

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 1

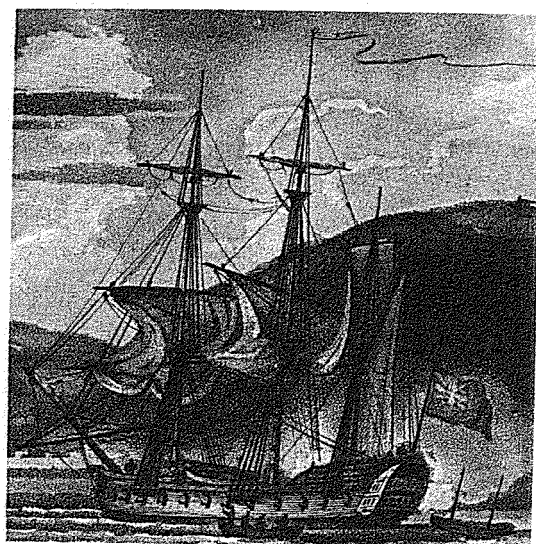
**AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 1, 1774–Sept. 2, 1775
EUROPEAN THEATRE: Dec. 6, 1774–Aug. 9, 1775**

Part 3 of 8

**United States
Government Printing Office
Washington, 1964**

Electronically published by
American Naval Records Society
Bolton Landing, New York
2012

AS A WORK OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
THIS PUBLICATION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.



EUROPEAN THEATRE

From December 6, 1774, to June 26, 1775



The Political Cartoon for the Year 1775.

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From December 6, 1774, to June 26, 1775

SUMMARY

George III and his Privy Council, which, in October, 1774, had decreed no more shipments of gunpowder or arms to the colonies, had no thought that this might prove a tinder spark to ignite the latent fires of resistance in a continent already seething under the Coercive Acts passed by Parliament earlier in that same year. To the minds of Ministry and Parliament the hotbed of rebellion was New England, and more specifically, Massachusetts. That there might be some armed demonstration there was considered a possibility. Should it occur, it could and would be decisively crushed. Opinions differed as to whether the navy alone would be sufficient to the task, or if army reinforcements should be sent to Boston. That question was still undecided as the year 1774 drew to a close.

No other problem confronted the British Empire at that time. India was quiescent under the firm hand of Warren Hastings, its first titular governor. Russia, emerging as a world power after crushing the Turks, was consolidating the fruits of victory in the Crimea. Spain, ever smarting under depredations of the Barbary Pirates, was concentrating upon a punitive expedition, and repressing, though not forgetting, its ambitions to recover Gibraltar, Minorca and Florida. Holland, no longer a great sea power, had declined politically to a nonentity. Finally France, because of its Family Compact with Spain, would scarcely move while the latter was involved in the Mediterranean.

Yet, in December, 1774, the French chargé d'affaires in London had been approached by American sympathizers, who queried whether, in case of a break with England, the colonists might look for an alliance with, or, at least, secret support from France. The Comte de Vergennes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and one of the ablest of European statesmen, received this report with pleasure, but caution. His was an undying hatred for Great Britain, and a consecrated determination to restore to France the world-wide prestige lost, along with Canada, in the French and Indian War. Years before he had made the sage remark that with Canada surrendered, the American colonists need no longer look to the Mother Country for protection and, when the tax burden became too onerous, would strike off their dependence upon her. Whether this moment was at hand remained to be seen. He had no intention of placing France in an untenable position by too early support of what might prove an abortive revolt. His policy was to wait and watch.

6 Dec. 1774

ARTHUR LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

My Dear Brother The temper of the times is painted in such legible colours in the King's Speech, that no one can remain in doubt that arms are to be used to

divest us of our Liberties. You will see by the Paper our Brother incloses that the Lords have promised their support. Yesterday the Commons did the same on a division of 254 to 60. The new Parlaiment is therefore engaged to maintain this sanguinary System, to which the King in readg his Speech marked his hearty assent, to the astonishment of his Hearers, by giving a studied emphasis to those words which were severe against America.

You have now the whole before you. If your Non-importation & Non-exportation Agreement be not immediately executed & religiously observed, Arms or Submission must decide the Controversy. The prohibition of exporting Arms & Ammunition from here ought to teach you a great deal. I need not mention how deplorable how despicable his situation must be, who talks high of resistance & yet makes no preparation. He who talks of drawing the Sword should not only have it to draw, but see that it be sharp. I woud recommend to you the example of Cromwell who had a Troop of his own neibours, tried & personally attachd to him, at the head of which he was always enabled to make a decisive impression.

The present intention of the Ministry is to declare all Meetings & associations in America illegal & treasonable – to guard the Coast agst all traffic & communication with Holland France & Spain – to corrupt New York – and to employ a military force, chiefly from Canada, if necessary. Having their designs before you, your attention I trust will be bent to defeat them with that earnestness which the greatest question in the world demands.

As in future it may be necessary to write some things in Cypher, that wch I shall use & wch you may use to me will be in figures each figure standing for a Letter of the same number in the Alphabet. For example King 219247. K being the 21st, i the 9th n, the 24th & g the 7th Letter in the alphabet. When it gets to ten, two figures are necessary for one Letter, therefore I join them together by a stroke across, which I think woud puzzle a decypherer the more. As a farther security no name shoud be signd, the date but not the place, inclosd in a Cover addressd by another hand, & no address at the beginning

I wish you woud keep a watchful eye over Capt [Edward] Foy. His disposition is insolent & arbitrary, however he may cover it & depend upon it his endeavors will not be unexercised to enslave us.

You have Lead mines & can prepare Salt Petre in your Tobacco Houses; for gods sake begin your Preparations in time – talk little & do much. Let not necessity come upon you like an armd man, & find you defenceless. Sir Willm Draper has publishd a proposal for emancipating your Negroes by royal Proclamation & arming them against you. The proposal met with approbation from ministerial People. Do not laugh at it, till you are sure it woud be vain. If you apprehend it wou'd be dangerous take proper precautions against it. Considering the proposals which are made & the measures taken here against us I think it perfectly just, & I am sure it is necessary that you shoud withhold the payment of your Debts to the Merchants here. It is but truth to say that they are the bitterest enemies we have. It is not once, but a thousand times they have said of us – “Let them pay us our debts & go to the Devil.”

. . . The french Court is settling its internal Affairs, with great attention & wisdom. The Minister makes no secret of his intention to assist us. But it should be our care so to exert ourselves as to make as little as possible of such perilous assistance necessary. Are you sure that the ultimate aim of the Governor's & his Secretary's late expedition was not to debauch them from the service of their Country in the great question & to give them that Privilege of the Country as to enable them to oppose those who may arm in support of their Rights. Let no means be omitted of cultivating and inflaming the frontier men, who are by much the most capable of making a stand. I suppose no more Assemblies will be call'd till things are settled, therefore you shd look forward & provide against the consequences of that.

I throw before you all the thoughts wch float in my anxious mind. Some of them I hope may be useful. Make a memorandum of what is material in this Letter & then burn it.

Adieu

A L

[London] Decr 6th 1774.

1. Arthur Lee folder, VHS.

13 Dec.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1774.

13th December 16,000 Men, including 4,284 Marines, were voted for the Year 1775.

1. Germain Papers, CL. The document is endorsed, "Summary of the / orders given by / the Admiralty / relative to America / 1775." It continues to October 25, 1775, and a second document, which includes the first one and winds up in December, 1775, is also in the Germain Papers.

15 Dec.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

London 15/Decr 1774.

Dear Sir I am favord with yours of July 10th & am much obliged by the consignmt of 4 hhds of Tobo P Roman for which I hope shortly to transmit you satisfactory sales

You will in all probability be a gainer by the Tobo you have left in the Country of the old crop, since there is almost an absolute certainty of the price rising greatly here upon yr exportation stoping in Septr, which I presume will most certainly take place according the Continental association, as there does not appear any chance of yr grievances being redressed this session of Parliamt, but I am firmly of opinion, that a strict & firm perseverance on the part of America in the measures adopted by the congress of her States, must inevitably procure her Justice at last. And I am also further of opinion, that the longer the contest continues the more it will contribute to the benefit & independance of America. In this contest the Tobo Colonies cannot loose as the price of one crop on the

exportation stoping will nearly equal that of two. As yr importation of goods is stopd Mr Sadlers musick &c, cannot be sent now, however I hope Capt Brown will receive your kind assistance & advice in his loading the *Adventure* . . . I recommend Capt Brown to yr protection & assistance & with my most respectful Compts to yr good Lady & Family remain [&c.]

William Lee

1. MdHS.

22 Dec.

ALEXANDER EMSLEY TO SAMUEL JOHNSON¹

[Extract]

London 22d Decr 1774

And[rew] Knox sent me an Order but it came too late no Ships now take in Goods for Virginia, you must therefore give me your Orders if you would have me send them, to [North] Carolina, for they continue to ship goods still to your Province.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1095.

23 Dec.

PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES AT BOSTON¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 23d December 1774

Commodore [Molyneux] Shuldham having acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that from the advices he had received of the Disturbances at Boston, he judged it expedient to order the *Rose*, one of the Ships of his Squadron, to carry some Land Forces thither, and had directed her Commander to follow your Orders for his further proceedings; I have it in command from their Lordships to signify their direction to you to send the said Ship forthwith to Spithead, with directions to Captain [James] Wallace to wait there for their Lordships further Orders.

And it being the resolution of the Board, to relieve such Officers as have served three years successively in His Majesty's Ships; I have it further in command from their Lordships to signify their directions to you, to order Captain [Edward] Meadows of the *Tartar*, Captain [William] Maltby of the *Glasgow*, and Captain [James] Ayscough of the *Swan* Sloop, who are in that predicament to proceed to Spithead as soon as they can be spared from their respective Stations, without manifest detriment to the Service on which they are employed, it being their Lordships intention to send out other Ships from hence to supply their places; and as you will see that the principal Object of their Lordships is, to relieve the Captains, you will not permit them to exchange into other Ships, as in case they do, other Officers will be sent out to superceed them. I am &ca

P: S

(By the *Falcon* Sloop)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 189, NYHS Transcript.

1 Jan. 1775 (Sunday)

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH
ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775.

1st January – The Force in North America under the com-
mand of Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves con-
sisting of

Rate	Ships	Men		
3d	3	1,540		
4	1	320	Ships	Men
6	7	940	23	3,445
Sloops	5	420		
Schooners	6	180		
Armd Vessl	1	45.		
And there was at the same time fitting out to			1.	100
join him one Sloop				
Together			24.	4,445 ²

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. Error in addition. Number of men given as 4,445 in document should be 3,545.

13 Jan.

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE¹

[Extract]

London 13 January, 1775

We have a report from Glasgow that Ld Dunmore² is dead; should he not, I hope the Assembly when it meets will roast him well for his many vile and infamous governmental Acts. The Merchants and Traders in London have agreed on a Petition to Parliament for redress of American Commerce. I was one of the Come for drawing it up and one for presenting it and managing it – therefore have have had full opportunity of knowing. There is nothing very serious in this business, therefore do not expect any great good from it, for really nothing can rouse the good people here till they *feel*, which is not the case at present, but will be woefully so in 12 months. You must persevere in the plan adopted by the Congress and leave it to work here.

1. W. C. Ford, ed., *The Letters of William Lee* (Brooklyn, 1878), I, 109, 110. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., *Lee*.

2. John Murray, Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia.

17 Jan.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 17 Jany 1775

I have your favors 3 Oct & 25 Novr since I had the pleasure of writing you the 28 Decr

Wheat is now fixed at 7/ pr Bushel & if any alteration it will be for the better. Flour 17/ d 19/ - Indian Corn 3/9. Messrs Hewes & Co wrote me that they

expected a Cargo very soon from you, & I gave them our prices. I suppose I shall have her here, as the best American wheat sells there from 50/ to 51/ – & our prices are equal to 56/. Mr Elliot writes me that the *Hopewell* is at last arrived in London with touching at Falmouth, the Cargo in bad order tho' better than expected.

I find by the Lists that the *Friendship* Young is arrived at Maryland I shall therefore be expecting to hear her Destination.

The duty being taken of Indian Corn will be an Advantage to you in the sale of the *Hopewell's* Cargo. I am glad that this first Service of Mr [Edmund] Burke to his friends here, should be of the first Advantage to your House

I hope the Bills you mention to draw on account of the *Friendship* if She comes here will not be at a short Sight, but you will take Care to make them agreeable in that particular. I shall pay due Honour to them. Your Exchange is fallen amazingly.

I mentioned the prices of Wheat, but did not that the demand is briske, & a prospect of advance towards the Spring. We have had little or no frost, & remarkable mild weather. In general these Winters do not produce good Corn harvests in the succeeding Seasons.

The Ministry keep their resolves very secret about American affairs. London has petitioned, so has this place. Several Gentlemen were very active in promoting a petition here, though not without a good deal of opposition from the other party (for even party Spirit reigns tho' in a matter of Trade of such consequence.) Mr Burke's friends in particular have forwarded this Business, indeed that Gentleman the more he is known the more he must be admired. I send you by this Conveyance a Speech of his on the American Bills last Spring, a most masterly one indeed it must be so or it could not be Mr Burke's. The Ministry have acted a weak & a wicked part in their political System towards America which will be remembered long & heavily felt by both Countries. In any thing that occurs I shall write you for I truly am Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Robert Morris Papers, HUL.

18 Jan.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

18th [January] The King's pleasure was signified by [William Henry Zuylestein] the Earl of Rochford for a reinforcement of Ships & Marines to be sent to Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves; And, On the same day three Sloops (which as well as the other Ships &c. order'd in consequence (see in the annex'd List)² were order'd to be fitted, and Transport Vessels to be provided for carrying 700 Marines, Officers & Noncommission'd Officers included, to Boston.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. The list was not included with the Abstract.

19 Jan.

M. GARNIER, FRENCH CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES IN ENGLAND, TO COUNT DE
VERGENNES, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ¹

[Extract]

London, 19 January 1775

My lord, I had the honor to inform you in my letter No. 236 at the beginning of last Nov. that the plan agreed upon by the Ministry with reference to the province of Massachusetts was to forbid all trade with this province and abandon it to its own anarchy, if the governor was unable to form a Civil Chamber in order to enforce the law by civil means. I could not doubt the reality of this determination which I held from the best source. This only was what was meant by the furthering of the recourse to strength.

The speech of the King at the opening of Parliament seemed to attribute more energy to the intentions of the Ministry according to public opinion and it was generally believed that hostilities were unavoidable. In these agitated times came the news of the resolutions passed by the Congress that were to leave no doubt as to the firmness and unanimity of the Americans. Since all the Colonies had become equally guilty, it was no longer a question to know whether or not one would continue using a few regiments and a few ships in order to deal severely with a rebellious province. The progress of the rebellion required a more extensive plan and the question was to determine whether or not European England would wage war against American England. . . .

If I am well informed of the resolutions decided upon, they deal mainly with two subjects: first, to pass a bill temporarily forbidding any trade with the Americans; second, to give orders to the various governors of the Colonies so that they call upon all the inhabitants who disapprove the resolutions passed by the Congress to sign their names during a given time, by means of which the Government promises them efficient support against all comers, beyond which time all those who will not have conformed with this injunction will be declared traitors to their country and treated as such.

This is the counter-part of what the Americans themselves are doing to day and it is obviously designed to provoke division among them. You will be better judge than myself, My Lord, as to the effect that can be expected, but it seems to me that it will bring civil war. The King of England apparently believed that this course was preferable to that of losing His authority by calling Myd. Chatham into his Council. He is embarking on quite an arduous journey and I wish he will come to a safe port. If he succeeds, His authority will be established more than ever and he will probably be rid for always of His fright of Lord Chatham; if he fails, he will have delayed at least for some time the coming of this Minister into His Council.

The Ministers who have been expressing themselves for some time only in the vaguest and most reserved terms, are speaking today with more authority. The Americans are accused of wishing to destroy the act of navigation, although they avoided to attack this subject in the resolutions that they published. As long as conciliatory ways were left open, one tried here to lessen the importance

of their crimes. Today, they are made more guilty than they actually are. It is claimed that it would be better not to have any Colonies at all than support some on the footing that the Americans request, and should one give in to their claims, one should see tomorrow Ireland presenting identical ones to which one should also have to give in; finally the power of the King would become as insignificant as that of the King of Poland; should he weaken at this time. Myd. Townshend, Great Master of the Artillery, spoke to me in this tone yesterday and added that had he thought he were not able to subdue the Americans, *he would not have been so treacherous as to go that very day and pay his court to the King.*

However, things are proceeding as usual in America. Evil is spreading rapidly; and the number of petitions that several corporations are preparing here in order to present them to the Parliament is increasing. The Corporation of Bristol agreed upon one on the 13th of this month; the merchants and plantation owners in the West Indies are doing the same thing. The latter are all the more alarmed because they are forced to send for in Europe what they used to get from the Continent and they claim that the increased expenses will cause them to lose more than half of their income. So the campaign begins today and it will not be long before the papers concerning America are presented to the Parliament that will appoint committees in order to examine them. It will be on the basis of the report of these committees that the legislative body will take its decisions; thus, within a short time, we will know what to expect.

[P.S.] The Admiralty has just informed me that the order has been given to fit out eight corvettes for America. They are: *Senegal, Merlin, Otter, Cherokee, Surprise, Pomona, Martin, Zephyr.* This piece of news, My lord, seems to confirm undoubtedly the intention of which I had the honor to speak to you to stop the trade of the Americans.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 249, LC Photocopy. This document and all others from the French Archives have been translated by Professor Bernard P. Lebeau, U.S. Naval Academy.

20 Jan.

WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM, SPEECH IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT¹

[Extract]

Jan. 20 [1775].

. . . of this spirit of independence, animating the nation of America, I have the most authentic information. It is not new among them; it is, and has ever been, their established principle, their confirmed persuasion: it is their nature and their doctrine. . . .

Trade is an extended and complicated consideration: it reaches as far as ships can sail or winds can blow: it is a great and various machine. To regulate the numberless movements of its several parts, and combine them into effect, for the good of the whole, requires the superintending wisdom and energy of the supreme power in the empire. . . .

When your lordships look at the papers transmitted us from America; when you consider their decency, firmness, and wisdom, you cannot but respect their

cause, and wish to make it your own. . . . I have read Thucydides, and have studied and admired the master-states of the world—that for solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity, and wisdom of conclusion, under such a complication of difficult circumstances, no nation or body of men, can stand in preference to the general Congress at Philadelphia. . . .

Every motive, therefore, of justice and of policy, of dignity and of prudence, urges you to allay the ferment in America—by a removal of your troops from Boston—by a repeal of your acts of parliament—and by demonstration of amicable dispositions towards your colonies. On the other hand, every danger and every hazard impend, to deter you from perserverance in your present ruinous measures.—Foreign war hanging over your heads by a slight and brittle thread: France and Spain watching your conduct, and waiting for the maturity of your errors;—with a vigilant eye to America, and the temper of your colonies, more than to their own concerns, be they what they may.

1. *The Parliamentary History of England From the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* (London, 1813), XVIII, 149–156. Hereafter cited as *Parliamentary History*.

22 Jan. (Sunday)

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen This Vessel is in the Road waiting. I have therefore only time to say, that I have this moment reced a Letter from London, mentioning, that in a debate last friday [January 20] in the House of Lords on Lord Chatham's Motion to withdraw the Troops from Boston as a conciliatory Step – The Ministry declared, through Lord Suffolk, that they are determined to embrace no conciliatory measures, but will persist in the plan of the last Session, & enforce an entire obedience. Lord Chatham was supported by Lords Rockingham Camden Shelburn & D[uke] of Richmond. For the Ministry Lords Suffolk, Lyttelton Townsend Gower Rockford & Weymouth Division 60 to 18 against – This news you may depend on – Whether they will persist time will determine, but I thought it nessary to let you know this Corn the same I am always [&c.]

R Champion 22 Jany 1775

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

23 Jan.

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA”¹

1775. The King's pleasure was signified by Lord Rochford to provide
23d [January] Transports for carrying to Boston the 35th 49th & 63d Regiments of Foot, the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons and 500. Drafts & Recruits with 40 Officers and 26. Noncommission'd Officers,—And, on the next day, Orders were given accordingly.



William Pitt, First Earl of Chatham. From the studio of Richard Brompton, 1772.

28th [Do] Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves was directed to concert with General [Thomas] Gage whether any Measures could be taken to oblige the People of Rhode Island to restore some Cannon which they had seized, And to take such steps as should be judged adviseable.

Do Vice Admiral Graves was directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified by [William Legge] Lord Dartmouth in his Letter of this date to lose no time in sending one of the Sloops of his Squadron to the Mouth of Savanna River in Georgia with Orders to her Commander to consult with Govr [James] Wright upon the means by which her Station there might be render'd useful to His Majesty's Service and to the support and protection of His Majesty's Government. — The Vice Admiral was also order'd to purchase, man, arm and put under the Command of Lieutenants three more Schooners to be employed as part of his Squadron.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

PETITION OF THE LONDON MERCHANTS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ¹

[Extract]

Jan. 23 [1775]

That the petitioners are all essentially interested in the trade to North-America, either as exporters and importers, or as venders of British and foreign goods for exportation to that country; and that the petitioners have exported, or sold for exportation, to the British colonies in North-America, very large quantities of the manufacture of Great Britain and Ireland, and in particular the staple articles of woollen, iron, and linen, also those of cotton, silk, leather, pewter, tin, copper, and brass, with almost every British manufacture; also large quantities of foreign linens and other articles imported into these kingdoms, from Flanders, Holland, Germany, the East Countries, Portugal, Spain, and Italy, which are generally received from those countries in return for British manufactures; and that the petitioners have likewise exported, or sold for exportation, great quantities of the various species of goods imported into this kingdom from the East-Indies, part of which receive additional manufacture in Great Britain; and that the petitioners receive returns from North-America to this kingdom directly, viz. pig and bar iron, timber, staves, naval stores, tobacco, rice, indico, deer and other skins, beaver and furs, train oil, whalebone, bees wax, pot and pearl ashes, drugs, and dying woods, with some bullion, and also wheat flour, Indian corn and salted provisions, . . . a total stop is now put to the export trade with the greatest and most important part of North America, the public revenue is threatened with a large and fatal diminution, the petitioners with grievous distress, and thousands of industrious artificers and manufacturers with utter ruin; under these alarming circumstances, the petitioners receive no small comfort, from a persuasion that the representatives of the people, newly delegated to the most important of all trusts, will take the whole of these weighty matters into their most serious consideration; and therefore praying the House, that they will enter into a full and immediate examination of

that system of commercial policy, which was formerly adopted, and uniformly maintained, to the happiness and advantage of both countries, and will apply such healing remedies as can alone restore and establish the commerce between Great Britain and her colonies on a permanent foundation . . .

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 168–171. Similar petitions expressing grave concern over disruption of the American commerce were received by the House from Bristol, Glasgow, Birmingham and elsewhere. The Bristol petition set forth, "That a very beneficial and encreasing trade has been carried on from the port of Bristol, highly to the advantage of the kingdom in general and of the said city in particular . . ." And, the West Indian planters appealed to Parliament "to preserve the intercourse between the West India islands and the northern colonies, to the general harmony and lasting benefit of the whole British empire. . . ." *Ibid* 179 and 221.

27 Jan.

LORD ROCHFORD TO LORD STORMONT, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ¹

[Extract]

St. James's 27th Janry 1775

We have certain Intelligence that a very illicit Trade is carrying on to His Majesty's Colonies in America, as well by British as foreign Ships, and as it becomes so necessary in the present Juncture to prevent as much as possible the continuance of it, Orders have been sent to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships in the American Seas to be particularly attentive to intercept and seize any British or foreign Ships which may be found with prohibited Goods, or warlike Stores destined for His Majesty's Colonies in America. I have thought it not improper to mention this to Monsr Garnier and Your Excellency may take an opportunity of giving the same notice to Monsr de Vergennes as it will be much easier to prevent Mischief than to apply a Remedy to it afterwards.

1. PRO, State Papers 78/295. Similar and in some cases, more strongly worded notices were sent to British representatives in other European capitals.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 27 January 1775

My lord, The dice are cast: the Government seems to be determined to break down the Americans. In addition to the marines which it has been decided to send, as I had the honor to inform you, the order was sent last wednesday to the Vice-Roy of Ireland to prepare everything for the transport of three infantry regiments and one light cavalry regiment. Each infantry regiment consists of one battalion of 477 men. The light cavalry regiment stationed in Ireland is made up of six companies and at the present consists only of 179 dragoons. But 18 men will be added to each company, half of whom will be recruited in Ireland and the other half will be on detachment from the light cavalry of Elliot and Burgoyne stationed in Great Britain. The latter numbering only 94 men will embark without their horses. Since they are all good horsemen, it was deemed that they could easily get used to the horses they will find in America. These reinforcements, including the marines number 2,418 men, and the Governement states that General Gage will have about 9,000 men under his command. He will receive at the same time an additional detachment of artillery. . . .

As Myd Rochford spoke to me on this subject yesterday, he was kind enough to explain positively that the intention was not so much to act with hostility against the Americans as to encourage in the Colonies the friends of the Government who had not dared declare their opinions for lack of sufficient forces to protect them. However, if these troops are to be used solely for the protection of well-disposed people, they run the risk to be weak everywhere since they will be spread throughout the various colonies. . . .

This Minister informed me that he would write to Myd Stormont today and instruct him to convey to you the decision taken by the Government to stop completely the trade of the Americans, considering that they trade only in contraband upon which a closer watch will be kept than in the past. All foreign or national ships that will be found loaded with war ammunition for the Americans or trading with the English Colonies on the Continent will be seized. I am inclined to believe, My lord, that the British Ambassador will only allude to this matter and with great caution. I answered Myd Rochford that the Court of London could rely upon the strict observance of the treaties on our part, and that in matters of justice, since the King conformed to it as faithfully with respect to his neighbors as he expected the same on their part, His Majesty would always suit the precept to the example.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 251, LC Photocopy.

28 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

Whereas it has been represented to the King that there is a necessity that a Sloop of War should be immediately stationed at or near the Mouth of Savannah River in Georgia; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Darmouth one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to lose no time in sending thither one of the Sloops of War under your command, with Orders to the Commander of such Sloop to consult from time to time with Sir James Wright His Majesty's Governor of that Province, upon the means by which her Station there may be rendered useful to His Majesty's Service, and to the Support and Protection of His Majesty's Government. Given &c 28th Jany 1775

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
C. Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 258, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to purchase Three Schooners upon the best and cheapest terms you can for His Majesty and to draw upon the Navy Board for the Expence thereof,

You are to cause them to be armed fitted, Manned, Victualled and Stored and put in every respect upon the same Establishment as His Majesty's Schooners already under your Command, transmitting to Us the Names you may think proper to give them that they may be register'd accordingly on the List of the Royal Navy, and you are to employ the said Schooners in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majesty's Service. Given &c the 28th Jan'y 1775.

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
Palmerston
A. Hervey.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 259, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY, TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 28h January 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Lieutenant [Henry] Colins, Commander of the *Magdalen* Schooner at Philadelphia, desiring that when their Lordships shall think it convenient for His Majesty's Service to order a Schooner from those Parts, the above may be ordered home, as his private affairs require his presence in England; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith a Copy of the said Letter, and to acquaint you that the said Schooner cannot be sent to England meerly to accomodate the Lieutenant, but that if his private affairs render it absolutely necessary for him to come to England, their Lordships have no objection to your permitting him to resign the Command of the Schooner, and appointing another Officer to her in his room. I am &c

P. S.

Vice Admiral Graves at Boston By the *Falcon* Sloop at Portsmo.

Duplicate sent 3 March

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 228, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 28h January 1775

I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letters of the 23d September, 30h of October, 3d 4th and 20th of November, and 15th of December last, giving an account of your proceedings with the Squadron under your Command; And in return I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that their Lordships very well approve thereof.

You will have observed by my Letter of the 23d of last Month that their Lordships were pleased to direct you to send the *Rose* immediately to England being one of the Newfoundland Squadron and also the *Tartar*, *Glasgow*, and *Swan* Sloop, for the reasons thereinmentioned, when they could with propriety be spared from their respective Stations. I am now to acquaint you that their Lordships have ordered another Frigate to be fitted out for the Newfoundland

Station, and that you are therefor to consider the *Rose* as one of the Ships of your Squadron and to employ her in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majesty's Service; But as her Captain is in the same predicament as those of the two Ships and Sloop abovementioned, Vizt that of having commanded her upwards of three Years, their Lordships would have you send her, together with them to England at the fall of the Year, when they can no longer cruize upon the Coast, unless the exigency of the Service entrusted to your care, should render it necessary for you to keep them still longer in America; in which case you are at liberty to do so.

Their Lordships have ordered Six Sloops to be fitted out as soon as possible to reinforce the Squadron under your Command, and will send them to you, as they are severally in readiness; Besides which, the *St Lawrence* Schooner will be refitted and sent back, and you will see, by their Lordships order of this date, that you are to cause three New Schooners to be purchased and put upon the same Establishment as His Majesty's other Schooners. If besides this Reinforcement You should judge it expedient to hire two or three Schooners in addition to those which you were directed to hire by their Lordships Order of the 13h of October (as you seem by your Letter of the 15h of December to think you should) their Lordships are pleased to permit you to do so, taking care however that they be continued in the Service no longer than shall be absolutely necessary.

I have nothing further in Command from their Lordships but to recommend it to you to concert with General [Thomas] Gage whether any measures can be taken to oblige the People of Rhode Island to restore the Cannon mentioned in Captain [James] Wallace's Letter and to take such Steps thereupon as shall be judged adviseable. I am &c

P: S.

By the *Falcon* Sloop at Portsmouth

Duplicate sent 3 March

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 229, NYHS Transcript.

29 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Captain [John] Linzee, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Falcon*, (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him under your command accordingly, and employ him, and the said Sloop, in such manner as shall appear to you best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your care. Given &c. the 29th Jany 1775.

By &c. P. S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
A. Hervey

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 261, NYHS Transcript.

31 Jan.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 31 Jan'y 1775

I wrote you a few Lines to give you the melancholy News of the designs of Ministry to persist in their foolish and wicked Attempts against America the Wind having ever since detained this Vessel I am enabled to acknowledge the receipts of your favors of 10.21 & 21 Decr The Insurance was made agreeable to your orders. The *Friendship* does not yet appear. I shall pay due Honour to your Bill to Mess Sayers Chambers & Co £981.15 – when you draw payable in London you will please to draw at a longer date than here; as the difference of time is from twenty to thirty days owing to a provision being necessary to be made there in time

Notwithstanding the Arrival of several Cargoes Wheat continues at 7/ & will be supported tho the Sale will be slower than common however I am happy in being able to render you in all probability if the Vessel arrives safe, & the Cargo in good order a good Sales.

I never was so much at a loss what to think of the approaching Period, as I am at present. The Country is in want of grain, & had it not been for these Supplies, we should have been in great distress. Many Cargoes arriving together, tho' they occasioned the sale's being now slow yet the prices do not, & will not fall below 7/. but how this will be when the Manufacturers are discharged from Employment and a scene of riot & confusion ensues is impossible to foresee If the Populace should rise for they must be in a Starving State, Granaries generally become the first sacrifices & Corn must be sold out cheap to satisfy them. These Disorders are to be expected. I should therefore think it most prudent by no means to venture at this market at a hyrer price than what the *friendships'* cost & at the Exchange you quote; even this is too high in my opinion to ballance the hazard which may accrue from the expected disburstanc[e]s in England. I am of opinion that the Months of July & August will not be the worst for prices, as the Season this Winter has been so very mild, as to make us expect the Spring to be very backward, & consequently the Summer to be unfavorable to the Harvest a Circumstance which often happens. Besides in this Country there are some complaints of the Corn from the extream wet, which may in the End prove of bad consequence. These are now Conjectures which Time only can determine but they appear to me to be founded on some probability so much so, that I will be concerned one third in two or three Cargoes of fine Wheat of the prices you mention at not exceeding the prices of Six Shillings p bushel or even on board of Six Shillings & Six pence; higher I have given you my reasons why I think it imprudent, & this is beyond what I think Wheat will be at with you, when the demand is a little abated. You will please to let your motions be governed by the quantities you know are destined for our market, which by your extensive Correspondence you will be able to learn. I shall keep you constantly advised The *Champion* Stanton belonging to me I have if not loaded at Carolina ordered to Philadelphia. if he does not get a good freight at Carolina, he is to come to Philadelphia, when if you can load him at these Events please to do it, if not get him

the best freight here you can. Your Bills shall meet due Honour for what you draw on my Account, & on yours also, which I shall be obliged to you to do at as long a date as you can, & after the Vessels are sailed if convenient, as it will make the advance easier, & I should be glad to give every assistance in my power to you.

I am going to London on the business of a very frivolous Petition presented against the setting Members by the unsuccessful Candidate When I am there I shall advise you every thing I can collect respecting America bad News it must be as the Ministers are determined upon pursuing their foolish & wicked Measures. The Merchants they have treated with great Contempt – We petitioned here but all to no purpose. Mr [Edmund] Burke which you will see by the publick prints has exerted himself in behalf of America, but a corrupt Majority in Parliament oversets every present Attempt. You will excuse my farther enlarging now. I shall only add that in every part of your Business here I shall exert myself in showing how much I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & CO.¹

Gentlemen.

Bristol January 31. 1775

Since I wrote you this morning I have an Account of the Ship *Friendships* arrival in our River; I have not yet seen Capn Young but expect him up every moment –

I am with great Esteem Gentlemen [&c.]

For Richard Champion

Henry Kent

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA”¹

1775.

31st [January] Vice Admiral [William] Parry Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands was directed in pursuance of His Majesty's pleasure signified by the Earl of Rochford on the 26th to be particularly attentive to the illicit Trade carried on from St Eustatia & other Dutch Settlements to His Majesty's Colonies in America, and to direct the Captains & Commanders of the Ships & Vessels under his command to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which might be found carrying on an illicit Trade and to have on board prohibited Goods, – Merchandize or warlike Stores destined to the said Colonies; and to instruct the said Captains &c. to behave with the necessary moderation & prudence in the execution of it.

By a subsequent Order of the 27th of February, he was in pursuance of the King's further pleasure signified by Lord

Rochford on the 24th told (and directed accordingly) that it was only intended that *such Foreign Ships* should be examined and seized as might be found hovering about His Majesty's Colonies in America or within 2 Leagues from the Land, and that *they* should not be seized on the high Seas at more than that distance unless upon some particular well founded Information of their having on board prohibited Goods & Merchandize or Warlike Stores destined for His Majesty's said Colonies. But that this Restriction was not to extend to Ships belonging to His Majesty's Subjects.

N.B

Like Orders were given to Vice Admiral [James] Young on the 15th of April 1775. previous to his going out to relieve Vice Admiral Parry.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

3 Feb.

JOHN HOBSON TO STEPHEN WEST ¹

Dear Sir

London Feby 3d 1775.

I wrote you two days ago by the Packet in which I acknowledged the receipt of your several favors down to the 28th. December altho' I could not then write in Answer fully to them for want of time – I am fully convinced that the *Somersets* Sales not getting out sooner, lost us a good deal of Tobacco, and yet those Sales were sent out much sooner after the Arrival of the Ship here, than they used some years agoe, ever to be, but now it is become a custom in order to recommend themselves and to take advantage of others for the Merchts in the Tobacco Trade some of them at least, to send out the Sales, even before the Tobacco is sold, and unfortunately for us, that Ship Arrived so late that unless we had taken the above method, there was not really a Sufficient length of time to do the business in, before the Shipping Season came on again in Maryland, and then the want of the Accounts of the *Somersets* Load, was made a pretence for not shipping more by the People, without considerg whether the Sales of that Cargo had been detained or kept back longer, or even so long as in general Accots Sales, are – As to the Goods, I know they never were sent out so Irregular before, and however strange it may seem, it was owing to my wishing to have them packed and sent away better than usual, that they came to be worse, for not content with having that part of the business, done by such hands as it had generally been done for me, I employed what I, and every body thought, a sedate experienced Man, and one that had been in the business ever since he could do any thing, and yet thus I was served – I observe you say you *have* accepted the two Bills, & have given good Bonds *as Security*, but why will not you make Manduet *and the* rest here, easy by giving Land Security, for nothing *else* I know will Satisfye them, and as you *can* do it, why not – I mean no more by it *than you* do, and think the Bonds as good Security as Land, or your own Acceptance as good as either, but if other People cannot or will not think so, I cant make them –

There has been no Alteration in the price of Tobacco since I wrote you last, but it is very likely there soon may, for the resolution taken in the House of Commons last Night of sending more Ships and Men to Boston and of making Amer[ica submi]t at all events must I think have [some eff]ect – a few days will determine perhaps I may be able to say something on the Subject more, by Maynard I have sent by this Opportunity some News Papers and the Petitions of the Merchants of London to the House of Commons for your perusal – You did not say who were the Com[missione]rs here on the Guinea Affair, but I will endeavour to find out I have been spoke to by John Buchanans Trustees concerning some Evidence they say went from hence respecting William Halls Affair – of which you have however said nothing to me that I remember In tending to write you again by Maynard, I remain [&c.]

Pr. *Industry* Capt Magruder

John Hobson

1. Oden Papers, MdHS.

FLUDYER, MARSH, HUDSON AND STREATFIELD, LONDON MERCHANTS, TO
JAMES BEEKMAN¹

Feb. 3, 1775

We have duly received your favour dated 11 December acknowledg[ing] receipt of our several letters, also of your Account Current and that you found the same free of Error, which we are glad to observe. We are thankfull for your Intention to favour us with an Order if not prevented by the present unhappy situation of Public affairs. We are sorry to say, the prospect of a Speedy accomadation, between Great Britain and the Colonies seems to be at a considerable distance. We most sincerely wish that Matters may yet be amicably compromised, and every cause of difference removed, and settled in so effectual a manner as to prevent the like disagreeable events in future. Towards attaining this desirable end, our Samuel Marsh who is chose a Representative in this new Parliament, will undoubtedly do every thing in his power.

1. White, ed., *Beekman Papers*, II, 755. During early 1775 similar communications came to Beekman from other English merchants expressing strong desire for compromise and continuation of the overseas commerce so vital to the welfare of all. These included letters from George Stonehouse and Co., Bristol and Pierce and Brown, Bristol. *Ibid.* 855 and 898.

5 Feb. (Sunday)

WILLIAM BOLLAN, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND ARTHUR LEE, TO CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY¹

[Extract]

London, Febr. 5. 1775

A motion made by Lord Chatham, to withdraw the Troops from Boston, at the first Step towards a conciliatory Plan, was rejected; and the Ministry have declared, in both Houses, the Determination to enforce Obedience to all the late laws. For this Purpose, we understand that three Regiments of Foot, one of Dragoons, seven hundred Marines, six Sloops of war, and two Frigates, are now under Orders for America.

1. Franklin Papers, XV, LC.

7 Feb.

LORD SUFFOLK TO SIR JOSEPH YORKE, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE ¹

Sir,

St James's Febry 7th 1775

I have the Honor to inclose to Your Excellency a Copy of some late Orders which the Earl of Rochford has, by His Majesty's Command, transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Your Excellency will do right to make a fair & confidential Communication of the Substance of them to The Prince of Orange & the Dutch Ministers, who cannot be surprized that, at this Conjunction, when Our American Colonies have entered into an Association not to trade with Great Britain, Great Britain should be particularly attentive to their Counterband, & excluded from their Trade, should take especial Care that they carried none on with Foreign States. For this Purpose the Force will be increased on the respective Stations, & such Ships sent to the Leeward Islands & Elsewhere as are best adapted to the Nature of the Service they are to be employed upon.

[Enclosure]

My Lords.

Janry 26th 1775.

Intelligence having been received that a very illicit Trade has of late been carried on from St Eustatia and other Dutch Settlements to His Majesty's Colonies in America, I am commanded to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you give Orders to Vice Admiral Parry to be particularly attentive to that Object & that He should direct the Commanders of the Ships & Vessels under his Command, in their respective Stations, to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which may be found carrying on an illicit Trade, & which may have on board prohibited goods & Merchandize, or warlike Stores, destined to His Majesty's Colonies in America; And that the said Commanders be further directed to behave with the necessary Moderation & Prudence in the Execution of their Commission.

I am &c.

Rochford.

1. PRO, State Papers 84/546.

LORD SUFFOLK TO LEWIS DE VISME, BRITISH ENVOY TO SWEDEN ¹

[Extract]

St James's Febry 7th 1775.

Sir, I think it necessary to inform you, that the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels sent, & to be sent to the Coast of North America, are, & will be instructed, in their respective Stations, to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which may be found carrying on an illicit Trade, & which may have on board prohibited Goods and Merchandize, or Warlike Stores, destined to His Majesty's Colonies. You will take an Opportunity of mentioning the Substance and Import of these Orders, to the Swedish Minister; But it will be more material, in Point of Effect, to let it be understood by the principal Swedish Merchants, as the Contraband Trade between Sweden & Our Colonies, is chiefly carried on thro' Holland & other indirect Channels.

1. PRO, State Papers 95/125.

LORD SUFFOLK TO MR. DE LAVAL, BRITISH RESIDENT TO DENMARK ¹

[Extract]

St James's Febry 7th 1775.

It becomes indispensably necessary, in the present Conjuncture, to be particularly attentive & severe with regard to the Counterband Trade of our Colonies in North America; The Commanders therefore of The King's Ships & Vessels, stationed off that Coast, are instructed, in their respective Stations, to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which may be found carrying on an illicit Trade, & which may have on board prohibited Goods and Merchandize, or Warlike Stores, destined to His Majesty's Colonies. You will do right to take some Opportunity of just apprizing Monsr Bernsdorff of the Orders which have been given upon this Occasion.

1. PRO, State Papers 75/131.

LORD CAMDEN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ¹

[Extract]

Feb. 7. [1775]

Our commerce . . . is at once the source of our wealth and our power; it both gives us seamen to man our fleets, and money to pay them; without commerce this island, when compared with many countries on the continent, is but a small insignificant spot: it is from our commerce alone that we are intitled to that consequence we bear in the great political scale. When compared with several of the great powers of Europe, England, in the words of Shakespeare, being no more than a "bird's nest floating on a pool."

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 272.**8 Feb.**COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Versailles] 8 February 1775

The Viscount of Stormont ² spoke to me in general terms of the resolution adopted by His Government to stop the trade of the Colonies and to prevent contraband. The second item of this resolution is to conform to the conditions existing not only in the English Colonies, but all the other Colonies in America. Their trade is exclusive and does not let in foreigners. Thus, the intention announced by the British Ministry concerns a matter sanctioned by a generally adopted usage. You may assure Milord Rochford that the King will not authorize His subjects to contravene this agreement and that he will not protect those who dared transgress it; but at the same time, you will tell this Minister that we are convinced that he will have taken the necessary precautions so that the ships in charge of the surveillance of the coasts of English America do not interfere with the trade of our own Colonies, that these ships should not extend their cruise under empty excuses begotten only by a greed for spoils and should not be so bold as to come in the vicinity of our Islands and stop, visit and seize those of our ships that import the goods necessary for the consumption and defense of the said Islands and export their home produce. We do not allow ourselves to doubt that His British

Majesty has given or will give the strictest and most precise orders to that effect to the Commanding Officers of the ships that He sent or will send to America.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, LC Photocopy.
2. English Ambassador to French Court.

9 Feb.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775.

9th February Commissions for Victualling His Majesty's Navy were order'd to send out 4. Months Provisions of all Species (except Spirits which they were to contract for) for 4,275. Men.

Do A Transport was order'd to be provided to carry the Servants, Horses & Baggage of the three Major Generals going to Boston²

1. Germain Papers, CL.
2. Major Generals William Howe, Henry Clinton, and John Burgoyne.

10 Feb.

A MESSAGE FROM KING GEORGE TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT¹

Feb. 10. The following Message was presented to both Houses:

G.R.

His Majesty being determined, in consequence of the Address of both Houses of Parliament, to take the most speedy and effectual measures for supporting the just rights of his crown, and the two Houses of Parliament, thinks proper to acquaint this House, that some addition to his forces by sea and land will be necessary for that purpose; and his Majesty doubts not but he shall have the concurrence and support of this House (on whose zeal and affection he entirely relies), in making such augmentation to his forces as the present occasion shall be thought to require.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 298.

MOTION IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS¹

Feb. 10. The House having resolved itself into a Committee on the Papers relating to the Disturbances in North America,

Lord North moved, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to restrain the trade and commerce of the provinces of Massachusetts Bay, and New Hampshire; the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such provinces and colonies from carrying on any fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein to be mentioned, under certain conditions, and for a time to be limited."

[Passed in the House of Commons, Wednesday, March 8, 1775, and in the House of Lords, Tuesday, March 21, 1775]

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 298-299.

13 Feb.DEBATE IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS¹

Feb. 13. The House being in a Committee of Supply,

Mr. [John] Buller moved, That an additional number of 2,000 men be allowed for Sea Service for the year 1775. He stated the respective services our ships were on, and said that the proposed augmentation was necessary to enforce the measures of government in America.

Lord North remarked, that the subject had been so amply discussed on Friday, by being so much blended with the means of restraining the fishery of Massachuset's Bay, that he should have the less to offer upon this occasion; that the rebellious disposition and motions of that and other colonies made it necessary to have such a guard upon the coasts of North America, that the augmentation was highly necessary; and as the people of New England could not be restrained from the fishery without some sloops stationed for that purpose, the circumstance made it doubly requisite to provide accordingly. . . .

Lord John Cavendish and Colonel Barré accused the noble lord of great inconsistency, in thinking so far to blind the House as to have it believed that the augmentation asked for could answer any purpose but to convince the Americans of the inveteracy of the mother country against them, and to throw a reconciliation to a yet greater distance: that a few thousand seamen added to the service would never effectually answer the purpose, if that purpose was to prohibit the trade of the most commercial colonies in America; that the noble lord must mean only to trifle with the House, and with mankind, in declaring one day America to be in rebellion, the next prohibiting the commerce of Massachuset's Bay, and the third coming for so insignificant an augmentation; that the gentlemen on the same side of the House had repeatedly asserted, that the commerce of the New Englanders, and much of that of the other colonies, was contraband; and that America was peopled with smugglers, to the great detriment of that advantage, which would otherwise flow to this country: how could administration, therefore, with any degree of consistency, suppose that such a system of smuggling, added to a new created system of the same, the fishery, be all kept under by any thing less than the most powerful armaments?

Captain [Thomas DeGroy, Baron] Walsingham insisted that our present naval force was by no means adequate to the execution of our professed intentions; for that the squadron we designed for America would answer no purpose of stopping their commerce; or if we did send a sufficient one, our own coasts, comparatively speaking, must be left totally defenceless; as he was well informed, that France alone had 75 men of war of the line now, more than one half of which were manned, and fit for actual service. He then gave an account of a conversation which passed lately between him and a French gentleman well acquainted with the state of their navy; from which he was fully satisfied that the whole of our force, in every part of the world, would not be sufficient to defend us at home, should we blindly rush into a civil war.

Mr. Sawbridge said, he perceived that administration were hurrying the nation to certain ruin, but he should reserve himself to speak on our present conduct towards America, till a fitter and some more convenient opportunity.

The motion was agreed to without a division.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 305-313.

14 Feb.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

14th [February] 2000. Men (including 490. Marines) were voted for the Year 1775. in addition to the 16,000. voted on the 13th December 1774.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 14 February 1775

I have, My lord, fully carried out your orders by observing to Myd Rochford that, as the British Government had deemed necessary to restrict the trade of New England, we do not doubt that His British Majesty gave His sea officers the strictest and most precise orders not to interfere with the trade of our Colonies and not to come near our possessions under any circumstances to visit those of our ships loaded with all that is necessary for the consumption and defense of our Colonies. Myd Rochford assured me that their naval officers had been advised to behave towards us with more caution and more reserve than ever. This minister added I was to believe that they had the greatest desire to live with us on the best terms and in perfect friendship and should some accident occur, they would be far more annoyed about it than we. . . .

This meeting took place on the 12th of this month. Some time later, I met Myd Sandwich himself and I told him of my conversation with Myd Rochford, deeming this precaution all the more important because by giving credit to Myd Rochford for his good intentions, we have more than once experienced that it is advisable to look out for his assurances and that he displays a tendency to make light his promises. Myd Sandwich did not tell me that they will place more care and caution than ever in the orders given to the sea officers. He simply assured me that should some accident occur that would rouse our complaints, they would do us justice promptly and punish the persons responsible. I answered that he knew how much easier it is to prevent than to cure and that we relied on all his care in this respect. He repeated to me the same friendly assurances that I had already received from the Secretary of State in this matter, adding that their officers would receive orders only to prevent contraband with the English Colonies, whereupon I deemed necessary to observe that these most

legitimate orders would not come against any obstacle on our part but that they were to be carried on their waters and not on ours.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 254, LC Photocopy.

15 Feb.

JOSEPH GARDOQUI & SONS TO JEREMIAH LEE ¹

Dearest sir –

Bilbao 15th Feby 1775

As soon as your much esteemed favour 16th Decr came to hand, we began to Consider about the method of complying with your orders, in case of your further desire, & Altho' of a very difficulty nature, we were determind at all events to assist you accordingly, we found out means to procure as many Musketts & pistols as were ready made on the parts for the Kings Army, the quantity was but small having only 300 Muskets & Bayonets, & about double the number of Pair of Pistols ready, but we should have done our utmost to get as many more as was to be found in order to serve you, & shall whenever you shou'd command; but must observe to you that such an Order ought to come some Months before, for all Arms on this side are made on the King's Account, & it is a rarity to find them ready made, besides which they must be got, with a good deal of Caution & Ship on the very same manner; as to secrecy you may depend it is as much our Interest as any ones as the English Embassader will look sharp in every port, & we are upon very good footing with my Lord Grantham ² Should be very Sorry he should know it – The Powder is an Article which we cannot ship unless we have timely advice, for whatever there is made in this Kingdom is for the Government, it is our opinion that Should any of your vessels be taken in the Channel loaded with those articles, she should certainly be condemned, however by having timely advise we can bring them from Holland on Reasonable Terms & ship them as you desire. We see with the utmost concern the difficulties You labour under by an unpolitical Minister's wrong direction of Affairs, But hope the Present Parliament will look into them with clearer light, & will find proper means to accomodate Matters, without going any further, allowing you your just Rights & Libertys, which we do assure you long to see it settled with all our hearts but should it be otherwise (which God forbid) command freely and you will find us at your service, we doubted not but you would be made a member of the Congress as we well know the real great Character you bear among all that know you, therefore wish you most heartily all success in every undertaking and that you may communicate us some agreeable news. We hourly look out for the *London Post*, should it bring any thing Worth yr notice – you may depend on being advised by Dr sr [&c.]

Joseph Gardoqui & sons ³

We should have said above that Corbitt delivered us your esteemd 23d Decr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

2. Thomas Robinson, 2d Baron Grantham, British Ambassador to Spain.

3. Whether this letter ever reached Jeremiah Lee is doubtful, since he died on May 10, 1775 of a fever brought on by exposure from hiding in a cornfield while the British soldiers searched the Black Horse Tavern on the way to Lexington on April 18, 1775.

16 Feb.COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 16 February 1775

We were very surprised, Sir, by the assertion made by Myd Sandwich, concerning three French ships being loaded, according to him, at l'Orient for the English Colonies in America. Before advancing a statement of this nature, it would have been wiser on the part of this Minister to establish the facts so as not to expose himself to a denial or to the necessity of a withdrawal. Since it would undoubtedly not be fair to accuse him of carelessness, we must assume that he was very poorly informed by his spies, or that he has particular designs which we could not see through and which made him take the liberty to advance an assertion of this nature. Whatever the case, Sir, nothing is more untrue than this so-called loading mentioned by Myd Sandwich and you must express our opinion to Myd Rochford. My letter No 127 will tell you which terms to use when you approach this Minister on this matter. It seems all the more necessary to convey its contents to him because of the false interpretation he gave the parliament, following the well-concerted interpellation of Lord Lyttelton. I rely upon your punctuality, Sir, to forward to us Md. Rochford's reply with reference to the false assertion advanced by Myd Sandwich as well as our determination concerning the communication of our ships with the British Colonies.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 128, LC Photocopy.

17 Feb.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA," ¹

1775

17th [February] The King's pleasure was signified by Lord Rochford that Transports should be provid'd for carrying directly to Boston, the Officers, Recruiting Parties & Recruits belonging to the Regiments of Foot on Service in North America; And Orders were accordingly given the same day.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

18 Feb.BERTHON BROTHERS TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Lisbon the 18th. February 1775 –

We confirm the foregoing copy of your last, & have now to acquaint you that the bearer of this is Captn. [William; Barron of your Ship *Peggy*, she goes back in ballast, no freight even indifferently good having offered to employ her with – never did we see the place so dead in this way as at present –

Captn Barron is bearer of the vessell's acct. currt. ballanced by Rs. 1249 £ 381, for which we have passed a bill at 30 dys & 66 7/8 d to the order of Mr. Geo: Hayley wh. shall be handed that Gentn. by the first packet that will sail from hence. The said master has the manifest of freight & copy of the bills of

neat charges for your inspection. The useful disbursements amount in all to Rs. 150; & 266 as you will perceive by the acct. current –

Little or no progress is made on the sale of our joint adventure of flour, but we hope that the demand will brisken, & that the price will not lower, from what governs at present which is slow & 200 – Rice wheat & Corn are as the last –

It will give us infinite please to render you any service at this place, & we shall be carefull to address you again, as soon as any thing agreeable can be said about the flour, p. *Peggy*, till then believe us with regard &c.]

Berthon Brothers.

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

20 Feb.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 20 February 1775

I have learned, My lord, that during the session of the House of Lords where Myd Rochford mentioned the letter from Myd Stormont, the Duke of Richmond said that this letter meant very little, and that one could rely upon *Gallican faith* only in as much as it would be to our advantage to keep our word. In addition, I have learned that Myd Rochford was so good as to agree with this, but went on to say, however, that it would not be to our advantage if the English Colonies cast off the yoke, quoting, in order to support his opinion, the very well written but inaccurate book concerning the history of both Indies. . . .

It is in the best interest of the Ministers not to show to the Americans the least sign of misunderstanding between us and they must be careful to keep up appearances as reality. I therefore confess, My lord, that I could not doubt for one moment their sincere desire to live with us according to the best of terms. Maintenance of peace with the outside world is the only way they can hold on; and with the exception, perhaps, of Lord Sandwich, a man as rapacious as he is capable, who believes he made himself important enough in his department so as not to lose his post should the Government collapse, I do not know any among the present Ministers who would wish war.

Now that we are confident as to the intentions of the Ministry, since their interest as well as that of England is to maintain peace, there remains for us to examine what might be the results of the measures they took to face the situation at home. If these do not complete success, the administration will fall immediately, and the King will be compelled to give in to the circumstances and receive Myd Chatham at the head of the Government. He will come to this position with absolute power. His is the only name still popular in America and he will reconcile all at the moment. Since the rebellion of the Colonies came before his administration and, therefore, could not cast a dark shadow upon it, the former will be easily forgiven. Other projects will strike his genius in order to create a diversion and draw the attention away from the domestic quarrels, gather divided passions, and erase past insults with duties to come. He will find thousands on a war-footing in the Colonies, ten thousand regular troops, a number of ships unused and ready to serve as transports, a fleet considerable for the number of small vessels more suited to privateer, in Europe, a Navy in the best condi-

tion, 17 guard-ships and 8,000 sailors. This is a naked sword in the hands of a madman. We cannot overlook the fact that these are powerful motives that would rouse the ambition of a man ready to sacrifice everything to the glory of the present; and if we consider where he might strike his first blows, we shall see a field open to vast plunder. Our fishermen and the elite of our sailors, would be the victims of the designs of a British squadron and, without any other protection than the good faith of this nation, the trade of our Colonies would become the prey of the British ships. Indeed these matters deserve the attention of the King and His Council.

If the English policy to keep constantly cruising ships in all the seas where they have possessions is not offset by identical measures, it gives them at the onset certain advantages over us that might well destroy the fragile principles of justice, especially those of a Minister who is more famous for the fearlessness of his undertakings than the reckoning of a wise foresight. He would see not without impatience that everything would be ready and that three small boats carrying the necessary orders would be enough to insure the taking of 15,000 sailors and 500 ships, a flourishing Colony even. Indeed, in these conditions, what Colony would be able to resist the forces that will be gathered in America by next summer? If at this time the control of the Government fell into the hands of Lord Chatham, and if six weeks later the troops—of which he himself suggested the recall to parliament, knowing quite well they would not follow his advice—have not received the order to come back, that circumstance alone would be sufficient, in my humble opinion, to take steps to organise our defense and use the wisest and strongest precautions.

Fortunately, as improbable as this speculation may be, I believe, My lord, that I should present to your intelligence all the possible eventualities considering the violent situation prevailing in England now on the eve of a tremor of which the results are most unpredictable. Undoubtedly, nothing would be more contrary to the interests and desire of England in general than starting a war with us, even with great advantages at the onset. But, too often personal motives prevail over the interest of nations and the downfall of this power would not compensate the losses caused by a war we would have to carry in order to bring that destruction about.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 255, LC Photocopy.

M. DE SARTINE, FRENCH NAVAL MINISTER, TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

Paris, 20 February 1775

I offer you all my thanks, Sir, for forwarding to me the dispatch from M. Garnier concerning the secret branch he had the initiative to put back into operation. The additions that he has suggested seem to deserve all our attention. I know how important it is for us to be exactly informed of all English maritime movements; I also think that we could take great advantage of the connections which M. Garnier will have the opportunity to establish at Chatam and in the Office of Ordnance. It seems also greatly desirable that M. Garnier should find a reliable and faithful correspondent at the Admiralty. If we could count on this, it would be the best way to be warned in time of the arrangements made by

the British that could concern France. The expense that would result from this might come to a considerable amount! But the essential interests of the State require, especially in the present circumstances, that we do not lose from sight the projects of our rivals, whatever they may be. I must believe that their Colonies keep them quite busy at the moment, but if, because of some change in the Ministry anticipated by M. Garnier or an agreement with the Americans, they were in the position to use for other purposes the forces which they intend to gather in the American ports, reliable advice, given in time, could upset their projects, at least stand in their way and prevent the occurrence of events which, without these precautions, might become fatal to our Navy and our navigation.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, LC Photocopy.

24 Feb.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 24 feby 1775

My last was 31 Jany Since which I have your favor of 31 Decr The remittance to Messrs Wombwells shall be soon made agreeable to your directions.

I am just return'd from London after having had the pleasure of seeing Mr [Edmund] Burke confirm'd in his Seat by the Committee of Elections. The most unwearied pains has been taken by that Gentleman in defence of America against the violent Measures now carrying on, and in support of the commercial Interests of both Countries, but in vain. All our Petitions have been treated with Contempt, and we have now no Hope left. The Motion of Lord North which I send in the enclosed paper is not calculated at all to conciliate as the Armament is to go out, & all the Boston Bills are to be enforced. In short every thing wears the most melancholy aspect. Many here speak with contempt of the firmness of America, but I can have no idea but that a people who have set out with the Resolution they have and whose Grievances have been so just, will not rather submit to temporary than lasting Evils.

The greatest part of the large Importations of Wheat is already gone off, yet without the least Reason, they have lowered it to 6/9 p Bushel I have sold very little of the *Friendship's* but she is now discharged within a trifle, but there is a good deal of damage between 3 & 400 Bushels. This Wheat is clean and good, but there is this great, & material Objection to it, it is between 2 & 3 Lbs P Bushel lighter than Wheat in general from America. This has kept back the Sale, an[d] I have sold nothing worth mentioning, & might be som[e] reason, had I been induced to it, to have lowered the price, but was none for the heavy wheat, which went off very fast, so that there is hardly any left. And this done after an Agreement. I shall not be in a hurry to sell, but will endeavour if possible to get up the price to 7/. for I am sure it cannot be lower than 6/9 except people will wantonly sport with their goods.

I confirm to you what I wrote you about Wheat, & the Concerns I mentioned I have still a better opinion of this Articles' keeping up, which the large Importations so readily selling confirm. Wheat will most certainly be wanted here. and if the Congress in May should put an immediate Stop to Exportation, as many suspect they will, without waiting till the 10 Sepr there will I suppose be

quantities sent off as soon as possible, but as this cannot I imagine affect the markets so as to raise the price, these Cargoes must turn to great Advantage. Whatever occurs in future I shall advise you of, but with respect to politicks I have not the least Idea, but that the Ministry will attempt to enforce every Act in hopes that America will give way which Lord North's motion was particularly calculated for, thinking that it would divide the Colonies.

I would more enlarge but I am fearful that a Vessel will be sailed as the Wind is become fair, & I could not write sooner, being just returned I am always Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

LETTER FROM LONDON RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

London Feby 24, 1775. –

Providence seems to have placed me here in Order to give you the earliest Intelligence of the most interesting Affairs, relative to the Colonies.

To my great Astonishment, I have now before me an Act for blocking up the other Colonies; & another called the Black Act, to prevent the Fisheries. – The whole Nation seems to be deeply affected at such an enormous Crime, which is supposed to be done at the Request of the King and his Creatures – God forbid, that you should be intimidated at this iniquitous Law, which is calculated to ruin what was a mutual Benefit to you and us. – This must convince you what you are to expect, if you submit to the most shocking Set of Men that England can produce. You now see their Humanity. Rouse up then with a Just Indignation and exercise your Militia – Watch your Governour and Council. – The New Assembly is to be composed of such Creatures as will give up the Peoples Rights, and join in the most horrid Plot against them. – What a melancholy Reflection, that the Riches and Trade of a great Nation should be abused and turned to the Destruction of themselves and the Colonies! –

In short the King is determined to be as absolute as the French King, and, with the most obstinate Head and bad Heart, has set himself against the People, whom he will not see keeping himself retired from his Subjects in Pride & Ignorance. He has discarded Men of Veracity from all Places of Profit & Honour, and fill'd their offices with a Set of the most abandoned Villains on Earth. These are they who advised him to break his Oath with the People, for which they are dispised by the Nation. If you hold out a few Months, England will rise and do you Justice; as well as relieve themselves from those accursed Tyrants who want to corrupt you and deprive you of both Liberty & Property.

There are two hundred and eight five Members of Parliament, who are all paid with the People's Money to vote whatever [Frederick] Lord North proposes, and he has his Lesson from eighty More, who compose a Club, that meets in the most Private Manner, in the Night; at Mrs Keens near the Palace, where they have a Box which contains the Papers that pass between his Majesty and them The King overlooks their Schemes & corrects them; as well as gives Orders how to proceed for the Future. [Thomas] Hutchinson is consulted, and to the Shame of Governor [Cadwallader] Colden, [John] Pen[n] & [Josiah] Martin who have

written such Letters to Lord Dartmouth, that the King has appointed them to meet at New York, in order to join with your other lying Spirits in betraying the Colonies. – To compleat which Villainy Lord North has made a Motion in Parliament, as if he intended to promote Peace with the Colonies; but it is to deceive them & the people of England too. It is intended to defeat the salutary advice of the Congress, which does Credit to British America.

Set the Press immediately to work, and publish to the World the wicked Designs of the King and his Counsellors; that you despise their lavish schemes, and are determined to preserve your Laws and Religion. –

Encourage the Brave People of Massachusetts Bay to act worthy of their Noble Ancestors!

I have the pleasure to assure you, that the noble Lords with whom I have conversed, all join you in Contempt of the Junto here. – You are desired to let the Colonies know that there is a deep Plot formed to divide them and deceive the People into a Compliance. But tell them that you want not their Trade nore Protection at the Expense of your Liberty. –

You will see, by the Papers, the Treatment Lord Chathams Plan met with. – Those Lords who advised the King to declare you Rebels, and appointed Messrs [John] Hancock, [John] Adams &c.&c. have gone so far as to say that Chatham shall fall a sacrifice to their Designs &c.

I know there is publick Virtue among you. I know your Fondness for England will not let you believe the wicked Designs that are meditating against you; but I do now, in the Presence of God warn you that the King has no good Intentions towards you, but what you oblige him, by your own Wisdom & Virtue to have. – Take Care of yourselves, and act as the Wise & Brave have done in all Ages when oppressed by Tyrants. – Resist unto Blood, all who attempt to betray you. –

The Parliament have registered Colden's & Penn's Letters Look to them, and see for yourselves. – Beleave the Court your worst Enemies. – Be much on your Guard. –

Yesterday Doctor [John] Fothergill and Mr [David] Barclay were so press'd in Spirit, that they went to Lord North and told him that his Bill for prohibiting the Fishery was so horrid and inhumane an Act that the Nation would rise and oppose it: And that if it did pass into a Law, it would be a scandal to Humanity and perhaps occasion a Revolt. – They plead two Hours with him but to no Purpose. –

The Bill is to be read a third Time on Tuesday [February 28]; so that in five Days this horrid Bill passes into a Law without any further Consideration, Oh America! Oh England! –

The Ministry, in Order to quiet the Mob ordered an inflammatory Pamphlet to be burnt at Guild Hall which drew off the People, whilst the Bill passed in Parliament &c.

A Report is sent into the City, that the Transports are stopt. This is to quiet the Merchants. But the Officers are gone down in private Coaches, of other People, and America is to be divided and driven into Compliance, before England is apprized of it. –

Lord North has just given out that he will resign, and at the same Time says that he fears Nothing from the People, unless it be the breaking of his Coach Doors or some such Trifle. – No Resistance of Importance from the City; only a Clamour, which he has often experienced. He expects that this Manoeuvre will quiet the People on both sides of the Water.

Goods are shippd in the Transports with the Officers Baggage, mark'd *Rex*, and under the Protection of the Kings Troops, who are to Land them, and protect the Trade, &c. –

North Carolina is to be a store House, it is said, – Support the Committee, & watch the Officers of the Customs &c. Your Friends are afraid that you will be surprized into Compliance. – The offers of Peace were only to raise the stocks which had fallen. – They are now four pts higher on Account of the Report. The Council sat up all Night, in Order to find out Ways and Means to conquer Virginia, & procure Tobacco. Great offers will be made to those who will raise it &c.

Men of large Fortunes are afraid to oppose Government, least the Bank should fail, which is said to be in Danger.

The Interest of the Year 1774 is not paid.

Many of the People are your most hearty Friends but the King's your greatest Enemy. Be not deceived by his Low Cunning; act wisely, and the wicked Plot will break on the Heads of those who want to destroy you.

The King is his own Secretary; he gets up at 6 oClock every Morning, sends off his Box with Remarks on a Bit of Paper tied round each Order. four of the ablest Lawyers are constantly with him, whose Business it is to advise & search for Precedents to screen his Head, and throw the Blame on the Parliament.

Two Millions have been squandered in Bribery and Corruption. the Crown has nothing to fear but the Hunger of the Poor.

A steady Adherence to the Proceedings of the Congress will save England and America.

Beware of Governor Penn, who has had offers made him to comply with the Designs of the Court. –

Send this to Boston immediately,² Mr Hancocks Lands are already divided among the Officers. –

Lord Dartmouth is your bitter Enemy, and determined to destroy the Liberties of America.

All the Wise wish that you may attend to the Advice of the Congress.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 45–48.

2. This letter, with a subsequent one of March 1, 1775, was received in New York on April 19, and copies were dispatched immediately to the Massachusetts Provincial Congress at Watertown. See New York, April 19, American Theater.

THOMAS & ROWLAND HUNT TO ROBERT CARTER ¹

Sir

London 24th Feby 1775

Since we wrote you of 18th June last p *Trident*, Mitchell enclosing a Blank Power of Attorney for yourself & Mr Lowndes to execute & return us, we have reced yr Letter of 21st July & observe the contents.

New-York, May 8, 1778

Extract of a Letter **From Philadelphia,**

To a Gentleman in this City, dated the 6th inst.

YESTERDAY evening Dr. FRANKLIN arrived here from London in six weeks, which he left the 20th of March; which has given great joy to this town; he says we have no favours to expect from the Ministry, nothing but submission will satisfy them, they expect little or no opposition will be made to their troops; those that are now coming are for *New-York*, where it is expected they will be received with cordiality. As near as we can learn there are about four thousand troops coming in this fleet, the men of war and transports are in a great measure loaded with dry goods, to supply *New-York*, and the country round it; agents are coming over with them. Dr. *Franklin* is highly pleased to find us arming and preparing for the worst events, he thinks nothing else can save us from the most abject slavery and destruction, at the same time encourages us to believe a spirited opposition, will be the means of our salvation. The Ministry are alarmed at every opposition; and lifted up again at every thing which appears the least in their favour, every letter and every paper from hence, are read by them.

N E W - Y O R K :

Printed by JOHN ANDERSON, at Beckman's Shop

We find that the £1000 Bank Stock left to Benjn Benson stands in the names of Robt Carter, Christr Lownds & Ann Ogle, for which reason a Power from them must be had for the purposes of receiving the Dividends already due thereon (of wch the Warrants for above 2 Years remain unreceived) & transferring the Stock into his name

Last Summer he was attacked by an Illness which became very dangerous but he at length recover'd of it & in the Month of October when Mr Jas Anderson was about to embark for Maryland, by way of New York, he determined to accompany him. In consequence thereof we paid the expences of his fitting out with Cloaths &c his Passage & Cash for travelling Expences from New York & gave him the Account which amounted to £214.15.5 (including your charge against him) –

The first Accot sent you was 3rd May 1773 being –
the next was 18 June 1774 –

70 .14 . 7
103 .19 . 6.

£389 .9 . 6.

These Accots we deliver'd to Mr Benjn Benson before he left London to shew how his Accot stood with us but you will observe that thro' the whole transaction we have charged neither Commission nor Interest of Money altho' we shall at least expect the latter on his last Accot & then we are not at all benefited for having had him under our care –

It appears rather singular that since you put under our Care a young Gentleman, your Consignments of Tobacco have been discontinued to us, which we apprehend must be owing to your removal from Williamsburg to Nominy hall on Potowmack River, where our Captain has not had opportunity to wait on you for yr Commands. We suppose that if you intended us any Tobacco, you wd have prevailed on Messrs Hyndman & Co's Captain to take it on bd his Ship, as you have repeatedly done heretofore, & such a request, if denied, you wd in course advise us of, that we might take such measures as to prevent your being disappointed a second time from him –

We had the misfortune, to lose our Ship *Martin* coming from Virginia the 31st Decr last on the coast of Wales near to Millford Haven together with all the Cargo (except about 6 hhds in quantity) & Captain & 9 Men occasion'd by the Ship getting into the Bristol Channel instead of the English Channel. This unhappy accident & the present alarming situation of America, prevent our chartering a full Ship, we have therefore agreed with Capta Outram of the Ship *Liberty*, who loads in York River, to take 200 hhds Tobacco for us, & we shall give him directions to wait on you on our behalf. He will sail the beginning of next Month for Virginia in Ballast –

You will please to remember that it is incumbent on you to forward us proper Powers to enable us to reimburse ourselves, as what we have expended for Benjn Benson at present stands to your Debet – We hope he is by this time arrived in Maryland & that he will pursue some employment forthwith, having lost already too much time in doing nothing & it being out of our power by persuasion to prevail on him when here to settle in some way of Business –

We remain at all times Sir [&c.]

Tho^s & Rowl^d Hunt.

[P.S.] The Power B Benson has left here for accepting Stock, & receiving Dividends will be sufficient, after it is transferred into his name, but at present it is irregular, owing to that having not been yet done. —

[Endorsed] Leter dated 24th feby 1775—Received the 5th May 1775—

1. Robert Carter Papers, 1772–85, VHS.

EMANUEL MATHIAS, BRITISH RESIDENT TO HAMBURG, TO LORD SUFFOLK¹

[Extract]

No 8

Hamburgh, Friday, 24th Feby 1775.

My Lord, Last Tuesday I had the Honor to transmit to Your Lordship a Copy of the Memorial, which from the Motive I alledged in my Dispatch No. 7, I thought proper to present to a Deputation of the Senate on the 17th Instant; And I have now the Pleasure of inclosing to You, My Lord, the Extract of Their Register, with which, in Answer thereunto, Syndick Sillem and Senator Dörner were again deputed to me Today, and which contains almost *ipsissimis verbis* what They were directed, They said, to signify to me orally in the Name of Their Superiors, Vizt

“That immediately upon my Memorial being read in a full Senate, They had ordered the Deputies of the Commerce to convoke the Body of Merchants, and to notify to Them, for Their obedient Compliance the serious and earnest Prohibition The Senate had just passed, to carry on any Contreband Trade whatever with or to the British American Colonies.” The Deputies added, “That, were even these Measures, tho’ calculated for debarring their Trading Inhabitants from such illegal Practices, to be deemed much too insufficient by His Majesty’s Government they should be enforced by an Edict to be immediately published and affixed for that Purpose;” — And They took this Opportunity to desire me, that I would interpose my good Offices, as well in renewing the most respectful Assurances of the anxious Zeal and unlimited Devotion, which both the Senate and their City entertained for The King and His Government, as in conveying to His Majesty Their most ardent Wishes, that the Seeds of Discord and Opposition, scattered between the Mother and filiale-Countries, may soon be stifled or eradicated, and Great Britain hereafter enjoy a most perfect Tranquility and Happiness to the remotest of all Ages.

1. PRO, State Papers 82/94.

26 Feb. (Sunday)

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA”¹

26th. [February] The Kings pleasure was also signified by his Lordships² that Transports should be provided for carrying from Ireland to Boston the 22d. 40th. 44th & 45th. Regiments of Foot; And Orders were accordingly-given the next day.

N.B.

These regiments were afterwards order’d to New-York.

1st. March Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves was directed to purchase another Schooner to supply the place of the *St. Lawrence* found unfit for Service.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. Lord Rochford, Under Secretary of State.

27 Feb.

CAPTAIN TEMPLE LUTTRELL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ¹

[Extract]

Feb. 27, 1775

According to the horological predictions of a most enlightened state soothsayer, we have about seven years more of profound tranquillity with the House of Bourbon to trust to; but, from the symptoms of our domestic distraction, and the improved state of the government and finances of our neighbours, I should judge it prudent to be somewhat better provided than we are at present for an early rupture; not entirely to dismantle our ports and our coasts of soldiers and seamen, sent to immolate the martyrs to liberty of their own flesh and blood, on the distant continent of America.

It has been made evident to you, that a defection of the northern colonies will soon bring on the complete ruin of your West India settlements, which cannot elsewhere affordably provide themselves with cattle, lumber, and divers other articles requisite for the support of a plantation.

. . . Whatsoever share of indulgence and independency Great Britain shall, in this her florid and athletic stage, generously bestow on her rising colonies, they will, no doubt, amply repay to her in some future generation. . . .

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 346, 347.

CIRCULAR LETTER OF JAMES RUSSELL, A LONDON MERCHANT, TO HIS
CORRESPONDENTS IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA ¹

Sir,

London, February, 1775

It is with the greatest Concern I find myself under the Necessity of informing you, that the present alarming State of Affairs will no longer justify my entertaining Hopes that our Trade will be restored to its former Situation, by the Requisitions of the Continental Congress being duly attended to and complied with in this Session of Parliament; the Association must, consequently, be strictly adhered to. In Compliance therefore with the first Resolution thereof, and circumstanced as we now are by the violent Resolutions of Government, I have laid aside all Thoughts of being able this Spring to execute the conditional Orders for Goods, sent me by many of my Friends last Fall.

Under the Faith of the Fourth Resolution of the Association, I have ventured to send my Ships out in Ballast, in Confidence, that by the favour of my steady Friends, they will return loaded with Tobacco, consigned to me as usual; and I have strictly enjoined all the Masters of Ships in my Service, to pay due regard to the Sixth Resolution of the Association, on Pain of forfeiting all future Employment by me.

The tender Regard paid to the Interests of the Merchants of this Country, by the Continuation of Exports from America for a limited Time, after our Friends there have precluded themselves the Benefits and Conveniencies of all Imports from hence, is an Instance of Favour to them, for which they will not be ungrateful; and I take this Opportunity of acknowledging the due Sense I have of the particular Advantages that will result to me from the Justice of this Resolution; the Wisdom of it is highly extolled by all the Friends of America, because it puts it in their Power to refute the Calumnies of such as have insinuated, that Intentions were formed by some of withholding the Debts due from the Colonies to Great Britain.

Impressed with the deepest Anxiety for the grievous Distress with which not only the Colonies, but these Kingdoms, are threatened, the Merchants of this City have not upon this Occasion been wanting in Duty to their Country, their Friends, themselves, and Posterity, by using every justifiable Means in their Power, to prevent the Calamities with which all are threatened; and if they have hitherto been unsuccessful, they are not discouraged, but will continue to take every Opportunity that may offer of using their utmost Endeavours to obtain Relief for their Fellow-Subjects in America, and to establish Concord and a permanent and cordial Reconciliation between Great Britain and her Colonies, upon which the future Prosperity of both ultimately depend; and they have Reason to hope that these great Objects are still to be attained.

I flatter myself, that notwithstanding all the Insinuations of the Malevolent or Interested, a Doubt has not been entertained by any of my Friends, of my Readiness to concur in every Measure that shall appear expedient to the general Body of Merchants and Traders, to be taken in Favour of America: a Moment's Reflection must carry Conviction with it to every disinterested Person, that the Prosperity of America is evidently so intimately connected with my own Interest, that a Suspicion cannot remain, that I could recommend or adopt Measures destructive in their Consequences to my best Friends, and ruinous to myself. I also flatter myself, that the same Spirit of Unanimity with which the whole Trade here are disposed to adopt every Measure tending to the general Good, will be communicated to their respective Friends with you; and that however fashionable it may have been to depreciate the Reputation of one, with a View to exalt the Credit and promote the Interest of another, that such illiberal Practices will henceforth be exploded, and all Animosities cease; this, at least, is my earnest Wish; Calumny and Detraction have never had my Sanction; and I trust, that my Business, which has so long been established upon a better Foundation, does not now require the Aid of so weak a Support. I acknowledge that I have always been willing to promote a laudable Spirit of Emulation in the Trade, in Hopes that the obvious Benefits resulting to my Correspondents from such a Conduct, would be attended with good Consequences to my own Interest.

It has been suggested to me, by some my Wellwishers, that they were not without Apprehensions that it would be dangerous to put any of their Property in the Power of Government, by shipping it to Great Britain during the Existence

of the present Troubles; I therefore think it incumbent upon me, before I solicit the Favour of their Consignments, to undertake, which I hereby do, to indemnify all my Friends from any Risk they may apprehend their Effects consigned to me will be liable to after their Arrival here. Upon Application to Mr. Charles Grahame, Merchant, at Lower Marlborough; Mr. John Dorsey, Merchant, at ElkrIDGE; or Philip Richard Fendall, Esq; at Port Tobacco, who have the Direction of loading my Ships, the fullest Satisfaction may be had that I have Property sufficient in the Country to warrant this Engagement, and guaranty all my Transactions.

The Assurances I have received from many of my Correspondents, who now owe me Balances, that no public Dissensions will influence them to forget their Duty to Individuals, give me Reason to expect that they will, upon this Occasion, exert themselves to make me all the Remittances in their Power, by the Return of the Ships. I do not wish to draw more of my Property out of the Province, than will discharge every just Demand that can be made upon me here; and that I have not the least Doubt of being enabled to compleat. And should public Affairs continue to exhibit the melancholy Prospect of a total Stagnation of Trade, and consequently deprive us of the Means of promoting and continuing our Friendship and Correspondence for any Length of Time, I have no longer any Incitement to reside here, and I doubt not but many of my Friends will be glad to see me in the worst of Times. The Produce of the real Property I have in the Country, will enable me to spend the last Stage of a Life amongst them, which has been so long dedicated to promoting a mutually beneficial commercial Intercourse with the Tobacco Colonies.

It is impossible to say what Prices Tobacco may command at this Market next Fall: that will greatly depend upon the Prospect we may have of a Continuation of a Supply from the Colonies, and in some Measure upon the Steps that are likely to be taken here in American Affairs, in the next Session of Parliament; and it is yet to be hoped, that they will be favourable to the Restoration of our Trade, because by that Time our Rulers must feel that this Country has every Thing to lose, and no Advantage to hope for, by this unnatural Contest with their own Subjects. This is certain, that the Sellers will struggle to maintain inflexibly the present high Prices, and take every Advantage of the State of the Market, and of the Apprehensions of the Buyers that the Means of Supply will be cut off, to advance them still higher.

I beg Leave to recommend it to you, to get your Tobacco ready as early as possible, that you may run no Risk of being disappointed in getting it shipped off before the Period fixed for the Termination of Exports.

The Favour of your Assistance to dispatch my Ships, will be doubly esteemed as an Obligation this Year; and you may rest assured of my Fidelity, and that I shall consider your Interest as my own, in the Disposal of whatever you are pleased to commit to my Care at this critical Juncture.

I am respectfully, Sir [&c.]

James Russell

1 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Capt [John] *Collins* Commander of His Majestys Sloop *Nautilus* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him and the said Sloop under your command accordingly & employ them in such manner as you shall find best for his Majestys Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c. 1st March 1775

By &c. P.S.

Capt [William] *Burnaby* – *Merlin*
[Matthew] *Squire* – *Otter*

Sandwich

J Buller
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 283, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c

Whereas His Majestys Schooner the *St Lawrence* has been found unfit for further Service, And Whereas we think fit, that another Schooner shall be purchased to supply her Place, You are hereby required & directed to purchase another Schooner accordingly upon the best & cheapest terms you can for His Majesty and to draw upon the Navy Board for the expence thereof.

You are to cause the Schooner so purchased to be fitted, Armed, Mann'd Victualled & Stored, and put, in every respect upon the same Establishment as His Majestys Schooners under your command; calling her by the name of the *St Lawrence*, and employing her in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majestys Service entrusted to your care. Given &c 1st March 1775

By &c. P. S.

By the *Nautilus*.

Sandwich

J Buller
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 284, NYHS Transcript.

LETTER FROM LONDON RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

[London] March 1, 1775

Part of the Troops now Orderd for Embarkation here and Ireland, are to rendezvous at New York, to make it a Place of Arms securing the Defection of that Province from the general Alliance in the Cause of Freedom, and every Thing that is dear to Man: and to prevent the Communication between Virginia, Maryland, and the other Southern Colonies, with New England, when General [Thomas] Gage with such Assistance as he may get from New York, is to subdue those Colonies by a Garrison and Place of Arms, with the Assistance of Quebec to rule with a Rod of Iron all the Slaves of America.

Without the Concurrence of new York, this Scheme can never be carried into Execution, of which every Gentleman and Man of Knowledge in the King-

dom is fully convinced therefore on your Virtue, in a great Measure, it depends whether America shall be free, or be reduced to the most abject and oppressive Servitude; worse than that of Egyptian Bondage; in which you must inevitably be involved, if you lend your Aid to enslave your Brethern in the other Colonies.

I have to inform you that the Bill for preventing the four Colonies and Provinces of New England from Fishing, getting any Provisions from the other Colonies, carrying on any Commerce whatsoever to any Part of the World, except to Great Britain, Ireland or the British West Indies will finally pass the House of Commons to morrow, and is to take place the first of next July. – You may also depend that in a few Days another Bill will be brought in to prohibit any of the other Colonies from carrying on any Trade whatever with each other, or to any other part of the World, except to Great Britain; Ireland, or the British West Indies, which will probably take place in July also: therefore you will act accordingly, and let this be publickly known.²–

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 48, 49.

2. This letter (and another of the same date) was copied and forwarded to the Provincial Congress at Watertown. See also London, February 24, 1775.

LETTER FROM LONDON RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

London March 1st 1775

The Measures of the Ministry will I hope, do more towards uniting the Colonies, than any Efforts of America itself; You will easily perceive their wicked Intentions to divide as well as their Designs after that hoped for Division, They have high hopes of Success from the last Accounts from New York. I trust the People of that Province will soon displace those rascally and treacherous Tories in your Assembly, who dare thus negatively encourage the System of Despotism now adopted for your Government. – The Wisdom of the Congress, and the Firmness of the People, give the strongest Assurances of future Conduct. – Several Names are made use of here as Authorities to warrant the Defection of all America. Pray print this short hint for the Observation of the Honest Men among you. I need not endeavour to expose the Baseness or Folly of the present Men in Office, for they Take care to do it themselves.²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 49, 50. See the previous letter of March 1, 1775.

2. To the above letter, the New York Committee Deputy Chairman, Henry Remsen, appended this note: "The foregoing were at first intended only to be communicated to the Inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay, But on more Consideration it was judg'd best to inform those of Connecticut also, leaving them to forward the Accot to Concord with the utmost Despatch."

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

[Extract]

London, 1 March, 1775

The inclosed paper will give you a true Idea of Lord North's motion, that is, what he meant by it. Last night we were heard and produced evidence at the Bar of the House of Commons against the Fish Bill as 'tis called, of which you have a copy. Our evidence has embarassed the Minister, but still I think the Bill will pass which will embarrass him still more in this Country. Ld North's resolu-

tion² was reported to the House from the Committee last Monday, and passed after long debates. Its fallacy is now well understood here, and instead of serving his purpose, has made him weaker, as I always expected it wou'd. The War preparations are still carrying on against America. The troops are designed to embark from Ireland in all this month but they will hardly get to Boston or New York before the Middle or the latter end of May. You must take care of yourselves. By all means preserve union among the Colonies and you will be safe. The Packet which arrived yesterday has destroyed in great measure the ministers' hopes of seducing New York, for tho' the Assembly would not confirm the proceedings of the Congress, the Committee unanimously resolved to adhere to the association. You must exert yourself for me this year as we shall have nothing to do the next.

1. Ford, ed., *Lee*, I, 137, 138.

2. This was what was known as Lord North's conciliatory measure. It read: "that when the General Council and Assembly, or General Court of any of his Majesty's provinces, or colonies in America, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstance, or situation of such province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the General Court, or General Assembly of such province or colony, and disposable by Parliament) and shall engage to make provision also, for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice in such province or colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by his Majesty, and the two Houses of Parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear in respect of such province or colony, to lay any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any further duty, tax or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or impose, for the regulation of commerce; the net produce or the duties last mentioned to be carried to the account of such province or colony respectively." The motion was sent to the Colonial Governors in a circular letter from Lord Dartmouth, March 3, 1775.

2 Mar.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

2d. [March] The Kings pleasure was signified by the Earl of Dartmouth for a Frigate to be provided to carry the Major Generals [William] Howe [John] Burgoyne & [Henry] Clinton to Boston. And The *Cerberus* was accordingly ordered.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

Captain [James] Chads Commander of His Majts. Ship the *Cerberus* by whom you will receive this being directed to proceed to Boston with the Major General's [William] Howe, [John] Burgoyne, & [Henry] Clinton and to return immediately afterwards to Spithead with any Dispatches you or Genl. [Thomas] Gage may have to send, You are hereby required and directed to hasten the said Captain's return in the *Cerberus* to Spithead with such Dispatches as you

and the said General may have to send home accordingly. Given &c. the 2d. March 1775.

By &c P.S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
C. Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 286, NYHS Transcript.

LORD GRANTHAM, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, TO LORD ROCHFORD ¹

[Extract]

Madrid 2d March 1775.

As I was, two Days ago, with M. Grimaldi upon some Business, relating to a new Duty on Rum exacted at Cadiz, I took Occasion to repeat what I had before said to him, on the Subject of searching and seizing such Vessels, as should be carrying on an illicit Trade to North America, and I had the Satisfaction, not only to find him in the same Sentiments which he had professed before, on my first Communication of this Business to him, but even, that he went further by assuring me, that M. Arriaga had Orders to send circular Notice to all the Ports in America, to prevent the Temptations which Masters of Vessels might find themselves under at this Juncture, and that if they did, notwithstanding the Notice given, attempt such Practices, so far from finding any Support from hence, they should be left to their Fate, & the Sentences due to them. As for Ships belonging to His Catholick Majesty, those he answered for, that they should engage in no such illegal Attempts. A more perfect Agreement & Acquiescence to the necessary Steps taken by our Court could not, I think, be obtained.

1. PRO, State Papers 94/197.

3 Mar.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 3d March 1775.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received Advice that Insurance has been made on the Ship *Prosperity*,—French, Master, bound from Dunkirk to North America (with liberty to touch at St Eustatia) having on board a quantity of Tea intended, as supposed, to be run into some of His Majesty's Colonies there; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, that you may cause a proper look out to be kept for her.

I am &ca.

Php Stephens.

Vice Adml Graves, at Boston. — By the first of the following Sloops which sail
Vizt *Nautilus*, *Merlin*, *Otter*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 3d March 1775

Sir I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 8th of January last, enclosing Copies of the Letters you had received from Governor [John] Wentworth relative to the riotous pro-

ceedings in New Hampshire, and giving an account of the steps you had taken thereupon, as also of your proceedings up to the date of your Letter; and in return I am to acquaint you that their Lordships very well approve thereof.

I have also received and communicated to their Lordships your Letter of the 15h of January enclosing Copies of the Sentences of the Courts Martial which had been held upon Captain [William] Maltby, and James Bignel Gunner, of the *Glasgow*, and acquainting their Lordships with the advices you had received from Captain [Andrew] Barkley and Lieutenant [Henry] Mouat [Mowat] of the accident which had happened to the *Canceaux* by the ignorance of the Pilot.

Their Lordships approve of your having landed the Supernumerary Marines belonging to the Ships under your Command upon the requisition of General [Thomas] Gage, and of your having discharged them from the Ships Books, it corresponding exactly with their Lordships directions to you of the 28th of January, of which you will receive a Duplicate by this Conveyance.

Their Lordships being apprehensive that the Contractors for Victualling His Majesty's Ships in North America may meet with difficulties in furnishing them with Provisions in some of the Colonies on account of the present Disturbances, have directed the Victualling Board to send out to you upon Freight 4 Months Provisions of all species for 4275 Men, that you may, as you shall see occasion, be enabled to send supplies to such of the Ships under your Command as may stand in need thereof.

The *St Lawrence* Schooner being condemned as unfit for further Service, you will receive, by this conveyance their Lordships Order to purchase another to supply her place.

The Transports appointed to carry the Marines to Boston are now falling down the River. The *Nautilus*, *Merlin* and *Otter* Sloop (by one of which you will receive this Letter): are nearly ready and will probably sail in the Course of next Week to join you. The *Scorpion* will soon follow them; as will also the *Hunter* as soon as she can be got ready.

I am &c

P: S:

(By the *Nautilus*) Vide Sir James Douglas's Letter 5h March 1775 Duplicate sent the 6h April – (By the *Senegal*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 284, NYHS Transcript.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

My Lord,

London, 3 March 1775

I have the honor to inform you at the request of Mylord Rochford that, as a result of the protests I made in your name to this Minister, the Court of London deeming this matter important enough to take new precautions, has sent with dispatch to its sea officers on duty in America the most positive orders to use the greatest care in avoiding to give us the smallest ground for complaint.

I believe it is my duty to forward to you also the most positive assurance I have received since then from Mylord Sandwich and Mylord Suffolk in this matter. Both have confirmed to me in the strongest terms that all the orders we

might have wished for have just been given not to interfere with the navigation of our ships under any pretence. In brief, all the ministers have assured me that they were perfectly at ease at present and that we certainly would not have any reason to complain.

It is not possible, My lord, to carry guarantees any further and give them a more sincere and persuasive accent. Indeed, I confess that I have not the slightest doubt that we can rely absolutely upon them. I made the remark to Mylord Suffolk that our foresight in this respect is a convincing proof of our good intentions and our endeavour to avoid as much as it is within our power any ground for dispute between us. This minister answered me that he had interpreted our request only in this sense and that he was obliged to us. It was agreed that we would have behaved quite differently if it had been our intention to take advantage of our neighbours' embarrassing situation.

Indeed, My lord, you will have rendered an essential service to both Nations by this act of caution at a time when one could not give too much attention in holding back officers whose ideas lean naturally toward war and booty and would become inflamed by reason of the operations of which they will have charge. The only reproach these ministers might incur is that they waited to take these measures, as important to them as they are to us, until we brought the need to their attention. But in their position, it is difficult to think of everything; and their intentions are so peaceful that it never came to their minds to suspect those of their subordinates.

I had one more order from you to carry, My lord: that one consisting in the denial of the assertion relative to so-called French ships being loaded at Fort l'Orient for the English Colonies. I asked Mylord Sandwich yesterday if he had presented this assertion to the House of Lords. He admitted so. Whereupon I explained to him the nature of my orders; that I believed I should warn him in complete honesty that I could not exempt myself from carrying them out. He told me that he had received this reliable information from l'Orient and from Bordeaux and that it had been confirmed to him by the London underwriters; that, anyway, it was a speculation on the part of our merchants occupied in smuggling and not a State affair. I answered that we did not consider either this matter as such; and that, since no question on this matter had been put to us, we wished to express our conviction out of pure friendship that he most certainly had been poorly informed. Today, I also spoke of this to Lord Suffolk who attaches no importance to this affair. He told me that you had said in jest to their Ambassador that Mylord Sandwich was not well informed by his spies.

Mylord Suffolk assured me also at the meeting we had yesterday that Mr Shuldham, former Governor of Newfoundland, had deemed equitable the statement of losses by our fishermen, such as I presented it and that this affair would be settled *at any moment to my satisfaction and according to my desire*. At the point where we stand now, I was to expect the fairness of this procedure, the only one that could be consistent with the manner in which they recognised and confessed on their own the misbehavior on the part of a few of their fishermen. I took this opportunity to mention the essential point concerning a new agreement on the distribution of the coastline where we fish. I presented the same arguments as those I reported in my letter of 1 July of last year, No. 206. Since they had

been approved then, and since this letter describes in detail the aspects of the problem concerning fishing in Newfoundland, I beg you, Mylord, to have it presented to you again. It might influence you to give me more specific instructions in this regard. Mylord Suffolk advised me that he did not think it was impossible to come to a certain agreement before the new Governor, who has just been appointed, leaves for Newfoundland; however, the tremendous amount of work at the Ministry would prevent it at this very moment. One of Lord North's friends took the initiative to relate to him my observations on the eleventh paragraph of his Bill. I am told that he listened with the greatest attention. We will soon see the results. After what I have heard, especially the explanations given by the Committee of the City Merchants at the House of Commons, I am inclined to believe that the fishing interdiction concerning the New Englanders will not go into effect this year yet. These explanations seemed to be interesting enough that I should bring them to your attention. I enclose a translation in this letter.

The province of New York answered the Government's expectations. You will see, My lord, the speech delivered by the Governor of this province at the opening of the Assembly. A member having suggested to consider before anything else the resolutions of the general Congress, this motion was rejected by the majority of one voice only. I took the liberty to tell Mylord Suffolk that this one voice was worth one million in pounds Sterling. The Assembly, therefore, decided to search for other ways by which to redress its grievances. It further decided unanimously to present a petition to His British Majesty, a memorandum to the House of Lords and a remonstrance to the House of Commons. The contents of these documents, which have not arrived yet, will show the ministers how far they can depend on the intentions of this Colony which occupies a very advantageous position in as much as it forms a vital link in the line of communications between New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. However, since several Committees assembled in various parts of the Province have agreed to conform exactly to the resolutions of the Congress jointly with the other ten Colonies belonging to it, the Government will send four regiments to the Province of New York in order to protect and encourage those who display their good intentions and have themselves asked for troops.

Since I had not received the authorization to request the orders sent recently to the Commodore of the English Squadron concerning our ships, I refrained from doing it of my own initiative. Furthermore, I confess I deem them to be so favorable that the ministers might fear to expose themselves to an accusation of timidity by showing them to us in their entirety.

I am, respectfully, &c.

Garnier

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 259, LC Photocopy.

LEWIS DE VISME, BRITISH ENVOY TO SWEDEN, TO LORD SUFFOLK ¹

[Extract]

Stockholm 3d March 1775

I had the Honor of Your Lordships Letter of the 7th February, and I lost no time in acquainting Count Scheffer with the Instructions given to the Commanders of His Majestys Ships and Vessels on the North-American Station. He said that

the precautions were just and wise, and that, I might depend upon it, no Swedish Vessels would be found in those Seas; but I observed, that though the Swedes should not trade on their own account, they might possibly receive freights from others. In order therefore the better to secure their Shipping and Effects from accidents, I have circulated this advice among the principal Merchants of the Capital, and of Gothenburg.

1. PRO, State Papers 95/125.

4 Mar.

LORD ROCHFORD TO M. GARNIER ¹

Milord Rochford presents his compliments to Monsieur Garnier and has the honor to inform him that Milord Stormont is authorised to pay to the person designated by the Count of Vergennes the forty three thousand five hundred and sixty pounds in French money, the entire amount for the damages which the French fishermen claimed to have suffered in Newfoundland in the year 1772.

Milord Rochford is convinced that the promptitude with which the King His Master has rendered justice for the subjects of France in this occasion will be considered as a new proof of His constant desire to strengthen the good relations between the two courts.

At Saint James, this fourth of March 1775.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, LC Photocopy.

6 Mar.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 6 March 1775

My Last was 24 Ulto Since I have none of your favours. The News from New York, since strengthend by the Testimony of the Quakers in your Province, leave no doubt with most people (of which I confess myself to be one of the number) of the Submission of all America to the present System of Government in this Kingdom. It is a pity, that these Circumstances had not been duly considered, before the Americans determined upon meeting in Congress, the resolutions of which by being broke through, only confirms the opinion already adopted, of the weakness of the American Counsels. I am still of the same opinion, whatever may be the Event, that these Laws of Taxation were impolitick and illegal, that they are subversive of the constitutional Liberty of the Subject, and will in the end be destructive of the present Constitution. And I am still further of opinion, that had the Colonies been united in a firm compact to resist these Laws, it was not in the power of the Mother Country to have compelled her.

It is a fact that since America has been in a State of Resistance, great Confusion has reigned in the Councils of the Ministry. When the violent and oppressive Acts passed against Boston last May, the Ministry placed the strongest dependance upon the other Colonies not supporting her, and when he found that they had determined upon a Congress, he laughed at it & looked upon an Union as a thing absurd and impossible In this Situation the new Parliament met, when the Kings Speech was couched in warm terms against America. But no

sooner was the resolution of the Congress known, & the union with which their determination was made, than the Minister was really frighten'd, & expressed himself to that purpose in the House before the Adjournment. However there being a little time to breathe before the parliament met, the most violent of the Ministry declared themselves openly against America the danger being distant. Again the News from Virginia threw them into Confusion, & produced a delusive but apparently conciliatory motion from the Minister, but with such a variety of Opinion in his Coleagues or his Superiours, that they had nearly quarrell'd. Now the News from [New] York has raised their Spirits, & they talk of a Bill to shut up the Ports of Virginia & Carolina. The Act to restrain the Fisheries, or in other words to starve the four New England Provinces still goes on. But if there is any wisdom in the Ministry they will now as some Provinces have acceded, & the others must, adopt moderate Measures, in order to produce some degree of reconciliation and fix their revenue System on a settled basis.

The Advocates for America of which there are able ones in the House, tho' few in number, receive now in a pretty extensive degree, the Epithets of factious, and *rediculous*. To suppose there was Virtue enough left in America to produce any firmness, they are stiled rediculous and for the Resistance which America has made, they are stiled factious as having caused it. Our Representative Mr [Edmund] Burke has indeed exerted himself in the Cause of the Colonies with a warmth, which becomes the dignity of his publick, & the honesty of his private Character, and however wanting any of the Americans may have been in support of their own Cause, Every Man who appeared in their defence here, was supporting in their persons the Liberties of the whole Empire, which cannot be constitutionally taxed without the Consent of the people or their Representatives, & if a Revenue is found in America, will only be used to strengthen the enormous power of the Crown by adding to the List Placemen and Pensioners. As for us poor Traders who have dared to express our Sentiments in favour of the Colonies, we have the Comfort not only of being called factious, but also of being called fools for our Interference with a Business, which did not belong to us, for that the Business of a Merchant is his Interest only, which he ought to prefer to every other Consideration, & which we were by our Encouragement to America evidently injuring by an Interruption of our Commerce. Indeed I am convinced, that Interest is the Soul of Traders in general, & that this will put an end to the resistance of America upon publick and vertuous principles. However I shall ever be happy to have an Opportunity of saying that a House in Philadelphia, the greatest perhaps in Europe led the way, by an entire sacrifice of its private Interest, to the publick Advantage, and founded an Opposition which had it been strictly adhered to would have saved Posterity from the miseries of an arbitrary Government, which this Nation is hastening to assure and for which the Introduction of a Revenue System in America, will prove a certain ground work.

I have not made much progress in the Sale of the *Friendship's* Cargo of Wheat. It is clean and good white Wheat, but this quality if not so much liked here being light, & not producing the quantity of Flour. Indeed our Consumption in this part of the Country is almost wholly of red Wheat, as they are much heavier and produce more flour. So that these sorts of Wheat will have the

preference. However I do as others do here engage the weight to be 60 pounds P Bushel & will not go under 6/9 P Bushel. I have no doubt of finishing the sale at that price only I must wait a little patiently Some of the *Black princes* Cargo² have been sold at 6/7½ warranted Colds P Bushel which somewhat affected the market However I shall not lower I am determined if there is the least possibility of supporting the price, which I am sure may be done with great Ease, for there was no manner of occasion for lowering the price from 7/ as the demand would have been the same. As a proof of it, of the great Quantity imported the greatest part is sold by far, notwithstanding the floods & bad weather which impeded the Country Navigation. The Weather is extremely bad, & there is no doubt of the Corn's being greatly injured, & indeed every prospect of a middling Harvest, so that this Country must be in want of grain. I have given you my sentiments fully on that Article, which I confirm with respect to want of it here. Had not the Supplies we have had, arrived, Wheat must have been 12/ p Bushel at the least. With respect to Export in future you will know best, but by the appearances of things I suppose it will now be open. The Manufacturers are fuller of work then Naught could have thought especially at Norwich Manchester & in Yorkshire, & even at Birmingham there is a good Trade, nor are the Clothing Countrees yet affected. The principal Distress lies with the Nail Duffield & Serge Manufacturers who are already great Sufferers.

I shall advise you what further occurs for I am with great Truth Gentlemen [&c].

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

2. The ship *Black Prince*, John Barry, master, which arrived at Bristol, January 31, 1775, from Philadelphia, with 1,246 barrels of flour, 16,203 bushels of wheat, 800 boards and 3,840 pipe and barrel staves. Journal of the *Black Prince*, Hepburn Collection, copy in William Bell Clark Collection.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 6 March 1775

After the recent increase of the troops and of the ships, I thought, My lord, that in the present circumstances, you would like to receive a record of the armed forces and everything in active status in the Navy. In writing both reports, I took care to show clearly and precisely the disposition of the British forces as of next May. I thought I should anticipate and include the troops on their way to America as well as the frigates and corvettes being readied for the same destination. If no changes occur between now and that time, the entire forces bound for America will consist of 14,635 infantry men and 1200 marines under the orders of General Gage; also, 7 ships-of-the-line, 16 frigates, 18 corvettes, 7 schooners, with crews totaling 7600 men. All these ships are assigned to the waters of Northern America as well as the waters of the West Indies. The transport ships chartered by the Navy Department for the passage of 7 infantry regiments, 1 light Cavalry regiment and 700 marines under orders to go to America, form a total of 17,345 tons.

If we found ourselves in the same unfortunate situation as England, and if we had forces as large as hers in this part of the world, I dare say that England, without any consideration for the legitimacy of our motives or the sincerity of our promises, would seek safety with her own means, and we would soon see her squadrons in all her possessions, ready to protect them against any event. What would England not do to help bring about the independance of our colonies in rebellion? We are undoubtedly less suspicious and more righteous, but after the experience of the past, England can expect that we will take, for our own part, the precautions that the King will deem necessary. This power should not be surprised if, in similar conjuncture, we relied entirely upon her good faith. The Ministry may change and it is advisable that the successors do not find us without defense. Furthermore, I see that, among the most reasonable Englishmen, a certain number expect the King to have by next summer a squadron cruising for the protection of His colonies and the trade of His subjects. It has been clearly explained to me that, if we wished to protect the American fishermen in Newfoundland, we would have all of them on our side, and that these people could form with France and Spain an alliance so much the stronger that it would rest on their mutual interests. Since the suggestion came from a man of distinguished merit and for whom an immediate answer was required all the more because he wanted on the contrary that I take some time to think about it, I did not hesitate to reply that it was not a feasible thing. I beg you, My lord, to impute these observations only to my zeal. By submitting them to your intelligence, I beg you to remain assured that I profess no other opinions than your own to which I am bound by my feelings and my sense of duty.

We have received the information from Holland that the English Ambassador has requested the States General to stop all vessels of their nation from carrying arms and war ammunition to the English Colonies, and should they fail to do so, Great Britain would send warships to Texel, Zealand and the mouth of the Meuse in order to visit Dutch ships. You can, My lord, compare this to the language we are used to hear and you will see that weakness towards England is like an enemy that becomes worse and worse as it becomes easier to punish him.

I have the honor to forward to you along with the American papers as they were presented to the Parliament an abstract of these papers made by Mr. Frontier.² This correspondence does not flatter General Gage, for it shows clearly the sterility of his information as well as his means and views. It would be easy to verify that, on various occasions, several persons here were better informed of what actually went on in America and what was to come than General Gage himself who was there and in possession of the greatest civilian and military powers. At present, he begins to be regarded with more favor and it is believed that he will not be deprived of the command that General Amherst could have had if he had wished. Everything is being readied on the American continent for the Congress that is to take place on the tenth of May. Georgia which had not been represented at the last congress has elected a few representatives for the next one. The delegates of the other colonies will be nearly the same as those who fulfilled

this mission last year. It is also believed that New York will again send delegates, and that the refusal on the part of the legal Assembly of this province to take into consideration the resolutions of the last Congress will remain without consequences. It is true that the provincial congress appointed to carry out the said resolutions acts still as unanimously as in the past, and that, according to the latest news from this Colony, it had been decided to send back with her cargo a ship expected there any day from the port of London. Furthermore, the petitions expected from the assembly will be far from conforming to the desires of the government.

Be it as it may, this sort of apparent defection on the part of the assembly is, it seems to me, an unfortunate occurrence as far as the other colonies are concerned and the government must not neglect anything in order to draw the greatest advantage from it. The first summer months will apparently bring about in America important events the repercussion of which we will soon feel. . . .

The order has just been given for the building at Plymouth of a ship of 90 guns under the name of *Glory*.

You can rely, My lord, on my taking every opportunity to inform you of what goes on here. The state of things here becomes so interesting every day that it requires our greatest vigilance and care. I neglect nothing in order to be able to forward to you the most reliable informations and my connections are such that I can obtain them. Nothing interesting happened in either House since my last letter.

Table Showing the Guard Ships in the English Ports and the Ships Cruising in Various Seas, as of 6 March 1775. ³

EUROPE

Guard ships in Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham.

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Barfleur	90	400
Ocean	90	400
Centaur	74	350
Egmont	74	350
Marlborough	74	350
Royal Oak	74	350
Resolution	74	350
Mars	74	350
Ramillies	74	350
Albion	74	350
Dublin	74	350
Torbay	74	350
Kent	74	350
Exeter	64	300
Worcester	64	300
Raisonnable	64	300
Ardent	64	300
Ships of the line	17	5850

EUROPE—Continued

Ships cruising on the CHANNEL:

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Thames	32	180
Alderney	Corvette	100
Carcass	"	100
Hunter	"	100
Hazard	"	100
Speedwell	"	100
Race Horse	"	100
Ranger	"	100
Wasp	"	100
Wolf	"	100
Zephir	"	100
		1180
Frigate.....	1	
Corvettes.....	10	

NOTE: Among the corvettes now cruising on the Channel, it can be assumed that several will receive new orders to sail for more distant destinations as it will be deemed necessary.

Ships cruising in the Mediterranean:

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Medway	60	420
Winchelsea	32	180
Alarm	32	180
Levant	28	160
Raven	Corvette	100
		1040
Ship of the line.....	1	
Frigates.....	3	
Corvette.....	1	
<i>TOTAL FOR EUROPE:</i>		
Ships of the line.....	18	
Frigates.....	4	
Corvettes.....	11	
Number of Men.....		8070

AFRICA: Coast of GUINEA.

Pallas	36	180
Weazel	Corvette	100
Frigate.....	1	
Corvette.....	1	
Number of Men.....		280

NOTE: Since one expects any day the ships and the corvette which had remained at the Cape of Good Hope under the command of Admiral Barland and which will

be decommissioned upon their return, we have not mentioned them here. The ships *Prudent*, *Intrepide* and *Warwick* which were attached to the same squadron have already arrived in Portsmouth and Plymouth. *Warwick* was to be decommissioned in Chatham, but since she was unable to sail up the Thames she received the order to be decommissioned in Portsmouth.

ASIA: East Indies.

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Salisbury	50	300
Coventry	28	160
Sea Horse	24	160
Dolphin	24	160
Swallow	Corvette	100
Ship of the line.....	1	
Frigates.....	3	
Corvette.....	1	
Number of Men.....		880

NORTHERN AMERICA:

Boyne	70	520
Asia	64	500
Sommerset	64	500
Preston	50	300
Tartar	28	160
Hind	24	160
Fowey	24	160
Scarborough	20	160
Lively	20	160
Mercury	20	160
Glasgow	20	160
Cerberus	20	160
Falcon	Corvette	100
King's Fisher	"	100
Swan	"	100
Savage	"	100
Scorpion	"	100
Tamer	"	100
Senegal	"	100
Merlin	"	100
Otter	"	100
Canceaux	"	100
Martin	"	100

NORTHERN AMERICA—Continued

SHIPS		GUNS	MEN
Hallifax		Schooner	60
Hope		"	60
St. John		"	60
Diligent		"	60
Gaspee		"	60
Magdalen		"	60
Cherokee		"	60
Ships of the line.....	4		
Frigates.....	8		
Corvettes.....	10		
Schooners.....	7		
Number of Men.....			4620

NEWFOUNDLAND:

Romney		50	300
Surprise		28	160
Rose		20	160
Aldborough		20	160
Nautilus		Corvette	100
			880
Ships of the line.....	1		
Frigates.....	3		
Corvette.....	1		

JAMAICA:

Antelope		50	300
Maidstone		28	160
Squirrel		20	160
Seaford		20	160
Ferret		Corvette	100
			880
Ship of the line.....	1		
Frigates.....	3		
Corvette.....	1		

ANTIGUA:

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Chatham	50	300
Argo	28	160
Deal Castle	20	160
Favourite	Corvette	100
Pomona	"	100
Diligence	"	100
Cruizer	"	100
Lynx	"	100
		1120
Ship of the line	1	
Frigates	2	
Corvettes	5	

AUSTRAL LANDS:

Resolution	Corvette	100
------------	----------	-----

TOTAL FOR AMERICA:

Ships of the line	7	
Frigates	16	
Corvettes	18	
Schooners	7	
Number of Men		7600

NOTE: Several Frigates and Corvettes indicated in this last column have not reached their destinations yet.

GENERAL TOTAL:

Ships of the line	26	88
Frigates	24	
Ships with less than 20 cannon	38	
Number of Men		16,830

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 260, LC Photocopy.
2. A special clerk at the French Embassy, London, in charge of the secret service.
3. This is representative of detailed reports Garnier periodically made on the status of Britain's Royal Navy.

7 Mar.

LORD SUFFOLK TO EMANUEL MATHIAS, BRITISH RESIDENT TO HAMBURG ¹

[Extract]

St James's March 7th 1775.

His Majesty, Sir, sees with Pleasure the Readiness of the Senate of Hamburg to fulfill his just Expectations upon the Subject of the Memorial which you thought it expedient to present. You will take the first Opportunity of acquainting Syndick Sillem & Senator Dormer, that His Majesty is perfectly satisfied with the respectfull Attention & friendly Behaviour of the Senate, on this Occasion, which it does not seem necessary, in the present Moment at least, to enforce by

an Edict, or more publick Notification then has already been made. Without meaning to censure an Excess of that Vigilance, which is so requisite at this Time, with regard to the American Contraband, especially that dangerous Species of it, Military Stores, I must just observe, that, as it is always prudent to avoid showing unnecessary Apprehensions, or giving unnecessary Alarms, it might have been as well if You had deferred taking the formal Step of delivering a Memorial 'till you had received Intelligence that the Rice Vessel was actually to return with a prohibited Cargo.

1. PRO, State Papers 82/94.

HANBURY & LLOYD TO JOHN PARK CUSTIS, YORK RIVER, VIRGINIA ¹

(Copy)

London 7th March 1775

Esteemed Friend Having none of thy favors unanswer'd we have nothing in particular to reply to, the present is to solicit the favor of thy Consignments & at the same time beg leave to acquaint thee that we do not intend sending the *Hanbury* or any other Ship to Virga this year,² flatter ourselves that this Circumstance will in no degree prevent any of our friends from favoring us with their Tobo as usual, we have given our friends Balfour & Barraud directions to take a Charter for any quantity they can procure & believe they will meet with no difficulty in procuring freight for their own Tobo if that is more agreeable –

We have not yet dispos'd of the *Hanbury's* Cargoe last year, as we were of opinion that tho the prices have been good they might rather increas'd & that there was very little chance of their falling – There is at present rather a stagnation – buyers are unwilling to come to market & Merchts backward in giving them encouragement, be assured, we shall now & att all other times make it our study to do the best with whatever is intrusted to our care, we remain with respect [&c.]

Hanbury & Lloyd

[Stamped Received at postoffice] Norfolk May 24

1. Custis Papers, VHS.

2. The firm apparently changed its mind shortly thereafter, as will be noted from the following extract from Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, dated May 26, 1775: "Williamsburg, May 26. The *Hanbury*, Maynard, from London, bound for Maryland, put into Hampton a few days ago, in which came passenger Mr. LLOYD, a partner of Mr. Hanbury's. Capt. Maynard left London the 3d of April, at which time the troops were not sailed from Corke. . . . The civil list is again increased to a million of money!"

8 Mar.

BERTHON BROTHERS TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

[Lisbon] March 8th [1775]

[Continuation of Letter begin February 18th.]

No alteration in prices at this markt, but we find that London & Bristol are rising in spite of the large imports there, occasioned by the Supposition that all the american ports will be blocked up by government. There are 321 bars of the *Peggy's* flour sold at different prices.

We have debitted your acct Rs. 5 & 145 for charges we made with 109 bars of small biscuit, which belonged to some of the people belonging to the

Peggy; we could not ascertain how much the charges would be till after she sailed, so Barron desir'd us to charge your acct for it, & you'l be pleased to understand yourself with the owners of the biscuit for the same.

B. B.

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

9 Mar.

LONDON REPRINT OF A NEWS ITEM FROM HOLLAND ¹

Amsterdam, March 9 [1775].

On the repeated representations of the English Ambassador at the Hague, a ship laden with powder and other ammunition, now lying in the Texel, bound for St. Eustatia, has been detained there, by order of the Government.

1. *London Chronicle*, from Thursday, April 6, to Saturday, April 8, 1775.

MOTION IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS ¹

March 9. The House having resolved itself into a Committee on the Papers relative to the Disturbances in America,

Lord North moved, that the Chairman be directed to move the House, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to restrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British islands in the West Indies, under certain conditions and limitations." He said, as the southern provinces had acceded to the non-importation and exportation agreement, it would be manifest partiality not to make their punishment the same as the northern provinces.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 411.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 9 March 1775

I have already told you, Sir, that we have good reason to be satisfied with Md. Rochford's explanations concerning the orders given to the British ships which are cruising on the coast of the English Colonies of America; we could wish for nothing more in this matter, except that these orders be precise enough so as to contain the greed of the captains to whom they are addressed: it is in the interest of the British Ministry as well as ours, and this consideration reassures me as much as their statements, if not more so.

But while we may rest at ease with respect to the trade and navigation of our Colonies, we have every reason for expecting disagreeable incidents in the area of Newfoundland; indeed, the English will avail themselves of the Bill recently passed for the purpose of restricting the fishing rights of the Colonies in this area in order to visit, harass, and probably ransack our fishermen on the pretence that they are smuggling; you will be so kind, Sir, as to invite Md. Rochford's attention to these drawbacks; they should convince this minister that the clause upon which they are contingent could have been omitted, all the more because it is in itself com-

pletely useless and because it is open to a false interpretation which will become a source of countless chicaneries and quarrels between the fishermen of both nations: we deem these considerations to be so important that they cannot fail to impress the British Ministry; unfortunately this evil appears to be beyond remedy. It is to the same purpose that I discussed this matter with Lord Stormont; he seemed to agree with my observations and I believe that he will present them favorably to his Court.

It is difficult, Sir, to guess what motives prompted Lord North to bring forth his last motion at the House of Commons. I suspect that this minister may have had two reasons: first, to get himself out of a difficulty; second, to deceive the Americans. However, it is to be feared that it was a miscalculation on his part, for, as Mr Fox observed most appropriately, it would be difficult to convince the Colonies that the Government wishes in good faith to give way and come to agreement with them, and, at the same time, have the English believe that the metropolitan authority and the acts of parliament will be upheld. This contradiction points to the division among the ministers, the uncertainty of their projects and of their views; it allows us to foresee the fall of the present ministry and Mr Chatham's triumph. Of course, this last event would bring about a new order of things, and it is much to be feared that it would be at the sacrifice of peace in Europe.

We are not supposed to know what goes on in the English parliament, but since the public papers have mentioned them, there can be no objection to our withstanding the false imputations and fabricated reports uttered in that place and which seek to gain credence: Mr. Sandwich puts forth such imputations when he says that we are loading ships for America at l'Orient; you will be so kind as to deny this to Lord Rochford, not officially but in private; should we keep silent in this matter the facts would be assumed to be correct and since the ships supposedly destined for America would not leave, the British might believe that we changed our mind in this respect out of fear and weakness.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 130, LC Photocopy.

10 Mar.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 10 March 1775

The Bill intended to restrict the trade of New England and prevent the latter from fishing on the Banks of Newfoundland or along the coast of Northern America was passed the day before yesterday with a majority of 188 voices against 58 at the House of Commons. This Bill sets 1 July of this year as the date when the interdiction will go into effect for the New Englanders to export any kind of goods to any parts of the world except the possessions of the British Empire, either in the West Indies or in Europe. As of the first of September, any ship loaded outside Great Britain and carrying any goods whatever to New England will be subject to seizure either in the ports of this province, or at a limit of six miles from her coast. Exception is made for horses, food supplies, and cloth made in Ireland and coming directly from that Kingdom.

On 20 July the order will go into effect to seize any New England ship found fishing on the Banks of Newfoundland, along the coast of Labrador, the coast of the gulf and river Saint Lawrence, Cape Breton, and Nova Scotia, or, finally, along any coast of Northern America. Exception is made only for the inhabitants of the small Island of Nantucket who, although dependant upon New England, retain their freedom to fish for reasons cited by the Committee of the Merchants of London which I had the honor to forward to you. One modification has also been added for whale fishing, and it is specified that any ship that will have sailed exclusively for this purpose before 1 June will be free to engage in whale fishing until the first of November of this year. . . .

The Lords will take this Bill into consideration next week. Although a strong opposition is expected on the part of Lord Chatham, the latter will have another opportunity to express his disapproval, since Lord North has requested and received permission yesterday to present a new Bill in order to restrict the trade of the following Colonies: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina. The trade of these five colonies will therefore be confined to Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies. At present, it might be interesting for us to know that Carolina will no longer be able to export rice to several foreign ports. . . .

This Minister (Lord Rochford) spoke to me of the threats made to the Dutch. He even said to me that the Government had presently two warships cruising off Texel in order to intercept three merchantmen upon which he received some information and which he claims are loaded with ammunition for the Colonies. Although they are officially bound for Saint Eustatius, England does not believe this Island needs any ammunition. As for the assertion made by the first Lord of the Admiralty concerning some ships supposedly loaded at Port l'Orient for the English Colonies, Myd Rochford told me he would not fail to chaff Myd Sandwich about it.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 261, LC Photocopy.

11 Mar.

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE¹

[Extract]

London, 11 March 1775

The Bill for preventing the 4 New England Governments from fishing and confining their trade in every Article whatsoever to G. Britain, Ireland and the Brittish W. Indias, is now before the Lords having passed the H. of C – last night. I prepared a pretty strong petition against it to the Lords, which the London Merchants here will get presented on the 14th inst on its second reading; still the bill will pass. Another Bill is this day bro't into the H. of C. by Ld North to confine the trade in every Article, from and to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and So. Carolina to G. Britain, Ireland and the Brittish W. Indias only. Surely these bills will strengthen the union and perseverance of all the Colonies or nothing can do it.

1. Ford, ed., *Lee*, I, 151.

16 Mar.

DEBATES IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS ¹

Thursday, March 16, 1775

[Sir Charles Pratt] Lord Camden rose and said . . .

Now, my Lords, whether the proposed measure of severity ² be practicable or not, is also most seriously deserving of your lordships' attention. To conquer a great continent of 1800 miles, containing three millions of people, all indissolubly united on the great Whig bottom of liberty and justice, seems an undertaking not to be rashly engaged in. It is said by a noble lord (Dudley) that only our mildness and lenity save them from utter desolation, and prevent our carrying fire and sword through their country. But I believe it is certain that we would have done so, if we could; and that nothing but inability has prevented our proceeding to the most hostile extremes of violence and devastation; if we may judge from what has been done in that line, in which alone any thing can hope to be effected. But, my lords, where are you to get men and money adequate to the service and expence that the reduction of such a continent must require? What are the 10,000 men you have just voted out to Boston? Merely to save General [Thomas] Gage from the disgrace and destruction of being sacked in his entrenchments. It is obvious, my lords, that you cannot furnish armies, or treasure, competent to the mighty purpose of subduing America. It is obvious that your only effort can be by your naval power; and, as far as those efforts can have effect, you may certainly expect success: at least when we consider America alone: but whether France and Spain will be tame, inactive, spectators of your efforts and distractions, is well worthy the considerations, of your lordships. But admitting full success to your naval efforts, what can they effect; the blocking up their ports and the suppression of their trade. But will this procure the conquest of America? No, my lords; they are prepared to meet these severities, and to surmount them.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 435-442.

2. The first Restrictive Act, forbidding the New England states from trading with any nations except Great Britain, Ireland and the British West Indies, and barring them from the Fisheries.

18 Mar.

WILLIAM LEE TO THOMAS ADAMS, HENRICO COUNTY, JAMES RIVER, VIRGINIA ¹

Dear Sir

London 18 March 1775

Before this reaches you, you will probably have seen your old acquaintance Mr Edwd Browne who sail'd for Virga in Jany last.

The *Prospect* Capt Norwood now goes out to load for me in York River, & if yr other engagements do not prevent it, I wd beg leave to solicit yr kind assistance. I know it is in your power to do me much service, which you may be sure I shall always gratefully acknowledge. Your orders being conveyed in time either to Caps Norwood or Outram will be properly attended to. I have been so perfectly fatigued with helping to prepare & presentg the London Merchts several petitions respecting the American Affairs that I am almost worn out in constant service night & day ever since the 4th of Jany - Our applications have been treated as in great measure they deserved, because the Ministry know well

enough, the Merchts, except 2 or 3 of us, were not at all serious; hence it is, that our petitions are almost all, but the last to the H. of Lords, little else than Milk & Water, The Glasgow Merchts played the same game but with less trouble, they sent a strong petition to the H. of C[ommons] in favour of America, but at the same time gave Ld North to understand, by their member Ld F[rederick] Campbell, that they did not mean any opposition, but to gain credit in America & thereby more easily collect their debts – This is currently reported here but I cannot vouch it for fact therefore only mention it as a report. However it is certain that since the petition we have heard nothing more from Glasgw

You have fully the ministerial system of Tyranny plan'd for you – No one here can so well point out the best plan of opposition as you can yourselves, but oppose you will at all hazards I firmly hope & believe.

I am Dr Sir [&c.]

William Lee

P the *Prospect*

Capt Norwood

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

20 Mar.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, TO SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1775

Hague, March 20.

Their High Mightinesses the States General have this Day issued a Proclamation, of which the following is a Translation :

PROCLAMATION

The States General of the United Provinces, To all who shall see, or hear these Presents read. Greeting :

Be it known that We, for particular Reasons Us thereunto moving, have thought fit absolutely to prohibit, and We hereby absolutely do prohibit, all Exportation of Ammunition, Gunpowder, Guns, and Shot, by Ships belonging to the Dominions of Great Britain, provisionally for the Term of Six Months, upon Pain not only of Confiscation of the Arms and Ammunition which shall be found there on Board, but also of a Fine of a Thousand Guilders over and above, at the Charge of the Commander, whose Ship shall be answerable and liable to Execution for the same.

That We have further thought fit to enact, and We do hereby enact, that during the abovesaid Term of Six Months, no Gunpowder, Guns, Shot, or other Instruments of War, shall be embarked on Board any other Ships, whether Foreign or belonging to this Country, to be transported Abroad, without Consent or Permission of the College of Admiralty under whose jurisdiction the Embarkation shall be made, under Pain of Confiscation of the Arms, Gunpowder, Guns, Shot, or other Ammunition, which shall have been embarked without Permission, and of the Commander's incurring a Fine of a Thousand Guilders, on Board of whose Ship the said Arms and Ammunition shall have been embarked, and his Ship be answerable and liable to Execution for the said Fine.



PUBLICATIE.



De Staaten Gene-

raal der vereenigde Nederlanden; Allen den geenem die dresen sullen sien of hooren leesen / salut: Oen te meeten / dat Wy / om bysondere redden Ons daar toe moeierende / heb-

ben goedgebonden / volstrektelyk te verbieden / gelyk Wy volstrektelyk verbieden by dresen / allen uitvoer van Ammunities van Oorlog / Buskruit / Geschut / en Hoogels / met eenige Schepen / onder de Comanden van Groot Brittanniën t'huys hoorende / provisioneel voer ten tyd van ses maanden / op pene van confiscatie / niet alleen van de Waapenen en Ammunities van Oorlog / die daar in sullen worden gebonden / maar ook op een boete van duisend gulden daarenboven / ten laste van den Schipper / waar voer dessels Schip sal zyn verbonnen en executabel.

Dat Wy voorts hebben goedgebonden te statueren / soo als Wy statueren by dresen / dat gedurende de voorsz. tyd van ses maanden / geen Buskruit / Geschut / Hoogels / of enige andere Instrumeten van Oorlog / sullen moogen worden gelaaden / om met eenige andere Schepen / het zyn vzeemde of hier te Lande t'huys behoorende / na buiten 's Lands te worden uitgevoert / sonder consent en permissie van het Collegie ter Admiraliteit / waar onder de inlaading sal moeten geschieden / alles op pene van confiscatie van de Waapenen / Buskruit / Geschut / Hoogels / of andere Ammunities van Oorlog / welke sonder permissie sullen gelaaden zyn / en van een boete van duisend gul-

dens te verbeuten by den Schipper / in wiens Schip de voorsz. Waapenen en Ammunities sullen gelaaden zyn / en voer welke boete dessels Schip sal zyn verbonnen en executabel.

En op dat niemand hier van eenige ignorantie koomte te pretendeeren / ontbieden en versoeken Wy de Verren Staaten / Erfstadhouder / Gecommitteerde Raaden en Gedeputeerde Staaten van de respectieve Provincien / en alle andere Officieren en Justicieren van deselve Landen / dat sy desse Onse Publicatie van stonden aan alomnie doen verhoondigen / publiceren en affigieren in alle Plaatsen daar sulks noodig is / en daar men gewoon is soodanige publicatie en affixie te doen; lasten en bevelen voorts de Raaden ter Admiraliteit / de Advocaaten Fiscaal en Commissen Generaal / mitgaders alle Admiralen / Vice Admiralen / Capiteinen / Officieren en Bevelhebberen / desse Onse Publicatie te agtervolgen / procedeerende en doende procederen teegens de Contravenieurs van dien / sonder eenige gratie / oogluiking / dissimulatie of verdrag / want Wy sulks bevonden hebben alsoo te behooren.

Gegeven in den Dage onder het Caechet van den Staat / de Paraphure van den Heere Presideerende in Onse Vergaderinge / en de Signature van Onsen Griffier / op den 20 Maart 1775. Was geparaphieert / G. van Hardenbroek, vt. Onderstond / Ter ordonnantie van de hooggenelde Verren Staaten Generaal. Getekent / H. Hagel. Zynde op het spatium gedrukt het Caechet van haar Hoog Mog. op een rooden Subel overdekt met een papiere klupre.

Dutch proclamation prohibiting the exportation from Holland to the American colonies of arms and ammunition in British colonial ships, March 20, 1775.

And, that no one may pretend Ignorance hereof, We call upon and require the States, the Hereditary Stadtholder, the Committee of Council, and the Deputations of the States, of the respective Provinces, and all other the Officers and Justices of these Countries, to cause this our Proclamation to be forthwith promulgated, published, and affixed, in all Places where such Publication is wont to be made. And We do further charge and command the Counsellors of the Admiralty, the Advocates General, together with all Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Captains, Officers and Commanders to pay Obedience to this Our Proclamation, proceeding and causing to be proceeded against the Transgressors thereof, without Favour, Connivance, Dissimulation, or Composition. – For such have We found meet.

Given at the Hague, under the Seal of the State, the Signature of the President or Our Assembly, and the Counter-Signature of Our Greffier, the 20th Day of March, 1775.

(Signed) G. Van Hardenbreck.

By Order of the States General,

(Counter-Signed) H. Fagel.

To which was affixed the Seal of their High Mightinesses.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 20 March 1775

No ships are being readied for the Mediterranean at this moment in any English port. The merchants would be the first to know if there were any hostile preparations against the Dey of Algiers, and the Government gives no indications to that effect. When this African Prince refused to receive the British Consul last year, the British Ministers confessed to me that, in spite of the importance of this wrong, they would not wage war against the Dey unless he incited a necessary revenge with new insults. Such a war would not be worth the trouble. Myd Rochford expressed this view and added that they would be content to leave the Dey in doubt about the intentions of the British Court. . . .

I informed you by mistake that the inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket were not included in the Bill that deprives New England of fishing in Newfoundland. They retain only the right to whale fishing, and it can be surmised that the Government intends even to take away from the Americans their fishing rights in Newfoundland completely and for ever, as you may have seen in the abstract of the sessions of the fifteenth and sixteenth of this month at the House of Lords, with the hope that the British Navy will benefit more from it. Furthermore, it is not in good faith that Myd Sandwich dared hold forth that American sailors are not used in the Royal navy. It has been proved that about 30,000 of them were spent in the last war. Even if it were not true that they are most usefully employed in the fleet at times of war, it would remain a fact that by providing men for the indispensable merchant ships, they leave the Royal Navy with much larger resources in finding crews for its warships among the British sailors. . . .

One speaks a great deal about two British ships cruising off Texel. The Minister from Denmark seems much concerned about it and fears apparently

that ships will also be sent to the Straits of the Sund. However, the other foreign Ministers are not surprised that the Republic is so pusillanimous as to suffer such an insult and it would be rather embarrassing for the British government if the Dutch, in spite of their weakness, decided to give them chase; but it seems that the British Ministry knows with whom they are dealing.

The Count of Maltzahn, Minister from Prussia, claims that one of the British ships had visited a Dutch vessel loaded with goods for America as she came out of Texel; he reports that no war ammunitions whatever were found on board, only papers sent from London to Philadelphia.

The corvettes *Nautilus* and *Merlin* sailed from Spithead successively on the 13th and 17th of this month in destination of Boston wherefrom the former will proceed to Newfoundland. There are at present 275 marines boarding transport ships at Portsmouth in destination of Boston. The rest of the marines are embarking at Plymouth and all the infantry and cavalry will leave from Cork in Ireland. The information was received from Portsmouth that *Worcester*, a reserve ship of sixty-four guns, will sail with the transport ships, but it is only hearsay since this ship has not yet received orders to this effect. The transport ships gathered at Portsmouth at present number 27. *Preston*, with fifty guns and three hundred crew is being readied to sail for Antigua where she will relieve *Chatham*, also with fifty guns.

[P.S.] Without wasting a single moment, I will add the various branches authorised by His Majesty [French] to the organisation of the Secret Service. The branch at Plymouth has been active for some time. Those at Chatham and at the Office of Ordnance will be established without much trouble. The only real difficulties will be encountered at the Admiralty, and I am determined to make every effort in order to surmount them. I will also take great care in keeping you exactly informed of all progress which we will be able to make in this matter. You may rely, My lord, upon my zeal and my great care in the spending of the King's money. I wish to use it only when I am certain that the service of His Majesty will reap the greatest benefit from it.

First, I must investigate the various responsibilities assigned to each clerk in order to find out which one will be most useful to us. Then, I must ascertain his fancies and personality traits, and determine his position in life so that I may attack him at his weakest spot. It may be that chance will serve us better than all these precautions; at least, we had to be in a position to avail ourselves of every opportunity, and, My lord, this is what you have enabled me to do.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 262, LC Photocopy.

22 Mar.

EDMUND BURKE'S SPEECH ON CONCILIATION WITH THE COLONIES¹

[Extract]

[March 22, 1775]

Sir, permit me to observe that the use of force alone is but *temporary*. It may subdue for a moment, but it does not remove the necessity of subduing again; and a nation is not governed which is perpetually to be conquered. . . .

A further objection to force is, that you *impair the object* by your very endeavours to preserve it. The thing you fought for is not the thing which you

recover, but depreciated, sunk, wasted, and consumed in the contest. Nothing less will content me than *whole America*. . . . Let me add, that I do not choose wholly to break the American spirit, because it is the spirit that has made the country. . . .

In this character of the Americans, a love of freedom is the predominating feature which marks and distinguishes the whole; and as an ardent is always a jealous affection, your colonies become suspicious, restive, and untractable whenever they see the least attempt to wrest from them by force or shuffle from them by chicane what they think the only advantage worth living for. . . .

Three thousand miles of ocean lie between you and them. . . . You have, indeed, winged ministers of vengeance, who carry your bolts in their pounces to the remotest verge of the sea. But there a power steps in that limits the arrogance of raging passions and furious elements, and says, "So far shalt thou go, and no further." . . .

Then, Sir, from these six capital sources: of descent, of form of government, of religion in the northern provinces, of manners in the southern, of education, of the remoteness of situation from the first mover of government—from all these causes a fierce spirit of liberty has grown up. It has grown with the growth of the people in your colonies, and increased with the increase of their wealth; a spirit that unhappily meeting with an exercise of power in England which, however lawful, is not reconcilable to any ideas of liberty, much less with theirs, has kindled this flame that is ready to consume us. . . .²

1. Edmund Burke, *Speeches and Letters On American Affairs* (London and New York, 1956), 76–141.
2. On June 16, 1775 the Duke of Richmond wrote Burke congratulating him on the Conciliation Speech: "Since I saw You I have read Your last Speech and cannot too strongly express my admiration of it. It is so calm, so quiet, so reasonable, so just, so proper, that one cannot refuse conviction to every Part." George H. Guttridge, ed., *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke* (London and Chicago, 1961), III, 171. Hereafter cited as Guttridge, ed., *Burke Correspondence*.

WILLIAM LEE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY¹

Sir,

London, 22 March, 1775.

My brother Arthur Lee, not knowing of this opportunity, I take the liberty for him to enclose an attested copy of a letter from Germany, which may be of some importance to your province. The Fishing Act, as it is called, passed the House of Lords yesterday with an Amendment, which is, to restrain New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia from the right of fishing, as well as the four New England governments. The blanks in the bill restraining the trade of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, &c. are filled up. It is to take place the 20th of July next. Therefore all your products for foreign markets will no doubt be ship'd off before that time. You will be so good as to communicate the contents to the Honble. Matthew Tilghman, Speaker of the House of Delegates in Maryland, who will probably be in Philadelphia when this comes to your hands

The above intelligence may perhaps be of service if communicated to the public.

1. Ford, ed., *Lee*, I, 151, 152.

24 Mar.RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 24 March 1775

I have just now reced the enclosed Resolution from London, which Mr [Edmund] Burke made the 22d Instant in the House of Commons. He spoke for two hours & a half in the most masterly manner. A Speech which never was excelled within those Walls.² I send this to the Road therefore cannot farther enlarge than that the resolution passed as usual in the negative by a very great majority 270 to 78.

I am with great Truth Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

I contine selling the Friendship's Wheat at 6/9. –

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

2. Burke's famous speech urging reconciliation with America, and repeal of the "Intolerable Acts."

SIR JOSEPH YORKE, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE, TO LORD SUFFOLK¹

[Extract]

Hague, March 24th 1775.

The Proclamation publish'd by the States General for restraining provisionally under certain Penalties, the Exportation of Arms and Ammunition for the space of Six Months, appeared this morning in Print, & will be distributed & fixed up in all the trading Towns of the Seven Provinces. I have the Honour to inclose one of the Copies of the Proclamation, with a Translation of it.² It is the Opinion of Persons well conversant with Trade here, that these Orders of Their High Mightinesses will totally stop these clandestine Expeditions on Ships carrying the British Flag; And that the Dutch Merchants who appear to have acted chiefly on Speculation, will in the present State of Affairs in North America, & from the Obstacles now thrown in their way at home, be deterred from speculating upon such Uncertainty, & with so many different Obstacles to surmount; But of this, Time only can give us the necessary Proof.

1. PRO, State Papers 84/546.

2. See under 20 March. Translation was printed in *London Gazette*.

26 Mar. (Sunday)RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 26 March 1775

On the other side is Copy of my last. I sent you also a few Lines by Cn Clark via New York enclosing Copy of the Resolutions moved for by Mr [Edmund] Burke last Wensday but with the usual Success. The Ministry carrying it against him by a great Majority. How they could put a negative upon Resolutions which are in themselves incontestible, how they could say that the Colonies did not raise subsidies at the requisition of a Secretary of State, and had not the thanks of Parliament, when it appears on their Journals, is astonishing. These

Resolutions are couched in the Spirit of the Constitution of this Country, & far superior to the conciliatory Bill of Lord Chatham, which abounds with numerous difficulties. When the Colonies refuse to raise Subsidies, at the requisition of a Secretary of State, then & then only can they be complained of. I hope the next Congress will determine with Wisdom, & make sure Errors they have perceived in their last determinations, will be rectified in this, but above all to conciliate the affections of the people at home I think essentially necessary for the good of the whole.

I go on selling Wheat at 6/9. I have sold more than half the Cargo, though have delivered but few. Several Cargoes of heavy Wheat dropping in prevents my selling this Wheat which is lighter so fast as I could wish. The Weather is somewhat mended which makes this Article & flour rather dull at present. I am always with great truth Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

P S. The New England fishery Bill was read a third time in the [House of] Lords & an amendment made by some of the Ministerial Lords. It was sent back to the Commons where one of the Amendments has been received the other rejected even by the Ministry themselves Many think the Bill constitutional.

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 26 March 1775

I have received, Sir, your letter No. 261 which you took the trouble to send me on the tenth of this month.

The King saw with pleasure, Sir, the suppression of the clause concerning our fishing rights on the coast of Newfoundland which was inserted in the Bill restricting fishing for the inhabitants of New England. His Majesty approved the indirect means to which you resorted in order to obtain the said suppression all the more because this matter would not have justified a ministerial action on our part. The courtesy displayed by the British Ministers on this occasion is another proof of the sincerity of their conciliatory feelings and their desire to avoid any cause for the smallest argument between the two courts; for this reason, we entertain no doubts whatsoever regarding them, and, for our part, we are certain that His British Majesty is convinced that our intentions correspond perfectly with His. . . .

It seems, Sir, that there is much concern with regard to the ships being commissioned in Spain. If the British ministers speak to you about this, you will assure them, as if you were speaking for yourself, that these ships now being commissioned are part of the design with regard to the King of Morocco. They will easily be convinced of it if they consider the small number of ships that one intends to put to sea.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 132, LC Photocopy.



Edmund Burke. From the studio of Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1771.

28 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Having ordered Lord William Campbell Commr of His Majestys Sloop the *Scorpion* to proceed in her to Charles Town in South Carolina, And if upon his arrival, it may be found necessary for the King's Service that his Lordship should remain there, to send the Lieutenant or Commanding Officer of the said Sloop in her to Boston with directions to put himself under your command and follow your orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him under your command accordingly, & employ the said Sloop as part of your Squadron. Given &c 28th March 1775

By &c. PS

Palmerston
Lisburne
H. Penton

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 306, NYHS Transcript.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 28 March 1775

I have the honor to forward to you the request which the merchants of London interested in the trade with Northern America have presented to the King of England in order to beg His Majesty to refuse His consent with regard to the Bill passed by both Houses. I join to this document the protest made by 16 Lords on the same subject. . . .

We have not heard anything yet about the memorandum, petition and remonstrance expected from New York. It is only said with certainty that a ship which arrived there from Glasgow after the date set by the Congress when all importation must stop, was not able to unload her cargo neither whole nor in part, and that the situation is the same in the other Colonies.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 264, LC Photocopy.

30 Mar.

DEBATES IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS ¹

Thursday, March 30, [1775]

Mr. John Luttrell said: Sir; I am induced to offer a few observations upon the imperfections of the Bill before you,² that we may not too hastily adopt an opinion which has been frequently held forth by the friends of administration, that provided our trade from Great Britain and Ireland should increase, though that, of America do suffer, you will have a greater number of seamen. Sir, it has been said, in support of the assertion I have alluded to, that very few American seamen return in English vessels from that coast. I think it a very fortunate circumstance that they do not, because we have no employment for them, and they therefore must become a burthen to this country. But I will appeal to my

naval friends on the other side of the House, whose knowledge of maritime concerns is very extensive, if American seamen are not always impressed in every part of the world to man the King's ships whenever the service requires men? . . . But, Sir, I have ever considered America to be a great nursery, where seamen are raised, trained, and maintained in times of peace to serve this country in times of war, and though I shall readily admit, from the distance of their shores, that you cannot lay hands upon them the first half hour of an armament, yet am I persuaded that you may be possessed of some thousands within the time usually prescribed for the return of English seamen from foreign services. As I am up, Sir, I would wish to say a word or two upon that part of the Bill which principally relates to the commanders of his Majesty's ships of war, employed for what the Bill stiles the protection, but would be much more properly termed the destruction of the trade, and it may possibly not be found quite so easy in practice as to some people it appears in theory, either to seize these vessels, or to discover false clearances or certificates. . . . I have no doubt but the Americans, by being put into the calamitous situation they are, and feeling the tyranny of the mother country, will endeavour to carry on a trade at the risk of the fine imposed under this Act of Parliament; . . . Sir, on the score of seizure I shall revert to my former arguments, that the King's ships cannot keep the seas in safety, in the northern parts of the coasts of America, for more than half the year. Whenever they can cruize, the Americans will have the advantages, that a perfect knowledge of the shoals, soundings, rocks, creeks, and places of shelter can afford them; by which means they must frequently escape your most vigilant researches: besides it is not a very pleasant service for an officer to risk the King's ships upon a lee-shore, with which he is totally unacquainted, not in pursuit of an enemy, but to destroy a friend. Upon the whole, Sir, I consider this Bill to be somewhat less cruel than that which is meant to demolish the New England provinces by famine; in every other respect I hold it to be equally mischievous. It is with real concern I see humanity and sound policy giving way to that hated revenge which involves indiscriminately the innocent with the guilty. By this oppressive Act you will certainly extend the unhappy differences which already but too generally prevail in America, to every province; nay, I fear I may say, to almost every individual upon that vast continent: therefore, I protest against the measure.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 593–595.

2. The second Restrictive Act, affecting Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, TO SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1775

Westminster, March 30.

This Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers: The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to



George III. By Richard Houston, 1772.

*An Act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts's Bay and New Hampshire, and Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation, in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, or other Places therein mentioned, under certain Conditions and Limitations.*¹

1. A copy of the act was forwarded to the colonial governors by circular letter from John Pownall, an Under Secretary of State, on 5 April 1775, with instructions to cause it "to be made public in such manner as has been usual on like occasions." Thomas Gage acknowledged receipt of his copy on 3 June 1775, but commented that "from the present Temper of the People," there was little probability of getting it printed anywhere except Boston. Gage Mss. CL.

31 Mar.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 31 March 1775

The frigate *Coventry* has sailed from Portsmouth on the 28th of this month in destination of the East Indies from where the corvette *Hawke* just arrived. The frigate *Levant* arrived in this port on the 29th. She comes from Gibraltar. The letters of the same date from Portsmouth mention a transport ship that had just arrived there in order to embark the horses belonging to the general officers who are to embark themselves in the course of next month in destination of America. The marines who had boarded ship at Plymouth were still there on the 26th of this month, detained by unfavorable winds.

I have often heard, My lord, that our sea officers were excellent in theory and superior to the British in that matter, and that they lacked only the practice acquired at sea; to tell the truth, the latter is considered as more essential than the former. Since the scarcity of our commissions does not allow them to acquire this practice as much as they would like, would it not be possible to use the youngest ones as volunteers in the fleet now being commissioned in the Spanish ports. It seems to me, My lord, that there would result among other advantages an opportunity to bind by a mutual esteem the officers of the two nations who will eventually be called upon to defend the respective possessions of their Sovereigns. I beg your pardon, My lord, if I take it upon myself to make such a suggestion; and I beg to impute the liberty that I take on this occasion only to my most sincere zeal.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 265, LC Photocopy.

2 Apr.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 2 April 1775

It is true, Sir, as Mr. de Malzhan related, that the English visited at the mouth of the Texel a Dutch ship with a cargo for St. Eustatius, and that they burned all the papers that they found on board. Deliberations on this act of violence have taken place, but the decisions taken consequently are not yet known.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 113, LC Photocopy.

5 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Captain [William] Dudingston Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Senegal* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him under your command accordingly and employ him, and the said Sloop, in such manner as you shall find best for His Majts Service entrusted to your care. Given &c. 5th April 1775.

Sandwich
J. Buller
Lisburne

To Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Adml of the White &c. &c. at Boston.
By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 315, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Whereas an Act of Parliament hath passed this present Sessions entitled,
"An Act to restrain the Trade & Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire & Colonies of Connecticut & Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation in North America to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies, and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein mentioned under certain Conditions and Limitations"

We send you herewith Forty printed Copies of the said Act and do hereby require and direct you to cause the directions therein mentioned to be complied with as punctually as possible, so far as the same may depend upon you and the several Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels under your command. Given &c. the 5th April 1775.

Sandwich
J. Buller
Lisburne.

By &c. P.S.

By the *Senegal*

Duplicate signed, Sandwich – J Buller – C. Spencer sent 15th April by the *Cerberus*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 316 NYHS Transcript.

JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, TO COLONIAL GOVERNORS ¹

(Circular)

Whitehall, 5th April, 1775

Sir, As it may be of use that His Majesty's Subjects in America should be informed of the Proclamation issued by the Order of the States General prohibit-

ing the Exportation of Arms and Ammunition from their Dominion in British Ships, or in their own Ships without leave of their College of Admiralty; I am directed by Lord Dartmouth to transmit to you the inclosed Gazette, containing the said Proclamation,² which you will cause to be printed and published in such manner as you shall think fit. I am [&c.]

John Pownall

1. Gage Papers, CL. Another copy is to be found in Hazard, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives*, First Series, IV, 617.
2. *London Gazette*, March 28–April 1, 1775.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA, . . ." ¹
[1775]

5th April – Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves to cause an Act of the 15th [year] of His present Majesty, Cap. 10. for restraining the Trade and Commerce of the four New England Governments to be complied with so far as may depend upon him and the Officers employ'd under him.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

6 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Whereas, in pursuance of the King's Order in Council of the 13th day of April last, we have caused a Vessel to be purchased fitted and armed for the Service of William Gerrard De Brahm Esq. Surveyor General of His Majesty's American Dominions in the Southern District, and to be called the *Cherokee*, and have appointed Lieut John Fergusson to command her & directed him to proceed in her with the said Mr De Brahm, his Assistants, Servants &c. to Charles Town in South Carolina and from thence, from time to time, to such other parts and in such manner, for the executing the said Service, as the said Mr De Brahm shall desire, & to follow such further Orders as he shall receive from you; You are hereby required and directed to give him such further Orders accordingly, with respect to the punctual and due performance of the said Service, as you shall find necessary, And to order him, whenever the aforesaid Service will admit of it, to use his best endeavours to seize Vessels employed in illegal Trade, for which he will be furnished with a Deputation from the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs at Boston; But you are strictly to direct him, neither upon this or any other Account, to deviate from proceeding agreeable to the desire of Mr De Brahm for the performance of the abovementioned Service of making Survey's for which the Vessel under his command has been purchased, and to which she is (by the King's Order) particularly assigned. Given &c. the 6th April 1775.

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
Palmerston
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 319, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th April 1775

I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 20h. February last giving an Account of your proceedings, and inclosing a Copy of a Letter which you had received from Captain [James] Wallace relative to a Plot formed for destroying His Majesty's Ship the *Rose* at Rhode Island; And in return I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that an Extract of so much of your said Letter as relates to that subject with a Copy of Captain [James] Wallace's and its Inclosure, have been sent to the Earl of Dartmouth for His Majesty's Information I am &c

P. S.

(By the *Senegal* Sloop)Duplicate sent 15h April, by the *Cerberus*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 327, NYHS Transcript.

7 Apr.

ALEXANDER EMSLEY TO SAMUEL JOHNSON ¹

[Extract]

London, April 7th, 1775.

There is an account received that the Transports are sailed from Cork, and next week, the Generals [William] Howe, [John] Burgoyne and [Henry] Clinton, follow them from hence in a Man-of-War; some of these troops are destined for New York, and two Companies, with a Sloop, are to be sent to Georgia . . .

They say your Seaports are to be turned into garrison Towns, and the people of the Country left at liberty to form any establishment they think proper. . . . Your Governour I suppose will take up his residence amongst the musketoes at Breacock, and you will be a Congress, or Committee-man, instead of a military man.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1210.M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 7 April 1775

I shall continue to direct the strictest attention to the various matters interesting the Service of the King and especially these matters that you particularly recommended to me, My lord. Myd Rochford spoke to me yesterday about the ships now being commissioned in Spain advancing only that the Opposition observes that large vessels could not be intended for the coast of Africa since the waters are not deep enough to allow these ships to get close to it. I answered, My lord, in the manner that you dictated, and Myd Rochford assured me that he was equally convinced that these ships were intended for no other purpose than the war against the King of Morocco. . . .

The troops in destination of America are about to depart from Corke in Ireland, and the Generals will leave any time in order to embark at Portsmouth.

There is much talk about two ships from Virginia that are said to have sailed directly to Dunkerque in order to unload their cargo of tobacco without calling at any British port. If this fact is true and is repeated, the merchants of London

and Glasgow who have raised so high the price of their tobacco will be disappointed in their waiting. This is a clear infraction of the Navigation Act; but it is up to the British and not to us to carry out the inforcement of their trade laws. The Corporation of the City of London has presented a remonstrance to the King. You will find it in substance in the Bulletin. You will find there also, My lord, a new promotion list of Admirals. They gave their thanks to the King yesterday at his levee. Myd. [?] who was present came to tell me in jest that I did not seem to take this promotion as a sign of war. I answered in the same tone that I regarded this promotion as an answer to our Marshals of France.

Since the New Lord Bristol has resigned his seat at the Council of the Admiralty the King has appointed the Knight Palisser to take his succession.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 266, LC Photocopy.

8 Apr.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, APRIL 4 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1775

At the Court at St. James's, the 5th Day of April, 1775,

PRESENT,

The KING's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Time limited by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 19th of October last, for prohibiting the Exporting out of this Kingdom, or carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, will expire the 19th Day of this Instant April – And whereas it is judged expedient that the said Prohibition should be continued for some Time longer – His Majesty doth therefore, by and with the Advice of His Privy-Council, hereby order, require, prohibit, and command, that no Person or Persons whatsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service) do, at any Time during the Space of Six Months, to commence from the said 19th Day of this Instant April, presume to transport, into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any Parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from his Majesty, or His Privy-Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the Twenty-ninth Year of His late Majesty's Reign, entituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Salt-petre; and to enforce the law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the carrying Coastwise of Salt-petre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." And the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master-General of the Ordnance, and His Majesty's Secretary at War are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

Steph. Cottrell.

10 Apr.THOMAS EDEN & CO. TO HALL & GILBERTS, BALTIMORE ¹

Gentn –

London 10 April 1775

The present serves Chiefly to hand you Account Sales of the 4 hhds Tobacco you favour'd us with P[er] the *Baltimore* Capt Hanrick ² Nett proceeds (Insurance deducted) £ 29.1.10 to your Credit in Account with C. Court & Co ³ – If the unhappy disputes with America should not soon Subside Tobacco will naturally advance in price – your further assistance to any of our Ships will not only oblige C. Court & Co but will be esteem'd a favour done Gentn [&c.]

Tho^s Eden & Co.

Mess C Court & Co have been most cruelly disappointed by the backwardness of your Remittances – Mr Jos Court goes over herewith & will pay his Respects to you, and to whom you'll please be referr'd –

1. U.S. Naval Papers, MdHS.

2. The *Baltimore*, a ship of 195 tons, and manned by fourteen men, James Hanrick, master, sailed for London prior to December 1774, and returned April 8, 1775, according to the inward entry in the Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS.

3. An account of the sales of the four hogsheads is attached to the letter.

11 Apr.M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 11 April 1775

As the legal Assembly of New York discussed whether it would conform itself to the resolution of non-importation as recommended by the Congress, this question has been determined in the negative by a majority of 4 voices. Next it entertained the motion that a ship recently arrived from London should be allowed to unload her goods and the motion was passed with a majority of 5 voices. But the Committee of Inspection appointed by the Congress came up with the opposite decision and since it was backed by a large majority of the people, the ship was forced to leave immediately without unloading anything. She was allowed with great condescension to take water and food supplies for her trip back. The Generals are to leave next Saturday. . . .

Since the terms of the proclamation by His British Majesty forbidding the exportation of weapons and other war ammunitions were to expire on the 19th of this month, the Government has extended the said terms for a period of six months. Since the terms of this proclamation are intended only for the Colonies in Northern America, exception can easily be made for ammunition destined for other places. After receiving the information that a small ship is presently being loaded in London for Gibraltar with 250 barrels of powder, cannon balls, etc. we discovered that she was destined for Tangier. . . .

The corvette *Raven* arrived from the Mediterranean in Portsmouth where she will be laid up. The frigate *Argo* sailed for Antigua from Plymouth on the 5th of this month; the ship *Portland* and the corvette *Pomona*, presently at Spit-head, will follow her. The corvette *Senegal* is in the same roads, ready to sail for Northern America with a transport ship carrying a company of artillery destined

for Newfoundland. The corvette *Scorpion* left Portsmouth on the 6th of this month for South Carolina. She is under the command of Lord Campbell, Governor of this province.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 267, LC Photocopy.

LONDON REPRINT OF A NEWS ITEM FROM FRANCE ¹

Paris, April 11 [1775]

Orders are given in all the sea ports of this kingdom, prohibiting the taking in any cargoes for the English colonies; and to inform those who do so, that it will be at their own risk.

1. *London Chronicle*, from Thursday, April 20, to Saturday, April 22, 1775 Postscript.

13 Apr.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, TO SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1775

Westminster, April 13.

This Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers: The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

*An Act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies, under certain Conditions and Limitations.*¹

1. See Lord Dartmouth's letter of April 15, forwarding a copy of this act.

14 Apr.

LORD COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO FLAG OFFICERS AND CAPTAINS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty] 14 April 1775

The King having been pleas'd by His Order in Council of the 5th inst to Order, Require, Prohibit and Command, That no Person or Persons whatsoever except the Master Genl Lieut General or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service do, at any time during the space of six Months, to commence from the 19th day of this Month, presume to transport into any parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, on board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, without leave or permission in that behalf first obtain'd from His Majesty or His Privy Council, . . . We . . . do hereby most strictly require & direct you to use your best endeavours to intercept, seize & bring

into Port, all Ships & Vessels whatsoever having on board Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, shipp'd or laden on board them in any of the Ports of this Kingdom, and intended to be carried Coastwise, or to be transported into any parts beyond the Seas; . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99. This Order in Council extended one issued October 19, 1774.

15 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &ca.

The King having been pleased, by His Order in Council of the 5th of this Month, to Order, Require, Prohibit, and Command, That no Person or Persons whatsoever, (except the Master General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service) do, at any Time during the Space of Six Months, to commence from the 19th of this Month, presume to Transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or Ship or lade any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any Parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, without Leave or Permission in that behalf first obtained from His Majesty or His Privy Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the Twenty ninth Year of His late Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Salt Petre; and to inforce the Law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the carrying Coastwise of Salt-petre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." We send you herewith Forty Copies of the said Order in Council, and do hereby most strictly require & direct you to Order the several Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels under your Command, to use their best Endeavors to intercept, Seize, & bring into Port all Ships & Vessels whatsoever having on Board Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, Shipped or laden on Board them in any of the Ports of this Kingdom, & intended to be carried Coastwise, or to be transported into any Parts beyond the Seas; excepting however such Ships or Vessels as are employed by the Master General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance for His Majts Service, and also such whose Masters shall have obtained Leave or Permission from His Majesty or His Privy Council as beforement[ion]ed. Given &c 15th Apl 1775.

By &c P.S.

Sandwich

J Buller

C. Spencer.

(p the *Cerberus*)

Duplicate sent 2d June 1775 By the *Raven* – Signed – Sandwich – Palmers-ton – H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 345, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &ca

Whereas an Act of Parliament hath passed this present Sessions entitled.

"An Act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies of New Jersey, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies, under certain Conditions and Limitations."

We send you herewith Forty printed Copies of the said Act; and do hereby require and direct you to cause the Directions thereinmentioned to be complied with as punctually as possible, so far as the same may depend upon you and the several Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under your Command. Given &ca 15th April 1775.

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich

J Buller

C: Spencer

(By the *Cerberus*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 347, NYHS Transcript.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

15th [April] – Do [Vice Admiral Samuel Graves to cause] another Act of the same Year Cap. 18 for restraining the Trade and Commerce of New Jersey & all the other Colonies to the Southward of it as far as South Carolina inclusive [to be complied with as far as may depend upon him and the Officers employ'd under him.]

Do Do Do His Majesty's Order in Council of the 5th prohibiting with certain exceptions the transporting Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition into any parts beyond the Seas or carrying the same Coastwise &c.

N.B.

Like Orders were given to all the Ships at home.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

JOHN HOBSON TO STEPHEN WEST¹

Dear Sir

London April 15th 1775

I wrote you yesterday by E. Hall who I left at Gravesend this morning, having seen him that far on his way – This comes by the *Content* Capt Medforth who I have already advised you, I had Charter'd, for to be our second Ship this year in Patuxent and in whom Capt Smith comes out a Passenger, but is to Act as a riding Captain in the Country, as you will see more particularly by the Charter Party, a Copy of which he has with him – This Vessell, as well as the rest, I hope you will contrive to get Loaded some how, it is the last I shall send

out this year, and altogether they will not carry 1500 hhds, a less quantity than we have had home any one year, for sometime past and the Accots. Sales I am sure have never been better, nor so good, for which reasons, I say, I hope these Ships will all get Loaded, and to your best care, I recommend them, wishing them every one safe to you –

I am very Anxious to hear from you and wonder much I dont get a Letter by some Conveyance or other, surely it cannot be much longer before I do Mr Russell has inform'd me he shall close the Commission on the Negroe Affair next week, having already kept it open a long time. I have prevailed upon him to promise to stay untill I can hear from you once more before he does, and that is all –

Manduit is exceedingly Angry that you did not send him any thing by the last Packet as I expected he would – And I am exceedingly distressed on Account of not having sold any Tobo so long – and some of our Tradesmen are very Ill temper'd Just now so that I have nothing very pleasant to write you by this Opportunity You shall hear from me by every Conveyance and for the present I remain – Dear Sir [&c.]

John Hobson

1. Oden Papers, MdHS.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

[Extract]

Whitehall 15th April 1775

So much depends upon the inclosed Act of Parliament for restraining the Commerce & Fisheries of the New England Governments, that I cannot too earnestly recommend it to your Attention, at the same time it is hoped that the good effects of it will be found, not in the Restrictions it contains, but in that return of Duty and Obedience on the part of the People which will render the Execution of those Restrictions unnecessary.

With regard to the other Act for restraining the Commerce of the more Southern Colonies, the Execution of it depends principally upon the Care and Vigilance of the Governors of those Colonies, but I am nevertheless commanded by the King to transmit it to you for your Information.

1. Gage Papers, CL. The above is taken from a duplicate dispatch which was received Oct. 4, 1775. The original was received and acknowledged May 25, 1775.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co ¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 15 April 1775

My Last was 26 Ultimo since I have your favour 22 feby Your Opinion about the Quantities of Wheat and Flour sent here is just, & the price has been supported tolerably, though it might have been kept up at 7/. however considering the variety of hands it was in, it was better than expected, especially as many were eager to sell, & some was actually sold at 6/7½; however the steadiness of the other Holders supported the price. You may judge how great our Wants were when we have already imported 181,852 Bushels Wheat & 18,711 Barrels flour & yet the price keeps up.

You are right in one respect about the *Friendship's* Cargo being of good Quality. It was a clean good grain, but white, consequently light, & not so much admired here as the heavier grain which though not so white is preferred greatly & will produce a much larger quantity of Flour. This made it a difficulty with me to support the price at 6/9 when there were so many Cargoes of heavy wheat at market a preferable grain however as nothing could induce me to lower the price I only lost a quicke Sale as I have now nearly sold the whole, though I have not delivered a great deal the purchasers being very slow in taking it away.

The Weather has been favourable of late, but it is not too late to give up all fears of bad before the Summer comes on. I shall keep you constantly advised, but let it be a good Harvest Wheat will not be under 6/9 till November.

No News in politicks. The restraining Bills having both passed you will easily discover the mood of Government which prevails here. We shall be anxiously expecting to hear from America. I am with great Truth [&c.]

Rich Champion

Flour 16/6 common – lower by 6d at least than necessary 18/ fine

I have given a Letter of Introduction to you to a M Barety a Frenchman who is going to America. He is a very ingenious Man & is master of many different kinds of Manufactures any ways connected with Chemistry – The Culture of Silk in particular. He may perhaps be found especially by some of your ingenious people, an useful Man.

1. Morris Papers, HUL

17 Apr.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 17 April 1775

The Generals [Howe, Clinton, Burgoyne] left for Portsmouth the day before yesterday. They were to embark immediately in order to reach their destination.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 268, LC Photocopy.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, APRIL 17 [1775]” ¹

Since my last the *Senegal* sloop sailed from Spithead for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, from Tuesday, April 18 to Thursday, April 20, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Portland, Spithead [Road]. 17 April 1775

I beg You will acquaint[t their] Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I have [arrived at] Portsmouth Yesterday Evning; and this [Morning ha]ve hoisted my Flag on board His Majesty[’s Ship] *Portland*, whose State and Condition I here enclose. On Thursday next I mean to have her Comp[any giv]en two Months Advance; and will then proceed, (Winds & Weather permitting) agreeable to their [Lordships Or]ders

The *Pomona* Sloop put back to Spith[ead] Yesterday Ev’ning, for a Supply of Beer; and if it [m]eets their Lordships Approbation, I propose giving Captain

[Henry] Brine Orders to put himself under my Command; to accompany me to the Leeward Islands. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

[Endorsed] 19 Apl Ord sent & Approve of him taking the *Pomona* under his Com. & carrying her with him to the Leed Islands

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND ¹

4th Mo: 17th 1775.

The Ship *Woodcock* Launchd H Jackson built her in the year 1775 by [*sic*, for] Fisher & Bragg ²

1. WPL.

2. Subsequently Bragg completed the above entry with "their first Vessel taken by the americans"

18 Apr.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 18 [1775]" ¹

Last night came to town Admiral [James] Young, and this morning his flag was hoisted on board his Majesty's ship the *Portland* at Spithead.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 18 to April 20, 1775.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA" ¹

[1775]

18th [April] – Rear Admiral [Robert] Duff Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Newfoundland has the like Orders with respect to the Two abovementioned Acts [of 15 April]; and his attention to that which restrained the Fisheries of the 4. New England Governments was enforced by a subsequent Order of the 22d of May.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

ANDREW FRAZER TO JOHN HOWARD, LORD SUFFOLK ¹

(Copy.)

Dunkirk 18th April 1775

Sr As soon [as] I was honored with your Letter of the 14th Instant desiring to be informed if an English Ship from Virginia loaded with Tobacco had lately put into this Port, I made the strictest enquiries to discover the truth of this Intelligence, and accordingly find that an English Ship about 200 Tons burthen whose name is the *Catherine* Captain Paton Master put into this Port directly from Virginia the 23d of last Month, and landed his Cargo here of about 16000 Staves, and about 60 or 70 Hogsheads of Tobacco as far as I have been able to learn. The number of Staves is easily ascertained as they were put up to sale a few days ago but the real quantity of Tobacco is perhaps only known to the Owner & the Merchants to whom the Cargo was consigned whose Name is Mur-

dock An Irish merchant settled here about 5 years ago. These persons having an Interest to keep the Transactions as secret as possible, it is difficult to come at the knowledge of the exact quantity, and the freedom of the Port spares the necessity of a fair Declaration—However it is now known that Tobacco was brought hither in that Ship, though that part of the Cargo was got on shore in as private a Manner as the nature of the thing could admit of.

This Vessel is still in the Harbour, and is now repairing, nor have any preparations yet been made which indicate a design of sailing from hence soon. Previous to his arrival here, I have been told that Captain Paton put into Portsmouth Harbour for Two or three days, but I know not upon what account.

These Sir are the principal Pieces of Intelligence I have been able to collect relative to this Ship But upon a further examination into this subject and upon conversing with different people in the Tobacco Trade, I find that this is by no means the first Instance of Tobacco's being brought hither directly from America. It has been a practice I understand within the four or five years to clear out Vessels from Virginia & Maryland for St Eustatia with Staves, under which there is concealed a quantity of Tobacco, to which place they seldom go, but proceed directly to some part of the Continent of Europe. I have heard in particular of a Capt. Campbell Master of a Schooner of about 100 Tons Called the *Isabella* who was here twice with a Cargo of Tobacco & Staves during the Course of last year He was equally consigned to Mr Murdock, & by him supplied with Silks and Teas, with which he loaded on his return to America, taking a Clearance from hence for the Island of St Eustatia

Both of these Vessels, the *Isabella* & *Catherine* belong I am told to a Company of Merchants resident at Philadelphia and who had been formerly settled in the Island of Man.

I am &c

signed And^w Frazer

1. Gage Papers, CL.

20 Apr.

SAILING OF THREE BRITISH MAJOR GENERALS FOR AMERICA ¹

Portsmouth, April 20, 1775.

Sailed this day for Boston, the *Cerberus* frigate of 28 guns, Capt. J. Chadds, with the Generals [William] Howe, [Henry] Clinton and [John] Burgoyne — their baggage went on the 5th instant by the *Prosperous Armilla*, Capt. Slater

1. J. Almon, ed., *The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events for the Year 1775*. (London, 1776) 62. Hereafter cited as Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 18, TO THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1775

London, April 20.

On Tuesday last sailed from Portsmouth the *Cerberus* frigate, with the three Generals, for Boston.

On the 15th instant arrived at Plymouth, from Portsmouth and sailed immediately, the *Senegal* frigate, with dispatches for General [Thomas] Gage at Boston.

24 Apr.VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Portland; Plymouth 24, April 1775

Please to acquaint my Lords Comm[issioners] of the Admiralty, that on the 21st Instt A.M. I Sailed from [the] Road, in Company with His Majesty's Sloop *Pomona*, wh[ose] Com[mander] I have Ordered to accompany me to Antigu[a] pursuant to their Lordships directions. The 22d the Wi[nd] came] to the So Wt & blowes strong, with heavy squalls of Rain [Th]erefore put into Torbay, and Anchored, 'till the Weather mig[ht] moderate. The next morning having the Wind to Noward [got] under Weigh, (in Company with the *Pomona*) to proceed [on] my Voyage; pursuant to their Lordships Orders, but have [to]day again met with a Strong So Wt Wind, and the same disagreeable Weather as before; which has Occasioned my pu[ut]ting into] Plymouth Sound; which, I shall leave, and proceed [to Sea] the Moment Wind & Weather will permit me to do so.

Inclosed, I have transmitted the State & Condition [of] His Majesty's Ships *Portland* & *Pomona*. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

25 Apr."EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, APRIL 25 [1775]" ¹

Yesterday arrived his Majesty's ship *Portland*, Admiral [James] Young, from Portsmouth for Antigua; and the *Pomona* sloop of war from ditto. .

1. *London Chronicle*, April 29 to May 2, 1775.**28 Apr.**"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, APRIL 28, [1775]" ¹

This day sailed . . . for the West Indies, the *Portland* and the *Pomona* men of war.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 29 to May 2, 1775.M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 28 April 1775

Three corvettes are being commissioned for a foreign destination. I suppose that two of them will be used along the coast of Africa according to what Myd. Rochford told me. Order has just been given recently at Portsmouth to place the crew of a frigate being laid up on board a guard ship in order to help fit out the ship *Romney* destined for Newfoundland and according to the rumor there, the crews on the ships expected anyday from the Cape and that will be laid up upon their return will not be paid off. These events seem to indicate that they intend to bring out this year as last year a fleet of observation. I believe also, My lord, that the encouragements offered to hasten the return of the vessels now fishing in Newfoundland could have the object, among others, to secure a number of sailors in case it would be deemed necessary for the service of the Royal Navy.

These measures seem to indicate the suspicion on the part of the Ministry that they may have to prepare for war towards the middle of the summer. It has already been affirmed to me that Myd. Sandwich, as he rendered account of the Spanish ship commissions, was of the opinion that England too, should prepare for war. Although this advice, which will always be held by Myd Sandwich, has not yet been adopted, I shall take the greatest care to watch more and more the movements of this country.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 269, LC Photocopy.

3 May

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA ¹

(No 8)

Whitehall 3d May 1775

Sir I have received your Letters No. 13. 14. & 15. and have laid them before the King.

The present State of His Majesty's Service in North America precludes for the present all hope of our being able to spare any part of the Kings Troops for the service of the Bermuda Islands or of making them a Station for one of the small Sloops of War, But I will not fail at a proper time to attend to your propositions on those heads.

I am &ca

Dartmouth.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808. See also Bruere's letter of February 1, 1775

4 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 4 May 1775.

The Lords Commrs of His Majesty's Treasury having transmitted to my Lords Commrs of the Admty Copy of a Letter from Hamburgh, relating to a Dutch Hoy at Cuxhaven laden with Arms & Gun Powder, and an Extract of a Letter from Lisbon, concerning a Clandestine Trade suspected to be carrying on between Portugal & America; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith Copies of the same for your information, & to signify their direction to you to take such steps as shall appear to you to be proper to detect the illicit Trade said to be carrying on between Europe & America. I am &c

(By the Packet the same day.)

P. S.

Duplicate sent the 2d June 1775 (By the *Raven*)

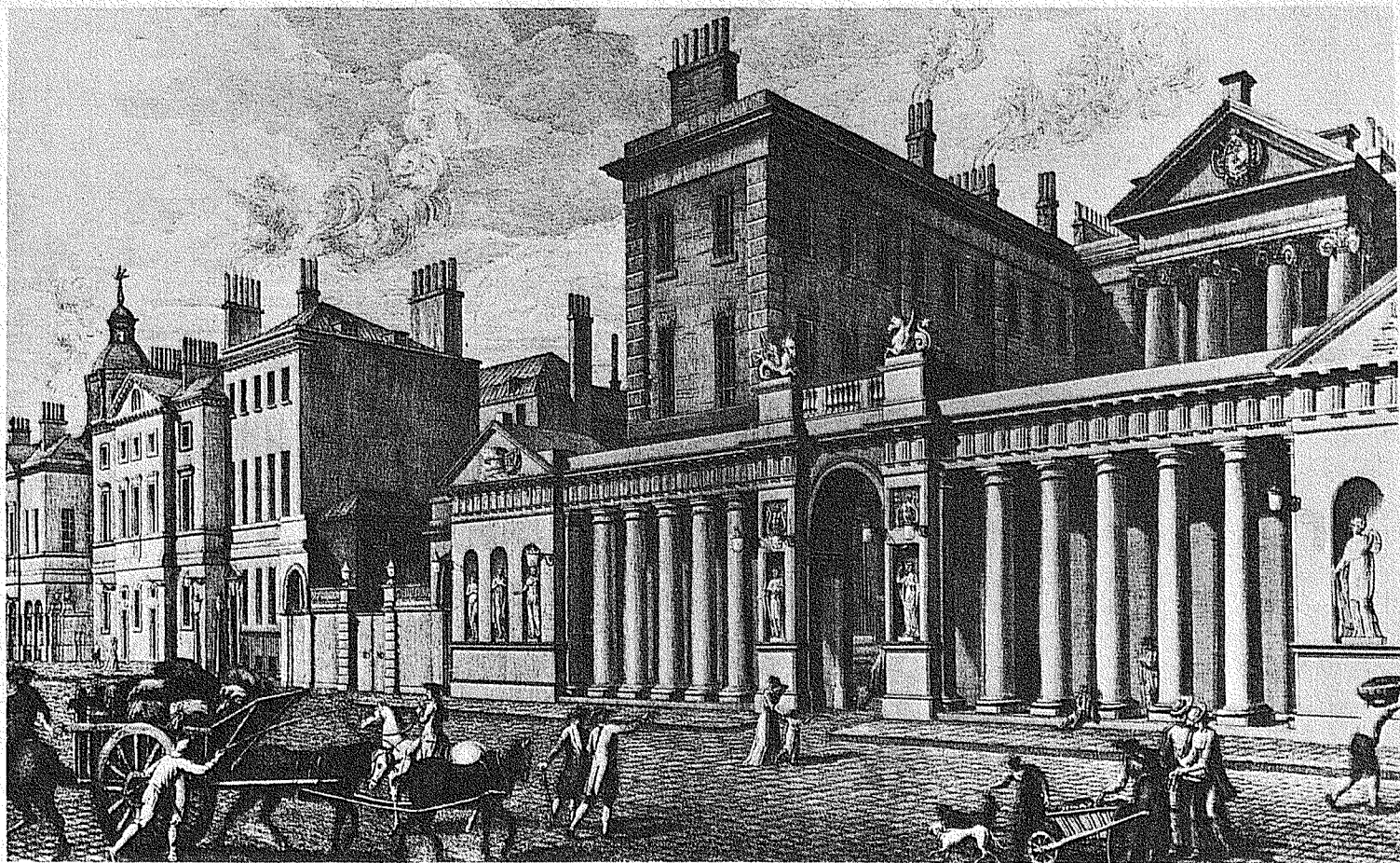
1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 372-373, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 4: May 1775.

I have received & communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 19th March last, informing them that you have given directions to the Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels under your Command to keep



Admiralty Office, London, 1775.

the strictest look out, not only for the Vessels of which I sent you Intelligence, but all others carrying on contraband or illicit Trade; and that notwithstanding the Kings Ships & Vessels have been very active all the Winter, no Seizures of any Consequence have been made. I am &c

(By the Packet) same day.

P. S.

Duplicate sent the 2d June 1775 (By the *Raven*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 373, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 4 May 1775.

I have received & communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 4th March last, with it's Inclosures, informing them of your proceedings; And in return I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that an Extract of your said Letter acquainting them with your intentions to send the *Asia* to New York, as Lieut Govr [Cadwallader] Colden had requested you to send a large Ship thither, together with a Copy of the said Lieut Governor's Letter to you, giving an account of the Disposition of the People of that Province, have been sent to the Earl of Dartmouth, for the King's Information.

Their Lordships also direct me to acquaint you, that they will recommend to the favorable Attention of the Lords of the Treasury, the Expence of prosecuting & Defending the Appeals from the Sentences of the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, respecting the *Abigail* & *Industry* Schooners. I am &c

(By the Packet) same day –

P. S.

Duplicate sent the 2d June 1775 – (by the *Raven*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 374, NYHS Transcript.

15 May

WILLIAM LEE TO COLONEL THOMAS LUDWELL LEE ¹

My dear Brother

London 15 May 75

'Tis a long time indeed since you have favd me with a letter. You have inclosed Acct Sales for 4 hhds of Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman nett proceeds £20.4.8 to your credit which taking all things into consideration must be esteemed tolerable good sales; however the Tobo that comes home this year will nett nearly as much again as that did which came here last year, so that you will not lose by stopg the exportn one year. As it evidently be for your own advantage I shall expect a large consigt this season from you & if my friends do not exert themselves, I shall be badly off, having sent out 2 large ships. – The Public Newspapers give you enough of Politics & the Ministers by Acts of Parliat, Addresses & the Armament sent to America, speak too plainly that nothing but the Sword shall decide the contest with you. You have been declared Rebels, by the Parliat & K[ing]. as Rebels, you know what you have to rely on. I am perfectly persuaded, if America is firm, & will boldly support her rights to the last extremity, it will never be in the power of these wicked and Blood-thirsty Ministers to enslave her Sons. Unanimity among the Colonies will absolutely insure success. Let not

the whole Burthen fall on any one, two three or four Colonies. A general good must be obtained by a general exertion. Mrs Lee, her Patriot Son W.L. & our Br A[rthur] (who was called to the Bar last week) are well & join me in affecte Love to our dear sister & the Children –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 75

According to my promise by Capt Brown I now transmit you sales for 4 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman Nt procds £35.14.1 to yr credt which must prove satisfactory, as I have no doubt of their being much better than what you have recd for Tobo last year. As I apprehended, the price here has risen considerably so that what you send home this year will come to a fine market, therefore shall be happy to have it in my power to please my friends by returning them agreeable sales, and I hope to share considerably in your favr either by Capt Brown or Norwood. You have the Principio Compys quarterly acct to Xmas last, by which there is a small balce of £5.18. 10¾ due to yr late Brs Estate, but then it appears that the Compy owe £300 by Note to Smith, Bevan & Co. – Mr Russel sent very little Iron home last year, nor do I find enough is expected this season to give any prospect of a dividend for 12 Mos to come. As to Politics, little can be said on that head, since the Ministers have determined that the sword shall decide the contest. I have no doubt of your success if you are united & determined to stand or fall together, which I take for granted will be the case. You are contending for every thing that is dear in this World, Liberty, Property & Life, therefore I expect you will act as worthy descendants of Englishmen. My best respects attend Mrs Washington & your Family being with much esteem &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO RODHAM KENNER¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Inclosed you have Acct Sales for yr 10 hhds of Tobo recd P *Friendp* Roman nt procds £80.14.10 to yr credt, also sales for 2 hhds recd P same conveyance belonging to the Estate of Mrs Cath. Monroe nt £8.6.2 to the credt of said Esta. I do not fear these sales giving full satisfaction when compared with those from other houses. With confidence I say your own are good – the Esta Tobo was uncommonly light & of very indiffert quality.

Having sent out 2 large Ships this year I shall suffer much unless my friends exert themselves a good deal, but from yr. steady kindness I have good reason to expect every assistance, which will always be gratefully acknowledged. Within this month past Tobo has risen considerably here, so that the Ships will send their Tobo to a good markt & that which comes home latest will probably sell best. You must know by this time that our wicked ministers are gone quite mad. Is it possible that the Americans can bear with patience such repeated & wanton insults & oppressions? every complaint instead of being redressed, produces a fresh grievance & injury. The Magazines &c will shew you the Petitions &c of

the Merchts &c & the London Remonstrance on American grievances. The K[ing] & his Ministers have publicly proclaimed you Rebels – Every body knows what Rebels have alone to trust to. – The Ld Mayor very justly observed that a *successful* Rebellion was always called a *Revolution* & from his confidence in the Virtue & Fortitude of the Americans, he was not at a loss to determine what that wou'd be hereafter called, which the Ministers were now pleased to term Rebellion. I cannot suppose that any dangers will deter you from persevering to the last extremity in defence of yr Liberty & with unanimity you must succeed. The Ministers have sent such violent orders to Genl [Thomas] Gage that we every day expect advice of a genl engagement in Massachusetts Bay. The Scotch Gentn have got advice of the proceedings of yr last Congress at Richmond; one of your flattering resolutions to his Excellency, is very different from what we have been taught to expect, as the Ministerial runners in the City had abt 10 daies ago reported that Governmt had recd advice of a plan deliberately settled in Virga to seize the Governors person & all the K[ing]'s officers, & keep them as hostages for the safety of such Americans as Genl Gage has certainly recd orders to take up & send over for tryal. The Eyes of all Europe are upon America & the Ministers attend much to the motions in Virga for they seem to think *you will fight*; wch they have been taught to believe the N.E. people will not do. Indeed the conduct of Virga & New Englnd will decide this business, but success will be more easy & certain if all the Colonies are united. Wonderful preparations are makg in France & Spain; with the latter we shall certainly come to an open Rupture, very soon after a blow is struck in America. In the mean time I pray you to assist my ships in their loadg as much as you possibly can. Best respects attend Mrs Kenner & am & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN TURBERVILLE ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Yr favr of Feby I recd P Montgomery & in consequence thereof have honor'd yr bill to Mr. Hyndman. You have now yr Acct Sales for 8 hhds Tobo recd P Roman Nt Proceeds £59.17.11 to yr credt which I dare say will give you full satisfaction & shall hope will induce you to enlarge your consignmts this year considerably, expecially as the price of Tobo here [h]as risen much. Whenever the American dispute is settled & the trade restored to a regular course there will not be much difficulty in settlg the Ball: due Messrs Russell & Molleson. 'Tis unlucky yr orders for sending yr son to the Jerseys, did not come to hand 'till long after Capt Brown sail'd; however as I understand he has arrived safe & well you can easily send him there from Virga, & I hope the example of the school together with his growing older, will reform his wildness. Be pleased to remember us to him. – Having sent out two large ships this year I shall get into a disagreeable situation unless my friends exert themselves, which I hope they will do & particularly yourself, for which I shall ever hold myself much obliged. Mrs Lee & her son W. L. are very well, so is my Br A[rthur], who was last week called to the Bar. We all join in sincere regard & am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO MRS. HANNAH CORBIN ¹

My dear Sister!

London 15 May 1775

I now send yr Acct Sales for the 9 hhds of Tobo you kindly consigned to my care by the *Friendship* Roman Nt. Procds £46.6.9 to yr credt wch considering the times are good sales, but still for your sake I wish it had been in my power to have got you twice as much. While yr non importation continues it will be impossible for me to send yr goods, but if that shd ever end, they shall be sent P the first oppty & in the mean time, you shd: endeavour to make the necessary cloathing for yr self & Family at home. God only knows when the unhappy differences between G:B: & America will end, but in so laudable a contest it is surely the part of a virtuous mind to submit with patience & fortitude to every inconvenience that may arise from it, for surely none can be so great as the loss of Liberty. With common industry you cannot want Meat & Rayment, tho' it may be coarse, but what am I to do here, where neither can be obtained without hard money? however I shall be content if America is but Free. Mrs Lee & her little patriot W.-L - are very well & with me waft our best love & good wishes for you & the dear children. Our Br A[rthur] was last week called to the Bar where I hope he will make a Figure. Heaven protect you & make you happy I am &

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM TRIPLETT ¹

Sir

London 15 May 1775

I have recd your favor of Aprl 6th covering A Blairs secd dft: for £150 on Spiers & Co which I have sent to Glasgow for acceptce & if paid shall be to the credt of Triplett & Thornton. The former dft you mention of £300 is paid & to the crdt of T. & T. indeed yr remittans have not been so full as coud have been wished & I fear you have lost the oppty of remitg: amply to a very considerable advantage. Had you bot 1000 hhds at 2P/ 6 Curry as I advised by the *Caroline* Capt Blackwell in Decr last, you woud have made a small Fortune at one stroke, for the price of Tobo has risen very considerably here within these 6 wks: & in my opinion it will rise still higher. As to shippg goods, that business is at prest totally at a stop, but shd the trade ever revive, I shall have no kind of objection to continue our correspondence within the reasonable limits you mention, but according to my settled plan, security will be expected for what is advanced which I suppose will be easy for you to give as you propose to confine yr self within reasonable & prudent bounds. I shall be greatly disapointed & perhaps be put to exceeding inconvenience if you do not ship largely this year, because I have sent out two large ships, relying on yr assistance & that of my other mercantile correspondents, & knowing you wd have recd very considerable advantages by purchasg largely in proper time. I still have confidence in yr generosity not to let me suffer, I am & -

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO PETER PRESLEY THORNTON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Be pleased to receive yr sales for 8 hhds of Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman nt proceeds £50.14.10 to yr credt which I hope will please as you may be assured of my utmost endeavors to get the best possible price for you & dare say these sales will at least, equal what you get from other houses. Tobo has risen here very much lately & I do expect the price will be higher still, but as this advance arises chiefly from yr agreemt: to stop the exportn; it ought not to operate in Virga to break that engagemt; & the surest way to prevent any murmurings on that head, is to cease the cultivation for one year at least, which will be attended with this good consequence that every person will have more time & leisure to cultivate & manufacture materials for necessary cloathing, without which, it will be difficult to persevere in the noble contest you are engaged in for the preservation of yr Liberties. You have a Magazine &c inclosed that will shew you, America has some warm friends here, but still your chief dependance shd be on yourselves – I hope my ships will this year will meet with your warmest assistance for which you will always receive my grateful acknowledgements & shall ever remain & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO HENRY LEE ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 75

I recd yr favr P Montgomerie wch came in time to procure paymt of yr bill to Duncan Campbell, for I wrote you long ago that it is not my general rule either to accept or pay bills without advice. You have have inclosed Acct Sales for 5 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman, nt procds £71.14.8 also sales for 2 hhds recd P the *James* Capt Robinson nt procds £22.9.4 which sums are to yr credt – These sales will certainly please you & I shd hope will induce you to ship all you possibly can this year & to use yr influence in procuring other consignmts to me. *I am sincerely concerned for the loss at Stratford especially as times like these “the Post of Honor is a private station.” *(The sales for the Hhd No 11 by Roman, are as you desired made out in the name of Mr John Whaley & sent to him.) – From such Ministers, as the Almighty at present permits to Scourge this Country, I wou’d not receive much less ask a favor. Their intention of enslavg America is now alas too evident. All accomodations are at an end for they have determined the Sword [alone] shall decide, therefore you know what to depend on. I have not a doubt of yr success, if you persevere, since besides yr own strength the Spaniards will certainly be upon us, as soon as the Blow is fairly struck in America. Mrs Lee & her little Patriot Willm Ludwell are well & send their Aunt [love?] I am & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO DOCTOR WILLIAM FLOOD ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

I send you inclosed Acct Sales for 2 hhds of Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman Nt procds £11.15.4 to yr credt. As this is but a small sum when com-

pared to the large advance I am in for you, I cannot help expressing my hopes that you will ship considerably this year at least sufficient to pay the Balce that is due. In this hope I am confirmed by a confidence in yr honor, & as this is the last year, in my opinion that commerce will ever be card on between G. B & America as it has heretofore been let me intreat you to make a full remitce while it can be done. This I can request for yr own sake, as the price of Tobo has risen here of late very considerably wch will be of advantage to yrself; & that you may not be liable to the same censure wth our vile & wicked ministers of involving the *innocent* with the *suspected* in the same heavy punishment. I am &

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO REVEREND THOMAS SMITH ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 75

Inclosed you have sales for 1 hhd of Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £6.9.4 to yr credt which for once will I hope prove quite satisfactory; but shd. it not, the only remedy I can think of, is to advise you to ship 2 hhds this year, for as the price here [h]as risen very much of late, you may thereby make; amends for any former losses; & as your charge of delinquency has hitherto laid heaviest on your old Fd he ought in Justice to have the largest share of yr favr that he may have an oppty of redeeming his lost share of yr esteem. I take it for granted that you will be Chaplain general to the Virga Forces. God speed you, & render you successful in the Noble Contention is the earnest prayer of yr affect &c –

P.S. my best respects attend yr good Lady & Family

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO NATHANIEL HARRISON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

I recd P the *Friendship* Roman 2 hhds of yr Tobo for the consignmt of which am much obliged & now inclose you Acct Sales for the same Nt. procds £15.1.4 to yr credt. The goods you orderd cannot as yet be sent on acct of yr non importation agreemt. You will oblige me by saying how the Balce of yr protestd draft on A Bacon wch was due when I left Virga 1768 has been discharged. If your other engagemts will permit I shall take it very kind in you to assist this year my 2 ships the *Adventure* Capt Brown loadg in Rap[ahannoc]k & Poto[mac] & the *Prospect* Capt Norwood who is to load in York river; you can hardly lose by shipg this year as the price of Tobo wthin [h]as risen very considerably of late. I am & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO WALKER TOMLIN ¹

Dear Sir

London 15 May 1775

You have inclosed Acct Sales for 1 hhd of Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £6.3.5 to yr credt which hope will please. Your future con-

signmt will be thankfully accepted particularly this year as I have sent out 2 large ships the *Adventure* Capt Browne & the *Prospect* Capt Norwood to load for me. I know it is in your power to give them great assistance in doing which you will particularly oblige me. There is still a considerable Bal: due from Hipkins & Tomlin, which Mr Hipkins does not seem disposed to pay, as I have not heard from him for near 12 Mos past, therefore am obliged to request your interposition, that it may be finally settled either by Cash, Bills or Tobo before the exportation is stopd. Mr E. Browne or my Br Colo F. L. Lee are authorized to settle the Acct fully. I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO DOCTOR GEORGE STEPTOE ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

You have inclosed Acct. Sales for 1 hhd Tobo recd P *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £2.13.7 to yr credit. However small these sales may appear, when you consider the uncommon lightness & the general low price last year there is no room for complaint, however 'tis in your power to get ample amends by shipg largely this year since the price lately has risen very much & therefore hope for your kind assistance in the loadg my ships the *Adventure* & *Prospect* for which I shall esteem myself greatly obliged. You will be so good to give me an answer to mine P the *Adventure* respecting your Br Thos affairs, that I may know how to act for his benefit I am &

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO LEROY PEACHY ¹

Sir!

London 15 May 75

You have inclosed Acct Sales for 2 hhds of Tobo recd P Roman nt procds £10.6.11 to yr credit which hope will meet your approbation as they bring you more than the country price last year. The Country Cloth you sent over will be finished stampg in a little time but I do not suppose it will be proper for me to send it over to you while your non importation agreement continues. Having sent out 2 large ships this year, The *Adventure* Capt Brown and the *Prospect* Capt Norwood, I hope to receive your kind consignments by one if not by both of them, by which you will probably gain a considerable advantage as the Price of Tobacco has risen here of late very much I am with regard & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO COLONEL FRANCIS THORNTON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Inclosed you have Acct Sales for yr 8 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £66.14.10 to yr credit which from their goodness will I hope induce you to continue yr favrs to me. The sales shd have been sent some time ago had there been any convenient oppy. The price of Tobo here has risen very considerably within this month or six weeks, so that what comes home this year

will come to a good market. My best compts attend your good Lady & Family & am &c –

[per] Capt Montgomery

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS. The letter book is sprinkled from page 133 to 149 with brief single paragraph letters similar to the above and all dated May 15, 1775. In addition to the above to Col. Thornton, Lee wrote that day to John Eustace, James Whaley, Robert Carter, Rev. Samuel Smith McCroskey, Robert Clark Jacob, Kendall Lee, Reuben Jordan, James Steptoe, Thomas Chilton, Dr. Thomas Thompson, Mrs. Hannah Sturman, Joseph Lane, Rawleigh Colston, and Adam Mitchell. Under the letter to Mitchell, Lee noted "a Copy of the above" went to Benjamin Weeks, Peter Smith, Jr., Peter McLanahan, Philip Smith, George Edwards, Charles Lee, Thomas Gaskins, Jr., Fleet Cox, Maximilian Robinson and Daniel Tebs. Each letter enclosed an account of sales for from one to eight hogsheads of tobacco received in the ship *Friendship*, Captain Romans.

16 May

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN ANDREW MEYER, MERCHANT IN POOLE, ENGLAND¹

Sir!

London 16 May 75

I yesterday recd yr esteem'd favor of the 9th Curr't & am much obliged for yr information of the prices of Tobo with you, which are by no means equal to the price here, so that a consignmt of that article to yr market at this time must bring a great loss. From the political prospects of Affairs in Europe & America Tobo must rise still higher. You have inclosed Mr John Finch's Excha on Messrs W: Burrowes & Son Merchts in Hambro' for £46 sterlg: a 34/3 Flem. PL Sterg a 2½ Usances which please present for acceptance. If 'tis not honor'd let it be only noted, but not protested for Non Acceptance, of which you shall be farther advised when I know its Fate.

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

19 May

WILLIAM LEE TO RICHARD LEE¹

My dear Sir!

London 19 May 75

I am greatly obliged by yr sevl favrs of Jan'y 30 Feby 13 Mar 7 & Aprl 13 – The loss at Stratford is what we must all feel, especially at such times as these, when it would be indelible infamy to ask any favor of such wicked Ministers as rule this Country. A Spanish War is greatly talked of & in my opinion will take place as soon as a blow is struck in America – will you think me prudent to insure yr 30 hhds of Tobo in Brown at ys [this] time or wait 'till the event is enevitable & then give twice or perhaps four times as much Prem's I will act for you as I do for myself & with this you must surely be content. You have inclosed Acct Sales for yr 32 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds – £224.3.11 to yr credit. These sales cannot displease you as on the whole they must be much better than what you will receive from any other quarter. – You know my earnest willingness to serve you on all occasions & tho' I conceive these are dangerous times to make purchases, yet if my 2 Ships the *Adventure* & *Prospect* get loaded, I can so far assist you as £400 or £500 will go, provided you do not draw till the Oct'r Court, at 60 or 90 daies sight & use yr utmost endeavors to keep others from drawg. At the same time I shall expect you to be ansble for the Balce which G. Fauntleroy

owes me with the Intst for which I now inclose you an order on him that shd pass in paymt for his land. Mr Norton has demanded paymt of the Underwriters here for the Tea that was destroyed out of his ship the *Virga* Capt Esten, you will therefore oblige me much by getting full & particular information respectg this business & send me a Certificate thereof as soon as possible. It was understood here that the Tea was destroyed with W: H. Nortons consent in order to appease the indignation that possessed the Gentlemen on Acct of the Tea being sent; But the Capts protest says it was done by the force & violence of a lawless & ungovernable people or words to the same effect. The best method will be to get a state of the whole proceedings signd by Mr Nelson Chairman of the York Committee – The Ball of G. Fauntleroy's acct wch you have inclosed with an order to pay the same to you for my use is £12.8.1 with Int thereon from May 20. 1773, till paid. I trust you will exert yrself to get my ships loaded this year. As to Politics you have been already informed & the papers inclosed will tell you what has been lately done in refusing to receive the New York Petition. Indeed nothing will do with our Ministers but fighting, so prepare for the worst. Give me all the intelligence you can & believe me always your most affecte &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN ANDREW MEYER ¹

Sir!

London 19 May 1775

I wrote you P last Post to which be pleased to refer, & now inclose you Mr Edwd Linde's order on Mr John Christian Wegener for 2 hhds manufactd Tobo weigng 1084 lbs nt which were shipd to him in Feby last P the Hambro' *Commerce*, Otto Paul Moller, Master & if they are sold for nt procds of the same. Shou'd the Tobo be deld to you, please to dispose thereof to the best advantage & remit the procds to me as soon as convenient & if the money is paid by Mr Wegener you will of course remit it. You will please to let me know yr proceeding herein. I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO COLONEL LONDON CARTER ¹

Dear Sir!

London 19 May 75

As I have no business to write on to you, still I may give you a line to repose on in a hot afternoon in yr cool passage. The Magazine & Papers inclosed will furnish some amusement & if you want any more of the Political kind my Br F. L. Lee will furnish you with as much as I know. Taking it for granted that you will send me at least 40 hhds of Tobo this year & besides by yr influence to procure me above 100 more, from others. I will report a line or two on public affairs. I call it reporting because you must be very sensible of the inability of our profligate & abandond ministers to carry their schemes into execution of enslavg America provided you have but common fortitude to support yr Liberties. The Ministers are determined to try yr metal & the *Ultima Ratio Regem* is to settle the dispute. You have been called Cowards by a Colo [James] Grant that commanded & was taken prisoner at Fort de Quesne in the H of. C.; & by Ld Sandwich in the H of Lords; you have been declared guilty of High Treason by

the 2 houses of Parliat in their address to the King & by his Majesty indirectly accused of Rebellion. Under these circumstances common sense points out the only reasonable line of conduct. Force, of course shoud meet with Force. The Spaniards will surely be upon us very soon – But at all events you must not yield yr Liberties, even 'till the last gasp. If you do, I will no longer be a Virgan or yr dutiful Godson

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir *Portland*: Funchal Road; Island of Madeira 19th May 1775

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I arrived at Madeira, in His Majesty's Ship *Portland* (with the *Pomona* Sloop in Company) the 12th Instant; and having now compleatly Watered both Ships; and taken on board a Sufficient Supply of Wine; I shall this Ev'ning proceed on my Voyage to Antigua.

Inclosed I have transmitted, the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships *Portland* & *Pomona* I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

20 May

WILLIAM LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

My dear Brother!

London 20 May 75

Inclosed you have Accts Sales for yr 6 hhds Tobo reed P the *Friendship* Roman nt procds £47.1.2 to yr credit, also Sales for 8 hhds of Colo Geo. Lees Estate nt prods £56.4.4 to credit of sd: Este & sales for 4 hhds of our late Brs nt procds £32.17. to his credit These Sales are good – indeed few of the Shippers in Roman can complain, as his Cargoe averages £7 P hhd, which I fancy hardly any will do from Poto[mac] or Rap[hannoc]k last year. You have credit for £104 for the Money you paid Roman. Your Boys are well, their last half years Accts I expect every day when shall forward yr Acct Currt – We hear the Scotch are buyg up all the Tobo in the Country, surely no one will trust them without the hard money at this time. Bills are not, at least shd not in common prudence be taken in times like these; you surely understand me & will improve on the hint. The price of Tobo has lately risen here very much, yet from the Scotch Manoeuvres in Virga I am somewhat apprehensive my two large ships sent out, will come badly off unless you, or Br Loudoun, the Squire & other Friends exert themselves very strenuously which I trust you will do, as least to prevent them from comg home dead freighted. I am all in the Dark for no one has mentioned yet, even where the *Adventure* is to lye, as to the *Prospect* God knows, what will be done with her. Last week our Br A[rthur] was called to the Bar & will no doubt write abt the Vacancy in Council. Mrs Lee & her little Patriot Wm Ludwell are well. – As to Politics the papers &c you will inform you, I think it impossible, now that the American dispute can be settled without Blows & I

hope you are prepared unitedly to support yr Liberties to the utmost extremity
God bless you all Farewell –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN TAYLOE ¹

Dear Sir

London 20 May 75

Having little business to write about have chiefly to enquire after your Health & that of yr good Family. The Mags & papers inclosed will give you the political intelligence which cannot be pleasing as our Ministers still continue obdurate agst America & every day expect to hear of an engagem[en]t in Mass. Bay as they have long ago sent orders to Genl [Thomas] Gage to go to Blows immediately. It is imagined here that all the Colonies will support New Engd to the last extremity in which case they must succeed at last especially as a Spanish War seems almost inevitable. My two large ships sent out this Year will come badly off unless you kindly give them great assistance & my other friends exert themselves, all which I fondly hope will be done. Our joint good wishes attend yself, Mrs Tayloe & your worthy Family I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO EDWARD BROWNE ¹

Dr Sir!

London 20 May 75

I have not recd a letter from you but that from Lawsons Bay. I hope you are not unmindful of the main chance, vizt providing for the dispatch of Brown & Norwood & getting remittances, had you struck for 500 or 100 hhds of Tobo when you first arrived it wd have been lucky at the Aprl price of 25/. I fear a loss, unless no Tobo is made this summer. Romans sales are all sent, his cargoe averages £7 P hhd wch you may be boasted of. The James River ships are dropping in, not much is at market, but there is no demand; Herries bot of Gist at 3¾ but it was a trick to sell his own 2000 hhds which Willing & Co have bot for him in Virga A Spanish War is expected. The contents of the inclosed Lre shoud be known at least that the demand has been made here & I desire you to get an authenticated Acct under the hand of some Gentn of the whole proceedgs in destroying Estens Tea. We understand the acquiescence in Virga was to curry favor there & then a demand is made on the Underwriters here for the loss. – this shd be known – consult F. L. Lee but you need not let anybody know that I am an underwriter. Let me know who ships that I may know how to accept Bills. I have a bad headache so farewell &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

My dr Br

London 20 May 75

I thank you for yr Lre from Richmond Town which is the only one I recd since Brown arrived. For Heavens sake take care of Brown & Norwood & get them loaded & get what remittances made that you can before the Flame

burst out which we expect to hear of every day from N. Engd. The Papers &c sent herewith will show you our sentiments here. The parcel of prints & history of Cavallier you will distribute quickly, particular the history in the back Country. My head aches greatly. Take all the possible care you can of my affairs. Our best love to Greenokes & believe me most Affecly &c –

Tobo has risen much here of late. Romans Cargoe Averages £7 P hhd tell the Squire this –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

22 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c

Whereas we have ordered Jno Montagu Esqr (Rear Adml of the Blue & Commander in Chief of His Majts Ships & Vessels employed and to be employed at and about the Island of Newfoundland the Islands of Madelaine & Anticosti and upon the Coast of Labrador from the River St John, to the entrance of Hudsons Straits) to apply to you, if there should be occasion, for a reinforcement of Ships & Vessels to enable him to execute the Service on which he is employed; You are hereby required & directed, upon receiving such Application, to send such a reinforcement to him as he may stand in need of accordingly. Given &c 22d May 1775.

By &c. P S

J Buller
Palmerston
H Palliser

Sent by the *Raven* Sloop.

Duplicate sign'd. S-----P-----H. Palliser Sent by the *Viper* Sloop.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 438, NYHS Transcript.

24 May

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

My dear Br

London 24 May 1775

Yesterday I had the Honor of being chosen Alderman for one of the most respectable Wards in the City of London. This post is for Life, Honorable, & attended wth very little expence. The paper will shew you the rest. The Scotch we understand are buying up all the Tobo in the Country, surely no one will trust them without the Cash, for their bills are dangerous – Let them get yr property into their hands & then see what will be the case. Let Mr [Edward] Browne know all the above – urge & assist him as much as possible to procure paymts & remittances – those who wont pay, get from them bonds & security if you can – God bless you all & believe me &c –

I trust America will be steady & unanimous in support of her Liberty, let the consequence be what it will. Do you know one John Hipkins? I fancy he must

be a notorious Sharper – he is getting all the Planters in Essex to draw bills on me at sight. This Puppies plan is no doubt to injure me if he can, therefore it wd be proper to stop him in his Carreer. A Bill this day appeared on me at Sight pble to himself supposed to be drawn by James Bray. It is protested for want of advice & because I do not believe the Signature to be the hand writg of James Bray. It appears to me that the Bill is both written & signed by John Hipkins himself. What a noble pair Sam & John are.

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

29 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Having order'd Lieut. [John] Hallum, who commands His Majts Storeship *Adventure* (by whom you will receive this) to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him and the said Storeship under your command accordingly, and employ them in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c the 29th May 1775.

By &c. P. S.

Sandwich
Palmerston
H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 454, NYHS Transcript.

30 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 30th May 1775

The Navy Board having represented to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that you have frequent occasions to order supplies of Stores from Halifax to Boston, and that it will be for His Majesty's Service, to send this Year a supply of Stores for Halifax in His Majesty's Ship the *Adventure*; and proposed that she be fitted as a Storeship, commanded by a Lieutenant, and established with the Complement of Men and Guns mentioned on the other side hereof, and be ordered to remain in the Country under your Orders, to be employed in carrying such Stores from Halifax to Boston, or otherwise as you may judge most for the Service; and their Lordships having, in consequence thereof, ordered the said Ship to be fitted as a Storeship, with the beforementioned establishment of Men and Guns, and directed Lieutenant [John] Hallum (whom they have appointed to command her) to proceed to Halifax, and having delivered to the Storekeeper there, the Stores with which he is charged, agreeable to their consignment proceed to Boston, and follow your Orders for his further proceedings carrying with him from Halifax such Stores as the Storekeeper there may have directions to send to Boston, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith And am &c

P: S:

(By Lieutenant Hallum of the *Adventure* Storeship)

Establishment of Officers and Men

1 Lieutenant	1 Carpenter
1 Master	1 Surgeon
1 Midshipman	1 Servant to the Lieutenant
1 Clerk and Steward	1 Ditto to the Master
1 Boatswain	30 Able Seamen
1 Gunner	—
	40
	—

Establishment of Guns

Carriage Guns 4 pounders.....	10
Swivels	8

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 415, 417, NYHS Transcript.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MAY 27, TO TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1775

London. [May 30.]

Yesterday morning some dispatches arrived at Lord Dartmouth's office from General [Thomas] Gage at Boston, brought by a ship arrived at Bristol from that province.¹ They were forwarded by a messenger to his Majesty at Kew.

From the *Essex Gazette*, printed at Salem, in New England.

[Here is inserted the account given by the *Essex Gazette* of Tuesday, April 25, of the engagement at Lexington and Concord]

Yesterday stock fell one and a half per cent. on account of the above news.

1. The dispatches were probably duplicates of those of March 28, 1775, which had been received in England on May 2, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 30 [1775]"¹

This afternoon a vessel from the Isle of Wight arrived here, the Captain says that a vessel lay at the back of the above island, which came with dispatches from General [Thomas] Gage,² which they had put on shore that morning; and that she would lie there two or three days before she came up to Spithead; for which reason was not mentioned, nor was anything to be got from the people relating to the affairs at Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 30 to June 1, 1775.

2. The dispatches were not from General Gage, but for the American agents in London, and the vessel was the *Quero*, Captain John Derby, from Salem.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN IRWIN¹

[Extract]

Pall Mall May 30th 1775

The news from America occasioned a great Stir among us yesterday, by the first report I was afraid the Troops had misbehaved, but upon reading the ac-

count from Salem I was Satisfy'd that the Party after having done what they were order'd at Concord, marchd back towards Boston, and possibly may have lost some few men. however the Bostonians are in the right to make the Kings Troops the aggressors and to Claim a victory. Gage's account is not yet arrived, he sent his Letters by a merchant Ship laden with goods, the Bostonians sent their Story by a Ship in Ballast, the Master of which brought no Letters whatever, but appeared in London yesterday morning with the account you will see printed, and a *London Evening Post* Extraordinary was published last night to spread the Alarm. it is Strange to see the many joyfull faces upon this Event, thinking, I conclude, that Rebellion will be the means of Changing the Ministry, in my poor opinion this Blow, if follow'd up, will soon bring that province into order, as I must suppose the Officer who Commanded the Party did not without necessity attack those armed men who presented themselves to him; It is said that a Pistol accidentally fired occasioned all the mischief; I am impatient for the true and the full account. Lord Percy encamped that night some little way from Boston, so that he was not afraid of his pursuers, as they term themselves I have seen no Ministers, but I have seen Governour [Thomas] Hutchinson, and he agrees with me in opinion, and says the hurry they were in of sending a ship express from Salem convinces him that the story is misrepresented for purposes of the faction there.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

London Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 27 TO TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1775

Secretary of State's Office, Whitehall, May 30, 1775.

A report having been spread, and an Account having been printed and published, of a Skirmish between some of the People in the Province of Massachusetts Bay and a Detachment of his Majesty's Troops; it is proper to inform the Publick, that no Advices have as yet been received in the American Department of any such Event.

There is reason to believe that there are Dispatches from General [Thomas] Gage on board *The Sukey*, Captain Brown, which, though she sailed Four Days before the Vessel that brought the printed Account is not yet arrived.

ARTHUR LEE TO THE EDITOR OF *London Chronicle* ¹

Tuesday, May the 30th, 1775

As a doubt of the authenticity of the account from Salem, touching an engagement between the King's Troops and the Provincials in the Massachusetts Bay, may arise from a paragraph in the [London] *Gazette* of this evening, I desire to inform all those who wish to see the original affidavits which confirm that account, that they are deposited at the Mansion House with the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor for their inspection.

Arthur Lee,

Agent for the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts Bay.²

1. *London Chronicle*, May 30 to June 1, 1775.

2. Under "Advices from America," the newspaper reproduced all the affidavits concerning the battle. It also published the account as printed in the *Salem Gazette*, April 25, 1775.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 30 May 1775

The British Ministry is completely at rest as far as we are concerned; because they are sure of our peaceful intentions, they do not worry about the movements of the Spanish Navy and troops; I attempted to find out what their opinion on this matter really is. They are convinced that the planned expedition does not have any other purpose, for the moment, than an attack against Africa. But they fear that upon receiving the news of the hostilities recently declared in Brazil, and especially the advantage taken by the Portuguese over the Spaniards in that part of the world, His Catholic Majesty may fall immediately upon Lisbon with his forces already gathered and ready to move. They think that the superiority of the Portuguese forces in Brazil may have lead M. de Pombal² to give them a free hand against the Spaniards and that the King of Spain, faced with the difficulty of regaining the advantage in that Colony, may deem more to his convenience to take an immediate revenge in Europe, where Portugal may easily be conquered before England could provide her with effective help.

Such is the train of thought of the Ministry at present; as tiresome as they may find this uncertainty, they dare not do anything to guard against all possible events for fear of spreading alarms that might prove fatal for the present state of affairs in America as well as the peace in Europe; they flatter themselves in thinking that France would restrain Spain in the foresight that an attack against Portugal would unavoidably cause war. . . .

The frigates *La Surprise* and *Aldborough* which are attached to the Newfoundland squadron have just sailed from Plymouth for their destination; *Romney* with 50 guns is ready to sail from Portsmouth under the command of the Superintendent of Fishing.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 274, LC Photocopy.

2. Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and War from 1750 to 1777.

31 May

JOSEPH WHARTON, JR. TO WILLIAM BRADFORD¹

Sir

London May 31st 1775

I cannot let Capt [John] Hazlewood depart² without sketching a few lines to you. – You will find by the Papers, that We have received an account from Salem of the defeat of Col [Francis] Smith, and the precipitate Retreat of Lord [Hugh] Percy by the animated resistance of the brave Bostonians.³ This intelligence, so contrary to the expectations of Government, who have daily announced the Americans Cowards, has pannick struck Administration, and their tory Dependants, and has exhilirated the Spirits of the Sons of America in this Metropolis, and the Friends to Freedom, in the most exhalted manner. It is impossible to describe the Shame & Vexation, which are visibly depicted in the Countenances of North, and his tyrannical Abettors. They are constrained to acknowledge, that the Regulars began the Attack, and equally forced to admit the intrepidity of our Countrey men. – But what alarms them most, is, the expectation of hourly receiving advice of the whole of General [Thomas] Gages Army being

cut off, or meanly sheltering themselves on board the Men of War, or in the Castle. God grant their total extermination – (as it will unquestionably eject this detestable Administration, and oblige George the Third to do Justice to his faithful insulted American Subjects) – Government has not yet received any Dispatches from the General – She has craved a suspension of animadversions on the News, until She can refute, or is compelled to authenticate it: In the mean Time Stocks have had a Shock, and the People, every where, denounce Vengeance against Bute, Mansfield, North, Sandwich,⁴ and their ignominious Adherents. – I impatiently wait the next intelligence – as I have no doubt We shall hear of further significant manifestations of American Prowess – founded in that Principle which God and their Right will inspire them with. – Mr John White and I yesterday Surveyed Temple Bar⁵ with great exactness and We found on a nice scrutiny, that it would bear the decoration, of the principle Villains in the Kingdom with splendor & Ease – think it not chimerical when I tell you, I feel a prophetic sensation, that I shall soon see their Decapitated Heads gracing this Dedication to Liberty; – and O may the most abandoned of Traitors, Hutchinson,⁶ meet his adequate Reward! Farewell – In haste

Wigwam⁷

To Mr. William Bradford at the London Coffee House, Philadelphia

1. William Bradford Papers, HSP.
2. Hazelwood, in the ship *Rebecca*, reached Philadelphia just prior to July 31, 1775. *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 31, 1775.
3. Lexington and Concord.
4. John Stuart, 3d Earl of Bute; William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield and Lord Chief Justice; Frederick North, 2d Earl of Guilford, Prime Minister; and John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, Chief Lord of the Admiralty.
5. Temple Bar, designed by Christopher Wren, and then standing at Strand and Fleet Streets, "over against the Law Courts."
6. Thomas Hutchinson, former Governor of Massachusetts Bay.
7. Identity of the letter writer was indicated by Bradford below the signature.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 31 May 1775

Our correspondent in Portsmouth informed us on the 28th that five dispatches had arrived the day before, carrying various orders. He did not know their contents except for one which brought the order for the ship *Meredith* to sail immediately for Gibraltar and the frigate *Levant* for Jamaica; the workmen labored on their sails until eleven o'clock in the evening that same day. On Sunday, the 28th, they were still at it and supplies were brought on board hurriedly. The order was given in the same port to fit out the frigates *Thetis* and *Fox*, but we do not know their destination. The Brigantine *Lyon* had sailed the day before for Newfoundland. We assume that one of the above mentioned orders concern the fitting out of the ships destined to cruise during the Summer in accordance with the information which I had the honor to send you recently and which has not come back to us yet from Portsmouth or Plymouth. They are sending a small ship to the Gulf of Mexico. The same letter tells us that all the sailors from the merchant-men then in Portsmouth have taken flight fearing an impressment. We

have every reason to believe that their fear is unfounded, but it seems that the Ministry is again alarmed by the Spanish armaments and that these avisos are sent in any event to advise their far-away garrisons and squadron to keep more strictly on the look-out.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 275, LC Photocopy.

1 June

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c

Captain [John] Stanhope Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Raven* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your Command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him under your Command accordingly, and employ him and the said Sloop, in such manner as you shall find best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c. the 1st. June 1775.

By &c P:S:

Sandwich
Palmerston
H: Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 466, NYHS Transcript.

POSTSCRIPT OF *London Chronicle*, TUESDAY, MAY 30 TO THURSDAY,
JUNE 1, 1775

London [June 1].

A letter from an Officer on board the *Somerset* man of war at Salem, says, "You will no doubt receive by the same vessel which brings this, an account of the late most lamentable disturbance at Lexington . . . Our ship, as well as the *Lively* and two sloops are at present stationed to prevent a conjunction of the troops from any of the detachments which are assembled at Bellingham [sic.] and Tash river, as they must march along the road which is commanded by our cannon . . . Neither our seamen or soldiers enter heartily on the service. Our marines are almost in arms, and of the whole which I left the ship on the above service, eighteen have deserted." ¹

A Correspondent says, "Many persons very absurdly blame Administration, because the ship *Sukey*, Capt. Brown, with the dispatches from Gen. [Thomas] Gage, did not arrive before or as soon as the ship with the printed account of the skirmish; but they should consider that though the *Sukey* sailed four days before the other, that she might probably meet with bad weather during those four days, which may have obliged her to put into some port to repair her damages, and by that means the ship which sailed last from America arrived first. And it is no uncommon thing for a private merchant ship to bring intelligence from different places before the government packet, for the above reason."

1. This letter appears to have been concocted in London, rather than writtten from the *Somerset*.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

(No 20)

Whitehall 1st June 1775

Sir, Since my letter to you of 27th ulto an account has been printed here, accompanied with Depositions to verify it, of Skirmishes between a Detachment of the Troops under your Command, and different Bodies of the provincial Militia.

It appears, upon the fullest Inquiry, that this Account, which is chiefly taken from a Salem Newspaper, has been published by a Captain Darby [John Derby], who arrived on Friday or Saturday [May 26 or 27] at Southampton, in a small Vessel in Ballast, directly from Salem; and from every Circumstance relating to this Person & the Vessel, it is evident he was employed by the Provincial Congress to bring this account, which is plainly made up for the purpose of conveying every possible Prejudice and misrepresentation of the Truth.

From the Answers he has given to such questions as have been asked, there is the greatest Probability that the whole amounts to no more than that a Detachment sent by you to destroy Cannon and Stores, collected at Concord for the purpose of aiding Rebellion were fired upon at different times by the People of the Country in small Bodies from behind Trees and Houses, but that the Party effected the Service they went upon, & returned to Boston, and I have the Satisfaction to tell you that the Affair being considered in that light by all discerning Men, it has had no other effect here than to raise that just Indignation which every honest Man must feel at the rebellious Conduct of the New England Colonies.

At the same time it is very much to be lamented that We have not some Account from you of this Transaction, which I do not mention from any Supposition that you did not send the earliest Intelligence of it, for we know from Darby that a Vessel with Dispatches from you sailed four days before him. We expect the Arrival of that Vessel with great Impatience, but till she arrives I can form no decisive Judgment of what has happened, and therefore can have nothing more to add but that I am &c

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92, LC Transcript.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

1st June — The said Rear Admiral [Robert Duff] was directed to cause the Act of the same year of His present Majesty Cap. 31. "For the Encouragement of the Fisheries carried on from Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions in Europe &c." to be also complied with, so far as may depend upon him & the Officers employ'd under him.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

5 June

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE¹

My dear Br!

London 5 June 75

By Capt Montgomery to Poto[mac] the 24 Ultio I wrote you largely, & sent a large number of papers, pamphlets &c – & by this oppty send you another packet besides this Letter. I have little to say on business, having recd only one Letter from you since the *Adventure* arrived & a short one of Mr [Edward] Browne of March 14 – Since advice of the engagement in Massachusetts Bay on the 19th Aprl, we are greatly confused expecting that all the ships in America will be stop'd as we are advised that the ship in New York has been unloaded. Shd this really prove the case it will be like a Thunder stroke; as for my own part however injurious it may be to me, I shall submit with patience if the measure is thot beneficial to the public cause. Individuals must suffer in such a contest, therefore every one shd bear his Lot with Fortitude & patience. – You will no doubt take care to keep me fully advised of every circumstance, & try every method that is practicable to get ample remittances made this year as possible. Pray stir up Fauntleroy & admonish him to be vigilant & careful of the Estate. Mrs. Lee has innoculated her little Boy, & is under many apprehensions for him, tho' at present the appearances are favourable. We join in best love to our Sister & the Mount Airy Family. Heaven protect you Farewell

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1775

London. [June 5.]

A ship arrived at Bristol on Monday last [May 29] in 30 days from Hampton, in Virginia. She brings advice that the people of Virginia had heard of the whole affair at Boston; that 24,000 provincial troops lay before it; that General [Thomas] Gage had been requested to let those come out who were inclined, which he had refused; that it was thought the provincial troops would speedily begin to cannonade the town; and that upon receiving these advices in Virginia, Gen. Washington immediately set out to join the army at Boston.

Another ship is arrived at Bristol from New-York. She, it is said, brings advices, that when the people of New-York were informed of the skirmish at Concord, they rose in a body, went to the town-house, where the arms of the troops were deposited, and directly seized them. In the harbour there were two ships laden with stores for General Gage, which they seized and unloaded. The provincial troops of New-York immediately began their march for Boston.

The *Boston Evening Post* of Monday, April 24, has the following paragraph: "The Printers of the *Boston Evening Post* hereby inform the town, that they shall desist publishing their paper after this day, till matters are in a more settled state."

7 June

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 7 June 1775

My Last was 15 April Since I have your favors 30 March & 11 April. I was in hopes to have been able to have rendered your Sales & Acct Current of the Wheat, but the quantities on hand have prevented the people taking away, so that the Warehouses are not yet cleared, which is the occassion of my not being able to settle the Account – They promise me it will be cleared away soon.

Wheat, owing to the Quantity imported, the very dry weather which has stopped most of the Mills, and the very promising appearance of the new wheat, has declined to 6/6. The Importations into the Kingdom have been immense, & without them Wheat would have been very high. How to advise you in future I know not. If the Weather continues favorable Wheat will not be dearer, & I fear will fall, but if there should be wet sufficient to endanger the Harvest, it must keep up & rise; at present the quantities are large in the Kingdom for sale, but then they must go off gradually, as there is very little English Corn. Super fine flour 17/6 common 15/6 & 16/ Indian Corn 3/3. The latter Article will I think encrease in demand, but the Summer not so much so; The Duty being taken off is greatly in its favour. Mr [Edmund] Burke our Representative daily rises in the Esteem of the true friends to his Country. His last Speech, which I do not send you, as it is gone out from London, as soon as published, & I was from home when it came out, shews him to be a true friend to the Constitution of the whole Empire, & a perfect Master of its Interests.

I have heard nothing about the *Champion*, & therefore am uncertain whether she will come to you, if she does you will in course follow my orders, but in the present State of the market, I should not think it prudent to make any Concern now, as the Harvest is So very promising, nor can I recommend any to be sent here after the receipt of this Letter, You shall however be further advised. The late Disturbances at Boston have various Effects here some believe, others disbelieve the Story, I think it for my part too clear an Account to admit of the least doubt. What the Ministry will now do it is impossible to say. give way at last they must.

I am with great *Truth* Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

8 June

WILLIAM LEE TO SAMUEL GRIFFIN¹

Dear Sir!

London 8 June 1775

I wrote you the 25 of Aprl wch is my 3rd Letter in the course of this year, to all wch be pleased to refer. The other day I recd yr favr of Mar 30 from Norfolk & tho' I recd a Letter from Capt Brown of 10 days later date he does not mention one word of having any of yr Tobo, nor has my Br wrote me of having recd the 10 hhds from Hipkins, if he does in time they shall be insured as you

direct. I now inclose you yr Acct Currt as you direct Ball. due to you £11.4.3 which hope you will find right & note in conformity to mine. By this you will see how many of yr Bills have been paid. I have wrote you so fully & frequently respecting the insurance of the *Fanny*, that I can add nothing farther than to request you will direct me what to do with the Underwriters who still refuse to pay their subscriptions. In my Judgement they are clearly Liable, but, as the Law is always uncertain, for my own part, wd advise first to take the opinion of Council, & then to bring suit or refer it to Arbitration as the case may appear best, provided the Underwriters will agree to refer it. It is too clear that all American Trade must for a time be at a stand; when it will revive again or in what form, God only knows. I wish you all Happiness & am &c –

P.S. Yr Br Cyrus has mentioned to me something about compounding a debt to Brereton on which subject I shall write to the Mayor soon –

William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 8 June 1775

The dispatches which we expect directly from General Gage have not arrived yet. A few ships which came from Virginia and New York have confirmed the first news. We learned also that, prior to the engagement that took place on the 19th, they had received at Boston the formal addresses which both Houses of Parliament presented to the King of England early last February as well as the answer of His British Majesty. We learned further that Boston was surrounded by the insurgents and that 4,800 sailors seeing they were going to be deprived of their fishing rights, deserted their ships and joined their compatriots under arms. The supporters of the Government in the Province of Massachusett have abandoned this Colony; several of them took refuge in Halifax and more than sixty embarked on the ship awaited by the Government. It is certain that as soon as it was learned in New York what had happened in the Province of Massachusett on the 19th, the inhabitants of this city unloaded by force two ships that were in their port carrying supplies for General Gage and ready to sail. The next ships which will arrive from Boston will tell us more about the state of affairs. . . .

The ship *Romney* with 50 guns and the corvette *Marin* have just sailed from Portsmouth for Newfoundland.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 277, LC Photocopy.

9 June

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN ANDREW MEYER ¹

Sir!

London 9 June 1775

I duely recd yr esteemd favor of the 30 Ulto and am sorry for having given you so much fruitless trouble with the order on Mr Wegener. I have before me Messrs Burrowes & Sons Acct Sales for Mr John Finchs Tobo nt procds Bank P 438.6 which suppose they will have no objection to pay in part of Mr Finchs Bill on them, when it becomes due, deducting if they think proper intst for the time,

as their sales are dated May 16 Ulto at 4 Mos credt & they stand del Credere. – When the Bill has run its time you will please to receive & remit to me the whole or any part they will please to pay & return the Bill noted only for what is not paid. The price of Tobo must surely rise now as we have very little in this market & the War is actually on Foot in America. When it will end God only knows in my opinion it will be some years first, even if things shd continue quiet all the while in Europe

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

10 June

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, TO SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1775

London. [June 10.]

It is said that Mr. Secretary [John] Pownall waited upon Capt. [John] Darby, and desired him to attend Lord Dartmouth, which he refused to do without an official letter, signifying his Lordship's request, and for what purpose, assigning as a reason for this caution, "That he had heard of instances, where, after having pumped every article of intelligence from persons in similar circumstances with himself, facts had been grossly misrepresented, and a very improper use made of the information; he was determined therefore to have some authority for what he did, to justify himself to his countrymen in America, from any imputation that might be thrown on him hereafter, when the Ministry had made all the use of him they could." Not long since, a person was examined before a Great Board, and his evidence taken down in writing, a copy of which was given to him the next day to sign; like a man of business, however, he chose to examine the contents of the paper before he gave it the sanction of his name; the result was, that the sense and spirit of his declaration were gone, and a different meaning and construction were palpably given to every sentence of his evidence.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, JUNE 6, TO SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1775

Whitehall June 10, 1775

Lieutenant [Joseph] Nunn, of the Navy, arrived this Morning at Lord Dartmouth's Office, and has brought Letters from General [Thomas] Gage, Lord [Hugh] Percy, and Lieutenant Colonel [Francis] Smith, containing the following Particulars of what passed on the 19th of April last between a Detachment of the King's Troops in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and several Parties of Rebel Provincials, viz.¹

1. The letters are detailed reports of the Lexington and Concord engagements.

12 June

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM HICKS ¹

Dear Sir!

London 12 June 75

The other day I recd a Letter from my Nephew inclosing the last years Accts amt £45.11.3 & advising of yr dft: for said Sum to Mr Saml Potter which shall be duely honor'd when it appears. I am almost ashamed to give you so

much trouble abt my Nephews already, but my Br has particularly desired that duplicates of the Bills with rects to them may be sent him every year which I must beg the favor of you to do; or if the Bills of the several claimants are made out in your name, I shd suppose a Copy of the Acct transmitted me will ansr my Brs purpose. I shall ever esteem myself greatly obliged by yr kindness to my Nephews & hope they will prove ymselves worthy yr protection The 16th Ultō: I pd Wilkie £4.11. for yr Newspapers wch is to yr debt We esteem here the *London Evening Post*, published 3 times a week the best evening paper if you choose instead of the *L. Chronicle*, I will have it regularly sent you. The Ministry have last Saturday published their Acct of the unhappy transaction the 19th Aprl last on Massachusetts Bay, which is rather more to the disadvantage of the Regulars than the Acct we had before. They say that the Militia fired first, 'tho the contrary is proved by a number of authentic depositions, some of them sworn to by the Regulars themselves. If the people of England do not interfere a little more seriously than they have done to stop the wanton effusion of the blood of our American Brethren & put a speedy stop to this most unnatural war. I am sure the consequences must be most fatal to the whole British Empire. I am &c –

P.S. Since writing the above have recd yr esteemed favor of the 8 Inst for which am much obliged The New York May Packet is arrived that brings home the Post Officers from that City. The People there have taken possession of the Post Office, Custom house & Castle. There are in Arms & determined no Troops shall land there. Upwards of 2000 Men are sent off to the relief of the New Englanders, who to a man are determined to *dye* or be *free*. As far as we can learn all America is in Arms and that upwards of 50000 Men are embodied. Will the English never again stir in defence of Liberty? – I trust they will & that shortly.

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord

Admty Office. 12th June 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships in North America dated the 22d of April last at Boston, giving an Account of an Engagement that had happene'd there on the 19th between his Majesty's Troops and the Rebellious Provincials, We send your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, for his Majesty's information, and are

My Lord Your Lordship's most humble Servants

J. Buller.
Palmerston
H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1775

London. [June 12.]

On Friday [June 9] Capt. Brown came from America with dispatches for government. The *Sukey* is booked at Lloyd's to have arrived at Dover. The dispatches were sent to Lord Dartmouth's Office on Saturday morning.

On Saturday morning, when the express arrived at Lord Dartmouth's office, with dispatches from General [Thomas] Gage at Boston, they were forwarded by a Messenger to his Majesty at Kew, and at the same time notices were sent to Lord [Frederick] North, Lord [John Leveson] Gower, and the Secretaries of State, of the arrival of the said dispatches, several of whom went immediately to Kew, and had a conference with his Majesty.

13 June

COUNT DE GUINES, FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ENGLAND, TO
COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 13 June 1775

Mild. Rochford spoke to me only of the descendants of Cromwell now established in America and who became, according to him, the leaders of the rebellion; well, he dreams only of Cromwell and everything related to this subject. He told me that the landing troops had been sent in spite of his advice; that he would have used only a few squadrons to blockade the ports and prevent any trade in the Colonies. If this is true, I really believe that Mild. Rochford was right. Nothing would seem more frightening to the present Ministry than what is happening in America; their last resort is the resolute will of the King. From what I know of this Prince, there has never been one who was more resolute in his decisions and more obstinate! He is at rest apparently because Mild. Mansfield seems to be without worry. He came from the country yesterday to spend an hour with me; I had never seen him so gay and so calm.

The four ships-of-the-line destined to cruise in the Bay of Biscay are gathered in the roads of Portsmouth since the 10th of this month; two frigates and two corvettes are being added to their number. This squadron will sail as soon as Mild. Sandwich, who was expected at Portsmouth on the 12th, will leave for Plymouth. The corvette *Raven* will sail at the same time for Boston.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 278, LC Photocopy. De Guines arrived in London May 26, 1775. M. Garnier, Chargé d'Affaires, was recalled to Paris.

15 June

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c

Capt [Thomas] Mackenzie of His Majts Sloop the *Hunter* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him under your command accordingly & employ him & the said Sloop in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majts Service entrusted to your care Given &c 15th June 1775

By &c PS

Sandwich
Palmerston
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 490, NYHS Transcript.

16 June

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

[1775]

16th [June] Commissioners for Victualling His Majesty's Navy were directed to send out 4 Months more Provisions for 5000 Men, of all Species, except Spirits which they were to contract for.

17th [Do] The Kings pleasure was signified by the Earl of Dartmouth for augmenting the Squadron under Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves with such a Number of Frigates as should be thought sufficient for effectually securing the obedience of the Laws passed in the last Sessions [of Parliament] for restraining the Commerce & Fisheries of several of the North American Colonies And Several Ships, which see in the annexd List,² were order'd to be got ready for that purpose.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. The list was not attached to this document.

17 June

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords,

Whitehall June 17th 1775

It being apprehended that the Number of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at present in North America may not be sufficient for effectually securing a due Obedience of the Laws passed in the last Session of Parliament for restraining the Commerce and Fisheries of several of the Colonies, and that it may be particularly useful to have a more considerable Naval Strength at New York to protect the Commerce of His Majesty's Subjects, and to prevent the Rebels in New England from receiving Succours from the Southern Colonies by the Passes of Hudsons River; I am to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you do augment the Squadron under the Command of Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves with such a number of Frigates as your Lordships shall think sufficient for answering the above-mentioned Objects.

I am &ca

Dartmouth

[Endorsed] Drat to the/Lords of the Admty/17th June 1775/Entd

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

20 June

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

Captain [David] Price of His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take

Image unavailable.
See the printed volume.

him under your command accordingly, and employ him and the said Sloop in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majts. Service entrusted to your care. Given &c. the 20th. June 1775.

By &c. P.S:

J. Buller
C. Spencer
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 505, NYHS Transcript.

21 June

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND ¹

6 mo 21st 1775.

Great uneasiness & disturbances in the Colonies on acct of a small Dutie laid on Tea by the Parliament of Great Brittain – a very great Quantitie of Tea destroyed at Boston, that Port Shutt up by Act of Parliament the Colonies call a General Congress at Philadelphia wherein they resolve against importing or exporting or any Trade with the Mother Country till the above Act Anno 1774 be repealed not much appearance of a reconciliation.

1775 Early this year the Parliament came to a Resolution to put their former acts into full force & in 2d Mo: concludes the inhabitants of Massechusets bay actualy in Rebellion & resolves to send Troops & Ships to reduce them to Subjection – the Event unknown

1. WPL. The second paragraph is undated but follows logically on the same page of the diary.

22 June

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JUNE 20, TO THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1775

London. [June 22.]

Yesterday arrived a mail from Charles Town, South Carolina, which was brought by the *Swallow* packet, Capt. Copeland, by which there is advice from Charles Town, that a mob rose and seized the arms and gunpowder that were kept in a building adjoining to the Guard-house, in the middle of the town. There were only five barrels of powder seized, but the quantity of arms uncertain. The Deputy Governor has published a proclamation of 100 £. sterling for the discovery of the offenders, but no success had attended it when these accounts came away, which was on the 2d of May.

FLUDYER, MARSH, HUDSON, AND STREATFIELD, LONDON MERCHANTS TO
JAMES BEEKMAN ¹

[London] June 22, 1775

We are duly favoured with your esteemed letter dated 6th May, and beg your acceptance of our thanks for the trouble you have taken, in giving us a circumstantial account of the late calamitous affair at Boston, the consequences whereof are much to be dreaded, and concerning which our sentiments do perfectly correspond with yours, this alarming event still further widens the unhappy breach subsisting between this Country and the Colonies and prevents the restoration of that harmony so requisite for their mutual prosperity and Interest,

we ardently wish conciliating measures may be pursued, both by the Ministry and the General Congress, so as most effectually to retard the progress of a Civil War, and hasten the time of a satisfactory reconciliation, which must undoubtedly be the sincere desire of all who have the real welfare of their country fervently at heart.

1. White, ed., *Beekman Papers*, II, 759.

23 June

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 23 June 1775

The supplies for the army of General Gage, which were seized by the rebels in New York, were considerable. They were worth 80,000 pound sterling. It is now necessary to send even the flour from England in order to support this army, and make use of the same means which would have been required for the conquest of America.

The supply ships for the Newfoundland fishermen which ordinarily replenished in ports of the American Continent had to return empty. England cannot depend at present on any source of supply in that part of the world.

Such is, Sir, the position of this country, and yet the King of England is determined not to change his Ministry, come what may, and I know this for a fact. For their part, the members of the Opposition hold so little doubt regarding the need for such a change that their principal leaders gathered only last week and disposed of all the posts: Myd Chatham wishes to become Prime Minister without portfolio in order to be able to govern more safely without having to shoulder the burden of the events. . . .

I know for a fact that the Count de Velderen, Minister from Holland, has received a reproach from the English Ministry in regard to the complaisance with which the United Provinces catered to the needs of New England, to wit the supply of war ammunition. Indeed, we know for an actual fact that the rebels obtained 4,000 barrels of powder from St. Eustatius. These supplies, added to those of the same kind which they found in New York where they took 40 pieces of cannon, cannot but encourage their venture.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 280, LC Photocopy.

24 June

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr.

[Admiralty Office] 24 June 1775

I received & communicated to my Lords Commissrs of the Admty on the 10th Inst. your Letter of the 11th & 22d of April last giving an Account of your proceedings up to that time; And in return I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that their Lordships very much approve thereof.

Their Lordships observe by your first-mentioned Letter and the account inclosed in it, that many of your Ships are considerably short of their Complement of Men. And that there is no likelihood of making up the deficiency by Volunteers; They have therefore in pursuance of the Kings Order in Council signed Warrants (which I send you by this conveyance with a separate Letter on the

Subject) empowering the Officers of the Ships of your Squadron to Impress such a Number of Seamen & Seafaring Men as may be necessary to complete their respective Complements; The Clause of the Act of the 6th of Queen Ann which forbid the impressing of Seamen in America being repealed by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament as you will see by the inclosed Copy which I send you. —

Their Lordships entirely approve of what you propose about retaining an extra number of Pilots in constant Pay, And will send the necessary directions to the Navy Board for paying them, And as an encouragement to the Masters of the Ships of your Squadron to qualify themselves to be Pilots at this Critical time & to become capable of taking charge of Ships upon the Coast of North America, their Lordships will also direct the Navy Board to pay full Pilotage instead of half Pilotage to such of them as shall produce a recommendation from you of their Merit & knowledge with the usual Certificates from their Captains of the Services they have performed as Pilots.

It being apprehended that the number of Ships at present under your command may not be sufficient for effectually securing a due obedience to the Laws passed in the last Sessions of Parliament for restraining the Commerce & Fisheries of several of the Colonies & that it may be particularly useful to have a more considerable Naval Strength at New York to protect the Commerce of His Majts Subjects and to prevent the Rebels in New England from receiving Succours from the Southern Colonies by the passes of Hudsons River: I have it in command from their Lordships to acquaint you that the *Hunter*, *Viper* & *Raven* Sloops (by the last of which you will receive this) are now ready & under Sailing Orders to proceed to Boston, And that the four Ships of 28 Guns each mentioned in the Margin² are fitting out with the utmost expedition & will be sent as soon as possible as a farther reinforcement to you for Answering the objects abovementioned Objects which their Lordships have very much at heart and consequently recommend to your most serious Attention

But I am at the same time commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to consider whether with this reinforcement it will be of any essential Service to keep the Great Ships with you during the ensuing Winter, And if it will not, to send some or all of them to England towards the latter end of the Year, letting their Lordships know what Sort of Ships you would wish to be supplied with in their room in the Spring; This point however of sending home the Great Ships their Lordships leave entirely to your discretion according as the necessity of the Times & the Service may require but they wish to have your opinion thereupon by the very first conveyance that offers.

Their Lordships upon discoursing with the Commissrs of the Victualling as to the dependance that may be had upon the Contract they have made for supplying the Ships under your command with Provisions, received from them the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Mr Grant their Contractor which I send you for your information more especially as what he mentions respecting the use of fresh Provisions where they can be had seems to deserve your particular attention; I am at the same time to acquaint you that in order to guard against any accidents their Lordships have directed the Victualing Board to send out to you without

delay a farther supply of Provisions for 5000 Men for 4 Months of all species except Spirits & to contract for a quantity of Rum to be delivered at Boston to answer the other Species, And their Lordships desire that you will, by the first conveyance that offers let them know what is the State of your Provisions; what farther supplies you conceive may be necessary to be sent to you from hence; And when and where you would wish to have them sent &c

P S

By the *Viper* – See Comr. Gambier's Letter of 25 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 449, NYHS Transcript.
2. *Actaeon, Lizard, Milford, Solebay.*

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 24th June 1775

The King having been pleased by his Order in Council of the 16th of June 1775 to order my Lords Commrs of the Admty to issue out such Warrants as they should find requisite for pressing so many Seamen, Seafaring Men & Persons whose occupations & callings are to work in Vessels & Boats upon Rivers in His Majestys Dominions in North America as should from time to time be necessary for Manning His Majts Ships & Vessels employed in those parts; I am commanded to send Your Lordship herewith 40 blank Press Warrants (prepared in consequence thereof & signed by my Lords) for Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels And also 20 of another sort for Lieutenants commanding Schooners & Armed Vessels in order that your Lordship may cause the same to be filled up & delivered occasionally to such Captains, Commanders & Lieutenants not before furnished with them or Armed Vessels as may not have received them before or as you may appoint to Vacancies that may happen in the Squadron, all which Warrants your Ldsp will please to observe are to continue in force 'til the 31st Day of December 1776 unless duly countermanded before that time; And I am commanded by their Lordships to Signify their directs of the said Warrants to be filled up & delivered from time to time to such Captains Commrs and Lieutenants (not already furnished therewith) as you in your discretion shall judge necessary for completing the Complements of such of your Ships as are deficient And also to fill up & deliver in like manner from time to time such of the others to the Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels &c who may be sent out to you, or who may be appointed to Vacancies as aforesaid; sending their Lordships a List of their Names and the dates of the Warrants that Entries may be made accordingly in the Books of this Office giving these Officers such Instructions as your Lordship shall judge proper for carryg them into Execution &c

And as it is more difficult, at this distance to settle Instructions for the Conduct of the Officers who may be employed to carry the above Warrants into execution than upon the spot where the particular circumstances of the Trade of His Majestys Subjects in the present critical situation of Affairs must be so much better understood; I have it further in command from their Lordships to send you herewith printed Copies of the Instructions which have been usually given with Press Warrants issued here at home, and to signify their directions to you

to prepare & issue Instructions with the several press Warrants which you may deliver as aforesaid as nearly conformable to the Printed ones abovementioned as the circumstances of the Trade of His Majts Subjects the nature of the Service and the particular situation of Affairs, in North America may in your Opinion render necessary & proper, taking care to avoid giving any sort of distress to the Trade & Commerce legally carried on by His Majts Subjects in those parts, but what may be absolutely necessary for the keeping your Squadron properly Mannd &c

P. S

Vice Adml Graves – Boston

By the *Viper* – see Comr Gambier's Letter of 25 June.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 453, NYHS Transcript.

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM HICKS ¹

Dear Sir!

London 24 June 75

I have before me yr two favrs of 9 & 16 Inst the Contents of which I duely observe. You have now some Franks to inclose my Nephews Acct have no doubt my Br will think them reasonable, as I suppose the whole years expences is included in your dft. indeed we can scarcely be too frugal in these critical times. The perilous situation of American affairs, keeps most things at a stand particularly Tobo for which I never knew so slack a demand tho' we have very little at this Market. If Messrs Chambers & Eilbacks Cargoe is all from the upper part of James River, we cannot be wrong in buying it at the French price of 3½ P lb with their allowance but it shd be deld in London if required as this is the best port for making the most of the different qualities. The paymts to be in 3 or 4 Mos after delivery by bills on London at 60 daies. I shd imagine the best method would be to get from the lowest term & then one may be able to make judge whether to accept or not and also it may be advisable to strike the bargain before the ship arrives, as it is possible she may bring advices that will raise their demand. 'Tis not likely we can lose by buyg at the above price with the usual allowance on buying at the Mast, but the times are too precarious to venture higher I am &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

25 June (Sunday)

FREDERICK DERRY TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My dear Lord

Derry June 25th [1775]

A Vessel is this very moment arriv'd at our Quay in 28 days from Philadelphia & brings letters from thence, some of which are now before me, replete with exultations on their Success against the Fort at Ticonderoga – they surpriz'd the Garrison consisting of only 45 men & possess'd themselves of all the cannon & ammunition.

the congress were sitting & had determin'd that all American ports should be shut on the 20th of July, & New York & N: Carolina had determined not to avail

themselves of the Privilege granted them by Parliament – the American correspondent adds “here all degrees of People are arming; even N:York is now violent in defence of American freedom, & so unanimous are the Colonies in the common cause that it is determined to march from any one province to another where it may be necessary” I wish my dear Lord my intelligence had been as satisfactory as it is early but such as it is I thought it might be important for your Lordship to know it – All the letters agree in the account of an Universal armament: believe me with the sincerest esteem [&c.]

Frederick Derry

1. Dartmouth Mss., WSL.

26 June

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JUNE 26 [1775].”¹

On Saturday [une 24] sailed from Spithead, with dispatches to Gen. [Thomas] Gage at Boston, the *Viper* sloop of war; and in the morning the Commissioner went on board her, and paid her two months advance.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 27 to June 29, 1775.