — Your Purser will want additional Slops, & there may be articles usefull with which I am unacquainted M. Waters will aid in furnishing them — Additional spirits may be had from Gibbs & Channing New Port, who will have directions to render promptly every necessary supply which you may fail to procure at Salem -

I have the honor to be

Sir

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Purser William Mumford, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 3th December 1799

Mr William Mumford

Purser of the Essex

Sir It having been determined that the Essex shall proceed from New Port all the way to Batvia, it becomes necessary that you provide

the articles in your Department accordingly

It is probable that the Voyage will occupy a power [period] of 10 months, You will therefore please apply to M. Waters, Navy Agent for an additional supply of Slops so as to double the quantity contemplated in my letter of instructions of yesterday, and any articles besides which in consultation with Captain Prebble may be deemed proper

Mess<sup>15</sup> Gibbs & Channing of New Port will be directed to Supply you with such articles as may be deficient on your leaving Salem —

I am Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

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

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 3rd December 1799

M<sup>r</sup> Charles Morris

Purser of the Congress —

Sir It having been determined that the Congress should go to Batavia you will immidiately indent for an additional supply of Slops so as to double the proportion original contemplated, and apply to the Mess's Higginsons who will furnish as well as any other articles which your judgement with Captain Severs may deem necessary -I am

Sir

Yr obed Servant

P. S. Mess<sup>18</sup> Gibbs & Channing of Newport will have directions to render you any necessary supplys which you may fail to procure at Boston

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

## To Secretary of War from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 3rd December 1799

SECRETARY AT WAR

SIR By the enclosed you will please perceive that the Muskets offered to be loaned by you for the service required. I therefore request that you will be pleased to grant an order for one hundred muskets and Bayonets of good quality they are immediately wanted for the Frigates Congress & Essex, ordered on a voyage to Batavia with great respect I have the honor to be Sir

Yr obed Serv!

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

I wish you would give me the order this day — -[NDA. Sec. War, LB, 1798-1824.]

To Stephen Higginson & Company, Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

> [PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 3rd December 1799

Mess<sup>1</sup> Stephen Higginson & C<sup>9</sup> Boston ---

Gentlemen It is determined that the Congress and the Essex shall proceed from New Port with whatever Vessels may be ready all the way to Batavia — Great apprehensions are entertained here by the Merchants concerned in that Trade of danger at and near Batavia -The Frigates at least may be usefull in protecting a great many Ships, and a great deal of property back again from Batavia to leave that place in May next It is unfortunate this voyage has not been earlier determined on, that arrangements for it might have been earlier made — I will send from hence in Merchant Vessels, provisions to last the Frigates with their present supplys back again — But the Purser of the Congress should take a larger quantity of Slops than was contemplated which you will be pleased to supply and at once, and any articles besides which your knowledge of the Subject and Captain Severs may point out as proper, — I still hope all can be accomplished, so that the Congress may get to New Port by the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst. — at that place I will endeavor to have Muskets and more powder ready for her —

I have the honor to be Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

Please to Communicate this to the Merchants of Boston concerned in this Trade.

[Similar letters to James & Ebenezer Watson, New York; Archibald Campbell, Baltimore; Gibbs & Channing, Newport; Joseph Waters, Salem, Mass.] [NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Secretary of State from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo

CAP FRANCOIS Dec! 3td 1799 —

DEAR SIR Since my Dispatches by the Ocean the Affairs of this Colony have continued stationary. The Armies of Toussaint and Rigaud have remained in a State of Inaction, until within these 10 Days, when Commandant Christophe, at the Head of one Column of the Army, consisting of 6000 Men, marched from Leogane against Jackamel and it's Dependencies. At the same Time Toussaint sent all his armed Vessels round to blockade it by Sea, so that this important District of the South is, by this Time, compleatly invested and perhaps taken. General Dessalines has marched with another Column consisting of an equal number against grand and petit Goave, where Rigaud commands in Person. These sudden & vigorous Movements have induced Rigaud to make Overtures of Peace; but whether his Sincerity is doubted, or Toussaint thinks he can soon force him to surrender, his Proposals have not been listened to. The most unremitting Efforts are, on the contrary, used for carrying on the War, and terminating this destructive Contest by one bold & decisive Stroke. For my Part I never had a Doubt of the Issue, and am now more than ever confirmed in the Opinion that it must terminate n Favour of Toussaint. I must, therefore, submit it to your Consideration, Sir, whether it would not be prudent to make the necessary Provisions for opening the Ports of the South, in Proportion as they are surrender'd by Rigaud. As soon as they are in Toussaint's Possession the commercial Relations may be renewed between them and the U. States with Safety & Advantage. This is the Wish of General Toussaint, provided the President sees no Objection to it. Should any Arrangements be made on this Head you will be kind enough to communicate them to me by the earliest Opportunity, that I may take such steps here as Circumstances may require. -

It being deemed politic to remove General Kereseau [?] from Santa Domingo, and nominate in his stead General Chanlot, who from his Feebleness and Indisposition was incapable of travelling by Land, Toussaint requested me to furnish him with a neutral Vessel & Pasport to carry him to his destined Place. As the British Agent, M<sup>r</sup>

Douglas, saw no reasonable objection to granting this Request, I permitted him to use for this Purpose a small american Schooner that I keep here chiefly as a Packet Boat. And I did this the more readily as I thought it might prove to him my Wish to comply with every Thing that could contribute to his Interest: I hope my Conduct in this Instance will meet with the President's Approbation. I will consider it as a Favour, Sir, to be informed what Line of Conduct I should observe should a similar Application be made. Imperious Circumstances may oblige him to send a neutral Vessel occasionally to Ports not strictly comprehended within the Limits of the President's Proclamation, & it may seem unfriendly to refuse — should he apply for one. —

It has been reported here by a small schooner just from Bordeaux that some french Frigates may soon be expected with three Commissioners Adet, Fouchet, and Feron that have been lately nominated for this Colony. I know not whether this Report is well founded, or not; but I am convinced if they do come they will not be received. Positive Orders have been given to admit no Ships of War into the Harbour of the Cape without Special Permission. General Moiies in communicating this Order to me, & explaining his Reasons, informed me that he had desired the Harbour Masters to acquaint him whenever any American Ship of War presented themselves, that he might suspend this Injunction in their Favour, & give Directions for their Several of our Frigates & Corvettes have been lately free Admission. here & very kindly received. The Constitution, General Greene & Boston are now cruizing off the Port. The french Corvette the Diligente slipped in here, a few days ago, unperceived by our Ships. She will sail Tomorrow for Port au Prince. Application was made to me for a Pasport which I deemed it by no means proper to grant. I was also requested to prevail upon american Captains to carry down some Troops which have been put in Requisition for Port de Paix, but recollecting the Agent's Plan for transporting Troops to Jamaica in american Bottoms. I thought it best to prevent it if possible: which was done. -

I have the Honor to remain Dear Sir Your most obed! Serv!

EDWARD STEVENS

The Hon? T. Pickering &? &? &?

[SDA. CL, Cape Haytien, Vol. 2, 1799-1800.]

[3 December 1799]

Libel filed by Samuel Gould and George Palmer of St. Christophers, concerning capture of the American Brig Penelope, John Daughaday commanding, by the French privateer Schooner Fleur de Mair; and recaptured by U. S. S. Connecticut, Captain Moses Tryon, U. S. Navy, commanding, on 6 December, 1799

NEW YORK DISTRICT, 88

WHEREAS Samuel Gould and George Palmer, of the island of St. Christopher's, in the West Indies, merchants, have filed their certain libel in the district court of the United States of America, for the New York district, against the brig called the *Penelope*, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, stating, that the said brig called the *Penelope*,

commanded by one John Daughaday, owner of the said brig, being of the burthen of one hundred and eight tons, proceeding on her voyage from the island of Trinadad to the island of St. Thomas, was captured by a French privateer schooner, called the Fleur de Mair, on the third day of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine, and was recaptured by the United States sloop of war Connecticut, Moses Tryon, esquire, commander, on the sixth day of December in the year aforesaid, and brought into the port of Basseterre, in the island of St. Christopher. And further stating, that after the arrival of the said brig Penelope in the said port of Basseterre, it was determined and agreed upon between the said John Daughaday and David Matthew Clarkson, esquire, agent for the ships and vessels belonging to the United States in the said island of St. Christopher, that the one third part of the gross appraised value of the said brig Penelope, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, should be paid to the said David Matthew Clarkson, as agent aforesaid, for salvage, agreeably to the regulations of the Congress of the United States to that effect. And further stating, that the said John Daughaday, master and owner of the said brig *Penelope* as aforesaid, not being able for want of money to pay the salvage so as aforesaid agreed to be paid, nor to fit out the said brig for New York, whither she was bound, agreed with the said libellants to borrow from them the sum of four hundred and twenty five pounds two shillings and six pence, money of St. Christopher's aforesaid, being of the value of one thousand and thirty dollars and sixty one cents, lawful money of the United States, upon the adventure of the said brig Penelope, at and after the rate of eighteen pounds for every hundred pounds thereof, during the voyage of the said brig from St. Christopher's aforesaid to the port of New York. And further stating, that in pursuance of the said agreement, the said libellants lent and advanced to the said John Daughaday, master and owner as aforesaid, the sum of four hundred and twenty five pounds two shillings and six pence aforesaid, at and after the rate aforesaid, and that the said John Daughaday in consideration thereof, on the twenty third day of December, in the said year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine, at St. Christopher's aforesaid, made his certain bond or instrument of bottomry, sealed with his seal, and thereby after reciting, among other things, the said agreement for the loan of the said sum of four hundred and twenty five pounds two shillings and six pence, at the rate aforesaid, bound himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, his goods and chattels, and particularly the said brig *Penelope*, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, for the payment of the said sum of four hundred and twenty five pounds two shillings and six pence, within ten days next after the arrival of the said brig at the port of New York aforesaid, and thereby covenanted with the said libellants that the said brig should at all times after the said voyage be liable and chargeable for the payment of the said sum of four hundred and twenty five pounds two shillings and six pence, according to the true intent and meaning of the bond or instrument of bottomry aforesaid, in the possession of the said libellants, and ready to be produced as the said court shall direct, reference being thereunto had will fully and at large appear. And further stating, that the said brig *Penelope* arrived from St. Christopher aforesaid, at the port of New York, on the eighteenth day of January last past, where she now lies. And that no part of the said sum of four hundred and twenty five pounds two shillings and six pence or of the interest accrued thereon, has been paid to the said libellants or either of them. And praying the aid and advice of the said court and the customary process thereof. And that the said brig *Penelope*, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, might be sold by a decree, and under the direction of the said court; and that such sum and sums of money might be paid to the said libellants as are due by virtue of the bond or instrument of bottomry aforesaid, together with their costs and

charges.

Therefore, in pursuance of the Monition under the seal of the said court, to me directed and delivered, I do hereby give notice to all persons claiming the said brig *Penelope*, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, or knowing or having any thing to say why the said brig *Penelope*, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, should not be adjudged to be sold pursuant to the prayer of the said libel, that they be and appear before the said district court, to be held for the New York district, at the city of New York, on Tuesday the 25th day of February instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, if the same be a day of jurisdiction, otherwise upon the next day of jurisdiction, thereafter then and there to interpose a claim for the same and to make their allegations in that behalf. Dated this eighth day of February, 1800.

A. GILES, Marshal.

J. W. Mulligan, Proctor for Libellants. Feb. 10 to 25

[LC, "The Daily Advertiser", (N. Y.), 10 February 1800.]

#### Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Tuesday, 3 December 1799

Thes Day Beings with Modret Breses and Clear all Sails Set at 6 P M Point Pedro Bore N E Dist 4 Leages

Luina [?] Point Bore N W B N Dist 7 Leages

The Middel Part Modret Breses

at 6 P M the West End of Jamaca Bore E B N Dist 6 or 7 Leages the Latter fresh Breses

Latitude Observed 18°33′ N. Longitude 79°51′ W.

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 3 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and Variable, employd working to windward in towards the Mole harbour, @ 4 light airs and variable out boats and sent them ahead, Employd Towing into the Mole harbour @ a quarter past 5 passed the outer Fort @ 6 the Master attendance came on board and Took charge, employd working up to the Anchorage @ 8 came too with the small Bower in 24 fathoms in Cape Nicholas, Vore away to two thirds of a cable and furld sails, orderd the ships

company to keep watch and Watch, @ daylight Moderate and clear employd clearing the fore hold and sending Empty water casks ashore discharged 15 seamen by request their Term of servitude being twelve months, Rec<sup>q</sup> 10 Tuns of water, From our last anchorage to this is one hundred days which time we have been at Sea three men we lost overboard and 6 died, Sent one Commission<sup>q</sup> officer and three Midshipmen on the watering service Employd watering Ship, @ 12 calm lying at Single anchor in the Mole harbour, Wind Greatest part light and variable

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship Merrimack, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy commanding, Tuesbay, 3 December 1799

First part fresh Breezes & Squally & rain, at 4 P M set close reefd Miz<sup>n</sup> Topsail let one reef out of the F & M Topsails

At midnight sounded but got no bottom.

Middle part Do weather

at 4 A M sounded but got no bottom let 1 reef out of Miz<sup>n</sup> T Sail at 6 set M Sail & out reefs at all drawing sail set on the wind — Ends cloudy & calm

Latitude Observed 38°.11′ N. Longitude Observed 61.44 W.

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

To Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 4th December 1799

Captain SILAS TALBOT
Commanding Officer of the American Ships of War at
Saint Domingo

Sir I send under convoy of the Brig Augusta Lieutenant McElroy, a Schooner loaded with Provisions for the Squadron under your Command, which is to be joined by the Augusta This supply of provisions, an account of which you have enclosed, together with what may be spared to the Vessels which remain by those returning to the United States, will I hope save the necessity of procuring any considerable quantity at Saint Domingo, a thing to be avoided as much

as possible, on account of the expence -

Late Letters have been recieved from Doctor Stevens, by which it appears that General Touissant has demanded his interference to prevent the armed vessels trading between France, and Touissants part of Saint Domingo, from being captured by our Vessels, and it is not improbable that the security of our Trade to that Island which has become an object of vast importance to the United States, as well as the security of the property of our Citizens within the Island may make it necessary that Doctor Stevens should stipulate

1st That our Vessels shall not block up the ports of Touissant, so as to prevent the French armed vessels freely entering into, or departing from them —

2<sup>nd</sup> That our Vessels shall not leave Touissants ports until 24 hours have elapsed after the departure of a French armed Vessel on her return to France —

3rd That our Vessels shall not capture within one league of the shores of Touissant French armed Vessels trading between France

and Saint Domingo -

4th That our Vessels shall occasionally leave any particular port which Touissant may desire, and its vicinity for a certain number of days for the purpose of affording to the French armed Vessels trading as aforesaid, a fair opportunity of returning to France, without

danger of capture near the Island —

It is the command of the President that upon being informed by Doctor Stevens that he has made any, or all of these stipulations that you cause them to be observed and with good faith by the vessels under your Command, and further that if Doctor Stevens should grant passports to any of the French armed Vessels, that you cause the passports to be respected according to the true intent, and meaning of them —

It will be proper that you have an early interview with Doctor Stevens, and know from him precisely the nature of any Agreement he may have made, or may make on these points, and that you issue your orders without delay in conformity thereto to the different

vessels under your command -

The Consul at Port Republicain represents in a letter dated the last of October the trade in that quarter to be greatly harrassed by Rigauds barges — I hope your Vessels are so dispersed, as to give protection to the trade to every part of the Island under Touissants controul and to afford the necessary attention to the south side of the Island, some attention to Porto Rico, and still more to the Hayana

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Lieutenant Archibald McElroy, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 4th December 1799

Lieut Archibald McElroy of the Augusta —

Sir Having already given you instructions for the general government of your conduct on a cruise, and all the necessary papers, and presuming that you are compleatly prepared in all respects for Sea, it only remains for me to direct that taking under convoy the Store Ship Elizabeth, Captain Thomas Hughes, and such Merchant Vessels as may be ready you proceed with the Augusta to Cape Francois Should you not find the Commanding officer there on your arrival, you will lodge the provision with Nathan Levy Esq. Navy Agent —

After accomplishing this business you will put to Sea, and cruise in the vicinity of Saint Domingo, until you fall in with the Commanding Officer, Captain Talbott under whose orders you are to act—

You will receive herewith dispatches for the Commanding Officer, which you will deliver — You will also receive three Letters for Captain Murray of the *Insurgent* which you will deliver, one to each of the three Captains you first meet with, so as to give every oppy of Captain Murrays receiving one of them.

I am Sir

with respect

Yrs — —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Thomas Hughes, Captain of the Merchant Schooner *Elizabeth*, from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 4th December 1799

Captain Thomas Hughes

Master of the Schooner

Elizabeth for Cape Francois —

Sir You are to place yourself under convoy of the Augusta Lieutenant McElroy & proceed to Cape Francois where you will deliver your Cargo to Nathan Levy Esq — Navy Agent —

I am

Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Nathan Levy, Navy Agent, Cape Francois, from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 4th December 1799

NATHAN LEVY Esq!

Navy Agent Cape François —

SIR I was sometime ago honored with your Letter of the 29th August — You must have received soon after 5000 Dollars specie which I sent you by Captain Russell of the Herald which I presume will be sufficient with Such Dfts as you can conveniently make on me for Navy purposes —

I send under convoy of the Augusta Lieutenant McElroy a quantity of provisions as pr Bill Lading enclosed, which you will be pleased to receive & Store for the use of our Public Ships until wanted by them —

It will be proper to consult with Capt Talbott about the distributions of them amongst the different Vessels — I am disappointed in not hearing from you by all opportunities —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

## To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 4th December 1799

Capt<sup>n</sup> Samuel Barron
Norfolk -

Sir Lieutenant [John H.] Dent the young Gentleman who delivers this letter, goes to Norfolk to join the Constellation — Should this ship have sailed before his arrival, he is directed to report himself to you, and assist in equipping the Chesapeake —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

#### To Captain Edward Preble U. S. Navy, from Charles Washington Goldsborough, Clerk in Navy Department

PHILADELPHIA
4th Dec. 1799

My Dear Sir, A multiplicity of business, has hitherto delayed the acknowledgment of your very acceptable letter, & a compliance with your request, relative to the number of Vessels in Commission, which now however I have the satisfaction to enclose you — tho' given entirely from recollection it is not so perfect a one as I could wish —

Your dispatches of yesterday will have communicated the destination of the *Essex*, before you receive this — A cruise to Batavia, may afford you an opportunity of boxing our Fraternal allies by a Quaker Squeeze —

The President this day delivered his Speech — like himself, it is full of energy wisdom, sound policy & the amor patria — He recommends very strongly a revision of the judiciary Department, it being at present incompetent to the due execution of justice, & the punishment of crime —

He says, that although he has taken measures to meet the conciliatory advances of the French, on the ground of reciprocal advantage; yet while the European world is still electrified by the torch of war, & each bosom pants for military fame, it is our best security to continue improving our means of Defence.—

M. Sedgwick is elected Speaker & M. Cordy, Clerk of the House of

Representatives. —

Î have nothing to add, but an assurance of my unfeigned esteem & sincere friendship —

CHARLES W GOLDSBOROUGH

E Prebble Esq<sup>‡</sup>

It will afford me happiness to hear from you, whenever leisure permits or inclination prompts the favor —

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800, Vol. 2.]

#### [Enclosure]

	Wassala in Com							
	Vessels in Con		C					
[U. S. Frigate]	United States	44	Cap' Barry					
"	Constitution	44	[Silas] Talbot					
"			building at New York					
"	Chesapeak	44	Cap <sup>t</sup> Barron					
"	Philadelphia	44	Cap <sup>t</sup> Decatur					
"	Constellation	36	Cap <sup>‡</sup> Truxtun					
"	Congress	36	Cap <sup>†</sup> Sever					
"	New York	36	building at New York					
"	Insurgent	36	Cap <sup>t</sup> Murray					
IU, S. Shipl	Essex							
1-1-4	John Adams	32	Capt Cross					
"	Adams	32	Capt Morris					
"	George Washing-	32	Capt Fletcher					
	ton.	<b>0</b>						
"	Boston	32	Capt Little					
"	General Greene	32	Cant Perry					
	denoral dreene_	02	Cup 10113					
Ships of War —								
IU. S. Shipl	Ganges	26	Capt Mullowny					
10.1	Portsmouth	24	Cap <sup>‡</sup> McNeill					
"	Merrimack	24	Capt Brown					
"	Connecticut	24	Moses Tryon					
"	Raltimore	20	Master Com <sup>‡</sup> Cowper					
"	Delaware							
• •	Maryland							
46	Herald	20	Lt C C Russell					
66	Trumbull	18	Master Comm <sup>t</sup> Jewett					
[U. S. Sloop of War]								
	Wannen	10	Master Comm <sup>t</sup> New-					
[U. S. Ship]	vv arren	10						
Brigs —								
			Master Comm <sup>t</sup> Bain-					
	Ivorjoux	16	bridge					
	Richmond	16	Tt C Telbott					
	D'	10	Tt Complittermond					
	Pinckney	10	L <sup>t</sup> Sam! Heyward					
	Eagle	14	Mastr Commt Camp-					
			bell.					
	Augusta	14	L <sup>t</sup> Arch <sup>d</sup> McElroy					
	Pickering	14	L' Hillar					
			L <sup>‡</sup> Fernald					
	Schooner		T+361					
	Experiment	12	L' Maley					
	Enterprise	12	L <sup>r</sup> Shaw					

# Gallies

Three in Georgia 2 in South Carolina 2 in North Carolina

This list I do not give you as correct entirely — It is nearly so tho — Not being in the office I give it entirely from recollection — [LC, EPP, 1799–1800, Vol. 2.]



CHARLES W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

To George Harrison, Navy Agent, Philadelphia, Pa., from Abishai Thomas for Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 4th December 1799

George Harrison Esq!

Philad.—

SIR You will be pleased to procure immediately to be shipped for Batavia

235 Barrels of Beef of prime quality & so secured as to be fit for

235 do "Pork | an East India Voyage 1600 Lbs Butter carefully packed in pickle

12,000 Lbs of American Cheese of such quality as by being well packed will insure its preservation—

900 lbs. of Candles to be half wax

1300 Gallons Vinegar

400 Bushels of Beans or Peas

18 Barrels sour krout if to be had

1000 Lbs of Soap

120 Gallons Lamp Oil 60 lbs Essence of Spruce

978 Ct Bread including what Captain Gill has on hand,

37 Barrels kiln dried Indian Meal -

I am Sir Yr obed Servt

By order of the Secretary of the Navy

AB: THOMAS

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, from Charles W. Goldsborough for Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 4th December 1799

Capt! John Mullowny of the Ganges—

Sir I Enclose you the Circulars of the 29th July, 29th December, 16th January, 12th March & 5th September, containing instructions for the general government of your conduct on a cruise — I also enclose a discription of the private signals, to which I have added a List of distinguishing flags — also 4 copies of the Act for the Government of the Navy, and 2 copies of Marine Rules and Regulations —

The Secretary has instructed me to express to you his expectations that the Ganges will be ready by the 8th Instant to receive her final

sailing orders -

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

C W GOLDSBOROUGH

By order of the Secretary of the Navy

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799–1800.]

To Particular Agent Roume, of the Executive Directory from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo

(Copy)

Cap francois Dec. 4th 1799 —

SIR The U. States Frigate Boston, commanded by Capt Little, has captured a Brig under Danish Colours, bound from Jeremie to St Thomas with a Load of Coffee. When this Vessel was captured she had neither Register nor Log Book, and from the Declaration of the Crew she went direct from S<sup>t</sup> Thomas to Jerimie with a Cargo of Provisions and dry Goods. As this Vessel has acted in Contravention of an Arreté of the Agency, dated 14th Thermidor, there is no doubt but she will be condemned by the Tribunals of this Colony, if sent into the Cape for Adjudication. As I wish to inform Capitain Little, how he may proceed in this Business I should be glad, Sir, to have your Opinion on the Subject. I shall thank you also to acquaint me with the probable Expences on the Vessel and Cargo in Case they should be condemned, & whether any Duties will be demanded by the Custom House, on the Importation and Exportation of captured Property. I believe it is customary to exempt all Prizes in a friendly Country from such Exactions.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

& c & c & c

(Signed) EDWARD STEVENS

The particular Agent of the Executive Directory -

A true Copy. E. STEVENS

[SDA. CL, Cape Haytien, Vol. 2, 1799-1800.]

To Captain George Little, U. S. Navy, from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo

Cap francois Dec. 4, 1799. —

Sir — I have had the Honor of receiving your Letter of the first Inst informing me of the Capture and Detention of a Brig under Danish Colours, bound from Jeremie to St Thomas. In Compliance with your Request I now send you all the Information I can collect respecting the probable Condemnation of this Vessel and Cargo,

should they be sent into this port for Adjudication. —

By an Arreté of this Government, dated the 14 Thermidor, (1 of August) of which I inclose you a Copy, all neutral Vessels going to, or coming from the Rebel Ports in the South are declared lawful Prizes, and subject to Confiscation in favor of the Captors. Vessel will, therefore, be condemned at the Cape as soon as the Fact of her coming from Jeremie is clearly ascertained. The most regular Papers, under such an Infraction of the Law, would not save her. But when the Circumstances of her being without Register and Log Book is taken into Consideration, her Condemnation is put beyond a Doubt.

This is my Opinion on the Matter, and to put it beyond a Doubt I send you a Letter I wrote to the particular Agent of the executive Directory, together with his Answer. From all these it appears pretty certain that the Brig will be condemned in favor of the Captors,

should you send her in.

It is a Question, however, whether she would be condemned in the U. States, and, therefore, beg leave to submit it to your Consideration whether you ought not to refrain from sending her there. Government of America has passed an Act to regulate the Conduct of their own Merchant Vessels, but they can make no Laws to restrain the Commerce of other Nations with foreign Places. Were this Brig under American Colours, being in Contravertion of the Law, she would undoubtedly be liable to Confiscation. But our Courts of Admiralty can take no Cognizance of a foreign vessel for having carried on an illegal Trade with another Country. Nor does it appear to me certain that even her want of a Register & Log Book would vitiate her in the Eyes of the Law of the U. States. In the Courts of one of the Belligerent Powers, such a Circumstance would be a sufficient Cause of Condemnation, but I do not think that a Nation like America, at peace with all the World, would pay any attention to it. My opinion, therefore, is that if she is sent in here she will be condemned, but if sent to America will be acquitted. In this, however, Sir, you will follow your better Judgement. I only beg Leave to assure you that if you do send her in, you may freely command any services that lay in my Power to render you. -

With Respect to the Schooner you lately sent in, I have already acquainted you with the Circumstances that rendered her Condemnation doubtfull. Her situation was very different from that of the Brig in Question. Tho' appearances were strongly against her, yet there were no positive Proofs that she was actually bound into Jeremie. On the contrary all her papers together with a Declaration on Oath signed by the Captain, Crew and Passengers, were in direct Opposition to such an Idea. You, and I, and every Person who knows any Thing of the unprincipled Conduct of Frenchmen, could not be duped by such a Declaration. But the Tribunals of the Cape would have decided according to them. In such a Situation, therefore, I should only have subjected you to certain Expences without the Probability of a Condemnation, had I brought this Schooner to a

trial.

I am happy to learn that you have retaken the Schooner Weymouth, Cap! Burgess. I wish you could fall in with the rest of our unfortunate Fellow-Citizens who have become Victims to the Piratical Depredations of french Privateers.—

I have the Honor to be with great Esteem,

Sir, —

Your most obed; Serv!

(Signed) EDWARD STEVENS —

Capt LITTLE

Ü. S. Frigate Boston

[SDA. CL, Cape Haytien, Vol. 2, 1799-1800.]

To Captain George Little, U. S. Navy, from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo

Cap francois Dec. 4th 1799 —

Sir In a postcript to the Letter I had the Honor of receiving from you last Night, you mention to me that you had fallen in with the

french Corvette La Diligente, and was surprized to find my Passport on board of her. In order to give you a proper Idea of this Occourance I now beg Leave to acquaint you with all the Circumstances that induced me to grant a Letter of Recommendation to this Vessel,

(for it was not a passport.)

Three Days ago I received a Letter from the particular Agent of the Executive Directory, informing me that the Traitor Gallard had put himself at the Head of a Body of Insurgnts that committed the most cruel Depredations on the Heights of Jean Rabel and the adjacent Country, and that if not immediately suppressed they might take Possession of the Mole and other important Ports in the Colony. This Message was accompanied by a Request that I would persuade the American Captains in the Harbour of the Cape to employ their Vessels in transporting Troops to Port de Paix for the Defense of that Thinking it neither politic nor practicable to comply with this Request, I persuaded him to employ the small french vessels in the Road for that Purpose. He did so. The Troops were embarked, and when they were ready to depart, I was applied to for a Passport for the Corvette La Diligente which was put into Requisition for the double Purpose of convoying those Vessels and carrying Powder and military Stores to the General in Chief at Porto au Prince I objected that I could not grant her a Passport, as she was a national vessel; and there was no possitive Stipulation in her Favor. To this it was answered that as soon as she was put into Requisition she ceased to be a national vessel, and became a Batiment d'Etat, upon the same Footing as these already in the Service of General Toussaint. absolutely necessary to make use of her to carry these Articles round, as no other vessel could be procured, that the Army stood in the most immediate Want of them, and that she had received the most positive Instructions not only to respect but also to protect the American Flag whenever she should meet it. I still refused, but finding that there was no Time to be lost in saving the Mole; and knowing the Importance of that place, not only to the Success of Toussaint's Arms in the South, but also its Influence on the American Trade in the Bite, I at last after much Intreaty gave the Captain a Letter mentioning the Purpose for which the vessel was employed. I was induced to do so not only from the Consideration above related, but also from an apprehension of the ultimate Consequences, to american Property in the Colony from a more obstinate Refusal. -

You must be well aware, Sir, that my Situation here is difficult & unpleasant; and that it requires much address to reconcile the jarring Interests of the two prevailing Parties that, at present, share the Government of the Island. In a revolutionary Country like the present, Circumstances are continually rising, which require to be acted upon without loss of Time, & I have it not always in my Power to do what I wish. Until some more solid and permanent System of Administration is established, I shall often be forced to do what I do not approve of, and which, for want of knowing all the Circumstances that have actuated me, may appear to others highly improper. This state of Things will probably continue until the Blessings of Peace are restored & new & more lasting Regulations are made. Until this desirable Event takes place I shall deem myself happy if I can conduct myself with so much Prudence as, on the one Hand, not to commit the Dignity or Interest of the U. States, while on the other

I strive to preserve the Harmony that subsists between the two Countries, and to place the Property of my fellow Citizens, in the Colony out of the Reach of Danger.

I have the Honor to be with great Esteem,

Sir,

Your most obed! Serv!

(Signed)

EDWARD STEVENS -

Capt LITTLE

Ü. S. Frigate Boston

A true Copy. E. Stevens.

[SDA. CL, Cape Haytien, Vol. 2, 1799-1800.]

To Captain George Little, U. S. Navy, from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo

Cap francois Dect 4. 1799 —

SIR It has been reported, (and I believe with some Truth) that the executive Directory of France has appointed 3 Commissioners for the Colony of St Domingo, and that they may be very soon expected here in the Frigate La Bravoure, accompanied by two other Ships of War. This Intelligence has excited much alarm among the leading Chiefs of the Colony. - General Toussaint is resolved not to admit them, and has given orders that the Frigates that bring them shall not be permitted to enter any of the Ports of the Island. General Moijes communicated this to me lately, and informed me that it would be prudent to give him Notice whenever any of our Ships of War wished to come into the Harbour, in order that he might give Directions to the commanding officers at the Forts and prevent them from being mis-taken for french Ships. I must, therefore, request you to inform the Commodore on the Station of this late order. I would write him but am told that he is at the Mole, watering. By sending in a Boat previous to entering the Harbour all Inconvenience will be avoided. and our Ships of War will meet their usual Hospitable Reception at the I beg you to consider the Part of this Letter that relates to Toussaint's Determination of not receiving the Commissioners as confidential. I have mentioned it to you as explanatory of his order to prevent Ships of War from entering, until he can distinguish what they are. -

I have the Honor to be with great respect,

Sir,

Your most Ob! Serv!

EDWARD STEVENS ---

Capt LITTLE

United States Frigate Boston

[SDA. CL, Cape Haytien, Vol. 2, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 4 December 1799

[At anchor, Cape Nichola Mole harbor.] Moderate Breezes and cloudy, Employd watering ship and overhauling the rigging AM

light airs and variable weighd the small Bower and came too with the Best bower vore away to two thirds of a cable, employ'd watering and setting up the Bobstays laid out a kedge to windward to keep a clear hawse

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Ship Merrimack, Captain Moses Brown, U.S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 4 December 1799

Begins with calm & cloudy W<sup>r</sup> at 5 P M saw a sail to the North<sup>q</sup> at 6 spoke her, a Sch<sup>r</sup> from Passamaquady bound to Baltimore at 8 hand<sup>q</sup> M Sail & Miz T Sail at 9 hard gales C R [close reefed] the F & M T Sails & hand<sup>q</sup> them at 10 reef'd the F Sail & set him & down T G Y<sup>qs</sup>

Mid. part hard gales & Squally sounded several times but got no bottom

Latter Do weather & heavy Sea

Latitude Observed 39°.42′ N. Longitude Observed 69 .47 W.

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

[5 December 1799]

Commission appointing John H. Perkins Surgeon's Mate, issued by Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

By Edward Preble Esq! Captain in the Navy of the United

States, commanding the Frigate Essex. —

By virtue of the power and authority to me given, I do hereby appoint you Surgeons Mate, of the United States Frigate Essex; willing and requiring you forthwith, (to repair on board the said Frigate and) to take upon you the employment of Surgeons Mate accordingly, and to be obedient to such commands as you shall from time to time receive from me or any other your Superior Officer, to hold the same employment until the pleasure of the President of the United States shall be known.

Given under my hand, on board the United States Ship Essex in Salem Harbour, the fifth day of December 1799 —

E. P —

To  $M^{\tau}$  John H. Perkins hereby appointed Surgeons Mate of the United States Frigate *Essex* 

[LC, EPP, 1799–1800, Vol. 2.]

Recorded Sam¹ C Ward Cap¹ Clerk.

To Stephen Higginson & Company, Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 5th December 1799

Mess<sup>r‡</sup> Stephen Higginson &C<sup>o</sup>
Boston —

Gentlemen The articles as per List enclosed will be sent from hence in three vessels bound to Batavia for the Congress and the

Essex, Muskits powder, and pistols will meet the Frigates at New Port so that the Commanders will have an opportunity of encreasing the

quantity of these articles on their arrival at that place —

If the Congress still remains at Boston or if any Merchant Vessels remain there bound to Batavia I request that if I have neglected any material article you will supply the omission — The Merchant Vessels from this port take the articles without charging freight I suppose they will do so with you — If you ship in a Merchant Vessel, please to give due notice to Captain Sever of the articles shipped —

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Joseph Waters, Navy Agent, Salem, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 5<sup>th</sup> December 1799

Joseph Waters Esq<sup>†</sup>
Salem —

Sir The articles as per List inclosed, will be sent from hence in three Vessels bound to Batavia for the Congress and the Essex — Muskets, Powder and Pistols, will meet the Frigates at New Port, so that the Commanders will have an Opportunity of encreasing the quantity of these articles on their arrival at that place — If the Essex still remains at Salem, or if any Merch! Vessels remain there, bound to Batavia, I request that if I have neglected any material article you will supply the omission — The Merchant Vessels from this port take the articles without charging freight — If you ship in a Merchant Vessel, please to give due notice to Captain Prebble of the articles shipped —

I have the honor to be

 $\operatorname{Sir}$ 

Yr obed Servt

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Captain James Sever, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant John B. Cordis, U. S. Navy

FRIG<sup>‡</sup> Congress. Dec<sup>‡</sup> 5<sup>‡‡</sup> 1799.

Sir. The Weather has been such as to prevent the Powder coming on board — I have this day made a Watch Bill — I have orderd the sloop to remain at the Castle, and should the Weather prove fair, in the morning I shall [have] hands to put the Powder on board the Barge will attend early in the morning at Town — The Cutter shall go for the stock in the morning — The Weather has prevented me from having the ship so ready as I promis'd you, on Sunday. I am fearfull we shall not be in perfect order — however evry exertion on my part be assur'd shall be made use of — M. Libby will come in this Boat — and informs me he will immeditly attend to the stem [?] for the [word illegible]. I believe it is not yet cut — when unhanging the Cabin Ports One of them sunk — I have Desir'd M. Libby to bring on board

the Next forward one which I believe will answer — Inclos'd I send you the account of shot taking on board from the Two Vessels — the Twelve pound shot we have not yet Recv'd — The stores brought by Captain Shaply has been taken a regular account of — Perhaps It will be impossible to give in the accounts you spoke of by Sundy — (respecting the stores for the Ship) however. It can be done if we remain on Sunday — or should you think proper when we arrive at Newport — Necessity Compels me to request of you [if] I may go on shore at least for a few hours — previous to our Sailing —

I am Sir!
With Respect
Your Obt Servt

J B Cordis

Inclosed I also send you a list of Men on Shore [LC, J. Sever Papers. NDA photostat.]

To Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, from Charles W. Goldsborough, for Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 5<sup>th</sup> December 1799

Capt<sup>p</sup> John Mullowny

of the Ganges —

Sir There are two young Gentlemen from Delaware, George W. Ridgely and John Polk appointed Midshipmen to the Ganges — Supposing that they would not have time to come on to Philade as they were only this day appointed before the Ganges sails, I have instructed them to repair to New Castle & there wait your orders — You will be pleased to call there & receive them under your command —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

C W GOLDSBOROUGH
By order of the Secretary of the Navy —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Thomas Francis, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 5<sup>th</sup> December 1799

THOMAS FRANCIS Esq!
Philadelphia —

SIR The Commissioners of the City of Washington have authorized me to negotiate on their account with the Trustees of M & N [Maffit & Nismith], on the subject of City Lots —

Their object is to insure the receipt of a sum of money, without further sales of lots to complete the Public Buildings in the course of the next summer — 60,000 Dollars with their other resources they think will be fully sufficient for this purpose —

If the Trustees will engage to furnish this sum begining in April with 12000 Drs & paying a like sum monthly in May, June, July & August, the Commrs will on their part agree to suspend all sales of Lots in which the Trustees are interested as well those now in their power, as those which will be in their power in May next, should not

the Installment then to be due be paid —

I presume the Commissioners will readily consent to a Selection by the Trustees of lots to the amount of the money they pay, but on this particular point they have omitted to say anything to me, tho I expect very shortly to hear from them again — They say they must be put upon a certainty, and if the Trustees agree to make the payments they will require their notes to become due at the stipulated periods — You understand this subject too well to make it necessary for me to point out the advantages which may result to the trustees, or at least to the persons concerned in the trust from an arrangement of this kind.

The property in the power of the Comm<sup>rg</sup> with what will be in their power in May next will amount I believe to upwards of 180,000 D<sup>rg</sup>. They must from necessity proceed with the sales at whatever prices the Lotts will bring, if you do not furnish them with the money they

require ---

If you think it worth the trouble you will be so good as to communicate with the other Gentlemen in the Trust on this subject.

Any further explanations, or any engagements on the part of the Commissioners which may be judged necessary I will at once endeavor to procure upon being informed of your wishes —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Y' obed Serv'

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To George Harrison, Navy Agent, Philadelphia, Pa., from Abishai Thomas for Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 5<sup>th</sup> December 1799

GEORGE HARRISON Esq!

Sir In addition to the above [\*] you will be pleased to procure and ship as aforesaid, one hundred Barrels of Porter, and Two thousand Gallons Teneriffe Wine, and double the quantity of Indian Meal—By order

AB: THOMAS

[\* Letter to George Harrison dated 4 December 1799.] [NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Thursday, 5 December 1799

Beings with frish Breses and Plesent all Sails Set

At ½ Past 12 Made the Land found to be the Gret Cayman In Stering Sails and Haled our Wind to the So and West Lick to Lows [Like to lose] the Vasel at 8 A M the West End of the Gret Cayman Bore N E B E Dist 5 Leages Set the Stering Sails The Latter Cludy and fresh Brese

[Latitude Observed 19° 14' N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot. U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 5 December 1799

[At anchor, Cape Nichola Mole harbor.] Moderate breezes and cloudy, employd watering ship and overhauling the rigging, AM light airs and clear, Rec<sup>d</sup> a launch from the shore which is employd in the watering service, Compleated the Ground Tier 90 Leagurs 46 Butts and 30 Gangcask, At 12 light airs and variable from the Westward -

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 5 to 6 December 1799

[Translation]

From the 14th to the 15th Frimaire Year 8.

We made slightly better speed than La Vengeance.

The commander signalled us to maintain a westward course.

Latitude — 16°43′ N. Longitude — 54°2′ W.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship Merrimack, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 5 December 1799

First part hard gales & cloudy weather & rough sea. at 7 P M more moderate set close reef'd M T Sails

Middle part fresh breeze & clear weather. at 4 A M set close reef'd F & Miz<sup>n</sup> T Sails, at 7 shook 2 reefs out of the T Sails & set M Sail out reef of the F Sail

Latter light wind & cloudy weather -[Latitude Observed 40°.19' N.] Longitude Observed 69 .14 W.

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

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

SALEM Dec. 61h 1799

Sir After having made every exertion in my power I find it impossible to get the Essex ready for sea in less than ten days after the time I at first expected Owing to the state of the weather and many disappointments yesterday was a violent snow storm and to day rain. Our Canister & grape shot has not yet arrived from Plymouth altho it has been shipped several days, our Coals, Butter, Rice, Medicine Chest, Chains for our chain pumps, hospital-stores, part of our lanterns and many other articles are yet to come from Boston some of which are not yet ready, and if they were it is probable from the present state of the weather that the wind will not admit of the packet reaching here for several days to come; six thousand weight of Bread is yet to be Baked, and I am eighty men short of my compliment, which with the forty men at Newport makes 120 short. I presume it will not be prudent at this inclement season of the year

to go to sea so short of my ships company & the ship not compleatly ready to encounter the various changes of wind [&] weather now so frequent on this coast. It is impossible to calculate what time the Congress will reach Newport if she sails the 10th as I suppose she will for it is not uncommon for merch<sup>t</sup> vessels at this season to have 15 or 20 days passage. A wind proper for sailing from Boston through the channel is directly contrary for Newport, after passing Nantasket Shoals — The Merch<sup>s</sup> here will not send any vessels to join the Convoy as they calculate the sea Risk to N. P<sup>t</sup> equal to the risk of capture from this to the Cape of Good hope. I do not think it possible neither does the agent or the Committe that the ship can sail before the 20 Inst I am extremely concerned that this is the case but beg leave to assure you that every thing has been done on my part which it has been possible for me to do, and every exertion shall still continue to get her ready before that time if possible. Lieut Phipps has been confined to his birth since his arrival in consequence of indisposition. I think he will be a valuable officer and regret the loss of his services at this busy period. Lieut Beals is attentive on board & Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lee is recruiting at Boston several Midshipmen are on the same service at this & the neighboring towns. I beg leave to recommend M<sup>t</sup> Rufus Low of Cape Ann for a Sailing Master for the Essex he has served as Cap<sup>t</sup> of a Merch<sup>t</sup> Ship for several years and has made several voyages to India & sustains a good reputation, his principal inducement for soliciting this appointment is the injuries he has sustained by the french. I have called him into service until I know your pleasure. I am confident I cannot procure a gentleman who will more ably fill that Station, and I hope you will forward him a warrant. Mr John Hancock Perkins has been recommended & called into service as Surgeons — Mate, and Mr Sam! York Nowel as Carpenter, their Warrants I hope you will also forward. If it is important that I should be at New port to join the Convoy I think it is possible that I may reach there before the fleet sails if I leave this by the 20th but any rate I can join them at the Cape de Verd Islands if they leave there New port before that time if you think proper to give me orders for that purpose.

With great respect I have the honor to be Sir, Y' Obt hum' Serv'

E P — [Edward Preble]

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sec<sup>ty</sup> of the Navy forwarded 7th Inst

PS. I think it is probable the fleet may sail from Newport before I sail from this; but I can be at the Cape de Verds before they reach that place & join them there

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800, Vol. 2.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 6th December 1799

Mess<sup>15</sup> James & Ebenezar Watson

New York —

Gentlemen I have the honor to request that you will immidiatel ship on board a Vessel which Mess<sup>15</sup> Townsend & Franklin are abo

to send to Batavia or any other Vessel which may immy sail for that place 60,000 Lb Bread for the use of the Frigates Congress & Essex to be delivered over to them on their arrival there — Great care must be taken in preparing & packing the Bread, it must be put in tight casks, Spirit Casks properly prepared are said to be the best — if they are not to be had, new ones must be procured Wine Casks are pointedly prohibited — Relying on your judgement & promptitude, I shall not be more particular in my instructions —

You will also please Ship to Mess'rs Gibbs & Channing at New Port for the use of the said Frigates Fifty pairs of Pistols to be delivered

there by the 15 or 20th Inst at farthest -

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Townsend & Franklin, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 6th December 1799

Mess<sup>r</sup> Townsend & Franklin

New York -

Gentlemen I expect two Frigates, the Congress and the Essex will be at New Port Rhode Island by or very soon after the 15th instant — They will be detained 2 or 3 days, perhaps more for some supplies — I think they will certainly sail from thence for Batavia between the 20 or 25 Inst — The Merchants who have vessels here ready do not send them to New Port, but are anxious the Frigates should proceed before them, believing there is little or no danger on this side [of] the Streights of Sunda — But the Frigates will convoy such vessels as may appear at Rhode Island —

If you send a vessel, I should be glad if you would take on board for the Frigates about 50,000 lbs Bread, or a smaller quantity — The Merchants here take articles for the Frigates free of charge, but

Bread enough is not to be had at this place —

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799]

To Stephen Higginson and Company, Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 6th December 1799

Mess<sup>r</sup>, Stephen Higginson & C<sup>o</sup>

Boston —

GENTLEMEN The Warren I presume will be ready for sea by the time this reaches you — It is intended she shall go first to the Havanna & the Vessels on that station want provisions —

If it be practicable to charter in a vessel bound there room to stow the provisions as per List inclosed I request you will immidiately do so & Ship the articles on board addressed to Captain Bainbridge of the Norfolk, Com<sup>§</sup> Officer there, or if he should not be on the spot to be delivered to John Morton the American Consul at Havanna — Probably Newman can take the articles on board of the Warren — which will be most desireable — If you charter, the Vessel must go under Convoy of the Warren, and must be immidiately dispatched — The vessels on the station have provisions to last only to the 1st January

I Have the honor to be Gentlemen Yr obed Servt [NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799]

To Secretary of State from William Eaton, U. S. Consul, Tunis

Tunis 6th Dec. 1799 —

SIR, With infinite satisfaction I have the honor to inform you that within a few days our affairs have assumed a new and promising aspect\*- Since the departure of Doctor Shaw for America on the 17th Oct. I have paid court to the vanity and avarice (predominant passions) of the Sapatapa; and have at length persuaded him, what is undoubtedly true, that he would find his real interest more secure in a commercial intercourse than in a war with the United States; and that Americans would be his safest carriers to Spain, where he has opened an extensive commerce, the ships of all other nations being interrupted either by the belligerent powers of Europe or by the corsaires of Algiers - I observed to him that the conditions of these advantages were known to him; that I had, during the short time of my residence here, received propositions from the American Consuls of Leghorn and Barcelona to introduce a trade here, and also applications from two American masters of vessels to get them freight here: in reply to which I had stated to them the articles of our treaty. Since which I had heard no more on the subject — It was only necessary to inform my Countrymen that they were not equally respected here with other nations to determine them against coming here let the considerations of individual profit be what they would — He now experienced the truth of what I eight months ago declared to him That an American merchantman would never enter a port of Tunis, except compelled, until they should be informed that the terms of our treaty were more favorable - The Sapatapa acknowledged a propriety in my observations expressed an earnest desire to employ Americans as carriers to Spain, and intimated his opinion, that if the regalia arrived in season, there would then be no impediment to an arrangement of our affairs more satisfactorily — He promised to open the subject to the Bey, and to give it his support. He entered very candidly into a detail of the causes which had embarrassed our negociations here, which shall appear at large on my journal, but which may be reduced here to two words French intrigue and Jewish infidelity -

I saw the Bey this morning, and have his promise of forbearance Sixty days — in the mean time, it is hoped, we may have arrivals

from America — Famin has tried to insinuate that the Government of the United States have no serious intentions of fulfilling their engagements with Tunis — He has not succeeded — That slave has been a thorn in my side — But he has now no influence at court. The Bey's family Physician informed me, a few days since at dinner with me, that the extraordinary demand for jewels was actually projected by him, (Famin) and stipulated after my arrival in Tunis — That the Sapatapa hessitated to introduce it as it had not been stated in any of his former communications and that Famin told him not to hessitate — he (Famin) could find document to support the demand — I have uniformly treated this french pirate with polite attention, taking care to keep the commanding grounds, till I have finally defeated all his projects of mischief — and, if nothing interfere with my present arrangements, have now a flattering prospect of ultimately terminating our affairs with this regency more favorably to the interests of the United States and more conformably to the instructions of the Government.

I have the honor to remain, Sir, with great respect, your m<sup>9</sup> obe<sup>d</sup> & very humb<sup>19</sup> Servant

WILLIAM EATON --

Honorable Colonel Pickering —

\*Three things have operated to produce this change of progects at court. 1 Doc. Shaw's departure for America. 2 My assuring the Bey of a prospect of an accommodation between the United States and the French Republic, and consequently an American armed force in this sea. 3 A conviction on the mind of the Sapatapa that if he make war with U.S. he may as probably lose as win — and that by cultivating harmony he may avail himself of American enterprise to aid his commercial views — all other botoms being precarious —

[SDA. Tunis, Vol. 1, 1797—1800.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 6 December 1799

[At anchor, Cape Nichola Mole harbor.] Moderate Breezes and cloudy. Rec<sup>6</sup> two Bullocks for ships use, employ'd watering and overhauling the Rigging AM. Moderate Breezes and cloudy weather Employd watering Ship —

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 6 to 7 December 1799

[Translation]

From the 15th to the 16th FRIMAIRE Year 8.

Studding sails still aloft, in the night carried out different maneuvers to wait for La Vengeance. A few light squalls

[Latitude — 16°36′ N. ]

Lautude — 16°36' N. Longitude — 56°13' W.

[Boston Athenaeum. NDA photostat.]

To Stephen Higginson & Company, Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 7th December 1799

Mess<sup>13</sup> Stephen Higginson & C<sup>9</sup>
Boston —

Gentlemen I am honored with your letter of the [space] inst — If there should be difficulty about the two Guns for Newman, he must go without them — He will be too strong with 16 Guns for any thing he will be likely to encounter —

I have lately remitted you 15000 Dollars and regret that Bills cannot be passed on this place without Loss, which must not be sustained It will be in your power I presume to get money should the service require it faster than remittances are made, by borrowing

from the bank for a few days -

The Sailors left in Hospital must in all cases be put on board the first public Vessels offering after they recover — No doubt as long as they are continued in Public Service they must be paid — But great inconvenience & embarrassments in Acco<sup>19</sup> will arise from your advancing to them — Yet it must be done in cases of necessity — furnishing in all such cases to the Accountant of the Navy as soon as may be lists of such advances —

I have the honor to be

Gent

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

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

[Philaelphia]
Navy Department 7th December 1799

Mess<sup>r</sup>, James & Eb: Watson New York —

Gentlemen In addition to the articles ordered yesterday for the use of the Frigates Congress & Essex, I have the honor to request that you will procure and ship for Batavia, Four hundred Bushels Beans or Peas, and six hundred Gallons Teneriffe Wine —

These articles must be put on board Merchant Vessels on the same terms with the Bread, & delivered in like manner to the Frigates on their arrival at Batavia — But if there are no Merchant Vessels going from New York it will then be necessary to hire a small vessel & send these articles with the Bread immidiately to New Port for the chance of getting on board a Merchant Vessel there, or the Frigates themselves — but no time is to [be] lost in this business —

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

P. S. — The Brig Richmond is I expect at New York by this time Be pleased to have such articles furnished, & such repairs done as Capt Talbot may require —

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

## To Henry Philips from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 7th December 1799

HENRY PHILIPS Esq!

Sir In reply to your note of this morning I have the honor to inform you that I shall give such instructions to the Commanders of the Frigates, intended to convoy the East India Trade as will insure their attention to all the vessels under their protection — Their speedy arrival at their place of destination being of great importance it cannot be expected that they can be detained for any slow sailing Vessels — The Frigates will receive on board any specie you may wish to send —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To the Secretary of State from Oliver Ellsworth & W. R. Davie, Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of United States to France

Lisbon 7th December 1799.

Sir, We arrived at this place the 27th Ulto. —

The late change in France (the circumstances of which we are informed will be fully detailed in M<sup>1</sup> Smith's dispatches) and our desire to obtain a more accurate knowledge of the features and effects of this revolution before we entered that country, would have induced us to land in Holland, where we might join Mr. Murray, and be in a better situation to govern ourselves by circumstances: but Cap<sup>t</sup> Barry apprehends it would hazard the Frigate to attempt any port in Holland at this season of the year. We have therefore determined to sail immediately for L'Orient. From L'Orient we shall probably proceed to Paris, if we can be satisfied that our present letters of credence will avail us. You will doubtless consider, Sir, of the expediency of sending us with your first dispatches other letters of credence, addressed to the Supreme Executive of France, or in a manner more particular, which may introduce us if necessary, or sanction the progress we may have made.

We have the honor to be, with great respect

Sir,

Your Mo: Obed: Hble. Serv<sup>ts</sup>

OLIV<sup>†</sup> ELLSWORTH W. R. DAVIE

[SDA. Disp., France, Bk. 7, 1799-1800.]

[7 December 1799]

Libel filed by Lieutenant Benjamin Hillar, U. S. Navy, commanding the U. S. R. C. Brig *Pickering*, concerning capture of the French privateer Schooner La Voltigeuse

NEW YORK DISTRICT, 88.

WHEREAS Benjamin Hiller, a Lieutenant in the navy of the United States, and commander of the United States armed brig the

Pickering, hath filed his certain libel in the District Court of the United States of America for the said district, on behalf of himself and all other officers, seamen, mariners, and others on board the said armed brig the Pickering, against the schooner La Voltigeuse, her tackle, apparel, arms and furniture, stating, that the armed brig of the United States, the *Pickering*, duly commissioned by the authority of the President of the said United States, and commanded by the said libellant; the said libellant also duly commissioned by the President of the said United States, as a lieutenant in the navy of the said United States, being cruising agreeably to orders and instructions for that purpose, on the West India station, in the north latitude of seventeen degrees and fifty seven minutes, and on the seventh day of December last past, to wit, on the high seas, and within the jurisdiction of the said court, the said libellant discovered a sail to leeward, which immediately stood upon the wind, and endeavoured to gain the Pickering, and hoisted French national colours. That the Pickering gave chace, and coming within pistol shot of the said sail, fired a gun to windward, upon which the said sail struck and submitted, and proved on examination to be a French privateer sch. or goelette, called La Voltigeuse, having had ten guns (part of which she had thrown overboard) and sixty four men, being commanded by one Captain Hazard, and belonging to one Citizen Bernard, of Bassaterre, in Guadaloupe, as by the commission of the said Captain and the roll of the crew, and other papers of the said schooner ready to be produced and proved more fully appears. And further stating, that having taken possession of the said schooner La Volteguese as a prize, the prisoners on board were taken out, and George Pierre, a midshipman on board the said brig Pickering, with several men, were directed to take charge of the said prize schooner La Voltegeuse, and that the said George Pierre in pursuance of orders for that purpose, conducted the said schooner to Bassaterre, in St. Kitts, there to receive orders from Commodore Morris; from whence by his orders the said George Pierre, on the twenty second day of January following, sailed for Philadelphia, but being unable to reach that port, he put into the port of New York, on the twelfth day of February instant. And further stating, that there are on board the said schooner several articles of ammunition, stores, or furniture, belonging to the United States. And therefore praying the aid and advice of the said court in the premises. and the customary process of the said court; and that the said schooner La Voltiguese, her tackle, apparel, arms and furniture, except such articles on board as belong to the U.S. might be sold by a decree of the said court, in such manner as the said court should direct, and that one half of the proceeds of the sale might go to the United States, and the other half to the officers, seamen, and others on board the said brig the Pickering at the time of the capture aforesaid, according to the acts and laws of Congress in that case made and provided.

Therefore in pursuance of the monition under the seal of the said court, to me directed and delivered, I do hereby give notice to all persons claiming the said schooner La Voltigeuse, her tackle, apparel, arms and furniture, or knowing or having any thing to say why the said schooner La Voltigeuse her tackle, apparel, arms and furniture, should not be adjudged to be sold pursuant to the prayer of the said libel, that they be and appear before the said district court, to be held for the New York District, at the city of New York, on Tuesday,

the fourth day of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, if the same be a day of jurisdiction, otherwise upon the next day of jurisdiction thereafter, then and there to interpose a claim for the same, and to make their allegations in that behalf. Dated this seventeenth day of February, 1800.

A. GILES, Marshal.

SAMUEL M. HOPKINS, Proctor and of Counsel for the Libellant. Feb 18 to March 4 [1800]

[LC, "The Daily Advertiser", (N. Y.), 20 February 1800.]

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

NEWPORT Dec 7 1799

The George Washington requiring much greater repairs than was expected, will retard her sailing to a later period than what you mentioned, as but little can be done towards her outfitts untill the Carpenters work is compleated — We have therefore taken from the master — Carpenter a statement of the situation he finds her in, and the repairs that will be requisite; which we inclose for your information. —

As it appears to be necessary she should be coppered to her floor timber heads or to the keel, a further quantity of copper will be requisite. — We shall continue as many Carpenters as can work to advantage, the Rigging & Sails will be ready before the Carpenters work can be compleated. —

BENJAMIN STODDERT Esq. —

[Newport HS. Gibbs & Channing LB.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy commanding, Saturday, 7 December 1799

[At anchor in Cape Nichola Mole harbor.] Moderate breezes and cloudy, compleated watering Total 191 Tons, Number of Casks 90 leagurs 101 Butts 14 puncheons and 127 Gangcasks

Ships draft of water forward 20 feet 10 inches Abaft 22 feet, Recd

two Bullocks for Ships use

AM Employd Scrubbing hammocks and cleansing ship Anchor'd here the French National Brig Diligence [NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship Merrimack, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 7 December 1799

Begins with fresh breezes & thick cloudy weather with a rough sea at 2 P M set close reef M T Sail & M Staysail

Middle part moderate weather & cloudy at 1½ AM saw a Schooner

laying by at 2 spoke her

at 8 A M set all sail, bent the Sheet cable — at Mer<sup>4n</sup> saw Cape Ann bearing W by N 5 or 6 leagues, 4.4

Latter part thick rainy Weather

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

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday 8 December 1799

Lying At Single anchor in cape Nichola mole employd setting up the rigging and clearing ship for sea @ 8 moderate Breezes from ESE, @ 4 AM weighd the kedge and hove short on the Best Bower, @ 5 the pilot came on board and Took charge to proceed to sea, @ 6 weighd and came to sea, discharged the pilot, Stowd the Anchors & Ships draft forward 20 feet 9 inches Abaft 22 feet 2 inches Quantity of water on Board 191 Tons. @12 Cape Nicholas S by W 5 leagues [NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 8 December 1799

Unmoored ship and Dropped down to Gloscester Point. — [NA.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Ship Merrimack, Captain Moses Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday 8 December 1799

Begins with cloudy weather all sail set running for the land fir'd several guns for a Pilot, at 4 P M took a pilot at 5 came too in Cape Ann harbour in 5 fath, water. Eastern Point S B E 1½ Miles Ten Pound Island N B E half a mile

Mid. Part Moderate weather at 3 A M fresh Breezes with Snow

& rain

Latter Part fresh Breezes & flying clouds [HS of Old Newbury, Mass. NDA photostat.]

To Secretary of State from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo

CAP FRANCOIS Dec! 9th 1799. —

SIR I had the Honor of writing you lately, by way of Baltimore, and enclosing you Copies of several Letters relative to a Petition of the french Merchants in this City, expressing their Apprehensions of having their Trade interrupted by our Ships of War that have, for some Time, been cruizing off this Port. I now transmit you Duplicates of the same.—

You will perceive, Sir, by the Tenor of these Documents that much Discontent has been excited by the constant Appearances of our armed Vessels so close to the Harbour that nothing can either come in or go out without being subject to their Examination. These Clamours have been much encreased of late by some Captures that were made in the Neighbourhood of the Cape, and the injudicious firing of our ships on neutral Vessels, even while entering the Harbour.—

I have taken a great deal of Pains to prevent any Inconveniences that might result from such a Conduct, but the Minds of the People here are so soured that I find it difficult to appease them. Several idle Tales, which have no Foundation in Truth, are invented to keep alive the Rancour of the French against our naval Commanders.

They have been represented as hostile to the Commerce of the Island, and determined to capture all french armed vessels, with or without Pasports. It has even been reported that, while our Ships were in the Harbour, their Boats were sent frequently to examine all the Vessels bound out, and that they come into the Port now by Night, to ascertain whether any of them are preparing to leave it in the dark, that they may give Intelligence to the Ships that lay off. — "Tho' I know the Prudence of our naval Commanders too well to suppose that these Reports are true, yet they will continue to have a very unfavourable Influence on our Commerce as long as they are believed, and they will continue to be credited as long as our Ships shall give them an Air of Probability by laying so obstinately off the Harbour. —

In order to put an End to these Clamours I went off about a Week ago and paid a Visit to Cap<sup>‡</sup> Talbot, on board of the Contitution. Finding him a Man of Sense, Prudence & Candour, I frankly communicated to him what I have now mentioned to you, & gave him such an Account of the present State of the Colony as might enable him to judge what was most proper to be done for the good of the Service. He went down to the Mole to take in Water, the Day after I had an Interview with him. I expect him up shortly, when I am convinced he will make such a Disposition of the armed Vessels under his Command, as will in future quiet the Apprehensions of the People here, and prevent any interruption of Harmony between this Colony and the U. States.—

I regret exceedingly that the Difficulty of procuring a speedy Supply of Water at the Cape prevented Cap! Talbot from entering the Harbour with his Ship. Had he come in he would have had Leisure to have examined things himself, and, to a Man of his Sense and Understanding, such an Opportunity would have afforded more Information than any he could derive from me in a casual & hasty Conversation on board his Ship. When he appears off the Station again I shall make him a second Visit, & endeavour to spend more Time with him, that I may inform him minutely of every Thing it

may be necessary for him to be acquainted with.

I beg Leave to assure you, Sir, that my utmost Efforts shall be employed to support the Dignity of the U. States, — to protect & secure it's Commerce with this Colony, & to preserve a good Under-

standing between the two Countries.—

I have deemed it my Duty to inform you of the Uneasiness which our armed Vessels have excited in this Colony, but I beg you not to consider it as coming in the Form of a Complaint. I am well convinced of the Zeal, Activity & Patriotism of our naval Commanders, and of their sincere Desire to promote the best Interests of their Country. The Alarm produced by their cruizing so near the Harbour could not have been foreseen by them: nor could they have conceived that artful & intriguing People, (such as this Country abounds with, & who are alike the Enemies of S<sup>t</sup> Domingo & the United States) would have availed themselves of this Circumstance to diminish the Confidence which the leading Chiefs have, hitherto, had in the Government of America. — Now that the ill Consequences I have mentioned are known, I am convinced the necessary Steps will be taken to prevent them, in future. —

Permit me now, Sir, to say a few Words on the proper cruizing

Ground for our Ships of War on the St Domingo Station.

Ever since my Arrival in the Colony the Privateers have entirely deserted this Part of it. They now cruize from the Latitude 22° to 26° N., & in that Parallel of Longitude which is usually passed by Vessels bound from America to the W. Indies. They also swarm about the Harbour of S¹ John de Porto-Ricco. There are none of them either on the North-Side of the Island of S¹ Domingo, or in the different passages leading from it to America.

In the Bite (which comprehends all the Coasts of the West, from Cap a Fou to Cape Donna Maria) there are no Privateers, but a vast Number of Barges, manned by the Adherents of Rigaud, or, to speak more properly, by *Pirates*, who availing themselves of the unsettled state of Things, have thrown off all the Restraints of Law and Government, and plunder unarmed Merchantmen as they pass. These Freebooters have established a Rendezvous on the Island of Gonaives, and become extremely troublesome to the American Commerce in that neighbourhood.

It appears, therefore, from what I have stated that if one or more armed Vessel were to cruize at the Head of the Island, from the Harbour of Porto-Ricco to the Lattitude 20° or 22° N., most of the Vessels taken and destined for that Island would be intercepted. The same thing would happen in the Bite. A Couple of small Vessels kept continually cruizing there would soon destroy the Barges that infest it, or at least restrain their Depradations so far as to place our Commerce in a State of Safety.—

At present we have no Vessels of War on either of these Stations. They are all collected off the Harbour of the Cape, where our Trade runs no Risk, and we are indebted for Protection in the Bite particularly to the armed Cruisers of Toussaint. This renders his Applications for Passports more frequent, & strengthens his Argument for demanding them. And to do him Justice, I must acknowledge, that all his Vessels, to which Passports have been granted, have conducted themselves with great Propriety towards all the Neutrals they have met. The Orders given them were to respect & even to protect the American Flag, in Case of need. To this Injunction they have strictly adher'd, & have render'd an essential Service to our Commerce by convoying our vessels from Port to Port, at a Time when we had no vessels of the U. States to perform that Service, in those Seas.—

The English indeed have had some Ships of War in the Bite; but the Expectation of capturing rich Prizes has kept them stationary off Jeremie, Petit Goave, & & , while all the District, from the Point of St Marc to the Harbour of Port au Prince, has been left in a defence-less state. This is a very important Part of the Coast, as all Vessels going to Port au Prince must pass it. As it is liable to calm Weather the Barges conceal themselves under the Point of Gonaives, and, when they perceive an unarmed Vessel, row off, capture her & retire before they can be persued. Toussaint has frequently sent Detachments of Troops who have landed on the Island, destroyed the Barges and driven the Crews into the Woods. But as soon as the Troops have retired they have come down to the Shore again, and recommenced their Depredations. A maritime Force is, therefore,

absolutely necessary to cooperate with Troops on Shore, in order thoroughly to extirpate these Pirates.

In the Passages, and on the South Side of St Domingo the English

Cruizers are numerous, and of course no french Privateers. -

I have already mentioned to you, Sir, the Utility of Toussaint's armed Vessels, & their Respect for the American Flag. You will oblige me by informing me whether it is the President's Wish that I should continue to give Passports to such as are evidently employed for the Defence of the Colony, & who shew a proper Respect for our Flag. It may be necessary to point out such Cases as you think would authorise me to refuse them. — It is my sincere Wish to preserve a good Understanding between this Country & the U. States, & I should be extremely sorry, if in my Efforts to accomplish this desirable End, I should do any thing that would not meet the President's & your Approbation. —

The Letters I enclose need no Comment. —

I have the Honor to remain with Esteem & Respect,

Sir.

Your most obed! Serv!

EDWARD STEVENS

The Hon T. Pickering & & & & [SDA. CL, Cape Haytien, Vol. 2, 1799-1800.]

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

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 9th December 1799

GIBBS & CHANNING New Port Rhode Island

Gentlemen — I wrote you on the 3rd Inst informing that the Frigates Congress and Essex were destined to act as Convoy to whatever Vessels might want it all the way to Batavia & gave you general directions to supply them with slops, and such other necessary articles as they might require for so long a voyage —

I now enclose a list of provision Supplies which will be shipped onboard Merchant Vessels at this place and New York to be delivered to the Frigates on their arrival at Batavia - An additional supply of Medicine & Hospital Stores may be wanting — If the Surgeons of the Frigates have not taken care to furnish them amply prior to their arrival at New Port — you will be pleased to supply them and promptly.

Sixty thousand pounds of the Bread, 400 Bushels of Beans or pease & 600 Gallons Teneriffe Wine will be shipped from New York, But if no Vessels shall be bound from thence to Batavia, these articles are to be forthwith sent to you, for the chance of being got on board of Merchant Vessels or the Frigates themselves - I request you will be pleased to procure and ship in like manner 3000 Gallons Rum — The Merchants of this place take the articles for the Frigates free of Expence — I presume they may do so with you likewise —

Muskits and powder will be sent from hence, & pistols from New York to supply the Frigates, with what they are deficient in these

articles -

A remittance of 20,000 drs will be immidiately made you, 12,000 of which be pleased to make arrangements for paying over to Captain Sever, & Prebble in Specie and part of the residue may be wanting for advances to Officers — Perhaps so large a quantity as 3000 Gallons of Rum may not be necessary — indeed as Wine and Porter are already procured, as a substitute, & Arrack can be had at Batavia it may be as well not to ship any Spirits in addition to the Supplies for 6 months, which it is presumed the Frigates have already taken in — You will however please to consult the Captains on this point and act by their advice

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To John Dorsey, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 9th December 1799

John Dorsey Esquire

Baltimore -

SIR The Frigate Chesapeake is in immidiate want of her Anchors — If you have not completed the whole ordered for her, be pleased to ship as soon as may be such as are finished to William Pennock Esquire Navy Agent at Norfolk, and let me know what progress you are making with respect to the residue —

I am Sir

Yr obed Servt

PS I wish to know also imm<sup>y</sup> whether you have any more ready—[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 9th December 1799

James & Ebenezar Watson New York —

Gentlemen Be pleased to ship imm? to this place for the use of the *Philadelphia* Frigate, Eight 32 pounder Carronades, with all the fixtures and implements belonging to them, and if there be any Round Shot double headed, fixed Grape or Canister, belonging to or proper for them send all such also — You will also be pleased to purchase if to be had with you, two pair of 32 pounder Carronades, with fixtures & Implements complete, & ship them at the same time & for the same purpose with the others

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

Extract from a letter from Havana, to Editors of the "Philadelphia Gazette", concerning conditions at that place

[HAVANA, 9 December 1799]

"The old game of French piracy is recommencing in this island, as the expiring effort of a people who are beginning to experience heavily the execration and indignation of the whole world, and who therefore begin to think that what remains to be done under the infernal

system of the French Republic must be done speedily.

"Some time since, several fast sailing American vessels were purchased in this place, and under such suspicious circumstances, that no doubt remained of the purposes to which they were to be applied; and I believe, that Mr. Morton, your consul, very early apprised government thereof. We continued for six or seven weeks without any public vessels on this station (the French piracies being, I suppose, viewed as destroyed in this quarter) and the French were encouraged to proceed in their preparations. They experienced some difficulty in not being able to produce to the government here any regular commissions: but a cartel schooner at length arrived from the Cape, which brought the necessary papers made out by Desforneaux at Guadalope, but, no doubt, in conjunction with Roume, the French agent at the Cape; & when the General Pinckney returned to this station a schooner mounting 14 guns was nearly in readiness to sail. The Norfolk, capt. Bainbridge, soon after appeared to take the command in this quarter. The French, notwithstanding, persevered; and the captain of the schooner declared on all occasions, that he would soon be at work, and that he would take either of the American brigs singly! On Saturday last he accordingly went out of port, (The *Pinckney*, alone being off) and we were all on tiptoe expectation for the fight.

"The pirate stretched out in the offing with the apparent intention of waiting for Capt. Hayward, who immediately bore down for him; but on the *Pinckney* approaching pretty near, the scoundrel wore

round, and sneaked into port, under the guns of the castle!

"The Pinckney passed her within musket-shot; and her people to shew their contempt of the gasconading pirate manned the yards

and gave three cheers.

"The Spanish Governor shortly after sent an officer to the Consul, requesting that he would order the Pinckney to keep farther off, and in the cruising limits. Mr. Morton replied, that the American officer would do his duty; but that his Excellency could not expect they would shew the usual moderation or respect, when contending with an openly declared pirate, &c. who had received so much patronage in the port. Thus matters now rest. Other vessels are fitting out; but with the activity of Captains Bainbridge and Hayward, we do not apprehend much injury from them. The Norfolk went a few days since to convoy some vessels to windward, and we hourly look for her return; we are also looking for another public vessel. I forgo to mention to you, that while the Norfolk was in port, getting supplies, two of her men deserted; and on being closely pursued afterwards by the Consul, took refuge on board the French privateer; but the Consul immediately applied to the government, who ordered the necessary guard, and the men were taken out of the privateer, and delivered

over into his charge. The Governor is disposed to do right on most occasions; but the French still retain too strong an influence."

[LC, "Salem Gazette", (Salem, Mass.), 24 January 1800.]

To Stephen Higginson & Company, Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navu Department 9th December 1799

STEPHEN HIGGINSON & C9

Boston -

Gentlemen If there should be difficulty in getting a vessel to take the small quantity of provisions for the Havana, and if the Warren cannot take them she must sail without — By late letters from the Consul at Havanna, it appears that provisions are to be had as cheap there as in the United States still when they can be conveniently sent from the United States, that mode of supply is to be preferred — I will tomorrow or next day send Newman his orders to sail —

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Alexander Baring, Banker, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 9th December 1799

Mr Baring

Sir Captain Mullowny has no right to demand more from you for bringing money from Jamaica, than half a p<sup>r</sup> Cent on the first 10,000 Dollars, and a quarter for all sums beyond 10,000 D<sup>rs</sup> — This compensation the Government thought equitable — Some of the Gentlemen who received mony think it too little — Such Gentlemen may give more if they please, but the Govt will think him sufficiently compensated if he receives this

I have the honor to be [NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

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

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 9th December 1799

Commissioners of the City of Washington —

Gentlemen I am honored with your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst The Square 853 seperated by the Canal from the exchange ground will not be necessary for the purposes of the Navy Yard and you will please to consider it as relinquished —

If you agree to take the sum lately proposed for the Squares required for the Navy Yard, you will I presume think it reasonable that a deduction of one third of that Sum should be made — In

consequence of the relinquishment of Square N° 853 I know the other two Squares will be estimated to be worth considerably more than 4000 Dollars, but I find that the expence of making the Wharf will greatly exceed all expectation heretofore formed on this subject & I am desirous that the whole sum expended in preparations for building at Washington should not exceed the sums expended for similar purposes at other places — You will however determine the matter as you think proper —

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

Captain Mack, of Boston, brings news of his experiences in West Indies, making mention of operations of certain vessels of the U. S. Navy

Boston, Jan 23 [1800]

Capt. Mack, of this port, arrived here last evening from Gloucester, to which place he came passenger in the sch'r Avery, Bradford, last from St. Thomas's, which place he left in co with about 40 sail of Americans, under convoy of the Baltimore. Capt M informs, that he was taken on the 9th Dec. and carried into Guadaloupe, where he was imprisoned some time, and witnessed the ill treatment which the Americans received in that place While he was detained there a great number of American vessels were brought in; one privateer, called the [mutilated], had sent in 12 sail of American prizes. Capt M was indebted for his deliverance to the exchange of prisoners by the Pickering, which amounted to 100 Americans; left there 50 more. Previous to his leaving Guadaloupe, two ships of 50 and 20 guns arrived there from France, with a new Governor, and other officers on board.

[LC, "Salem Gazette" (Salem, Mass.), 24 January 1800.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 9 to 10 December 1799

From the 18th to the 19th FRIMAIRE Year 8.

We exercised the small arms [mutilated], calm sea. Variable winds

from the East. ENE.

[mutilated] of La Vengeance asked me by word of mouth whether [mutilated] a coasting-pilot in order to anchor in the Port de la liberté at Guadaloupe, I answered him that I did not have a pilot, but that I undertook to bring the Division to anchor below [Fort] Fleur de l'epée, [Grande Terre, Guadeloupe] which is not more than about 600 yards [?] from the Port, and that I would drop anchor there even at night.

Latitude — 16° 16' No. Longitude — 62° 18' W.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

#### Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Monday, 9 December 1799

Beings with Squaley Wether at 6 P M took one Ref in the T Sails Havey Rain
The Middil fresh Breses and Cludy at 7 A M out Reefes out of

the T Sails Set the T G Sails

The Latter Part Stidey Breses Cludy Still on with the Land to Lewerd of Hus whe cant tell what Land it His for the Curent Deseved Hus

[Latitude Observed 20° 26' N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

## Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 9 December 1799

Fresh Gales and cloudy, employd working to windward the North side of Tortudas made an shortnd sail as nessasary, @ 6 the West End of Tortudas S S E 6 leagues @ 8 Moderate and clear @ 4 Squally with light showers, employd working to windw<sup>4</sup> the North side of Tortudas. Put Ships company on allowance of water @ 12 Tortudas S E by S 4 leagues fresh breezes and Rain

Latitude Observed 20° 17' N.l.

[NYHS, NHSC.]

# Muster Roll of the U. S. Brig Richmond, Lieutenant Cyrus Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding

Muster Roll Of the Officers, Petty Officers Seamen Ordinary Seamen and Marines onboard the United States Sloop Richmond, under the Command of Cyrus Talbot Esq. in the Service of the United States from the 6th October to the 10th December 1799 inclusive

Cyrus Tailoot Esq"   Li Commandi   6th Octr   1799
Samuel Caverly Ditto 20th " ditto Thomas Carpenter " 22nd " ditto  Tracer Caverly " ditto

John Brodrick	. "	1 44 44 1	"	ditto
		O4th "	11	ditto
John McCalagan		24th "	" ···	
Preston Taylor	"			ditto
John Rose	"	14 44	"	ditto
Thomas Quinton Sent	"	27th "	"	ditto
Alexander Peterson	44	44	46	ditto
	"	1 11	66	ditto
John Gerry	44	" "	"	ditto
John Burket	.,		"	
Leonard Cousins		17 Febr 1799		ditto
William Davis		20th July "		Run the 27th October taken up Novi 1st 99 absent 6 days
John Hilgenvold	"	"	44	Discharged
Derick Johnson	Mast! Mate	21et **	"	Run the 27th October 99 in Charleston
Liewes Loaride	Seaman	22nd "	"	Discharged
Joseph Melande	11	64 66	"	ditto
Date Tarab	41	" "	"	ditto
Peter Joseph		11 (1	··	
Pat* Hulenhunt			" <u> </u>	ditto
Levy Hall		25th Aug! 1798		discharged in Charleston August 28th 1799
John Day	Ordy Seaman	10th Novt 1799	"	discharged
Otis Artherton	**	15th "	**	Discharged
Elija Johnson	"	14 44	"	Discharged
John OBryant 1°5	"	16th "	14	Discharged
Dan Oblyand Donborts		10.4	"	
[MS mutilated] Dorherty	,,	,, ,,		Discharged
Seldom Minor	"		"	ditto
Ivory Tate				ditto
George Alexander	"	(	"	ditto
Joshua Frazer	"	** **	"	ditto
William Broom	"	"	"	ditto
Will# Cummings	"	1714 "	"	ditto
Thomas Moore	"	10.1		ditto
Tours Ittendall	"	10'4		ditto
Joseph Horsfall	"	20**		
John Grandier		41**	"	ditto
John OBryant 29d		23rd "		ditto
Freeman Robinson		24th "	"	ditto
John Carroll	"	14 44	"	ditto
Henry Lucas		11 11	"	ditto
James [M8 mutilated]	"	26th "	14	Run in Philadelphia the 25th November 1799
William Seamore	"	27th "	"	Discharged
Transact Coddie	44			Run in New York the 9th December 1799 —
Henry A Geddis		29th Aug. 1799		
Samuel Lewis	;;	27th Nove 98		Discharged
David Mercury		15th July 99	44	Discharged October 6th 1799
Edmond Lowery		4th Decr 98		Discharged
John Williams		104 44		ditto
Savage Davis	"	. 18th "	"	ditto
Vincent Seavor	"	. 20th **	"	Run the 27th October taken up the 1st November 99
				Absent 6 days
John Knight	"	22nd "	"	Ditto Ditto ditto ditto
John Branagan	Воу	1	"	Discharged
			11	ditto
John Goodson	"	1		
Thomas Quinton Juni			.,	ditto
Joshua Perkenton		- 40-7		Discharged
John Decker		. 22nd July [17]99	;;	ditto
Charles Dickson	**	" "	"	ditto
	•			

Muster Roll of the U. S. Brig Richmond, Lieutenant Cyrus Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding-Continued

Names —	Rank	Date of appointment & Entrance	For what time Engaged or Entered	Remarks
Henry A Williams Joseph Nazary John Lindsay Charles O Riley. George Lattimore Joseph Obryant John Southward Nicholas Losey Jacob Laser Henry Newman Amos Wilmot Bodweil Coffin W# Merchant Noeh Greenwood John Robinson Samuel Godfrey Daniel Hill Joseph Hewit James White Peter Duffey	Seri Marines. Corpl ditto. Marine	18th July [17]99	Three Years	Promoted July 18 1799 Broke by order of L* Hall & turned into the Ranks  Deserted Novi 7th 1799  Deserted

[signed] CYRUS TALBOT

Hon<sup>blo</sup> Benj<sup>a</sup> Stoddert Esqr. Secretary of the Navy

[NDA. MR. Misc. Vol. 1, 1798-1844]

### To Secretary of the Navy, from Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy

U: S. Frigate Insurgent off the Harbour of St Piers 10th Dec. 1799.

BENJ<sup>®</sup> STODDERT Esq<sup>®</sup>

SIR Since my last respects to you of the 27th Nov! I have made a short Cruise off Deserada & from thence run down to Point Peter, to look into that Harbour where there appear'd to be but few vessels & from thence beat about under the lee of Marygalante & along the coast of Grandeterre to windward of Dominico, & finally off this Island in which range I never had sight of a single Privateer or Prize Vessel which doth appear very strange after the accounts we have had of their numbers for the route I have taken was said to be the very track in which they had done all the mischief or perhaps we have given them the Alarm as they do not like to hear of the *Insurgent* being on their Coast

Finding that it would not create more than a few hours detention, I have just sent my boat on shore to know if any letters had arrived there from you & am now on my way to Prince Rupert's bay for a little ballast & wood my Ship being too light from the long consumption of provisions. I expect to be there one or two days, after which I shall cruise for some time under the lee of Gaudaloupe & as far as S<sup>†</sup> Martin's Occasionally

I have left orders here if any letters should arrive for me to have them sent to S<sup>t</sup> Christophers at which place I expect to make my last call previous to my leaving the West Indies, & if I can get a supply of Provisions there, shall lengthen my cruise as long as possible —

Your Most Ob

[NDA. A. Murray's LB, 1799-1805.]

To Peter Blight, Owner of Merchant Ship China from Abishai Thomas for Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 10<sup>th</sup> December 1799

PETER BLIGHT Esq!
Philada —

Sir The Secretary of the Navy requests M<sup>†</sup> Blight will be pleased to send to his office an order on the Captain of his Ship *China* or the Super Cargo, in favor of Captain James Sever of the *Congress* Frigate, Captain Edward Prebble of the *Essex*, or either of them for Sixty Barrels of Flour or more if they shall require it to be delivered in good order & well conditioned at the Island of Batavia for which they or either of them shall pay at the rate of 12 Dollars p<sup>‡</sup> Barrell—

I am Sir

By order of the Sec, Yr obed Servt

AB: THOMAS.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

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

[U. S. Frigate] Constellation Dec! 10, 1799

Sir, To Answer your inquiry - whether Seamen Entering on board a Ship in the service of the United States - belonging to a British Ship at the time of Entering — ought on being Demanded to be delivered up or not — requires Mature deliberation — as it is a very delicate question which might involve a variety of others -- and much will always depend, on the particular Circumstances connected with each case.

The Circular Instructions on the subject of Men being demanded, by foreign Officers direct — that Commanders are never to give up there Men but with Their Ships, I presume however that it was never the intention of the President, for any Captain to Enter the Men belonging to a foreign Ship trading to our ports especially if they

were not citizens of the United States —

There being no Admiral, or Commander in Chief of the Navy that I know of, the Secretary of that department is the proper person for an Officer on the home Station to apply for information on the Subject in question — tho' as the Commandant, of a Squadron I would determine the conduct to be persude in such a Case as you have stated without hesitation on any station from home or at home (where I was Concerned) if an immediate decission was necessary —

I have the honor to be Sir your Very Obedient humble Serv<sup>‡</sup>

SAMUEL BARRON Esq!

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

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

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 10th December 1799

Mess<sup>r‡</sup> Murray & Mumford New York -

GENTLEMEN I am honored with your letter of the 7th Inst Heretofore there have not been any Vessels appointed for the protection of our Trade up the Mediterranean & it is much to be regretted that we have none at present so situated that they can be employed on that service — There are two Frigates now equipping, the Philadelphia, at this port and the Chesapeak at Norfolk which it is contemplated to order on that Station as soon as they are ready for Sea which will probably be in all the month of March next, But it is not certain this will be the case -

According to the present views of the Government however, the probability is that it will

Thanking you for the Offer of the Cannon it is proper you should be informed that arrangements have been made to procure all that are or may be wanting for the Navy -

With great respect

I have the honor to be Gentlemen Yr obed Servt

To Master Commandant Timothy Newman, U.S. Navy from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 10th December 1799

Master Comm<sup>‡</sup> Timothy Newman of the Warren —

SIR Not doubting that the Warren will be ready for Sea, by the time you will receive this, it is the Presidents command, that you immediately proceed to the Havanna, taking under convoy such vessels as may be ready, but waiting not more than one or two days for any except it be a vessel on board of which Mess<sup>18</sup> S. Higginson & Co may have shipped some provisions to go under your convoy for the public Vessels on the Havana Station

Perhaps M<sup>I</sup> Higginson has met with difficulty in getting a Vessel to take this provision, In which case, I hope you have been able to take a part of it on board of the Warren — Should it be otherwise, & no provisions are provided to go with you, it will not be a very great evil, as provisions can be had at the Havana nearly as cheap as in

America —

At the Havanna you fall in with Captn Bainbridge of the Brig Norfolk, who being your Senior Officer you will act under his Command But should he have left that station, which however is not probable, you will in that case be pleased to open the Letter herewith directed to him, consider it as addressed to yourself and govern yourself accordingly—

All prizes must be sent to the United States for condemnation, all their papers & at least a part of their Crews must always be sent with

them, or they will not be condemned

You must never suffer Officers or seamen to leave your Ship without the Pursers certificate of the state of their Accounts with the ship

I request you will write me by all oppys

Wishing you great Success
I have the honor to be Sir
Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

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

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 10th December 1799

Capt<sup>n</sup> William Bainbridge of the Brig *Norfolk* on the Havanna Station

Sir This will be delivered to you by Captain Newman of the Ship Warren, who will place himself under your Command — I have given orders to send from Boston with this vessel provisions for 4 months for the Norfolk, and the General Pinkney [Pinkney], but it may happen, that none may go, in which case, you must apply to M. Morton our Consul at the Havanna for the necessary supplies He informs me Provisions are always to be had there as cheap as in America — At all events, neither your own, nor any vessel under your Command must return to America, for want of Provisions while they are to be had in the Islands —

It is always desireable to supply the provisions from this Country, and we shall always endeavor to do so, but should they at any time be wanted they must be obtained, taking care to attend to all possible oconomy— For every thing you get from M. Morton give him Bills on me distinguishing for what vessels the supplies are obtained—

The Norfolk, the Warren & the Pinchery will be more than sufficient for the protection of the Havanna Trade — The President relies on your vigilance so to employ them as to suffer no French armed vessel to be seen any where near the Island of Cuba, to accomplish this it will be necessary that you keep the Vessels constantly cruising in different stations, and never two together, unless there should be good reason to apprehend an encounter with French Vessels of force, and superior to any one of those, of which I believe there can be but little danger —

With respect to our Merchant Vessels, you must give them all the protection in your power, but the only effectual way of giving them complete protection will be by capturing the French Privateers, or by pursuing them with such activity as to drive them out of these Seas — Still when you judge Convoy to be necessary, you will afford it to our Commerce, but judge for yourself and do not be influenced by the importunity of interested owners or Captains who to secure their own venture, would expose an hundred times the amount belonging to others—

Should any unforeseen event make it necessary for you to leave the station you will in that case deliver over this Letter to Captain Newman for his Government It is intended to keep up a constant force at the Havana, or should Captain Talbot make different arrangements for the protection of the Havana trade, you must with the Vessels under your Command obey his orders—

Whatever prizes you take must be sent to the United States for condemnation, their papers and at least a part of the Crew must always be sent with them otherwise they will not be Condemned, and never let an Officer or Seamen leave their vessel to return to the United States, on whatever pretence, without bringing with them a Certificate from the Purser of the state of their Accounts on leaving their Vessel

I request you will keep me informed of all material occurrences —

Wishing you great Success — I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Major Commandant William W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from Second Lieutenant David Stickney, U. S. Marine Corps

> U. S. Ship Merrimack Boston Hard Decr 10, 1799

Major Burrows,

SIR, By this you will be inform'd of the Arrival of the Merrimack, & likewise of the detachment under my Command, who are all in good health, as by the Inspection Return, when you sent the particulars of the Marines Uniform, & what quantity they were allow'd for one year. it mentioned 2 pairs of shoes, only, the Officers on board of several other Ships, told me it was 4 pairs they were allow'd, mine has

rec<sup>4</sup> but 2, for the last year, In my last I sent on the 10 dollars, for the purpose of raising Musicians which I suppose you have rec<sup>4</sup>, you'l see by the return there are wanted one Fifer & two Privates for the detachment to consist of its first number, you'l inform me if I am to recruit them. I shall send the Marines recpt<sup>6</sup> for their last years Cloathing, & what pay I advanced them, & all my Acct<sup>6</sup> I exercise the Men every day when the weather & Ships Duty will admit of it, Sundays Excepted.

I am Sir Yr Obt Servt

DAVID STICKNEY, Lieut of Marines on board Merrimack

[MCA, LR, 1799.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 10 to 11 December 1799

[Translation]

19th to 20th FRIMAIRE Year 8.

[Received?] the order to pass ahead, [sighted?] Désirade [Deseada] ahead of us, [we?] at once [crowded on ?] sail in order to close up on La Vengeance. I hailed the [officer of the deck ?] on board the flagship to drop astern and [mutilated] follow in my wake and to crowd on sail in order to [anchor ?] before daybreak.

At 3 o'clock in the morning we anchored below [Fort] Fleur de l'épée [Grande Terre, Guadeloupe] La Vengeance anchored near us in 6 fathoms of water gravel and sand bottom, received orders not to

communicate with the shore.

At 8 o'clock the Harbor Master came on board at 9.30 we got under way and anchored ½ hour later in the Port de la Liberté in 6 fathoms mud bottom moored with a kedge anchor. No. and South At 11.30 [?] the agents went ashore the frigate La Vengeance flying colors from the main-mast, fired a salute of 21 guns for the said agents.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

#### Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Tuesday, 10 December 1799

Beings with Plesent Wether the Land to Southard of Hus we cant Tell what Land it is very Well Becase the Curent Deceved Hus at 2 P M Haled our Wind to the Southard

At 3 A M. Sounded 7 fatham Water Taked to the Nored at 6 taked to the Southard at Mer<sup>4</sup> taked to the Nored the Land Under our Lee A Bute. 8 Miles

[Latitude Observed 19° 47' N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 10 December 1799

Fresh Breezes and cloudy. At 1 Saw a strange sail bearing E S E Gave chace. Tackd as nessasary to chace to windward @ 4 answerd the American, private Signal of one of the United States Ships @

half past 4 Shortn'd sail and Brought too U S Ship Herald in company Lieutenant Russel waited on Captain Talbot, @ 5 parted company and Gave chace to a sail to windw<sup>4</sup> @ 6 Boarded the chace an American Schooner from Newyork bound to Jamaica @ ½ p<sup>1</sup> 6 filld and made sail to work to windward the East end of Tortudas S E by S 4 leagues @ 12 fresh breezes and squally with rain @ [space] Carryd away the fore topmast springstay, Rec<sup>4</sup> from M<sup>5</sup> Moore the Gunner a quantity of 8½ Inch rope for Topmast Backstays

At 12 Meredian Squally with rain made and shortnd sail as the state of the weather would permit, the East extreem of Tortudas

South 3 leagues

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding, U. S. Ship Ganges, 10 December 1799

At 3 got under way proceeded down the [York?] river. — [NA.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department December 11<sup>th</sup> 1799

Captain James Sever of the Congress —

Sir On the 3rd Inst I wrote you that the Congress and Essex Frigates were destined to act as convoy to whatever Merchant Vessels

might want it, all the way to Batavia —

I now enclose you a list of provisions supplies which were ordered to be shipped on board Merchant Vessels, partly at this place, & partly at New York for the use of the Frigates to be delivered over to you and Captain Prebble on your arrival at Batavia — Molasses and Rice are not included in the list, they can be had cheap at Batavia — Flour to the amount of 60 Barrels, if so much shall be wanting for both Vessels you are to obtain from M. Blights Ship China Captain Josiah, an order for which is enclosed, at the Philadelphia price Viz; Twelve Dollars p. Barrell, which you are to pay there, and if there should be a deficiency of Bread, which may possibly happen, you may take more flour, so as to insure to your Crews a sufficient supply until your return — a double portion of Indian Meal is ordered, also to aid in case of deficiency —

Rum is not among the enumerated articles but there is Wine and Porter as substitutes, and you may obtain arrack at Batavia, of this article however you must be extremely cautious, that your people make not too free use, it is said to be very prejudicial to the health of American Seamen, if used freely, — keeping therefore this in view, you will consult with Captain Prebble, and if you shall judge it necessary to have a supply of rum, in addition to what you may have already on board, and you can take it in, or it can be shipped on board a Merchant Vessel under your convoy, Mess. Gibbs & Channing have directions to furnish it as well as whatever other articles either of the Frigates may want — Potatoes and Fish being perishable articles none are sent. Sourkrout, is an excellent substi-

tute for the first, as far as the quantity, which is all that could be had, will suffice, and you may, no doubt procure vegetables on the Island, & at other places where you may call for water — There is an ample supply of Beef, Pork, Butter and Cheese to suffice for the want of Fish —

Probably there may be a greater quantity sent of some, and less of others, of the articles enumerated in the List, in which case, you and Captain Prebble may make the division according to the respec-

tive numbers of your Crews -

The Vessels which carry the articles Shipped at this place are

the John Bulkely, Captain Stockely Dominick Terry, Cap<sup>‡</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Fleming & the China, Captain James Josiah

Mess<sup>re</sup> James & Ebenezar Watson of New York will inform you on board what ship they put the articles ordered from thence, unless they have been obliged to send them by a small vessel to Newport, in which case, You must in concert with Mess<sup>re</sup> Gibbs and Channing, make the best disposition for getting them forward in your power — these articles are 60,000 lb Bread 600 Gallons Teneriffe Wine, and 400 Bushels Beans or Peas —

Muskits, Powder, and Clothing for the Marines, to make up the deficiency of those articles on board the Frigates I presume will be ready for you at New Port by the time you are ready to receive them — The Muskits, Powder and Clothing will go from hence in the [Merchant] Brig Delaware Cap<sup>†</sup> Dumphy to Sail immideatly for Rhode Island & thence to Batavia — The Pistols are ordered from

New York -

Twelve thousand Dollars in Specie will be paid into your hands and Cap<sup>†</sup> Prebble's for the use of the Frigates at Batavia or wherever else on the Voyage you may want it by Mess<sup>†§</sup> Gibbs & Channing — These Gentlemen will also advance to such of the Officers as may want it for their immediate accomodation such sums as may be necessary to render them comfortable on the voyage, and if the Pursers have not aleady received them at Boston & Salem, they should get from Mess<sup>†§</sup> Gibbs & Channing full supplies of slops for the men—

Having thus taken care of every thing depending on me, which I concieve necessary to make your voyage comfortable, I have now to add the Presidents direction, that you proceed with the Congress & the Essex from Rhode Island, as soon as you are prepared, to Batavia, taking under convoy such merchant Vessels as may have joined you — A very large amount of American property has gone and is going to Batavia and the principal object of your Voyage is to protect it where there is most danger in the vicinity of Batavia, particularly in the Streights of Sunda, and for the security of the property already gone, it is highly desireable, that you should arrive at your destination as early as possible, and altho you must attend to such vessels as place themselves under your convoy, and if practicable without defeating the principal object, see them safe to Batavia, — Yet the Merchants understand that you are not to be unreasonably delayed for the sake of any dull sailing Vessels — Should any such be with you, & that you find that they retard you considerably, you must leave them for infinitely more than the value

of one or two vessels may be lost by your being long delayed on the

voyage

The policy of the French Government seems to be, to give all possible encouragement to the Privateering system — their regulations seem intended to cover the seas with strong privateers — It is not to be doubted, that they will know of the immense amount of American property bound to Batavia, nor that they will make efforts to intercept it particularly on its return —

The American Trade will it is presumed leave Batavia about May next You will return with the greatest number of Vessels to be collected, and use all your endeavors to see them safe back to the United

States —

Should any unforeseen event prevent either of the Frigates proceeding on this voyage, the one able to proceed must go alone — A copy of these Instructions is therefore sent to Capt<sup>p</sup> Prebble, that if it should be his fortune to go alone, he may proceed without waiting for further orders — In this case, the q<sup>ty</sup> of provisions &<sup>p</sup> sent to Batavia will be greatly too much, & the Commandnig Officer must in such event have the surplus disposed of for Bills on the United States — this I understand can be done to the Merchant Vessels not only without loss, but to profit —

I have fears that you may suffer for want of water — You can water at the Cape of Good Hope, and I hope take in enough there to last you until your return to that place — As the water is very bad, and will produce sickness among your crew which ought to be prevented by every prudent means in your power, but this I understand it will be impossible to prevent if you remain inactive even a few weeks at

Batavia -

While you are on that Station therefore the health of your Crew will depend upon your being employed in cruising — You must find out there where you can cruise to most advantage for the protection of our Trade with the East Indies, and so employ the Frigates until it be

time to return which as already observed will be about May.

Should you capture French armed Vessels you must do the best you can to get them to the United States with the prisoners taken on board — But if it should be inconvenient to send in the Prisoners, you must let them go, taking receipts from the Officers to serve in any negotiation for an Exchange, but it will be proper that you bring two or three persons belonging to each vessel, who will be on the trial for condemnation — If you should capture about Batavia, any such vessels, you may probably agree with the Merchants to bring them to the United States — On these points you must judge, and act with sound discretion.

The President desires me to express his high confidence in your Zeal and Talents, and that the service upon which you are now ordered will be performed with Credit to yourself, and Captain Prebble & to the great satisfaction of the Merchants —

Wishing you great success & Glory —

I have the honor to be Sir Y' most obe Serv'

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

P. S. Bills of Lading for the articles shipped from hence will be forwarded to you tomorrow —

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

[Enclosure]

## List of Provisions for U. S. Frigates Congress and Essex, on arrival at Batavia

List of provision supplies ordered to be Shipped on board Merchant Vessels at Philadelphia and New York, for the use of the Frigates Congress 340 Men, and Essex 260 Men, to be delivered to them on their arrival at Batavia.

	For the Congress	For the Essex	Total
Beef	906 lb 6, 800 " ———————————————————————————————————	102 " 694 lb 5, 200 " 399 " 588 Gall* 174 Bushl 434 lb 32 B'lls 424 C† 7 ½ B'lls 43 Blls 867 Gall*	235. 1, 600. 12, 000. 900. 1, 300. 400. 1, 000. 74. 978. 18. 100 2, 000.

Navy department 9. Dec. 1799. For the Secretary

AB. THOMAS

[LC, J. Sever Papers, NDA photostat.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department December 11th 1799

Capt<sup>p</sup> EDWARD PREBBLE of the Frigate Essex

Sir On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst I wrote you that the *Congress* and *Essex* Frigates were destined to act as Convoy to whatever Merchant Vessels might want it, all the way to Batavia.

See Letter to Captain James Sever of the Congress Folio 114 [dated 11 December 1799] copy of which was at same time forwarded to Captain Prebble with the following addition—

The foregoing is the Copy of Captain Severs instructions, which are also yours — I have nothing to add but the Presidents confidence & my best wishes for your success & honor

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT —]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

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

SALEM 11th Dec! 1799

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 2<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> The Commission for Lieu<sup>t</sup> Lee, and the Warrants for the Gunner — Boatswain and the eight Midshipmen shall be imme-

diately delivered to them, they will take the oath & their acceptance will be forwarded the necessary additional slops are providing and will be ready in three days, as will the additional quantity of provisions, The packet which I mentioned in my last I expected from Boston with Shot and other Stores has not yet reachd here, but has every thing on board that is to come from Boston, and it is probable will be here to night, as She was to sail this morning, I regret exceedingly that it is not possible to sail from this in time to reach New port by the 15<sup>th</sup> but every exertion is making to get the ship away and I am determined to sail by the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> at the farthest, and am in hopes the Winds will favour my reaching that place by the 24<sup>th</sup> which I hope will be in season for the important object in view, you may rely on it not one hour shall be lost—

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir, Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>

Humble Servt

EP. — [EDWARD PREBLE]

M<sup>r</sup> Sam! Allen, of Boston I have nominated a Midshipman, he is well recommended & has been very active in recruiting service.

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800, Vol. 2.]

To Captain George Little, U. S. Navy, from Lieutenant William Maley, U. S. Navy

At Sea on board the Experiment Decer 11th 1799.

Cap! Maleys

Compliments to Captain Little and begs him to accept of a few

Potatoes, and a few Trifles for his Son

Sir I would thank you to spare me three Sheets of Copper as my Masts and Boom are very much Chafed, on my return last evening I arrested M! Lapham, I found him quite Crazy, he had neither Tackles nor any thing in reddiness to take in the Boats, likewise find that he was knowing to my mens running away, and hast told my Doctor and others his intention of leaving me the first time he gets on shore

Sir am with respect your obedient servant

WILLIAM MALEY

Cap! LITTLE

N. B. if Possible I beg you would Spare me 2 Fishes for my Boom [F. D. Roosevelt Collection.]

To Captain Nicholas Johnson, Navy Agent, Newburyport, Mass., from Stephen Higginson, Navy Agent, Boston, Mass.

BOSTON Dec. 11, 1799 —

Capt Nicholas Johnson

Sir The Merrimack has arrived here & wants caulking in her Decks & upper works, & M<sup>1</sup> Hart wishes to have M<sup>1</sup> Knap & four or five good hands to come up in the Stage to help caulk her, as we wish to have her finished in five or six good days, & can not get good

hands enough here to do her — will you be so good to see M<sup>†</sup> Knap & get him to come up & bring some good Men by the first Stage, or to let me know if he can not come nor others who are good. —

I am Sir your hum Serv

STEPHEN HIGGINSON

[HS of Old Newbury, Original.]

To Archibald Campbell, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 11th December 1799

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL Esq<sup>‡</sup>

Baltimore —

SIR I am honored with your letter of the 8th Inst — The Montezuma I think is well sold — No idea is entertained of buying at Baltimore through other than the Agent there, the supplies required at that place, which will principally consist of articles necessary to keep the vessels in service supplied Mr Yellots Agency, ends with the Schooners and the settlement of his Accounts —

The Merchants have no right to express discontent for a want of protection to their West India Commerce — All the protection our Vessels could afford, has been afforded to every part of the Trade — It ought not to be expected that we are to accomplish with 20 Vessels

what the British cannot do with hundreds —

Porto Rico has always been attended to — for 2 months two vessels have been cruising about that Island, besides orders to the Commanding Officer at Norfolk at Saint Kitts, and to the one at Cape Francois, to scour it continually with the Vessels under their Command — But if all the Vessels we have were employed on that Island alone, we could not prevent some captures, particularly captures of those Vessels desirous of being taken of which there are many — Besides from Porto Rico a vessel will appear Spanish to our Cruisers with a Spanish Com<sup>r</sup> to our Merch<sup>t</sup> Vessels a French Privateer — I know that human industry could not have effected more for our trade, than has been done with our means — this is bold but true —

I am with great respect Dear Sir

Yr obed Servt
[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To John Morton, U. S. Consul, Havana, Cuba, from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 11<sup>th</sup> December 1799

John Morton Esq<sup>t</sup> Consul at the Havana

Sir Enclosed you will receive the account of M<sup>r</sup> Joseph de Yznardi late Navy Agent at the Havanna, which you will be pleased to settle with him, and receive for account of the United States, the Balance which shall be found due — No doubt M<sup>r</sup> Yznardi may have claims

against the Public which are not comprehended in the enclosed statement all which being in your opinion fair Charges you will admit to

his Credit so as to bring his accounts to a final close -

There were some public provisions in his hands which he was instructed to sell, the proceeds of which have not yet been accounted for, Be pleased to advert to this circumstance in the settlement — Finally let his statement appear fair or not, my object is to effect a complete settlement, and close of Accounts — You will therefore be so good as to govern Yourself accordingly —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

PS — You will please when necessary supply our Public Vessels with provisions taking the Captains Bills on me

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

[Enclosure]

To Joseph de Yznardi, late Navy Agent, Havana, Cuba, from Secretary of the Navy

Statement of M<sup>r</sup> Yznardi's Account

1799

December 11th — Balance due the Navy Department . . . \$2000 To proceeds of Provisions & sold by you .

> NAVY DEPARTMENT 11th December 1799

Sir Please to settle with John Morton Esquire the above Account, and pay to him the Balance due to the United States

I am\_\_\_

Yr obed Servt

Sign<sup>4</sup> B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]
Secretary of the Navy.

Joseph De Yznardi Esq<sup>r</sup> Havana

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

[11-12 December 1799]

Extracts from letter from Captain Waters of the private armed Ship Atlantic, belonging to the East India Company of North America, concerning action, while in company with the armed Ship Eliza Ann, with a French privateer

(We yesterday gave an account of the gallant defence made by Capt. Waters and the crew of the ship Atlantic, belonging to the East-India Company of North America. We have now the pleasure of laying before the public many additional particulars of that action, in which the courage and skill of Capt. Waters were so conspicuous. They are taken from a letter written by Captain Waters to his friend in this city, dated Calcutta, Dec. 29, 1799.)

to keep us company as far as Achun Head, he being bound for Madrass. On 8th October, in lat. 38, 39, S. long. 59, 48, E. at 1 P. M. a ship, which had been chasing us for some hours, being about 2 miles distant, shewed her colours: we immediately shewed our's, as also did Palmer his. At half past 1 the stranger changed his colours and fired a gun to windward. I then made a signal to speak the *Brittania*, she being ahead; but instead of answering our signal, the noble capt. P. (his ship having much the superiority in sailing) spread every inch of canvass he could carry, and with his broad pendant flying, ran off and left us. Finding capt. P. had no inclination to assist, and that we had no other alternative than fighting, should the stranger be an enemy, I shortened sail and prepared our ship for action. At 3 the stranger being about a mile distant, altered his course, and stood in a direction

for the Britannia, and we soon lost sight of both ships. "The weather was so extremely thick that we could not any time discover what the colours were shewn by the strange ship. On the 13th Nov. in lat. 00, 4, N. long. 95, 30, E. spoke another extra ship, called the Eliza Ann, capt. John Barker, out 5 months from London, and in a very distressed situation for want of every necessary. He had only 3 officers and 7 men capable of duty, having lost near forty of his crew with the scurvy, and many down with the same disorder. We rendered him every assistance in our power. Capt. Barker and his passengers (17 in number, being cadets in the Company's service) were extremely anxious for us to keep company with their ship, they being also bound for Bengal. I consulted Mr. Reid, and agreed to keep company. On the 11th Dec. in lat. 20, 8, N. long. 91, 50, E. being 55 fathoms water off Anacan river, at meridian discovered a ship to the eastward, standing for us. I immediately tacked, in company with the Eliza Ann, and stood to the westward — At 2 P. M. finding the strange ship was coming up with us very fast, I spoke capt. B. and we judged it best to bring too, and prepare for action, which we accordingly did; At 4 I shewed our colours, capt. B. also shewed his. The stranger immediately shewed English colours, and kept down for us. At 5, she being within gun shot, hauled down the English and hoisted French colours, and immediately began firing on the Eliza Ann, which was instantly returned by capt. B. quarter past 5 she also commenced firing on our ship, and I immediately returned the compliment. Our situation was now about a quarter of a mile upon the Eliza Ann's weather bow, and about half a mile distant from the enemy, she being to windward. — At half past 5, finding our main mast head, main top mast, and several other spars badly wounded, our rigging much cut, and that we were too far distant for our carronades to have a good effect, wore round and hauled by the wind, in order to get under the stern of the enemy all of us keeping up a constant fire. At sun set we being pretty near and he discovering our design, he filled and shot ahead; he also ceased firing and went out of gun shot, where he remained during the night. We were employed most part of the night in knotting and splicing our rigging, &c. Upon the enemy's leaving us, I bore down and spoke capt. B. who informed that his shot were nearly all expended having only about 30 left.

"We then agreed, that if the enemy should make another attempt, I would endeavor to lay him along side, close on board, and that capt.

B. should take the most advantageous situation he could, and make

the best use of what few rounds he had left.

"At sun rise on the 12th, the enemy again bore down on us. At a quarter past seven, A. M. he being pretty near, I observed graplings fixed to his fore and main yard arms, as also others suspended from his yards. The enemy was then on our weather quarter, and the Eliza Ann on a line ahead of our ship. I plainly discovered, that the enemy's intention was to board, that our ship was his object, and that he meant to board on our stern.

"I immediately wore round on the other tack, by which means he was completely outmanœuvered, and his object could not be effected. At half past seven, the enemy being within pistol shot on our weather beam, I recommenced the engagement, by discharging a broadside of round & grape, together with the blunderbusses and musquetry, 40 in number, some of us firing two at once. The water was so extremely smooth and the wind light, that every shot must have gone on board him. — He immediately brought to on our weather bow, and gave us his fire; but such was their confusion that it was extremely ill-directed. — We having another broadside ready, I immediately filled, and shot abreast of him, where we lay, distant about 70 yards, very warmly engaged until three quarters past eight, when he made sail from us, having both his pumps working — We immediately gave three cheers, beat up our old tune of Yankee Doodle, and made sail after him; firing whenever we could get a gun to bear.

"At ten, finding we could not come up with the chase, we hauled by the wind and kept on our course to the N. W. the enemy steering to

the W. S. W.

"The ship we engaged was a very beautiful long low ship, mounting 24 long twelve pounders on one deck, with swivels, cohorns, &c. on her gang ways and in her tops. Our ship suffered considerably in her hull, having the bulwark on one side almost entirely stove in, almost every rope in the ship cut, our sails shot to pieces, and spars very much wounded.

"There were 30 twelve-pound shot passed through our main-topsail, besides 20 of bar, iron bolts, &c. and but few of our sails shared a

better fate.

"Although the enemy left our ship in a very shattered state, I am happy to have it in my power to say, that there were none of our crew materially hurt, and that every person on board discovered the spirit becoming an American, contending for his rights.

"I must also acknowledge the very spirited behaviour of Capt. Barker. Although his force was inconsiderable, having only eleven 4 pounders (his crew I mentioned before). — He did as much as any

man could, under similar circumstances.

"Since our arrival here, I am informed, that the ship we engaged is well known in this country; that she mounts 24 long brass twelve pounders on one deck; that she was sent with another vessel of equal force, from France, to cruise in the Indian seas, and that they have captured a number of ships in the Bay of Bengal. I have nothing more to add, except that we arrived at the Sand-Heads to a pilot on the 15th, and at this place on the 24th inst."

(We understand the Company have it in contemplation to pay an honorable regard to the gallant and meritorious conduct of Capt. Waters.)

[LC,"Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 3 May 1800.]

Extract from log book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding. 11 to 12 December 1799

[Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

20th to 21st Frimaire

At 1 o'clock the commander permitted communication with the shore by signal. All night light [breezes?] At [mutilated] in the morning the agents came on board *Le Berceau* [mutilated] *Vengeance*, we dressed ship.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

#### Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Wednesday, 11 December 1799

Beings with Plesent Wether and Light Breses Whe find to be the Land on Cap Catoche at 6 Taked to the S<sup>o</sup> and E<sup>d</sup> at 8 P M. taked to the N<sup>o</sup> and E. At 2 A M taked to the S<sup>o</sup> and E<sup>d</sup> at 4 K<sup>d</sup> N<sup>o</sup> and E<sup>d</sup> at 6 taked to the Southard At 10 taked to the N<sup>o</sup> and E<sup>d</sup> the Latter fresh Breses & A Havey Swell from the N E

[Latitude Observed 20° 49' N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 11 December 1799

Strong Gales and Rain, @ 1 down Fore Top Gallant Y<sup>q</sup> and close reefd the Topsail @ three heavy squalls and rain Single Reefd the courses Wore as nessasary to keep clear of the land @ 5 the Middle of Tortudas S S E 4 leagues, @ 12 moderate wore to the southward and came to the wind

@ 3 saw the land bearing S by W wore to the Northward

AM. @ 6 Wore to the southward, @ 8 more moderate made sail to work to windward the north side of Tortudas

Loos'd sails to dry

Employd washing and fumigating between decks

At 12 fresh breezes and clear weath, the Middle part of Tortudas South 4 leagues

[Latitude Observed 20° 28' N.]

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 11 December 1799

At 5 weighed anchor, & at 2 P. M. came to, off Mud fort. — [NA.]

To Captain Robert Gill, Navy Storekeeper, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 12th December 1799

Capt<sup>n</sup> ROBERT GILL

Sir Be pleased to deliver to Messra Thomas & Peter Mackie all the articles which you may have in Store belonging to the late French armed Schooner La Magicienne [formerly U. S. schooner Retaliation], she having been sold to them with all her Tackle, Apparrel Furniture & pursuant to a decree of the District Court of Pennsylvania dated the 29th day of November 1799 — I am Sir

Yr obed Servt

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

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

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 12th December 1799

Capt<sup>p</sup> John Mullowny of the Ganges -

SIR The Ganges being ready for Sea it is the command of the President that taking under your Convoy any Vessels bound for the Windward Islands and the Ship Harry Captain Boyd, and the Brig Sally Captain Mason, bound for New Carthagena you proceed with the first fair Wind to sea & that after seeing the Vessels bound to the Windward Islands to their destination, you go on with those bound for Carthagena to that port where you will leave them, and employ your Ship for 5 or 6 weeks in cruising for the protection of our Commerce & for the Capture of the French armed Vessels on the South side of the Island of Saint Domingo, from thence you will go through the Mona passage to the North side of Porto Rico and round the East end of that Island, and thence back again to Carthagena, touching at Curracoa on your way -

After having thus cruised for a few weeks and got back to Carthagena, you will return from thence, taking under your Convoy the 2 Vessels you convoyed thither, & any others that may offer to the United States by way of Cape Catouche, cruising from thence & from the West end of Cuba to the Havanna, at which place you will take any Vessels ready for the United States under convoy & proceed to the river Delaware, taking care to have ready by the time of your arrival returns of such provisions and stores as you will require for another Cruise — Should any money be offered you to bring to the United States, you will receive it, and deliver it as directed or to the Bank of the United States —

Wishing you a safe & prosperous cruise

I have the honor to be Sir Yr obed Servt

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

[P. S.] N. D — 13th December 1799

The Weather is becoming so threatening that it will be unsafe for you to remain in the Delaware — I understand the Sails are not all sent down - If you should have every thing else ready it will not do for you to be detained for want of a few Sails, which I presume you can do without —

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT]

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Captain Robert Gill, Navy Storekeeper, from Abishai Thomas for Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 12<sup>th</sup> December 1799

Capth ROBERT GILL

Sir Be pleased to deliver to M. Stephen Merrill, Purser of the Ship Ganges 93 Shirts, 98 Frocks, 78 Upper Jacketts, 90 Duck ditto 117 Under ditto, 49 pairs Flannel Drawers, 55 pair Woolen Overalls, 100 pair Linnen D. 116 pair Shoes, 60 Blankets 80 Mattrasses & 60 Hatts for the Crew of that Vessell

I am Sir

By order of the Secretary of the Navy Yr obed Servt

AB THOMAS.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Secretary of State from George Haily or Hally, U. S. Consul, Isle of France

ISLE OF FRANCE December 12th 1799

Honourable Timothy Pickering

Sir, I had the honour to address you on the tenth of August last via Boston per Ship Sally Captain Pierpont a duplicate of which,

I herewith transmit you.

On the fifth of September I received a Letter from the Administrateurs Generaux of this Colony with permission to resume and exercise my functions and also the Governor General's Proclamation: Copies of which I now inclose you, by these it appears that the Directory of France have changed their conduct in respect to the United States, and given direction for a partial discontinuance of depreda-

tion's and insults upon our Commerce. —

I have the honour to inform you of the situation of the American Ship Russell of New-port, State of Rhode Island William Wood Master, this ship was captured by the french Privateer Brig Hazard of this port Cap<sup>†</sup> Perou (the same which captured Cap<sup>†</sup> Suter as I informed you in my last) in the Streight's of Sunda and ordered here for tryal Perou took out the Crew put them in irons and sent them to Batavia altho' no resistance whatever was made by Cap<sup>†</sup> Wood, he having neither a Letter of Marque or Commission of War She has passed through the Tribunal of Commerce and been acquited, the only ground upon which the Captors could found any pretext for Condemnation of this Ship, was that of her having no Roll of Equipage.

The want of this to be sure is sufficient to Condemn any American Vessel, but in this case there was strong presumption (though no positive legal proof) that Cap! Wood had a Roll of Equipage when he delivered up the Ships papers to Cap! Perou, among which it was Supposed to have been — this presumption and the last News that no rupture exist's between the United States & France, induced the

court to lean in favour of the Americans but she is yet the court of appeal to pass thro' (the Captors having appealed) which is a composition made up not of so pure and independent minds as the Tribunal of Commerce; what the decision may be there its hard to say, but I think she must be acquited even in that court, — because a few days since the Administrateurs Generaux received dispatches from the high Regency of Batavia complaining of the unjust taking of the Ship Russell, she being at the time of Capture at anchor in their Waters, and under their jurisdiction and protection. Consequently their Original taking by Perou was illegal in all respects; this will be urged by the Counsel for Capt Wood; I addressed the Governor for that part of the dispatches from the high Regency of Batavia which relate to the Russell which he sent me, I inclose you a Copy thereof —

The Opinion here is now changed and in some degree more in favour of the Americans, they feel the want of a free intercourse with the United States and reprobate in some measure, the past conduct of

this Government —

The Naval forces out of this Colony hath received a very Considerable check within the last nine months, which has been as follows Viz<sup>t</sup>

Frigate La Forte of fifty four guns (perhaps the finest frigate in the french Marine) taken on the coast of India by the English frigate Cybell or Sibilly.

Frigate La Preneuse of fifty four guns chased by the English a few

days since off this Port, ran on shore & destroyed by them. —

Corsair, L'Ephigenie of twenty guns Sunk at Sea about three months Since in an Engagement with an English Corvette which was blown up, both perished —

Luni of twenty six guns returned from a cruize on the Coast of India and now employed in the Merchant's Service and bound on a

Voyage to Batavia.

The Whole present existing Marine Force of this Colony all now

cruizing is, Viz<sup>†</sup>

La Clarisse of twenty Guns Commissioned from the French Republic and arrived about eighteen months past and has made two cruizes since:

La Confiance twenty brass twelve pounders commissioned from

the French Republic arrived here about four months past.

Brig General Malartic fourteen guns, commissioned by the Governor of this Colony.

Brig L'Eclair fourteen guns Sailed nine months ago cruizing on the west coast of Africa.

Brig Hasard of two guns and fifty men

Brig La Laurette of two guns and Sixty two men. —

On the Twenty third September a conspiracy was detected here against the Government, it's object was as 'tis Said, to depose the Present Governor, behead the Ordonator General, the Mayor and some of the heads of the Assembly, and to transport a number of others to Madagascar; but happily it was timely discovered, and thereby, blodshed, Massacre & anarchy prevented; Seventy persons were arrested and in three days sent to France on board of a corvette then in the Roads — I have nothing further of moment to observe,

at this time, I hope to be able to forward this shortly, either by way of Rio deplata or Cap of Good-hope, by some Neutral Ship.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

With highest Esteem & Respect Your most obedient & hum e Serv<sup>‡</sup>

GEO. HAILY [or HALLY]

[SDA. Port Louis, Vol. 1, 1794-1834.]

Extract from log book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding 12 to 13 December 1799

[Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

21st to 22nd Frimaire

The day and the night fair weather at 5 o'clock sounded the usual call to quarters.

[Boston Athenaem, NDA photostat.]

Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Thursday, 12 December 1799

Begins with plesant weather and light Breses

At 6 P. M. Cape Catoche Bore S W by W Dist 5 or 6 leagues The middle part clear pleasent weather at 6 A. M. set the steering Sails

The latter part fresh Breeses and flying Clouds. [Latitude Observed 23° 04′ N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 12 December 1799

Fresh Breezes and squally, employd working to windw<sup>4</sup> the north side of Tortudas and Birthing the ships companys hammocks, @ 5 saw a strange sail bearing E. S. E. made sail in chace, @ 6 fir'd a gun to bring too the chace @ half p<sup>†</sup> 6 boarded her an american Schooner from Cape francois bound to Gonaives, @ 7 filld and made sail to the Northward the middle part of tortudas south two or three leagues.

Made and shortnd sail as occasionally to keep clear of the [land] during the night @ 12 Midnight fresh breezes and cloudy @ daylight saw a strange sail bearing N by E tackd to the Northward up Fore top Gallant yard made sail and gave chace, @ half past 6 observed the chace to be Steer\* to the Westward bore up and set studding sail, @ half past 9 shortnd sail and boarded the chace an american Brig from South carolina bound to Jamaica Employd Gammoning the Bowsprit @ 10 Made sail to the southward @ 12 fresh Breezes and clear weather Tortudas SW by W 7 leagues

[Latitude Observed 20° 33' N.]

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate
Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 12 December 1799

[Salem, Mass.] A sloop from Boston and one from Salem discharging their cargoes of Shot, provisions & stores into the *Essex*. Officers receiving them.

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 12 December 1799

At 6 AM under way at 4 P.M came to off New Castle [NA.]

To Captain Christopher R. Perry, U. S. Navy, and Captain George Little, U. S. Navy, from Citizen Lobre

[Translation]

On board the frigate Boston, 13 December 1799.

Citizen Lobre, rigger of the lugger Republicain De Lorraine, To Messrs Perry, Commander of the frigate General Green, and Little, Commander of the frigate Boston.

The inhuman manner in which I am being held prisoner here forces me to pray you to inform me why I was at first treated like a knave for having assassinated on board my prize. Very convincing proofs to the contrary have been submitted to you, although you have had many others. At present I am told that I have to be kept here on board until the frigate reaches Boston, because I am in debt, and that they intend to deliver me into the hands of my creditors. Five days ago I was called on board the corvette *Herald* in order to be overwhelmed with abuse by one of the officers in the presence of the commissioned officers.

It is very hard on a prisoner to be treated in this way. My silence and my conduct must tell you how I feel. I endure very patiently.

I ask, Gentlemen, to be brought before a United States court on the first occasion, if that is your intention, in order to be tried for my debts as well as for my prize and my privateer.

I venture to hope that you will not be so cruel as to keep me for six months on board, since I have no change of linen, mine being on board the prize where I was. And above all hear me.

I have the honor to be respectfully, gentlemen, your very humble and very obedient servant

[F. D. Roosevelt Collection.]

(Signed) LOBRE.

Receipt for Provisions received by the U. S. Ship Boston, from the U. S. Ship General Greene

United States Frigate Boston At Sea December 13th 1799

Received from the U.S. Frigate General Green, for the use of the U.S. Frigate Boston.

2000 Pounds of Beef 2000 Pounds of Pork 24 Gallons of Beans

Moses Allen, Purser

## To Captain James Sever, U. S. Navy, from Abishai Thomas for Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy department 13 Dec<sup>1</sup> 1799

Sir. Enclosed are the bills of Lading for the provisions & ship'd on board the John Bulkley & Dominick Terry, for the Frigates Congress & Essex, mention'd in the Secretary's despatches to you yesterday — And an invoice of such as are to be ship'd on board the China for which receipts have not yet been obtained —

Wishing you success & Glory I have the honor to be, by order of

the Secretary of the Navy

Sir, Y' Mo. ob! Serv!

AB. THOMAS

Cap<sup>‡</sup> James Sever

[Enclosures are in NDA, too voluminous to include herein.] [LC, J. Sever Papers, NDA photostat.]

To John Green, Supercargo of the Dominick Terry from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia] Navy Department 13<sup>th</sup> December 1799

Mr John Green —

Supercargo of the Dominick Terry

Sir Having shipped on board the Dominick Terry, sundry articles of provisions & for the use of the Frigates Copy of this Congress Captain Sever & Essex, Capt Prebble to be Messre J. Tatem delivered to them at Batavia agreeably to the receipt of Relationary Relationship Captain Flemming dated 11 Inst, a Copy of which is goes of the Ship enclosed — it remains to provide for their disposal in the Josiah also to event of neither of the Frigates arriving at Batavia pre-Mi Frederick Bardinary Capt Captain Flemming to provide for their disposal in the Josiah also to event of neither of the Frigates arriving at Batavia pre-Mi Frederick Bardinary Capt Captain Flemming to provide for their disposal in the Josiah also to event of neither of the Frigates arriving at Batavia pre-Mi Frederick Bardinary Voyage or if circumstances should prevent her Ayres Stokely.

Ayres Stokely.

The Having shipped on board the United States and the total provide the Arriving to the Prize Terry being in readiness to sail on the States of the Bills on respectable houses in the United States, and transmit the same to this Office as early as may be, and to ensure the arrival of one sett of the Bills at least it may be well to transmit the Duplicates & Triplicates by different Vessels — For your trouble, you will be allowed such a Commission as is customary for transacting business of this nature —

Wishing you a pleasant & prosperous Voyage,
I am with respect
Sir Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Stephen Higginson & Co., Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 13th December 1799

Mess<sup>18</sup> Stephen Higginson & Co

Boston -

Gentlemen I have the honor to enclose a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Deblois purser of the *Constitution* saying that James Collins died on the 21<sup>st</sup> October and desires that no money be paid on his power of Attorney—

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Yr obed St

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Amaziah Jocelin, Navy Agent, Wilmington, N. C., from Thomas H. Gilliss for Accountant of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department Accountant's Office 13 Dec 1799

Amaziah Jocelin

Wilmington

SIR It does not appear by any document in this Office that either of the Gallies built under your superintendance have as yet been named. The Secrety of the Navy has proposed that one of them be called Geo Davie [\*], the other Gov! Williams, after the late & present Gov! of N<sup>h</sup> Carolina. Unless you have in contemplation any other names which you think would answer better — I am therefore directed by the Accountant of the Navy, to request that in either case, you will immediately inform him what names you have affixed to them respectively.

Your Obd Servant

THOMAS H GILLISS
for the Accountant —

[\* Believe this is meant for Gov. Davie] [NDA. LB, N. Dept. Accts. Of., 1798-1800].

To Major Commandant William W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from Second Lieutenant Newton Keene, U. S. Marine Corps

Bassat [erre] St Kitts. 13th Decr 1799.

Majr Burrows,

Sir, In my letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> November by Cap<sup>t</sup> Mitchell I inform'd you that Several of the Marines were very unwell Since which they have all recovr'd except one who is a convalescent.

The day previous [\*] to our arrival at this place which was on Sunday last, we recaptur'd off eustatia[?] the Brig Pennelope of New

York taken a few days before by the French

The Brig Pickering arrived at this port on Tuesday last with a French privateer Schooner of ten Guns & Sixty men her prize & Sail'd yesterday for Gaurdalupe with Prisoners. There is hardly a day but Prizes are Sent in here by United States Vessels of War & I

have no doubt but they will in a very Short time put a final Stop to French depredations off the West India Islands — The Frigate Adams, Ship Connecticut, & Brig Eagle will sail from this place Tomorrow on a Cruise,

I have the honor to be — Your Obdt Servant

NEWTON KEENE

Lt of Marines

[\* 7 December 1799] [MCA, LR, 1799]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 13 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and clear weather, employ'd working to windward. between Tortudas and Cape francois @ 2 saw a strange sail bearing N by E Gave chace @ 3 Answerd the private signal of the chace, one of his Brittanic Majestys ships of war Tackd as nessasary to work to windw<sup>4</sup> @ 6 the west end of Tortudas bore West 9 or 10 leagues, @ 7 tackd to the Northward @ Moderate and clear

AM at 6 Tackd to the southward, & at 7 tackd to the Northwest employ'd setting up the Topmast rigging, Unbent the Main top sails and bent another Sailmakers employd making a spanker, @ 12 Moderate breezes and clear weather Cape francois south 18 leagues, Broach'd a cask of Rum Contents 44 Gallon short of contents 22 Gallons occasiond by a leak In the head

[Latitude Observed 20° 59' N.]

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 13 to 14 December 1799

[Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

22nd to 23rd FRIMAIRE

I had the yard sails sent ashore for repair Continued fair weather, the caulkers worked to overhaul the outboard side of the Corvette.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract of a letter from Captain Christopher R. Perry, U. S. Navy

[U. S. S. General Greene,] Off Cape François, Dec. 14 [1799]

"Com. Talbot, left this place about 16 days since, to go to the Mole to water, and expected to have been back in 8 or 10 days — we are rather alarmed for his safety, as we well know there is no dependance on Toussaint or his administration. By a letter from Dr. Stevens I have been informed, that there has an insurrection broke out at Port-de-Paix, Jean Rabel, and the vicinity of the Mole, headed by Gollard. I have ordered the *Herald* down to the Mole, with orders to send her boat in, should the *Constitution* be there, with the above

information to Com. Talbot. What will be the event of the insurrection is beyond human calculation."

[LC, "The Herald" (Norfolk, Va.), 25 January 1800.]

To Captain Richard Derby, U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 14th December 1799

Capth RICHARD DERBY

Salem -

Sir I am honored with your Letter of the 4th Instant —

It is much regretted that your arrival in the United States had not happened at an earlier period, that your talents might have been sooner employed in the service of our common Country, and it affords me pleasure to add, that the President is highly gratified at your Acceptance of the Appointment as a Captain in the Navy of the United States & to assure you that an early opportunity will be embraced to afford you honorable employment

In the mean time you have permission to attend to your private

business —

With great respect
I have the honor to be
Sir Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 14th December 1799

Mess<sup>19</sup> Gibbs & Channing New Port Rhode Island —

Gentlemen I am honored with your letter of the 7th Inst — As the George Washington is unfit for a cruiser, and it was only intended to retain her in the Public Service to perform a Voyage to France, for which She cannot be ready in time it is best to sell her at once —

I request therefore you will be pleased to offer her for sale, either with or without her Military Equipments, and sell her if you can at what you deem enough — Without her Military Equipments, I should suppose she would be well sold at 40,000 Dollars — Until you do sell her it may be well to keep a few Carpenters at work upon her, that in the event of not making sale she may if we find necessary be sent to sea in the Spring —

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Y' obed. Serv

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Franklin Robinson & Company, New York, N. Y., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 14th December 1799

Mess<sup>r</sup> Franklin Robinson & Co

New York —

Gentlemen It was intended to send the George Washington for our Ministers to France about the beginning of February — She wants repairs which cannot be finished by that time, tho they are going on — She is too dull for a Cruiser —

If you still want her, Mess<sup>rg</sup> Gibbs & Channing are authorized to deal with [you] for her, either with or without her Military Stores

I have the honor to be

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To David Humphreys, U. S. Minister to Spain, from James Cathcart, U. S. Consul, Tripoli

Tripoli in Bary Dec: 14th 1799

Honbie David Humphrey's Esq! &c &c &c

Dr Sir Want of opportunity join'd to an indifferent state of health, & I may add want of matter worthy y' attention has occasioned my not renewing the correspondence I was formerly honor'd with when in captivity, give me leave at presn<sup>‡</sup> to solicit a continuance of that honor, & to transmit for your perusal the most prominent transactions of this government since my arrival here, which since the adjustment of our affairs with this Regency for the Sum of 18,000 dollars to the Bashaw for the stipulated stores, detention, & the Brig Sophia, which it seems had either been promised to him by our Agents or he had forged the demand, as you have already been inform'd by the Bashaws letter transmitted to you by M. Ingraham, there has nothing worthy notice taken place since except Comodore Campbells expedition against this place & the depredations committed by the Cruisers of this Regency upon the commerce of Nations with whom they are at Peace & who has paid them considerable sums to insure the continuance of their friendship. I have transmited a detailed acct of said expedition & every other political transaction of this Regency at different times to Mr OBrien which I presume he has already informd you of I therefore shall not tire your patience with a long repetition -

On my arrival at Tripoli on the 5th of April I was refused permission to land & was inform'd that the Bashaw would not receive me as Consul from the United States as I had not brought the Stipulated Stores & had positively refused him the Brig which he declared was promised him by M<sup>†</sup> OBrien, M<sup>†</sup> Bryan M<sup>†</sup>Donogh who was charged with our affairs by Ingraham was the messenger employ'd on this occasion by both parties and in every respect espous'd the cause of the Bashaw, he was piqued that neither our government nor OBrien had taken any notice of him for the services he had render'd them & the crew of the Ship Betsy when here. I therefore thought it adviseable to secure his interest by a douceur which had the desired effect as he afterwards proved very usefull to us here & facilitated the negociation as much as lay in his power, at the same time I have reason to believe that he occasioned the first obstacle & by his influence per-

suaded the Bashaw not to give me an audience in order that I should be necessitated to employ him by that means founding a plea for a reward he enjoys the entire confidence of the Bashaw & in addition to the medical assistance he renders his family, he is his Excellencys project maker by which means he has amass'd six or seven thousand dollars in a few years in short Sir he is the Famin of Tripoli, and altho' it is necessary to treat him with politeness it would be very improper to entrust the affairs of the United States again to his guidance as he is certainly le tres humble serviteur des even nements, & would plead pro, or con, or both, for money his venality is remark'd by all the Consuls here, & what is very extraordinary he is at once both caress'd and despised.—

On the 6th M. M. Donogh came on board & gave me the Bashaws demand in writing the substance of which was that if M. Cathcart did not promise the Bashaw the brig or fifty thousand dollars in lieu of her the Stores Stipulated by treaty & Consular presents that he would not receive him as Consul from the United States of America but would declare war against said states in forty days from this

date —

After a good deal of menacing & huckstering on the part of the Bashaws Agents, & opposition to his unreasonable demands on mine I obtain'd an audience on the 7th when the Bashaw confirm'd what I was before inform'd by his emissaries, & added a great many invectives against OBrien for denying that he had promised him the brig & said that he was neither dependent on Algiers or the Grand Senior and that by declaring war against the United States of America he would let the world see that he was an Independent Prince and would be respected as such, I combated his insinuations & unjust demands but with little success, finding it impossible to treat with him verbally, I retired & wrote him a letter wherein I remonstrated on the impropriety of his conduct to a Nation that had never injured him or his subjects, but on the contrary had already paid him a considerable sum to insure his friendship & whose Agent was now prepared to fulfil every Stipulation of the Treaty subsisting between the two nations, that the Stores were ship'd for Tripoli before I left America & their not arriving in time was owing to some accident over which human foresight had no control? that nevertheless I had no objections to pay his Excely an equivalent in cash for them provided he would confine his demand within the bounds of reason and equity — the Doctor explain'd my letter to the Bashaw who answer'd it in Arabic a translation of which in Italian is as follows —

Primporto del Brich	18,000 —
Simile per il Regalo	25,000 —

Pezze duri — 43,000 —

Deve pagare di questa somma 13,000 duri prontamente eli restante 30,000 duri li diamo il rispero di me, si sei de contare dalla data della presente — Passato il detto termine e non portando la sudetta somma sara rotta la Pace, e volendo partire il Console potra partire, ma si resta sara schiavo, non avendo noi accordata del periodo al primo incaricato, e accordato al presente Console il termine di sei mese, che per riguardo del dottore Inglese per compiacere il suo desiderio — LS —

## [Translation in English]

Amount for brig\_\_\_\_\_Dollars — 18,000 — Same for present\_\_\_\_\_ 25, 000 -

Dollars\_\_ 43, 000 -

Of this sum 13,000 dollars shall be paid promptly and for the balance of 30,000 dollars we grant a respite of six months counting from the date of the present. If upon the expiration of the said time the aforementioned sum is not forthcoming, the Peace shall be broken, and should the Consul want to leave, he can leave, but if he remains he shall be a slave. We did not grant time to the first agent and we have granted to the present Consul a period of six months only out of consideration for the Italian doctor and in six months only out of consideration for the Italian doctor and in compliance with his wish.

The above proposal I instantly rejected with disdain & returnd to the Bashaw by the Doctor with the contempt such an unreasonable demand merited — On the 8th the Minister of Marine was employ'd by the Bashaw to negociate with me — this evening I requested him to inform the Bashaw that I could not comply with his demand that it was of no service whatever for us to talk any farther on the subject, that I was sorry his conduct towards the United States would oblige them to turn the arms against him, which were now employ'd against our common enemy the French, for he might depend the United States would never put up with so palpable an imposition — I father requested him to inform the Bashaw that I would do myself the honor to wait on him in the morning to hear his ultimatum & if he did not alter his opinion by that time, that I would sail in the brig for Tunis & Algiers the first fair wind -

On the 10th the interest of the Minister of Marine & McDonogh being previously purchased I agreed to pay his Excellency in full of all demands from the United States, the sum of ten thousand dollars for the Stores & eight thousand for the Brig Sophia which I have every reason to believe was promised to him by M<sup>r</sup> OBrien — the contingent expences amounted to 1500 dollars & the Consular presents which I procured at Philadelphia & Algiers cost about 4000 more the

whole amounting to the sum of 23,000 Dollars

The Flag of the United States was saluted with 21 Guns & they ended our Negociation — I immediately paid the Bashaw 3500 dollars in cash which I had drawn at Tunis, & gave Bills on Tunis & Algiers for the rest which were duly honor'd, & I am happy to inform you that nothing has happen'd since to disturb the harmony subsisting

between the United States & this Regency -

Comodore Campbelle arrived here on the 6th May & sail'd on the 20th in the intermediate time he drove one Crusier of eighteen guns on shore & burn'd her, & captured the Tripoline Admiral & two Sweedish prizes, he then concluded a Treaty between Her most Faithfull Majesty & this Regency on the footing of the most favor'd Nation and on the enclosed terms — This Sir was effected by one 64 Gun Ship only, with the loss of a boat & two men wounded one mortally — that the United States may adopt a similar mode of negociation with these contemptible poltroons (when ever their may be occasion) is my most fervent prayer — Since my arrival here the Cruizers of this Regency has condemn'd the cargoes of five Danes Three Sweeds two Imperials & one Ragusian on various false pretences the particulars of which I forwarded to M! OBrien & requested

him to forward copy's of my letters to you which no doubt he has done —

In April last the Bashaw freighted a small Spanish vessel for 200 dollars pr month to go to Algiers & Bona & from thence to return here, she return'd here on the 23rd of Augt & in order to save the freight was seiz'd & condemn'd on pretence that her papers were not in order, some of her crew are deliver'd to the Spanish charge des affairs & some are made slaves, She was purchased at Malta & the Banshaw excuses his conduct by saying the Spanish Consul there has not sufficient power to originate papers for vessels to navigate under the

Spanish flag —

From the tenor of the Bashaws conduct to other nations have we not reason to suppose that he will make use of the slightest pretext to commit depredations on our commerce, you probably will say that our peace being guaranteed by Algiers will insure us from every insult — I hope it may? but I assure you Sir it is a point in much doubt with me & my reason for not placing much confidence in the promises of our friends at Algiers (in addition to the recption I met with here on my arrival) is because the Genoese vessel which was captured with the Dey of Algiers his passport, which occasioned a board of admiralty being call'd (and M. OBriens narative to the Bashaw of Tripoli of the 25th of September 1798) whom insisted that the Bashaw of Tripoli should make restitution to the Captain for said vessel & cargo, but from that day to this he has not paid one cent to the proprietors of said vessel & Hadgi Mahamond ben Suleiman having arrived lately from Algiers without having brought any farther demands for said vessel & cargo shows clearly that the Dey of Algiers has drop'd the affair entirely, & pray Sir have we not reason to expect the same treatment should any of our vessels be brought in here? What signifies the Dey of Algiers writing here when the Bashaw will not obey his orders, I say Sir if any of our vessels should be brought in here on any pretense whatever they will be plundered & after the Bashaw has got the goods or their value in his hands he will never give them up unless demanded by a sufficient force to compel him to it should he refuse in such a case he would act as he did to Comodore Campbell with a great deal of condescension —

\*I have but few opportunitys to write from here & depend entirely on our Consuls at Algiers & Tunis to forward intelligence from me to the seat of government & our Ministers in Europe, & this channel of communication I imagine will soon be stop'd as I am inform'd that the Dey of Algiers contemplates the conquest of Tunis & has actually commenced hostilities against that state. if this intended conquest does not fail as a similar one did during the reign of Hassan Bashaw our consuls in those Regency's will have an extensive field to exert their abilities on & by managing our affairs with address they will have it in their power to make the embarrassments of the government where they reside subservient to the interests of the United States. I imagine a well timed liberality will secure the Bey of Tunis from farther molestation, but if the Dey of Algiers is really serious he will succeed as I am persuaded the whole turkish soldiery of Tunis will revolt & join his army was it for no other reason than to share in the plunder of the City, whatever may be the result I presume it will

eventually promote our interest at Tunis —

The enclosed papers I have had by me for some time waiting for an opportunity for Spain but none offering I have sent them via Tunis enclosed to our Consul there who will take a pleasure in for-

warding them to you.

I hear nothing relative to Citizen Buonaparte? the fact I believe is, that he has fortified himself so well at Grand Cairo that while he has provisions & ammunition he will maintain his post malgre the whole force of the Ottoman Empire & I am really of opinion that if he is not attack'd by regular troops that the whole rabble of the Levant will be insufficient even to reduce him to the necessity of an honorable capitulation? He is without doubt a most extraordinary man—

I shall embrace every opportunity of communicating to you the political transactions of this government, interim believe me to be

with much respect & esteem -

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Y' most Obn! Humble Serv!

JAMES LEAT CATHCART

\*You may depend my dear Sir if the United States does not station some of our Frigates in the Mediterranean our commerce will never be upon a respectable footing in these seas, & we will be continually exposed to the depredations of these pirates, if we put up with the first insult we may expect a repetition & ultimately we will be obliged to send an arm'd force, which had we done in time we would have intimidated Tripoli at least from committing depredations on our commerce—

[SDA. Tripoli, Vol. 1, 1796-1799.]

## Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Saturday, 14 December 1799

Begins with moderate Breeses and Cloudy at 4 P. M. saw 4 Sail to leward of us they seemed to be Man of War.

The middle part Light winds and hazy at 6 A. M. made the Land of

at the Havannah.

The Latter Light Winds and Hazy. [Latitude Observed 23° 39′ N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

# Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 14 December 1799

Moderate and cloudy, @ 1 shortnd sail brought too and boarded a strange sail steering down before the wind an american Sloop from Rhode Island bound to Jamaica, @ 2 filld and made all sail, employ'd as nessasary, Carpenters and Sail makers Employd as occasion requird, @ 6 Single reefd the Topsails and stowd the Staysails @ 8 light airs and variable Wore and Tackd as nessasary to work to the Eastward

At 6 AM saw Cape Francois bearing S S E 10 or 12 leagues found the Fore topmast Tressle trees sprung landed the Fore topmast employd unrigging the Mast and sending up another pair

@ 12 Calm Cape francois S S E 10 leagues, the East end of Tortudas S by W 6 or 7 leagues unbent the spanker and bent another [NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 14 to 15 December 1799

[Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

23rd to 24th FRIMAIRE

We landed the 17 boxes of rifles which were embarked at Rochefort containing 500.

24 Frimaire [15 December 1799]

[24 hours ?] of fair weather. the caulkers continued to work [on the ?] outboard side of the ship.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate
Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 14 December 1799

[Salem, Mass.] My compliment of Men being nearly compleat I ordered the rendezvous at Boston Salem & Cape-Ann to be closed and the accounts to be settled, A pilot for New Port came on board. [LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of Merchant Ship Industry, Captain Gamaliel Bradford, Saturday, 14 December 1799

almost calm — sail a stern has neared us much since morning and as she appears to be a cruizer, we clear away for action, and all hands to quarters — 2. pm took in T. G! Sails and Stud! sails to prepare for engaging — the Ship astern shew french colors — at 4. pm she came up and hailed — proved to be an Englishman from Foy in England — ten days out — we agreed to keep comp! thro the Gut — 7. am saw Cape Spartell bearing E.S.E. 4 or 5 leagues — wind freshens, and heads — 9. am took in stud! sails — Eng. ship just a head —

at noon not up with the cape being farther from it in the morning

than we reckoned —

note. there is a yellow sand clift just at the pitch of Cape Spartel which is a good Mark for it, and right over it when it bears about S.E. or S.E. b S. by compass you will see some very curious white topt mountains which look as if they were cover'd with snow — on the opposite side against Cape Spartell is another sand clift — which make bright in a clear day, an is about Cape Marinal —

[Col. of G. & E. W. Bradford.]

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

NEWPORT Dec. 15. 1799 —

We have the honor to acknowledge receipts of your several favors of y? 3? & 9!h Ins! We immediately communicated to the Merchants in this State, the information you gave us, that the frigates Congress & Essex, were destined to act as Convoy, to whatever Vessels might

[want] it all the way to Batavia. — The Slops & other articles that may be wanted, we will procure & furnish with all possible dispatch. And we will make arrangements for the Specie, which you request us to pay over to Cap¹s Sever & Preble, & for advances to the officers. — The remittance of 20,000 dollars, you advise of, has not come to hand, we however suppose we shall receive it by the next Post. —

Neither of the frigates have arrived, and it does not appear by our last advices from Boston that they had sailed. — A Merchant Ship arrived here this day from Philadelphia, to go with the Convoy,

which is the only one here for Batavia. -

The letter of Cap<sup>t</sup> Perry & the deposition, you inclosed us relative to the Brig *Industry* sent into this Port — we will hand the District-Attorney who has charge of the prosecution on the libel preferred. —

Hon, Benjamin Stoddert. —

[Newport HS, Gibbs & Channing LB.]

#### Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Sunday, 15 December 1799

Begins moderate Breeses at Mer<sup>4</sup> tacked to the S<sup>4</sup> & E<sup>4</sup> at 2 P M. spoke an Arm'd Brig Belong to the U. S. of America She told us the Matanza Bore S E Dis<sup>5</sup> 8 Leagues at 6 Tacked to the N<sup>4</sup> & E<sup>4</sup> Squally with Rain handed the M. T. G. sail and Staisels.

At 12 Mered tacked to the S & E at 8 tacked to the No

at 8 A. M spoke a schooner from Cape Fransway bound to the Havannah

At Mer<sup>4</sup> the Pan Malaza Bor S S W Dis<sup>‡</sup> 6 Leages

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 15 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and clear weather, employd rigging the fore topmast @ half past 6 calm Cape francois S S E 10 leagues @ 7 a light breeze sprung up from E N E made sail in towards the Cape, @ 12 Midnight Tackd to the Northward saw cape francois bearing SE by S four or five leagues

Middle part light airs and variable Tackd as nessasary to work

to windward

At daylight saw three strange sail which we suppos'd to be the

american squadron

At 11 AM moderate breezes and cloudy Joind company the United States Ships General Greene and Boston, with the Schooner Experiment. @ half past 11 made the Signal for all Captains. @ 12 Moderate breezes and cloudy Squadron in company Cape francois S S E four leagues

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 15 December 1799

[Salem, Mass.] Lieut Lee, return'd to the ship, at 10 am made the signal for all Officers, and Crew to repair on board. A Sloop

load of provisions & stores was this day received on board by the Officers.

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 15 December 1799

Arrived at Reedy Island all Safe. — [NA.]

Extract from journal of Merchant Ship Industry, Captain Gamaliel Bradford, Sunday, 15 December 1799

½ past 2 pm abreast of Cape Spartell about 2 miles from the shore—wind dies——modederate, & breezy by spells all night with some rain—beat down thro' the Gut and anchored in Gibralter rode—½ past 2 oC. am

at 8. am came on to blow hard. drifted athwart the hawrse of an

English brigg & he cut away our cable

Monday morning — got our anchors — and prepared to get to sea — [Col. of G. & E. W. Bradford.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 16th December 1799

Capth Edward Prebble

of the Essex —

Sir I am honored with your Letter of the 6th Inst. — Having made all my arrangements under the idea of your sailing from New Port, where some articles are sent to meet you; it is now too late to meet you — You must therefore as soon as you are in a situation, proceed to Newport, where you will receive Letters I have already sent, and money, & other articles & if Captain Sever should have got there before you & should have proceeded on his voyage, you must follow him as soon as you can

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr. obed. Servt.

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

[16 December 1799]

Receipt for prize money from capture of Brig Fair American by U S Brig Pickering and the Schooner Frances, by the Pickering, and General Washington

Boston Dec<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> — 1799 — Rec<sup>d</sup> of Capt Edward Preble Commander of Brig *Pickering* the Sum of Nine Hundred & ninety six dollars & <sup>4</sup>%<sub>00</sub> to be paid to Crew of said Vessel for prize money from Capture of Brig Fair American & Sch<sup>r</sup> Francis by Ship Gen<sup>1</sup> Washington & Brig Pickering —

for Higginson & Co George Higginson Extract from log book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 16 December 1799

#### [Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

25th Frimaire

[Sent?] a large Canoe to the Lezard River to get a supply of water. [Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 16 December 1799

Fresh Breezes and pleasant weather, the U S Ships Boston, Gen! Greene and Schooner Experiment in company Capt Little, Capt Perry and Lieut Maley on board the Constitution deliverd to the U S Ship General Greene 32 empty gangcasks

@ 6 P M Cape francois bore S by E seven leagues, the East end of

Tortudas W by S. In 2<sup>d</sup> reef in the Topsails

@ half past 7 wore to S E, set foresail and spanker, @ 11 tackd

to the Northward, Cape Francois S W 1/2 W, 5 miles

AM at 1 light breezes and clear weather, wore to the southwe and hauld up the foresail and lay too main topsail to the mast

At 4 Wore ship to the Northward, light breezes and clear laying

too with the Main topsail to the Mast

Latter part light airs and variable, Ships company employd at

sundry Jobs of the Ships duty setting up Bobstays & @ 12 Meredian Cape francois bore SW by S ½ S 9 leagues Montea christo E by S & two strange sail in sight to leward

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate
Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 16 December 1799

[Salem, Mass.] Wind NW. at 9 am. Made the signals for sailing, but the wind changing to the N E & snow prevented our powder from being taken on board. at 4 p m. took in the signal.

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

To Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General at St. Domingo

(Copy)

CAPE FRANCOIS Deci 17th 1799

Sir, I had the honor of receiving your last favor of the 16th Instenciosing extract of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy. In compliance with your request, I now beg leave to inform you, that the inteligence, I communicated to Capt Little respecting the expected arrival of the three Frigates at the Cape was brought here from different channels from the Islands to windward — from the United States and direct from France by a Schooner, that lately anchored at the mole — it is said that three agents are appointed to superintend the affairs of this Colony, Frem, Fauchet & Adet the latter has declined

coming, but the two former were to embark on board the Frigate La Bravoure of 44 Guns accompanied by two vessels of equal force.

I have no doubt but that these agents were nominated, and still less that preparations were made for their departure. But I have very strong reasons notwithstanding to suppose, that the Order for their embarcation was recall'd soon after the Nomination, the L'Enfant Prodigue, an arm'd vessel dispatch'd from this by General Toussaint arrived in France General Vincent was sent express in her to carry Dispatches to the Directory; and these dispatches not only communicated to them the particulars of Rigauds revolt, and of the Civil war, which succeeded it; but was also accompanied with warm Solicitations from Toussaint that no agents should be sent out during the continuance of the war. He even demanded the recall of the present agent, and hinted that a compliance with his request might prevent many unhappy consequences, which might otherwise take place. It is not therefore to be presumed that the Directory is so void of common sense as to persist in a measure, which could have no good tendency but which might tend to encrease the unhappy Disturbances that now distract this devasted [devastated] Colony I do not therefore imagine that this expedition will take place, But should the agents contrary to every expectation, actually leave France I do not believe that the Cape will be their port of destination. will more probably go to Santo-Domingo, where the Frigates will be more Secure, and where they themselves may obtain the necessary information before they enter upon the Exercise of their functions -

With regard to the arrangements made with General Toussaint, respecting his armed Vessels, they were simply the following Viz,

1st that such arm'd Vessels as he should find absolutely necessary for the defence of his coast, and the termination of the present War in the South, should be respected and suffered to pass without detention, or molestation.

2<sup>nq</sup> that all these vessels should be under his controul and that he should be responsible for their conduct, that no privateers, or arm'd vessels with commissions should be allow'd, and that all his vessels should be furnished with the necessary pass-ports, and cruise within

5 leagues of the Land —

3rd That the merchant Vessels belonging to Merchants, residing in that part of the Colony under his immediate Jurisdiction, should be suffered to carry on the coasting trade, and go from this to any of the Neighboring Islands without molestation or detention provided they were furnished with the necessary passports

I remain with respect & Esteem Sir Your most Obed<sup>†</sup> Servant

(Signed) EDWARD STEVENS

Cap<sup>†</sup> SILAS TALBOT
Commodore of the U S Squadron
on the S<sup>‡</sup> Domingo Stations
on board the U S Frigate Constitution

[LC, J. Sever Papers, NDA Photostat.]

[17 December 1799]

## Captain Edward Preble's Receipt for the U.S. Frigate Essex

The Committee for building a Frigate in Salem for the United States, having delivered to my charge the said Frigate, called the Essex, with her hull, masts, spars and rigging complete, and furnished me with one complete suit of sails, two bower cables and anchors, one stream cable and anchor, one hawser and kedge anchor, one tow line, four boats and a full set of spare masts and spars except the lower masts and bowsprit. I have, in behalf of the United States, received the said Frigate Essex, and signed duplicate receipts for the same.

Edward Prebel, Capt. U. S. N.

SALEM, Dec. 17, 1799.

[NR&L, Nr:P922-14, Essex, by G. H. Preble.]

## [12 November to 17 December 1799]

List of Seamen, Ordinary Seamen, and Boys, enlisted by Samuel Conant, Recruiting Officer, for the U.S. Ship Essex Captain Edward Preble U.S. Navy, commanding

	1		r	<del></del>
Time of enlist ment	Names	Stations	Wages pr Month	Wages advanced
Novi 1		Carp* Mate	\$18	\$36
1		Or Master	17	34
1	John Howard	Boat. Mate	20	40
1	William Patterson	Gune Mate	l <u>2</u> 0	40
1	Charles Mitchell	Seaman	17	34
1	Tho: Burk	Ordinary	14	28
1	James Day Junt	Seaman	17	34
1	James Wallace	Mastr Arms	18	36
1	Joseph Newhall	Armourer	18	36
1	David Green	Coop+ Mate	15	30
1	James Fox	Seaman	17	34
1	John Daniels	Воу	10	20
1	Richard Hogans	Boy	12	24
1	Jon* Garner	Boy	8	16
1		Ordinary	14	28
1		Seaman	17	34
1	George Clark	Ordinary	14	28
1.	John Vincent	Seaman	17	34
1	John Gregory	Boy	8	16
		-	-	
1.		Ordinary	12	24
1.		Ordinary	14	28
1		Ordinary	12	24
13		Ordinary	13	26
18	William Perkins Jun	Ordinary	13	26
13	Gurden Pitcher	Ordinary	13	26
13		Ordinary	14	28
19	William Lakeman	Or Master	17	34
19		Воу	īi	22
. 19		Воу	ii	22
19		Seaman.	17	34
19		Seaman	17	84
19		Seaman	17	34
2		Seaman	17	34
20		Boy	12	24
2		Seaman	17	34
2:	William Brown	Seaman	17	84
2	William English	Seaman	17	34
2	John Dalton	Boy	îi	22
2	Francis Barker Junr	Boy	īō l	20
	1			564
2	Andrew Knowland	Cook	18	86
2		0. 8	12	24
2	John Carrico	A. 8	17	34
22	James Woodbuary	A. S	17	24

List of Seamen, Ordinary Seamen, and Boys, enlisted by Samuel Conant, Recruiting Officer, for the U. S. Ship Essex, Captain Edward Preble U. S. Navy, commanding—Continued

Pime o enlist- ment	Names	Stations	Wages pr Month	Wages advanced
ovi 2		A. S.	\$17	\$34
2	Luke Burnham	0. 8.	13	26
25 26	David Putnam Winthrop Friend	Воу	13 8	26 16
2	William Burr	A. S	17	34
$\bar{2}$	Richard Eustice	Воу	10	34 20 28
2	l William Butman	O. S.	14	28
2	Thomas Jones	A. 8.	17	34 34
2	Benj+ M*Donaid   William Perkins	A. S	17 17	34
2	Joshua Wallace	A. S	17	34 34
2	David Callam	Bov	îö	20
3	William Ash	A. S	17	34
3	Moses Burnham Jung	O. S	13	26
3	Moses Burnham	A. 8.	17	34
3		0. 8 0. 8	14 12	28 24
3	Samuel Harraden	A, S.	17	34
ecr	William Treffery	Cooks Mate	17	34
	William Treffery William Woodbuary	O. S	12	24 34
	I Thomas Curties	A. S	17	34
	John Jackson	A. S	17 17	34 34
	Samuel Gale Jung	Boy	10	20
	Arther Langsford	A. S.	17	34
	3   Michel Dean	A. S	17	20 34 34
	James Brown	O. 8	14	28
	Geo G. Bell	Boy	12	24 28 28 28 28 34 34
	Jacob Very	0.8,	14 14	28
	William Very	0. S.	14	28
	I Tanah Clastr	A. S.	17	34
	James Livingston	Arms Mate	17	34
	Timothy Hodgkins	Qr Master	17	34 24
	5   John Masuary	Boy	12 17	34
	Thomas Webb	A. 8.	12	24
	Alex: Gorden	A. S	17	34
	John Law	A. S	17	34
	Zebulon Millett	A. S	17	34
	Walter Butler	Воу	11	22 34
	Thomas White	A. S. Qr Master	17	34
	Joseph Knowlton	Ö. 8.	14	34 28
1	George Malzard Junr Sami Sylvester	A. 8.	17	34
1	Sami Sylvester	Boy	12	24
1		A. S.	17	34
1	Simon F Williams	O. S. S. Steward	14 18	34 28 36
i		O. S	15	30
1	Gedion Southworth	O. 8.	14	28
1	Jone C. Phillips	O. S.	14	28 20
1	Jone Nichols	A S	10 17	34
i	2 James Sparrow 2 Benja Lindsay	Supernumary A. S. O. S.	13	26
1	William Barnes	Воу	12	34 26 24 34 34
1	John Robinson	A. S	17	34
1		A. S	17	34
1		Q. §	14	28 34
1		A. S. Boy	17 10	i 20
i	John Alexander	A. S	17	34 34
î	David Gregory	A. S	17	34
1	John Gibson	A. S	17	34
1	John Williamson	A. S	17	34
				235

Errors Excepted

Essex FRIGATE Salem harbour

SAMUEL CONANT

Dec. 17th 1799 [See also List of 12 November 1799 to 3 January 1800.] [LC, EPP, 1799–1800, Vol. 2.]

# To Master Commandant Richard Law, (junior), U. S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 17<sup>th</sup> December 1799

Capt<sup>n</sup> Richard Law Junr.

New London Connecticut

Sir I have the honor to enclose you a Commission as Master

Commandant in the Navy of the United States —

Be pleased to take and subscribe the enclosed oath, and return it to this Office, from the date of which your pay & Emoluments will commence — You will then proceed immediately to New York and take Command of the Brig Richmond which I presume will be in perfect readiness for sea by the time of your arrival, no time is therefore to be lost

I am Sir

Yr obed. Serv

B[ENJAMIN] S[TODDERT].

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

## To Major Commandant W. W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from Abishai Thomas for Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 17<sup>th</sup> December 1799

Major W. W. Burrows

Sir I have the honor to inform you that the French prisoners are in readiness to march at a Moment's warning —

With great respect & Esteem -

I am Šir

Yr obed Servt

By order —

AB. THOMAS.

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

Extract from log book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 17 December 1799

#### [Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

26th FRIMAIRE

Bent the mainsail and the foresail, the Canoe with the water arrived.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

## Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Tuesday, 17 December 1799

Being with Light Brese Clear We<sup>5</sup>

The Middel Light Winds and A Smouth Sea at 4. A M Got on Sundens 4 fatham on the floreda Shor Haled of E N E at 6 Saw the floreda Land

The Latter Plesent Breses Set the Stering Sails the Wind Eincling to the So and W4

[Latitude Observed 25° 11′ N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 17 December 1799

Moderate breezes and clear weather, lying too Squadron in company, employd working up Junk, Returnd the General Greene the 33 Gangcask Rec<sup>d</sup> the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1799 remaining in the Constitution four Butts and too leagurs belonging to the Gen! Greene, @ 3 saw a strange sail bearing E S E which the Boston chac'd and brought down to the Constitution for Examination a Hamburgh ship

from Hamburgh bound to Cape francois

@ 8 filld and made sail in towards the Cape in order to prevent vessels passing to the Cape, wore and tackd as nessasary to keep clear of the land, AM @ 3 spoke with an american Schooner from Marblehead bound to cape francois. @ day light made sail to work to windward, saw the Squadron on different directions, @ 10 parted company with the General Greene she being orderd in to Cape francois, employd washing and fumigating between decks, @ 12 Meredian light airs and variable Cape francois SW by S. seven leagues Observed the Mainmast to labour very much about 10 or 12 feet below the Tressletrees

[NYHS, NHSC.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 18th December 1799

JAMES & EBENEZER WATSON

New York —

Gentlemen I am honored with your letters of the 10th, 11th & 13th

You may send all the round as well as the Canister Shot, calculated for the 32 pounders Carronades, but if you have not sent them off prior to receipt of this, do not ship them until the breaking up of the Ice in the Spring — The mode you have adopted for shipping the stores ordered for the Frigates Congress & Essex is satisfactory — If not already done be pleased to forward forthwith to Captains Sever & Prebble, duplicates of the Bills of Lading, or receipts you may have taken from the Captains of the Vessels on board of which these Stores were Shipped, they may probably yet get to hand before the sailing of the Frigates — We are not in want of any 12lb Carronades —

Enclosed are Indents of Stores wanting for the Frigate Constitution, Captain Talbot which be pleased to procure to be sent in some Merchant Vessel bound to Cape Francois under convoy of the Richmond—

I suppose that Vessel will sail about the beginning of January— The method of ascertaining the Tonnage of Vessels in the port of Philadelphia is enclosed agreeably to your request of the 30 Novr

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen
Yr obed Servt
[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To Captain John Barry, U. S. Navy, from Thomas Bulkeley, U. S. Consul, Lisbon, Portugal

Lisbon the 18 Decem<sup>r</sup> 1799

Sir I received information yesterday that His Royal Highness The Prince Regent has ordered a strict Quarantine to be laid on all vessels coming from the United States in consequence of the Yellow

Fever, a translation of which is as follows —

"The Prince Regent Our Master having successively "received the intelligence of the most fatal destruction which "has been caused and continues to cause in the United States "of English America the terrible and Mortiferous Contageon "the Yellow fever which lays waste and destroys that Country "His Royal Highness fearing that a similar Contageon may "unhappily communicate to ourselves — Orders that your "Lordship takes the most providential precautions in this "respect ordering to be examined & reconnoitered with the "strictest vigilence all ships and their Equipage which come "from the said United States & their Ports and enter in the "Port. God Preserve your Lordship many Years Palace of "Queluz the 14 December 1799"—

signed D' RODRIGO DE LOUZA COUTINHO — Minister of State for the Marine Department

To M<sup>†</sup> Annaulto Jose de Maudo Portugal Guarda Mor of the Health Office

signed Man! Cypriano da Costa

& follows the order of the Guardamor of the Health Office — translation

"The Judge Conservator & Principal Superintendent of the "Health of this Court and Kingdom Orders to be remitted to "you the inclosed Authentic Copy of the Royal Decree by "which thro this Tribunal of the Health Office at Bellem are "to be taken all precautions relative to the contents of the "same Royal Decree leaving all vessels coming from the Ports "named in the same Royal Decree under quarantine; giving "him immediate advice on their arrival of the state in which "they come their Equipage and cargoes they bring —

Sir you will accordingly perform your duty without the "least neglect, that on discovering any you will be punished

"God preserve you many Years Lisbon the

"16 December 1799 ---

"Signed Manoel Cypriano da Costa

"To
"M' GUARDAMOR OF THE HEALTH FOR
"the Port of Bellem —"

Without I have it my Power with some Authentic document to produce to this Government convincing them that the fever is entirely abated in the United States all vessels will be laid under a strict Quarantine which will be very prejudicial and detrimental to their voyages & the Concern'd I have therefore to request, If you can pass such a Certificate under Oath or affirmation that you will do it in benefit of Our Commerce The United States which you Com-

mand being the last arrival The Certificate shou'd set forth the time of your sailing & if there is on board any letter that can be relied on or any printed docum! which sets forth the disorder having entirely abated the paragrapf ought to be copied in the certificate which will strengthen it much & shall be much obliged to you to have it signed by Yourself & some of your principal Officers on board — & if Judge Ellsworth & Gov! Davie will sign it with their titles it will add great strength — Excuse my giving you so much trouble & believe me Sir with great respect

Sir

Your humble and Obed! Servant

THOMAS BULKELEY

To Commodore BARRY U. S. Frigate Bellem

Inclosed I beg leave to send you a sheet of paper on which request your passing the Certificate & date it on board the *United States* Frigate off Bellem —

[Barry P. Barnes Col., NHSC, NYHS.]

## Extract from log book of the American Merchant Brig Columbea, Wednesday, 18 December 1799

Beings Light Ares of Wind and Pleset Wether at 5 P M in Stering Sails the Wind Eincling to the Nored at 5 Cap florada Bor W N W ½ N Dis<sup>‡</sup> 4 Leag

The Midel Light Breses and Clear Wether at 6 A M taked to the

Nored

The Latter Light Breses and Clear Wether all Sails Set [Latitude Observed 26° 38′ N.]

[MSB, New London, Conn.]

# Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 18 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and cloudy, employd working up Junk @ 4 Parted company with the Boston she being ordered to cruise to windward of Monte a christo

Employd exerciseing Great Guns and Small arms, @ 6 Tackd to the Northward and Shortn'd sail *Experiment* in company Cape Francois S W by S. 4 leagues, Wore as nessasary to keep in sight of the Cape

AM @ 2 saw a strange sail bearing E S E

@ daylight boarded an american Schooner from Norfolk bound to Cape francois, employd staying the Topmasts and setting up the Rigging @ 10 saw a strange sail bearing SE by E made sail and gave chace, @ 12 Moderate breezes and cloudy the chace SE by S three leagues, Cape francois S S W three leagues

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log book of the French Ship *Le Berceau*, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 18 December 1799

#### [Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

27th Frimaire

A privateer entered the Port with one, she fired a salute of 9 guns. [Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate
Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 18 December 1799

[Salem, Mass.] Wind N W & fair weather took our Powder on board, latter part of the day wind shifted to the N E with snow. discharged the Joiners Carpenters Smiths & painters &c &c

[LC, EPP, 1799–1800.]

## To Secretary of State from Robert Ritchie, U. S. Consul, Port Republicain

PORT REPUBLICAIN Dec. 19th 1799

SIR I have already had the honour of informing you that Toussaint Louverture Commander in Chief, having quieted the Nothern & Western Departments had drawn his Forces from these quarters and marched them to the Southward having concentred his strength there, to effect a formidable & decisive attack on Jakemel & the Aux Cayes'.

The collected body he put in motion some time since, & his army has actually been before the Town of Jacquemel these fifteen days past. The nature of the Country rendering impracticable the transportation of Artillery & Baggage the General availed himself of several French Armed Ships that this Government have had under requisition for their service since their arrival from France; and embarked on board of them all his Artillery Ammunition & Baggage, & gave orders to the Fleet consisting of the Ships Elan & Egyptien of 18 & 20 Guns, the Brig Levrier of 14 Guns & the Schooners Vengeur Charlotte Unique & Gen! Dessaline to form the blockade of Jacquemel — They departed from Leogane about twenty days since furnished by Hugh Cathcart Esqre British Agent (resident here), with Passports signed by himself and Doctor Stevens fully expressing their destination and object —

The General has been anxiously expecting the arrival of those vessels off Jaquemel, as the operations of his Army are retarded for the want of the Artillery; when to his great mortification & deep regret he yesterday learnt that the Elan Equiption Levrier & Vengeur

were captured & carried into Jamaica —

This information was bro; by the Rattler Sloop of War who appeared off this Harbour and sent her boat on Shore with a letter to M; Cathcart — the grounds of the capture & reasons assigned by the Admiral, I cannot undertake to inform you of; you will no doubt learn them from higher authority. It is not for me either to pass any comments, but I regard it as my duty to inform you that having a personal interview yesterday with the General I found his vexation & disappointment great, he could not avoid plainly discerning his chagrin & expressing himself warmly on the Subject —

Should any thing further occur relative to this business I shall take the liberty of communicating it

I am Sir

> With great respect Your most obt Servt

Rob<sup>t</sup> Ritchie
Consul for the United States of America

Permit me to inform you that the Brig Paragon of Philada Benja Houston master dispatched by my Commercial House for Mole St Nicholas to compleat her Cargoe with Coffee that I had purchased to be there ladened, was met off that Port the 8th Inst by His Majestys Brig Pellican, captured & ordered to Jamaica, no objections started to its being real American Property, the Plea made, the want of formality in the Passport, it not having the British Agents Signature, it being impracticable to obtain it at the time he being absent, I made a note of this circumstance at the bottom of the Passport & should have expected it would have commanded respect; and Properly not be sacrificed on a point of punctilio I flatter myself the Brig will be liberated on her arrival in Jamaica, by the interference of the Admiral or Governor — I shall take the liberty of communicating to you the event —

ROB! RITCHIE

[Mass. HS Pickering Papers, Vol. 25, Page 313.]

To Stephen Higginson & Company, Navy Agents, Boston Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 19th December 1799

Stephen Higginson & C<sup>o</sup>

Boston -

Gentlemen I am honored with your Letters of the 7th 10th & 11th Inst —

The method you have adopted to procure Pine Plank for the Decks of the 74 Gun Ship is certainly preferable to getting it from the southward, it is however 25 pt Cent higher than we had estimated, yet if you cannot obtain it on better terms, you may engage the whole wanting for the Ship at the rate you have mentioned — It is to be regretted that you cannot procure Oak in your Country of sufficient size for the Keel, the transporting of such large timber from the Southward, will be attended with considerable difficulty and Expence which however must be submitted to, if the article in question of proper dimensions can not be otherwise obtained —

In such important Vessels, we must not admit a stick of timber liable to serious objections — The mode of procuring it from whatever place you may determine, be pleased to adopt at once, and without further advice from me — That part of your letter of the 7th which refers to one previously written by you to the Accountant, has been answered by him — In the case of deceased persons, I see not how letters of Administration can be dispensed with, & as to persons discharged having balances due them, they may give orders on the Accountant

of the Navy for their Balances, which being ascertained by the Accountant, and paid by you for the Sums actually due can be admitted to the Credit of your Account — The Department is not at present in want of money in Virginia — If in the course of next month any should be necessary there, arrangements may probably be made to meet your views — My Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst. contained the Information solicited in yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> as to the time the Frigates would probably remain at Batavia — A remittance of 15,000 Dollars was ordered for your accommodation the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst.

An answer to yours of the 11th is the subject of another letter of this

days date —

I have the honor to be Gentlemen Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

[19 December 1799]

Extract from a letter from Captain Thomas Brown, commanding the American private armed Ship Albemarle, to his owner, Fortesque Cuming of New York, concerning engagement with a French privateer

TRINIDAD, IN CUBA January 16, 1800, received via Havanna.

"I arrived at this port the 8th inst. after a severe action, equal, I believe, to any since Americans have had liberty to arm to protect their property. On the 19th December, in lat. 22, 37, north, long. 67, 49, west, fell in with a French privateer of twelve guns and from 70 to 100 men, full of oars, and full of musquetry, his bloody flag hoisted. Gave him a few broadsides, then put before the wind under our three topsails, firing with our stern chasers about an hour, when he laid us aboard on our larboard quarter. By this time he had fired at least twenty broadsides at us, with a continual fire of musquetry. We received them with our boarding pikes, and killed the first officer that attempted to board through our boarding nettings. My boatswain was killed before they attempted to board. I had my hat shot through the crown and front rim. We are cut all to pieces, both sails and riggin. By captain Reed, of the brig Nancy, who is here loading, and will sail in all this month, I will write you more particularly, and send by him copy of protest, &c."

N. B. The Albermarle had ten 3 pounders and two 6 pounders stern

chases, and twenty men.

[LC, "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 18 March 1800.]

Extract from log book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes, commanding, 19 December 1799

[Translation]

[Anchored in Port de la Liberté near Fort Fleur de l'épée, Grande Terre, Guadeloupe.]

28th Frimaire

In the afternoon strong sea-breeze which fell toward evening. Sounded the usual call to quarters.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 19 December 1799

Moderate breezes and cloudy, in chace to the Southward @ 1 shortn'd sail and boarded the chace an american Schooner from S<sup>†</sup> Thomas<sup>‡</sup> bound to Cape Francois. @ 2 fill'd and stood in towards the Reef which extends to the Eastw<sup>‡</sup> of Cape francois, Sent an officer and a Boats crew to sound the North part, @ 3 Wore to the Northward and made the Signal for the Experiment to come within hail. @ 4 Fresh breezes and clear weather lying too waiting for the Boat to return from surveying the reef, @ 5 the Boat returnd filld and made sail to the Northward. @ 12 Midnight Moderate Breezes and cloudy, Working to windward to the Northward of Cape Francois Made and Shortn'd sail as nessasary

At 12 — Moderate breezes and cloudy Cape Francois S S W. 6 leagues

[NYHS, NHSC.]

[Philadelphia] [20 December 1799]

General Order to the Officers of the U.S. Navy and Marines from Secretary of the Navy

The President with deep affliction announces to the Navy, and to the Marines, the death of our beloved fellow Citizen George Washington, Commander of our Armies, and late President of the United States, but rendered more illustrious by his eminent virtues, and a long series of the most important services, than by the honors which his Grateful Country delighted to confer upon him—

Desirous that the Navy and Marines should express in common with every other discription of American Citizens, the high sense which all feel of the Loss our Country has sustained in the death of this Good and Great Man, the President directs that the Vessels of the Navy, in our own, and foreign ports be put in mourning for one week, by wearing their colours half mast high, and that the Officers of the Navy, and of the Marines, wear crepe on the left arm, below the elbow for Six months.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, 20th December 1799 (Signd) BEN STODDERT.

[NDA. OSW, Vol 3, 1799-1800.]

[20 December 1799]

To the Secretary of the Navy from Master Commandant William Cowper, U.S. Navy

United States' Ship Baltimore at Sea, in lat. 23, 60 N. and lon. 67, 30 W.

Dec. 31, 1799.

SIR, On the 20th of Dec. at 11 A. M. the town of Bassaterre in Guadaloupe bearing ESE 9 or 10 leagues distance, I fell in with and captured the French brig L'Esperance from Guadaloupe, bound to St. Thomas, Andrew Bernard master, loaded with 198 hogsheads of sugar. At 11 A. M. on the 21st, I arrived to an anchor in St. Christophers, with the prize in tow. The above brig is coppered, and 150 tons burthen.

I am, with respect, your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM COOPER

The Hon. Benjamin Stoddert.

[LC, "Connecticut Courant", Conn., 3 February 1800.]

To Captain James Sever, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Essex, Salem Harbor, Dec. 20, 1799.

DEAR SIR: — The Essex is now at single anchor, and only waiting a favorable wind to sail for Newport. I am in hopes to join you in a very few days. I shall want ten men to complete my complement, half able and half ordinary seamen, independent of the marines I am to receive at Newport.

Please to desire the agent to provide four chaldrons of coal for me.

I am with great respect and esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

EDWARD PREBLE.

James Sever, Esq., Capt. U. S. Frigate Congress.

[NR&L, Nr: P922-14, Essex by G. H. Preble.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 20 December 1799

Moderate breezes and clear weather, Employd working to windward to the northward of Cape Francois, @ 4 shortnd sail an brought too. Employd Exerciseing Great Guns and small arms, @ 6 shortnd sail and wore to the Northward the Cape SW by W four leagues, @ 7 Brought too with the Main Topsail to the mast, Experiment in company Wore and Tackd as nessasary during the night to keep clear of the land @ 12 Midnight moderate and clear

At daylight saw a strange sail bearing N N E made sail and Gave chace @ half past 8 Shortnd sail and boarded the chace an American Schooner from Portland bound to Jamaica. @ 10 Shortnd sail and Rec<sup>4</sup> M. Stephens the American Consul from Cape Francois @ half past 10 filld and made sail to the Cape. @ 12 Fresh breezes and clear weather Cape francois S by E 6 leagues Experiment in company

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate
Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 20 December 1799

[Salem, Mass.] Wind from N N E to N W first part snow & rain, latter part clear weather at 9 am made the signal for sailing, at 1 pm unmoord but the wind growing faint I ordered the signal to be taken in.

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 20 December 1799

Weighed anchor and proceeded down the Bay. Ship Harry Brig Sally & Schooner [space] under charge

[NA.]

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

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 21st December 1799

The Commissioners of the City of Washington

Gentlemen I do myself the honor to enclose the copy of my letter to you of the 29th Ulto which from the complexion of yours of the 17th Inst this day received, I presumed never reached your hands—

As to any sum beyond 4000 Drs for the 2 squares & it would not be justifiable in me to give it — If you do not think proper therefore to receive, what I can give, the property must remain reserved for the use of the Navy — The President I conceive is not authorized to appropriate this property An Act of Congress will be necessary on the subject In proper time I will apply for such an act

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

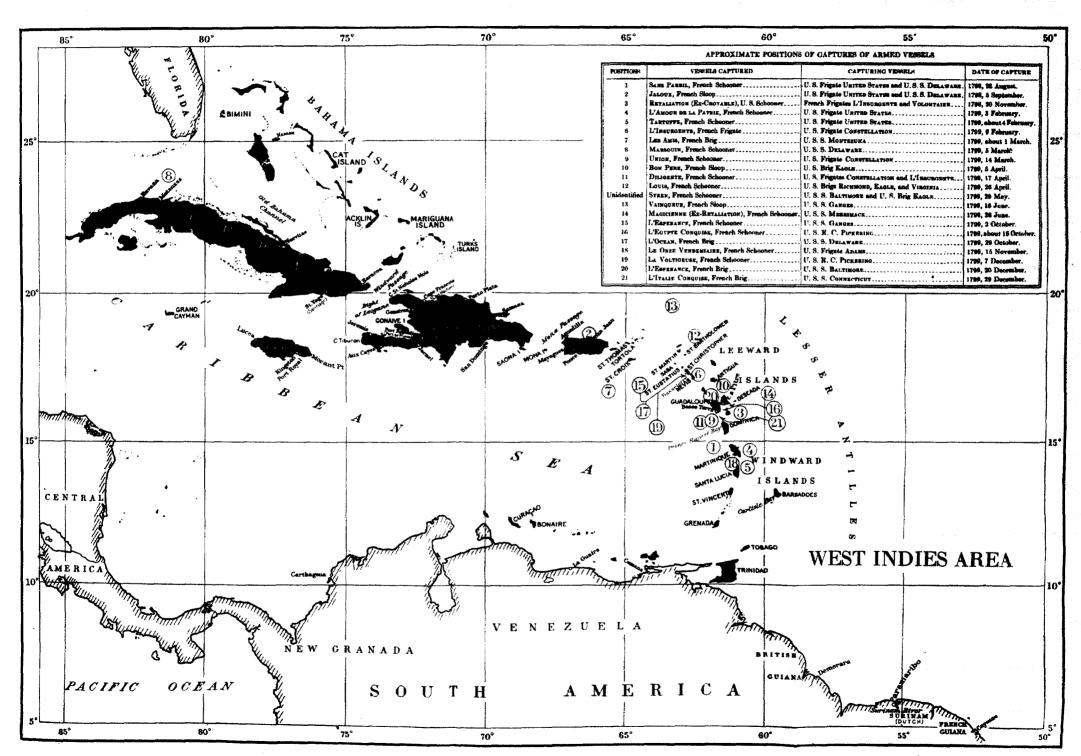
Yr obed Servt

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 21 December 1799

Fresh breezes and cloudy, Employd working to windward to the Northward of Cape Francois, Tackd as nessasary @ half past 5 shortnd sail and brought too off Cape francois M<sup>T</sup> Stephens the American Consul from Cape francois left the Ship. Split the Main top Gallant sail — which we Unbent and Bent another, @ half past 6 filld to the Northward Wore and Tack'd as nessasary to keep sight of the Cape during the night At daylight saw 2 strange sail one bearing E S E the other S S E made sail and Gave chace to the sail S S E tackd as nessasary to chace to windward @ 11 Shortn'd sail and Boarded the chace an Hamburgh Brig from Cape francois bound to Hamburgh, @ half past 11 Tackd in towards the Cape, Employd Working up Junk, @ 12 light airs and clear weather, Cape francois S S E, 5 or 6 leagues & the Experiment in sight from the dock pursueing a sail to the S S E

[NYHS, NHSC.]



Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding United States Ship Ganges, 21 December 1799

Left Cape Henlopen bearing N N W. 8 Leagues [NA.]

To Captain George Little, U. S. Navy, from Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy
U. S. Frigate Constitution off Cape Francois

22nd Dec! 1799 — — —

Sir, the distance is so great between your Position and mine, that I think it very possible, that an Enemies Ships might pass you in the night undiscovered; and so running down to the cape, would be at too great a distance in the morning for you to descry them; or, to act in concert with me, should any assistance be wanted Therefore think it most prudent to direct you to join me here immediately

after the receipt of this -

Doctor Stephens was on board the Constitution the day before Yesterday, and says "that three Frigates that are expected out, are the La Bravoure of 44 Guns the La Cockarde of 44 — and La Syrene of 32, or 36 Guns — But whether those Ships, (in case they approach this Island) will go to the City of S<sup>†</sup> Domingo, Port.Plate, or make direct for the Cape is uncertain — News has arrived also that a detachment of Land Forces are come out from France to reinforce Cayenne, Guadaloupe and S<sup>†</sup> Domingo, and that they have arrived at the two former, and may be expected at this Island Daily.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Your Obedient Serv<sup>‡</sup>

SILAS TALBOT.

Capt LITTLE of the Frige Boston
[F. D. Roosevelt Collection.]

To Charles Biddle, agent for prizes taken by U. S. Frigate Constellation, from Captain Thomas Truxtun, U. S. Navy

Constellation Hampton Road 224 December 1799 —

DEAR SIR I have received your favour of the 12th. I am half

distracted at detention — but hope to be out to day.

Mr Stoddert may direct the payment of the Prize Money if he pleases — but I must not be responsible for any Consequences, of Non Condemnation hereafter.

M<sup>r</sup> Bond you recommended as your friend — I hope he will do honor to your Recommendation, and that you will soon be possessed of the amount of the prize bills.

I have sent you by last mail a Power to Receive my Interest on Stocks & some time since a letter to M<sup>‡</sup> Patterson, to pay you balance of My Account.—

Exchange will be above par considerably very soon.

forward the enclosed to M<sup>18</sup> Truxtun — and with my sincere continuance of esteem — Beleive me always Your friend &c.

THOMAS TRUXTUN

PS: Best Compliments to Mrs Biddle & family.
[Haverford College.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot. U. S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 22 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and clear weather. Employd working up Junk, Sailmakers Repairing a Fore storm staysail and Main Top Gallant Carpenters employd as occasionally

@ 6 shortnd sail and Tackd to the Northward, Cape Francois SSW three or four miles from 9 PM till 4 AM light airs and variable

Ships head to the Northward

At Daylight saw Cape Francois bearing S by E four leagues and

the Experiment In under the land

@ 9 AM saw a strange sail bearing N N W made the Experiment signal to come within hail, @ 10 the Experiment was orderd to part company and proceed to Monte a christo about 11 leagues to the Eastward of Cape francois

At 11 Assembled the ships company and performed divine Service

Employd Whitewashing between decks.

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 22 December 1799

Wind N N W, At 8 am weigh'd anchor & sailed for New-Port, to compleat the equipment of the Ship for a Cruize, on passing Fort Pickering fired a salute of 16 Guns, which was returned, at 9 am discharg'd the harbour Pilot. The Ships compy consists of 228 Officers Seamen Boys & Marines, at 11 am Cape Ann Light house bore N N E 5 Leagues Wind W N W inclining to the S W

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 22 December 1799

Shewed Signal for every vessel to carry a light in the Night Shortn'd Sail for the fleet to come up. -

Mizen Top-Sail aback.

Stiff breezes the fleet all in sight No Sun. —

[NA.]

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

[PHILADELPHIA] Navy Department 23rd December 1799

Mess<sup>19</sup> James & Ebenezer Watson

New York -

Gentlemen I am honored with your letter of the 20th Inst — You are right in respect to the quantity of 10, 6, and clout nails to be sent to the Constitution, 6000 in number of each of the former and 7000 of the latter are to be sent, With respect to cordage it does not appear to me to be proper or necessary to have any considerable quantity on hand, — It is liable to damage by keeping and it seldom occurs that in such a port as New York, any of our Vessels can want supplys, but that good cordage can be obtained as easy as

many other articles — When you ship the articles ordered for Batavia, be pleased to give directions to the Supercargo of the Vessel, that in the event of neither of the Frigates arriving at Batavia previous to her being ready to return, or if circumstances should prevent her entering the port of Batavia, & oblige her to proceed to some other port, he will sell the whole of the articles in question for the best price that can be obtained in good Bills on respectable Houses in the United States, & transmit the same to this Office as early as may be, and to insure the arrival of one sett of the Bills at least, that he send Duplicates & Triplicates by different Vessels — I cannot directly ascertain at what time the Live Oak for the 74 Gun Ship will be ready for delivery, As soon as I am informed, the necessary Communication shall be made to you — As to the steps to be taken for bringing it from Georgia — We are not in want of any more kentledge —

I have the honor to be Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

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

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 23rd December 1799

Capth James Sever

SIR Enclosed you will receive Duplicate receipts of Captain Josiah for the provisions, shipped on board the Ship China for the Frigates Congress & Essex — one of which be pleased to [give] to Captain Prebble —

I am Sir

Yr obed St

[Enclosures are in NDA, too voluminous to include herein.] [NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 23 December 1799

Light airs and cloudy, Employd Whitewashing between decks, @ 4 a breeze sprung up from E N E parted comp? with the Experiment @ 5 shortnd sail wore to the southward and boarded an American Schooner from Newyork bound to Cape francois, @ half past 5 filld and made sail in towards the Cape @ 7 Tackd to the Northward and shortnd sail Cap francois S S W two leagues Wore and Tackd as nessasary to keep sight of the land during the night. At day light saw two strange sails bearing S by E which we afterwards saw hoist american colours and Anchor In Cape francois Roads, Employd working up Junk and Washing between decks.

At 12 Meredian light airs and variable Cape francois S W 7 Miles and two strange sail E S E which appears to be bound to Cape

Francois

[Latitude Observed 19° 50' N.]

[NYHS. NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 23 December 1799

Made a Signal for each vessel to carry light in the Night Spoke a Ship from Kennebeck bound for Jamaica. No Sun. — [NA.]

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 24th December 1799

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States —

The Secretary of the Navy has the honor to report on the reference made to him, on the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst. by the House of Representatives of the United States of the petition of Sundry French officers prisoners

at Burlington.

That the person to whose charge the said prisoners were committed has been instructed, and has long since obeyed the instructions to admit to the privileges of parole within reasonable limits, such of them as could produce satisfactory evidence of being commissioned Officers — And that in no instance where application has been made under proper circumstances, has permission to depart from the United States been refused to Prisoners of this description. —

That no specified provision having been made by Law for the sustenance of French Prisoners, they have been allowed in some instances more but never less than one pound of bread, half a pound of meat, and one pound of vegetables each per day. That deeming this allowance sufficient, no discrimination has been made between the Officers and Privates, except that the former have been permitted to draw either the provisions or the whole in money, — And that besides provisions the prisoners have been furnished with coarse but comfortable cloathing, & blankets, and when the season required it with fuel.

The Secretary begs leave further to report — That it is a fact not to be doubted, that the American Citizens who have fallen into the hands of the Agents of the French Government in the West Indies have experienced treatment less indulgent than that of which the French prisoners at Burlington complain, and that in his Opinion neither humanity nor policy require, any change in the conduct heretofore observed towards French prisoners —

All which is Respectfully submitted —

(Signed) BEN STODDERT
Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Navy

[NDA. Cong LB, Vol. 1.]

To Hon. James Watson, Philadelphia, Pa., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 24th December 1799

Honble James Watson Esq! Philade

Sir I expect we shall be able to spare two Frigates for the Mediteranean, in March and it has been contemplated by the President so to

employ them — We can send none before March indeed if we had any to spare, it would not be prudent to send them to those seas in Winter. The Frigates I mean are the *Philadelphia*, and the *Chesapeak* at Norfolk both launched, and both preparing for Sea

I have the honor to be Sir Yr obed Sert

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

[24 December 1799]

Extract from a letter from a Gentleman on board the U. S. Ship John Adams, concerning her Officers who were taken prisoners and carried by Spanish troops to St. John

[U. S. S. John Adams] St. Kitts, Jan. 22. [1800]

We are just arrived at St. Kitts, from a cruise off Porto Rico. day before Christmas, our second lieutenant Mr. Smith, the lieutenant of Marines, purser, and a midshipman were sent on shore about 25 miles from St. John to buy provisions; the instant they landed they were surrounded by Spanish troops and carried to St. Johns, where they were put in confinement and treated as prisoners of war; their not returning at night, and captain Cross knowing what a jealous set of people the Spaniards are, suspected that something of that sort had happened; - he waited until the next day, and then run down for St. Johns; lieutenant Flagg and a midshipman were sent on shore to demand the prisoners of the governor; they were detained one hour at the Moro Castle, and then an officer was sent to confer with the lieutenant, who demanded an audience with the governor but was refused, upon which he sent word to the governor, that he should return in the morning, and if he was then refused an audience, that they should immediately return to America and make a formal complaint to our government, of which, I suppose, the governor being fearful, not only gave an audience the next day, but invited them both to dine with him and set the prisoners at liberty in the evening - all except Mr. Smith who refused to leave his prison until the boat and every thing which was taken from him were returned into his hands, which being done the next day, all things were settled amicably. A few days after we took a prize and then left the station for St. Kitts, our cruise being out.

To-morrow we shall sail again on a cruise to windward of Guadaloupe where we expect to fall in with a French 20 gun ship which is

cruising off there.

Captain Truxtun is just arrived from Philadelphia in the Constellation; there are now seven United States vessels in Bassetere harbour, three of which are frigates.

[LC, "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 5 March 1800.]

Extract from log book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes commanding, 24 to 25 December 1799

[Translation]

3rd to 4th Nivose

Took the draught aft [mutilated]

forward [mutilated]

Difference [illegible]

Height of the gun deck

Starboard 5 feet Port\_\_\_\_\_ 5 feet

0

Unmoored in the afternoon

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

## Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate Constellation, Tuesday and Wednesday, 24 and 25 December 1799

Having resumed the command of the Constellation, after a resignation of my appointment, in the Navy of the United States. - Which Resignation was not accepted by the President — but on the contrary — he has directed me to command ye Squadron on the Windward Island Station, whoes Rendezvous is St Kitts,

I have this 24th day of December at 10 AM Weighed from Hampton Roads and proceeded down the Bay — as did a Store Ship for the

Squadron, and Several merchantmen under convoy.

December 25th at 2 PM discharged the pilot, being without the

light house on Cape Henry about two Leagues. —
at 3 ditto, the Light house bore NW B W, four leagues distance, from which I take my departure. — Pleasant weather and smooth water — all hands employed unbending the cables, stowing the anchors - Repairing rigging and sails, and making top Gallant studding sails, together with putting every article in order — in all the different departments.

at Noon the convoy all in sight, and the weather delightfull for the

Season.

Longitude Account 74°.31′ W. Latitude Observed 35°.10' N.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

### Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 24 December 1799

Moderate breezes and cloudy, employd working up Junk @ 2 the wind wore round to N N W bore up and steerd towards Cape Francois the two strange [sail] mentiond bearing E S E made sail to the Eastward towards Monte a christo @ 5 shortnd sail and came to the wind, Cape francois SW by S two leagues @ 6 saw two strange sail bearing N N E steering in for the Cape @ 7 Calm ships head to the eastward, Sent an officer and an Armd Boat to Review

and Reconeitre the Enemys ship which was hourly expected to sail from cape francois @ 9 the Boat anchord in 10 fathoms water two miles to the eastward of the fort, wore and Tackd as nessasary during the night to keep within communication of signal with the Boat which was orderd on that service

At 6 in the Morning the Boat returnd saw two strange sail bearing E N E made sail and gave chace, @ 8 made the private signal to the chace answ<sup>4</sup> by one of the U S Ships saw the other sail hoist American colours, @ 9 shortnd sail, and brout too and Joind company with the U S ship Boston In company with the Schooner Experiment N N W 7 miles Made the Bostons Signal for a Captain,

Supplyd the United States Ship General Greene with some carpenters stores @ 12 light airs and variable Boston and Experiment

in company Cape francois S S W four leagues

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate

Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 24 December 1799

Wind SSE to NW fresh gales & rain, ordered fires between decks, the humidity of the Air being dangerous to the health of the people, sounded from 35 to 60 fath, in passing out the Channel, Course W S W 127 Distance

Latitude Obs4 at noon 39° 42′ No Long DR 71° 43′ W

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 24 December 1799

At ½ past M. a Man was washed from the head, M<sup>r</sup> Love 3<sup>4</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Lewis & John Weir fell from the Jolly boat M<sup>r</sup> Love was saved by the brig Sally, M<sup>r</sup> Lewis & John Weir by the Cutter, Jonas Kindburg Seaman was drowned — Lost the Jolly boat. —

Strong Gales hand the Topsails -

None but the Harry in Sight. —

[NA.]

To Naval Constructor Joshua Humphreys, U. S. Navy, from Abishai Thomas for Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 25<sup>th</sup> December 1799

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS Esq!

Sir In your estimate of rigging you say, For the largest Frigate Main Shrouds 10½ Cable Laid, second size 9 Inch full ditto —

36 Gun Frigates 8½ Inch.... Ditto 32 Ditto.... 8 Inch.... ditto

For standing rigging for small Vessels and for running rigging for large and small — Coils of 7½ Inch Hauser laid 7d° 6½ Inch do\_6, 5½, 5, 4½, 4 — 3½ 3 — 2½, & 2 — 2d°

The Gentleman who is about to contract to furnish the Cordage suggests that the Cable laid Cordage should be expressed "4 Strand Cable Laid" and that the smaller ropes for the small vessels should not be expressed as hauser laid — Will you be so good as to shew me where to draw the line of distinction in respect to the latter if any is necessary or proper, and whether the distinction suggested by the Gentleman in question as to the Cable laid be necessary —

I am Sir &c

AB THOMAS

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis Andre Senes commanding, 25 to 26 December 1799

[Translation]

4th to 5th Nivose

In the evening I weighed anchor and We anchored at the entrance and within the Channel. Not being able to go out on account of calm.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Wednesday, 25 December 1799

Light airs from N N W At 2 Bore up and steerd down for cape francois employd as nessasary. @ 4 shortn'd sail and brought too Squadron in company, Cape francois S S W three leagues @ 7 light airs from N W, parted with the squadron as there orders lead them to different bearings and different stations, @ half past 7 sent an officer and an Arm'd boat to reconeitre the harbour of Cape francois @ 10 Calm and cloudy ships head to the Northward, @ 12 Cape francois S W by W two or three leagues, from 12 Midnight till day light light airs and variable Ships head from N by W to N by E @ day light saw Cape francois S W 7 or 8 leagues the wind being light during the night and a current running to the eastward prevented us from communication by signal with the Boat which was ordered away in the evening, @ 10 the wind came round to N W made sail in towards the cape, @ 12 light airs and variable the Cape S W 6 leagues, Boston and Experiment South three leagues.

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 25 December 1799

Made Signals to the Harry No. 6, 18, 52 —

[NA.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate Constellation, Thursday, 26 December 1799

Throughout the whole of these twenty four hours Moderate Breezes and pleasant weather.

Employed all hands at doing the necessary duty of the Ship.

at Noon the Convoy all in Sight. — find the Gulph Stream to have Set very Strong — The Ship having made 36' Southing less than the courses and distance by log would give her. —

The Masters of the Merchantmen are found to be very inattentive

to the course, and very remiss in making Sail. -

I have therefore repeatedly been obliged to repeat the Signal to make more Sail and to keep in close order. —

[Longitude Account 72°.39′ W.] Latitude Observed 34°.07′ N.]

[HS. of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U.S. Navy, commanding, Thursday, 26 December 1799

Light airs and variable, @ 1 a fresh breeze sprung up from the E N E, @ 2 Shortnd sail Squadron in company the Boat Return'd from the cape, @ 3 saw two strange sail bearing E by N, made sail and Gave chace, @ 4 answerd the private signal of the chace @ half past 4 answerd private signal of a sail N N E, @ 5 shortn'd sail and Joind company with the U S Ship Herald and Brig Agusta made the signal for a Captain from the Herald and Brig Agusta @ 7 parted company with the Agusta and Herald the former being ordered to S¹ Thoma³ and the latter to Cape Nichola Mole @ half past 7 wore and ran in towards the cape, Boston in company and Experiment Wore and Tackd as nessasary to keep clear of the land and in sight of the cape during the night, @ daylight saw two strange sail bearing N E apparently bound to the cape.

@ 9 saw seven sail comeing out of Cape francois bore up and brought them too. American Vessels bound to different ports in

America

At 12 fresh breezes and cloudy, Cape francois bearing S by W two leagues, Squ[a]dron in company

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau, Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes commanding, 26 to 27 December 1799

[Translation]

5th to 6th Nivose Year 8

In the [after?] noon two English frigates appeared off the entrance to the Port [mutilated] evening there came alongside all the boats of the [mutilated] to tow at the same hour got under way slowly [?] to the ENE. The [Port?] Officer had a light placed on the buoys to guide us in the channel [mutilated] we were outside of the channel, I had the ship hove to in order to [wait for?] our boats. Shortly after we set our course for Basse Terre. light breeze from the NE. at midnight being apprehensive [mutilated] and South of [?] Point Sainte Marie, we sighted the two English frigates to windward, follow-

ing the same course as we were, and at a distance of about ¾ of a league, I observed them carefully seeing that they did not change course, I [thought ?] they did not sight me I continued on my course, at [mutilated] after midnight I lost sight of them having changed course in order to stand for Cabesterre at 2 in the morning we anchored

at 6.30 we moored with two anchors ahead. Shore anchor dropped in 8 fathoms and the sea anchor in 30 fathoms, with 50 fathoms [chain?] to seaward and 40 fathoms toward the shore. fair weather. East winds. 2 cable lengths from shore

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 26 December 1799

Spoke the Harry & hove to. — Made Sail the Harry in sight. — [NA.]

To Secretary of State from Edward Stevens, U. S. Consul General, Santo Domingo

(Private)

On board the U. States armed Schooner Experiment off Cape Francois Dec. 27. 1799

DEAR SIR I have just had the Honor of receiving your Dispatches by the U. S. Brig Augusta. They were deliver'd to Cap<sup>†</sup> Maley

Yesterday & he has this Instant deliver'd them to me. -

Observing a Ship in Sight bound for Boston I could not refuse myself the Pleasure of acquainting you with the Reception of these Letters as well as with your Favor by the Experiment. In a few Days I shall have an opportunity of answering very fully to the contents of your several Dispatches. —

I am at present bound to Leogane to have a conference with Gen! T—t on the various arrangements made with him for protecting & continuing the commerce between this colony & the U. States. He is detained in the West with the Army & has written me several pressing Letters requesting me to come down. I find an Interview with him absolutely necessary. Much Intrigue has been used and every Engine set at work by the Enemies of the U. States to detach him from our Government but in vain. I have no doubt that I shall arrange every Thing with him in the most amicable manner as soon as I can see him. —

I have had several Interviews with Cap<sup>†</sup> Talbot since I wrote you last. I find him so candid - so prudent & liberal that I am convinced that he will do every Thing that can contribute to the good of the Service & for supporting the Dignity & Interest of the U. States. It is a happy Circumstance for me to have a man of his Character to cooperate with. I shall see him again as soon as I return from the West & shall do every Thing in my Power to assist him in his operations during his Continuance on this Station. --

With Respect to the condemnation of M. Gray's Vessel & that of the Crew I must beg you to excuse me for not answering you particularly at present Not having my Papers on board I cannot send you the necessary Documents to shew you that so far from neglecting these two particular Cases I did every Thing in my Power to procure a Reversal of the Sentences (for they were condemned even before I knew that they had been libelled). When I have a little Leisure I think I shall be able to shew you Sir that this is a fresh Instance of that Calumny and determined Resolution to misinterpret every Thing which has been for some Time pursued by a certain Description of People here who from their connection with the Government of the U. States ought to cooperate with me more liberally than they do. — I esteem M! Gray. The character I have heard of him entitles him to Respect. But depend upon it Sir in the History he has received of this Business he has been most grosly imposed upon. I shall however reserve this Subject for another occassion when I shall write you more fully respecting it. —

This Part of the Colony still continues tranquil. One column of the Army has penetrated as far as Jackamel under the command of Christophe. Another is between that Place & Sal Tren [?] under the Direction of General Desselinus. Together they amount to about 10,000 Men. Jackamel is compleatly invested & would have been captured ere this had not the English taken a Squadron of Toussaint's armed Vessels which he had sent with military stores to cooperate with Christophe in the Reduction of this Place. — What the Cause of this Capture is I do not really know. It has however much deranged Toussaint's Plans and will inevitably prolong the War. He has just [sent] down a Flag of Truce to Jamaica to claim their Release. If the English should refuse & should continue to capture his Vessels the consequences are evident — a Rupture between him & them — & a tedious contest w<sup>th</sup> Rigaud. —

The Constitution and Boston are in sight. The General Greene is at the Cape repairing. She will not be ready for Sea under 10 Days.

I remain Dr Sir

With the highest Esteem & Respect Your most obed Serv!

EDWARD STEVENS

The Honle T. Pickering & & & &

[Mass. HS Pickering Papers, Vol. 42.]

[27 December 1799]

To Secretary of the Navy from Lieutenant Benjamin Hillar, U. S. Navy

[U. S. R. C. Brig] Pickering, at sea, 27th Dec. '99.

Sir, Having this day fell in with, and captured a French privateer of 10 guns and 61 men, an occasion offering to inform you of the same, I pray you to excuse my not being so particular as I otherwise should be.

I have the honor to remain, Sir, Your most obedient servant,
Benjamin Hillar.

Hon. Benjamin Stoddert.

[LC, "Connecticut Courant", (Conn.), 3 February 1800.]

To Robert Oliver & Brothers, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
Navy Department 27th December 1799

ROBERT OLIVER & Brothers

Baltimore—

Gentlemen I am honored with Your Letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> — The two Frigates are to cruise in the Streights of Sunda until towards May when it is expected the vessels at Batavia will be ready to return, and they are then to return with them to the United States — I suppose the Frigates have by this time sailed from Rhode Island, tho I have no advices to that effect I cannot give you any information about signals

I have the honor to be Gentlemen

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

To William Marbury, Navy Agent, Georgetown & Washington, D. C., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 27th December 1799

WILLIAM MARBURY Esq!

George Town —

Sir M<sup>r</sup> Prout tells me that Maffit & Nismith of the City are good Wharf builders, & that labour & Carts are to be had almost for nothing this Winter — Every kind of labour will be immensely high next summer — I wish therefore on this account as well as to have the business progressing that you would begin the Wharf as quickly as possible —

I am Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes commanding, 27 to 28 December 1799

[Translation]

6th to 7th Nivose

Finished the caulking during the day. moderate gale

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate Constellation, Friday, 27 December 1799

Cloudy — dull, heavy weather — threatening Rain and a change of wind to the Westward. —

Employed Repairing various articles in every department.

at Noon the Convoy all in Sight. Overhawled and Corrected the log line and glasses. —

Longitude Account 70°.52′ W. Latitude Observed 33°.03′ N.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U.S. Navy, commanding, Friday, 27 December 1799

Fresh breezes and cloudy, lying too examining thre[e] american Schooners from Cape francois bound to Plymouth and Boston, sent away two french prisoners one to Boston the other to Plymouth @ 3 fill'd and made sail squadron in C<sup>o</sup> @ 5 squally with light showers, Reef'd the courses and sent down Top Gallant Yards, Wore and tackd as nessasary to keep in sight of Cape francois.

@ 12 Midnight more moderate, @ 4 AM light airs and cloudy, let out reefs of the courses up Top Gallant Y<sup>4s</sup> employd setting up

the lower Rigging

Punishd Thomas Williams, Thomas Moody and William Cooper

seamen with 6 lashes for Neglect of duty

@ 12 light airs from the N E Cape francois S S W three leagues Boston in company

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 27 December 1799

Spoke Ship Rachael from Londonderry for Philade gave him 2 lbs. twine & 2 bottles Lamp oil. —

Harry in Sight. —

[NA.]

To Stephen Higginson & Company, Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 28th December 1799

Mess<sup>r</sup> Stephen Higginson & Co *Boston* —

Gentlemen I am this day honored with yours of the 21 Instant — We have no other Frigates besides the Congress & the Essex to spare for Batavia — The West India Trade is too important to be neglected — We ought to have two large Frigates at Cape Francois, two at Guadeloupe, — Our force will admit of but one such vessel at each place neither can be spared for Batavia — if either could be, the mischief would be done, before they could arrive there, first returning to this Country to prepare for so long a voyage — I hope and believe the Congress & the Essex will be quite sufficient to meet all the force the French will have at the Isle of France, — At all events we can do no more —

I have the honor to be Gentlemen Yr obed Servt [NDA. GLB. Vol. 3, 1799.]

### To Captain Moses Brown, U.S. Navy, from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia]
Navy Department 28<sup>th</sup> December 1799

Captain Moses Brown of the Merrimack Boston

Sir I am honored with your Letter of the 12th Instant —

The sum of 13125%<sub>100</sub> Dollars which you paid into the hands of Mess<sup>18</sup> Stephen Higginson & Co, having accrued for Salvage on a recaptured Merchant Vessel, belongs wholly to yourself and Crew actually on board at the time of the Capture, this sum therefore will

be repaid to you to be distributed as the Law directs —

The Magicienne late the [U.S.S.] Retaliation, being a [French] National Vessel when Captured became the property of the United States — a Bounty therefore of 40 Dollars for each Officer & Men and 50 Dollars for each Cannon mounted taken on board became due to the Captors — It appears there were 63 men and 6 Guns on board when She was taken. Consequently the sum of 2,820 Dollars is payable to you as Agent for the Crew of the Merrimack to be distributed agreeably to the Act of the 2nd March last —

As the Government is entitled to one half of the proceeds of the Buonaparte, and as the Bills are in your hands you may deduct out of the Sales of the half belonging to Government the above 41325% Dollars sending as soon as you can, an account of your proceedings

herein to the Accountant of the Navy —

As to M<sup>r</sup> Clarkson, he appears to have remitted agreeably to his Account rendered you, & which is now returned in Government Bills meaning Bills on the British Government — No doubt there will be a loss, which he must have known I see not how it is to be remedied — If indeed he has acted contrary to Contract, you may claim of him the loss sustained —

The Accountant of this Department informs me that you have charged the Department with upwards of 4,000 Dollars advanced to the Crew of the Merrimack for which no vouchers have been produced, and if even Vouchers had been produced, they could not have been admitted to your credit until you had shewn the money to be accounted for in settling the pay accounts of that Vessel — This is a business which requires attention, & I trust you will be prompt in setting it right — You must render new accounts from the first of your appointment — Your recommendation of officers shall be attended to —

As soon as the Merrimack is in a situation that you can leave her with propriety you may take leave of absence, until she will be again ready for Service, taking care however to leave her in charge of a carefull & vigilant officer — M. Jonathan Titcomb, Jun. Acting Lieutenant has asked leave of absence for such time as you may deem expedient —

I have the honor to be Sir Yr obed Serv<sup>‡</sup>

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

To Stephen Higginson & Co., Navy Agents, Boston, Mass., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]
NAVY DEPARTMENT
28th December 1799

Stephen Higginson & C<sup>o</sup>
Boston -

Gentlemen I am honored with your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Instant — The Magicienne late the Retaliation being a National Vessel when Captured by the Merrimack, became of course the property of the United States, and a bounty of 40 Dollars for each man, and 50 dollars for each Gun taken on board is due to the Captors — The sum of 1312<sup>5</sup>%<sub>100</sub> D<sup>rs</sup> paid into your hands by Captain Brown appears to have accrued for salvage on the Brig Harmony of Baltimore, recaptured by the Merrimack, which sum Capt<sup>p</sup> Brown reserved under an impression that one moiety of the Salvage belonged to the United States — As this opinion was unfounded this money must be repaid to Captain Brown — You need not however take any steps concerning it — This with the bounty in question, Captain Brown will retain in his hands out of the proceeds of the prize Schooner Bounaparte —

Your letters of the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> are also received — Thanking you for the communications and advice as to the method of putting up provisions & for long voyages, and your offers to Ship any articles which might be wanting at Batavia — I have the satisfaction to inform you that the necessary Shipments had been previously directed at this place and Newyork and I presume the whole are completed —

A remittance of 15,000 Dollars is this day ordered

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799.]

[28 December 1799]

Extract from log book of the American Ship Commerce, Captain Whippey, commanding, concerning her capture by a French privateer, and re-capture by the U. S. Frigate Insurgente, Captain Alexander Murray, U. S. Navy, commanding

"Sailed the 14th Oct. from Liverpool and after experiencing several severe gales, was obliged to bare away for the West-Indies on the 10th Dec. having lost our bowsprit and being much shattered in our rigging. Dec. 28, in sight of Antigua, was bro't too by a French privateer, who ordered us to send our boat on board, we assured them that out boat was so leaky she would not swim; they again insisted on the boats coming; at this we hoisted out our boat, and sent her with two hands to bail, in order to keep her from sinking; it was with great difficulty they reached the privateer — they immediately sent back the boat with two armed men, who ordered the boat to return with several of our crew, they did not reach the privateer the second time before the boat sunk, and it was with great difficulty that we saved the people in the boat.

"The privateersmen then boarded us with pistols, drawn cutlasses, &c. and drove all our crew on board the privateer, except the capt. two mates and one seaman, and ordered the ship for Guadaloupe, leaving a prize master and 8 men on board; at dark the prize master ordered the captain and mates into the cabin, not allowing us to have a light; at 7 in the evening discovered a ship to windward; the prize master immediately hauled to port; and kept the ship before the wind; we got a light in the cabin, and held it to the window in order that the ship in chase might keep sight of us; they soon after fired a gun and brought us too — she proved to be the U. S. frigate l'Insurgent, captain Murray who ordered us for St. Kitts, where we arrived the day following. The privateer made her escape."

[LC, "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 15 February 1800.]

Extract from log-book of the French Ship Le Berceau Master Commandant (Capitaine de frégate) Louis André Senes commanding, 28 December 1799 to 1 January 1800

[Translation]

7th to 11th Nivose

Nothing to report for the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th [Nivose] the caulkers continued to work on the outboard side of the Corvette.

[Boston Athenaeum, NDA photostat.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate Constellation, Saturday, 28 December 1799

Pleasant weather and smooth water.

All the convoy in sight at noon.

People employed at doing the Various duties of the Ship.

Excercised the great guns and small arms.—

Longitude Account 69°.43′ W. Latitude Observed

32°.50′ N.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Saturday, 28 December 1799

Light airs with a heavy swell from the Northward @ 4 Calm and cloudy received an Officer with dispatches from the United States Ship General Greene which was Refitting in Cape francois, @ the Close of the evening it being a dead calm the North part of the Cape South 5 or 6 miles, Bent the cables and Unstowd the small Bower @ 10 a breeze sprung up from S S W, wore and parted company with the United States Schooner Experiment she being orderd to Cape Nichola Mole wore and Tackd as nessasary to keep in sight of the Cape, @ daylight saw a strange sail bearing North, bore up and Boarded the american —— from Newyork bound to Cape francois Employd as Nessasary

At 12 Moderate and clear

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Sailing Master Rufus Low, U. S. Navy, of the U. S. Frigate

Essex, Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, commanding, 28 December 1799

At 4 pm saw the Congress Frigate at anchor in the harbour, made the Essex private signal Wind ENE at 7 pm passed the Light house at 8 Anchor'd in the entrance of the Harbor about 1 Mile above the light house in 25 fath, Water good bottom, our dist from the Eastern shore half a mile, at 7 am a harbour Pilot came on board from New-Port, weigh'd and made sail up the harbor at 8 am passed the Congress manned ship & Cheered which was return'd by the Congress at ½ past 8 anch in 7 fath, muddy bottom & moored ship the Long Wharf bearing E b S dist half a League.—

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 28 December 1799

the *Harry* in Sight. Light breezes & clear [NA.]

[29 December 1799]

Extract from letter to a Gentleman in Middletown, Conn., from Captain Moses
Tryon, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. Connecticut

UNITED STATES Ship Connecticut, 10 leagues ENE, from Descade, Jan 10, 1800

"I have been able to reduce it to a certainty that the Connecticut is perhaps the fastest sailing ship in these seas. I have had a fair trial with several British men of war; I likewise had an opportunity to try her sailing with the Insurgent, Capt. Murray, and the Adams, Capt. Morris, both of which I have fairly beaten by the wind, and I think I can say she sails equally well from the wind. On the whole, I am not afraid to have a fair look at any thing that floats on the ocean I have had the good fortune to fall in with the French privateer brig Conqueror of Italy, mounting 12 guns and 62 men (having manned 6 prizes in the course of her cruise) which I captured the 29th ult. on her return to Point Petre. She has done more injury to our commerce than any other privateer out of Guadaloupe, having by accounts taken 200 American vessels. She had bid defiance to all British frigates.

[LC, "The Daily Advertiser", (N. Y.), 4 March 1800.]

[29 December 1799]

Extract from a letter from Captain Richard V. Morris, U. S. Navy, commanding the U. S. S. Adams, concerning capture by Captain Moses Tryon, U. S. Navy, commanding the U. S. S. Connecticut, of the French privateer Brig Italie Conquise

(OFFICIAL.)

[U. S. S. Adams] Basseterre Roads, St. Kitts, Jan. 20, 1800.

"The French privateer brig Italic Conquest has been captured by the Connecticut, capt. Tryon—she struck after receiving the second broadside which carried away her main-topmast, stove her boat, and wounded the Capt. and two of the men, one mortally."

[LC, "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 14 February 1800.]

[29 December 1799]

To Major Commandant William W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from Second Lieutenant Newton Keene, U. S. Marine Corps

Bassaterre St. Kitts 1st January 1800

Major Burrows

Sir On Sunday Night last the 29th Decr off Gaudaloupe we discovered a sail standing for us. As soon as she discovered our Force, Tackd & stood off. We crowded all Sail & stood after her & came with in Gunshot about 1 Oclock when I was directed by Capt. Tryon to make the Marines Fire which I accordingly did & which was rec'd with great Spirit in consequence of which we Immediately gave her Two Broad Sides of Grape Shot from the Ship which damaged her Riging & Sails so much that the Captain called for Quarters. She proved to be the Copper bottomd Brig L'Italia Conqueste, Laurent Langlais Commander Carrying Twelve Guns Two of which are Twelves & Having on Board Sixty Men & fourteen American Prisoners taken a few days previous to her being taken when she first set out on the Cruise she had on Board 130 men but has reduced the Number to 60 by putting them on board of Prises. The above Brig was one of the Fastest Sailing Privateers from Guadulope & has taken more American vessels than any other. We had no men on Board the Connecticut either killed or wounded, none on board the Brig killed, Three wounded one of whom was the Captain Slightly.

I beg leave to observe to you that the Conduct of my men in the above action would have done Honor to Veteran Soldiers having fired One Hundred and Eighty rounds. We arrived here yesterday morning and shall leave here again this evening on a Cruise. I have the Honour to be

Your Ob Servt

NEWTON KEENE Lt of Marines on Board The U. S. Ship Connecticut

[MCA, LR, 1800.]

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

Essex, Newport Harbor, Dec. 29, 1799.

SIR: — I have the honor to acquaint you I arrived here the 27th inst. The ship proves a good sea boat and sails very fast. I have received your letter of instructions (of the 11th inst.) for my government during my absence and shall pay proper attention to it. I have also received the order on Capt. Josiah for the flour, and the list of provisions to be shipped on board the different merchant vessels for our supplies home; the Bills of Lading you mention in your letter of the 12th, I have not yet received. I feel truly sensible

of the high honor conferred on me by the confidence of the President and your good wishes for my success and honor, and beg leave to assure you that you may rely with confidence on my every exertion to promote the good of the service and support the honor of the flag of the United States.

Capt. Sever expects we shall sail next Wednesday. My accounts

and other returns will be forwarded previous to sailing.

With great respect I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obediant servant,

EDWARD PREBLE.

Hon. Sec'y of the Navy.

[NR&L, Nr: P922-14, Essex by G. H. Preble.]

To Captain James Sever, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Essex Frigate New Port harbour Dec. 29th 1799

SIR The United States Frigate Essex which I have the honor to command will want a supply of fresh provisions and Vegetables for the Officers and Crew while in this harbour, you will oblige me by issuing a warrant to the Navy Agent for that purpose.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir your obedient Servi

EDWARD PREBLE

JAMES SEAVER Esq!

Captain of the United States Frigate Congress, and commander of the squadron destined for Batavia

[LC, J. Sever Papers, NDA photostat.]

To Joseph Waters, U. S. Navy Agent, Salem, Mass., from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Essex, Newport Harbor, December 29, 1799.

Sir: — I am honored with your letter of the 24th inst., in answer to which I beg leave to acquaint you that the *Essex*, with two reefs in each topsail and foresail sailed as fast as the *Belisaurias* with top and top gallant studding sails set. Capt. West's ship was so far astern that I could not so well judge of her sailing, but it appeared to me this ship with the same sail set with either of the two would sail six miles to their four.

I arrive here the 27th, experienced some blustering and much moderate weather on my passage, the wind generally contrary. The Essex is a good sea-boat, and sails remarkably fast. She went eleven miles per hour, with top gallant sail set and within six points

of the wind.

I shall sail from this in five or six days at farthest.

I remain with respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant,

EDW. PREBLE.

Joseph Waters, Esq.

[NR&L, Nr: P922-14, Essex by G. H. Preble.]

[29 December 1799]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Officers of U. S. frigate Essex

We the Subscribers, of the United States frigate Essex, viewing the Conduct of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Geddes of the marines while on board as unbecoming a gentleman & an officer feel ourselves compelled to express our disapprobation of his behaviour, & forming our opinion from his conversation and manners, presume he was intoxicated & incapable of performing the duties of his office —

RICH<sup>†</sup> C. BEALE Lieut, DAVID PHIPPS do GEO G LEE Lieu<sup>†</sup> RUFUS LOW Master HECTOR ORR Surgeon

Essex Frigate —29th Dect 1799 — [LC, EPP, 1799-1800, Vol. 2.]

To Major Commandant William W. Burrows, U. S. Marine Corps, from Captain James McKnight, U. S. Marine Corps

108 Miles from Phil:a. Hanover, Dec. 29, 1799,

8 o'clock A.M.

DEAR SIR: — I arrived at this place last evening after a very fatiguing march of 18 miles, the roads being very soft.

Boyle and James Brown were ill with the pleurisy and I thought it most advisable to leave them (until my return) at the Infantry Barracks in York.

There are 29 prisoners in the Waggon, unable to walk.

I am confident it will afford pleasure when I inform I have not had occasion to punish one of our men and I flatter myself no troop made a more cleanly or better appearance on entering the different small towns on our route.

Lt. Gale is very hearty & begs me to make his respect to you, please make our compliments to our brother officers at Headquarters. Tonight I shall quarter at Tawneytown 18 miles from here for Monday by 12 o'clock shall be at Frederick — I am Sir,

Very respectfully,

J. McKnight.

(P. S.) Since writing the enclosed I have reached Tawneytown, 25 miles from Frederick, we are in the same state as mentioned in mine of this morning.

[USMC Recruiters' Bulletin, April 1916, p. 15]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's Journal, U. S. Frigate Constellation, Sunday, 29 December 1799

Fresh breezes and hazy weather, with a head sea. All the convoy in sight at Noon: they however pay no attention to Steering, or to Signals.

Carpenters employed making half ports, Sail Maker repairing Sails — and the most of the remainder of the crew, at sundries.

Longitude Account 68°.25' W. Latitude Observed 32°.38' N.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U.S. Navy, commanding, Sunday, 29 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and clear weather, Employd as nessasary Sailmakers and Carpenters as occasion required At 4 Bore up and steerd down for Cape Francois made and Shortnd sail as nessasary, @ half past 6 wore to the Northward and hauld to the wind the Cape SSW 5 or 6 leagues, Wore and tackd as often as requisite during the night.

At daylight saw the Boston S S E four miles and a strange sail bearing N N E made sail and Gave chace. @ 9 Boarded the chase an American Brig from Philadelphia bound to Cape francois filld and

stood in for the Cape.

@ 11 saw a strange sail bearing W by S Bore up and gave chace Assembled the ships company and performed divine service

@ 12 moderate and clear the chace West 7 miles the Cap S by W four leagues

[NYHS, NHSC]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 29 December 1799

Light breezes & clear, in Top Gallant Sail & back'd the Mizen Top Sail to wait for the Ship.

Fresh breezes and Squally. —

Passed a strange sail Standing to the Northw<sup>d</sup> & East ward the Harry in Company. —

INA.1

To Captain Samuel Barron, U. S. Navy from Secretary of the Navy

[Philadelphia] Navy Department 30th December 1799

Capt<sup>n</sup> Samuel Barron of the Chesapeake —

SIR Solicitous that the Chesapeake should be got to sea as soon as possible, I have to request that you will immidiately on receipt of this take a thorough survey of her, examine particularly what is done, and what remains to be done to compleat her, what articles yet wanting can be supplied at Norfolk and what will depend on me, together with your own opinion, without relying on that of others, as to the shortest time in which she may be brought into actual service -

I have the honor to be

Sir

 $\mathbf{Y}^{\mathfrak{r}}$  obed Serv $^{\mathfrak{t}}$ 

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

## To Secretary of State from Isaac Cox Barnet, U. S. Consul, Bourdeaux

Copy

BORDEAUX Dece 30th 1799 —

SIR Since I had the honour of writing to you on the 22<sup>4</sup> Ins<sup>1</sup> I have had the satisfaction of obtaining the release of all the American Prisoners detained here and have now about one Hundred at the expence of the U. S. and am much at a loss how to dispose of them,

except in the following way:

The Brig Benjamin & Nancy, Capt<sup>n</sup> Williams arrived three days ago from Boston and Corrunna with forty four french passengers. She will return directly to Boston (having come as a flag of Truce). The Captain has no orders respecting American Seamen and to prevail on him to take those now here, I believe I shall be obliged to lay in their provisions and either pay their passage or draw on the Department of State for the same — however neither the Captain of said Vessel nor his consignees have vet come to any decision on the This vessel will probably Sail the captain says in about fifteen days — but as the river is very full of ice and the Season severe. being in want of repairs, she may probably remain long enough for me to receive the honour of an answer from you, Sir, in which I beg you will have the goodness to advise me how you think I ought to arrange in this case so as to dispose of our seamen to the satisfaction of our Government If however, as is probable I cannot wait your reply to this on the subject, I will make the best agreement in my If I send them into Spain they would require considerable advance and I should have no assurance of their returning to America before they should create much more expence for the U.S. by remaining on the hands of our Consuls there — Many of them would, besides, by becoming again possessed of their protections (which I retain while here) be liable to enter on board Privateers.

I have not yet had it in my power to dispose of the Bill 1000 [?] advised by my last and have been obliged to borrow. I have expended more than its amount as you will observe by the short statement enclosed and would be glad you should think proper to open me

another credit for a like sum or up to 1500 [?].

The various wants, representations, and dispositions, or distributions of the Seamen & Lodgers, takes up so much of my time that it has been impossible for me to make out yet the statement you wish & I crave your indulgence in this respect.

Accounts from Lisbon say that your Colleagues Mess's Davie & Ellsworth have reembarked for the Bay of Biscay or Holland — I

have myself no letters from said place.

I this moment learn that the crews of two more American captured ships arrived last night at the prison of this place. I have the honour to be &c

(Signed) I. C. BARNET

To Archibald Campbell, Navy Agent, Baltimore, Md., from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA] Nami Department 30th December 1799

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL Esq!

Baltimore .

Sir I send you the power solicited in respect to the Montezuma. not because I consider it necessary, your power before being ample. but to remove doubts —

I am Sir

Yr obed Servt

[NDA. GLB. Vol. 3, 1799.]

[Enclosure]

Benjamin Stoddert, Secretary of the Navy of the United States to Archibald Campbell Esq.

Having heretofore by command of the President of the United States, authorized you to sell the Ship of War, the Montezuma, you are hereby empowered to execute and deliver to the person or persons who have purchased her, a Bill of Sale, or other Instrument of writing so as to vest in him or them a complete title to the same. which said Bill or Instrument of writing shall be binding, and obligatory on the part of the United States -

Given at the Navy Department, Philade December 30th 1799

(Signed) BEN: STODDERT Secy of the Navy

[NDA. GLB, Vol. 3, 1799]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxton's journal, U. S. Frigate Constellation, Monday, 30 December 1799

A very disagreeable head Sea, accompanied by a Fresh Southerly wind and hazy weather, Employed at Squareing the Ratlines, mending of Service, repairing Rigging and Sails, and doing the various necessary duties of the Ship.

Died Willis Hedgberth a Marine, who had long been confined with a common hospital fever. at 8 A M, committed his body to

the deep, with the usual ceremony.

at Noon all the convoy in Sight, except a Sloop of M. Clarkson of S. Kitts — which Vessel has parted company through her masters negligence, in not keeping his wind - for a Schooner much inferior in sailing, has remained near me, without any difficulty by paying due attention. -

Longitude Account 67°.55′ W. Latitude Observed 32°.36′ N.

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from Journal of the U. S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U. S. Navy, commanding, Monday, 30 December 1799

Monday Moderate Breezes and cloudy, In chase to the S W, @ 3 shortn'd sail and boarded the chase an american arm'd Schooner from Baltimore bound to Cape Francois filld and Gave chace to S S E. @ 5 shortn'd sail and boarded the chace @ a quarter past 6 made sail in chace to windward @ 7 lost sight of the chace, continued pursueing her till 9 in the evening under a press of sail. ¼ after 9 shortnd sail and wore to the Northw<sup>4</sup> Boston in company, wore and Tackd as nessasary during the night. @ daylight saw the Boston 4 leagues S W and a strange sail N N E made sail and Gave chace, Employd washing and fumigating Between decks @ 10 Shortnd sail and Boarded the chace an american Schooner from Philadelphia with Stores and provisions for the United States Ships on the St Domingo Station, Employd Receiveing provisions

@ 12 Calm Cape francois SW by S 7 leagues Boston S W 16 miles

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from journal of Lieutenant John Mullowny, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. Ship Ganges, 30 December 1799

Fresh breezes & Clear. -Fired a gun as a Signal for the Ship Fir'd a gun as a Signal for the Harry Clear & pleasant the Harry in sight. [NA.]

Extract from a letter to Secretary of State from Rufus King, U. S. Minister, London, England, with a Translation of the Ordinance of the King of France, concerning the Navigation of Neutral Ships in time of war

London, 31st December 1799.

"The provisional Government of France repealed on the 20th instant the law of the 29th Nivose, 6th year [18th Jan. 1798]—and declared that the regulations of 1778 in respect to the rights of belligerents and neutrals should in future be strictly observed."

We have procured a faithful translation of the ordinance of the King of France alluded to above, which is as follows:—

#### REGULATION

Concerning the navigation of neutral ships in time of war.

Published by order of the French King July 26, '78.

The king having caused the ancient regulations concerning the navigation of neutral ships in time of war to be laid before him, has judged it proper to renew the same, and to add thereto whatever to him appeared necessary for the preservation of the rights of neutral powers, and the interests of their subjects without authorizing any abuse that may be made of the neutral flag. In consequence whereof his majesty has ordered, and does hereby order, as follows:

1st. His majesty forbids all privateers to take and carry into the ports of his kingdom any ships belonging to neutral powers, even though they should have sailed from an enemy's port or be bound thither; unless such ships shall be carrying succours to places belonging to an enemy, then blockaded, invested, or besieged. In case the ships of neutral states shall be laden with contraband articles for the use of the enemy, such ships may be stopped, and the said articles seized and confiscated; but the vessel and remainder of the cargo, shall be released, unless the said contraband articles compose three fourths of the value of the cargo; in which case the ships and cargo shall be entirely confiscated. His majesty, however, reserves the power of revoking the liberty given by this article if the belligerent powers do not grant the same within six months from the day of the publication of this regulation.

2nd. The masters of neutral ships shall be obliged, when at sea, to prove their neutral property, by passports, bills of lading, invoices, and other papers on board; one of which at least must incontestibly prove the neutral property, or must contain a precise enumeration of it. As to charter parties, and other papers which shall not be signed, it is his majesty's pleasure that such shall be considered as null and

of no effect.

3d. All vessels taken, of what nation soever, neutral or allied, upon its being proved, that papers have been thrown overboard from such vessels, or otherwise suppressed or withdrawn shall with their cargoes be declared good prize, upon the simple proof of the papers being thrown overboard, and without the necessity of enquiring what those papers were, by whom they were thrown overboard, or whether the others remaining on board are sufficient to prove that the ship and cargo belonged to friends or allies.

4th. A passport or clearance, can serve but for one voyage only; and it shall be considered as null, if it be proved, that the vessel was not, at the time of preparing for such voyage, in one of the ports of

the prince who granted such passport.

5th. No regard shall be paid to passports of neutral powers, when those who shall have obtained them shall be found to have acted contrary thereto, or when a passport expresses the name of a ship different from that it bears in the other papers on board, unless due proofs of the change of name, and the identity of the ship, are expressed in the said papers, and that they have been allowed by the public officers of the place from whence they came and registered

by the principal public officer of the place.

6th. No regard shall be paid to passports granted by neutral or allied powers, either to owners or masters of ships, who are subjects of his majesty's enemies, unless they have been naturalized, or have moved their dwelling into the dominions of the said powers, three months before the first of September of the present year; nor shall the said owners and masters of ships, subjects of his majesty's enemies, who shall have obtained letters of naturalization enjoy the benefit thereof, if after they have obtained them, they shall return into the states at war with his majesty, and there continue their commerce.

7th. Vessels built by an enemy, or whose owner shall be an enemy, cannot be reputed neutral or allied, unless there are found on board some authentic papers executed before some public officers, which may ascertain the date, and prove that the sale or cession of such

vessels has been made to some of the subjects of allied or neutral powers before the commencement of hostilities; and if the said act of transfer of the property of the enemy to neutral or allied subjects has not been duly registered before the principal officer of the place, whence such vessels departed, and signed by the owner or his agent.

8th. With respect to vessels built by an enemy, which shall have been taken by his majesty's ships, or those of his allies or subjects, during the war, and which shall afterwards be sold to the subjects of allied or neutral states, such vessels shall not be considered as good prizes, if there shall be found on board documents in due form executed before competent public officers, proving as well the capture as the sale or adjudication which shall afterwards have been made to the subjects of the said allies or neutral states whether in France, or in the ports of any allied power; but in default of such papers, proving as well the capture as the sale, the said vessels shall be good prize.

9th. All foreign ships shall be deemed good prize, on board which shall be found a supercargo, clerk or other superior officer, subjects of his majesty's enemies; or whose crews shall be composed of more than one third subjects of his majesty's enemies, or who shall not have on board a proper list of the ship's company [role d'equipage] authenticated by the public officers of the neutral places from whence

the vessels shall have sailed.

10th. His majesty, however, does not intend to comprehend, within the meaning of the preceding article, such ships whose captains or masters shall prove, from authentic vouchers on board, that they were obliged to take such officers or seamen in the ports they shall have been in order to replace those of neutral countries who died in the course of the voyage.

11th. It is his majesty's pleasure, that, in no case, papers produced after the capture of any ship, shall have any credit given to them, or be productive of any avail either of the owners of the said ships, or of their cargoes: his majesty, willing that on all occasions, regard

shall be had only to the papers, found on board.

12th. No vessels of neutral powers, departing from the ports of France, and having on board no other commodities or merchandises than what they received in such ports, and which shall be furnished with a passport from the admiral of France, shall be stopped by any French privateers or brought into any of the ports of France under any pretence whatever.

13th. In case any French privateer shall contravene the provisions of the present regulation, such vessels and their cargoes, except what is liable to confiscation shall be delivered up, and the said privateer shall be condemned to pay such damages and interest as shall be

thought just.

14th. His majesty orders, that this present regulation shall hold good with respect to ships running aground on any of the coasts

dependent on his possessions.

15th. It is his majesty's further pleasure that the provisions, under the title of *prizes* in the ordinance of marine, of the month of August 1681 be executed according to their form and tenor, as far as they are not derogatory to the present regulation; which shall be read, published, and registered in all the courts of admiralty.

His Majesty orders and commands the Duke de Penthievre, admiral of France, strictly to attend to the execution hereof.

Given at Versailles, the twenty-sixth day of July, one thousand

seven hundred and seventy-eight.

(Signed) Louis, (Countersigned) DE SARTINE.

[LC, "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 19 April 1800.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from First Lieutenant S. W. Geddes, U. S. Marine Corps

FORT ADAMS
December 31st 1799

Captain PREBLE

Commander of the U.S. Ship of War the Essex —

SIR I have the honor to inform you that the Commandant of the Marine Corps ordered me to take the Command of the detachment of Marines, who lately served on board the [George] Washington frigate, and with them repair on board the Essex to receive your orders.

It is with extreme regret however, that I am obliged to State my inability to perform the duties assigned to me in Consequence of indisposition which is of a nature that gives me little hopes of speedy recovery. To satisfy you further on this subject, I inclose a certificate from the Surgeon who attends the troops at the Garrison where I am stationed.

Lieutenant Porter who is under my Command and destined to the same service will receive your commands at Fort Adams, & I will do every thing in my power to further your wishes. A particular return of the detachment and every other information will be communicated by him when it shall please you to take the detachment on board. —

S. W. GEDDES Lt. M. C.

Captain Edward Preble [LC, EPP, 1799–1800, Vol. 2.]

[Enclosure]

I certify that Lieutenant S. W. Geddes is rendered unfit for duty by having a scalded Leg, & I consider that his situation demands that he should remain on shore till a cure be effected —

Tho Tillinghast S. M. at Garrison of Fort Adams

31 DEC. 1799

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800, Vol. 2.]

To Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy, from Captain James Sever, U. S. Navy

Frigate Congress, Dec. 31, 1799.

Capt. Sever has the honor to request that Capt. Preble will be pleased to turn over from the Frigate Essex under his command a seaman by the name of John Williamson, alias John Richardson, he

having previously entered on board the latter ship [Congress] from which vessel he had deserted.

I am sir, with great esteem and regard,

Your humble servant,

JAMES SEVER, Capt. Navy U. S.

EDWARD PREBLE, Esq.

[NR&L, Nr: P922-14, Essex by G. H. Preble.]

To Captain James Sever, U. S. Navy, from Captain Edward Preble, U. S. Navy

Frigate Essex, Dec. 31, 1799.

Sir: — Agreeably to your request of this date I send you John Williamson who entered on the *Essex's* books as an able seaman on the 17th inst. He received thirty-four dollars (two months) advance wages but no slops.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect and esteem Sir.

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD PREBLE.

JAMES SEVER, Esq., etc., etc.

[NR&L, Nr: P922-14, Essex by G. H. Preble.]

[31 December 1799]

# Seamen and Marines discharged from U. S. Frigate Essex,

You NB having entered yourself as an Able Seaman in the navy of the US to serve twelve month on board the Frigate Essex under my command and it having been represented to me by the Surgeon of the said ship that you are unfit for service by reason of bodily infirmities, and were so at the time of your entry. you are hereby discharged from the service, Dated on board the Essex Frigate NP harb! the 31st Dec! 1799

[NB] William Perkins AS

Richard Greece OS John Rennar AS George Stevens AS Sam! Newell Carp! Tho! Ferrel OS

Eben<sup>r</sup> Grover OS
[In addition to the above Hector Orr, Surgeon, stated that

"are in my opinion unfit for Service, and the Seamen excepting Samuel Newal, were so at the time of their enlistment."]

[LC, EPP, 1799-1800, Vol. 2.]

To Master Commandant Richard Law (Junior), U. S. Navy from Secretary of the Navy

[PHILADELPHIA]

Navy Department 31st December 1799

Master Comm<sup>‡</sup> Rich<sup>‡</sup> Law Jun<sup>‡</sup> of the Brig Richmond -

Sir To complete your quota of Commissioned & Warrant Officers vou require

1 Lieutenant

1 Surgeon

1 surgeons Mate

1 Boatswain

1 Gunner

1 Sail Maker

1 Carpenter

2 Midshipmen

I will provide you the Lieutenant, Surgeon, Surgeons Mate & Midshipmen and you will be pleased to select suitable characters for the Boatswain, Gunner, Sailmaker & Carpenter & name them to me & they shall be appointed

Lieut Talbot will deliver over to you all the Circulars containing instructions for Your Government - the sheets discriptive of our private Signals, and such Laws & regulations as he has received from

this Office -

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr obed Servt

Lt Zachariah Rhodes will join you in a few days as your first Lieutenant

[NDA. OSW, Vol. 3, 1799-1800.]

List of vessels taken by the U. S. R. C. Brig Pickering, Lieutenant Benjamin Hillar, U. S. Navy commanding, from 2 August to 31 December 1799

#### [News Item]

Schr. Cynthia, Asa Forsett, from New-York to Martinique—retaken. Sloop ——, an English sloop, re-captured.

Schr. Helen, Douglas, a French vessel — cargo valuable. Brig. Helen, Peter Shiel. from Altona, bound to St. Domingo, a Danish vessel — recaptured from the French.

Brig Brothers, George Prince, from Savannah to Martinique -

recaptured.

Schr. Voltiguese, P. Hazard, French privateer, from Guadaloupe

on a cruise. Schr. Harriet, Sears, from Newbern, N. C. to Antigua — re-captured.

[LC, "Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser", (Phila.), 14 February 1800.]

To Captain Nicholas Johnson, Navy Agent, Newburyport, Mass., from Master Commandant Timothy Newman, U. S. Navy

Nantaskett Roads, Ship Warren 31 Dec. 1799.

Sir I informed you that previous to Sailing Should write you a line, I have been waiting several days for a Wind. The Ship is Manned with all Included, 145, in Number, and from every Appearance a Good Crew, we have been Obliged to break up part of the Fore Hould, & taken up a considerable of Kentledge & Shingle Ballast to bring the Ship by the Stern, the Difference is now two feet three Inches by the Stern, but in using the Water &c which is filled up Forward, if necessary, may Soon bring her more by the Stern. I have Inclosed all your Accounts Signed by the different Officers and attested to by Myself. to the Navy Department and Deliverd them to Mr. Higginson, who will forward them on with his own Accounts. Should you know of any Opportunity of Conveying Letters to the Havannah I shall esteem it a favour if you will Inform my Wife, and Shall be happy to render any Services to my Country Men that may have Vessells, comeing to that Quarter,

I am Sir, with respect &?

TIMOTHY NEWMAN.

Capt Nicholas Johnson.
[HS of Old Newbury, Original.]

Extract from Captain Thomas Truxtun's journal, U. S. Frigate Constellation, Tuesday, 31 December 1799

Fresh Gales and dirty disagreeable weather — at A M, the wind Shifted of a sudden from the Southward into the Western board, and blew fresh. — From 8 P M, untill day light — kept on our tacks by the wind; in order to spend the night; so as to pass Bermuda's Latitude, when its dangers could be seen in good time, to avoid them — tho' by my calculation, I was two degree's to the westward of their most western limits at Noon; The currents however, between this and the coast, are so strong and often deceiveing, that I should have considered it extreemly hazardous and wrong, to have passed this Island in the night, after being at sea a week, beating about and in the way of being set beyond all calculation.—

All the convoy in Sight except the Sloop belonging to Mr Clarkson —

as mentioned yesterday.

[Longitude Account 67°. 2' W.] Latitude Observed 32°. 2' N.]

[HS of Pa. NDA photostat.]

Extract from journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution, Captain Silas Talbot, U.S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 31 December 1799

Moderate Breezes and cloudy lying too, Employd dischargeing the Schooner Elizabeth from which we rect the following provisions Viz<sup>t</sup>

960	wt. in bb!	4 Tierces of Rice	in bbl
Rec <sup>‡</sup> 75	do of beef 1500lb	8 Barrels of cheese	1500 1b
d° 75	do of Pork 15001b	1 Tierce of Pease 7 Bushels	
$\frac{d^{9}}{d^{9}d} \frac{15}{10}$	$ m d^{o}$ Indian meal $ m d^{o}$ of flour 2000 $^{16}$	1 small cask of do 3 Bush.	16
d <sup>9</sup> 30	$d^{\circ}$ of Potatoes	o Reggs of Butter	

At 10 in the evening calm with a heavy swell from the northward which prevented dischargeing the Stores in the Boats @ 11 a light breeze sprung up from the Southward wore and came to the wind to the Eastward, Kept the Store ship in tow till 3 AM at which time was a dead calm.

At Daylight bore up and took the store ship in tow, Employd

Receiving provisions. @ 12 the Cape S by W six leagues

[NYHS, NHSC.]

Extract from log book of Sailing Master Joseph Whitmore, U. S. Navy, of U. S. Ship Warren, Master Commandant Timothy Newman, U. S. Navy, commanding, Tuesday, 31 December 1799

Dec<sup>br</sup> 31 1799

Saild from Nantasket Road in Company with *Trio*, Capt Silsby under our Convoy in the Schooner Loaded with Continental Stores bound to the Havanah with the Wind from the Westward God Send us Safe to our Orders End in our Lawfull Ways in Supporting our Independence

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

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