

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 2**

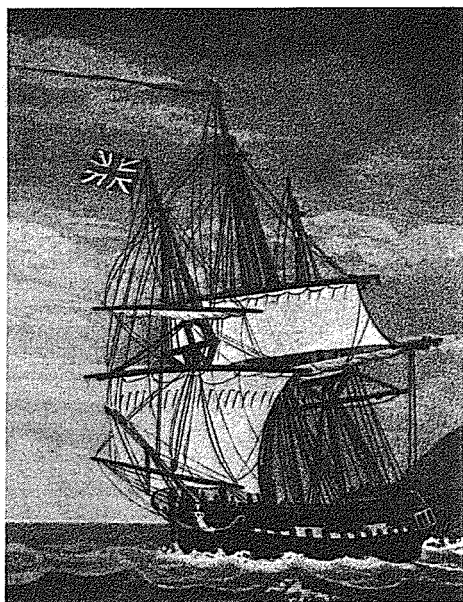
**AMERICAN THEATRE: Sept. 3, 1775–Oct. 31, 1775**  
**EUROPEAN THEATRE: Aug. 11, 1775–Oct. 31, 1775**  
**AMERICAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1775–Dec. 7, 1775**

**Part 5 of 9**

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# EUROPEAN THEATRE

*From August 11, 1775, to October 31, 1775*



*Map of Europe, date unknown.*



## EUROPEAN THEATRE

From August 11, 1775, to October 31, 1775

### SUMMARY

With the receipt of the jolting account of Bunker Hill, George III, the Ministers, Lords and Commons awoke to the realization that they were confronted with a real war. The idea of chastizing recalcitrant radicals and misguided tradesmen in America was abandoned. The colonists must be subdued and forced to submission by hard blows. By the spring of 1776 the British government would have an army of some 20,000 men in North America and along its coasts an overwhelming fleet. But regiments at home were still of skeleton size or existed only on paper, and the Royal Navy was in a woeful state from neglect, incompetence, and corruption. Time was required to fill out military ranks and to ready and man ships.

Of course, not all voices of moderation and conciliation were stilled. Edmund Burke spoke of America and the Americans as—"a remote and difficult country, and such a Spirit as now animates them, may do strange things. Our Victories can only complete our Ruin." And, merchants who were feeling the loss of the American trade did not hesitate to express deep concern about the course of events.

Efforts to stop the flow of arms and ammunition into the colonies were intensified by tightening coastal and harbor patrols and by appeals to continental governments to extend the embargo on the shipment of munitions to America.

The conduct of General Gage and Admiral Graves became the subject of mounting criticism in official circles. The general was recalled, the government ostensibly seeking his advice, but Gage never returned to his command. Rear Admiral Molyneux Shulldham was ordered out to relieve Graves. Thus, the two senior British officers in North America were to leave the scene under a cloud as the flames grew hotter.

Russia was approached for the hire of some of the troops seasoned in the war with Turkey, but this move came to nought. Various German princes offered soldiers at a price and the Court of St. James's had this possibility under consideration in August of 1775.

Any Spanish expectations that Britain's troubles presented a golden opportunity to retake Gibraltar and Minorca were shattered, at least temporarily, by the stunning defeat administered to the Spaniards by the Barbary corsairs on the shores of Algiers in July.

France, very naturally, watched and carefully evaluated every move in the widening American conflict. De Guines, French ambassador in London, dispatched a stream of correspondence across the channel which kept the foreign

minister, Count de Vergennes, fully informed of the political climate, build up of forces, and the state of British naval strength and deployment.

Caron de Beaumarchais, shuttling between London and Paris, foresaw that the revolt in the American colonies held the greatest consequences for France. In September, a memorial prepared by Beaumarchais was laid before Louis XVI. The sensible people of England were convinced, he wrote, that the colonies were lost to the mother country and that the end of the crisis would bring war with France.

Vergennes, likewise, assessed the meaning to France of large increases in British land and sea strength in America. Should a settlement be reached with the colonists, could not such a force turn on the French West Indies?

Perhaps because he did not fully trust the judgment of the flamboyant Beaumarchais, the astute foreign minister selected an agent to go to America, learn the disposition of the colonists, assure them that France was friendly, and that clandestine aid could be expected from private merchants but that recognition from the French Court was not to be expected. This agent, Archard de Bonvouloir, sailed for America, via London, on September 8, 1775.

## 11 Aug.

### BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

1775

11th Augt Rear Admiral Gayton Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica was directed in consequence of a Letter on the 3d from Mr [John] Pownall in Lord Dartmouth's absence to station two Cruizers, One at Heneago or Inagua Island, & the other at the little Caicos <sup>2</sup> in order to intercept and seize North American Vessels, great numbers of which, as appeared from good Intelligence did resort constantly to Cape Nicholas Mole & other parts of the Island of Hispaniola where they loaded with French produce & secretly took in great Quantities of Arms & Ammunition.

1. Germain Papers, CL. Identified as "Abstract of the most material Proceedings in this Department relative to North America . . . ." The Abstract contains summaries of orders and instructions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, many of which appear in their entirety in this volume.
2. These stations in the lower Bahama Islands permitted good surveillance of the Caicos and Windward Passages.

### COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]  
No. 288

London, 11 August 1775

I can only approve, Sir, your views on America and England. You understand what goes on and you cunningly anticipate what will happen as if you were there; *a destroyed or worthless America is what England seeks.* I agree with you, Sir, and it is in this line of thought that the Council of the King must face the present

events and determine its plans for the future. I do not doubt for one moment, from what I overheard among the Ministers of the King of England, that the decision has been made at the Council of this Prince to annihilate America if they cannot subdue her, to burn the cities, the ships, the forests and to turn this country into a desert. This plan would be carried out in a spirit of revenge and out of spite; it would even be the outcome of a barbaric policy indeed, but the only one which in the present situation could serve the interest of England, since it is established that henceforth America will hardly be her slave, never her ally, and for ever her enemy. This principle must govern all the resolutions which will be adopted by this power . . . .

We have received no interesting news from Boston unless it has been made a secret. The Ministers claim that they received letters dated on the 27th of June and that at that time nothing had happened since to Charles Town affair. I am certain that they will stand on the defensive until next year and I would not be surprised if that campaign began in New York since Boston is some sort of a box of which it is very difficult to come out. But what an enormous expense for England! A considerable sum of money will have to be voted during the next session of Parliament, and it will hardly be less expensive for England to wage war on her Colonies than on France. This comparison of facts should become the subject matter of important discussions.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy. De Guines was the French ambassador to the Court of St. James's; Vergennes, the French Foreign Minister.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE HAGUE, AUG. 11."<sup>1</sup>

The day before yesterday his Excellency Sir Joseph Yorke<sup>2</sup> presented a memorial to the States General, entreating them to prolong the term of the prohibition laid upon the Dutch against carrying arms or ammunition to the Americans; to which their High Mightinesses consented, and issued orders accordingly.

1. *London Chronicle*, August 17 to August 19, 1775.
2. The British ambassador to The Hague.

**12 Aug.**

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DUBLIN, AUG. 12."<sup>1</sup>

By the *Hancock and Adams*, arrived from Philadelphia, we learn, that the 13 transports, with the troops shipped at Corke, amounting, Officers included, to 1700 men, arrived at New York the 23d of June, in health and spirits; but not a living creature had landed there, though no opposition had been made to their debarkation: . . . The same accounts advise, that the *Nautilus* sloop of war had arrived the day after the transports, with an express from General Gage to their commanding Officer, by which it is thought they had received orders to sail to Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, August 17 to August 19, 1775.

KING GEORGE III TO LORD SANDWICH <sup>1</sup>

Kew, August 12, 1775, 20 m. past 2 p.m.

Lord Sandwich – I never doubted that your great activity would soon vanquish any apparent difficulty in engaging the number of transports required for the two present services, and I trust that will secure their being with the utmost expedition fitted out and sent out of the River.

It is but right to be grateful when kindly treated: it is that makes me rejoice that Portsmouth is the first dock which seems returning to its duty.<sup>2</sup> I do not doubt but twenty-one shipwrights having set the example, there will not be a want of hands in that dock in a very few days, which will bring the others to reason.

1. G. R. Barnes and J. H. Owen, eds., *The Private Papers of John, Earl of Sandwich First Lord of the Admiralty 1771–1782* (London, 1932), I, 67–68. Hereafter cited as Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*.
2. A serious strike among the shipwrights in the Royal dockyards had been in progress for some time.

**13 Aug. (Sunday)**COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Versailles, 13 August 1775

No. 148

I had the honor, Sir, to receive your letter No. 287 which you wrote to me on the 4th of the month. If the letter which I sent you on the seventh reached you before you had a meeting with Lord Rochford, it will have explained to you that we can wait with patience for a satisfactory agreement on our rights in Newfoundland,<sup>2</sup> and that, while we do not intend to lose sight of this affair, we do not wish to place upon it an emphasis which might dispose the British Ministry to believe that we are trying to take advantage of their difficulties and force them into a compromise. It is not the King's intention to place the Ministry in jeopardy since it already occupies a most unstable position; were it possible, we would make every effort in order to support it rather than strive to overthrow it. Once and for all, Sir, proceed with the negotiations, but use enough moderation so that neither Lord Rochford nor any of his colleagues may presume that we are attempting to embarrass them personally. Our cause is fair, our right is established and the evidence is in our favor. We demand that our rights to make use of the Coast of Bonavista as defined in the peace-treaty of Utrecht be restored or that we be granted a suitable equivalent. It will not be long before we know if the British suffered a defeat in America; it is to the insurgents' advantage to make their advances known and they certainly were able to find a way by which to spread such news. The expedition of fine Regiments of the division of Ireland to which three Cavalry regiments might be added proves that the Ministry deems necessary to make the greatest efforts to maintain their position in that country and take command of the situation. I would think, Sir, that such would be the intention of the Ministry if the sending of these three Cavalry Regiments were verified; this kind of troops would be most awkward and quite useless, should they wish to insult our Islands and conquer them. However,

the more the British increase their forces in that part of the World, the more we must guard against any harmful use they might be tempted to make of them. Anything is to be feared on the part of a Nation which behaves more often out of despair than on a matter of principle.

. . . What is essential for us is that we be informed in time of the movements in the ports. It would seem difficult to suspect the British Ministry of scheming against their neighbours as long as they limit their armaments to ships of fifty cannons, frigates and corvettes.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy.
2. Fishing rights guaranteed by the Treaty of Paris, 1763.

## 15 Aug.

### BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

1775

15th Augt The King having been pleased to appoint Mariot Arbuthnot Esq. to be a Commisr of His Majesty's Navy to reside at Halifax in Nova Scotia, for the better superintendance & dispatch of his Affairs there, Instructions were this day given him for his Government in that employment.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

### *Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, AUGUST 15, 1775

London. [August 15.]

The Barbadoes packet, ———, from Philadelphia, is arrived at Bristol, in thirty two days. Governor [John] Penn is come over express in the above ship, by desire of the Congress. They left Philadelphia the 12th of July, and arrived at Bristol on Sunday morning, and have brought over a petition to his Majesty from the Congress at Philadelphia.

The *Commerce*, Capt. Rice, from Philadelphia, is arrived at Bristol, who brings advices dated the 9th of July, in which not a word is mentioned of another engagement between our troops and the Provincials near Boston; on the contrary, matters at present are rather quiet. . . .

Yesterday a Pennsylvania ship arrived in the river; she brought some news-papers, . . .

Government is still determined to enforce vigorous measures against America; and in the spring an amazing armament is to be embarked, if they can get people to go; for the officers and soldiery are universally disgusted; and if they have the spirit of Englishmen, they will, with firmness, refuse and disdain a service, that is to annihilate their liberties, and ruin their country. — *Lond. Packet*.

By order of the Lords of the Admiralty, no less than twelve frigates and sloops of war have been built in private yards, which are all ready for sea.

On Friday last [August 11] a survey was made of all the merchant ships in the river, fit to be employed in the service of the Government, and a report was made of them yesterday to the Commissioners of the Navy; they are to carry 100 men [each], and be commanded by the Lieutenant[s] of the Royal Navy.

Eight thousand tons of transports are already taken up in the river, and more are expected to offer daily; twenty-five flat-bottomed boats are nearly constructed for the debarkation of troops: each ship is to carry one; and every boat will row with sixteen oars, and carry forty men besides officers.

Yesterday morning bills were stuck up about the Royal Exchange and other public places; offering encouragement to sailors who enter on board the men of war therein mentioned, now fitting up at Portsmouth for foreign service.

PIERCE & BROWN, BRISTOL, ENGLAND, TO JAMES BEEKMAN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Bristol] Aug. 15, 1775

We are exceedingly concerned to find the breach between England and America so much widened, we were in hopes some measures might have been adopted to prevent Bloodshed; but our great people in power are gone to farr to retreat, and although they are convinced the measures has been too hasty, they say they Know not how to retreat, we are very sencible it must very materially Effect us on this side, as well as being very destructive to America, our Manufactures already begin to feel it.

Happy we are to find that our American friends are sincible that the Merchants on this side has been very streaniously using their Endeavours to prevent its present Course, but hitherto without any success, and we doubt not the Endeavours of our American Friends to support our distressed Merchants here who must inexpressibly feel the want of the American Trade, but much more the withholding payments. We flatter our Selves that the distance you are from the Seat of Warr will not prevent your receiving your payments almost in the regular way that we may on this side be receiving our Regular remittances.

We most Sincerely wish you once more reinstated in the full Enjoyment of your Religion, Laws, Liberty and Trade.

1. Philip L. White, ed., *The Beekman Mercantile Papers, 1746-1799* (New York, 1956), II, 899-900.

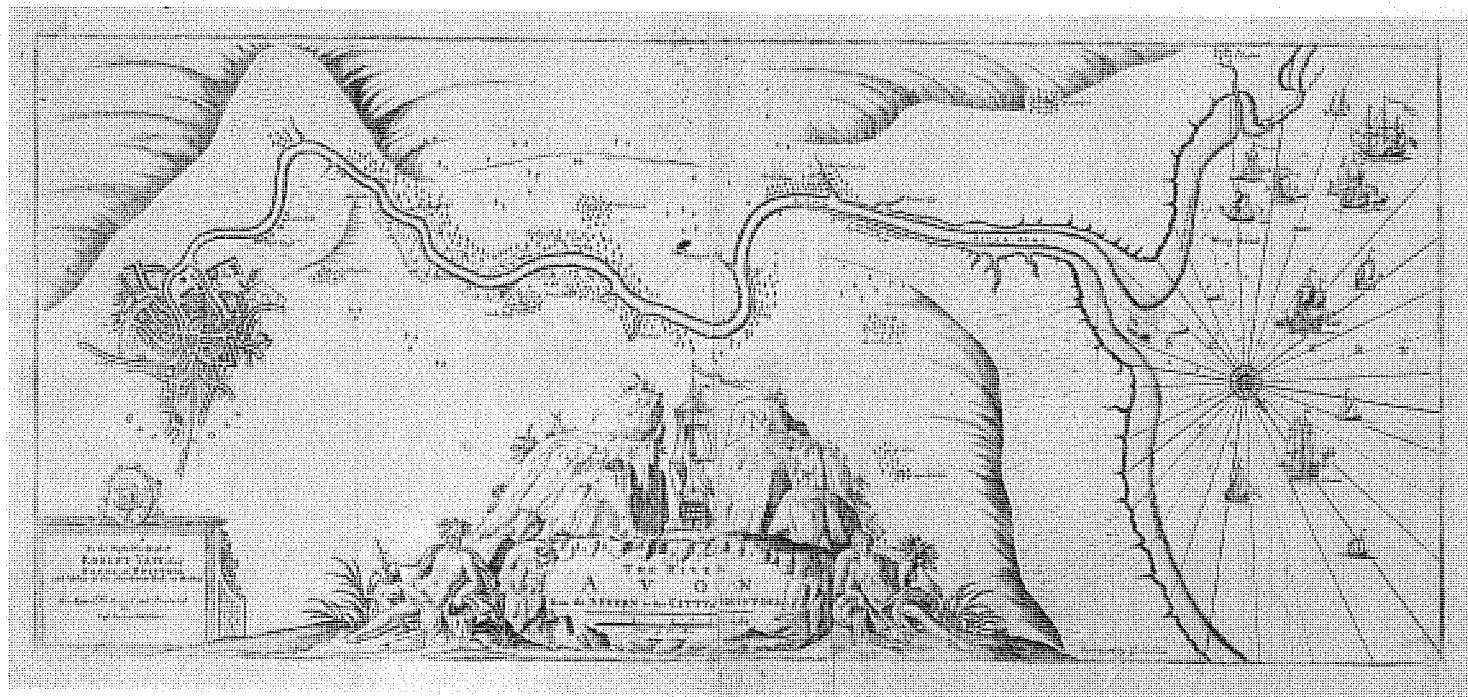
WILLIAM HAMILTON TO LORD ROCHFORD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]  
N.20/

Naples, Augt 15th 1775.

My Lord, In consequence of Your Lordship's Letter N. 9. I waited upon the Marquis Tanucci and made the proper application for obstructing the Exportation of Gunpowder or other Warlike Stores from Naples or any of His Sicilian Majesty's Dominions to the British Colonies in America. The Marquis answer'd that He was very sure that His Sicilian Majesty wou'd be happy upon this, as upon every other occasion, to give a proof of His Friendship and Esteem for His Britannic Majesty, and made no doubt but that He shou'd be authorized to acquaint me very soon, that the necessary Orders had been issued to prevent the above mention'd Exportation.

I have made the most diligent enquiry and do not believe that any Warlike Stores have been as yet exported from these Kingdoms to our Colonies in America.



*Map of Bristol, England, and the River Avon, 1785.*

There are New foundland Ships that come here every Season with Baccala, and I have known a Ship or two come here directly from New York, but very rarely.

Your Lordship may be assured that I shall be particularly attentive that His Majesty's desire may be strictly complied with, the only danger is from the Counterband which the French carry on in Small Vessels upon the extended Coast of these Kingdoms, and indeed the Marquis Tanucci hinted to me the frequency of such Counterbands as well as the difficulty of preventing them, hoping that if any such accident shou'd happen, in the present case, it might not be attributed to this Government, who wou'd certainly take every measure to prevent it.

I return Your Lordship many thanks for the *Gazette* with the account of the defeat of a party of the Rebels in America, I trust in God that these unfortunate and deluded people will soon be brought to a just sense of their crimes, and submit again to the mild Government of the Mother Country, the time value of which they do not seem to have known. I have the honor to be My Lord [&c.]

W<sup>m</sup> Hamilton

1. PRO, State Papers, 93/30. Hamilton was Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. William Henry Zuylestein, 4th Earl of Rochford, was Secretary of State for the Southern Department.

17 Aug.

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Whitehall 17th August, 1775.

I think it proper to acquaint you, that in consequence of it's having been signified to me, that one of His Majesty's Ships of War would be stationed in the Downs, & another in Five fathom Channel, to protect & assist the Officers of the Customs in searching for Arms & Ammunition which may be secretly & clandestinely received on board Ships bound from the Port of London to No America, after such Ships have passed Gravesend, orders have been given to the Commissioners of the Customs to station two or three Cutters for visiting & searching all Ships bound to North America in their passage from the River to the Downs; & that in Case the Officers of such Cutters shall stand in need of the assistance of His Majesty's Ships of War, that they do, upon coming in sight of such Ships, hoist a Custom-House Jack at the Masthead. I am &ca

J Pownall.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121,60. Pownall was Deputy Secretary of State.

EDMUND BURKE TO CHARLES O'HARA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[17] August 1775

The Spirit of America is incredible. Who do you think the Mr [Thomas] Mifflin, Aid de Camp to Washington, is?—A very grave and staunch Quaker, of large fortune and much consequence. What think you of that political Enthusiasm, which is able to overpower so much religious Fanaticism? Washington himself is a man of good Military experience, prudent and Cautious, and who yet stakes a fortune of about 5000 a year. God knows they are very inferiour in all





*Edmund Burke. By James Watson after Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1771.*

human resources. But a remote and difficult Country, and such a Spirit as now animates them, may do strange things. Our Victories can only complete our Ruin.

1. George H. Guttridge, ed., *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke* (London and Chicago, 1961), III, 185–188. Hereafter cited as Guttridge, ed., *Burke Correspondence*. O'Hara, an Irishman, was a close friend of Burke.

*London Chronicle*, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15 TO THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1775

London, August 17.

Captain Parry, of the *Hope*, who is arrived at Liverpool from Georgia, says, a schooner with 10 carriage guns and 12 swivels, fitted out by the Americans, was sent out to meet a vessel which had a quantity of gunpowder on board,<sup>1</sup> and took out six tons and brought it to Savanna in Georgia, the 6th or 7th of July.

1. The ship *Phillippa*, Richard Maitland, master.

**18 Aug.**

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO CAPTAIN ROBERT BIGGS,  
H.M. SLOOP *Favourite* AT THE NORE <sup>1</sup>

Whereas the Earl of Suffolk one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State acquainted us, by his Letter of the 14h Instant, that, upon Intelligence received that several Vessels bound to North America from the Port of London had taken on board Arms and Ammunition orders were given to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs to direct their Officers to search those Vessels but that there was reason to apprehend that the Intention of such search had been, and would be, eluded by Vessels bound to North America taking in Arms and Ammunition after they get below Gravesend; and whereas it hath been represented to our Secretary, by Letter from his Lordship's office of Yesterday's date, that further orders have been given to the said Commissioners to station two or three Cutters for visiting and searching all Vessels bound to North America in their passage from the River to the Downes, and that, in case the Officers of such Cutters shall stand in need of the Assistance of His Majesty's Ships, they do, upon coming in sight of such Ships, hoist a Custom House Jack at the Mast head; You are hereby required and directed to repair in the Sloop you command, without a moment's loss of time, into the five fathom Channel, and use your best endeavours to intercept, seize, and bring into Port, all Ships and Vessels having on board Gunpowder, arms, or ammunition prohibited to be carried Coastwise or to be transported into Ports beyond the Seas by His Majesty's order in Council of the 5h of April last (which with our order thereupon is herewith sent to you) and in case any Cutters, or other Vessels belonging to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs shall come in sight and make the Signal above mentioned, you are to give their Officers respectively such assistance as they may stand in need of in intercepting, visiting, and searching Vessels bound to North America, and if such Vessels shall have any of the abovementioned Articles on board without a proper licence for that purpose in conveying them afterwards in safety into the first

convenient Port to be proceeded against according to Law. Given &c the 18h August 1775

J: Buller H: Penton H: Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 43-44. The same orders were given this date to Captain Digby Dent, H.M.S. *Arethusa*, and to Captain Richard Pearson, H.M. Sloop *Speedwell*, on August 30, 1775.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London, 18 August 1775

No. 289

Mylord Sandwich himself assured me day before yesterday that they would not send a single ship carrying more than fifty cannons to America. Admiral Shaldam [Shuldham] will command the squadron which is to sail any day now. The recall of Admiral Graves and that of General Gage have not been decided yet. The entire Council of the King of England does not seem to be favorably disposed towards them. I still persist in believing that they will lose their commands because they have been made responsible for all the defeats. I am far from thinking that their conduct is without reproach, but they deserve mostly to be blamed for having imagined the war in America. However, Mylord Sandwich himself is privately conceived that the Americans will grow weary and that Great Britain will subdue them by force. I must confess I think that these people are delirious. There can be no conciliation, we are certain of that today.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy.

*London Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 TO SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1775

London, August 18.

In some of the French ports in the Channel, there are at this time several ships laden with arms bound to America.

*London Gazette*, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29 TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1775

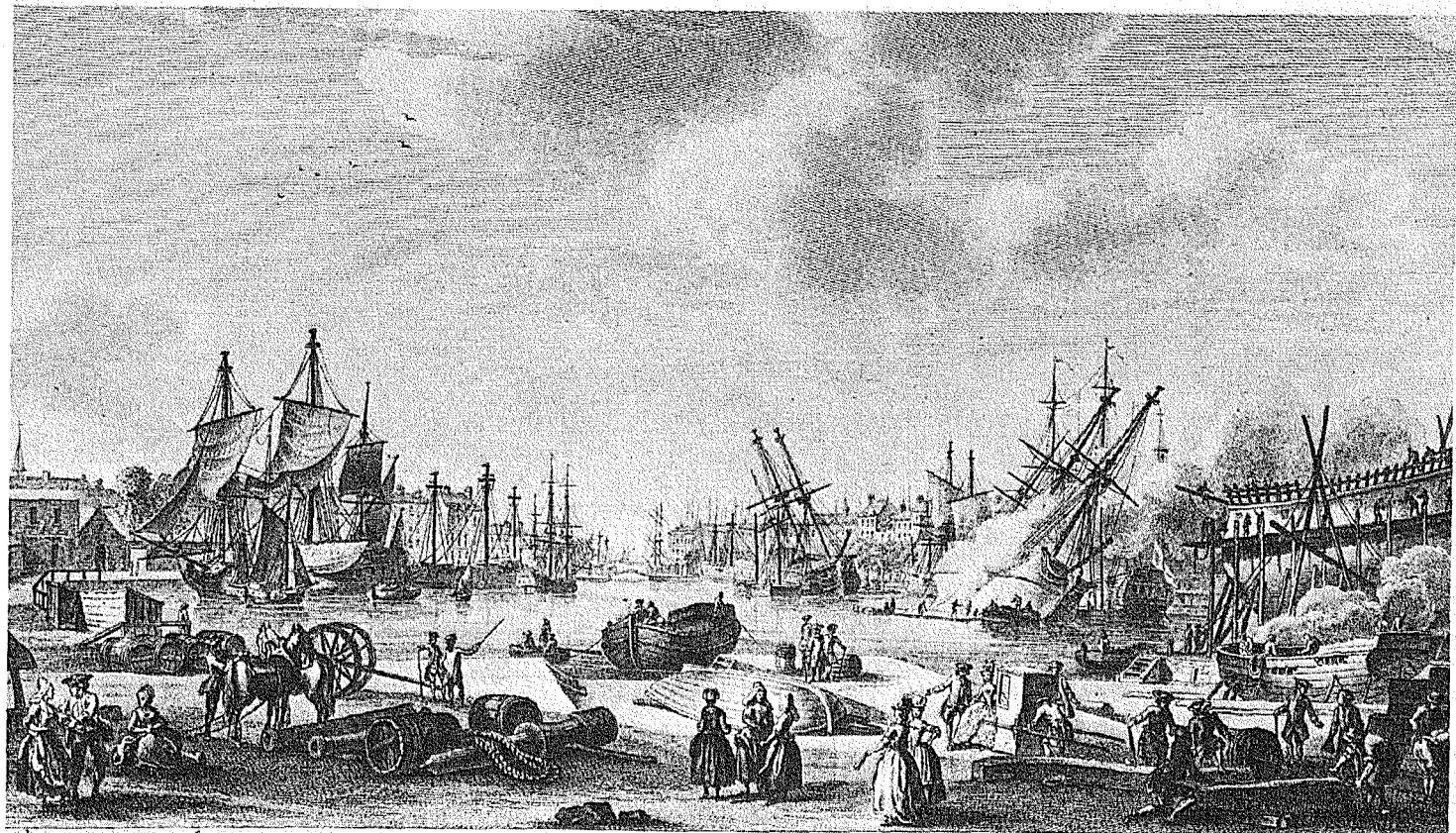
Hague, August 18.

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

Proclamation

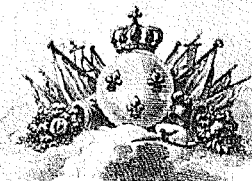
The States General of the United Provinces, To all who shall see, or hear these Presents read, Greeting:

Be it known that, as the Reasons, which induced Us heretofore to prohibit the Exportation of Ammunition to the English Colonies, still subsist, We have again 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, for the further Term of a Year, on Pain, not only of Confiscation of the Arms and Ammunition, which shall be found there on board,



*V. Ozanne del.*

LE BASSIN  
Vu du Bureau



DU HAVRE  
des Constructions.

*J. de Goussier f.*

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 aforesaid further Term of one Year, 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 and Permission of the College of Admiralty, under whose Jurisdiction the Embarkation shall be made, on 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.

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 the same is necessary, and where such Publication is wont to be made; And We further charge and command the Counsellors of the Admiralty, the Advocates General, and Commis 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 of Our Assembly, and the Counter-Signature of our Greffier, August 18, 1775.

(Signed) G. Van Hardenbrock.

By Order of the States General,

(Counter-signed) H. Fagel

To which was affixed the Seal of their High Mightinesses.

19 Aug.

WILLIAM LEE TO SAMUEL BRAILSFORD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London 19 Augst 75

Dear Sir! I recd yr very kind favor of the 10th Inst wch shd have ansd sooner had I not waited in expectation of hearing again from you as sevl ships have arrived lately at Bristol from Phila, that, as we have been informed brot very interestg news from the Congress. Jno Penn is not yet come to Town & as far as I can learn keeps his public papers to deliver himself. The Butian & Bedford faction have however predetermined not to listen to any terms whatsoever of accomodation.

Therefore until the people at large exert their natural rights in this Country, there is little hopes of an end being put to this unnatural & ruinous civil War. It seems pretty certain that the Hanoverians are to go to Gibraltar to Garrison that Fortress from where the present Garrison is to be transplated when recruited to America to cut the Throats of our Fellow Subjects & Brethren & as loyal men as any in the whole British Empire. The Georgians in full Provincial Congress have

adopted the whole of the Continental Resolves, & manfully spurn'd the bait thrown out to bribe them, by their being left out of the restraining Acts passd the last Sessions.

1. William Lee Letters, VHS.

M. ARTIER TO M. DE SARTINE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

19 August 1775.

An English Captain whose ship is presently calling at this port [Naples] read in the public papers that the New Englanders had been declared rebels and traitors to the mother country by act of Parliament. He decided to arm his ship for war here, then sail for the straits of Gibraltar in order to meet the ships from Boston which will bring in the Fall the salted produce of their fishing in America.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy. Gabriel de Sartine was French Naval Minister, and Artier the French Consul in Naples.

**21 Aug.**

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Capt Parker Commr of His Majts Ship *Phoenix*, 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 & the said Ship under your command accordingly, & employ them as you shall judge best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your care. Given &c 21st Augt 1775

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 51.

**22 Aug.**

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 22d Augt 1775

Having received a Letter from Lieutenant William Grant, Commander of his Majesty's Schooner the *St John*, dated at Georgia, the 18th of June last, inclosing the copy of one he had sent to Vice Admiral Graves, giving an Account of the riotous Proceedings of the People in that Province; We send your Lordship herewith copies thereof,<sup>2</sup> for His Majesty's information, and are [&c.]

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

[Endorsed] Admiralty Office 22d Aug: 1775 Lords of the Admiralty R 23d (2 Inclosures.) Entd

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 62a.
2. See Volume 1, 715-717.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 22d August 1775

As the several Implements for clearing away Ice, which were used on board the *Racehorse* and *Carcass* Sloops in their late Voyage towards the North Pole,



Sir

22<sup>d</sup> August 1775

✓ As the several Implements for clearing away Ice, which were used on board the Racehorse and Conasp Sloops in their late Voyage towards the North Pole, may be of use in North America  
The Experiments & Drigons are to bring Implements for clearing away <sup>their</sup> Ice, which are to be sent to Boston in His Majesty's Ships the Experiment and Niger, and their Captains being ordered to dispose of them as you shall direct; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith. And am &c

Vice Admiral Graves at Boston  
(By the Experiments)

P. J.

may be of use in North America My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have given directions for their being sent to Boston in His Majesty's Ships the *Experiment* and *Niger*, and their Captains being ordered to dispose of them as you shall direct; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith. And am &c

P: S:

(By the *Experiment*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 69.

FREDERICK LORD NORTH TO WILLIAM EDEN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]  
No 2.

[London] 22 August

I am, upon the whole, satisfied that their opinion is right who say that if America is ever brought to own the authority of Great Britain, it must be by the Fleet, but I think that a Large land force is necessary to render our Naval operations effectual.

1. B. F. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America 1773-1783* (London, 1889-98), No. 458. Hereafter cited as Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*. Eden was Under Secretary of State.

SIR JOSEPH YORKE TO LORD SUFFOLK<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Hague, August 22d 1775.

The Agent of the States General delivered to me yesterday on the part of Their High Mightinesses, Their Resolution of the 18th Instant, by which they agree in the most friendly manner to what I had demanded by my last Memorial, as Your Lordship will see at large in the Translation of that Paper, which I have the Honour to inclose. The Prohibition<sup>2</sup> is extended provisionally for a Twelve-month longer, & the Proclamation is in the Press, & will be publish'd immediately. I assured the Prince of Orange, (who returned to Loo yesterday morning,) & the Dutch Ministers, that The King would be perfectly satisfied with this real Proof of the Regard & Friendship of the Republick, & would give them the earliest Notice when these Precautions became unnecessary.

1. PRO, State Papers 84/547.

2. See Volume 1, 441.

WILLIAM HAMILTON TO LORD ROCHFORD<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]  
N. 21/

Naples Augt 22d 1775.

My Lord I have the honor of inclosing a billet which I receivd soon after I had sent off my last Dispatch, and by which Your Lordship will see that the necessary Orders have been given to prevent the Exportation of Gun-Powder and other Warlike Stores from His Sicilian Majesty's Dominions to the British Colonies in America.

1. PRO, State Papers 93/30.



23 Aug.

PROCLAMATION FOR SUPPRESSING REBELLION AND SEDITION <sup>1</sup>

George R.

Whereas many of our subjects in diverse parts of our Colonies and Plantations: in North-America, misled by dangerous and ill-designing men, and forgetting the allegiance which they owe to the power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly acts committed in disturbance of the public peace, to the obstruction of lawful commerce, and to the oppression of our loyal subjects carrying on the fame, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile manner, to withstand the execution of the law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying war against us: And whereas there is reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous correspondence, counsels, and comfort of divers wicked and desperate persons within the realm: To the end therefore that none of our subjects may neglect or violate their duty through ignorance thereof, or through any doubt of the protection which the law will afford to their loyalty and zeal, we have thought fit, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring, that not only all our officers, civil and military, are obliged to exert their utmost endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the traitors to justice; but that all our subjects of this realm, and the dominions thereunto belonging, are bound by law to be aiding and assisting in the suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known traitorous conspiracies and attempts against us, our Crown and dignity; and we do accordingly strictly charge and command all our officers, as well civil as military, and all other our obedient and loyal subjects, to use their utmost endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which they shall know to be against us, our Crown and dignity; and for that purpose, that they transmit to one of our principal Secretaries of State, or other proper officer, due and full information of all persons who shall be found carrying on correspondence with, or in any manner or degree aiding or abetting the persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against our government within any of our Colonies and Plantations in North-America, in order to bring to condign punishment the authors, perpetrators and abettors of such traitorous designs.

Given at our Court at St. James's the 23d  
of August 1775, in the year of our reign.  
God save the King.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1775], I, 148. The proclamation appears as an illustration in Volume 1, 1216.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 23d August 1775

The inclosed Packet containing an Order from my Lords Commrs of the Admty of the 24th of last Month, and two Letters from me, one of that days date, and the other of the day following were intended to have been conveyed to you

by Lieutenant [Joseph] Nunn of the *Folkstone* Cutter who sailed from Plymouth in order to join you on the 5h instant, and was obliged to put back a few days afterwards, the Cutter proving so leaky as to be unfit to prosecute the Voyage; I have therefore taken this, being the first, Opportunity of forwarding them to you, having had the precaution to send you by the *Cerberus* which sailed from Spithead on the 7h instant, an attested Copy of the beforementioned Order, which I hope will have got safe to your hands long before this. I am &c

By the *Phoenix* — the same day.

P S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 72.

*London Chronicle*, TUESDAY, AUGUST 22 TO THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1775

London, August 23.

The *Phillippa*, Capt. ——— [Maitland], is arrived at Georgia, from London. A letter from the Captain, dated July 12, says, it was with much difficulty he could land his goods; a schooner, with ten carriage guns (six pounders) and 40 men, with small arms, boarded him outside the bar, and, the moment the ship came to anchor, took every barrel of gunpowder that was in the ship; and each side the bar and Cockspur island were lined with many hundreds of armed men.

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, H.M.S. *Arethusa* IN THE DOWNS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

23d August 1775

Lieutenant [Samuel] Walton Commander of the *Wells* Cutter who was drove in here yesterday by a strong gale of Wind acquainted me there was a Vessel called the *Sophia*, Joshua Lunn Master now in the Downes with Gunpowder on board said to be for America I immediately sent a Boat with a proper Officer to examine her and take possession of her if he found her as represented, which was the Case, but she was already in the Charge of two Custom House Officers and I shall take care to give them all possible assistance in detaining her, should they require any, Lieutenant Walton is sailed again on his Cruise, I do not think it was possible for him to avoid coming into Port as the Weather was so bad, which I thought it necessary to mention to their Lordships.

I have this moment sent a Boat to examine two Vessels in the Downes suspected to have Gunpowder on board one named the *Peggy*, and the other the *Simon* and should they be loaden with that Article, I shall detain them and report them to their Lordships by tomorrow's Post.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 63b.

24 Aug.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Admty Office 24 Augst 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admty having received a Letter from Captain Dent of His Majesty's Ship the *Arethusa*, giving an account of a Vessel called the *Sophia*, Joshua Lunn Master, being stopped in the Downes, having Gun-

powder on board, supposed to be for America, and of his having sent his Boat to examine two other Vessels that were in the Downes, laden with the same Commodity; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith an Extract of so much of the said Letter as relates thereto, for the information of the Earl of Dartmouth. I am Sr [&c.]

Ph<sup>p</sup> Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 63.

CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Arethusa* in the Downes August 24th 1775.

Please to acquaint their Lordships that in consequence of Information received that the *Peggy* Snow Robert Martin Master was loaden with Gunpowder and arms I sent to search her and found her as represented, The Master produces a Clearance from the Custom House but no proper Permission from the Master General of the ordnance therefore I have thought proper to detain her til I know whether a Clearance from the Custom House is a sufficient Authority for me to let any Vessels pass, without further permission from the Master General of the ordnance and that I may know how to act on future occasions of the like nature I send this by Express and am &c

Digby Dent.

P:S: She is cleared out for Africa The Master says the order obtained from the Privy Council is left in the hands of his owner John Shuldram in London to whom he has wrote by this Post.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 65b.

25 Aug.

KING GEORGE III TO LORD SANDWICH <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Kew, August 25, 1775, 46 m. past 4 p.m.

Lord Sandwich—The letters from Vice-Admiral Graves seem to convey his being attentive to his duty. The more frigates can be speedily sent to reinforce his squadron the better. I approve of the directions for seizing all American vessels in the Mediterranean, the coast of Africa, or trading to the ports of foreign powers in the West Indies.

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 68.

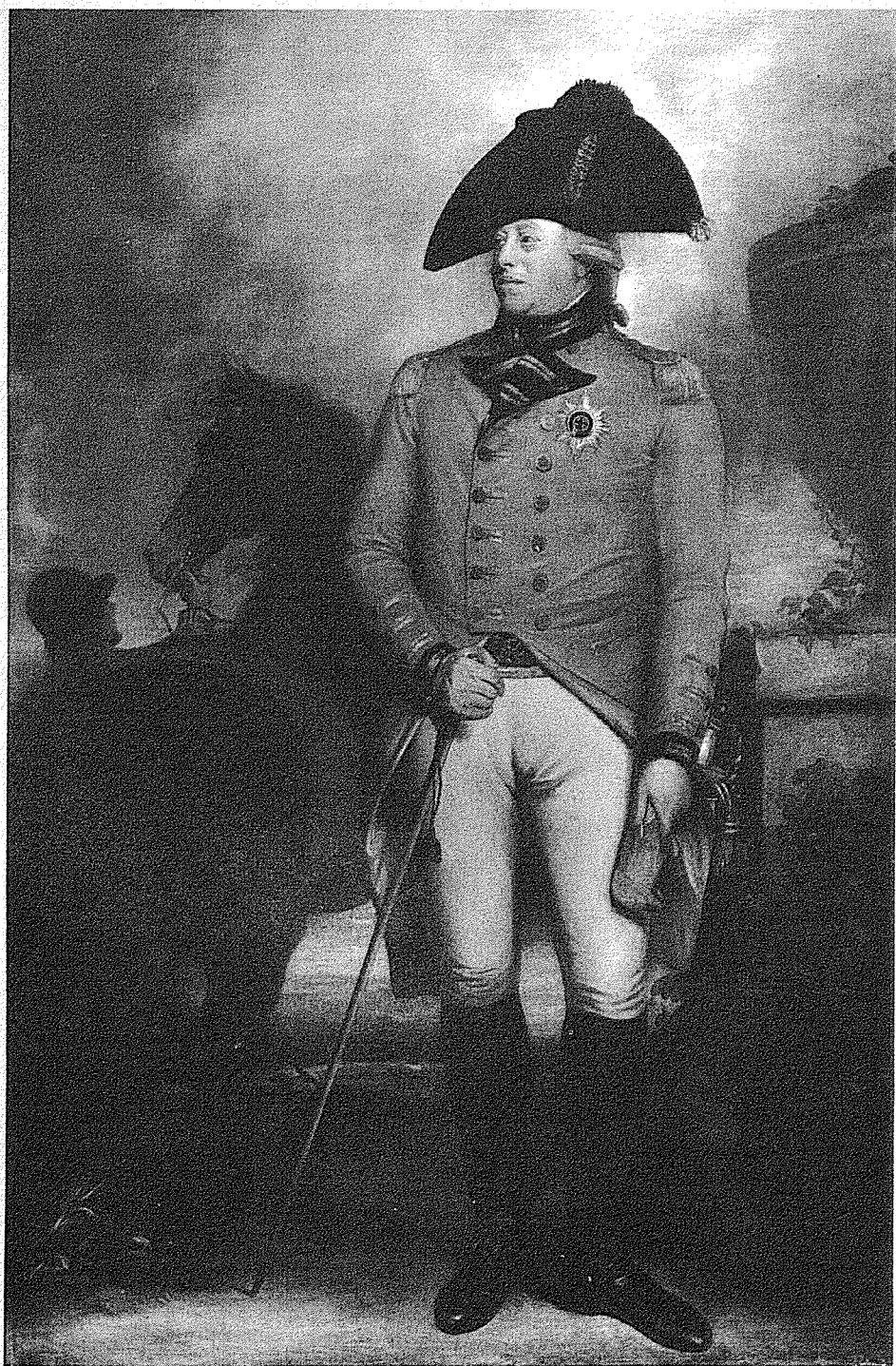
LORD SANDWICH TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

*Private.*

Admiralty, 25th August 1775.

Dear Sir,—As you will now have a very great naval force under your command, and as the eyes of all the world are now fixed on your operations, I think it incumbent upon me to speak freely to you, and to tell you the general opinion of mankind here with regard to the state of affairs in America.

The nation (except some factious and interested opponents) are in a manner unanimous in their resolution to crush the unnatural rebellion that has broke out in America by force of arms, which to our great concern we find now to be the only



*George III. From the studio of Sir William Beechey, date unknown.*

expedient left; and as I have told you in former letters, you will be liable to universal censure for doing too little, though I should be greatly surprised if you incurred any blame by rather overdoing your part in the other extreme.

I think I should not perform the part of a friend, if I endeavoured to conceal from you that the world in general has been full of complaints that the fleet does nothing; and that in particular fresh provisions are wanted at Boston, which the ships have it in their power to procure: they say that you do not consider the rebellious colonies as a people you are actually at war with; and that though they take every advantage in their power in order to starve the navy and army, you seem to have delicacies about taking possession of whatever is wanted for subsistence or in aid of your operations.

Though this language is chiefly in the mouths of those who are unacquainted with your force and of the extensive services that your fleet is to be employed in, yet still the idea of your doing too little has been so prevalent that it is with great difficulty that I have been able to resist the general cry for another commander. I have however resisted it hitherto; and I am persuaded that you will give me fresh materials before the end of the campaign to confirm what I have asserted, namely that you will exert every nerve in support of the important business you are engaged in.

You are going to be greatly reinforced and to have a very able rear-admiral<sup>2</sup> to command under you; with that assistance, I think you will soon show the rebels the weight of an English fleet.

If we had any bomb-vessels ready, I should send them out directly, as I imagine they may be of use; at all events, you shall have a couple early in the spring.

Whatever wants you may have, let us know them, and you may be assured you shall be supplied liberally, as there is not the least intention of starving the cause.

It is impossible to think of directing your particular operations here; but it occurs to me that with a fleet that is master of the sea and with so large a number of transports ready to convey troops to any part of the continent, a diversion might be made to the southward which would embarrass your opponents and take them unprepared: I own I should be very happy to hear that such a plan was in agitation, and have no doubt but that you would give it every kind of encouragement.

I have always understood that Rhode Island and other places in rebellion are open to the sea and have plenty of cattle and stock. I think by means of your fleet you might contrive to force them to supply your wants. However, as I have already said, I do not pretend to point out any particular operations, I only mean to perform the duty of a friend by holding out to your view the rock you may split upon and by laying open the channel through which it may be avoided. I am [&c.]

Sandwich

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 70–72.

2. At this time it was still intended that Shulldham, Rear Admiral of the White, would be subordinate to Vice Admiral Graves.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Capt Hamond, Commr of His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* (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, & the said Ship, under your command accordingly; & employ them as you shall find best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your care. Given &c 25th Augt 1775

Sandwich H Penton H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 57.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL <sup>1</sup>

Sr

Admty Office 25 Aug. 1775

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received a Letter from Captain Dent of His Majesty's Ship the *Arethusa*, giving an account of his having detained the *Peggy*, Snow, Robert Martin Master, he having found her laden with Gun Powder and Arms, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith a Copy of the said Letter for the information of the Earl of Dartmouth, and to signify their Lordships desire, to be informed, whether the said Snow is to be detained, or permitted to proceed on her Voyage I am Sr [&c.]

Ph<sup>p</sup> Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 65a.

26 Aug.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 26 Augt 1775.

Having received two Letters from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, dated the 16th and 18th of last month, at Boston, giving an Account of his Proceedings, and of those of the Rebel Provincials; We send your Lordship herewith copies thereof, and of the several Papers inclosed therein, for his Majesty's information.

With respect to the *Magdalen* Schooner having been sent to England with Lord Dunmore's Dispatches, without the Vice Admiral's knowledge, and the inconveniency that may arise to his Majesty's Service should such a Practice be continued, We entirely concur with Mr Graves in opinion; and humbly submit to his Majesty whether it may not be expedient to send directions to all the Governors in those Parts, not to divert any of his Majesty's Ships or Vessels from the Services they are employed on by the Admiral, unless the Dispatches they may have to send are of the most pressing nature, and no vessel can be hired in which an Officer may be sent home with them. We are [&c.]

Sandwich H. Penton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 68a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

The King having been pleased, by His Order in Council of the 5th of April 1775, to order, require, prohibit & Command, that no Person or Person whatsoever (except the Master General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majts Service) should, at any time during the space of Six Months to commence from the 19th Day of that Month, presume to transport into any parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise any Gunpowder &c, (same as in the preceding Order, down to Penalties & forfeitures before mentioned inclusive); We send you herewith Fifty Copies of the last mentioned Order in Council of the 23d of Augt 1775, 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 endeavours to intercept, Seize & bring into Port, during the time therein specified, all Ships & Vessels whatsoever having on board Gunpowder, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, Shipped or laden on board them into 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 in that behalf from His Majesty or His Privy Council since the said 23d day of Augt 1775. Given &c 26th Augt 1775.

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

To Vice Adml Graves; or the Commr in Chief for the time being &c &c &c in No America.

"at Boston" — By the *Phoenix*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 64-65.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Admty Office, 26 Aug. 1775

The Navy Board having represented to my Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty that the Master of the *Elizabeth* Storeship has applied to them for directions to what Port he is to proceed with the Stores she has on board, in Case, the Season becoming so far advanced, he should not be able to reach the Port of Quebec; And their Lordships having directed them to order the Master of the said Vessel, if he cannot reach that Port to proceed to Halifax, til the next Season will admit of his going to Quebec; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for the Earl of Dartmouth's information. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph<sup>p</sup> Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 67.

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Whitehall, 26 August 1775

Inclosed I have the Honor to send you Copy of a Letter from Mr Robinson to the Commissioners of the Customs containing Permission to the Ships detained

in the Downs on account of their having Gunpowder & Arms on board to proceed on their Voyages on certain Conditions therein mentioned; And I am to desire that such orders may be given to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships in the Downs as shall correspond therewith. — I am &ca

J Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/121, 66.

*London Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 TO SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1775

London, August 26.

On Wednesday [August 23] a small ship bound to America, was stopped in the Bristol channel, on an information given that she was carrying out some warlike ammunition to the Provincials, and on searching her, there were found a great number of musquets.

An order in Council was on Wednesday issued, prohibiting the exportation of gunpowder, and of arms and ammunition, for three months; and also revoking all licenses which have been hitherto granted for the exportation of gunpowder, &c. during the same time.

**27 Aug. (Sunday)**

CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Copy

*Arethusa* in the Downes August 27h 1775

Sir I have received their Lordships approbation of my detaining the *Peggy* since which the Surveyor of the Customs has received Orders by Express to stop her, and has put two Custom House Officers on board, and I shall give them any assistance they require with respect to her or any other Vessel, His Majesty's Ship under my Command is so stationed that no Vessels can possibly pass us after we have received Intelligence of them.

I have just examined a small Ship called the *Hopewell*, John Ayles Master said to be bound for Tobago she has a small quantity of Gunpowder on board, and their appearing no Licence from the Master General of the Ordnance I detained her and the Collector of the Customs here has on my application put two Custom House Officers on board her, she was first stopt by the *Success* Cutter Thomas Brown Master but refused to continue in the Downes as the Wind was fair which obliged him to apply to me. I am &ca

Digby Dent

The Quantity she has is only about Five Casks

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 1b.

**28 Aug.**

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL <sup>1</sup>

Sr

Admty Office 28 Aug 1775

My Lords Commissrs of the Admty having received a Letter from Captain Dent of His Majesty's Ship *Arethusa*, giving an account of his having detained





*The Council of the Rulers, & the Elders against the Tribe of the Americanites.* Sold by W. Gillman Rochester

in the Downes the *Hopewell*, John Ayles Master, said to be bound to Tobago, she having about Five Casks of Gunpowder on board, and has no Licence from the Master General of the Ordnance; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you the inclosed Copy of the said Letter for the information of the Earl of Dartmouth, and to desire you will let me know, whether the said Ship is to be detained or permitted to proceed on her Voyage I am, Sr [&c.]

Ph<sup>p</sup> Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 1a.

29 Aug.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY <sup>1</sup>

My Lords

Whitehall, 29th Augt 1775.

There being great reason to suspect that His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in America, are supplied with Gunpowder, Arms and Ammunition from the Coast of Africa, to which large quantities of those Articles are sent from Europe in the way of Trade; It is the King's pleasure that one of His Majesty's Ships of War, such as your Lordships shall think fit, be Dispatched as soon as may be, to the Coast of Africa, with orders to range along the whole Coast from Sierre Leon to Whidah and to seize all Vessels belonging to the Associated Colonies in North America, or owned by the Inhabitants thereof, that shall be found Trading at any Fort or Factory on that Coast, (which Vessels so seized are to be proceeded against in the manner pointed out in my separate Letter to your Lordships of this Day's date.

It is His Majesty's further pleasure, that the Commander of the said Ship, to be sent to the Coast of Africa, or some other proper Officer onboard, do examine into the State of the Magazine of Gun Powder and Arms in each of the British Forts & Factories, and do require the Person having the Command of such Fort or the Care & Custody of such Magazine, to make out, in order to be transmitted to your Lordships, an exact and particular Account of all Gunpowder, Arms and Ammunition received into the Magazine, for three Years last past, and of the disposal & Expenditure thereof, specifying the Persons to whom disposed, & upon what Account, & in what manner, & for what service Expended. – I am &ca

Dartmouth.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 3.

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Whitehall 29th Augt 1775.

In Answer to your Letter of Yesterday's date, acquainting me, for the Information of Lord Dartmouth, that a Vessel named the *Hopewell* had been detained in the Downs on Account of her having about five Casks of Gunpowder onboard, I am directed by His Lordship to observe to you, that if it shall appear, that there is no Clearance from the Custom House in consequence of a Licence from the Privy Council, or from the Board of Ordnance, for the Exportation of the Gunpowder, the Vessel is certainly subject to Detention & Seizure, in consequence

of His Majesty's Order in Council; but if the Gunpowder has been shipped in consequence of any such Licence there seems to be no pretence for detaining her. I am &c

J. Pownall.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 5.

**31 Aug.**

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

The Earl of Dartmouth, one of His Majts Principal Secretaries of State, having acquainted Us, by his Letter of the 29th inst, that several Merchants of undoubted Loyalty & Attachment to His Majts Government & who have, or whose Agents have, Goods and Merchandize's lying in Warehouses & Shops at Boston in North America, exposed to certain damage & great hazard of total destruction, having requested that they may be permitted to put the said Goods on board Ships or Vessels lying in the Harbour, for their greater Security; And His Majesty being desirous that all possible protection should be given to the property of his faithful & well disposed Subjects; You are hereby required & directed, in pursuance of His Pleasure signified to Us by his Lordship in his abovementioned Letter, to permit all such Persons, or their Agents, whom General Gage, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, shall certify to have demeaned themselves as dutiful & loyal Subjects, to secure any Goods, Wares or Merchandize, their Property, on board any Vessels which they may have procured for their reception; And you are to give such protection to the said Vessel as the nature of His Majesty's Service will permit, and to grant the Owners of the Goods every indulgence which the Law will allow. Given &c. 31st August 1775.

Sandwich J Buller H Penton.

By the *Phoenix*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 92-93.

CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Copy *Speedwell* Sloop, Yarmouth Road 31st Augt 1775

Sir In consequence of their Lordships inclosed printed order which I received this day, with His Majts Order in Council revoking and making void all and every License and permission which had been granted before the 23d Inst: I thought it necessary in compliance therewith to stop and detain the *Elizabeth*, a Brigg, William Robinson Master from London, for Gibraltar, Minorca and Tetuan, who appears by his Cockets to have cleared from the Customhouse at London the 28th or 29th of July last, founded on an order from the King in Council of the 26th of May last, & therefore have directed an officer to be put on board her belonging to the Customhouse Boat at this Port which is under the direction of the Surveyor of the Port of Cowes and have directed the Master of the Boat to make the same known to the said surveyor for her being detained untill farther order. I am therefore to request you will make their Lordships acquainted herewith that such measures may be immediately taken for detaining

Copy

6. Spedwell Sloops, Plymouth Road 31<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1775 16

Sir

In consequence of their Lordships inclosed printed order which I received this day, with His Maj<sup>ty</sup> Order in Council revoking and making void all and every Licence and permission which had been granted before the 23<sup>rd</sup> Inst: I thought it necessary in compliance therewith to stop and detain the Elizabeth, a Brigge, William Robinson Master from London, for Gibraltar, Minerva and Titian, who appears by his tickets to have cleared from the Customhouse at London the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> of July last, founded on an order from the King in Council of the 26<sup>th</sup> of May last, & therefore have directed an Officer to be put on board her belonging to the Customhouse Boat at this Port which is upon the direction of the Surveyor of the Port of Cove and have directed the Master of the Boat to make the same known to the said Surveyor for her being detained untill farther order. I am therefore to request you will make their Lordships acquainted herewith that such measures may be immediately taken for detaining or releasing the said vessel as may be thought proper, having on board 30 Tons of Ordnance & Military Cloathing, I am &c

R<sup>d</sup> Pearson

or releasing the said Vessel as may be thought proper, having on board 30 Tons of Ordnance & Military Cloathing, I am &c

R<sup>d</sup> Pearson

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 6b.

1 Sept.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir [Admiralty Office] 1st September 1775

Messrs Bird and Weatherby two Merchants of London, having represented to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that they have freighted the Ship *Julius Caesar* Azariah Uzöld Master, to proceed to Boston with a Cargo of Fresh Provisions live Stock and other Necessaries for the use of His Majesty's Navy and Army at that place; Their Lordships, being willing to encourage a Speculation which may be attended with benefit to the healths of those who may think fit to partake in the purchase of the said Cargo, have been pleased, in compliance with the request of the said Merchants, to command me to recommend it to you to permit the said Ship to come into the Harbour, and to give such Countenance to the Persons entrusted with the Cargo as may be necessary and proper towards the enabling them to dispose of the same. I am &c

P: S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 99-100.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir, Craven Street [London] 1st Septemr 1775 –

As I have received Orders to hold myself in readiness to proceed on a Command to North America, I beg leave to represent to you, for their Lordships information, that in my Opinion it will contribute much to the preservation of the Health of the Seamen Employ'd in that Country (where we shall be cut off from all Supplys of Vegetables from the Provinces that are in Arms) if they would please to give Orders for a Vessel to be sent, from time to time, either from this Kingdom or Ireland with Potatoes & Carrots & Parsnips & Onions,<sup>2</sup> which will keep good for many Months, especially if She can be dispatched so as to arrive at Boston before the Frost sets in, which seldom happens 'till after Christmas; and while I am writing upon this subject may I be permitted to add, that it would be greatly instrumental in answering the above purpose, if a small Vessel of 80 or 100 Tons, was to Sail from Lisbon or Oporto with Onions, Oranges, Lemons, &ca by the End of October,<sup>3</sup> and another of the same size by the End of February; as I presume the Commander in Chief will (if he is not already) be Authorized to send a small Vessel at proper Seasons to the Bahama Islands for Turtle, Oranges, Chaddocks, Limes &ca, the want of the usual and necessary refreshments will by these means be in a great measure supplied, and the Health of the Seamen preserved. I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. See British Admiralty Proceedings Relative to North America, September 27, 1775.

3. Presumably for use as antiscorbutics.



*Count de Guines. By an unidentified engraver, 1774.*



COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]  
No. 290

London, 1 September 1775

Once again I assured Myd Suffolk of the intentions of the King and his sense of Justice which would prevent His Majesty to ever encourage the disorders in America. I thought it was all the more necessary to insist on this point because I know for a fact that a British frigate seized a ship sent to Europe by the Americans and that among the papers they found a manifesto addressed to a European power requesting protection.

As I wrote to you in my last dispatch, Sir, I suspected that the King of England was no longer ill-disposed towards the King of Prussia and I decided to make some discreet inquiries on this matter. I gave this assignment to a person who has often served us well. He learned from a man associated with the Exchequer, also an intimate friend of Lord North, that the disagreement which came up between the Courts of Berlin and Petersburg determined the King of Prussia to turn to England. Good relations have been restored for several months. The King of England is greatly pleased by this turn of events and he sacrificed his personal feelings to the requirements of this occasion. I was led to believe that the King of Prussia has pledged his German states to His British Majesty and exerted his influence at the States General to the effect that the German subjects were forbidden to export powder and war ammunition . . .

I must not end this letter, Sir, without giving you a most favorable account of the trip which Mr. de la Moulière has just taken in Northern England. He has completely fulfilled the object of his mission which is most important to the Royal Navy where I have always heard that cannons made of iron are dangerous. The British Navy does not object to them: they are lighter than ours and they do not explode. These are recognized facts and cast-bronze cannon are no longer used on the lower deck of the largest ships. Mr. de la Moulière has acquired enough information to start manufacturing these cannon in France, undoubtedly to our greatest advantage.

#### News from the Ports

##### Plymouth.

*Raisonable* is in dry-dock since 1 July and repairs will last for the next eight months. This ship is not being put into commission and has been replaced by *Nonsuch*, 64 cannon.

*Kent*, 74 cannon, has been returned to the reserve and is almost entirely unrigged.

*Foudroiant*, [*Foudroyant*] 80 cannon, is fully rigged but has not yet been put into commission.

The frigate *Orpheus* which is being put into commission is fully rigged. Work is being urged on the frigate *Solebay*, but she will not be ready for another six weeks.

The order has been received to repair *Ocean*, however it cannot be carried out because no dry-dock is available.

The corvette *Wolfe* [*Wolf*] has just returned from Ireland.

The Cutter *Folkton* [*Folkstone*] which had sailed early last month for America was unable to proceed on her way and returned to this port.<sup>2</sup>

#### Portsmouth.

The frigate *Pallas* arrived from the Coast of Guinea and lately from Jamaica.

The corvette *Carcass* sailed for the Thames.

There are in Spithead three transport ships and two store ships. They are carrying 400 men of the corps of Artillery and war ammunition for Boston. They are waiting for a convoy. Also in Spithead are *Phoenix* and *Roebuck*. The former is destined for Halifax, the latter for Boston. 120 marines went on board the *Roebuck* on the 26th of this month.

In addition to these ships now at Spithead there are six reserve vessels and the Corvette *Racehorse*.

The two reserve ships *Chatham* and *Renown* are in port.

The corvette *Weazle* [*Weasel*] and the schooner *Magdelaine* [*Magdalen*] are in dry-dock.

The frigate *Acteon* [*Actaeon*] ran aground on the Island of Wight.

The frigate *Pearl* is to be put into commission.

#### Chatham

The frigate *Boreas*, 28 cannon, is being put into commission.

*Experiment* is going to sail for the Downs.

*Niger* is taking powder and cannon on board.

*Ramillies* is in dry-dock.

The frigate *Syren* is being fitted hurriedly.

The frigate *Liverpool* has sailed for Boston.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy.

2. See Stephens to Graves, August 23, 1775.

#### JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE ORDNANCE TRANSPORT *Charming Nancy*<sup>1</sup>

[At Anchor off Spithead]

Tuesday 29 [August, 1775]. this Morning about 1 a Signel of distress on board the *Acteon* one of H.M. Ships, on Account of her being run on Ground on the Shingles, on which the Men of War sent their Boats to get her off, but before they could succeed they were obliged to throw her Provisions & Stores overboard, 3 of the Men belonging to the *Speedwell* was drowned in Endeavouring to get her off.

Wednesday 30. the Men of Wars boats doing their utmost endeavours to get H.M. Ship the *Acteon* afloat, but it being a very windy night she was greatly damaged and it was imagined they could not get her off, as she made so much Water.

Thursday 31 this afternoon they got the *Acteon* on Float and Tow'd her as far as Spithead where she came to an Anchor, but they were obliged to keep all the Pumps going the whole Night to keep her from Sinking



Friday, Sept 1. this Morning they got the above Ship into Portsmouth Harbour & in the Evening they got her into Dock greatly Damaged, & supposed to be Incapable of proceeding on her Voyage to America this Year.

1. Journal of a Voyage of the *Charming Nancy* to Boston in 1775 from England with four Companies of the Royal Artillery on Board, NYHS. Hereafter cited as *Charming Nancy Journal*, NYHS. The journal presumably was kept by Captain James Wood of the 3d Battalion.

## 2 Sept.

### LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES AND OTHER FLAG OFFICERS <sup>1</sup>

The Inhabitants of several of His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in North America, Vizt in New Hampshire Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland Virginia North Carolina and South Carolina having traiterously combined together for the general purpose of resisting the Authority of this Kingdom and having, in a hostile manner, arrayed themselves in Arms and committed Acts of Open and actual Rebellion; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified to us, by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 29h of last Month <sup>2</sup> to give Orders to the respective Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your Command to seize all Ships and Vessels belonging to any of the said Colonies or owned by the Inhabitants thereof, except only in cases where it shall clearly appear, from their Papers or from other Evidence, that they are bound to, or returning from some Port or Place in Great Britain, Ireland or His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies; but you are to observe that this Exception is not to extend or be applied, to, such Ships or Vessels as may have Arms or Ammunition on board, which Ships and Vessels are to be seized in all cases whatsoever, unless it shall appear that the Arms and Ammunition shall have been shipped with Licence either from His Majesty in Council, from the Master General and Principal Officers of the Ordnance, or under the usual Clearances from the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs.

And, in pursuance of His Majesty's further pleasure signified as aforesaid you are to cause all Ships and Vessels, which shall be seized in the Cases before-mentioned to be carried to some British Port, not within the twelve associated Colonies, and there detained til further Orders, or be proceeded against according to Law as the nature of the Case shall require. Given &c the 2d of September 1775

Sandwich J: Buller C: Spencer

To

Samuel Graves Esqr  
Vice Admiral of the White  
&c.

at Boston ——— By the *Phoenix*

Clark Gayton Esqr  
Rear Admiral of the Red  
&c

at Jamaica ————— By the Pacquet 6th Sepr 1775  
Duplicate by Do ————— 5 Octo 1775 – S. JB. HP.

James Young Esqr.  
Vice Admiral of the Red  
&c

at the Leeward Island ————— By the Pacquet  
6 Sepr 1775.  
Duplicate by Do ————— 5 Octo 1775. – S. JB. HP.

Robert Man Esqr  
Vice Admiral of the Blue  
&c

in the Mediterranean\* . . . . . Rochford – 1st Instant  
\*By post to Mr Pownall Naval Officer at Gibr  
8 Sepr 1775.

Or the Commanders in Chief for the time being at those places. By &ca  
P: S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 100–101.
2. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 2.

#### BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

1775

2d Sepr Vice Admiral Graves was directed, in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified by Lord Dartmouth on the 29th ult. to seize all Ships & Vessels belonging to, or owned by, the Inhabitants of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the three lower Counties on Delawar Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, except only in Cases where it shall clearly appear from their Papers or other Evidence that they are bound to, or returning from some Port or Place in Great Britain, Ireland or His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies: But this exception is not to extend to such as have Arms or Ammunition on board which are to be seized in all cases whatever unless such Arms & Ammunition have been Shipp'd with Licence either from His Majesty in Council the Master General &c. of the Ordnance, or under the usual Clearances from the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs. – Ships or Vessels so seized to be carried into some British Port not within the 12 associat'd Colonies & there detained til further Order or proceeded against according to Law, as the nature of the Case shall require – Men found on board to be applied towards Completing the Complements of the Ships of his Squadron, if wanted, otherwise borne as super-numeraries until further Order.

N.B. The Commanders in Chief of the King's Ships at the Leeward Islands, Jamaica & in the Mediterranean as well as the Commanders of all those station'd on the Coasts of Great Britain and Ireland and of such as were going to North America had similar Orders; And

the three Commanders in Chief, beforemention'd were directed in Case it should be found unsafe to continue on board the Ships so seized, the Men who belong to them, to order the respective Captains of the Kings Ships under their command to complete their Complements if deficient, with such as may be prevailed upon to enter, and to bear the Remainder, or if their Complement happens to be complete, the whole or as many of them as shall be judged proper, as supernumeraries till further Order.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

5 Sept.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE <sup>1</sup>

Secret.

Whitehall 5th Sepr 1775.

Sir, After having, in my Separate Letter of this day's date said so much upon the ideas which have been adopted of the great risque & little advantage that are to be expected from the Army continuing at Boston during the Winter season, unless a more favourable Prospect opens, & having also repeatedly suggested the advantages of recovering possession of New York, I have nothing to add upon those material Objects of your consideration; but as it is of very great Importance that you should know upon what ground we entertain a confident hope of having a large Army in North America in the Spring, I should be unpardonable if I did not acquaint you that His Majesty's Minister at Petersburg having been instructed to sound the Empress, how far she would be disposed, in case of necessity, to assist His Majesty with such Force as the state & security of the Empire would admit; Her Imperial Majesty has, in the fullness of her affection for the British Nation, & of gratitude for the benefits she received under her late difficulties, made the most explicit declaration, & given the most ample Assurances, of letting us have any number of Infantry that may be wanted.

In consequence of this generous and magnanimous Offer, a Requisition has been made for Twenty Thousand Men, & it is proposed to send the greatest part of the Auxiliaries, as early as possible in the Spring to Quebec; And I trust we shall have at least an equal number of British Troops in North America to act with them, if Occasion requires. I am &c.

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/243.

LORD DARTMOUTH'S CIRCULAR LETTER TO ROYAL GOVERNORS IN NORTH AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

Whitehall, 5th Sepr 1775.

As it is of great consequence to His Majesty's Service in the present State of Affairs in North America that His Majesty's Ships of War stationed there should not be employed in any other Services than those to which they are appointed by the Admiral; I am commanded by The King to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure that you do not take upon you to send to England any such Ships that may be stationed within the limits of your Government with any Dispatches,<sup>2</sup> unless

such Dispatches are of the most pressing Nature and no Vessel can be otherwise procured in which an Officer may be sent home with them. I am &ca

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/242.

2. This order resulted from a complaint made by Vice Admiral Graves against Lord Dunmore for ordering home H.M. Schooner *Magdalen*, Lieutenant Henry Colins, with Lady Dunmore and some unimportant dispatches.

JOHN HOBSON TO STEPHEN WEST, PATUXENT, MARYLAND<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London Sept 5: 1775

Dear Sir Since my last, I have received your several favors of the 6th & 30th June, and 2d July the last of which came by the *Adventure*, who arrived about three Weeks agoe – I am very sorry you was so Ill at Fredk Town and that you suffer'd so much in getting home from thence, But this Cursed Scheme of business we are engaged in conducted upon the Plan it has, and attended with the difficulties which have Attended it, is enought to kill us all, and will in my Opinion do it yet, before we have done with it; for my own part I now find, I scarce knew what Trouble was, before the difficulties of my Situation in business here, made me Acquainted with it, and since that time I have known little else, to the destroying of my Health as well as the ruining of my peace and quiet, However it Avaleth not to complain, and this I ought to know full well from experience, but at sometimes it is a hard matter to be silent – . . .

This Letter I intend shall come by the *Rachell* Capt [James] Tibbett, a Vessel belonging to Maryland and the only Opportunity that I know of that we shall have for some time to come, for which reason I have sent by him the Sales of the Tobacco received p the *Camden*, the *Baltimore Packet*, the *Generous Freends*, and the *Patty* – . . . With respect to Tobacco matters I have to tell you that I have Landed two Lighters from Onboard of the *Adventure*, but have not as yet sold a Single Hogshead, I have been Offerd 3 5/8. pt round for one of them, and could have that price whenever I please for both but I want and hope to get 3 3/4 for them in a few days more, but the Sale for Tobacco at present is exceeding dull much more so than ever I saw it at this time of the year before, and the Markets every where very full. As to Publick News there is nothing particular that I know of, and even if there was, a Proclamation has within these few days been Issued making it high Treason to hold any Correspondence with America on Publick Affairs . . .

1. Oden Papers, MdHS.

6 Sept.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th Sepr 1775

I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissrs of the Admtly your Letters of the 16th & 18th of July, giving account of your proceedings up to that time; And in return I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that their Lordships very well approve thereof.

Their Lordships had previous to the receipt of the abovementioned Letters, signified to Capt. Montagu, their approbation of his having sent to England the *Magdalen* Schooner with Lord Dunmore's dispatches, as they were represented to him to be, and really were of great importance: But their Lordships command me to acquaint you that they entirely concur with you in opinion that it is a precedent which ought not to be drawn into practise; and that no part of your Squadron should at any time be sent to England at the requisition of any of the Governors of His Majts Colonies, without your orders, unless the service be of a very pressing nature and no Vessel can be hired in which an Officer might carry dispatches not safe to be trusted with the Master; And their Lordships recommend it to you to signify the same to the respective Officers of your Squadron; They having on their part desired the Earl of Dartmouth to take the Kings pleasure for writing to the several Governors to the same effect:

The *Lizard* sailed from Spithead the 16th Ultimo, with the *Jacob* Storeship laden with Arms and Military Cloathing & Stores for Quebec, as did the *Actaeon* from the Downs on the 24th with the *Maria* Storeship, laden in like manner for Virginia; But the latter (the *Actaeon*) having unfortunately struck upon the Shingles it will be necessary to examine her bottom before she proceeds to Sea. Their Lordships have therefore ordered the *Liverpool* to convoy the *Maria* Storeship to Virginia, and perform the Service, specified in the inclosed Copy of her Orders, instead of the *Actaeon*, which will have her damages made good, and be sent to join you at Boston as soon as possible. The *Roebuck* is ready and will sail with the first opportunity of Wind & Weather to Halifax with Commissioner Arbuthnot, and from thence as soon as she has landed him, to Boston; The *Centurion*, *Experiment* & *Renown*, and some others of the Ships mentioned in my last Letters are in great forwardness and will soon follow.

My Lords have since I wrote to you last ordered the *Boreas* & *Triton* of 20 Guns each, to be fitted out to join you. And it is their intention to send two more 50 Gunships, two Bombs, and as many more Frigates as can conveniently be got ready to reinforce you early in the Spring.

When these Reinforcements arrive, you will have a very numerous Fleet under your command, Their Lordships therefore recommend it to you in the mean time to consider and to let them know as soon as you have an opportunity, whether the addition of an Hospital Ship, will be of advantage to the Service and if you think it will, whether any of the Transports at Boston can be fitted for that purpose, and whether you have a sufficient number of Surgeons, or Surgeon's Mates to put on board her, or what supply of them you shall want to have sent from hence

Their Lordships taking into consideration the difficulties of obtaining fresh Provisions for the Crews of the Ships under your command, as well as for the men who may be sick in the Hospital, have directed the Commissrs for Sick & Hurt Seamen to send to Boston by the first opportunity, Five Thousand Pounds weight of Portable Soup, consigned to you, to be served on board the Squadron to the men in health, as well as those who may be sick as you shall have occasion; Their Lordships have also directed them to send One Thousand Pounds Weight of the said Soup for the use of the Hospital at Boston, and Two hundred Pounds

weight for the use of the Marine Infirmary there. Their Lordships moreover intend to order the Commissrs for Victualing to send from time to time to Boston, a Vessel laden with Potatoes & Carrots for the use of the Fleet, And they recommend it to you to consider whether it might not contribute greatly to the keeping the men in health if you were to send at proper seasons a small Vessel to the Bahama Islands for Turtles, Oranges, Limes & Shaddocks, & such other refreshments, as may be procured there. I am &c

P: S:

Sent the 9th Sepr by the *Phoenix*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 121-123.

#### BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

1775

6th Sepr Order in Council to prepare Estimates of the Charge of 26,000 Men, including 5,964 Marines for the year 1776, & Orders given to the Navy Board the next day to prepare the same accordingly.  
NB. On the 27th another Order in Council approving of the Estimate & on the 2d of October the Navy Board was directed to order the Commissioners of Victualling to make Provision of Victuals for that number of Men.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

#### CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO ANTHONY HARRISON <sup>1</sup>

By Hyde Parker Junr Esqr Capt of His Majesty's Ship *Phoenix*.

In Pursuance to Orders from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under my Command and Obey all orders & Signals you shall from time to time receive and you are strictly to follow the form of sailing on the other side.

Given under my hand on Board His Majesty's Ship *Phoenix* this 6th Day of September 1775

H. Parker.

1. *Charming Nancy* Journal, NYHS. Harrison was master of the *Charming Nancy*.

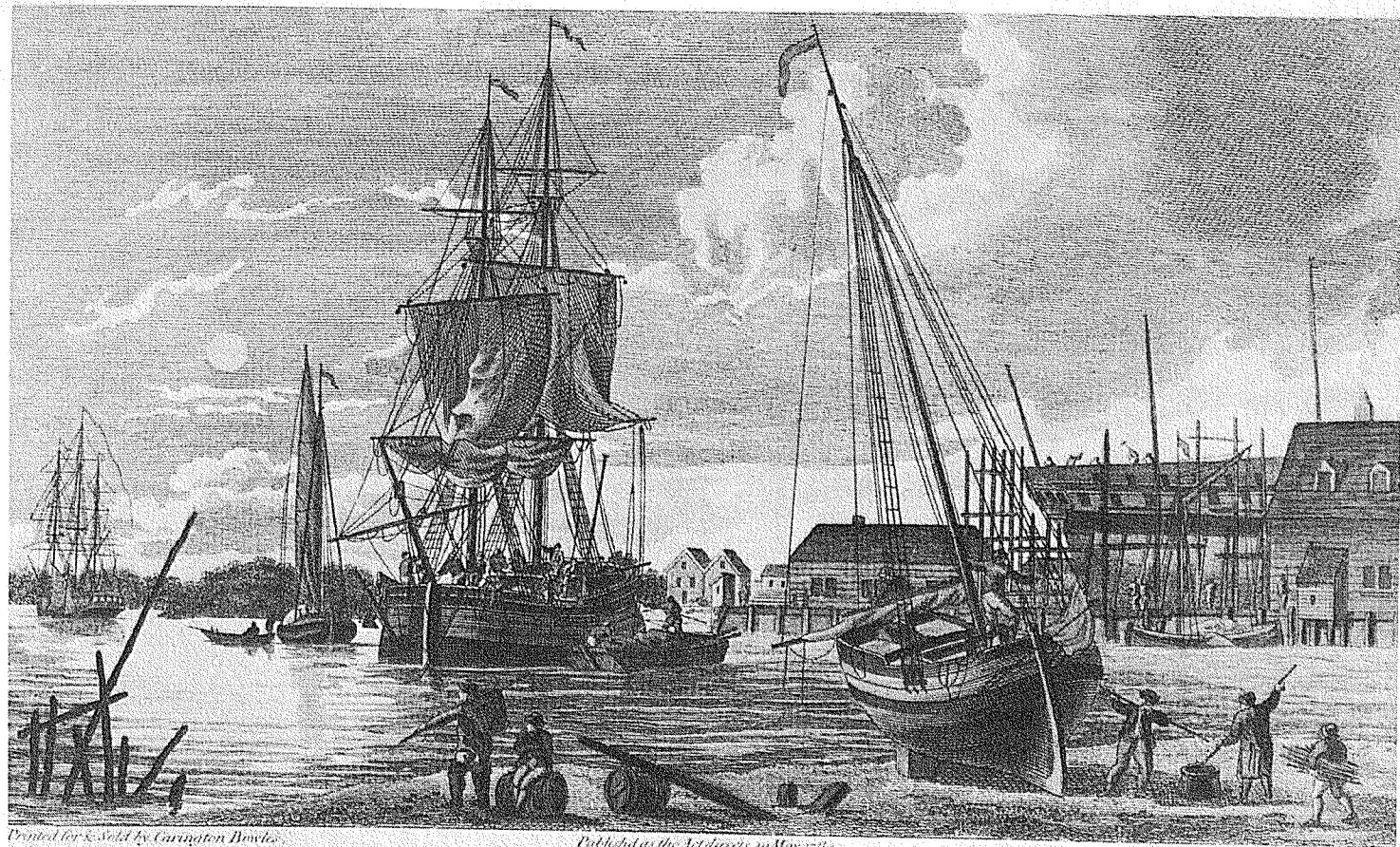
7 Sept.

#### LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

You are hereby required & directed to Order the Captains & Commanders of the several Ships of Twenty four & Twenty Guns, and also of the Sloops under your Command, to encrease their respective Complements, the Ships by the addition of Twenty, and the Sloops by the addition of Ten Men each; and to continue such increased Complements until they receive further Order. Given &c 7th Sepr 1775.

Sandwich J Buller C Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 105.



Printed for & sold by Curington Bowles

Published as the Act directs 10 May 1783

Nº 69 in St Pauls Church Yard London

Paying a Sloops bottom, with a View of a DOCK YARD in Southampton River by Moon light

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 7h September 1775.

A Box containing Fifty Impressions of Mr Des Barres Chart of the Harbour of Boston, with as many Copies of the Nautical Directions, addressed to you having been sent to Commissioner [James] Gambier to be sent by the *Phoenix*, or if she should be sailed, by the first Ship that proceeds from Spithead to join you; I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith, and to recommend it to you to distribute the said Charts and Nautical Directions to such of the Ships and Vessels under your Command as you shall judge proper. I am &c

P: S:

sent to Commissr Gambier, by the Portsmouth Coach

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 112.

*London Chronicle*, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 TO THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1775

London, September 7.

It is reported, that advice is received from the Hague, that by order of the States General, two vessels loaded with arms and ammunition, bound to St. Eustatia, are stopped from proceeding on the voyage till security is given by the Freighters that no part of their cargoes shall be disposed of to the rebels in America.

8 Sept.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 8h September 1775

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith 50 Copies of His Majestys Proclamation of the 23d of last Month for suppressing Rebellion and Sedition, and to signify their direction to you to cause the same to be made as public as possible. I am &c

P: S:

(By the *Phoenix*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 117.

LORD ROCHFORD TO LORD SANDWICH <sup>1</sup>

St. James's, 8th September 1775.

My dear Lord—I know you are so zealous in our cause against the American rebels that I should not act with that confidence I have in you, if I concealed from you the bitter complaints that have come home against Admiral Graves. Officers of distinction have written a state of facts that cannot be contradicted: such as, that many of our vessels have been taken, officers killed, men made prisoners; that a great number of swift boats called whale-boats have been supplied to the enemy from well-known towns on the coast, in which boats they have insulted and plundered islands immediately under the protection of our ships, and at noonday landed in force and burned the lighthouse almost under



the guns of two or three men of war. The officers who write this ask where an excuse can be found for not enforcing instant restitution and reparation, or laying the towns in ashes where boats had been furnished, privateers fitted out, prizes carried in, or provisions refused. These are heavy charges, and I confess I do not see how they can be answered. The King, who is apprised of all this, has authorized me to tell you that he does not see, after every letter laying such blame on him (the Admiral), how the command can any longer be left in such improper hands. You will forgive me writing thus confidentially: we both mean with active zeal to promote the cause in which we are embarked; I am confident, therefore, that you will listen to any proposal that will in the smallest degree tend to forward the service. I am [&c.]

Rochford

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 72-73.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE ORDNANCE TRANSPORT *Charming Nancy*<sup>1</sup>

Sailed from St Helens 8th Sept 1775. The Following Ships under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship the *Phoenix* Capt H. Parker Junr

*Charming Nancy* } Ordnance Transport with Two Company of Artillery in each  
*Baltick Merchant* } Ship

*Juno* }  
*Nancy*<sup>2</sup> } Ordnance Storeships with a Commissary  
*Williamson* } Commissary & two Engineers on board the *Juno*.

*Layton* }  
*British Queen* }  
*Resolution* } Victuallers *Killingsworth*  
*Hellespont* }  
*King George* }  
*Saville* }

*Whitly* Transport from Ireland

The *Layton*, *Resolution* & *Hellespont* parted from the fleet a few days after we sailed, owing to a Gale of Wind in the Night.

The *Joseph*, *Resolution* & *Killingsworth* Victuallers were to Join us at Spit-head or St Helens but had not arrived when the *Phoenix* sailed.

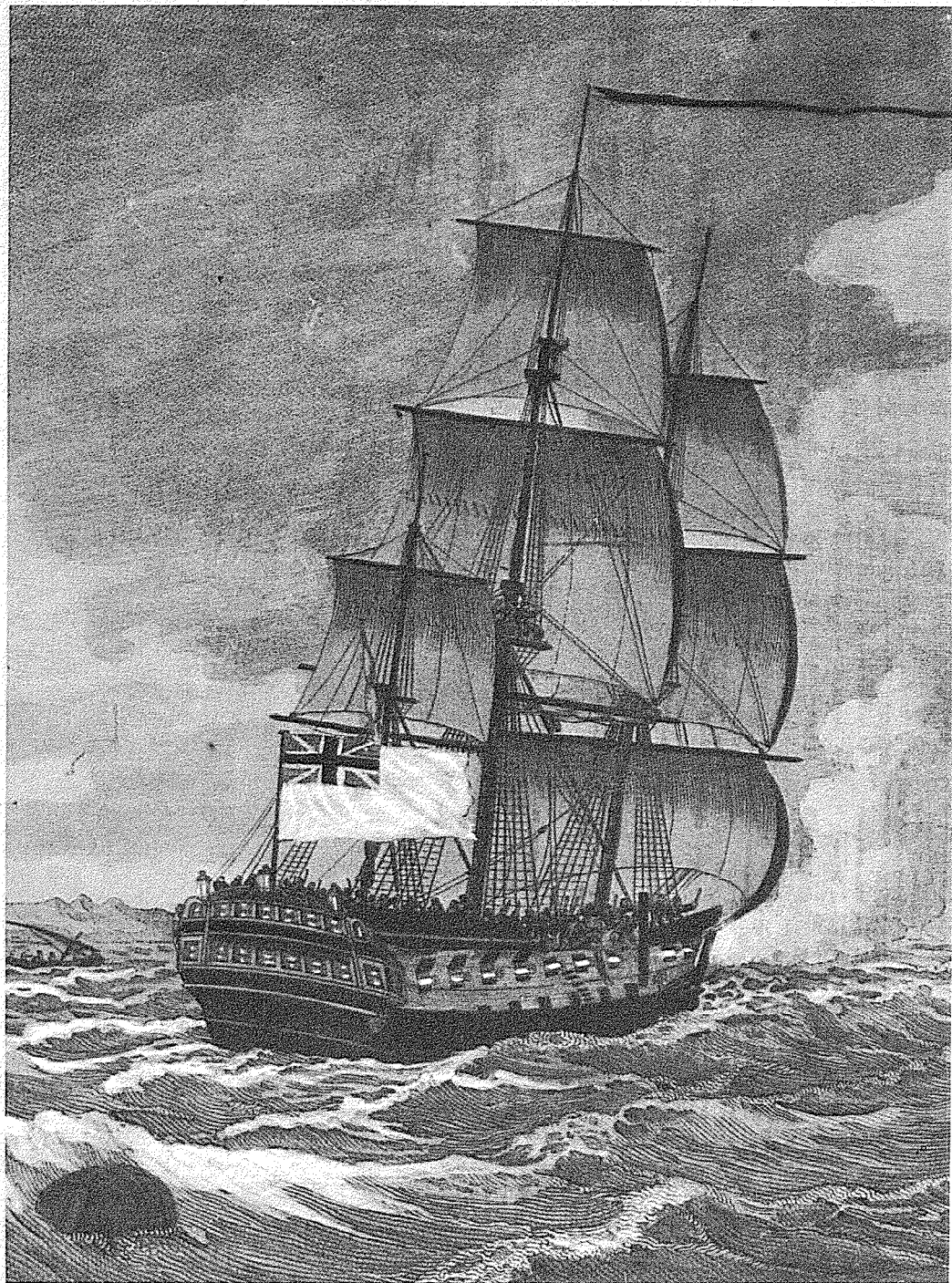
1. *Charming Nancy* Journal, NYHS.

2. The brig *Nancy* was taken by the armed schooner *Lee* of Washington's fleet on November 28, 1775.

9 Sept.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Captain Keeler, Commander of His Majts Ship *Experiment* (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 & the said Ship under your Command accordingly, & employ them as



*HMS Phoenix, 44. By an unidentified engraver, 1781.*

you shall judge best for His Majts Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c the 9th Sepr 1775.

Sandwich J Buller C: Spencer.

[George] Talbot *Niger*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 111.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir [Admiralty Office] 9h September 1775.

In addition to the Orders you will receive, by this Conveyance, from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty dated the 2d Instant, respecting the seizing and detaining of Ships and Vessels belonging to the Twelve Colonies thereinmentioned: I have it in command from their Lordships to acquaint you, that if it should be found unsafe to continue in the Ships and Vessels which may be seized and detained, in consequence of the said Order, the Men who belong to them; It is their Lordships direction that you order the respective Captains of His Majesty's Ships under your Command to complete their Complements, if they happen to be deficient, with as many of the said Men as may be necessary for that purpose, and to bear the remainder, or if their Complements happen to be complete, to bear the whole or as many of them as shall be judged proper, as Supernumeraries until further Order. I am &c

P: S:

(By the *Phoenix*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 120.

10 Sept. (Sunday)

CAPTAIN GEORGE YOUNG, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir *Alderney* at Spithead 10th, September 1775

I beg you will be pleased to inform my Lords of the Admiralty, with the Arrival of His Majesty's Sloop *Alderney* under my Command, this day, at Spithead, from a Cruize in persuance of their Lordships Orders given to me by Vice Admiral [John] Amherst at Plymouth.

On the 29th Ulto I fell in and spoke with the *Freindship*, a Sloop from Guernsey, bound to Plymouth – she informed us that a Brigg had just arrived at Guernsey bound to America, and by his account of her she seem'd to answer the discription of the *May Flower* Brigantine, specified in their Lordships directions, respecting the Vessels at Amsterdam.

The next day I run into Guernsey Road, and inspected all the Vessels there, and amongst them found a Brigg Called the *Lord Chatham* from Virginia, Laden with Tobacco and Staves; the former part of her Cargoe she landed at Falmouth and brought the Staves only for Guernsey. Conversing with Mainjay [Nicholas Maingy] the Master, on the state of America, he gave me to understand the Virginians were Arming & Excersing themselves every where but very much wanted Gun Powder and had dispatched a number of Vessels to the West Indies and Europe for it – In his conversation he mentioned Lord Dunmores having

sailed from Virginia in his Majesty's ship *Fowey*. The Brigg left Virginia the 13th July last. Amongst his Papers I found only One Letter that touched on American Affairs, the which I send you inclosed – I sufferd the Gentleman a Merchant of Guernsey, to whom it is directed to read it and then Sailed –

During the whole Cruize we have had very Boisterous weather, and frequent hard gales, in one of them I was glad to run into Portland Road for shelter –

In the Channel I spoke with several Vessels bound to America, in Ballast only, all well found and fine sightly Vessels. – None however came from Amsterdam, or Answered the description given with my Orders. I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Geo: Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2733.

11 Sept.

M. DE VILLORE TO M. DE SARTINE <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Dunkerque, 11 September 1775

I have the honor to inform you that a ship of 200 tons from Philadelphia called *Concorde*, under the command of Mr. Joseph Smith and loaded with cask-wood and iron, arrived in this port day before yesterday. Because of the British who are here in large numbers we spread the news that this ship came from Glasgow and carried tobacco. We have heard that as of the 10th of this month all the ships sailing from New England in destination of Dunkerque will be declared lawful prizes if they are caught by British ships and their Captains will be severely punished.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy.

12 Sept.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Captain Brathwaite Commander of His Majesty's Ship the *Centurion* (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, and the said Ship under your Command accordingly, and employ them as you shall judge best for His Majts Service intrusted to your Care. Given &c the 12th Sepr 1775.

Sandwich J Buller C Spencer.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 116.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY <sup>1</sup>

My Lords

Whitehall 12th Sepr 1775.

It having been represented that The King's Subjects in North America in Rebellion against His Majesty's Government have found means of preventing His Majesty's Fleet & army from being supplied with such provisions and Stores

as are necessary for their Subsistence and may be procured in several of the Colonies; I am commanded by The King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that Vice Admiral Graves be instructed, that he do from time to time, send such of the Transports as can be spared from other Service, to the several ports in those Colonies in North America which are in Arms against The King, under Convoy of one or more of His Majesty's Ships as the Case shall require, with Directions to the Commanders of such Ships to demand of the Inhabitants of the Maritime Towns, that they do furnish, at a reasonable price, such Supplies of Provision and other Necessaries as may be procured there, for the Use of His Majesty's Fleet [&] Army and that the said Commanders do, in Case of refusal to comply with so just and reasonable a Demand proceed hostilely against such Towns as in open Rebellion. I am &ca

Dartmouth.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 8.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY <sup>1</sup>

My Lords

Whitehall 12th Sepr 1775.

Governor Martin having represented that there are in the Province of North Carolina, very favorable Appearances of a disposition in a large body of His Majesty's Subjects, to free themselves from the Tyranny and Oppression exercised by those who have formed themselves into Committees and Congresses for the avowed purpose of Rebellion, and to take up Arms in Support of The King's Government; It has been thought fit to order that Ten Thousand Stand of Arms and Six light Field Pieces should be immediately sent to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America, to the end that he may as Occasion shall require give proper Aid and Assistance to Governor Martin for effecting the Services he recommends.

These Arms and Artillery will be shipped on board a Store Ship to be provided by the Board of Ordnance for that purpose; and I am commanded to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you do appoint one of His Majesty's Ships of War, now fitting out for North America to Convoy such Store Ship to her Place of destination. I am &ca

Dartmouth./.

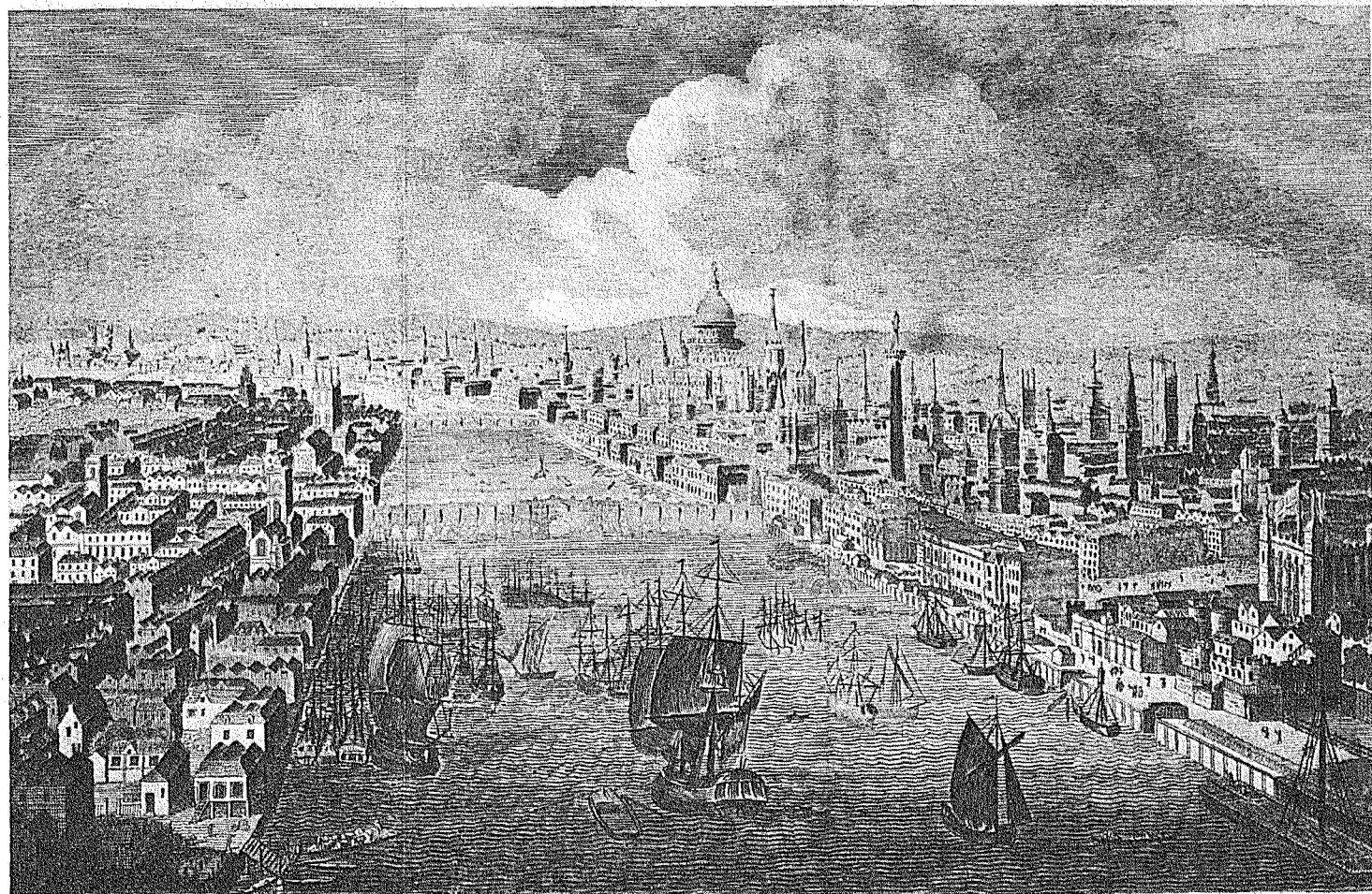
1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 9.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE <sup>1</sup>

My Lord,

Whitehall 12th Sepr 1775. –

His Majesty's Governor of North Carolina having represented that there are very favorable Appearances in that Province of a disposition in a large body of His Majesty's well disposed Subjects to deliver themselves (by taking up Arms in Support of Government) from the Tyranny and Oppression exercised by those who have formed themselves into Committees & Congresses for the avowed purpose of Rebellion. – I am commanded by The King to signify to your Lordship His Majesty's pleasure that Ten thousand Stand of Arms and Six light Field pieces together with 200 Rounds of powder and Ball for each Musket and Field piece



*A Perspective View of the Cities of London & Westminster.*

*Published June 1788 by J. Fielding, Printer in the Strand.*

*J. Sawell, Cornhill, and J. Debrett, Pall Mall.*



be forthwith prepared to be sent to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in order to enable him to afford such Aid and Assistance to the Governor of North Carolina as the Situation and Circumstances of that Province may from time to time require; and I am to acquaint your Lordship that one of His Majesty's Ships of War will be ordered to take under her Convoy and accompany to Boston such Store Ship as the Board of Ordnance shall provide for the Conveyance of these Arms and Artillery. I am &ca

Dartmouth.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161.

**13 Sept.**

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Having Ordered Capt [Francis] Banks of His Majesty's Ship the *Renown* (by whom you will receive this) to put himself under your Command and follow your Orders for his farther proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him and the said Ship under your command accordingly; and employ them as you shall find best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c 13th Sept 1775.

Sandwich J Buller C Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 121.

**14 Sept.**

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

It having been represented to the King, that a Resolution has been taken in the Congress of Delegates from the twelve associated Colonies assembled at Philadelphia, that, after a certain Day, all Exportation from the said Colonies to Great Britain, Ireland & the West Indies shall be discontinued, and there being great reason to suspect that the Ships & Vessels belonging to these Colonies & hitherto employed in those Channels of Commerce, many of which Ships are of large Burthens, may be fitted out for the purpose of supporting the unnatural Rebellion now carrying on; You are hereby requested & directed, in pursuance of His Majts Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 12th Instant, to give Orders to the several Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels under your Command to visit, on their respective Stations, every Harbour within the said Colonies, where such Ships may be laid up, and either to take away their Masts & Rudders, or otherwise so disable them that they may not be fitted & employed for the purpose abovementioned. Given &c 14th Sept 1775.

Sandwich J Buller C. Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 122-123.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

It having been represented that the King's Subjects in North America, in Rebellion against His Majts Government, have found means of preventing His Majts Fleet & Army from being supplied with such Provisions & Stores as are necessary for their Subsistence & may be procured in several of the Colonies; You are hereby required & directed, in pursuance of His Majts Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 12th Instant, to send, from time to time, such of the Transports, as can be spared from other Service, to the several Ports in those Colonies in North America which are in Arms against the King, under Convoy of one or more of His Majts Ships as the Case shall require, with directions to the Commanders of such Ships to demand of the Inhabitants of the Maritime Towns that they do furnish, at a reasonable Price, such supplies of Provisions & other Necessaries as may be procured there, for the use of His Majts Fleet & Army, and, in Case of refusal to comply with so just & reasonable a demand, to proceed hostilely against such Towns as in open Rebellion. Given &c 14th Sept 1775.

Sandwich J Buller C Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 124.

EDMUND BURKE TO LORD ROCKINGHAM <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

I observed, that one main Cause of the supine negligence of several principal Traders, was this. They had formed a confused opinion, that things would come of themselves to an amicable settlement. They have been so often alarmed, that many of them cannot believe the present troubles to be any thing more than an alarm. On this delusive supposition, they go on filling their Warehouses with Goods, exhausting their Capital to the last farthing, and even borrowing upon Interest wherever they can borrow. They say that this is the third non-importation agreement of the North Americans. That the two former had broken up much to the advantage of the Merchants, and particularly the second. They had then a demand with twenty per Cent, advance, on every thing; which paid them amply for the delay. They even sold at that advanced price, goods of such a quality, as at other times they could not sell at any price at all. Mr Bull, one of the greatest dealers in Bristol, and who alone employs four hundred men, has not actually dismissed so many as fifty; the rest he employs at half and quarter work, as it is called, in hopes, which at length begin to fail him, that a reconciliation will take place. He is fearful, that if he should now dismiss them in a body, that he may not be able to recover them on the return of the Trade. For my part my apprehensions are, that from their irresolute and dodging motions, the evil will be gradual and therefore incurable. The Merchants in that Trade will break, after the manufacturers have perished insensibly, and melted down without Notice into the mass of the National Wretchedness. But this, in my opinion may be in some sort prevented, if but one tenth part of the pains are taken to



NEW-YORK, September 8, 1775.

37 The Ship SAMSON, Capt. COUPAR, arrived here this Morning in 8 Weeks from LONDON, by whom we are favoured with the following PETITION, which was to have been delivered to His Majesty the 14th of July, by the Lord Mayor and Livery of London.

To the KING's most Excellent MAJESTY.

The humble Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled ;

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

**Y**OUR Majesty's most loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, with all Humility beg Leave to lay themselves at your Royal Feet, humbly imploring your benign Attention towards the grievous Distraction of their fellow Subjects in America.

The Characteristic of the People, Sire, over whom you reign, has ever been equally remarked for an unparalleled Loyalty to their Sovereign, whilst the Principles of the Constitution have been the Rule of his Government ; as well as a firm Opposition, whenever their Rights have been invaded.

Your American Subjects, Royal Sire, descended from the same Ancestors with ourselves ; appear equally jealous of their Prerogatives of Freemen - without which they cannot deem themselves Happy.

Their cheerful and unasked-for Contributions, as well as willing Services to the Mother Country, whilst they remained free from the Clog of compulsory Laws, will, we are sure, plead powerfully with the Humanity of your Disposition, for graciously granting them every reasonable Opportunity of giving, as Freemen, what they seem resolutely determined to refuse, under the Injunction of Laws made independent of their own Consent.

The Abhorrence we entertain of civil Bloodshed and Confusion, will, we trust, Sire, if not wholly exculpate us in your Royal Mind, yet plead powerfully in our Favour, for the Warmth with which we lament those Measures, whose destructive Principles have driven our American Brethren to Acts of Desperation.

Convinced of the earnest Disposition of the Colonists to remain firm in all dutious Obedience to the Constitutional Authority of this Kingdom, permit us, most gracious Sovereign to beseech you, that those Operations of Force, which at present distract them with the most dreadful Apprehensions, may be suspended ; and that uncontrouled by a restraint incompatible with a free Government, they may possess an Opportunity of tendering such Terms of Accommodations, as we doubt not will approve them worthy of a distinguished Rank amongst the firmest Friends of this Country.

*All the Letters by Capt. Coupar seem to agree that no more Troops are to be sent to America from Great-Britain ; and that Admiral Parker's Fleet that was supposed to be designed for America, was cruizing in the Bay ; Part of which Captain Coupar spoke with at Sea ; that the Carpenters in the Dock Yards would not fit out any more Men of War until their Pay was augmented.*

shew them their danger, which have been, and are employd to keep them quiet by false representations and delusive hopes.

Beconsfield Sept 14th 1775

1. Guttridge, ed., *Burke Correspondence*, III, 207-211.

15 Sept.

LORD ROCHFORD TO HORACE ST. PAUL <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

St James's 15th Sept 1775

No 19/

As Lord Stormont <sup>2</sup> intends soon to return to Paris, I shall fully discuss every point of business with His Lordship that relates to the Court where you reside and for that reason there is less occasion for my writing to you at present so particularly thereon as I otherwise should do, but I cannot defer mentioning to you the general Opinion entertained here that the American Rebels are constantly assisted by the french Nation as well from Europe as from their American Islands. I could not avoid taking notice of it last week to Count de Guines, and confirmed it to him afterwards in a note to which I received answer as you will see by the inclosed copy. It is probable that the Count de Vergennes may think it necessary to repeat to You the same assurances the french Ambassador here is persuaded he shall have Orders to give, but whether Monsr de Vergennes speaks to you or not upon that subject, it is highly proper you should tell him that Advice has been received from the Post Master at New York that upwards of thirty Tons of Gunpowder were arrived at Philadelphia sent thither by the french Governor of S. Domingo. If private Men for the sake of Profit had been engaged in such a business, it would not have caused the same sensation here but it must easily occur to Monsr de Vergennes that when a french Governor acts in that manner, it cannot but convey very different Ideas, and therefore The King makes full reliance that the Court of france without delay will cause the necessary Inquiries to be made about it, and renew such Orders as there is reason to expect in consequence of their repeated friendly Declarations.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1302. St. Paul was chargé d'affaires at Paris.

2. British Ambassador to France.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO JOSIAH MARTIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Whitehall 15th Sept 1775

The King gives full Credit to your Assurances of the unavoidable necessity you were under of seeking Refuge onboard the *Cruizer* Sloop of War, and the reasons you Assign for submitting to the more humiliating Disgrace of seeing His Majesty's Fort Johnson Burnt by the Rebels, within Gun Shot of His Majesty's Ship, deserve Attention. —

In such a situation I must confess to you, that I think you are too Sanguine in your expectations of being able, if properly supported, in the manner you suggest to induce a large part of the Inhabitants of North Carolina to take up Arms in support of Government, but as you speak with so much Confidence upon the Sub-

ject, it has been thought proper to order 10,000 Stand of Arms & 6 light Field Pieces, to be immediately sent to the Commander in Chief with directions, that if upon later & consequently better Intelligence of the State of North Carolina he shall judge it practicable to effect what you suggest, he do, provided His Majesty's Service in other respects will admit of it, send a Detachment of his Army, not less than one complete Battallion to Cape Fear under the Command of an able & intelligent Officer, and with the Arms & Artillery I have mentioned. —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, 321–325, LC Photocopy.

16 Sept.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London, 16 September 1775

No. 292

I have just received this information from the Prince of Masseran [Maserand] <sup>2</sup> who obtained it from someone whom he trusts completely. It concerns no less than a treaty between Russia and England by which the first of these powers would supply twenty thousand men in order to subdue America as well as all the ships and sailors required for this expedition.

I will avail myself in good time towards the British Ministry, Sir, of the marks of confidence which you have given me by telling me about the three battalions which boarded ship and are destined for the Guadeloupe and the Martinique. We must take all necessary precautions and follow an unequivocal and open line of conduct in our policy towards England. It is also the safest policy.

News from the Ports.

Deptford.

*Carcass* came to Woolwick in order to be fitted out as a mortar ship as well as *Racehorse* which is in Deptford for the same reason. There will be 74 sailors and 16 marines on each of these ships.

*Centurion* sailed on the eighth in order to take her cannon and supplies on board.

Work on the transport ships destined for America goes on without respite. A ship is being loaded with supplies for Halifax.

*Note:* The Government is going to heap kindness upon Nova Scotia in order to encourage the confederate provinces to follow her example.

Plymouth.

More than three fourths of the wood in this yard is spoiled because of the poor management on the part of the master shipwright. The damage is far greater than what I had said in my last dispatch.

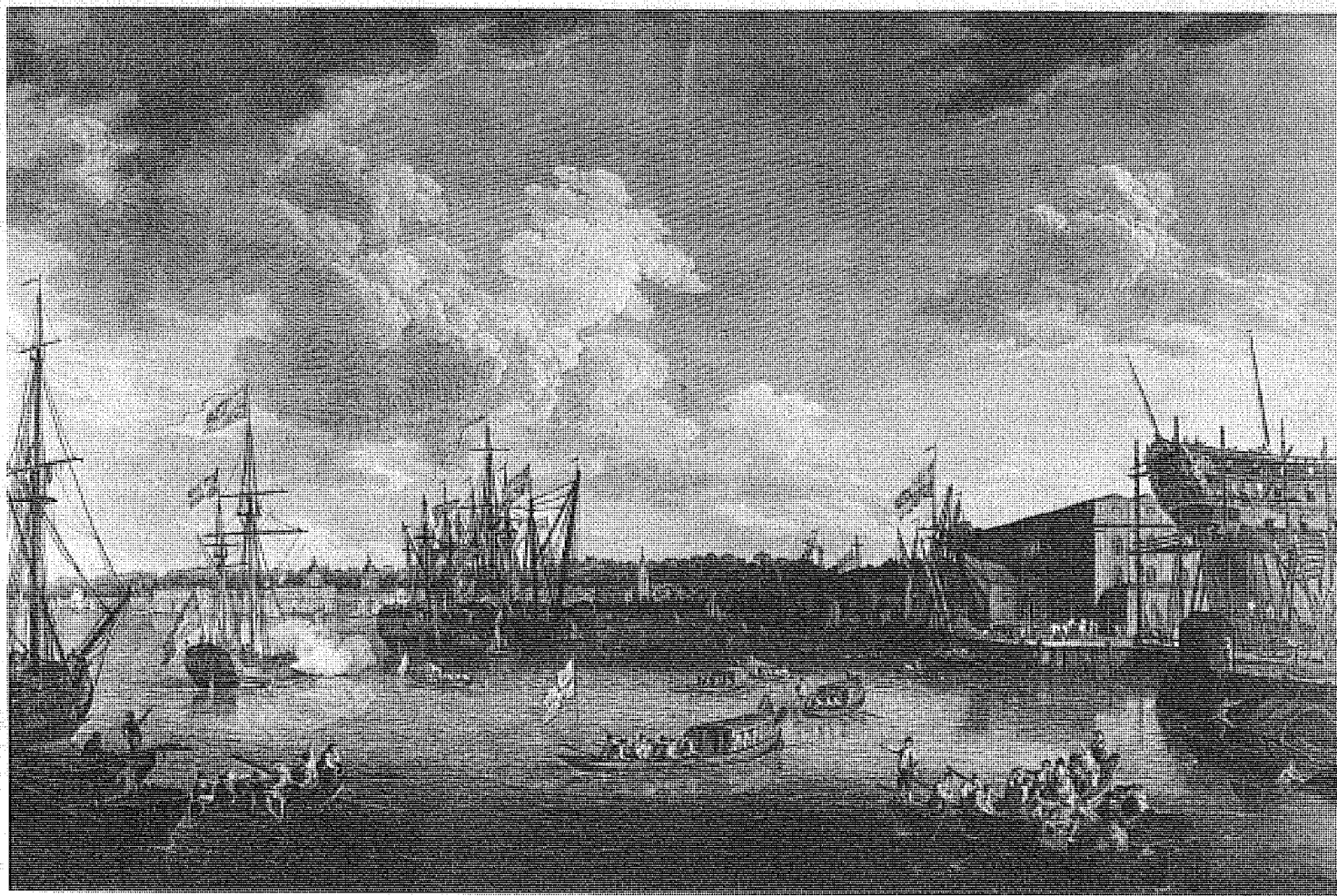
Portsmouth.

*Phoenix* and twelve transport ships are in Ste Helena waiting for favorable winds in order to sail for Boston.

Six transport ships are also waiting for favorable winds in order to sail to Ireland where they are to embark troops for Boston.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy.

2. Spanish ambassador to the Court of St. James's.



*Deptford Dockyard, England. By William Woollett after Richard Paton and John H. Mortimer, 1775.*

*London Chronicle*, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1775

London, Sept. 16.

Thursday afternoon sailed from St. Helen's the *Phoenix* and *Liverpool* man of war, with several Transports under their convoy, for Boston.

**17 Sept. (Sunday)**

LORD SANDWICH TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Hinchingbrook, 17th September 1775.

Sir—It gives me great concern to be obliged to inform you that I have received his Majesty's commands for your returning home at the close of this year. In a letter I wrote to you not long ago, I mentioned that the world in general expected something essential to be done both by the fleet and army, and General Gage's return to England has made my resistance to your being recalled utterly ineffectual: the torrent has been too strong for me to be able to withstand it.

You may however be assured that I shall in every place, both public and private, do you the justice you deserve, and declare my opinion that it has been more owing to accident than to misconduct that the operations of the fleet during this summer have not carried that importance with them that the nation expected. I am [&c.]

Sandwich.

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 73–74.

**18 Sept.**

KING GEORGE III TO LORD SANDWICH<sup>1</sup>

Kew, September 18th 1775.

Lord Sandwich—I have just received your letter enclosing Rear-Admiral Byron's, who declines on account of his health serving as second in command in North America: he is too gallant an officer to pretend illness without sufficient reason; therefore I expect, when you see him, that he will not change his opinion; in which case I am clear that Sir Peter Parker is the properest person you can pitch upon.

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 74–75. On September 14, Rear Admiral Byron wrote to Lord Sandwich declining the appointment as second in command in North America in these words: "I hope your Lordship is convinced that as I never yet declined any service, so I should embrace this offered me now with infinite satisfaction did my health permit; but in its present impaired state, I am much afraid I should not prove equal to the task. I shall do myself the honour of waiting upon your Lordship as soon as you return to town." *Ibid.*

BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

1775

18th Sept. Captn [Samuel] Warren of the *Weazle* Sloop was directed in pursuance of the King's pleasure signified by the Earl of Dartmouth on the 29th ult. to proceed to the Coast of Africa & ranging the

whole Coast from Sierra Leon to Whidah seize all Ships & Vessels belonging to the twelve associated Colonies that shall be found trading in any Fort or Factory on the Coast, and to examine into the Magazines of Gunpowder & Arms in each of the British Forts & Factories on that part of the Coast, And to require the Person having the Command of such Fort or Factory or the Care or Custody of such Magazine to make out and deliver to him, in order to its being sent to England, an Exact & particular Account of all Gunpowder Arms and Ammunition received into the Magazine for 3, years last past, and of the disposal and expenditure thereof; specifying the Persons Names, to whom disposed, upon what Account, in what manner and for what Service expended.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY <sup>1</sup>

My Lords

Whitehall 18th Sepr 1775

As it is necessary in the present Situation that every possible precaution should be used to prevent any Store Ships with Arms and Ammunition from being intercepted in their Passages to North America; I am commanded by The King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you do instruct the Commander of each of His Majesty's Ships now ready to sail to Boston or any other Port in North America, that in case he falls in at Sea with the *Elizabeth* Store Ship bound to Quebec he do take her under Convoy and see her safe into the River St Lawrence and if the Passage up the River becomes impracticable on Account of the Ice, in that Case to convoy her into Halifax before he proceeds to the place of his Destination. I am &ca

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 12.

INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA <sup>1</sup>

[London,] September 18.

Fifteen large galliots, carrying at their bows guns from 32 to 48 pounds, swivels, &c. and fifty men each, are built at Philadelphia; and are to be stationed in Delaware river about Redbank, to oppose any men of war, who may attempt to come up the river; and to defend the machines, sunk in that narrow part of the river.

On the 28th of July last twenty-five tons of gunpowder arrived at Philadelphia, which were immediately sent to the armies, under the Generals Washington and [Philip] Schuyler.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1775], I, 176.

19 Sept.

CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCHOMBERG, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Dublin Harbor 19. Sepr 1775

I acknowledge to have receiv'd their Lordships Order for seizing Ships & Vessels belonging to the Specified Colonies & Plantations in No America, & I shall take care to Comply Circumstantially to the Order, as far as it is in my Power. I am sir [&c.]

Alex<sup>r</sup> Schomberg <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2482.

2. Commander of H.M. Yacht *Dorset*.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Some attempts having been made by Masters of Ships bound to North America to take on board Flint Stones by way of Ballast, proper Steps have been taken for preventing any such attempts for the future; At the same time too great precaution cannot be used in this case; And therefore, in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of Yesterday's date; You are hereby required & directed to instruct the Commanders of all His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your Command to examine all such Ships & Vessels as shall arrive in the different Ports in North America from Great Britain or Ireland, and in case they find the Ballast, or any part of it, to consist of Flint Stones, to cause such Flint Stones to be taken out & thrown into deep Water; and also to seize any Flints manufactured for the use of Fire Arms, which they may find on board such Ships; for although they are not expressed in His Majesty's Order in Council, prohibiting the Exportation of Gunpowder, Arms and Ammunition, they are certainly within the Meaning & Intent of it; But you are to observe that these Orders are not to extend to Flints manufactured for the use of Fire Arms sent out by, or with a Licence from, the Master General, or Principal Officers of the Board of Ordnance. Given &c 19th Sepr 1775.

Sandwich J Buller C. Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 129-130.

*London Gazette*, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1775

Whitehall, September 19.

Advices have been received from North Carolina, that the Disorders in that Province having continued to increase, Governor Martin had judged it necessary to abandon Fort Johnson on Cape Fear River, where he had lately fixed his Residence; and to remove the Cannon and Stores under the Protection of his Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer*, on Board of which he had retired; and that on the Night of the 18th of July, a considerable Number of Persons had entered Fort Johnson, and set Fire to the Buildings, which being of Wood were entirely consumed.

20 Sept.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Admiralty Office 20th Sepr 1775

Orders being given for the Ship *Brownhall*, Edward Austin Master, laden with Naval Stores for Halifax, to proceed to Boston under Convoy of the first of His Majts Ships that sails from Spithead to that Port; I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admty to signify their direction to you, upon her arrival at Boston, to send her under Convoy from thence to Halifax, I am &c.

P S

By the *Experiment*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 148.

HORACE ST. PAUL TO LORD ROCHFORD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Paris 20 Sepr 1775.

No 44/

My Lord, I received yesterday the honour of Your Lordship's Letter of the 15th Inst No. 19, and in consequence I did not fail to speak to M: de Vergennes on the affair of the Powder sent to Philadelphia from St. Domingo. He assured me, My Lord, that we must certainly have been misinformed, and I must do him the Justice to say that the whole tenor of his Language which was frank and positive upon this occasion, convinces me that there is no Succour given to the American rebels by this nation with the countenance of Government: I did not mention to him from whom we had received this Information.

In regard to the Opinion that the Rebels were assisted from hence, he observed, that it was impossible any military stores could be shipped from any of the Ports here without an order, as Powder and Ball were not considered as objects of Commerce, and as to the 30 Tuns of Gunpowder from St. Domingo, he assured me it must be a mistake; as the Governor of that Island, had to his knowledge refused the proposals which had been made to him on that Subject by some of our Colonies, — that *he*, as well as the other Commandants in their different possessions in that part of the World, had received the most positive orders not to give any assistance whatever to the Rebels; but however that he would not fail to speak to M: de Sartine to have them renewed, and to make particular enquiries about this Envoy to Philadelphia, to which, he repeated, that for the reasons above-mentioned he could give no sort of Credit.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1303.

21 Sept.

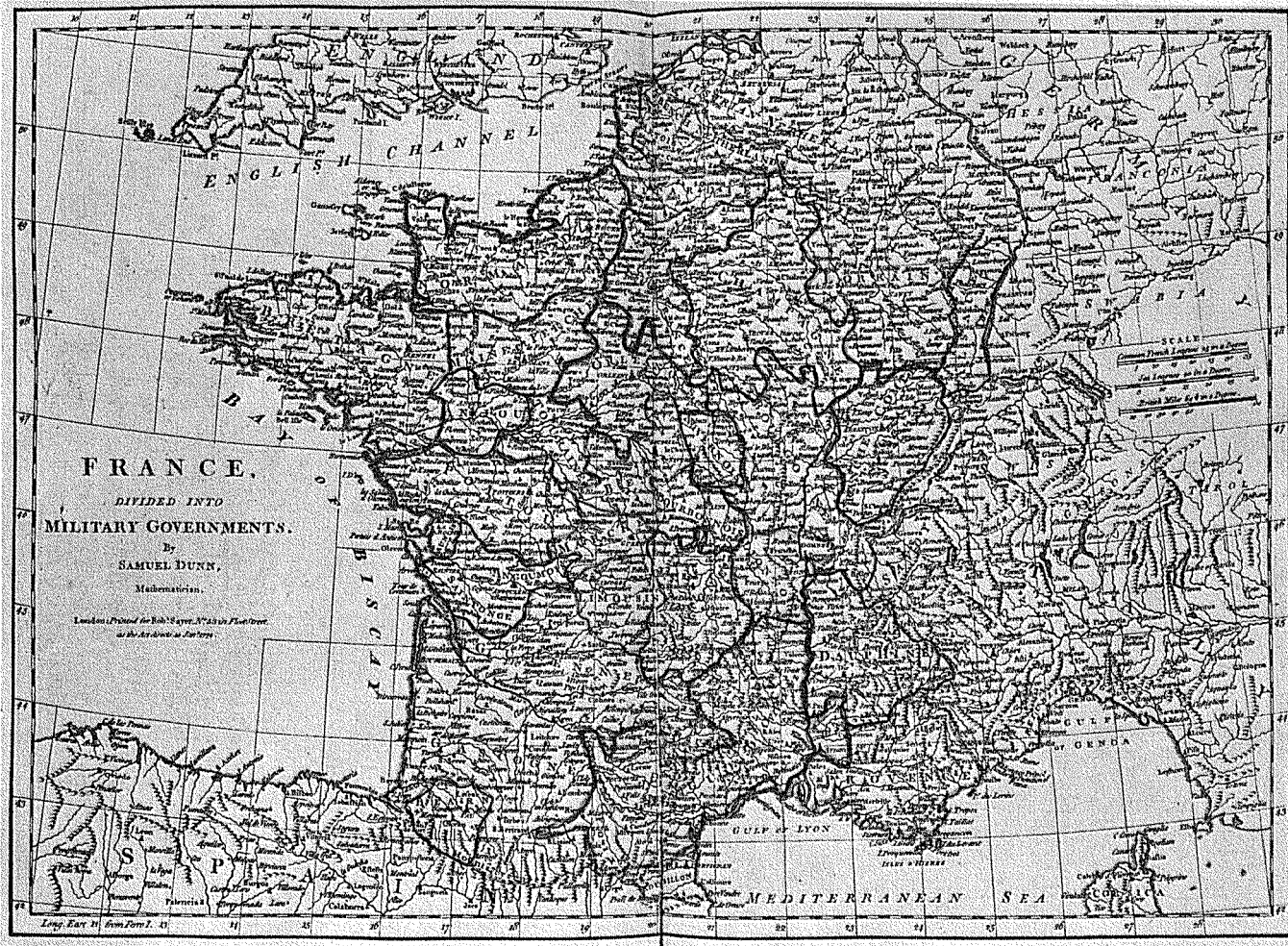
PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 21st Septemr 1775

His Majesty's Service requiring your Return to England; I have it in command from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith and to signify their direction to you to hold yourself in readiness to return to





Map of France, 1774.

England accordingly with all the Third Rates under your Command or such of them as may be assembled at Boston as soon after the arrival of Rear Admiral Shuldham as conveniently may be shifting your Flag from the *Preston* (which is to remain in North America) to such one of the said Third Rates as you shall judge proper. For all which you will receive their Lordships Order in form by the said Rear Admiral. I have the honor to be &c

P: S:

By the *Experiment*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 154.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS TONKEN, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 21st Septemr 1775.

The King having judged it expedient to direct that there should be a change in the destination of the Five Regiments of Infantry, vizt 17th 27th 28th 46th & 55th now under Orders for immediate embarkation from Corke; I have it in command from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their direction to you that, notwithstanding any former Orders, if all the Five Regiments shall be at Corke at the time you receive this, you order the Masters of the Transport Vessels in which the 27th Regiment shall embark, to proceed directly and land the said Regiment at Halifax; and that you proceed with the Transports. having the other Four Regiments to Quebec if it be possible to get up the River so as to land the Troops at that place; but if on your arrival off the River St. Lawrence you find it absolutely impracticable to proceed to Quebec, you are, in that case, to order the Masters of the Transports having the 17th Regiment to proceed and land it at Halifax; and you are with the Transports having the other Three Regiments (after procuring what Intelligence you can at Halifax or by any other means whatever, where the Army under the Command of Generals Gage or Howe shall be) to proceed without loss of time to join it.

If the 27th Regiment should be sailed from Corke before these Orders arrive there, you are then to direct the Masters of the Transports with the 46th Regiment to proceed from thence directly & land the said Regiment at Halifax; and to proceed yourself with the Ships having the remaining Three Regiments to Quebec if possible.

If three of the said Regiments should be sailed before you receive these Orders, then of the remaining two Regiments, That which has a Colonel or the Senior Lieut. Colonel (if no Colonel) being to embark for Halifax, you are to give Orders to the Masters of the Transports to proceed and land the said Regiment accordingly; and to proceed yourself with the Transports which are to carry the other Regiment to Quebec. I am &c.

Php Stephens

Duplicate sent to Ireland to be forwarded by the Lord Lieutenant.

Triplicate sent by the *Wolf* Sloop from Falmouth.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy. Tonken was an agent for transports.

22 Sept.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 22d Sepr 1775

The Lords of His Majts Treasury having caused several Ships to be freighted with Provisions & Stores for the use of the Kings Forces at Boston, and the Masters of the said Ships being furnished with private Signals for knowing, or making themselves known to any of the Ships of your Squadron which they may happen to meet with; I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admty to send you a Copy of the same herewith and to signify their direction to you to cause Copies of them to be delivered to the Captains of the several Ships & Vessels under your command, I am &c

P S

By the *Experiment*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 155.

PRIVATE SIGNALS FOR BRITISH SHIPS ON THE AMERICAN STATION <sup>1</sup>

Private Signals for knowing each other, to be observed by the Ships and Vessels under the Command of the Admiral commanding in chief in America

By day. —

The Ship to Windward shall lower down her Foretopsail, which the Ship to Leeward shall answer by lowering down her Maintopsail, Then the Ship to Windward shall hoist an English Jack at her Maintopmast head, which the Ship to Leeward shall answer by hoisting an English Jack at her foretopmast head. Then both Ships shall hoist their proper Colours. —

By Night. —

The Ship to Windward shall hoist four lights, where they can be best seen, one over the other — The Ship to Leeward to hoist four lights abreast of each other where they can be best seen. Then the Ship to Windward to burn one false fire, and the other to burn two —

These Signals to be kept as private as possible

Ph<sup>p</sup> Stephens

(Copy)

Admy Office 22d Sepr 1775.

1. Md. Arch., Red Book XIII, 37-2.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

1775

22d Sepr Navy Board were directed to cause 20. more flat bottom Boats to be immediately built and sent to Boston as opportunities may offer  
10. of them to be with, and 10. of them without Transoms.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

Private Signals for knowing each other, to be observed  
by the Ships and Vessels under the Command of the  
Admiral commanding in chief in America

By day

The Ship to Windward shall lower down her  
Foretop-sail, which the Ship to Leeward shall  
answer by lowering down her Main-top-sail, Then  
the Ship to Windward shall hoist an English  
Jack at her Main-top-mast head, which the Ship  
to Leeward shall answer by hoisting an English  
Jack at her fore-top-mast head. Then both Ships  
shall hoist their proper Colours. —

By Night.

The Ship to Windward shall hoist four lights,  
where they can be best seen, one over the other —  
The Ship to Leeward to hoist four lights abreast  
of each other where they can be best seen. Then  
the Ship to Windward to burn one false fire,  
and the other to burn two —

These Signals to be kept as, as far as  
possible

Phl<sup>r</sup> Stephens

Admt. Office 22<sup>d</sup> Sept:  
1775.

(Copy)

WILLIAM LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE <sup>1</sup>

[London] 22 September, 1775.

I am afraid the most wicked machinations of Governor Dunmore have by this time involved you in the horrors of war. What the Ministry intend against you and the rest of America, cannot be exactly ascertained before the meeting of the Parliament. Probably they have not yet determined upon the exact mode of executing their vengeance. You will do wisely, however, in preparing for the utmost extremity that the most unprincipled and deepest revenge can suggest. It is said, and I believe with truth, that the war is to be carried into Virginia, as well as in the northern Provinces, next spring. This winter will be employ'd in providing every means that can shield you from the destruction to which your merciless enemies have destined you. Some precautions will be taken, relative to your Negroes. Some fortifications, in the places by nature most inaccessible, for Magazines and Refuge will be made. Cannot the Capes, by the co-operation of the two Colonies, be rendered impassable? Should not alarm Houses be erected there as well as the mouths of the Rivers? No precautions can be too great against the dangers that threaten you, especially as no one can tell what foreign foes, taking the advantage of the present state of things, may invade you.

The utmost industry of the Ministry is employed to inflame men's minds here, especially by publishing General Gage's accusations of savageness and barbarity in carrying on the war on the part of the Provincials. These accusations, like those of [Francis] Bernard and [Thomas] Hutchinson, are made in such general terms, as admit not of a specific refutation, and in a general denial, his word is more like to gain credit than that of those he accuses.

Whatever may be the real sentiments of People here in this question, it is not easy to conceive more quietism than prevails in general. The interested on each side declare themselves, but the bulk of the Nation is perfectly silent. We therefore see the Jacobites and Nonjurors addressing for coercive measures, the Merchants and Manufacturers petitioning for conciliation, while the Counties and large Cities in general (London excepted), remain unmoved. The increase of taxes, which another year's continuance of violent measures must produce, will excite much clamour, which will not be diminished by the interruption of Commerce.

Our good friends at Glasgow, are by their Agents here endeavoring to procure a proposition from the Merchants, in conjunction with them, to supply Administration with Money for carrying on the war, provided the forfeited lands in America are secured to them. This money is what the Virginians chiefly have supplied them with, in contemplation of the approaching troubles, by treble Remittances. This is Scotch gratitude.

Thirty thousand men, is said to be the Estimate of the whole force intended against America, next year; and indeed it is difficult to conceive, where troops and taxes will be found for such an Army. Wherever the storm falls it will be heavy. But that such a force can shake one Province, much less the whole Continent, is to me incredible. I am afraid a total disconnexion between the two Countries will be the consequence of these hostile measures. Common danger, however, if it should occur, would unite them again. The ensuing Session of

Parliament, will decide whether we are to have actual War or not. For should opposition be stronger and in earnest, I cannot but think the calamities we dread will yet be prevented. However this is more to be hoped than trusted to. Parliament is to meet on the 26th of next month. If anything could make us doubt a providence it would be that the lust of Tyrants is suffered perpetually to blot the face of the earth with blood and misery. It seems that Liberty is never to be procured, or maintained, but by the Sword. Be vigilant in providing for your safety against the probable attempts of next Spring; and let not the Philistines come upon you unprepar'd. The union of America once secur'd, her vigilance must render all attempts upon her Liberties abortive.

God bless and preserve You and Yours; and send us a happy issue out of these distresses and dangers.

1. Worthington C. Ford, ed., *Letters of William Lee* (Brooklyn, 1891), I, 171–175.

### JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS MASON <sup>1</sup>

[August 13 to September 22, 1775]

after a passage of 34 Days, I arrived safe in Ferole, the 14th of September 1775 <sup>2</sup>

I Deliverd my Letters agreeable to Orders – and made every Nesessary Inquirey Respecting the sale of my Cargo in the Different Ports of Spain as well, as in Portugal – it appeared most prudent for me to accept of an ofer, made me by Mr Dubanch, that in Case I would Leave the Cargoe in his hands – he would advance me £500 Sterling in part & as soon as the sales was Closed, he would Credit Mr Morris's Acct with the Ballanc[e.]

While the Vessel was Discharging, no Steps was Left undone, to make myself acquainted with their Laws & Customs of Tr[a]de & in perticular for the Cargoe I came for – which sufficiently app[ears] by my Querrys, from some of the moste Imminent Merchants in tha[t] place – with their answers, amongst my papers – as I could not Discover the Least shaddow of hopes in Obtaining arms, or Amunit[ion] I Departed the 22d of September for France.

1. Robert Morris Misc., LC. For a full description of the Journal and its source, see its beginning, July 10 to August 12, 1775, in Volume 1, 1128.

2. El Ferrol, Spain, in the schooner *Charming Polly*.

**23 Sept.**

### PROCLAMATION OF ARCHIBALD COCKBURN <sup>1</sup>

September 23.

By Archibald Cockburn, Esq; of Cockpen, Advocate, his Majesty's Sheriff Depute of the Sherifffdom of Edinburgh.

Whereas a letter was received by me some time ago, from his Majesty's Advocate for Scotland, intimating, That on account of the present rebellion in America, it was proper a stop should be put for the present to emigrations to that country; and that the necessary directions were left at the different sea-ports in Scotland to that purpose: I think it my duty, in obedience to

his Lordship's requisition contained in that letter, to take this public method of notifying to such of the inhabitants within my jurisdiction, if any such there be, who have formed resolutions to themselves of leaving this country, and of going in quest of settlements in America, that they ought not to put themselves to the unnecessary trouble and expence of preparing for a removal of their habitations, which they will not, so far as it lies in my power to prevent, be permitted to effectuate.

(Signed)

Ar. Cockburn.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1775], I, 232.

"THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE GUILD OR BROTHERHOOD OF MASTERS AND PILOTS SEAMEN OF THE TRINITY-HOUSE OF KINGSTON UPON HULL."<sup>1</sup>

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the guild or brotherhood of masters and pilots seamen of the Trinity-House of Kingston upon Hull, consider the many privileges granted to our ancient corporation by your royal predecessors, and the great advantages derived to us, as a maritime body, and to the town of Hull by your majesty's kind attention to encourage and secure the navigation and commerce of these kingdoms, as very great and substantial blessings.

To minds thus greatly inspired, and uninfluenced by party, nothing can create deeper concern than to behold attempts made to disturb publick tranquility, and to overthrow the peaceable enjoyment of every thing that is dear or valuable.

We therefore think it highly incumbent on us, at a period so truly alarming as the present, when we see the people in most of your Majesty's provinces in North America, cherished and assisted by ill-designing persons, so infatuated as to deny the legislative authority, and so daringly wicked as to act in open rebellion, to give your Majesty this testimony of our unfeigned attachment to your Majesty's person and government, by earnestly assuring your Majesty, that we hold in the utmost abhorrence, men capable of such proceedings; and that we think it our duty, as far as we are able, to assist your Majesty in bringing those unhapy and deluded people to a sense of their allegiance, and in carrying into execution the legislative authority of Great Britain.

Given under our common seal the 23d Day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1775.

Thomas M'Farland, John Staniforth, Wardens.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1775], I, 222.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Magdalen*, LIEUTENANT JOSEPH NUNN<sup>1</sup>

September 1775

Portland N N E 7 or 8 Leagues—

Saturday 23

A M the Pilot came on board and took charge of her ½ past 11 Slipt the Bridles & came to sail [from Portsmouth Harbor] at 2 P M Anchor'd at Spithead with the small Br . . . at 11

Weighed and came to Sail, Saluted Admiral Douglas<sup>2</sup> with 13 Guns.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4252. The previous commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Colins, had been relieved by Nunn on September 9, 1775. The log entry for that day, obviously written by Nunn himself, reads: "Read my Commission to the Schooners Company, Survey'd the Boatswain, Gunner, Carpenter & Purser's Stores, read the Articles of War etc to the Schooners Compy, Lost 4 Oars by the Harbour boat Sinking alongside," *ibid.*
2. Admiral Sir James Douglas was senior officer at Portsmouth.

## 25 Sept.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS TONKEN, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 25th Septemr 1775.

It being of very great importance that every possible Effort should be made to secure a passage to Quebec for such part of the Troops as you have been directed by my Letter of the 21st Instant to proceed with to that Place; I have it in command from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to suggest to you such Information as they have received respecting the practicability of effecting this Service.

As the Season is far advanced it is to be suspected that the Transports will on the Entrance of the River St Lawrence meet with strong North West Winds, But you must not be discouraged by this circumstance, as the Ships may notwithstanding work up to the Island of Bic, or possibly to Hare Island, at both which places there is good and safe anchorage, and in the neighbourhood of which the Troops may be landed, and march by Land through a settled Country to Quebec, if the Transports cannot get higher up; in which case you must send an Express to General Carlton immediately upon your arrival at either of those Islands, requesting that he would send a proper Officer down to conduct the Troops, and also such Sloops, Schooners & small Craft as can be procured to carry up the Baggage and Stores.

The Knowledge of these Circumstances is so very material, and the information came from such respectable Authority, that it has been judged proper to send a Messenger on purpose with this Dispatch and a Dispatch of the like import from the Earl of Dartmouth to the Commander in Chief of the Troops under orders for Embarkation, in hopes that he will be able to get to Corke before your Departure. I have only to add that their Lordships, having the firmest reliance on your zeal for His Majesty's Service, make no doubt of your exerting yourself to the utmost in the execution of this most important part of it and have consequently the greatest confidence in your success. I am &c.

Php Stephens

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

JOHN POWNALL TO SIR GUY CARLETON<sup>1</sup>

Duplicate

Whitehall 25 Sept 1775

Sir, Having this moment learned from Mr Stephens that the *Magdalene* Schooner is not yet Sailed with my Dispatch of the 8th instant I think it my Duty



to inclose Copies of two Dispatches to Major General Howe which will inform you off the further arrangement made in respect to the five Regiments now under orders of Embarkation at Corke –

As there are onboard the Transports that take in those Regiments a great many necessary Stores for the Army under General Howe, it is very much to be Wished that if they get up to Quebec they may be ordered immediately after the Troops are landed, to proceed to Boston, or to wherever the Army under Major General Howe may be; But you may nevertheless take out such part of those Stores as you shall think may be wanted for the Troops under your Command I am Sir [&c.]

J Pownall

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

#### INTELLIGENCE FROM LONDON<sup>1</sup>

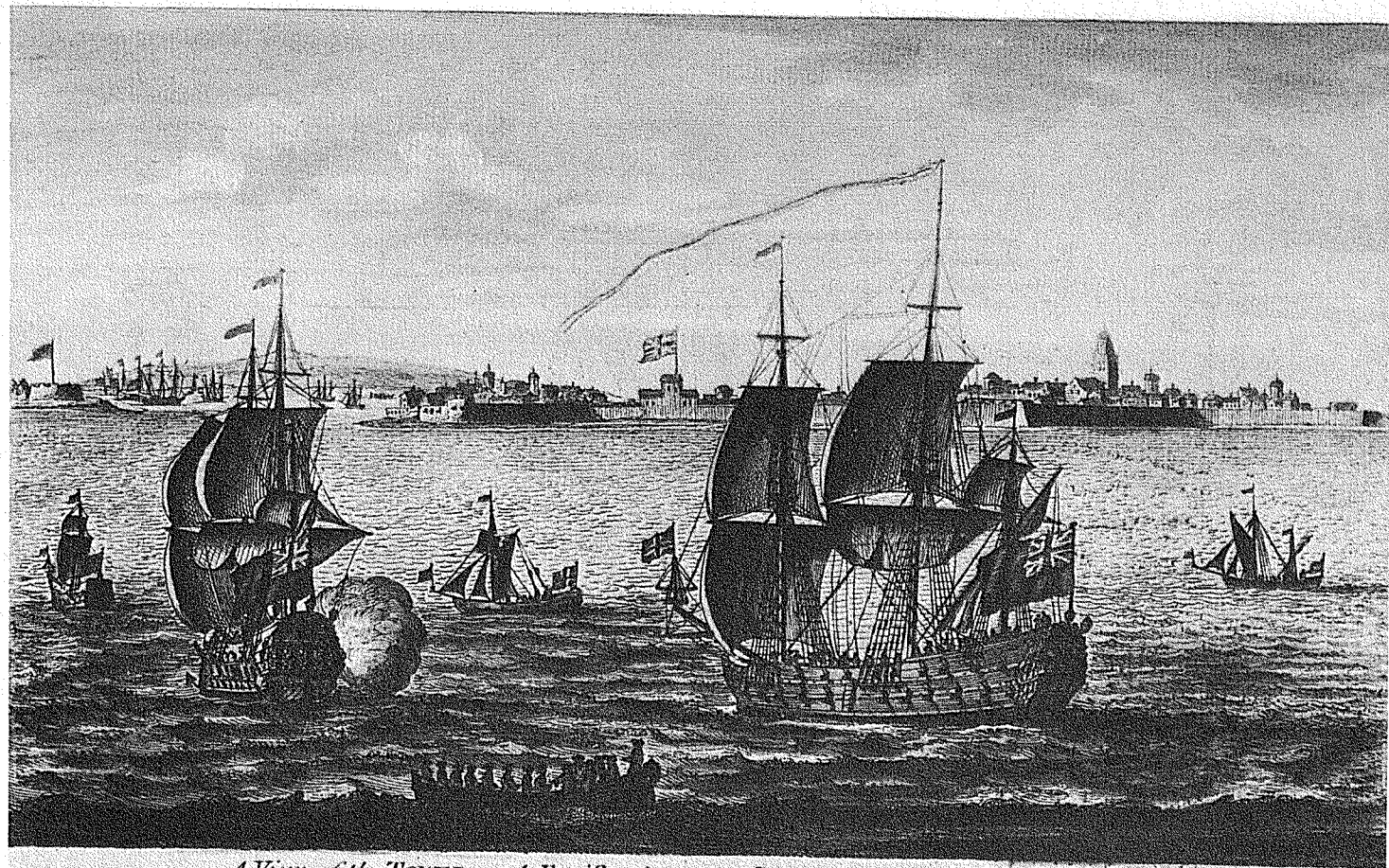
[London] September 25.

It is the fixed resolution of the Cabinet to carry on the war against America with the utmost vigour; and to begin the next campaign as early as possible in the spring. The outlines of the plan to be pursued, are, an army of eighteen thousand men to be employed in New-England, and another army of twelve thousand men are to act in Virginia and the middle Provinces. Two fleets are to co-operate with these armies; one commanded by Admiral Shuldham (*vice Graves*) and the other by Admiral Byron.

It is not necessary to make many observations on this resolution, and this plan. The American towns will, of course, be destroyed; carnage, plunder, rapine, and murder, will be the constant spectacle every where; and when the coast, and the country, are laid waste by fire and sword, what is to become of our trade? And what is the honour, or the profit of this mighty conquest, if it can be achieved? Can the landed interest alone support the enormous expence of this ruinous war? And of what benefit are the Colonies, when they are desolated? But suppose, what is not quite improbable, that the armies are defeated, and the fleets are burned, will not the Colonies hereafter abhor us, for this attempt to destroy them? Either way the trade to America is lost. And Great-Britain, if not literally ruined by the separation and expence, will however be so essentially injured and impoverished, she cannot support herself as she has hitherto done. She will indeed exist, but it will be in a languishing state. Yet the Ministers, indifferent to every thing but their salaries, are incessantly flattering and cajoling the country gentlemen with a parcel of crude, idle, visionary tales and expectations, of an American revenue, in order to obtain their votes in Parliament; for they well know, that their date in office depends upon their carrying on this American war.

The African trade has felt the blow already. The West India trade staggers, and is doomed to fall the next. No trade can long stand the present unwise contest. The loss of the American commerce is a lasting evil; the substitute for it, in the flush which the Russian peace and the Spanish armament have caused, is contingent, casual, inadequate.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1775], I, 233, 234.



*A View of the TOWN and Fortifications at PORTSMOUTH, in HAMPSHIRE.*

*Printed for Carington Bowles, Map & Printseller, N<sup>o</sup> 69 in S<sup>t</sup> Pauls Church Yard London. Published 1 March 1773.*

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH [ENGLAND], SEPT. 25." <sup>1</sup>

Sailed yesterday from Spithead the *Experiment* and *Renown*, two 50 gun ships, and the *Niger*, of 32 guns; with the *Magdalen* schooner, and *Harcourt*, Pri[z]e, for Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, September 26 to September 28, 1775.

**26 Sept.**

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Copy

Admiralty Office 26th September 1775 —

Sir, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith a List of the several Ships and Vessels taken up to carry Stores Provisions and live Stock to North America for the use of His Majesty's Fleet and Forces in those Parts, and am to signify their Lordships direction to you in pursuance of His Majestys pleasure signified to them by the Earl of Dartmouth to station some of the small Ships under your command in such situations as to fall in with them upon their coming upon the Coast with Orders to their Captains to see them safely into Port, a precaution which will be more particularly necessary in case His Majestys Army shall remove from Boston to any other Station. — I am, &ca

Ph. Stephens.

(by the *Centurion*)

Endorsed Admiralty Office 26th Sepr 1775. Copy of a Letter from Mr. Stephens to Vice Admiral Graves with one Inclosure (A Copy) in V. [*sic* R.] A. Shuldham's of 27 Feb. 1776.

[Enclosure]

Copy)

*Thames* David Laird  
Master

Has on board 101 Chaldron of Coals, 37 Tons of Potatoes, 200 Butts of Porter, 192 Bales of Hay, 60 Quarters of Oats, 22 Puncheons of Water, and will take on board today about 150 Sheep.

<i>Friendship</i> -----	James Millar
<i>Irwin</i> -----	Smith
<i>Mary</i> -----	Robt Reed
<i>Felicity</i> -----	Brun
<i>Britannia</i> -----	Jenkins
<i>Echo</i> -----	Moncur
<i>Price Frigate</i> -----	Fisher
<i>Fame</i> -----	Willm Thornton
<i>Harriott</i> -----	Wemyss Orrock
<i>Generous Planter</i> -----	Calf
<i>Prince Rupert</i> -----	Dear
<i>Reward</i> -----	Strivens
<i>Blue Mountain Valley</i> -----	Dempster
<i>Eleanor</i> -----	Oswald
<i>Charming Nelly</i> -----	P. Millar
<i>Britannia</i> -----	Heskett Davis
<i>Rebeccah</i> -----	Isaac Blackburn
<i>Britannia</i> -----	Martin White
<i>Generous Friend</i> -----	Thos Williams
<i>Aurora</i> -----	Geo Hannell
<i>Nielson</i> -----	Harp
<i>Fanny</i> -----	Sinclair

The Cargoes of these Ships will be nearly similar to that of the *Thames*, except that they will have a greater proportion of Coals and less Porter, and about half of them will have Hogs instead of Sheep.

A farther List of about ten or twelve more Ships will be given in a day or two

Mure, Son, and Atkinson --

London 23d. Septemr 1775.

[Endorsed] Copy List of Ships carrying out Stores to America

In Letter to Vice Admiral Graves of 26th Sepr. 1775.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

**27 Sept.**

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 27h Septemr 1775

I have received & communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 17h and two of the 19h of last Month, giving an Account of the proceedings of the Squadron under your Command.

Their Lordships have confirmed the Commission you gave Lieutenant Tolle-mache to be Commander of the *Scorpion* Sloop; and they will also confirm that which you gave Mr James Drew to succeed him, as Lieut of her; when presented to them for that purpose.

Their Lordships are glad to hear that three of the Victuallers of which the Commissioners advised you were arrived, and they have no doubt of the arrival of the other (the *Friendship*) which was only stopt for a short time at Spithead in consequence of a Letter from the Earl of Dartmouth.

The further supplies of Provisions mentioned in my former Letters, are upon their passage to you in Nine Victuallers, Six of which sailed on the 14h Instant

under convoy of the *Phoenix* and the remainder on the 24h under that of the *Niger*. And their Lordships will give directions for such further and timely supplies to be sent out, as may be necessary for the Squadron under your Command.

I have only to add that since my Letter of the 6h Instant (besides the *Phoenix* and *Niger*) the *Renown*, *Experiment*, *Roebuck* and *Liverpool*, have sailed to reinforce you, the two first mentioned immediately, and the two last mentioned after performing the Services mentioned in my former Letter; and that the *Magdalen* Schooner is also sailed with Dispatches to General Carlton at Quebec, and then to join you at Boston. I am &c

P: S:

(By the *Centurion* at Portsmo)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 171-172.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir, Craven Street [London] 27th Septemr 1775 -

Captain [John] Raynor of His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* having acquainted me, that by taking On board a Flat Bottom Boat in consequence of their Lordships Order, he shall be obliged to leave Two of the Estblsh'd number of Boats allowed to the Ship, at Portsmouth, I beg the\* favour you will signifye my request to their Lordships, that they will please to cause the said Two Boats to be sent out to the *Chatham* by the first proper Conveyance.

I profit of this opportunity to represent to you, Sir, that I apprehend there will be a very Extraordinary # number of Ships wrights and Carpenters wanted for the Service in North America, where I am to Command, which I submit to their Lordships consideration to take such measures as they shall think proper to provide them. I am [&c.]

M. Shuldham

Minute 29 Sepr

\*directns to the Navy Bd accordingly

#refer it to the Navy Bd for their considn & opinion.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

1775

27th Sepr Victualling Board were directed to send to Boston as soon as possible for the use of the Seamen

	Tons
Potatoes	130.
Carrots	20.
Parsnips	20.
Onions	10.
Sour Krout	64.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

*Lord George Germain. By an unidentified engraver, 1785.*



*John Montagu, Fourth Earl of Sandwich.  
By Valentine Green after Johann  
Zoffany (or Zauffely), 1774.*

WILLIAM EDEN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Downing Street Sept 27th – 1775

. . . Shuldham takes leave to Day & expects to go about Monday next [October 2]. – I shudder to think how ill the removal of the Troops, Artillery &c from Boston will be supported by Admiral [Samuel] Graves. . . Shuldham goes well convinced that He is to act in every respect as against an Enemy. –

1. Germain Papers, CL.

**28 Sept.**LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

The King having been pleased by His Order in Council of the 23d Augt 1775. to prohibit the Exportation out of this Kingdom into any parts beyond the Seas or carrying Coastwise any Gunpowder, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition for, and during the Space of three Months from the date of the said Order; And His Majesty judging it necessary that the Exportation of Salt Petre or carrying the same Coastwise, should be likewise prohibited during the said Term, & having therefore, by His Order in Council of the 27th Sept 1775. been pleased to Order, require prohibit and command, that no Person or Persons whatsoever (Except the Master General, Lieut General of Principal Officers of the Ordnance for His Majesty's Service) should, at any time during the Term limited by His Majesty's beforementioned Order in Council of the 23d Augt 1775 presume to transport into any parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise any Salt Petre, or Ship or lade any Salt Petre on board any Ship or Vessel in order to transporting the same into any parts beyond the Sea's or carrying the same Coastwise without leave or permission in that behalf, first obtained from His Majy or His Privy Council upon pain of incurring & suffering the Forfeiture & Penalty inflicted by an Act of the Twenty ninth Year of His late Majesty's Reign entitle "An Act to impower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Salt Petre" &c. We send you herewith fifty Copies of His Majesty's said Order in Council of the 27th Sept 1775. and do hereby most strictly require & direct you to Order the several Captain's & Commanders of His Majest's Ships & Vessels under your command, to use their best endeavours to intercept, seize and bring into Port, during the time therein specified, all Ships & Vessels whatsoever having on board Salt Petre shipp'd or laden on board them with a view to its being transported into any Parts beyond the Seas or carrying Coastwise, without leave or permission in that behalf first obtained by His Majesty or His Privy Council.—Given &c. the 28th Sept 1775.<sup>2</sup>

Sandwich J. Buller C. Spencer

By R. A. Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 135–137.

2. In British Admiralty Proceedings Relative to North America, Germain Papers, CL, the entry describing this order concludes: "N.B. Like orders given to the Commanders of all His Majesty's Ships at home."

29 Sept.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Whereas it is expedient for His Majesty's Service that you should forthwith return to England with the Guardships named in the Margin; You are hereby required and directed to remove your Flag from the *Preston* to one of the said Guardships, and, so soon as you shall have communicated to Rear Adml Shuldham (by whom you will receive this and who is to succeed you in the Command of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America) such Intelligence of the State of Affairs in that Country as may be material for him to know, and have deliver'd to him Copies of such of our Orders & Instructions as remain unexecuted in whole or in part, and of which he has not already been furnish'd with Copies by Us, You are to make the best of your way to Plymouth Sound or Spithead as may be most convenient, with such of the Guardships abovemention'd as may happen to be with you; But you are not to wait for any of them that may be absent, as we have directed Rear Admiral Shuldham to send Orders immediately after your departure to the Captains of such of them as may be left behind, to proceed to England without delay. Given &c. the 29th Sept 1775.

Boyne  
Somerset  
Asia

Sandwich J. Buller C. Spencer

By R. A. Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 144-145.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO REAR ADMIRAL  
MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM<sup>1</sup>

Whereas it is expedient for His Majesty's Service that Vice Adml Graves should return to England with the three Guardships named in the Margin; And Whereas we have thought fit that you should succeed him in the Command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employ'd and to be employ'd in North America (a List of which comes inclosed) You are hereby required and directed to repair, without loss of time, to Portsmouth, and hoisting your Flag on board His Majts Ship the *Chatham* proceed in her to Plymouth, where having received on board the Party of Marines mention'd in the Margin,<sup>2</sup> which you will apply for as soon as you arrive, you are to take the *Orpheus* under your command, & make the best of your way to Boston, or wherever else you may hear Vice Admiral Graves to be, and deliver to him the inclosed Pacquet containing Orders for his return to England.

On the Departure of Vice Adml Graves you are to take upon you the Command of the Squadron as aforesaid; and, if the three Guardships should not be in the way to return with him to England, you are to send Orders to such of them as may be left behind, to follow him home without delay, the *Asia* to repair to Spithead, the other[s] to Plymouth Sound, where they are to remain until further Order.





*Rear Admiral Molyneux Shuldham. By William Dickinson after Sir Nathaniel Dance, 1780.*

We send you herewith Copies of such Orders & Instructions as have been given to Vice Admiral Graves, during the time he has been invested with the Command in North America, And do hereby require and direct you to carry into Execution such of the said Orders & Instructions as have not already been fully executed. Given &c. the 29th Sepr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller C. Spencer

[Endorsed] Sent to him in Town 1st Octor

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 138-139.

2. *Ibid.*, "1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 2 Corporals, 1 Drummer, 50 Private Men."

#### LIST OF BRITISH SHIPS <sup>1</sup>

Admiralty Office 29th Sepr 1775

List of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America under the Command of Vice Adml Graves on the 17th Augt 1775, and those which have sail'd from England, and also those which are now fitting out to reinforce him.

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Ships</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Men.</u>	<u>Commanders.</u>
4.		<i>Preston</i>	50.	320.	Vice Adml Graves Captn Jno Robinson
3.		<i>Boyne</i>	*70.	520.	Brodck Hartwell
•		<i>Somerset</i>	*64.	520.	Edwd Le Cras
•		<i>Asia</i>	*64.	500.	Geo. Vandeput
6.		<i>Mercury</i>	20.	130.	John Macartney
•		<i>Glasgow</i>	20.	130.	Tyrh Howe
•		<i>Rose</i>	20.	130.	James Wallace
•		<i>Fowey</i>	24.	130.	George Montagu
•		<i>Lively</i>	20.	130.	Thomas Bishop
•		<i>Scarborough</i>	20.	130.	Andw Barkley
•		<i>Tartar</i>	28.	160.	Edwd Medows
Slo		<i>Nautilus</i>	16.	100.	John Collins
•		<i>Merlin</i>	16.	100.	Wm C. Burnaby
•		<i>Falcon</i>	14.	100.	John Linzee
•		<i>Tamar</i>	16.	100.	Edwd Thornborough
•		<i>Otter</i>	14.	100.	Matthew Squire
•		<i>Senegal</i>	14.	100.	Wm Dudingstone
•		<i>Scorpion</i>	14.	100.	Hble Jno Tollemache
•		<i>Kingsfisher</i>	14.	100.	James Montagu
Slo		<i>Swan</i>	14.	100.	James Ayscough
•		<i>Cruizer</i>	8.	60.	Francis Parry
•		<i>Savage</i>	8.	60.	Hugh Bromedge
Schr		<i>St John</i>	"	30.	Lieut Wm Grant
			Car Swl		
•		<i>Hope</i>	6 10.	30.	• Geo Dawson
•		<i>Halifax</i>	"	30.	• John De la Touche
•		<i>St. Lawrence</i>	"	30.	• John Graves (It)
•		<i>Hinchinbrooke</i>	"	30.	• Alexr Ellis

\*Order'd home with Vice Adml Graves

<u>Rate</u>	<u>Ships</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Men.</u>	<u>Commanders.</u>
Ad Bg	<i>Bolton</i>	[Car Swl] [6]	30.	Thos Graves
•	<i>Gaspee</i>	"	30.	• Wm Hunter
Ad Vl	<i>Canceaux</i>	6 8.	45.	• Henry Mowat

On their Passage thither.

4.	<i>Renown</i>	50.	300.	Francis Banks
•	<i>Experiment</i>	50.	280.	Robert Keeler
5	<i>Roebuck</i>	44.	250.	Andw Snape Hamond
5	<i>Phoenix</i>	44.	250.	Hyde Parker junr
•	<i>Niger</i>	32.	180.	George Talbot
6	<i>Lizard</i>	28.	160.	John Hamilton
•	<i>Cerberus</i>	28.	160.	John Symons
•	<i>Liverpool</i>	28.	160.	Henry Bellew
Slo	<i>Raven</i>	14.	100.	John Stanhope
•	<i>Hunter</i>	10.	80.	Thos Mackenzie
•	<i>Viper</i>	10.	80.	David Pryce
		Car Swl		
Schor	<i>Magdalen</i>	6 10.	30.	Lieut Joseph Nunn.
Ad Vl	<i>Cherokee</i>	6 8.	30.	• Jno Ferguson
Storesp	<i>Adventure</i>	4 8.	40.	• Jno Hallum

Fitting out in order to proceed thither.

4.	<i>Chatham</i>	50.	300.	John Rayner
•	<i>Centurion</i>	50.	300.	Rd Brathwaite
5	<i>Orpheus</i>	32.	180.	Chas Hudson
6	<i>Actaeon</i>	28.	160.	Christr Atkins
•	<i>Solebay</i>	28.	160.	Thomas Symonds
•	<i>Syren</i>	28.	160.	Tobias Furneaux
•	<i>Boreas</i>	28.	160.	Chas Thompson.
•	<i>Triton</i>	28.	160.	Skeffn Lutwidge.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 140-142; an enclosure.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 29h September 1775

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith Thirty Press Warrants Twenty for the Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your Command and Ten for the Lieutenants Commanding Schooners or Armed Vessels in addition to those transmitted to you in my Letter of the 24h of June last and am to signify their Lordships direction to you to issue them as there may be occasion, agreeable to their former Instructions signified to you in my Letter aforementioned. I am &c

P: S:

By Rear Adl Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 179.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

The Navy Board have sent on board the Transports gone to Ireland 12 Flat-bottomd Boats, & 4 on board the Men of War going to Boston, and there are 4 in Store ready to be sent as opportunities offer, besides which, the Navy Bd are directed to build 20 to be sent to Boston as opportunitys offer – It is not every Ship can carry this kind of Boat especially at this Season of the Year – I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Ph<sup>p</sup> Stephens

Admiralty 29 Sepr 1775

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 19.

LORD ROCHFORD TO HORACE ST. PAUL <sup>1</sup>

No 21/

St Jamess 29th Sepr 1775.

Sir Your letter No 44 has been received and laid before the King.

We are very much disposed to give Credit to the repeated Declarations of the French Ministers that their Government does not give Sanction to the Proceedings of Individuals in the Trade they carry on with the Rebels in America, but notwithstanding the Language Monsr de Vergennes held to You in his Conversation on that Subject, it is not possible but he must know, if he ever makes the Inquiries he promises, that very considerable Quantities of Arms and Ammunition have been sent from France and the West India Islands to several of Our Colonies in America. These Practices will not be discontinued, unless the Intendants and other Officers in the French Ports and at their Islands, who have the Cognizance and Inspection of such Affairs, be not absolutely prohibited from conniving at those Embarkations, and do not receive Orders to prevent them. We know for certain the Particulars of several Cargoes loaded at Bayonne, St Malo, and particularly at Bordeaux, from whence a Ship was to sail about the beginning of this Month with 300 Casks of Gunpowder & 5000 Musquets with Bayonets compleat, for account of Americans, and there is now at Paris a Philadelphia Merchant furnished with Money for purchasing Warlike Stores. As I am now on this Subject I cannot avoid mentioning another particular, which is, the Encouragement given to carrying Tobacco & other American Products directly to France. Many Ships are arrived at Dunkirk, Bayonne, Bordeaux &c with those Commodities directly from America. This is publicly known to be an illicit Trade at all times, and at this Juncture in particular is of great Prejudice to Great Britain, by the Advantage deriving thereby to the rebellious Colonies, & by the facility it gives to their Ships of investing the Produce of their Cargoes in Arms & Ammunition, purchased in France, for their return Voyages to America.

These Circumstances are not only mentioned for Your own Information, but You are permitted to report them, as occasions offer, to Monsr de Vergennes, that he may at least know that we are apprized of what passes, and if their Declarations have any meaning, it belongs to Them to apply the Remedy, without our making any formal Complaint, which is not the Intention to do at present.

Count de Guines has not yet made any Application to me about the Conduct of any of Our Sea Officers, with Regard to French Ships. When he does, the most diligent Inquiry will be made thereupon, and I shall be enabled in due Time to give a proper Answer. I am &c

Rochford

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1304.

**30 Sept.**

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Versailles 30 September 1775

Undoubtedly you think as I do that we cannot prevent the Court in London from stopping trade with the English colonies, and that we can raise no objection on this subject. As for the American vessels which will be able to reach Dunkerque or another one of our ports, nothing should hinder their entry; but in my opinion it will be advisable to prevent them from taking on any sort of war material.

1. APL, 1, E4, 71.

**3 Oct.**

EDMUND BURKE TO PHILIP LIVINGSTON AND BERNARDUS LA GRANGE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Octr 3d 1775

(By the Packet of Octr 75)

We have had publick Notice, that no packet after this will regularly Sail for America.<sup>2</sup> No body can more deeply and sincerely regret than I do, the unfortunate differences which have thus cut off the intercourse of Countries which ought to be united by the strongest and dearest of all ties.

Westminster

1. Guttridge, ed., *Burke Correspondence*, III, 226–227.
2. *London Gazette*, September 30 to October 3, 1775, "A Mail will be dispatched from hence on Wednesday next for New York, and also one for Charles Town, after which there will be no regular Conveyance for Letters from this Office to North America, but whenever a Packet may be dispatched to any Part of that Continent, proper Notice will be given."

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Portsmouth 3d Octobr 1775 –

I am to acquaint you that on my arrival here this morning I caus'd my Flag to be hoisted On board his Majesty's Ship *Chatham*, & shall proceed to Sea by the first Opportunity of Wind & Weather. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shulldham

[Endorsed] Minute 4 Octr Own rect

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.



*Chart of Portsmouth Harbor, England, 1774.*

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES BIDDLE <sup>1</sup>[Lorient, October 3, 1775] <sup>2</sup>

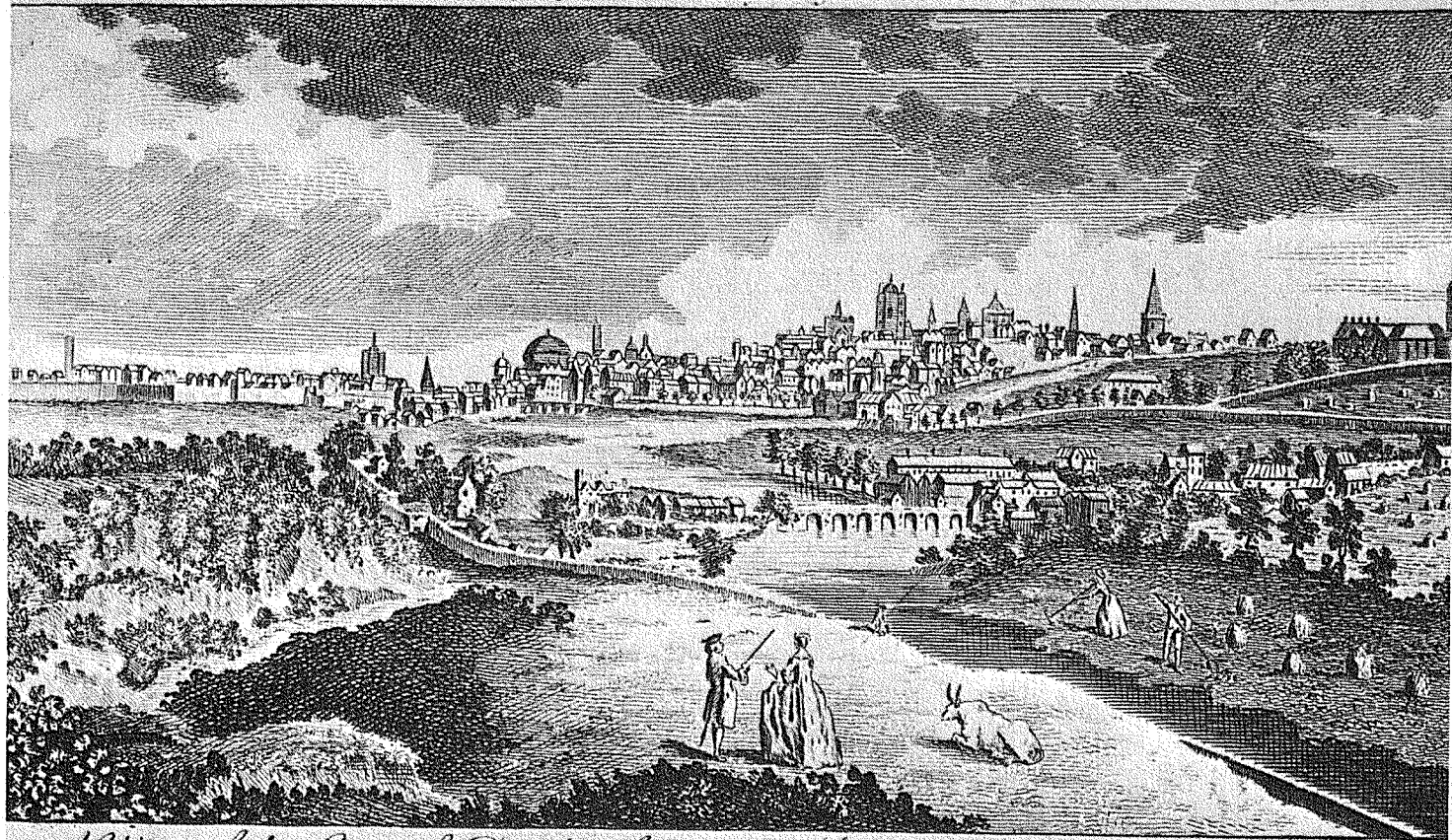
. . . Off the Banks of Newfoundland we fell in with several sail, amongst them was a frigate that, about eight o'clock, gave chase to us; she was then near three leagues from us. There was a pleasant breeze, and she gained very little upon us until about ten o'clock, in a heavy squall we found she had gained considerably upon us, they having carried their topgallant sails when we were obliged to take in ours, and lower our topsails. Just after the squall a young man named John Williams fell from the foreyard overboard. He was a Bermudian, and swam like a fish. A rope was hove to him, which missing, he went astern. He was called to, not to be afraid, and answered he was not the least uneasy. We threw him a spar. [Captain John] Craig was of opinion the frigate would pick him up, and was against heaving to, but I had the brig hove to, the boat hoisted out, and we got him on board. We had no right to expect the frigate would heave to when we would not. It was a very trying time for me, for the frigate was coming up fast, and I did not know what would be the consequences of my being taken going on such an expedition. It may be supposed I was very impatient until we made sail. While the boat was out, Craig was comforting me by declaring he was sure our heaving to would occasion our being taken. However, there was no danger of Williams's being drowned, for he could swim to Bermuda. Before we could make sail the frigate was within less than two miles of us. It blew hard in squalls all the afternoon; in the squalls she gained upon us, but when we could carry our topgallant sails we dropped her. Finding she could not come up with us, just before it was dark she hove to and hoisted a signal of distress. As I supposed it only done to decoy us, we paid no regard to her signal; indeed it was pretty evident nothing material could be the matter, for she carried a press of sail the whole day, and left her convoy, or the ships in company with her, in the morning. Before I sailed we had an account of one of our ships being taken by bearing down upon an armed vessel that hoisted a signal of distress. Taking vessels by this infamous method should be forbidden by all nations, for, if made a practice, no one would run the hazard of being taken, let the appearance of distress be ever so evident, and thus many lives may be lost that if this shameful practice was put a stop to would be saved. I was much rejoiced to get clear of the frigate. Some time after in the night we fell in with a brig bound from Lisbon to Cork. The captain inquired eagerly what news? I told him the American army had the advantage of the British in several engagements, and expected soon to drive them from the country. He struck his speaking trumpet with great violence upon the roughtree and swore he was glad to hear it, and hoped we *would* soon drive the British from America. When we were near the coast we passed a great many vessels that from the badness of the weather would not run in with the land. The twenty-second day after we left the Capes we arrived at L'Orient.

1. Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*, 76, 77.

2. The date is approximated. Biddle probably cleared the Delaware Capes on September 11. He could have arrived at Lorient October 3 (the "twenty-second day" thereafter).



*Engraved for the Lady's Magazine.*



*A View of the City of Dublin from the Magazine Hill in the Phoenix Park.*



4 Oct.

VISCOUNT HARCOURT TO LORD ROCHFORD<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dublin Castle. 4th October 1775.

Copy

My Lord, I have the honor of informing your Lordship That yesterday Morning Sir Jno Blagmire received a Letter dated at Cork the 29th past, from Robert Gordon Esqr Surveyor General of His Majesty's Customs & Excise at that Port, containing some Particulars of News from America; the following Extract of which Letter, from the Recency of the Accounts, may perhaps be agreeable to your Lordship.

I have this Moment seen a Captain of a Vessel from North Carolina in twenty one Days to Cork; he came in yesterday, & reports that he saw Fort Johns[t]on burned by the Rebels; That when they began to rise there was an Officer and twenty Men of The King's Troops in the Fort, who with the Governor went on board the Man of War for Safety; That the Day before he sailed, a Messenger had arrived from the back-Settlers to acquaint the People on the Coast that They (the back-Inhabitants) would not submit to any Stoppage of their Trade, and that if their Ships were not suffered to proceed with the Produce of the Country, they would come down & burn all the Houses on the Coast, and put the People to the Sword: That they could not live except they had a free-Trade & would not obey any Orders to the contrary. He further reports that the back-Settlers had stopped all Kinds of Provisions from coming down the Country for the Supply of the People on the Coast, which had prevented Them from assembling in a Body to exercise & train themselves as they had orders to do: I enquired if those back-Settlers had any Disposition to the King's Service, he said not, but that they wished not to be under the Restrictions of their Trade, and were a People impatient of Rule as the others.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/138. Viscount Harcourt was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 4th Octr 1775

I have received & communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of yesterday, acquainting with your having hoisted your Flag on board the *Chatham*, & with your intention of proceeding to Sea by the first opportunity of Wind & Weather. I am &c

P. S.

Rear Adml Shuldham, at Portsmouth

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 192.

DANISH EMBARGO ON THE SHIPMENT OF MUNITIONS TO NORTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

Translation.

We Christian VII. by the Grace of God, King of Denmark, & Norway,  
&ca &ca &ca –

Whereas His Majesty the King of Great Britain has desired Us to forbid Our Subjects giving any manner of assistance to the Inhabitants of North America, who are engaged in open War against England; and We are disposed to comply with this friendly requisition; Therefore We will and enjoin by these Presents, all our Subjects, whether Traders or others not to presume, till Our Pleasure be farther made known to send for the purpose of Traffick, either for their own Account or that of others, unto Our Islands & Colonies in America, on board Ships carrying Our Flag, or provided with Our Sea-Passports, any ammunition, or other Commodities whatever serving for warlike armaments, and consider'd as Articles of Trade; – or to take part in any such Contraband Trade disagreeable to us, & liable to many Misfortunes to themselves. The whole on pain of arbitrary & severe punishment for those who shall presume to infringe this Our gracious Ordinance.

To which all & singular Our Customhouse Officers, in Our Kingdoms of Denmark & Norway, & in our Principalities, as also Our Governor-General, Regency & Council in our West India Islands are respectfully to conform themselves, & by so doing will be indemnified for all damages. Given under Our Royal Hand & Seal, in Our Royal Castle of Fredensburgh the 4th of October 1775.

Christian R.

[Countersigned] Moltke. Praetorius. Erichsen. Trant.

1. PRO, State Papers, 75/131.

## 6 Oct.

### LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Having Ordered Capt Furneaux, Commander of His Majts Ship the *Syren* (by whom you will receive this) to put himself under your Command & follow your Orders for his farther proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him & the said Ship under your Command, and employ them as you shall find best for His Majts Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c. 6th of Octr 1775.

Sandwich C. Spencer H Palliser.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 150–151.

### LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

By &ca

<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Guns</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Men</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">50----</td> <td style="text-align: right;">350</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">32----</td> <td style="text-align: right;">200.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">28----</td> <td style="text-align: right;">180.</td> </tr> </table>	Guns	Men	50----	350	32----	200.	28----	180.	<p>You are hereby required and directed to Order the Captains of the several Ships under your Command of 50, 32, &amp; 28 Guns, to increase their respective Complements to the numbers against each expressed in the Margin; and to continue to bear such increased Complements until they receive further Order. Given &amp;ca the 6th of Octor 1775.</p>
Guns	Men								
50----	350								
32----	200.								
28----	180.								

Sandwich C. Spencer H. Palliser

by R. A. Shulddham.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 151.



JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Whitehall 6th Octr 1775.

Having received Information that a Vessel supposed to be an Advice Boat from North America, with private Intelligence from thence, passed by Cowes last Friday [September 29] and after landing a person who immediately set off for London went and lay off the back of the Isle of Wight where she continued to cruize off and on the Coast; – I am directed to acquaint you therewith for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and to desire you will submit to their Lordships whether it may not be adviseable that orders should be immediately sent to the Commanders of such of His Majesty's small Cruizers as are stationed for the Channel Service and upon any part of the Coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, that if they fall in with any Vessels to or from North America they do go on board and examine them, and in case they shall have cause to suspect from their hovering upon the Coast, or from other Circumstances that they are employed for the purpose of secretly carrying Letters and Intelligence to or from the Colonies now in Actual Rebellion, they do seize all such Letters and bring the Vessel into some Port, there to be detained till further Orders. – I am &ca

J. Pownall.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 20.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Chatham* Spithead 6 October 1775.

The *Chatham* was unmoor'd yesterday with a Moderate Wind at WNWt and I expected you would have been informed of her being at Sea, but about three OClock it came round to the SWt in which Quarter it continues now blowing fresh and Captain Raynor was under a necessity of giving Orders to moor again. This detention gives me an Opportunity of representing to you the Careless and unfinished manner in which I found my Apartment, as well as those of the Captain and Officers of the *Chatham*, indeed mine so very unfit for an Officer of my Rank that I am sure there is not a Man on board her who is not furnished with a more Warm and comfortable Lodging; whether this is owing to the negligence of the Workmen, or those who overlook them, or to the false and ill judg'd Oeconomy, which prevails in our Dock Yards, is not my business to enquire, but I am confident, Sir, it is a matter of such importance that requires the interposition of their Lordships Authority to enquire into and correct in all His Majesty's Ships, but particularly in those destined on the laborious Service, and in the severe Climate where I am appointed to Command, lest their Lordships should suppose I have exaggerated in this representation I beg leave to refer them for confirmation of the truth of it, to Commissioner [James] Gambier and Sir Peter Parker who did me the honor to dine with me yesterday on board the *Chatham*.

As the Season is now so far advanced that it is likely I shall meet very severe Weather on the Coast of America, I apprehend the Weight & Inconvenience of the Flat bottom Boat now on board may be of very bad consequence, therefore should be glad to be disincumber'd of her, and that she may be sent at a more favourable opportunity. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

[Endorsed]

Minute 9 Oct let him know I will lay it before their Ldps at their next Meeting.  
12 Octor Send it to the Navy Board with directions to enquire into the matter complained of & to report to their Ldps how they find the same to be & whether the offrs appd & particularly the naval, have been fitted in the usual Manner Flag Ships are usually fitted, & if any thing has been omitted to supply it if there is time for it.

Let him know it in further answer to his Lre & that as the Flat bottm Boat will be much wanted in No America their Ldps cannot consent to his leaving it behind

Navy Board Report dated 20 October 1775.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

7 Oct.

#### BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

1775

7th Octor Commanders of Several of the Cruizers on home Stations order'd to look out for and intercept a Vessel supposed to be an Advice Boat from North America with Private Intelligence which landed a Person at the Isle of Wight a few days ago, who immediately set off for London.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

#### REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Chatham, Spithead 7th Octor 1775 -

As I am still detain'd by a contrary Westerly Wind, I profit of the Opportunity of Writing to you again on the subject of the Service on which I am going, and as it is probable I may be under a necessity of sending many of the Vessels under my Command to the Leeward Islands to Clean and refitt, I shall be glad you will signifye my request to their Lordships, that the Commander in Chief on that Station may be directed to send me One of the Cleanest of his Cruziers he may have, to replace Each of those I may be oblig'd to send to Antigua, and that this mode, if their Lordships approve of it, may be pursued and provided for as long as they may think proper: I must likewise beg the favour their Lordships will please to give directions that Mittings or Woolen Gloves may be made an Article in the Slops sent out to America, and that, as it is not impossible but the

Ships on that Service may be cut off from a constant supply of Water, that the Coppers of those Ships may be fitted according to Mr Irvines invention for Distilling Fresh Water from Salt, and also that they may be supplied with Mr Osbridge's Machine for Sweetning bad Water. I am, Sir [&c.]

M. Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. According to endorsements, Shuldham's request for a ship from the Leeward islands was refused, and he was directed to send his ships for repair to England. His other requests were granted.

10 Oct.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Chatham*, Spithead, 10th Octor 1775 -

I am to Acknowledge the Receipt of Their Lordships Order to me of the 29th past for proceeding to Boston, together with the other Orders and instructions for my Government, accompanying it, which should have been acknowledg'd sooner but thro' mistake and the hurry I was in at leaving Town. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Chatham*, Spithead 10th Octor 1775

As Their Lordships have been pleased to appoint me to the important Command at North America, I must take the liberty of representing to you, that the *Chatham* is the worst and Oldest of any of the Fifty Gunships upon that Service, as well as extremely unfit and inconvenient for a Flag-Officer Commanding in Chief on a Service where his Ship is to be his constant residence, without the probability of lying a Night out of her during the course of his Command; I must therefore beg the favour you will signifie my request to Their Lordships, that they will please to Order, that the *Vigilant* at this Port may be fitted properly for me and sent out in the Spring; the difference of the Draught of Water is Trifling and the additional number of Men I am confident will never want constant and necessary Employment. The reason of my particularizing, and making choice of the *Vigilant* is, that she is the most Floaty Ship of her Class in this Harbour. I submit the propriety of this request to Their Lordships Consideration, and am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES BIDDLE <sup>1</sup>

[Nantes, October 10, 1775]

I found there was no powder to be had here [Lorient], and therefore set off in a small French coaster for Nantes. The morning we went from L'Orient the skipper fell into the hold, and was so much hurt he thought it necessary to bear away and go into the river Vilaine, where his family lived. The crew all went

from the vessel, and there was no one left on board but an old French seaman I brought from Philadelphia, and myself. As it was cold, I ordered him down in the cabin and to shut the scuttle. A short time after, perceiving a fire in the caboose which was in the hold, I told Peter to get up and put it out, but the hasp of the scuttle had got over the staple, and he could not get out, and there was no cabin window by which we could escape. In vain we tried every method to break or cut our way out. Fortunately the fire burnt down without doing any damage. It blew hard, and we remained in this perilous situation for twenty-four hours before the boat came on board and released us. As the wind was ahead, I went on shore. The people appeared to live very miserably, having little but black bread and fish to live upon. We remained here two or three days, when we sailed for Nantes, where we arrived the 10th of October in the evening.

1. Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*, 77, 78.

## 12 Oct.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, SPITHEAD<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 12. Octr 1775.

Having received three Letters from Philadelphia dated the 10th 19th & 29th of July last, giving an Account of the Rebellious proceedings of His Majesty's Subjects there, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admty to send you herewith Copies thereof for your Information. I am &c.

P. S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 211.

## 13 Oct.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London, 13 October 1775.

No. 297

Sir This week went by again and we have had no meeting with the Ministry. I have attempted, however, to enlighten myself positively on what had happened in America, since the papers have been filled for the past week with such circumstantial details concerning an action in Boston that it was difficult finally to think that they were unfounded as they appeared to be. It is however the exact truth, the Council has no information concerning this news and they do not believe it to be worthy of credence.

I discussed this matter in great detail with the person to whom I went, who is attached to the Ministry and whose knowledge and friendship will be, I hope, most useful to me in these circumstances. Without doubt, the majority of the members of the Council reckon more than ever on a discord among the provinces of Northern America. The southern provinces are quite annoyed by the war and especially by the cessation of all trade. Paper money is a source of everyday grumble in public opinion; one must resort to force to bring it into circulation. This important point may become the rock that will thwart all the efforts of the

Congress and cause its dissolution: there is even a letter from New York which asserts that this province refuses to pay forty thousand pound sterling levied by the Congress.

The Ministry has been flattering itself in this manner for more than a year, and convinced that the Americans would fear war, it placed itself in a position where it had to start the war without really having the means to wage it with success; but the time has come now when the matter must be settled. The Ministry will come out unscathed in this Parliamentary session, but it should fear the next one. Either conciliation or force must end this American affair in 1776, or else great events will take place in this country which can be abused for awhile, but where an understanding attitude can then be replaced by one all the more terrible for those who owe Great Britain an account for their behavior.

All private opinions always confirm a negotiation with Russia; you hold, *Monsieur le Comte*, the same view. We differ only on the outcome; I have forwarded the information to you such as it had been given to me; it was my duty to do so in circumstances of this importance; I saw all the dangers, but they would not have warranted my silence. Furthermore, the principle of the thing is essential here, since an alliance with Russia would bring terror to America, raise the stock of the Ministry here, and give England the opportunity, the means and perhaps the desire to become less peaceful than it had been heretofore necessary as circumstances had isolated her.

Myld North summoned to his home one of the presidents of the board of the India Company and asked him how many recruits the Company intended to send there this year. The president answered two to three thousand. The Minister told him that he had asked him to stop at his home for this reason, that he had no orders to give to the Company, but that he wished, in the name of the King and in his own name, to point out to him that the levy of recruits for the East Indies would prevent one for the service of the King, in view of the fact that His British Majesty had great need of his troops in order to carry with vigor the next campaign against the Americans.

Another project of more considerable importance is about to be carried out: it concerns an establishment on the Mosquito Coast<sup>2</sup> on the continent of Southern America. The plan of the Ministry is to acquire land from the chief of the inhabitants of this region and to sell or lease it to those who will agree to settle there; thirty or forty thousand settlers are expected to be attracted there. This project may be surprising at first, but its execution will seem more practicable once you consider the collateral aspects.

The land could not be more fertile; it produces sugar comparable in quality to that produced in the islands of the west indies, as well as indigo, cotton, etc. It is rich in food plants of all kinds; European food plants adjust excellently; the animals brought there multiply amazingly; the wood found there, known as Campeche wood, also called Mahogany in England, is a source of valuable trade. The King's son of that country and two other Indian chiefs have been in London for some time and have lodgings at the home of the person who conceived the plan for this establishment. He is a man with great talent, much genius, extensive



knowledge and who seems to have a turn for conceiving great undertakings and carrying them out.

... it would open a new and most interesting branch of trade and that, especially at the present time; it would make the separation of England from her colonies less detrimental. He insisted most strongly on the political point in view of the location of this establishment; it can in time become the key to the Spanish possessions occupying a central position among them. One can imagine the consequences for this power having the English in such force on that part of the continent; at present, the latter only have a few outposts there for the protection of the governor of Jamaica, which have already inflicted much loss to the Spanish trade.

I enclose a petition from the city of Bristol presented the day before yesterday at the levee of the King of England by Mr. Burke, one of the best supporters of the opposition. It is opposite all the preceding petitions; it rejects means of force; it asserts that only a good conciliation offers a true solution. The Ministry agrees on this point; but where are these possible means of conciliation?

#### News from the Admiralty and the Ports.

Have been ordered abroad:

<i>Isis</i>	50	guns
<i>Emerald</i>	32	"
<i>Active</i>	28	"
<i>Fox</i>	28	"
<i>Greyhound</i>	28	"
<i>Mylford [Milford]</i>	28	"
<i>Garland</i>	24	"
<i>Sphinx [Sphynx]</i>	20	" for the Channel
<i>Bristol</i> with 50 guns will become a flagship.		

Rumors have it that *Jersey* with 60 guns will become a hospital ship.

#### Chatham:

*Syren* is taking guns and ammunition, etc on board.

*Boreas* is almost completely armed.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

2. "Mosquito Coast" or Shore referred to an area between the Cape of Honduras and the mouth of the San Juan river of Nicaragua.

#### 14 Oct.

LORD SUFFOLK TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY<sup>1</sup>

My Lords,

Whitehall 14th Octr 1775. —

Advices having been received at Lord Dartmouth's Office that the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania in open Rebellion against The King, have been for some time past preparing a number of Armed Craft in the form of floating Batteries for the purpose of annoying and attacking the Kings Ships that may be sent into that River, and that they have also prepared and sunk in the Channel of the River,

Machines for obstructing the Navigation; I am commanded by The King, in Lord Dartmouth's absence, to transmit to Your Lordships the inclosed particulars of those Advices, and to signify to Your Lordship His Majesty's pleasure, that if Admiral Shuldham is not yet Sailed, you do apprize him, by Express, of these preparations, and instruct him that he do immediately upon his arrival in America, send some of the Vessels under his Command of a proper size and force to endeavour to destroy those floating Batteries and other Armed Craft, and to weigh up, or otherwise render useless, the Machines sunk in the Channel of the River with a view to obstruct Navigation. — I am &ca

Suffolk

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 24.

DANIEL DE LAVAL TO LORD SUFFOLK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Copenhagen Saturday October 14th 1775.

No. 34./

My Lord, It is with some satisfaction, I have, at last, the honor of sending Your Lordship, the Edict by which the King of Denmark has prohibited the Exportation of Warlike Stores, and other Articles of Commerce, serving for Military Armaments, to the Danish Colonies.<sup>2</sup> It was sent me on Tuesday Night, after the departure of the Post, which sets out at Eight o'Clock. I have translated it *verbatim*, for Your Lordship's convenience. Count Bernsdorff seems to have much at heart, the Execution of this Placarte, and hoped the King and His Ministers would be convinced, that the Danish Ministers think themselves happy, in seizing every opportunity of proving, how much they covet to deserve the friendship of Great-Britain.

1. PRO, State Papers 75/131. De Laval was British Resident to Denmark.

2. A translation of this edict, signed by King Christian the Seventh on October 4, 1775, appeared in *The Annual Register or a View of the History, Politics, and Literature For the Year 1775*, third edition (London, 1780), 164. Translation is also in Public Record Office; see October 4 entry.

15 Oct. (Sunday)

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

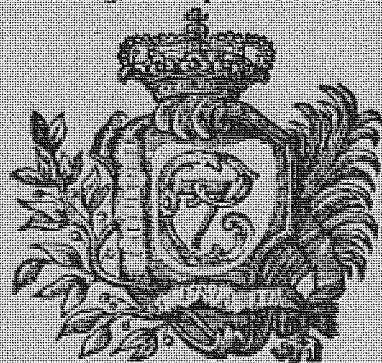
The Earl of Suffolk, one of His Majts Principal Secretaries of State, having transmitted to Us, with his Letter of Yesterday's date a List\* of Ordnance & Stores belonging to His Majesty in the Bermuda Islands & at the Island of Providence in the Government of the Bahama's, the first of which Places being entirely without Troops for it's defence, and the other having only a very inconsiderable Detachment from one of the Regiments serving in North America, there is reason to apprehend some attempts may be made by His Majts Rebellious Subjects to possess themselves of those Stores; You are therefore hereby required & directed, in pursuance of His Majts pleasure signified to Us by his Lordship in his said Letter, to station one of the small Ships of your Squadron at the Bermuda Islands & another at the Is-

\*See it  
on the  
other-  
side.

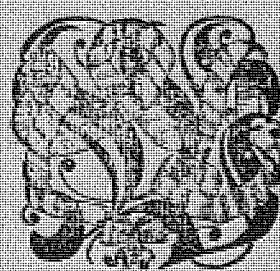
# Verordnung,

wodurch  
es verboten wird, bis weiter unter  
Königlicher Dänischer Flagge und  
mit Dänischen Seepässen Munition und an-  
dere Kriegs-Armatur zum Handel nach den  
Dänischen Westindischen Inseln  
zu führen.

Friedensburg, den 4ten October 1775.



KOPENHAGEN.  
Bedruckt bey dem Directeur Nicolaus Christian Höpfner,  
Er. Königl. Majestät und der Universitäts Buchdrucker.

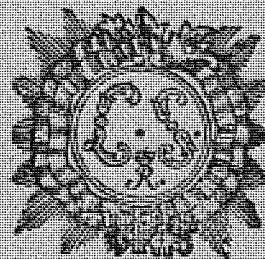


Wir Christian  
der Siebende,  
von Gottes Gna-  
den, König zu Dän-

nemark, Norwegen, der Wenden und Gothen, Her-  
zog zu Schleswig, Holstein, Stormarn und der Dit-  
marschen, Graf zu Oldenburg und Delmenhorst, &c. &c.  
Thun kund hiemit: Nachdem Ihro Majestät, der König von  
Groß-Britannien, es von Uns begehret haben, daß Wir Unsern

Ergeben auf Unserm Königl. Schloß Friedensburg, den  
4ten October 1775.

Christian R.



*Extracts from a Danish edict prohibiting the exportation to the Danish colonies in America of munitions  
in Danish vessels, October 4, 1775.*

land of Providence, for the safety & preservation thereof, in case any such attempts should be made against them. Given &c. 15th Octr 1775.

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

Duplicate by the *Alborough* – 15 Jan'y 1776 –

[Other side]

Inventory of Stores at Providence Bahama Islands.

- 600. Barrels of Gunpowder
- 3. Iron Mortars
- 75. Iron Guns of different Calibras
- 1,500. Stand of Fire Arms or Musquets.

Inventory of Stores at Bermuda

- 700. Barrels of Gunpowder
- 153. Iron Guns of different Calibres
- 1,200. Stand of Fire Arms or Musquets.

By R. A. Shuldham.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 177, 178. A similar letter to Rear Admiral Shuldham was written the same day, PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 219–220.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Intelligence having been received that the Inhabitants of Pensylvania in open Rebellion against the King have been, for some time past, preparing a number of arm'd Craft in the form of floating batteries for the purpose of annoying and attacking His Majts Ships that may be sent into that River, and, that they have also prepared & Sunk in the Channel of the River Machines for obstructing the Navigation; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us, (in the Earl of Dartmouth's absence) by the Earl of Suffolk one of His Majts. Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of Yesterday's date, immediately upon the Receipt hereof, to send some of the Vessels under your Command, of a proper Size & force, to endeavor to destroy those floating batteries & to weigh up, or otherways render useless, the Machines sunk in the River with a view to obstruct the Navigation. Given &c. 15th Octr 1775.

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 178–179. A similar letter was written to Rear Admiral Shuldham the same day, PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 218.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

1775

15th Octr Vice Admiral Graves or Commander in Chief for the time being in North America was directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified yesterday by Lord Suffolk, in Lord Dartmouth's absence, to station one of the Ships of his Squadron at the Bermuda Islands and another at the Island of [New] Providence in order to defeat

any attempts which may be made by His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America to possess themselves of the Ordnance and Military Stores there.

Do Vice Admiral Graves or Do was directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure—signified in like manner, to send immediately some of the Vessels of his Squadron of a proper size and force to endeavour to destroy some floating Batteries which have been preparing by the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania for the purpose of annoying and attacking the Kings Ships that may be sent into the River Delaware and to weigh up or otherwise render useless the Machines which have been sunk in that River with a View to obstruct the Navigation.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

16 Oct.

LORD SUFFOLK TO FRANCIS LEGGE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Whitehall 16th Octr 1775. —

Sir, Mr Burrow arrived at Lord Dartmouths Office on the 13th Inst and your dispatches were immediately laid before The King. —

As soon as it was seen that the New England provinces meditated open Rebellion and Revolt, the Security of Nova Scotia became an Object of The King's care and solicitude; directions have been repeatedly given to the Commander in Chief to attend to it, and the inclosed Extracts of Lord Dartmouth's Dispatches will shew you that it has been urged in terms that marked out the Ideas that were entertained of it's Importance —

You will readily believe that His Majesty's apprehensions for the Safety of Halifax were not a little increased by the Intelligence We received of the people of Machias having with Impunity destroyed one of The King's Ships and made prize of another, and having without Interruption fitted out Armed Vessels to cruize in the Bay of Fundy. — It was therefore thought adviseable that one of the five Regiments destined to sail from Ireland for No America in the Month of September should proceed directly to Halifax, and the Transports with that Regt on board accordingly left Corke on the 27th Ultio Two other Regiments part of that Embarkation are under Order to proceed to Quebec, but if that cannot be Effected, which is likely be the Case, they will put into Halifax before they proceed to join the Army under General Howe, and the *Roebuck* a 40 Gun Ship which has been Sail'd more than three weeks for Halifax will be a considerable Augmentation of your Naval force. —

The Advices however contained in your Dispatches and the Intelligence Mr Burrow brings that the Rebels from Machias had made Descents both at St Johns and Annapolis, are very alarming Circumstances and there is but too much reason to fear that some Attempts may have been made upon Halifax before you could receive any Succour either from home or from General Gage, unless the sending the *Tartar* into the Bay of Fundy, which was a very proper and well timed measure, should have discouraged those Invaders from proceeding any further least their Retreat should be cut off. —

The ruinous State of the Fortifications at Halifax has been the Subject of frequent Consideration, but as the ablest Engineers who have been consulted upon it have concurred in opinion that the Harbour is too extensive and the Advantages of Attack too many to admit of any regular effectual Plan, all Ideas of that Kind have been laid aside. —

It is judged proper however upon the present Occasion to direct that some Works upon a temporary plan of defence should be constructed for the Security of the King's Naval Yard and the Board of Ordnance will by this Conveyance send out Orders to that Effect to the principal Engineer at Halifax or if there be none there, an Engineer will take his passage in the Packet which is specially appointed to convey this Letter. I am [&c.]

Suffolk

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/51, Nova Scotia Papers, DAC Photocopy.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO ERASMUS PHILIPS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Chatham, Spithead* 16 Octor 1775 —

I have received by Express both your Letters of yesterdays date, with the Four Inclosures to which they refer, One of those Letters signifying to me their Lordships Directions, to Station One of the small Ships under my Command, or some Arm'd Vessel at the Bermuda Islands, and a like vessel at [New] Providence, for the safety and preservation of the Ordnance and Stores belonging to His Majesty at those places, in case any attempts shou'd be made upon them; and the other Letter signifying Their Lordships Direction to me, to send some of the Vessels under my Command, of a Proper Size and Force, to Endeavour to destroy, Weigh up or otherwise render useless the Machines sunk in the Channel of the River leading to Philadelphia to obstruct the Navigation thereof; All which Orders shall be Executed immediately on the Command devolving to me after my arrival in America. I am, Sir [&c.]

M. Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Philips was Deputy Secretary of the British Admiralty.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES <sup>1</sup>

Fontainebleau, 16 October 1775

I had the honor, Sir, to receive your letter in which you conveyed your feelings concerning the opinions of our Navy Commissioner in Dunkirk with regard to the trade of the English Colonies. In pursuance of your letter, I will send orders to the main ports where American ships might call so that care will be quietly exercised to prevent them from taking on war ammunition. I will write only to the Intendants, General Commissioners and Controllers, urging them to use much caution in the execution of these orders so that they remain unknown on the outside.

I have the honor to remain with sincere attachment, Sir, your very humble and very obedient servant.

de Sartine

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO MARINE AGENT AT LORIENT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Fontainebleau, 16 October 1775

I feel I must send to you, Sir, in secret, the observations which Count de Vergennes has just addressed to me by letter, a copy of which is attached in consequence of a note which reached me from Dunkerque regarding trade in the English colonies.<sup>2</sup> I leave up to you the methods which you will use to best insure that American ships bound for the colonies do not transport war supplies. I only recommend that you exercise the greatest reserve so that no one may become aware of them, or that these precautions come to be known outside.

1. APL, 1, E4, 71.

2. See Vergennes to Sartine, September 30, 1775.

17 Oct.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 17h October 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 15h Instant, inclosing a Copy of one you received from Captain [Skeffington] Lutwidge of the *Triton*, setting forth the great utility he experienced in Ice Saws on a late Northern Voyage, and desiring that he may be supplied with two of them for the use of the said Ship Which request you hope their Lordships will comply with, and that they will likewise give directions, that each of the Ships on the American Station may be furnished with two of them, according to the Dimensions in Mr Lutwidges Letter; And in return, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that all the Saws and other Ice Implements which were provided for the *Racehorse* and *Carcass* on their late Voyage towards the North Pole are sent to North America in the *Experiment* and *Niger* to be employed on board such Ships as the Commander in Chief shall think proper, and their Lordships therefore judge it unnecessary to send out any further quantity at present. I am &c -

P: S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 227.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 17h October 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having directed Vice Admiral Graves to cause the Complements of His Majesty's Ships of 50 Guns under his Command to be increased to 350 Men each; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to order the Captain of the *Chatham* to encrease her Complement to the same number of Men, and to apply to Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas for such a number of the Supernumeraries borne on board the *Barfleur* as may be wanting for that purpose. I am &ca

P. S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 226.

18 Oct.

MINUTE OF THE LORDS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY<sup>1</sup>

[Admiralty Office] Minute 18 Oct [1775] Let him [Rear Admiral Molyneux Shuldham] know that their Lordships cannot consent to the employing the *Vigilant* in the manner he proposes as 50 G Ships are judged to be of a sufft size for the Service on which he is going to be employed, & that as the *Chatham* has lately had a V Adml on bd of her their Ldps cannot conceive but that she is very fit for the Service She is now going upon

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 18h October 1775

Having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 10h Instant representing that the *Chatham* is the worst and oldest of any of the 50 Gun Ships upon the North American Service, as well as extremely unfit and inconvenient for a Flag Officer commanding in Chief on a Service where his Ship is to be his constant residence, and therefore desiring that the *Vigilant* may be fitted properly for you, and sent out in the Spring; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that as Fifty Gun Ships are judged to be of a sufficient size for the Service on which you are going, they cannot consent to the *Vigilant* being fitted out for that purpose; and that as the *Chatham* has lately had a Vice Admiral on board of her, Their Lordships cannot conceive but that she is very fit for what she is now going to be employed in. I am &c

P: S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 231-232.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Chatham* Spithead 18th Octobr 1775

Few things have given me greater Concern than my long Detention at this place, which I have been Oblig'd to submit to on account of the Westerly Winds, which have blown, & still continue without any intermission; I am now getting under sail with a fresh Wind at WSWt to try, tho' without much Expectation of Success, to make some progress to the Westward. I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

19 Oct.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

1775

19th Octr The Kings pleasure was signified by [William Henry Zuytlestein] Lord Rochford that Transport Vessels should be forthwith taken up to carry the 15th 37th 53d & 57th Regiments of Foot from Ireland



to North America, & Orders were next day given to the Navy Board for that purpose.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

JOHN ROBINSON TO WILLIAM FOSTER.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Treasury Chamber Octr 19th 1775

Herein you will receive Directions for proper Signals to enable you to know any of his Majesty's Vessels belonging to the Squadron in America which you may happen to fall in with on the Coast of America. You are to take care to keep such Signals as private as possible and when you quit his Majesty's Service as a Store-ship or Transport; You are to deliver up the Paper directing the Signals to the Admiral or Commander in Chief of the Fleet in America. Proper Orders are sent to his Majesty's Ships on that Station and by a strict Observance of their Rules you will perfectly distinguish your Friends from any Foes. You are to take Care not to go into Boston or any other Port in America until you shall meet with some of his Majesty's Ships who can conduct you in, direct you to the Place where the Army is and assure you that it is a Port of Safety,<sup>2</sup> I am, Sir [&c.]

John Robinson

1. Intercepted Letters, Papers CC, 51, II, 157, NA; copy in Red Book, XIII, 37-1, Md. Arch. Robinson was Secretary of the British Treasury. Foster was master of the ship *Jenny*.
2. The *Jenny*, which sailed from London late in October, was taken in Massachusetts Bay around December 8, 1775, by John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee*. Before the boarding officer reached the *Jenny*, Captain Foster threw his papers overboard and many were lost. The Robinson letter was among the few saved.

20 Oct.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL  
SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Having ordered Captain [Christopher] Atkins Commr of His Majestys Ship the *Actaeon* (by whom you will receive this) to put himself under your command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him and the said Ship under your command & employ them as you shall find best for His Majestys Service entrusted to your care. Given &c  
20th Octo 1775

Sandwich C Spencer H Palliser

The like Order to him to take under his command,

Capt [Charles] Thompson	-----	of the <i>Boreas</i>
" [Skeffington] Lutwidge	-----	<i>Triton</i>
" [Thomas] Symonds	-----	<i>Solebay</i>

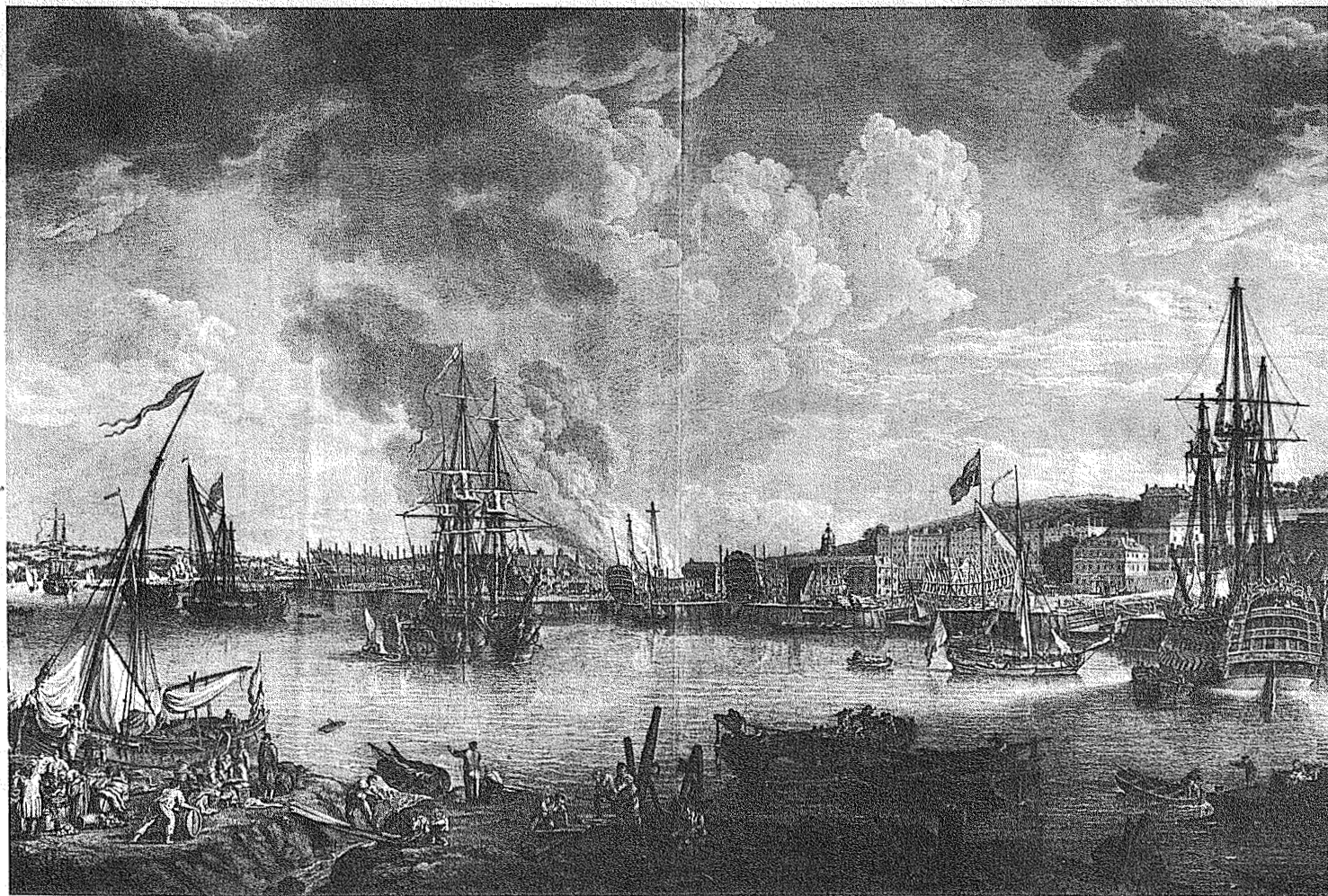
1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 185, 186.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 20th Octo 1775

Capt Atkins of His Majestys Ship *Actaeon* being ordered to take the *Charming Sally* Willm Robinson Master laden with Ordnance Stores & bound to Halifax



*Chatham Dockyard, England. By Pierre C. Canot after Richard Paton and John H. Mortimer, 1775.*

under his Convoy and see her in safety to Boston; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to signify their direction to you & upon the said Storeships arrival at Boston to send her from thence under proper Convoy to Halifax &c

P S

Vice Adml Graves — at Boston

or

The Commr in Chief for the time being

By the *Actaeon*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/549, 241.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA <sup>1</sup>

1775

20th Octr The Commanders of several of the Cruizers on the home Stations were order'd in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified by Lord Rochford yesterday to look out for and endeavour to seize the *Industry* Brig which is shortly expected to arrive in Great Britain from New England, securing all Letters or Packets which may be found on board and bringing her into the first convenient Port in England to be there detained til' further Order.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London, 20 October 1775

No. 298

Sir, I brought up again the Newfoundland affair yesterday. All the Ministers are here and there is no reason to postpone it anymore. I intend to speak of this matter every day to Mylord Rochford, and you will assist me most effectually if you will do the same with Mylord Stormont; the great policy of the British Ministers is to gain time.

The affair seems clear to me, and Mylord Rochford himself agrees. If there is to be no competition, English fishermen have no right to be established between Bonavista and St. John. If competition is the rule, it excludes by its own right sedentary establishments that would make it unreal; in both cases, it is a point in our favor. We have another undisputable one arising from the orders which the King of England gave in 1764 and 1770 to destroy these establishments following the memoranda delivered by the French Ambassadors to this Court. These orders which have proved to be without effect after eleven years can no longer be offered as a satisfaction to our grievances. Mylord Rochford, however, repeatedly made such a proposal yesterday, on his own, he said, without authorization, as if it were a new idea that had just entered his mind. I answered that this was all we wished, if the effective date could be determined at the earliest time so that our next fishing operation could become a reality, which the King <sup>2</sup> would have no other way. We must give the impression to require this in order to make the exchange necessary, in as much as it

is the only means of conciliation, and so that we turn the affair more surely to our advantage.

As for the competition, Mylord Rochford told me several times yesterday that it was absurd; that this mixture of English and French fishermen would be an eternal source of difficulties; and as he seemed to fear such difficulties, I innocently suggested to him that we send warships to police our fishermen as England does it with her own. As I expected, this idea made him shudder, and I do not despair that we can use it again, perhaps effectively, to make him finally sick of competition.

I had to prolong my conference with this Minister because of the subject of Newfoundland; I left it to the Prince of Masseran [Maserand] to talk to him of the American affairs, and to probe his ulterior plans, as we have continually and carefully been doing. The Minister gave yesterday morning the order to send four more Infantry Regiments to Boston. The militia will receive orders, and the plan to have at least 40 thousand men available in America next summer appears certain. The Prince of Masseran made a few remarks upon the difficulty and the necessity to resort to foreign troops, in an effort to prevent it; he immediately mentioned the Russians. Mylord Rochford replied that they would take them wherever they could get them, and referred only to the men from Brunswick and Hesse. Here is something, Sir, of which I was warned yesterday by someone who has been of useful service to us for several years and whose information always proved to be correct. Day before yesterday, Lord North sent for Mr. Franks, a wealthy Jew and an esteemed merchant. He struck a bargain with him to supply rations between now and July next to the troops in America as follows:

19 thousand Englishmen

12 thousand Canadians

15 thousand Russians

Total: 46 thousand men.

This contract is very expensive and will cost fifty per cent more than if they could procure these supplies in America, since it is necessary to send them from Europe. Mr. Franks himself confided this fact in the person from whom I have it and asked that it be kept secret because Mylord North had expressly requested it. This Minister even added that he especially did not want revealed the number of Russians who were going to be in the pay of Great Britain. Mr. Franks is particularly esteemed by Their Britannic Majesties.

I would answer, Sir, for the loyalty of the person who gave me these details as I would for myself. I do not doubt that he received them from Mr. Franks. However, why speak of the Russians if it is to be a mystery; and why would Mylord North have struck such a large bargain to such an important purpose a week before the return of Parliament which has not given him its consent? As to the first objection, it is indeed possible that this Minister found it safer to present the accomplished fact and have all the preparations for the war in America decided upon, rather than having them exposed to the delays and even the uncertainties of the decisions of Parliament. The ratification will be just as easy to obtain and it will not involve detrimental delays.

The Ministry expects long debates on the opening day. They hope that Lord Chatham will not be able to be there. That day will be especially interesting as the topic of the address by the King of England will be restricted to the American affairs, and the Ministry will present immediately afterwards the facts, the available means, and its own views.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

2. Louis XVI.

## 21 Oct.

### WILLIAM EDEN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Saturday evening 1/2 pt 10—[Bushy Park October 21]

We have not any news worth mentioning: I am very sorry to say, however, that I find the Idea entertain'd of Shulldham by some who know Him well, is by no Means better than that of the wretched Commander whom He supersedes. —

1. Germain Papers, CL.

## 22 Oct. (Sunday)

### LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY <sup>1</sup>

My Lords,

Whitehall Octr 22d 1775.

Advices having been received from different parts of America, that the Inhabitants of the Colonies in general which are associated in Arms against The King are collecting and fitting out Armed Vessels, for effecting in various ways their Rebellious purposes; I am commanded — to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in No America be instructed that he do give the most positive Orders to the Captains of the sevl Ships under his Command to exert their utmost Endeavours to prevent such Preparations, & to burn & destroy every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out from any of the Colonies with such traitorous Designs. I am &ca

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 26.

### PRECIS PREPARED FOR THE KING OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE SOUTHERN COLONIES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Whitehall, October 22, 1775]

Mr Martin Govr of North Carolina, in his Dispatches to the Earl of Dartmouth dated in July 1775, & which were received on the 10th of Sept'r makes a full representation of the State of that Province, and it appearing that notwithstanding he had been reduced to the humiliating necessity of taking refuge on board His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* in Cape Fear River, & of submitting to the disgrace of seeing the King's Fort burnt by the rebels, yet he continued to be of opinion, that if he was supported with a small Force, and a supply of Arms & some Field Pieces, he could raise a Body of Men in that Colony sufficient to reduce



Lord George Germaine

the rebellious Subjects both there, and in South Carolina, to obedience, & to awe the Colony of Virginia, & prevent any Auxiliaries being sent from thence to the Northward. He further says that Addresses, in support of Govt had been sent to him from the back Settlements, & that these Addresses had been signed by 14 or 1500 Men.

In consequence of these Dispatches the Earl of Dartmouth on the 2d Sept<sup>r</sup> signified The King's Commands to the Master General of the Ordnance, that he should send to the Commander in Chief in No America, 10,000 stand of Arms & 6 light Field Pieces, together with 200 rounds of Powder & Ball for each Musket & field Piece in order to enable him to afford such aid & assistance to the Governor of No Carolina, as the situation and circumstances of that Province, might from time to time, require; And the Mastr General of the Ordnance was at the same time informed, that one of His Majesty's Ships of War would be ordered to take under her convoy such Storeship as the Board of Ordnance should provide for the conveyance of the Arms & Artillery abovementioned.

On the 15th Sept<sup>r</sup> Lord Dartmouth acquainted Major Genl Howe by letter, with the substance of the Advices which had been received from Govr Martin & with the orders which had been given respecting the Arms and Artillery which were to be sent to him; and at the same time signified to him His Majesty's Pleasure, that if he should find, when the letter reached him, that there was good ground to suppose that the sending to No Carolina a Detachment of his Army under an able & intelligent Officer, would have the good effect Mr Martin seemed to expect from it, & His Majesty's Service would, in other respects, admit of it, he should in that case, send such Detachment accordingly, consisting of, at least, one Battalion, together with the Arms & Field Pieces above mentioned.

On the 23d Sept<sup>r</sup> a letter was recd at Ld Dartmouth's Office from Lord Wm Campbell the Govr of South Carolina, containing a very full representation of the State of that Province, from which it appeared that a very considerable part of the People suffering under the tyranny & oppression of the traitorous Acts of the Congresses & Committees, had shewn a disposition to resist them, & to support legal Govern<sup>t</sup> & therefore as this was a circumstance deserving attention, in any plan which the Commander in chief might have in view, in consequence of Lord Dartmouth's letter of the 15th Sept<sup>r</sup> for employing a part of his force during the open part of the Winter in an Expedition to the Southward, it was judged proper to transmit this intelligence to him in a Dispatch dated 25th of Sept<sup>r</sup>.

These Advices recd from the Govrs of No Carolina & So Carolina were in great measure confirmed by other intelligence received thro' variety of channels. Persons of property & interest in the Southern Colonies complained that the friends of Govt there, were neglected; & Lord Dunmore, in a Dispatch recd much about the same time, made himself responsible for securing the obedience of Virginia, with the assistance of a small Force.

Upon a view of all these Circumstances, it was resolved early in Oct<sup>r</sup> to take up the consideration of an Expedition to the Southern Colonies upon a more extensive plan; & His Majesty's Pleasure was signified that 5 Regiments of Infantry, Vizt the 15th 37th 53d 54th & 57th and also 2 Companies of Artillery, taking with them 10 Battalion Guns, & as many Howitzers & Ammusettes as the



number of Artillery Men could serve, should hold themselves in readiness to embark on or before the 1st of December.

On the 22d of Octr Lord Dartmouth acquainted Major General Howe with the grounds & reasons upon which this plan was adopted, & with the orders that had been given, for the several Corps to hold themselves in readiness. His Lordship further acquainted the General, that the whole would be ordered to proceed under convoy of a proper Naval Force to Cape Fear River, where there was good reason to expect, from the representations made by Govr Martin, they would be joined by a large Body of Highland Emigrants. The General was also told that it was The King's Intention that this Body of Troops should, upon their arrival, be under the Command of one of the General Officers then with him, & that one of them should proceed immediately upon the arrival of that Dispatch in a ship of War to Cape Fear River, & to remain on board either within the River, or in the Offing, as should be judged most proper, until the arrival of the Forces from Corke, before which time it was observed, he would probably have been able to collect such information & materials as might enable him the better to judge of the plan of operations to be pursued — And as there was reason to believe that the Navigation of that part of the Coast of North America was both dangerous & difficult, the having 2 or 3 small Vessels furnished with able Pilots to cruize off the Coast for the arrival of the Fleet was mentioned to him as a circumstance deserving his attention.

It was further observed in that Dispatch that the representations made by Govr Martin, of the great probability there was, that any body of Troops sent to No Carolina would, upon their arrival, be joined, by a considerable number of Highland Emigrants, & by the well-affected Inhabitants of 4 or 5 Counties, were the reasons which had principally induced The King's Servants to advise the Armaments proceeding in the first place to Cape Fear River in North Carolina, but that at the same time it was not His Majesty's Intentions that the Genl should in his plan of operations, be confined to any particular Province, & that his choice, in that respect, must be governed by his own judgment, after maturely weighing every circumstance of greater or less advantage & facility, in the means of restoring the public tranquillity & reestablishing the authority of The King's Govt which object being once effected in any one of the Southern Colonies, the Troops might proceed to another, leaving the support & protection of that which had been so reduced to a Corps formed out of the well-affected Provincials who should have taken up Arms in The King's Cause.

With regard to the steps which it might be proper for the General to take in case he should possess himself either of the Capital of any of the Southern Provinces, or of any other Town in which the Civil Govr might exercise the functions of his Office with safety, it was suggested that it would be proper, in that case to require that all Committees of Towns or Congresses of such Committees, as well as other unlawful associations which had been formed, should be dissolved. That the Courts of Justice should be opened. That all persons whatsoever should take the oaths of allegiance before the Judges of such Courts, & that those who had, by the instigation of the Committees, taken up Arms





Map of the Southern British Colonies in America, 1776.

against lawful Authority, should surrender the same, & make such declaration of their future obedience as the Govr should, by the advice of the Council, direct & require. But that if the Inhabitants of the Province, or any part of them, should refuse to comply with these requisitions, it would be the duty of The King's General, to employ the Troops under his Command, to force them to obedience, by seizing the persons & effects of the Delinquents, & by proceeding against any Towns in which the People should assemble in Arms, hold meetings of Committees or Congresses or prevent The King's Courts of Justice from assembling.

It was further observed that the sending so considerable a body of Troops, was a Measure adopted principally upon the encouragement held out by the King's Governors, that if such a respectable force was sent as might make it safe for the friends of Govt to shew themselves, they would soon prevail over those, who having found means to get the sword into their hands, had been able to effect their rebellious purposes without control, & therefore at the same time that the Rebels were to be encouraged to hope for mercy upon submission, it would be proper that every species of reward should be offered to those who should consent to list under the Royal Banner, & who, besides an allowance of the same pay as the King's Troops rec'd so long as they continued in service, should be encouraged to expect a remission of all arrears of Quit rent due to the Crown. & an exemption from the payment of any, for a few years to come.

There are a variety of other circumstances pointed out in Lord Dartmouth's letter to Genl Howe not necessary to recite in this Narrative,

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/232.

2. *Ibid.*, 5/161; the date is a mistake in the *Precis*. Dartmouth's order to the Master General of the Ordnance is dated September 12, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH [ENGLAND], OCT. 22."<sup>1</sup>

This morning sailed again his Majesty's ship *Chatham*, Admiral Shuldhham, for Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, October 21 to October 24, 1775.

## 23 Oct.

### LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Advices having been received from different parts of America that the Inhabitants of the Colonies in general which are associated in Arms against the King, are collecting and fitting out arm'd Vessels for effecting, in various ways, their rebellious purposes; You are hereby required & directed, in pursuance of the King's pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of yesterday's date, to give the most positive Orders to the Captns of the several Ships under your command, to exert their utmost endeavours to prevent such preparations and to burn,

and destroy, every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out from any of the Colonies with such traitorous designs. Given &c. the 23d of October. 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By R. A. Shuldhham — *vide Lre* to him,

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 201–202.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 23d. October 1775

Herewith you will receive two Packets from the Earl of Dartmouth addressed to the Honble Major General Howe, Commander in Chief of His Majestys Forces at [blank] in North America which being of great consequence to His Majestys Service, I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to cause the said Packets to be forwarded, agreeable to their address immediately after your arrival in those Parts. I am &c

P: S:

By Express at ½ past 5<sup>o</sup> O'clock. P: M:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 247.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 23d October 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having by their order of this date, addressed to Vice Admiral Graves or the Commander in Chief for the time being of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, directed him to give the most positive orders to the Captains of the several Ships under his Command to burn and destroy every armed Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out by the Inhabitants of the Colonies in general which are associated in arms against the King; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith a Copy of the said order for your information and guidance in case you shall happen to fall in with any the said Vessels in your passage to North America. I am &c

P: S:

P:S: You will please to deliver the inclosed Packet containing the above orders to Vice Admiral Graves upon your arrival.

By Express at ½ past 5 o'Clock P.M.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 247.

**24 Oct.**

LORD SANDWICH TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM <sup>1</sup>

[Copy.]

*Private*

Admiralty, 24th October 1775.

Dear Sir—I take the chance of catching you at Plymouth to apprise you that five regiments from Ireland are ordered to embark without delay; and as the transports

are already engaged, will probably sail the beginning of December. Their destination is to North Carolina, in order to take possession of that province and to make a powerful diversion by that means to the attacks of the rebels in the north. As Sir Peter Parker will be ready for the sea in about a month, he will have the conduct of this expedition; and as we understand that the 28-gun ships are rather too large to get up the river, we shall muster all the small 20-gun ships that can be got ready in time and appropriate them to this service; but we have no sloops to spare, so that if you think after your arrival at Boston that you can spare any small craft that will be of use in this business, you would do well to send them to await the arrival of Sir Peter Parker with the transports. And if you can with privacy procure any pilots for that coast, it might be of material service; but you must be upon your guard about keeping this matter an impenetrable secret, unless you should find it necessary to communicate it to General Howe or the commander-in-chief of the army in America. I am [etc.]

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 75-76.

#### COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London, 24 October 1775

No. 300

I had the honor, Sir, to write you a private letter concerning the news that arrived from Canada and I took advantage of the immediate departure of a reliable person. I received more information in the course of the evening, according to which I consider Canada as lost for this country, because it is already an accomplished fact, or, which is the same, because it cannot be prevented. These Americans are a hundred times better soldiers and politicians than the English, and it is not surprising that they finally tired of considering the latter as such; the conquest of Canada will decide the freedom of America. Once the Rebels are in control of Quebec, Montreal and the St. Lawrence river, and join forces with the Canadians, their rear will be protected and America will be independent. The preliminary step of this great operation was the capture of Ticonderoga; but before breaking out they waited until communications between England and Canada would stop for six months and give them all the time needed to complete this great work. The Congress of Philadelphia, neither divided nor corrupted, is more capable of great undertakings than the English parliament.

The capture of Halifax is not as certain as the conquest of Canada, however, according to the information I have, I feel it deserves credence to some degree.

I have just received notice that the Ministry has sent an order to all ports to the effect that no ship whatever be allowed to sail. I shall be certain that this fact is correct only when I receive confirmation from the ports themselves. At all events, the courier who carries this dispatch will surely go through because I am giving him the order, should he meet with any obstacle, to charter a packet-boat for himself, and that could not be refused to him.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Chatham*, Plymouth Sound 24th Octor 1775

I am to acquaint you of my arrival here this day in His Majesty's Ship *Chatham*, and as soon as her Party of Marines is Embarked and the Provision and Water completed, I shall not fail of making use of the first Opportunity of proceeding to Sea agreeable to my Orders. I am, [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

**26 Oct.**THE KING'S SPEECH OPENING THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[October 26, 1775]

My Lords, and Gentlemen;

The present situation of America, and my constant desire to have your advice, concurrence, and assistance on every important occasion, have determined me to call you thus early together.

Those who have long too successfully laboured to inflame my people in America, by gross misrepresentations, and to infuse into their minds a system of opinions repugnant to the true constitution of the colonies, and to their subordinate relation to Great Britain, now openly avow their revolt, hostility, and rebellion. They have raised troops, and are collecting a naval force; they have seized the public revenue, and assume to themselves legislative, executive, and judicial powers, which they already exercise in the most arbitrary manner over the persons and properties of their fellow subjects. And although many of these unhappy people may still retain their loyalty, and may be too wise not to see the fatal consequence of this usurpation, and wish to resist it, yet the torrent of violence has been strong enough to compel their acquiescence till a sufficient force shall appear to support them.

The authors and promoters of this desperate conspiracy have, in the conduct of it, derived great advantage from the difference of our intention and theirs. They meant only to amuse, by vague expressions of attachment to the parent state, and the strongest protestations of loyalty to me, whilst they were preparing for a general revolt. On our part, though it was declared in your last session that a rebellion existed within the province of the Massachuset's Bay, yet even that province we wished rather to reclaim than to subdue. The resolutions of parliament breathed a spirit of moderation and forbearance; conciliatory propositions accompanied the measures taken to enforce authority, and the coercive acts were adapted to cases of criminal combinations amongst subjects not then in arms. I have acted with the same temper, anxious to prevent, if it had been possible, the effusion of the blood of my subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war; still hoping that my people in America would have discerned the traitorous views of their leaders, and have been convinced, that to be a subject

of Great Britain, with all its consequences, is to be the freest member of any civil society in the known world.

The rebellious war now levied is become more general, and is manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent empire. I need not dwell upon the fatal effects of the success of such a plan. The object is too important, the spirit of the British nation too high, the resources with which God hath blessed her too numerous, to give up so many colonies which she has planted with great industry, nursed with great tenderness, encouraged with many commercial advantages, and protected and defended at much expence of blood and treasure.

It is now become the part of wisdom and (in its effects) of clemency, to put a speedy end to these disorders by the most decisive exertions. For this purpose I have increased my naval establishment, and greatly augmented my land forces; but in such a manner as may be the least burthensome to my kingdoms.

I have also the satisfaction to inform you, that I have received the most friendly offers of foreign assistance; and if I shall make any treaties in consequence thereof, they shall be laid before you. And I have, in testimony of my affection for my people, who can have no cause in which I am not equally interested, sent to the garrisons of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, a part of my electoral troops, in order that a larger number of the established forces of this kingdom may be applied to the maintenance of its authority; and the national militia, planned and regulated with equal regard to the rights, safety, and protection of my crown and people, may give a farther extent and activity to our military operations.

When the unhappy and deluded multitude, against whom this force will be directed, shall become sensible of their error, I shall be ready to receive the misled with tenderness and mercy: and in order to prevent the inconveniences which may arise from the great distance of their situation, and to remove, as soon as possible, the calamities which they suffer, I shall give authority to certain persons upon the spot to grant general or particular pardons and indemnities, in such manner, and to such persons as they shall think fit; and to receive the submission of any province or colony, which shall be disposed to return to its allegiance. It may be also proper to authorize the persons so commissioned to restore such province or colony so returning to its allegiance, to the free exercise of its trade and commerce, and to the same protection and security, as if such province or colony had never revolted.

1. T. C. Hansard, ed., *The Parliamentary History of England, from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* (London, 1813), XVIII, 695–697. Hereafter cited as Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*. The Parliament had been prorogued to July 27, 1775 on May 17, 1775 and was subsequently further prorogued to October 26, 1775.

#### AN ACCOUNT OF LORD SANDWICH'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[October 26, 1775]

In answer to some strictures made by the noble duke <sup>2</sup> who spoke last, he defended the conduct of the naval officer who commanded on the American station, and seemed to hint some degree of censure upon the operations on shore. He confessed, that things were much altered, and that it was necessary to considerably augment our navy; that he had already taken every precaution in his

power; that the armament of last year had consisted of thirty armed vessels of different sizes, two of them two decked vessels; that twenty were actually sailed, or were ready to sail to reinforce them; and that it was the intention of administration to complete the number, by the time that operations were to commence, to seventy vessels, which would be such a force cooperating with the army, as would render it impossible for the Americans either to resist, keep together, or subsist; as they would have at once all the calamities of a war to contend with, without the means of carrying it on; being thus cut off from all supplies they might expect to derive from Europe, or elsewhere. His lordship confessed, that administration had been deceived in some measure; yet he thought it necessary now to declare, that it was his own private opinion, that the stronger the navy was, the more effectual their operations would be. He saw the matter very evidently in that light; but it was generally believed, if a larger force had been demanded, it would have raised an opposition to the measures at large; and this was one very powerful motive for his not explaining his own ideas so fully as otherwise he was most certainly disposed to do.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 712.

2. Augustus Henry Fitzroy, 3d Duke of Grafton.

#### REMARKS OF DR. JOHN HINCHCLIFFE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[October 26, 1775]

We were assured last year, that upon the appearance of a re-inforcement which could protect them from the insults of the mob, a considerable party would declare themselves in favour of the mother country: that there is no reason now to flatter ourselves with such an expectation is too obvious to be insisted upon. It was said too, in the spring, that the Americans would not, some indeed were confidently persuaded they could not, fight; yet we now certainly know that they can and will fight, for they have fought. It is true, they were defeated, but considering the stand they made, and the intrepidity of the troops they had to contend with, they were not disgraced by their defeat. We were made to believe, a year ago, that the restraints put upon the commerce and fisheries of the colonies would press so hard upon their interests, as to bring them to submission. We have now learnt that their commerce is but a secondary consideration: if it may not be called liberty itself, that they are contending for, it is at least the opinion of liberty, which operates no less forcibly on the passions of mankind.

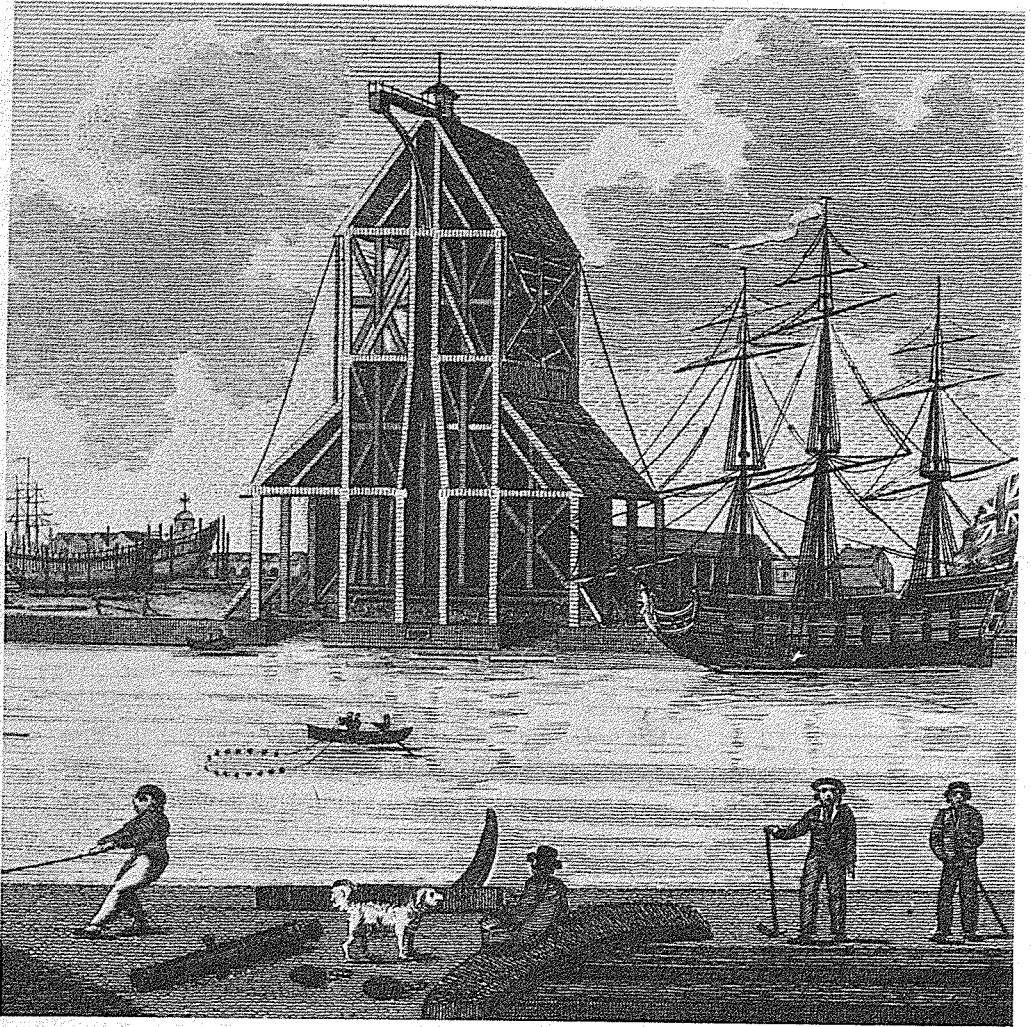
1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 715. Hinchcliffe was Bishop of Peterborough.

#### REMARKS OF GEORGE JOHNSTONE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[October 26, 1775]

. . . What my worthy friend (Mr. Burke) said last year of their industry, may now be applied to their warlike achievements. Consider the power of such materials in the hands of a minister who knew how to encourage their industry, and apply their courage to the purposes of national defence: but all the secret of our colony government is now reduced to mere force, the baneful engine of destructive depotism; nevertheless it is with pleasure I perceive the force of this



*A Mast House at Blackwall, England, 1795.*



country, when wielded in such a cause, is totally inadequate; your own army is not sufficient; your illegal application for foreign mercenaries at the beginning of the contest, sufficiently shews your weakness; your navy is equally incapable of effecting the purposes which are expected from it. It may ruin their foreign trade; it may destroy some of their towns (though that is doubtful) but the lying in their rivers, as some suppose, without a superior military force to protect them on shore; I say as a sea officer, if the war is thoroughly kindled, the thing is impossible. We are apt to judge from what happened at Quebec, where the French, never remarkable for naval enterprize, though naturally brave, quitted their fire raft, and left it to the chance of the stream, or to be towed off by boats; but this I maintain, that any fleet lying in a river where they cannot command the shore, that such fleet is liable to be burnt if the people are willing in that enterprize to run the same risk of life and danger to which the crew of the ships are exposed, I mean by sticking by the fire vessel, whatever she may be, till with wind and stream they lay the enemy athwart hause; and who can doubt that the people in America are capable of such exertions of courage when we see them refuse quarter, when we find them devoting themselves to death with such enthusiasm? Another circumstance respecting ships is not generally known. The wonders they have hitherto performed has been owing to the ignorance of engineers in placing their batteries; but I am afraid the secret is now out as to their power against the shore, without a military force to assist them; a single gun in a retired situation, or on an eminence, or a single howitzer, will dislodge a first rate man of war, and may burn her, to add to the disgrace. I speak this publicly, that you may not expect more from the sea service than it is capable to perform. Ruin their trade you certainly may, but at an expence as ruinous to this country. Has any of the ministry considered the immense expence of such naval armaments on the coast of America, in transports and ships of war? Have we calculated the chance of destruction by those horrid streams of wind peculiar to that coast, that sometimes sweep all before them? Where are the resources on which this country can depend in case our empire in America is lost? I do not say you will feel the disadvantage immediately, I know the various channels to which commerce and industry may divert their streams; I am also certain that the wants of America must be supplied in some way or other with certain goods from Great Britain; I further know, that a nation can only trade to the extent of its capital, and in case one vent is cut off, it will probably find another, while its manufactures are cheaper and better than those of other nations. I believe such to be the case with many branches of our manufacture at present, but is it possible it can long continue? Must not the same laws of nature follow this commercial country that has affected Venice and Genoa, the Hans Towns, and other commercial states? The acquirement of wealth must produce dearness in living; dearness of living must produce dearness of labour; dearness of labour must produce dearness of manufactures; dearness of manufactures must conduct trade to some place where cheapness of living will give the preference in the markets. Thus the circle of commerce has hitherto run: but the settlement of North America under the old establishment, seemed to defy the powers of those fleeting principles. America

was bound to take your manufactures only to whatever price they might rise; you were bound to take most of her raw materials and to give her commerce protection; a complete system in the exchange of all commodities was established within your own dominion, which might last beyond the views of human calculation, if properly conducted. This is the great purpose to which I look up to America as a naval and as a commercial power; how often have I indulged myself in these thoughts, unable to see the end of our glory from the same causes which have destroyed other states, little dreaming that one infatuated minister could tempt, seduce, and persuade a whole nation to cut the strings of such harmony. The hon. gentleman who opened the debate, has remarked how we recovered from the interruptions of our commerce during the last war. The hon. gentleman forgets that we had the free and interrupted resources of America during the last war; that in seizing the ships of our enemies we added to the national wealth and increased our own commerce; the progress was double, here it runs in an inverse proportion, no man knows the final effects as yet; like the bursting of a burning mountain, it is sport and play to the distant spectators who think themselves safe, but the eruption may spread to cover this city in ruin.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 752-754. Johnstone, a former governor of West Florida, was elected to Parliament in 1774 from Appleby.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS TONKEN, R. N.<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 26th Octor 1775.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their direction to you (notwithstanding former Orders) to remain at Corke with the several Transports under your Command which have the 28th & 46th Regiments on board until you receive farther Orders, and to dispose of the said two Regiments in such manner as His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland shall signify to the Commanding Officer. I am &c.

Php Stephens

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

**27 Oct.**

#### MODIFICATION BY ORDER IN COUNCIL OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST SHIPPING OF WARLIKE STORES<sup>1</sup>

At the Court of St. James's, the 27th Day of October, 1775, present, The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas, His Majesty was pleased, by His Orders in Council of the 23d of August and the 27th of September last, to direct that no Person or Persons whatsoever should, at any Time, during the respective Terms therein mentioned, presume to transport out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise any Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, (except the Master-General, Lieutenant-General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance for His Majesty's service) without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from His Majesty or his Privy Council. And whereas it has been represented to this Board,

that it will tend greatly to the Advantage of Trade for a General Order in Council to be issued, to permit and allow Saltpetre and Gunpowder to be carried Coastwise in small Quantities, under certain Restrictions, to be prescribed by the said Order; — His Majesty, taking the same into Consideration, is hereby pleased, with the Advice of his Privy Council, to order, that Saltpetre and Gunpowder be permitted to be carried Coastwise to and from any of the Ports of this Kingdom, notwithstanding His Majesty's aforementioned Orders in Council, of the 23d of August and 27th of September last; provided, that no greater quantity of Saltpetre and Gunpowder be shipped, laden, or carried Coastwise, at any one Time, in any one Ship or Vessel, than One Ton of Saltpetre and Fifty Barrels of Gunpowder, except such as shall be shipped, laden, or carried Coastwise, by Direction of the Master-General, Lieutenant-General, and Principal Officers of the Ordnance for His Majesty's service; and, also except such as shall obtain Leave or Permission in that Behalf from His Majesty or his Privy Council; and provided also, that sufficient Security be first given to the proper Officers of His Majesty's Customs, in Treble the Value of the Saltpetre and Gunpowder desired to be sent coastwise, to carry the same to the Place proposed, and none other; and that a Certificate or Certificates be produced, within One Month from the Date of the Bond, from the proper Officers of the Customs, at the Ports for which the respective Quantities of Saltpetre and Gunpowder shall be shipped, of the same having been duly landed at such Ports; in failure of which, the Bonds to be immediately put in Suit; Which Certificate or Certificates the Commissioners of the Customs are hereby required to transmit to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, in order to be laid before this Board. And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are to give the necessary Directions accordingly.

G. Chetwynd.

1. *London Gazette*, October 24 to October 28, 1775. The same issue of the *London Gazette* contained a second Order in Council extending the same privileges for exportation to Ireland.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO JOSIAH MARTIN <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Whitehall 27th October 1775.

The advantages that may attend the sending immediately a Force to the assistance of the Friends of Legal Government in the Four Southern Provinces of Virginia, North & South Carolina, and Georgia, are so apparent, and have been so fully stated by yourself & the Governors of the other 3 Provinces, that the King has thought fit to order, that a Body of His Majesty's Forces, consisting of Seven Regiments, should prepare to embark at Corke about the 1st of December, in order to proceed with 2 Companies of Artillery, & a proper number of Battalion Guns, Howitzers, etc to Cape Fear River.

You will see by the inclosed copy of a Letter to Major General Howe, that this separate Corps is to be commanded by one of the General Officers with him, and it will also fully instruct you as to the whole plan & conduct of the Expedition; and I have only to add, that any corps of Provincials that may be formed upon this occasion, must be raised by your Authority, & commanded by you as Provincial



Colonel, with the same pay as a Colonel upon the British Establishment, but without any rank in the Army or claim to half pay, which for reasons I have already given cannot be allowed.

You will observe that in the Letter to Major General Howe, the propriety of sending pilots with the Ship that carries the General Officer to Cape Fear River is particularly pointed out; but as it may be uncertain whether Pilots well acquainted with the coast of North Carolina, can be procured at Boston or New York, it will be very necessary that you should, with as much secrecy as possible, engage a proper number to be put on board the Vessels that will be ordered (in conformity to the instructions already given) to cruize upon the coast until the Fleet & Transports shall arrive.

I am also Commanded by The King to suggest to you the great advantage & utility that will attend the procuring, if practicable, a number of Carriages & draft Horses, for the use of the Troops, in any operations they may find it necessary to carry on, and from what you have said of the disposition of some of the back Counties, I should hope it may not be impracticable, if managed with Secrecy & caution.

The Parliament met yesterday & inclosed I send you His Majesty's Speech to both Houses, together with their addresses in return thereto, which I trust will have the effect to convince the rebellious Inhabitants of the Colonies, of the firm Resolution of every branch of the Legislature, to maintain the dignity and authority of Parliament, desirous at the same time to receive with all proper Indulgence, the submission of any Colony that shall be inclined to return to its Duty and Allegiance. I am &c

Dartmouth.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, 335-339, LC Photocopy.

#### COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

London, 27 October 1775

No. 301

I have forwarded, Sir, to the Prince of Masseran the same information which I had the honor to send you. We share the same views and we hide nothing from each other. I feel rather fortunate that my inclinations in this matter are in harmony with the execution of the King's orders. This Ambassador has recognized the consequences to which an establishment on the Mosquito Coast will lead.<sup>2</sup> But since he cannot speak openly to the Ministry about it without revealing the source of our information, and still awaiting the orders from his Court, he merely sounded the Ministers in this matter and observed in a general way that any such undertaking would be of a nature to disrupt the good harmony which now exists between both nations.

#### News from the Ports.

Portsmouth. *Chatham* sailed for Plymouth with Admiral Shulldham on board. She has a wartime complement of 350 men.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

2. See de Guines to Vergennes, October 13, 1775.

MARINE AGENT AT LORIENT TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Lorient, 27 October 1775.

Following your request which I had the honor to receive with your dispatch dated on the sixth of this month, and following the remarks addressed to you by the Count of Vergennes, with which you were so kind to acquaint me, I gathered the most exact information with regard to the unlading of foreign ships presently in this port. I found that the schooner *Charming Polly* of 70 freight tons, from Philadelphia, under the command of Mr. Thomas Paton, and belonging to Thomas Masson who is on board and who had come here last year in command of a small ship laden with tea from New England, had come to this port in behalf of the congress in order to buy gunpowder, rifles and saltpetre. Having found neither rifles nor gunpowder, she was to sail with the first strong winds laden with one hundred and some barrels of saltpetre. I prohibited the expedition of the latter pretending that I did not know whether the government would not retain it for its own use. I warned Mr. Bérard with whom Masson had been dealing that he was not to allow this merchandise to go abroad without finding out first whether the department of ordnance [regie des poudres] had any use for it.

There is also here a brigantine of one hundred freight tons, named *Dune*, under the command of Captain Craig, also from Philadelphia, and which was sent here with the same intentions. I know that the Captain went to Nantes by land in an attempt to buy war ammunition which he could not find. Since he grounded his ship on the sandbank of K.nevelle [?] in order to clean her, he said, I shall watch over the nature of the goods she will take on. In any case, I shall take all necessary measures to prevent ships coming from the English Colonies and returning there from taking on war ammunition.

I learned that the transaction which was attempted here did take place in Bordeaux and that the Congress has empowered Mr. Masson to offer flour, tar, pitch, tobacco and generally all kinds of goods from the English Colonies to Mr. Bérard in exchange for gunpowder, rifles and saltpetre; they are not interested in guns, cannon-balls or bullets. Furthermore, I see no difficulty in preventing the export of saltpetre, except to Holland with proper permits. We need not make public the reasons for this precaution; it is very easy, and as it happened here, in spite of the deal and speculations made by Mr. Bérard, all the saltpetre remained in his possession.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

28 Oct.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Fontainebleau, 28 October 1775

No. 158

Everything we hear in various places seems to confirm our doubts concerning the rumored expedition of Russian troops to America. But since in matters concerned with facts, conjectures can only be vicious, it will be most wise to



*Charles Gravier, Count de Vergennes. By Thomas Holloway after Antoine F. Callet, 1786.*

wait until the events actually take place before we know what to believe and before we come to a decision.

If the contract which the government is said to have signed with a wealthy Jew to provide supplies to 46 thousand men in America is as real as the source from which you have your information leads you to believe it, the expedition of 15 thousand Russians, as unlikely as it may appear, would be more likely than the levy of 12 thousand Canadians mentioned in the report.<sup>2</sup> If the English Ministry can count on this expedient for next year, why have they not used it this year? The solution to this problem would do less credit to their foresight than to their discernment.

Sir, if Russia does not lower in any way her price of four million pounds sterling in exchange for a Russian expeditionary force, I do not believe that the British Government will put such a price on the help which the Great Catherine would extend to them. Such a request, if we accept it as true, is as good as a refusal.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy.

2. See de Guines to Vergennes, October 20, 1775.

### 29 Oct. (Sunday)

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir, *Chatham*, Plymouth Sound 29th Octor 1775 –

As the *Chatham* and *Orpheus* were Short of Complement, I have thought proper to give Captain [Thomas] Graves, Senior Officer of the Guard Ships at this Port,<sup>2</sup> an Order to Discharge Sixteen Men which arrived here a few days ago from Bristol, where they were raised for His Majesty's Service, and were to be Enter'd on board the *Nonsuch* as Supernumeraries, into the said Ships *Chatham* and *Orpheus*. I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. Graves later rose to flag rank and commanded the North American Station.

### 30 Oct.

LORD SANDWICH TO LORD DARTMOUTH<sup>1</sup>

My Lord

Admiralty Octo: 30. 1775

I find that the Comptroller of the Navy is well acquainted with the harbour of Cape Fear, & that he is of opinion that ships even of twenty guns cannot get over the bar; it seems therefore absolutely necessary for us to be informed what kind of naval assistance will be wanted for the debarcation of the troops; for if it is expected that their landing should be covered by men of war, I much doubt whither that will be practicable for the reasons above mentioned. indeed I should think that before any decisive measure is taken it would be adviseable for your Lordship to have a consultation with Sir Peter Parker, the Comptroller



of the Navy, Sir Hugh Pallisser & myself as to the practicability of the naval part of this business. I am [&c.]

Sandwich

1. English Records, Dartmouth Manuscripts, (copy), NCDAH.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 30th Octor 1775.

In addition to the Order which you will receive herewith from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for proceeding to North Carolina, I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to send to Governor Martin, as soon after your arrival as possibly may be, to apprise him that you have the Pacquet for him mentioned in the above Order, and to know in what manner it can be conveyed to him with the greatest safety; and when you have received his answer, to observe in every respect his directions with regard to the mode of Conveyance, Or, to the continuing it in your own custody, if the situation of affairs shall be such as to induce the Governor to think that more eligible. I am &ca

Ph<sup>p</sup> Stephens.

P S. It is their Lordships further direction that you keep this Letter, and the Order it refers to, a profound secret; And on no account to make known to any person whatever any part thereof, more especially what relates to the Pilots and your cruizing for Sir Peter Parker.

P S.

Capt Furneaux, *Syren*, Plymo

[Endorsed] Inclosed in the Order refer'd to of this date & sent by Butler the Messenger at 5 P M.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS MASON<sup>1</sup>

[September 23 to October 30, 1775]

after a passage of 5 Days [from El Ferrol] I dropt Anchor the 27th in Port Lorient, & being Sufficiently Acquainted with a Few Gentlemen, I made every Necessary Inquiry Respecting my outward bound Cargoe' and Nearly found my self in the Like situation as in Spain, Differing only in Two points – First a free Exportation of saltpeter to holland in any Bottom, But american – Second Nants had a peculiar privilege, over every other part of France, to the Coast of Gunia [Guinea] where all kinds of Millitary stores, is Lookt on as a Necessary article in Trade & any Quantity, could be Exported in their own Bottoms – From the Nature of those advantages I was at a Loss which to Imbrace – to proceed to Nants and Charter a French Vessel to the Coast of Gunia & their Discharge her – would Naturly Cause Delays & Accumulate a heavy Expençe, on the Concern – to Load my vessel with saltpeter for Holland, & proceed to Philadelp[hia] would

answer every purpose of my Voyage – But in this Case, its not complying with the Tennor of my orders, and in Case of Accident perhaps it may Involve me, into a Law suit — The Necessity of my Country is greate – the movements of Fore[ig]n powers very Cautious. after 2 Days this Reflecting, I concluded on the 29th of Septembr, to purchase the Saltpeter, But to my Surprise, no person would take my Bills – a Report prevailing that all american Creditt was at an End, in England – in this Situation I put my Bills of Exchange and Messrs Morris & Wineys Letters of Creditt into the Hands of Berard Brothers <sup>2</sup> – to Forward them to London for Acceptance – which in Common takes 22 Days Before, you have advice of their Fate — But I had prevailed, on them Gentlemen, to Load the Schooner, & in Case all my Bills came Back protested, the Vessel should be Dispatched with her Cargoe & my self to stay as Hostage untill payment Came from America, or Security obtained for the amount, from my Connections in England – my affairs Being thus aranged & while Cleaning and prepairing the vessel to Take her Cargoe on Board – Capt [Charles] Biddle <sup>3</sup> arived in the Brigg *Chance* with Cash & other Credentials, to Load his Vessel on acct of Congress – as he was a Stranger I introduced him To Messrs Berard Brothers, with a Request to give them Gentlemen, every Satisfactory Acct of my self & those I were Concerned with – that in Case the Bills should come Back protested, they still would be safe in any amount, I may Contract with them – this Being done and the Gentlemen perfectly satisfy'd, the 15th of October I Began to Load & by the 20th every thing Compleated & nothing to prevent my sailing, but the Fate of the Bills – as I then was at Leasure Capt Biddle & myself, had several consultations with Messrs Berard Brothers, Respecting the Loading of a French ship, & mutually agreed, in Case I would proceed in her my self, they would advance me £ 1200 Sterling on acct of Thomas Mason & Co by the Thirds — which is agreeable to Capt Biddles Decleration on his arival, her[e] & the Timely prepearations of Mr Winey to have this proportion ready against my arivel — which was prevented by the Following, Viz On the 28th of October advice Came of the Acceptance of all my Bills Except those I had purchased of Philip Moor[e] in this City, the Deficiency, on my part amounting to £ 227.19 Sterling agreeable to my account Current – By the same post a Letter Came from the prime minnister of France To the Commedant of the Port to Seaze my Vessel & Discharge her Cargoe – Being thus situated, with a mind perplexed, put me under the Following Reflections, First, in the morning Early; the Guards will be put on Board & my vessel & Cargoe taking from me – To take the Immediate advantage of the Night & Run her out of the Harbour, Between the Close walls of Port Lewis, the Consiquences may be Fatal, by acting Contrary to their Laws in Case I should be Either stopt by their guns or Guard Boats Second–in Case not & I proceed myself, I Leave a Joint Capital Behind me of £1156.5.3 Sterling – which of Course, as every thing on the principals of honour was Layd in as a Joint stock, I am Culpable for One Third – and in Case of Accident to those I Leave it – with perhaps I Lay my self open to a prosicution for the whole amount – Third in Case I stay Behind to Secure this Sum, I must give the Command of my Vessel to another & in Case of Accident on her passage – what may be the proceeding of my partners appears Dubious — from the precautious steps of the French,

in our Contest — I have not had it in my power to Comply with the strict Limets of my Orders & View it in what Light I will — in Case of Accident, I have But Little Remedy, should they Incline to prosicute me — with these Reflections — I acquainted Capt Biddle & proposed, in Case he would accept of the Command of my vessel & proceed to Philadelphia — On my part I would Exicute his Business Commission Free — to which he accepted — and haveing but a Few hours to Spear — I wrote that Confused Letter To Thomas Mason & Co which was Deliverd by Capt Biddle with the Original Invoice, To Jacob Winey on his arival — and now amongst my papers — the Night being Fare advanced, winds and weather Favourable to my Designs, by Day Light in the morning I had the pleasing satisfaction To Leave my schooner 3 miles without the port, in a Boat provided for that purpose —

1. Robert Morris Misc., LC. See also Mason's Journal for August 13 to September 21, 1775.
2. J. T. Bérard & Co., merchants of Lorient; also doing business as Bérard Frères & Co., I. Minis Hays, ed., *Calendar of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, index volume (Philadelphia, 1908), V, 28.
3. See following entry.

#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES BIDDLE <sup>1</sup>

[Lorient, October 30, 1775]

It was a disagreeable and dangerous business I was on, for I was not acquainted with any person in France, and after an article that was prohibited from being sent out of the country. I had some letters with me from my old friend Pasquer,<sup>2</sup> but they were written long before I had any thoughts of going to France. As I knew Mr. Pasquer had an uncle in Nantes, I brought these letters, and with them introduced myself to Mr. Richard. I believe that was his name. He was a very respectable man, and received me with great politeness; and his son, who was an officer in the army, behaved very friendly. They both told me it was a very dangerous business I was upon, and appeared uneasy at my visiting them. I applied to some of the masters of ships I had known in Port au Prince, but they were afraid of me when they knew my business. One of them told me it was highly probable I would be taken up by the officers of the government if I remained much longer. Finding nothing to be done here, I set off for L'Orient by land. The roads are good, but the country not so thickly settled as I expected to find it. The horses were not good. I was determined on my arrival at L'Orient to sail for Holland, where I was ordered if powder and arms could not be had in France. However, it was left in a great measure to myself to do what I thought best. Upon my return to L'Orient, Captain [Thomas] Mason, of Philadelphia, was there in a schooner loaded with saltpetre bound home. He informed me the merchant who did his business proposed sending a ship for Philadelphia, with a great quantity of powder, arms, and other war-like stores. He told me if I would go in his schooner he would load the brig and bring her and the ship to Philadelphia. It was with great reluctance I consented to leave the brig, but as I could do it consistent with my instructions, and considered it would probably be of great advantage to my country, as Messrs. Barard Frères promised faithfully to send the ship if Mason stayed, fully relying on their promises and those of Mason, I went on board the schooner. We sailed from L'Orient the 30th of October.

1. Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*, 78-79.

2. *Ibid.*, 48, Pasquer, a merchant of Port au Prince, with whom Biddle became acquainted in 1770.

31 Oct.

ALEXANDER SCHAW TO LORD DARTMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

My Lord Since I had the honour of attending your Lordship, I have employ'd my thoughts with much anxiety, on the plan of operations intended for North Carolina. I wishd to reduce them into writing. I will lay down a few facts as the foundation of what I wish to propose, that it may at once appear whether my opinions arising from these facts are well or ill founded.

In the province of North Carolina there are several rivers, which run a considerable way into the Country. Upon the south is Cape fear river which is navigable for ships of large burden, as far as a shoal which they call the flatts, about seven miles above Brunswick town, which is situated 12 miles within the bar. In consequence of this impediment vessels, which have a draught of above 9½ feet water, cannot go up to Wilmington, which is the next port above and the most considerable town on the river even at spring tides, till they are lightened to that draught. Above or rather at Wilmington, the Northeast and Northwest branches of the river join. The Northeast is the least considerable, and upon its whole extent there is no town, tho' its banks are very well settled. The Northwest branch is much larger and runs much farther into the Country. The first town is Cross creek about 100 miles above Wilmington. Here the whole trade with the back settlers is carried on, for a great way round.

From ffort Johnston at the mouth of the river to Brunswick is 12 miles. From Brunswick to Wilmington there are two roads: one goes up the right Side of the river upon which Brunswick stands and crosses two fferries opposite to Wilmington, occasioned by the river being there divided, by a large swampy Island thro' which there is a very bad road of a mile and a half. The length of this road is reckoned 16. Miles. To go by the other road, one must Cross a fferry at Brunswick of a mile over, from whence to Wilmington it is about ten miles. Every part of these roads, is more or less sandy. Some of them, for miles together is very deep, as the surface is often a pure white sand, without a particle of soil to bind it together. This is the Case with allmost every part of the province near the sea. The roads on both sides the river cross a few Water runs, which in the Country are called creeks: they are generally swampy along the sides, which are crowded with trees, bushes, vines & brambles. Over all these Creeks are wooden bridges. Whenever the land is dry, there is little or no brush. The Woods in general are in the stile of open Groves in England, except in such places as have once been cleared and afterwards abandoned. These are allways covered with brush. The roads upon the North west branch of the river, grow more solid every mile above Wilmington, and long before they reach Cross creek are very hard. The only making they bestow upon the roads in the flat part of the Country is cutting out the trees to the necessary breadth, in as even a line as they can, and where the ground is wet, they make a small ditch on either side. The

Roads thro' swamp land, are made by first laying logs in the direction of the road and covering them cross ways with small pine trees, layd regularly together over sod, with which the logs are previously covered. The roads run constantly thro the woods, which tho' they are generally pretty open, yet objects at any considerable distance, are intercepted from the eye, by the trees crouding into the line of direction as the distance increases.

I thought it necessary to be so minute as this road along the west side of the North west branch, is that by which the junction of the provincials with the troops must be effected.

The next navigable river to the Northward is the Neuse, upon which Newbern the Governours residence is situated, about fourty Miles from the sound. This river can admit only of small vessels.

Albemarle sound is the inlet to Roanoke river, upon which Edenton is situated 60 miles within land. And about 140, miles further up the River is Halifax which carries on a considerable trade. In the neighbourhood of Halifax; they have a good breed of horses, to the Southward the horses are smaller, but spirited and hardy.

The lower parts of the province are subject to Agues, pleurisies & bilious Complaints: the people of the back country are strangers to those disorders.

The Rivers in the lower parts of the Country have no fords. Their banks are in general coverd with impenetrable swamps & bottomless morasses, a very few spots excepted, upon which generally plantations are settled. But in the back country, they have good fords.

The settlements upon the lower part of Capefear river do not produce grain enough, particularly wheat, to answer their own demands. Large quantities are therefore sent down from Cross creek in row boats, which in return carry up whatever goods are wanted for the use of the back settlers.

Every proprietor of ever so small a piece of land, raises some Indian Corn & sweet potatoes, & breeds some hoggs & a calf or two; and a man must be very poor who walks a foot.

Brunswick country where the troops must first land, contains fewer of the lower class of country people, than any part of the whole province, particularly near the sea.

There is no specie in the province, and there never was a person who could command a sum of any consequence even of their paper currency. Nothing in the stile of a Banker or money Merchant was ever heard of.

Governour Tryon left the province very soon after the submission of the Regulators, and when Colonel [Josiah] Martin succeeded to the Government, their wounds were still bleeding, and the[y] had received no protection, from the oppression of the petty fogging attorneys, whose rapacity had been the original cause of their rebellion. Governour Martin arrived in the province at this very critical time. He made a progress thro' his Government; and when we was in this part of the Country, his attention to the releif of these poor people was such as won him their highest confidence & esteem.

There is now a numerous body of the Sons & grandsons of the first scotch highland settlers besides the later emigrants who retain that enthusiastick love for the



Map of North Carolina, 1770.

country from which they are descended, which indeed scarce a highlander ever loses, that they will support its dignity at every risk. The Governour has attached them strongly to him, as well as the later emigrants by many services he has had opportunities of doing them. Many highland gentlemen are now in that country, several of whom have been officers, and still retain their influence among the people.

Many of the people of the largest property in the Country, tho' they now languish under the hand of oppression, will instantly join, to support the Constitution, upon the first appearance of a chance of support.

The low country people in general have fire arms. I never was in a house without seeing one or more muskets. Indeed the Militia laws require them to have them. The highland emigrants carried few arms with them, and the regulators delivered up the greatest part of theirs to Governour Tryon.

The six iron guns that were at the Governours house dismounted & spiked up, are now in the hands of the rebels with several ship guns, they took from a Mr Cornell, at Newbern. They have got two more guns at Wilmington & probably, if the *Cruizer* sloop has left her station, they have carried off, some of the Guns at ffort Johnston. There is reason however to beleive they have neither powder nor shot for these guns.

These things being premised, I shall now, with the utmost diffidence lay before your Lordship, a few Ideas that have occurrd to me in the Course of my thinking upon this subject

It appears from the account I have given of the soil near the sea, and of the swampy branches or Creeks, which cross the roads, and the small size of the horses, that it would be a matter of great difficulty, to transport heavy cannon & waggons, either into the interior part of the country or along the Coast. At the same time it is absolutely necessary to have a good train of Artillery as it was owing to his cannon in a great measure, perhaps solely, that Governor Tryon defeated the regulators: for the fire of his musketry made no impression upon them. And perhaps it would be an improvement, to use balls upon the occasion smaller than common, as at the short distance they must be used at, the effect of the smaller shot would be in proportion to their numbers.

Trenching & pioneers tools will be necessary in a large proportion, as there may be often occasion to repair the Causeways, as they call them, across the swampy runs, and perhaps to make bridges over the larger ones, if the enemy should destroy them, or if they should be found not to be strong enough which is a very possible case, as they are constructed for light carriages only.

It cannot be supposed that the people to be raised have any camp necessities, such as kettles, lanterns &c. these should be provided for them, and indeed the more care is taken of them they will do their duty the better.

It would be proper to send out, some alert Soldiers qualified, to be Sergeants & Corporals for the express purpose of training the provincial regiments, which would soon make them far superior to the rebels, who have very few helps of that kind.

I have allready observed that the town of Brunswick which indeed is but a stragling village, is 12. miles, within the barr. At low water there is ten feet water upon the barr, at spring tides there is from 19 to 20 feet so that in fine

weather ships of deep draught can easily go in. The water, both below & above the flats is deep enough for any vessel. Vessels can run from the Barr to Brunswick in three or four hours with the tide, with almost any wind. There is good anchorage within half musket shot of the town. The bank is pretty high for this Country, and the woods are cut down a good way round the town, tho' there are shrubby bushes. An encampment there, cannot be Commanded, as there is no higher ground, and the approaches to the Camp can easily be defended on the land side, and if there should be any sick, the houses would serve as good hospitals. There is plenty of water. This is the only town on the right or west side of the river, so that should a body of the rebels attempt to harrass the troops as they have no tents nor camp implements of any kind, they must soon disperse without a blow. But there would be little risk of any immediate attempt of this kind if some of the lightest vessels, properly armed & having defences musket proof, with a few troops on board were instantly sent up to Wilmington. The town would submit, as most of the Inhabitants are well affected, and by having one ship at the town and another a little higher at Mr Harnets plantation, all communication, from the North east to the North-west river, especially across the Northwest, would be rendered next to impossible for many miles up. And wherever it was attempted, it could only be done by a few men, as there is no way even for a single horse thro' the swamps on the river sides. There could then be little difficulty in effecting the junction with the highlanders & provincials from Cross creek and the adjoining Counties

Brunswick county as I have said is thinly settled, consequently, cattle and horses are few, especially near the sea; but these and every thing else the province affords, will be plentifully supplied from the back country, when the people march to make a junction, which if the previous steps go successfully on, may be effectuated in ten or twelve days, after disembarking the troops

If a superiority was once obtained in this part of the Country, which one would think nothing but some very unforeseen accident would prevent, it is next to certain, that every other part might be soon reduced. The Ringleaders must fly: and the people would infallibly submit upon promise of pardon & protection. And here let me mention, that a great many copies of a proper proclamation from the King should be printed, in order to be dispersed wherever a man could be found to read them, which would open the eyes of the poor country people, who have been most amazingly deluded.

Now supposing things to have succeeded at Cape fear, it may be proper to detach a part of the regulars, with a body of the provincial troops by sea and to land them in Albemarle sound, where the inhabitants of Currituck and Pasquotonk, with many of the people round them are well affected, as well as their neighbours in that part of Virginia which is next them. And if a previous plan can be settled with the loyal gentlemen in that part of the Country, they could prepare their people for taking Arms to join the forces upon their landing so that the rebels in the middle counties would then be betwixt two fires if they ventur'd to stand out.

There is little to be apprehended from South Carolina, they are too weak to think of sending troops out of their province; and should they be mad enough,



a report that their negroes were to be declared free, would secure them effectually at home. The only chance the rebels would have of support is from Virginia. Yet as that province is so much cut by Rivers, a few hundred men in armed vessels, by making descents in different places would keep the whole province in alarm and harrass them extremly independant of what Lord Dunmore hopes to be able to accomplish.

I have allready mentioned the scarcity of money in this province. The provincial troops must be payd; and many other services require ready money.

But the point of all others upon which the raising a force in this Country most depends is Governour Martin, being at the head of every thing. I mentioned the necessity of it to your Lordship, and I beg leave to repeat it. Your Idea my Lord of local rank, will I hope do. Yet from rank in America only, I am afraid he never will be considered by the gentlemen of the Country as having that importance at home which real rank in the Army, would appear to them to give him.

I have perhaps my Lord in this long paper, given my oppinion with a great deal more freedom than I had a right to do, but as the sole object of my coming to England, was to lay before your Lordship, whatever hints, my small knowledge or Abilities furnished me with, I have done it without reserve, tho' not without that diffidencé, which every man must feel, when writing upon subjects of such high importance. I have the honour to be My Lord [&c.]

Alex<sup>r</sup> Schaw

Orange Street [London] 31 October 1775

1. English Records, Dartmouth Manuscripts, (copy), NCDAH.

#### CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR THE SHIP *Stakesby*<sup>1</sup>

In Pursuance of the Directions of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, I do hereby certify, that the Ship *Stakesby* James Watts Master, is, by their Lordships Orders, employed in the Service of Government, without Duty or Clearance: And the Merchants concerned having represented to the Board, that they have shipped therein the following Stores for the Use of His Majesty's Forces in America, viz.

Eighty five Chaldrons & three quarters of Coal	Eighty Hogs
One hundred & twenty five Buts	One hundred & ten Quarters of Beans &
Fifty Hogsheads	Forty Puncheons for Water
Eighty three barrels	together with—
Eighteen Tons of Potatoes	Four Carriage Guns
Thirty Hogsheads of Vinegar	Two Muskets &
Eighteen Casks of Sour Krout	half a barrel of Gunpowder

for the necessary Defence of the Ship.<sup>2</sup>

I am further, in Pursuance of their Lordships Commands, to require you to suffer such Ship to proceed on her Voyage without Molestation on Account of the said Loading and Ammunition. Given under my Hand and the Seal of Office, at the Custom-house, London, this Thirty first Day of October in the

Sixteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third; and in the Year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and seventy Five

Edw<sup>d</sup> Hanley secretary

To the Commanders of the several Sloops and Vessels, and to all other Officers employed in the Service of His Majesty's Customs, whom it may concern.

1. US Revolution, LC.

2. Despite these protective measures, the *Stakesby* was captured March 10, 1776 by four of Washington's armed schooners, but was subsequently lost on the rocks off Gloucester harbor. Little of her cargo was salvaged.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD ROCHFORD<sup>1</sup>

No 19

Fontainebleau 31 October 1775

Separate

My Lord My first Conversation with Mr de Vergennes was a pretty long one, and as friendly as possible – After the first Compliments were over, He said – “You find us here, My Lord, exactly in the same Sentiments in which you left us – desirous of living in perfect Harmony with you, and very far from meaning to do anything that can tend to encrease the Embarras of your present critical Situation” – I answered that We relied entirely upon the repeated assurance They had given us of their Friendship, which would always meet with a suitable Return on our Part, as I was authorized to declare in The King's Name, in the Audience which I was ordered to demand for that Purpose – I added that after all They had said upon the Subject, and with the Justice We did to the Sincerity of the present french Ministry, and to their fair and frank manner of treating We could not but be persuaded that They never would give the American Rebels any sort of Countenance, – Assistance or Supply, but I observed to Him, that it was very possible that attempts of that kind might be made, and escape all their Vigilance; and that whenever We had any Suspicion of that Nature, We should communicate it to them, that they might take the Proper Steps to prevent Attempts contrary to those friendly Sentiments and Intentions, which they had so often declared, and on which We loved to rely – He answered that no Power on Earth, ever did or could prevent all Illicit Trade, which the Prospect of great Gain, would lead Men to attempt at every Hazard, and then quoted the famous answer of that Dutch Merchant, who said that if a Lucrative Trade could be carried on with Hell, he would send his Ships thither au Risque de bruler leur Voiles. – “But, continued He – whatever We can prevent We certainly will. The Intelligence you had of Ammunition being sent by the Governor of St. Domingo proves upon Inquiry to be void of all Truth – We found upon Examination, that far from being able to supply others, He had not a sufficient Provision for Himself – That Defficiency well supplied, but I again assure you that no Ammunition Stores or Assistance of any kind shall be sent to North America either by the Governor of St Domingo, or any other Governor or Person whatever, that is under our Controle, and that We will sincerely and bona fide prevent every thing that could be to your Detri-  
ment, as far as it is possible for any Government to prevent it” – After I had said a few Words to thank Him for these Promises He of his own Accord, went on with the general Subject, which He entered into pretty largely – He began with saying

“Loin de vouloir augmenter Vos Embarras, Nous les voions avec quelque Peine” (that was his very expression) and then after a short Pause added – “Ce qui vous arrive en Amerique n’est de la Convenance Personne” I answered that I was sure the Consequences could not escape a Man of his Reflexion and Penetration, and so used to extend his Views – To this He replied that He might venture to say, that they did not escape Him – “indeed added He, they are very obvious, as obvious as the Consequences of the entire Cession of Canada. I was at Constantinople when the last Peace was made. When I heard the Conditions, I told several of my Friends there, that I was persuaded England would not be long before She had Reason to repent of having removed the only check that could keep Her Colonies in Awe. My Prediction has been but too well verified – I think I equally see the Consequences, that must follow the Independance of North America, if your Colonies ever should carry that Point, which they now so visibly aim at. In that Case they would immediately set about forming a great Marine, and as they have every possible advantage for Ship-building would not be long before they had such Fleets, as would be an over-match for the whole Naval Power of Europe, could it be united against them. With this Superiority and every advantage of Situation they might when they pleased, conquer both Your Islands and Ours. I am persuaded that they would not stop here, but would in Process of Time advance to the Southern Continent of America, and either subdue the Inhabitants, or carry them along with them, and in the end, not leave a foot of that Hemisphere in the Possession of any European Power. All these Consequences would not, indeed be immediate. Neither you nor I should live to see them, but for being remote they are not less sure. Short sighted narrow Policy may indeed, rejoice in every Distress of a Rival, without looking beyond the present Hour, but He who looks forward, and thinks of and weighs Consequences, must consider what now happens to you in America, as a General Evil, of which every Nation that has Settlements there, has its Share, and in that Light, I assure you, it has always appeared to Me” – All this My Lord Mr de Vergennes said entirely of his own Accord, and with the Air and Manner of a Man, who speaks his Real Opinion. Your Lordship will easily believe, that I expressed great Satisfaction at finding Him in such Sentiments, fell in and applauded his Reasoning, which I did with the better Grace, as He sees the Object in the same Light in which it has always struck Me, I am as much convinced as He possibly can be, that not only our own future Fate, but much of the General Fate of Europe is involved, in our present unhappy Contest, and that this and every other Nation that has Settlements in America ought to wish Us Success, whether they ready do so or not, I pretend not to say.

After my Audience I made a Visit to Mr de Maurepas,<sup>2</sup> and told Him that the Language The King his Master, had held to Me could not but be highly agreeable to my Court. He answered that He had already seen Mr de Vergennes and knew what had passed at my Audience, and then added “Je suis bien aise que Le Roi vous ait parle comme je nais qu’il pense. Soiez sur Melord, que Nous ne sommes pas Gens que cherchent à abuser des Circonstances et à pecher dans l’Eau trouble. Our Wish and Intention is to live in Peace and Friendship with you to maintain the public Tranquillity and to arrange the Affairs of our own

Interior in the best Manner We can.” I answered that I was persuaded that was the Real Plan of the present Ministry and that it was every way worthy of their Wisdom, and then repeated a Part of what I had said to Mr de Vergennes of our entire Reliance upon the assurances they had given Us, that they never would furnish the American Rebels with Ammunition or Stores of any kind He said – “be assured We do not and will not directly or indirectly give them any Sort of Assistance you had a Notion that the Governor of St Domingo had sent them Gunpowder, but We find, upon the strictest Examination, that it was a groundless Report” – We then, My Lord, spoke a little of the general Temper of the Nation, observed that it was strongly with Administration, which He said, was a great Point at all Times, but particularly in such Contests as these, and very properly, I think, attributed this general Disposition to the Americans having now clearly shewn, that they aim at absolute Independance. “Opinions, said He, may be devided about this or that Measure; as for Instance, whether it was right or wrong to attempt to tax the Americans, but now that they shew that what they aim at is Une Independance absolue. Votre Nation sont bien que cette Independance ne sauvoit Lui convenir”

In this Respect at least, My Lord, I am persuaded both Mr de Maurepas, and Mr de Vergennes see the Thing in its true point of View, and are convinced that the Americans wish to be independent, and will make themselves so, if they can – Mr de Maurepas, who always treats me as an old Acquaintance, talked to me with great seeming frankness and cordiality. He is perfectly well and has the appearance of a Man who is pleased with his Situation, and is firm in the Saddle – I made my Visit short, as many People of the first fashion were waiting in his outward Room.

I have now given Your Lordship a particular, and I am afraid, too long an Account of what passed in these first Conversations the only interesting ones I have as yet had with either of the above-mentioned Ministers – I think I have omitted nothing material – I am sure I have added nothing of my own. I am [&c.]

Stormont

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1306.

2. Maurepas was the principal advisor to Louis XVI from 1774 to 1781.