

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 3

AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 8, 1775–Dec. 31, 1775

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1775–Jan. 31, 1776

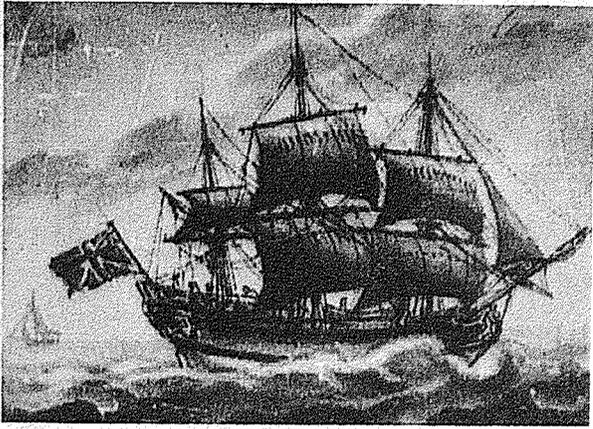
AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1776–Feb. 18, 1776

Part 3 of 8

**United States
Government Printing Office
Washington, 1968**

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

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



EUROPEAN THEATRE

From November 1, 1775, to January 31, 1776

**THE
BRITISH ISLES,**
Comprehending
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND:
with
THE ADJACENT ISLANDS
By
SAMUEL DUNN,
Mathematician.

London: Printed for John Sayer, N^o. 43 in Fleet Street
at the Atlas Office in Jan 1796.



WESTERN OR ATLANTIC OCEAN

THE GERMAN OR NORTH SEA

IRISH SEA

ENGLISH CHANNEL

THE CHANNEL

Longitude East of Paris 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From November 1, 1775, to January 31, 1776

SUMMARY

Thwarted in its efforts to obtain 20,000 men from the Empress of Russia, the British Ministry had turned, in the summer of 1775, to the numerous petty princes within the German empire for troops to assist in subduing the American rebels. The need was great. England's standing army numbered less than 19,000 men, and recruiting efforts had been unsuccessful. Three of these German princelings had made overtures to King George shortly after the news of Bunker Hill had reached Europe. All of them were related to the British monarch either by blood or marriage, and all were avaricious, mercenary and poor. In late August, a minister plenipotentiary in the person of an English army officer who had seen service in Germany during the last war, was sent to negotiate with them. Meanwhile, acting in his dual capacity as King of England and Elector of Hanover, George III had ordered five battalions of Hanoverians to relieve the British garrisons in Minorca and Gibraltar, thus releasing more British troops to serve in America. These Hanoverian battalions, through lack of shipping, did not sail for the Mediterranean until October.

The King had addressed Parliament that same month and had voiced the government's policy toward America with the announcement that "it has 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." He proposed, as his instance of clemency, sending commissioners to treat with any province that might be disposed to return to its allegiance. In almost the same breath, he remarked about the "friendly offers of foreign assistance" he had received; a reference to the hirelings being negotiated for in Germany.

His first "decisive exertions" were to order more ships to reinforce the fleet in American waters, and more ships to be put into commission, which, in the "run down" state of the British navy was a task of no mean magnitude.

Of all this the French Court was well aware through the reports of the volatile author of "Figaro." Caron de Beaumarchais, after presenting his memorial to the Count de Vergennes and Louis XVI in September, had returned to London "well informed of the King's intentions and your own," as he advised the Foreign Minister. What said intentions were the playwright-diplomat left to the interpretation his superiors might place upon them. He had been supplied with secret service money and a strong injunction given him not to compromise any one in authority in France by his activities. His duty was to observe and note down all British attitudes and activities. By the end of October he had his dossier fairly well filled, preparatory to a return to Paris.

Elsewhere on the European continent, little of moment was underway. Catherine of Russia, seeking to mollify George III for her earlier refusal to supply troops, expressed a desire to continue in his good will, and hoped the American War might be ended through peaceful negotiations. Spain, still reeling from the shock of defeat at the hands of the Barbary powers, was slow to indicate any interest in the war. She knew her own weakness and did not wish to imperil any of her far-flung colonies in the Western Hemisphere by espousing the American cause.

1 Nov. 1775

BRITISH ADMIRALTY PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA ¹

1775.

1st Novemr

Sir Peter Parker ordered to hoist a broad Pendant to be employed in North America under the Command of Rear Admiral Shuldham:

Including the Ships ordered to Sail with Sir Peter Parker the force under the command of Rear Adml Shuldham would then be Vizt

	Rate	Ships	Men		
	3 -	2 -	1,020	}	Ships 56
	4 -	6 -	2,100		
	5 -	4 -	1,000		
	6 -	15 -	2,720		
Sloops -		15 -	1,740		
Bombs -		2 -	140		
Schooners -		8 -	240		
Arm'd Vessels -		2 -	95		
Storeships -		1 -	40		
Arm'd Transport -		1 -	—		Men 9,095.

The farther number of Ships now in Commission & intended to join him are Vizt

	Rate	Ships	Men		
	4 -	1 -	350	}	Ships 14
	5 -	8 -	1,820		
	6 -	4 -	820		
Hosplship		1 -	140		
					Men 3,130

NB. The Ships to serve in North America being completed to their highest Compliments, the number of Men in the two last States are calculated accordingly.

There are besides the undermentioned Ships order'd to be got ready & will proceed to join him as soon as they are completed

	Rate	Ship	Men		
	5 -	6 -	1,320	}	Ships 9
	6 -	2 -	340		
Sloop -		1 -	125		
					Men 1,785.

From the foregoing Facts it appears the several Orders give to Vice Adml Graves were for the carrying into execution the Laws which had pass'd and they are governed in point of time accordingly.

That the object to be attended to at the beginning of the Year 1775, was the execution of the Boston Port and other Bills passed at that time: and that he had under his Command 24 Ships of different Classes bearing 3,545 Men.

That when the Laws passed to restrain the Trade of the Colonies & additional Force became necessary, the same was Ordered to be augmented to 36 Ships, bearing 4,565 Men.

That as soon as it was thought expedient to seize the Ships of the four New England Governments measures were taken for a further Augmentation of the Squadron — thereby making it to consist of 52 Ships & 7,265 Men.

That when the Orders to seize Ships were made general to all the Colonies, for the more effectual performance of that Service, and such as may arise in consequence of the other operations to be carried on in America, the Force including the Ships already there, those on their passage & those that may Sail in a short time, will be 79 Ships and 14,010 Men. There are preparing & will be put into Commission as fast as they can be got ready, in addition to the force aforementioned 17 Ships, whose Compliments will amount to 2,470 Men, so that when these Ships shall be arrived, the whole of the Squadron will then amount to 96 Sail and 16,480 Men.

[Endorsed] Admiralty Office Decr 1775 Abstract of the most material proceedings in this Department relative to North America since the Meeting of the last Sessions of Parliament.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE NAVY ESTIMATES ¹

[Extract] [November 1, 1775]

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply.

Mr. [John] Buller moved, that 28,000 seamen, including 6,665 marines, be voted for the service of the year 1776, at the rate of 4 *l.* per month. He spoke of the stations of the fleet; particularly that the one under admiral Shuldham, who was to command in North America, was to consist of 78 sail.

Admiral [Augustus] Keppel opposed the motion, as inadequate to a war, and too large for a peace establishment. He said that no vessels could keep the sea upon the coast of North America in the winter season; arraigned the proceedings of the first lord of the Admiralty in his conduct of the navy, which he represented to have been in a much better situation before the present noble lord came to the head of that department, then since.²

Captain [James] Luttrell. When the Address, which, we are told, pledged us to nothing, passed this House, I did suppose ministry would think it politic to

vote navy, army, militia, supplies, and every grant they may want, without giving time for reflection, information, or enquiry; and therefore I am not surprized at the precipitate manner in which the hon. member has brought before us a question of such great national import; but as I suspected it, I was eager to learn from the noble lord opposite to me, when he mentioned the number of land forces proposed to be employed for the present year, what the naval establishment was to consist of? His lordship carefully avoided being thus communicative, though he assured us in too general terms, that the most proper oeconomy had been, and would be, observed with respect to the navy.

. . . Is it by the loss to the public of the artificers' labour, while they are doing homage to this mighty lord? Is it in sending a royal yacht with his son to Lisbon, which will cost the public 1000 *l.* when he might have gone in a packet for 50 *l.* Is it in the wise regulations he has made in the navy, which we hear of in the newspapers, and by his dependants, but no where else? Or is it in that careful inspection into the state of the fleet so to prevent abuses, that the best men of war may be sold for 1,000 *l.* while the worst appear to have cost 40,000 *l.* in repair? And, Sir, as it is the custom to call up the attention of the country gentlemen upon every alarming subject, I will crave that indulgence for a minute to mark one instance out of very many where this oeconomy is not to be found. [He then entered into the abuses and misapplications that had prevailed in the naval oeconomy since 1770. He shewed, that though in the course of five years, upwards of two millions sterling had been granted by parliament for the repairs of the navy, over and above the sums annually for wear and tear, yet the navy debt had increased in the same five years, upwards of 500,000 *l.* He proved that the *Africa*, a ship of 70 guns, had been sold for 900 *l.* though she was in better order than two-thirds of the fleet, and could have been made as good as new for 3,000 *l.* while there had been demanded of parliament, for the use of the *Dragon* man of war only, within four years, though she had never been at sea in the time, 32,973 *l.* being extra work over and above what she had cost under the articles of wear and tear, and ordinary; and is now laid up in Fareham Creek unfit for service without further repair. He likewise proved, that the noble lord at the head of the board was the cause of the late insurrection of the shipwrights, as he had encouraged them to petition parliament for an increase of wages, in opposition to the application of the captains of the navy for an increase of their half-pay: he himself having told their committee that the shipwrights were a set of more useful men to this nation, and much more entitled to the favour of government. He said that the task-work was the most destructive manner of building and repairing possible, that it must inevitably increase the naval expence, and ruin the fleet of this kingdom.]³

Now, Sir, to return to the question immediately before us: my objection arises, as it did last year, from a persuasion of the insufficiency of the number of seamen applied for to man the ships already in commission, and those fitting for foreign service: if 6,665 marines are to be included, 1,200 of which the hon. member allows to make a part of your standing army, and are now serving under the general of your troops in America, how then can the ships in this country be

fitted for war, if occasion should require it, without the assistance of these marines, who, with the few volunteers we have, can alone be trusted to man the boats, get the stores on board, guard the ships, and the men we receive from the impress traders. The hon. member has told us, that admiral Shuldham's command is to consist of 78 sail of men of war. In that case it is trifling with parliament to come with such a demand as this, when I am sure it is impossible, by any calculation, to prove them sufficient to man such a fleet as is now in commission, and fitting for foreign service; and if you except out of 28,000 seamen the 1,200 marines under the command of our general at Boston, sea officers, petty officers, and servants, the number of foremast men will not exceed 14,000; therefore these must be ordinary grants; you may judge of the extraordinaries by what you have heard respecting the *Dragon*, and of which there are many more instances equally alarming.

Sir, though I am totally against a great increase of revenue for the destructive purposes it seems at present intended, it was my best hope that a large share of it would be appropriated towards the support of what is generally acknowledged to be the great strength of this nation; that when the American ports were shut up, and we had lost that trade, we might have secured the seamen out of employ, by fitting out a formidable fleet; not because I think it will prove useful on the coast of America, but as the best security against a foreign power. Sir, talking of America, a right hon. member said, there had been a fault in the navy somewhere. Will the noble lord declare that admiral Graves has ever received positive orders that he did not execute; or have they been, as I have reason to believe them, from the operations of the fleet, so artfully discretionary, that if your ships should be wrecked upon that frozen coast, or any misfortune attend them, the blame may be laid on the admiral, and his reputation as an officer be sacrificed to shelter the wicked proceedings of these ministers. — Sir, an hon. member told us, we need not be dispirited with our misfortunes in America, for that our fleets were unsuccessful at the beginning of the late war, but afterwards proved victorious. Sir, this is a position similar to that of the naval oeconomy, which I think can hardly be marked in above one instance, I mean the loss of Minorca. Where else did ill-success await our naval arms? Was it in Europe, Asia, South or North America, where from the commencement to the conclusion of the war we were making captures? How then, Sir, was the ill-success that attended this country in any foreign war, to be compared to the sea of trouble we are now embarked in, but which I hope to God may calm sooner than I fear the minds of those men will do, who can tell us, in a language that is shocking to hear, they are riveted to coercion against our fellow-subjects in America.

Lord Hinchinbroke said, his brother was in such a situation, that the noble lord his father, had no other means of sending him.⁴

Lord North said, the ships built at the end of the war, were of green wood, which not being so durable as the seasoned wood, was very bad, had lately proved very rotten, and that this circumstance had been the cause of the great expence.

Sir J.G.Griffin did not get up to oppose the number of seamen, because he thought if any operations were to be continued against the Americans, they ought

to be confined to that service only. He then declared that he had hitherto supported government on principles, without regard to men; thinking it his duty as an honest man so to do, as long as the true interest of the country appeared to be consulted, and the public affairs conducted to the credit or honour of the nation; he denied that to be the case at present, and called on any of the minister's best friends to contradict him; adding, he should ill deserve to sit there any longer, if he continued to afford his support to men, the effects of whose pernicious measures had reduced us to so shameful a situation. He professed himself an advocate for the supreme legislative authority of this country over its colonies; disclaimed however on the one hand vindicating the rash and indiscreet measure of having taxed the Americans, as he did on the other, their mode of resistance. The noble lord (North) had in the last session given it as his firm opinion, that the forces then voted and the other measures the House had adopted, would put an end to all our unhappy disputes with America, even without a drop of bloodshed; yet notwithstanding we all felt so seriously the grievous effects of these ill-advised measures, the noble lord, with fatal experience against him, was determined to seek our total ruin, by persevering in the same wild and extravagant system; instead of which, he added, a tender of conciliation on terms suited to the true spirit of the British constitution ought to be preferred and held out to the Americans, which, if not successful, we ought to relinquish all connections with them: or otherwise, if practicable, to harass them with your fleets, by interrupting their trade, till at length they might perhaps be brought to sue for protection.

The Resolution was agreed to.

1. Thomas C. Hansard, ed., *The Parliamentary History of England, from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* . . . (London, 1813), XVIII, 841-846. Hereafter cited as Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*.
2. Referring to John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich (1718-1792). Lord Sandwich's ruinous conduct, as First Lord of the Admiralty, is thoroughly discussed in Captain W. M. James' excellent book, *The British Navy in Adversity* (London, 1926).
3. The brackets are Hansard's.
4. Hinchinbroke's attempt to defend his father for sending a naval yacht to Lisbon provides an amusing *non sequitur*.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Whereas we think fit that you shall proceed in His Majestys Ship *Bristol* to North America in order to serve under the command of Rear Admiral Shuldham Commr in Chief of His Majestys Ships & Vessels upon that Station; You are hereby required & directed to report on board the *Bristol* at Sheerness and hoist your Broad Pendant on board her (Capt [John] Morris her Commander being directed to obey your Orders) And so soon as the said Ship is ready for the Sea agreeable to the Orders which the said Captain has received, You are to repair in her to Spithead & remain there until you receive further Order.

Given &c. 1st November 1775

Sandwich

J Buller

Lisburne

By &c PS ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 229.

2. The initials are those of Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS, H.M.S.
*Bristol, SHEERNESS*¹

You are hereby required & directed to put yourself under the command of Captain Sir Peter Parker whom we have ordered to hoist his Broad Pendant on board the Ship you command; And follow his orders for your further proceedings Given &c 1st November 1775 Sandwich J Buller Lisburne

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 229.

3 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT ROBERT DEANES; R.N.¹

By &c.

Whereas we think fit that you shall be employ'd to raise Voluntier Seamen in and about London for the Service of His Majesty's Bomb the *Thunder* at Deptford; You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Instructions Vizt²

1st

You are to hire a proper Room for a Rendezvous, and to apply yourself with the utmost diligence to the aforesaid Service, causing Bills to be printed and stuck up, inviting such Voluntiers to repair thereto, and taking care not to receive any but who are of strong Bodies & in health, and not under Twenty or above fifty years of Age.

2d

You are to send on board the said Vessel from time to time as you shall see convenient under the care of your Petty Officer such Seamen as shall enter with you, together with their Chests & Bedding & to transmit to her Captain at the same time a List of their Names, noting the Days in which they respectively enter'd, that they may be borne for Wages accordingly in the Books of the said Vessel.

3d

You are to apply to the Navy Board for an Imprest of Twenty Pounds which we have order'd for you, & when the same is expended you are to let us know it; And you are at liberty to charge Two Shillings & six pence a day for your own subsistence, and to pay the Petty Officer employ'd under you one Shilling & six pence a day for his subsistence also, during the time you shall be employ'd as aforesaid.

4th

You are to send an Account every Monday, Wednesday & Friday to your Secretary of the Number of Men raised distinguishing therein how many you have procur'd in the whole, & how many since the Account immediately preceeding.

5th

When this Service shall be over you are to deliver to the Navy Board an Account of your disbursements making an Affidavit at the foot thereof in the following form Vizt

“This Deponent maketh Oath that the Sum charged against each particular Article in the foregoing Account was expended for the purpose mention'd in such Article and no other.[”]

Given &c the 3d Novr 1775.

Sandwich

J.Buller

Lisburne

To Lieut Robert Deanes

of His Majts Bomb Vessel *Thunder*

in Town By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 230-32.

2. These instructions for enlisting volunteers appear with considerable frequency in the Lords Commissioners' order books. They will not be printed, the instructions to Lieutenant Deanes being a sufficient illustration of the method used.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 303

London, 3 November 1775

I enclose in this dispatch, Sir, the excerpts from the proceedings in both Houses of Parliament.

Precautionary measures were taken to the effect that all spectators had to leave before the votes were gathered so that we could not be present when the debate on the vote concerning the quota of sailors took place. But I learn from the Office that a quota of 28 thousand was voted. This number which increases the peace quota only by ten thousand is not considerable in order to effect great efforts. Their resources will be weak or they will have to resort to foreign ones. However it was said during the debate that there were 64 warships in America and 70 along the coasts of the three Kingdoms.

News from the Ports.

Plymouth The 20 workers who were to go to America had their orders countermanded. *Non Such* left dry dock. The Frigate *Apollo* is still in dry dock; she is in very poor trim and will need complete repairs. *Centurion* sailed for America. *Chatham*, *Syren*, *Orpheus* are in the Sound.

Portsmouth The frigates *Triton*, *Active*, *Fox*, *Greyhound*, *Thetis* and *Sphynx* are being fitted out.

The frigates named *Juno*, *Pearl Seaford* are in dry dock.

Up to now, all these frigates have few sailors for their crews.

The frigate *Pallas* is ready to leave port.

Action [*Actaeon*] is at Spithead awaiting orders.

There are also at Spithead six Guard ships and two in the port. The corvette *Atalanta* is cruising off the Island of Wight. Her captain has forbidden his crew to answer any ship. Her guns are inside and her gun-ports are closed. Her name

on the stern is covered. She does not fly her commission pennant or give any indication of being a warship. Her destination is unknown.

Chatham The mortar galiot *Racehorse* is being commissioned. She is being sheathed.

The order has been given to requisition 22 transport ships for the Service of the King.

The ship *Victory* and the frigate *Carysfort* left dry dock. *Isis* as well as *Emerald* went into dry dock.

In Deptford, work is being done on the frigate *Eolus* with 32 guns and *Galathea* with 20.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 512, LC Photocopy. Vergennes was French Foreign Minister.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH ORDNANCE
OFFICE TO GEORGE VISCOUNT TOWNSHEND¹

My Lord

Office of Ordnance 3 Novr. 1775.

We beg leave to lay before Your Lordship the Inclosed State of the Artillery at the several places in America before any Supplies were sent in consequence of the present Troubles, likewise the State of all that has been sent since the 1st of January 1775, which we are of opinion will fully answer what is requested by the Earl of Dartmouth's Letter of the 30th Ultimo. We are My Lord [&c.]

Jeff. Amherst Chas Cocks

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 107a.

"STATE OF ARTILLERY - SMALL ARMS AND POWDER SENT TO AMERICA SINCE
1ST JANUARY 1775"¹

		Sent by
March 25th	A Company of Invalids to Newfoundland	} The <i>Russia Merchant</i>
April 10th	A Detachment of Officers & Men for Boston - 1 Engineer, Cloathing, Flints & 6 Light 3 Ponders Boston	} The <i>Charming Sally</i>
May 18th	Tents demanded by Colonel Cleave-land - Boston	} The <i>Friendship</i> Victualling Transport
May 30th	A Supply of Stores for East Florida Including 430 Barrels of Powder	} The <i>Betsy</i>
July 22th	Four Light 3 Ponders and 3000 Stand of Arms with Ammunition compleat for Virginia	} The <i>Maria</i> a Navy Transport.
July 24th	Four Light 3 Ponders and 3000 Stand of Arms with Ammunition for Quebec	} The <i>Jacob</i> Navy Transport
August 14th	Three Thousand additional Arms to Quebec wth Ammunition	} <i>Elizabeth</i> Navy Transport

15th	Four Companies of Artillery 12 Medium 12 Pounders. 20 Wall Pieces. 3-13 Inch Brass Mortars - and 8 6 Pounders with other Articles of Colo Cleaveland's Demand dated 23d June Boston	} <i>The Baltick Merchant</i> <i>The Charming Nancy</i> & <i>The Juno</i>
Septemr 1st	8000 Stand of Arms - 400 Carbines - Spare Carriages, Waggon, Harness and other Articles in part of Colonel Cleaveland's Demand Boston	} <i>The William</i> <i>The Williamson</i> <i>The Nancy</i> <i>The Three Brothers</i>
October 5th	Six Medium 6 Pounders - 5000 Stand of Arms wth Ammunition for North Carolina, Intrenching Tools, Mantellets and sundry Stores Demanded by Captain Montresor p order of General Gage for Boston	} <i>The Russia Merchant</i>
	N.B. The particulars for North Carolina taken out at Portsmouth p Order 22 October and 500 Barrels of Powder put on board.	
Octobr 14th	500 Stand of Arms and Ammunition for North Carolina, the remainder of the Stores Demanded by Capt. Montresor. 1600 Carbines to Compleat Colo Cleaveland's Demand, Spare Carriages &ca	} <i>The Hope</i>
	N.B. The particulars for North Carolina taken on Shore by order. - and 1500 Barrels of Powder put on board for Boston.	
October 28th	Iron Ordnance, Shot, Powder & Stores for the Fleet, 1000 Stand of Small Arms and Barrack Bedding for 3 Regiments. Halifax	} <i>The Charming Sally</i>

[Endorsed] In Letter from Lieut General & principal Officers of the Ordnance of 3d Novr 1775.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 107d.

4 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT P. COOPER,
H.M. SLOOP *Hawke*, AT THE NORE¹

You are hereby required and directed, to proceed without a Moments loss of time in the Sloop you command to Spithead, and there wait until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 4th. of Novr. 1775

Sandwich J. Buller Lisburne

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 233.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 TO NOVEMBER 4, 1775

London. Nov. 4.

On Thursday night [November 2] Lord Pitt, son of the Earl of Chatham, and Mr. Pownal, son of Governor Pownal, arrived in town from Quebec, and yesterday they went to Court, were both presented to his Majesty, and graciously received.

A letter was received on Thursday by a merchant of this city, from Quebec, brought by the *Pomona*, Capt. [John] Green, arrived at Dover, which says, "On the 25th of September, in the morning, a party of the King's troops, and a party of the provincials met within a few leagues of Montreal, when a smart skirmish ensued, in which about twenty of the provincials were killed and wounded, and several taken prisoners, amongst the latter is Col. [Ethan] Allen, the commander of the provincials: On the side of the King's troops, Capt. Patterson, who, it is said commanded the regulars, was wounded, and several of his men."

6 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, H.M.S. *Syren*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Sir,

[London] 6th Novemr 1775.

In addition to the Order which you have received from my Lords Commissioners of the admiralty dated the 30th Ultimo, I am to signify their Lordships direction to you to engage for His Majesty's Service, upon your arrival at North Carolina, as many Pilots as you can, who are acquainted with any Part of that Coast, and to keep them on board until the arrival of Sir Peter Parker; And you will communicate this part of my Letter to the Commanders of any of His Majesty's Ships you may fall in with, and acquaint them that, it is their Lordships direction they do the like.

After you have delivered your Dispatches to Govr Martin, if you are not able to recruit your water at North Carolina, their Lordships recommend it to you to proceed to Port Royal in South Carolina in order to take on board such a Supply as may be wanting; where you will also engage such Pilots as you may meet with who are acquainted with that Coast, and procure the best Intelligence you can; taking care to return to Cape Fear as soon as you are able, but in all events within One Month from the time you shall have left it, and to cruize as you have been directed by their Lordships Order before mentioned, in order to join Sir Peter Parker.

I send you inclosed a Plan of Port Royal Harbour and a description of the Coast of South Carolina, to which I take leave to refer you; and am &ca

Php Stephens.

PS. Their Lordships command me to send you a Warrant empowering you to impress Seamen in North America, and it is their direction that, in case the Pilots abovementioned should not be willing to engage in His Majesty's Service, you do,

by virtue of the said Warrant, impress them, and keep them on board your Ship until you receive directions from Sir Peter Parker, or the Commander in Chief in America for the further disposal of them.

PS.

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

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N.¹

Dear Sir,

[London] 6th Novemr 1775.

In case you have any Letters on board your Ship recommended to your care for Admiral Graves, General Gage, General Howe, or any other Persons at Boston; I am to desire you will send them to me before you sail, that they may be sent to Boston by some other conveyance. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

Capt Furneaux, *Syren*, Plymo.

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

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

Fontainebleau, 6 November 1775

I had the honor to inform you, Sir, of the secret orders which I sent, on the 16th of last month, to the Intendants and Controllers of the Navy in order to prevent in as much as possible the ships from the English Colonies from taking on war ammunition in our ports. Several of these officers have already indicated to me that they will comply with care; but among their answers, I felt I had to forward to you the letter from Mr. Prévost de la Croix, Controller at Lorient. It seemed to deserve your attention; I beg you to give me your opinion on the eventual instructions it may warrant.

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

De Sartine

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

7 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, H.M.S.
Syren, PLYMOUTH¹

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 and the West Indies shall be discontinued² and there being great reason to suspect that the Ships & Vessels belonging to those Colonies & hitherto employed in those Channels of commerce, many of which Ships are of large burthen may be fitted out for the purpose of supporting the unnatural rebellion now carrying on; you are in pursuance of His Majestys Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 12th of September, last, hereby required & directed in

case you find any Ships or Vessels which come within the above description in any of the Ports or Harbours you may visit within the said Colonies to take away their Masts & Rudders or otherwise so disable such Ships & Vessels that they may not be fitted & employed for the purpose abovementioned.

Given &c 7th November 1775

J. Buller H. Penton H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 235.
2. The Continental Association passed by the first Continental Congress. Georgia is the missing colony.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N.¹

Advices having been received from different Parts of America, that the Inhabitants of the Colonies in general which are in Arms against the King are collecting & fitting out armed Vessels for effecting in various ways their rebellious purposes; You are hereby required & directed in pursuance of His Majestys pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 22d Ultmo to exert your utmost endeavours to prevent such preparations and to burn & destroy every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out from any of the Colonies with such traitorous designs

In case you shall seize any Ships or Vessels under the Circumstances mentioned in our Order of the 6th of last Month, you are instead of carrying them to Boston to carry them to some other place of safety; there to be detained 'til further Order or be proceeded against according to Law as the nature of the case shall require.

Given &c 7th November 1775

Capt. Furneaux - *Syren* -
Plymouth By &c PS

J. Buller H. Penton H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 236.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N.¹

In pursuance of His Majestys Order in Council, dated the 16th Day of June last, We do hereby impower and direct you to impress or cause to be impressed so many Seamen, Seafaring Men and Persons whose occupations and callings are to work in Vessels and Boats upon Rivers, in His Majestys Dominions in North America as shall be necessary either to Man His Majestys Ships employed or to be employed in those parts giving unto each Man so impressed One Shilling for Prest Mony. And, in the execution hereof, you are to take care that neither yourself, nor any Officer authorized by you, do demand or receive any Mony, Gratuity, reward or other consideration whatsoever, for the sparing, exchanging or discharging any Person or Persons impressed or to be impressed as you will answer it at your peril. You are not to intrust any Person with the execution of this Warrant but a Commission Officer and to insert his Name & Office in the Deputation on the other side hereof and set your Hand & Seal thereto. This Warrant to continue in Force, 'til the Thirty first Day of December 1776 unless duly countermanded before that time. And in the due execution thereof, all Mayors, Sheriffs Justices of the Peace, Bailiffs, Constables, Headboroughs and all

other His Majestys Officers and Subjects whom it may concern are hereby required to be aiding and assisting unto you and those employed by you, as they tender His Majestys Service and will answer the contrary at their Peril.
Given &c and the Seal &c the 7th Novr 1775.

J Buller H.Penton H.Palliser

Capt. Furneaux – Syren – Plymouth

By &c PS

I do hereby depute belonging to His Majestys [blank] under my Command, to impress Seamen, Seafaring Men & Persons whose occupations & callings are to work in Vessels & Boats upon Rivers according to the tenor of this Warrant. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this [blank] day of

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 237–38.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN ¹

(No 22.)

Whitehall 7th Novr 1775

Sir, Since my Letter to you of the 27th of last Month inclosing Copy of my Dispatch to Major General [William] Howe, of the 22d of that Month, the plan and Object of the intended Expedition to the Southward, to which that Dispatch refers, have been maturely considered. –

It has been found upon full Examination, that the Entrance and Navigation of Cape Fear River are at least very hazardous, if not impracticable to Vessels of a large draught of Water, and consequently that Troops disembarked within that River could receive no protection in their landing from Ships of War; It is thought advisable however that they should proceed according to their original destination from a hope that altho' it may be impracticable for the Fleet to cover and assist the landing of so large a Body as seven Regiments yet the disembarkation of a small part may be effected, in case you shall be of opinion that they will not be opposed and that they will be joined by any considerable number of well disposed Persons, so as to accomplish the restoration of Government, but if such landing either of the whole, or of any part, cannot be effected, with hazard of Opposition, and there is not a certainty that they would be immediately joined by such a number of the well disposed Inhabitants, as would when once Assembled, under the countenance of the King's Troops be able to maintain themselves and support the King's Government, no possible advantage could attend any Efforts in North Carolina; and in that case the General who commands the Expedition, and who will probably be arrived off Cape Fear River, by the time this Letter reaches you, will be instructed to proceed with the whole Body of the Forces under his Command, to Charles Town, in order to try what may be effected there towards restoring Government in South Carolina; For it is necessary I should again state to you, that this enterprise is entirely formed upon the assurances given by yourself and the rest of His Majesty's Governors in the Southern Provinces, that, even upon the appearance of a Force, much Inferior to what is now sent, the Friends of Government would show themselves, and the Rebellion be crushed and subdued. –

If we are deceived in this expectation & these assurances, or if the Friends of Government when collected in Arms, shall not find themselves strong enough

to support that Government without the Assistance of Regular Troops, the expedition will be of little Avail; and all that will be left to the King's General to do, will be to place the Army under his Command in some secure Situation untill the Season of the Year will admit of their going with safety to join General Howe; which junction will most probably be effected with greater facility & much earlier than it could be done from hence.

If the General who is to have the Command of these Troops, should be at Cape Fear when you receive this, or before the Troops arrive, you will communicate this Letter to him, apprising him at the same time that he will receive full Instructions from me, by the commanding Officer of the Regiments that are sent out. —

If you should be of opinion after all that I have stated of the difficulty in respect to landing Troops in North Carolina, that a part of the Force sent out may be employd there to effect, and the General should concur in that opinion, the utmost Activity in preparation will be necessary and you should loose no time in sending Emissaries amongst the Inhabitants of the well-disposed Counties with authority & Commission to the principal Persons of Trust & Confidence, for raising & embodying as many Men as can be procured, and informing them of His Majesty's Intentions of supplying them with Arms and giving them the same pay as the Regular Troops, as soon as they come down, which they should be encouraged to do as soon as they hear of the arrival of the Troops upon the Coast; bringing down with them Horses & Waggon for the use of the Army, for which they will be very liberally paid & rewarded.

Those Emissaries should also be instructed to assure the Men so raised, that they will not be obliged to serve out of the Province, without their Consent, nor any longer than the present troubles continue — And it may not be improper to engage for a remission of all arrears of Quit Rents, and for Grants of Land to such as shall enter into this Service, in proportion to their Rank & Merit; with an exemption from the Payment of any Quit-Rents for twenty years from the date of the Grants. I am &c

Dartmouth.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, LC Photocopy. Martin was Royal Governor of North Carolina.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 7th Novr 1775

Mr Richard Watlington having represented to my Lords Commrs of the Admty that he has freighted the *Nautilus* Capt William Jardine with a large & valuable Cargo for the use of His Majts Army & Navy consisting of Port, Madeira, Teneriffe Wines Geneva, Brandy, Cheese, Hams, Tongues some Packages of Earthen Ware & Woolen Cloths; And their Lordships being Willing to encourage an undertaking 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 Mr Watlingtons request 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 &c

P S

Vice Adml Graves, or Commg Officer for the time being in No America	}	Delivered to Mr Watlington
---	---	-------------------------------

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 286-87.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N.¹

Sir,

7th Novemr 1775.

I send you herewith another Pacquet from the Earl of Dartmouth to Josiah Martin Esqr Governor of North Carolina, and also a Pacquet from his Lordship to Lord Willm Campbell, Governor of South Carolina; The former of which you will be careful to deliver or convey to Governor Martin with the Pacquet which accompanied the Order of my Lords Commissioners dated the 30th of last Month; And it is their Lordships direction that you then proceed with the latter to Charles Town in South Carolina and deliver it, or take care to convey it in safety to the Governor of that Province. And having received from him such Dispatches as he may have occasion to send to Sir Peter Parker, you are to prosecute their Lordships Secret Instructions of the 30th of last Month and their directions signified to you by my Letter of yesterday's date. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

PS. Having since I closed my Letter of yesterday's date, obtained a Plan of Cape Fear River, and a Survey of the Coast about Cape Look-out, in North Carolina; I send you herewith Copies thereof, as they may be useful to you in your present intended Voyage.

P S.

Capt. Furneaux, *Syren*, Plymo.

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

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT MAN, MINORCA ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 7th Novr 1775

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received various Intelligence of Vessels employed in carrying on an illicit Trade from the British Colonies in North America to Cadiz & other Ports in Spain I am commanded by their Lordships to send you Copies thereof and to signify their direction to you to give orders to the Captains of the Ships under your command to keep a good look out for vessels that may be so employed, And in case of falling in with any of them to seize them agreeable to the orders you have received from their Lordships for that purpose &c

P S

(forwarded by the Navy Board)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 287-88.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO ALL CAPTAINS ¹

In pursuance of His Majestys Order in Council, dated the 16th Day of June last, We do hereby impower and direct you to impress, or cause to be impressed so many Seamen, Seafaring Men and Persons whose occupations and callings are to work in Vessels and Boats upon Rivers, in His Majestys Dominions in North America as shall be necessary either to Man His Majestys Ships employed or to be employed in those parts giving unto each Man so impressed One Shilling for Prest Mony. And, in the execution hereof, you are to take care that neither yourself, nor any Officer authorized by you, do demand or receive any Mony, Gratuity, Reward or other consideration whatsoever, for the sparing, exchanging or discharging any Person or Persons impressed or to be impressed as you will answer it at your peril. You are not to entrust any Person with the execution of this Warrant but a Commissioned Officer and to insert his Name & Office in the Deputation on the other side hereof and set your Hand & Seal thereto. This Warrant to continue in Force, 'til the Thirty first Day of December 1776 unless duly countermanded before that time. And in the due execution thereof, all Mayors Sheriffs Justices of the Peace, Bailiffs, Constables, Headboroughs and all others His Majestys Subjects whom it may concern are hereby required to be aiding and assistating unto you and those employed by you, a[s] they tender His Majestys Service and will answer the contrary at their Peril.
Given &c and the Seal &c the 7th Novr 1775.

J. Buller H. Penton H. Palliser

[Impressment Warrant]

I do hereby depute _____ belonging to His Majestys
_____ under my Command, to impress Seamen, Seafaring Men
& Persons whose occupations & callings are to work in Vessels & Boats upon
Rivers according to the tenor of this Warrant. In testimony whereof I have
hereunto set my Hand & Seal this _____ Day of _____

1. English Records, Orders and Instructions from Lords of Admiralty (copy), NCDAH.

8 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES O'HARA, H.M.S. *Pearl*,
PORTSMOUTH ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Pearl* at Portsmouth which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for a Voyage to North America Mann'd with Two hundred Men & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then proceed to Spithead and wait for further Order.

Given &c. the 8th. of Novr. 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H. Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 240.

ALEXANDER SCHAW TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord,

I find myself as much at a loss, as I ever was in my life, how to apologise for giving your Lordship the trouble of this. Yet when I take the liberty of reminding you my Lord, that I agreed to the request which the Governour & president of North Carolina made me of coming over, from the impulse of the attachment I have to my Country, when from this Motive I say I tore myself from my dearest connections & subjected myself to all the inconveniences of a long sea voyage, I may venture to hope your Lordship will believe, what I am going to say, proceeds from motives which at least deserve no blame.

From the conversation which pass'd at your Lordships office on Monday, I understood, that a new Idea, for employing the troops, destined for the Southern provinces, had been taken up. I heard the advantages & disadvantages of the different modes of acting with those troops agitated, with much Satisfaction. I did little more than listen, but I listened with attention. I have canvass'd that subject in my own mind very often; I have ruminated on what pass'd on Monday ever since, without ever having left my room. I think myself called upon, by the duty I owe to the trust reposed in me, to lay the result of my reasonings, upon the subject before your Lordship.

In the memorial I had the honour of putting into your Lordships hands,² I endeavour'd to give an Idea of many particulars, which only can be learned upon the spot. That was a part of my task, I could venture upon with some confidence. Your Lordships enquiries led me to go further: to answer them as far as possible I went beyond my line, and pointed out what occurred to me as necessary upon the supposition of a body of troops being landed at Cape fear

It seems there are doubts of the practicability of carrying Ships of deep draught over Cape fear barr. I dare not presume, to dispute that point. I always understood it was a better barr than that of Charlestown, I have been at a good deal of pains to ascertain the fact, which stands upon the information of three gentlemen now in London, who have all been Merchants on that river and are agreed, that the depth of water, both at high & low water on the barr, is greater than I have stated it to your Lordship, in my former memorial. That there is depth of water up to the flatts, for any vessel that can come over the barr, I can affirm.

I stated, my opinion of the practicability, of forming a junction betwixt the back country people who have engaged to join Governour Martin, and the troops proposed to be sent into the Country. I even ventured to give my opinion of the steps necessary to be taken, to carry it into execution. I said the ground behind Brunswick town, was proper for an encampment & gave my reasons for saying so. I farther mentioned that by sending a couple of light ships, properly armed, up to Wilmington, that they would in a great measure cut off all communication betwixt the east and west sides of the river.

I gave my reasons for supposing the Govr could depend upon the people who had engaged to join him: and my reasons also for beleiving, that numbers from other parts of the province would join, so soon as they found they could do it, with any prospect of success.

If the troops should be sent to Charlestown, in my humble apprehension the consequences will be very different. Larger ships cannot go in. But I will take it for granted, that the troops are able to land, in the face of all the force the people have raisd; and that they can establish themselves, in the island or even in the town perfectly secure against every attempt of the enemy: and that if it should be thought proper, to reembark the troops and send them to [St.] Augustine it can be carried into execution. After possessing, all these advantages, let us look a moment at the consequences

I have not sufficient information of the state of South Carolina, but never having heard, that any association had been formed by the friends of government, or any offers or promises of assistance made to the Governour, I should fear extremly that tho' a military force might possess themselves of Charlestown, that it never could be of any use in such a situation, for reducing the province to obedience. — If it cannot extent its operations much further, in place of doing good, the expedition, will only serve to raise the spirits of the rebels & to sink every hope of releif in the well affected. I have indeed heard that in the back settlements of South Carolina, there are many friends to Government, but they are at a great distance from Charlestown, & could they be embodied, they must march thro' a country, every pass of which is already in the hands of the rebels. Every man in the province, who is in the power or under the influence of the rebels, will be instantly round Charlestown and there can be little doubt, that a few days will bring them reinforcements, from North Carolina, as they will have nothing to fear at home.

If the troops after entering the harbour, should even without attempting a landing, bear away to the southward, the effects, must be still worse, by convincing friends & foes, they were unequal to the Service. Should they go to Georgia and reduce that province to obedience, the advantage is so small to Government, and the loss to the general Confederacy so insignificant, that it will still afford matter of triumph to the rebels, that the troops could do no more.

The Ringleaders every where will make the proper use of the ill success of the troops; they will influence the minds of the Country Gentlemen, with high notions of their own valour & their own consequence: And they in their turn will pervert or confirm, in disloyalty the poor people settled round them in the woods. The natural consequence of all this will be, to prove the truth of an old observation, *Possunt quia possevidentur*. The Rebels, who are now filled with diffidence and distrust of themselves, will become formidable by beleiving themselves superior to the troops.

My fears, my Lord, have pointed out to me, these consequences, from an unsuccessful attempt on South Carolina. On the other hand I dare not venture to say, that things remain on the same footing they did in North Carolina, when I left it, or even much later. But I still flatter myself, that the Gentlemen intrusted by the Governour, with the plan of bringing the people together, have managed matters so as to be yet able to accomplish it.

Here then my Lord, is at least a reasonable hope of success, it bids as fair as any thing can do. And if it shall even be found, upon landing the troops, that the rebels have taken such measures as will prevent a junction with the well affected, the expedition to the southward will be very little retarded. And if the troops do succeed here, an expedition to South Carolina, cannot fail of being attended with the most happy consequences. The back settlers in South Carolina and in those parts bordering on the south western parts of North Carolina are said to be well affected: Be master of North Carolina, nothing can be more certain or more easy, than sending troops into the well affected parts of South Carolina, & marching them to Charlestown in spite of any opposition could be brought against them: more especially if a small force was then sent into Charlestown harbour.

There is one thing further I beg leave to mention, which is the opinion that Governour Martin holds, of the strength to be expected in his province. He thinks himself sure of being able to keep up his authority, was it once reestablished without the assistance of the regular troops. I wish one could be sure of the same thing in South Carolina.

These appear to me to be the advantages and disadvantages, attending making the proposed attempt, in South or in North Carolina. I consider it as my indispensable duty to lay them before your Lordship, in conformity to the trust reposed in me.

It is but too common, for people to wish to promote, a particular plan, in opposition to every other however advantageous. If I know myself my Lord this is not the Case with me. This subject has been familiar to my thoughts for many months past. The result of my reasoning upon it, is what I have stated. I have not the vanity even to wish to entruide my opinions, but charged as I am with what I consider as a very high trust, I could not acquit myself to my own feelings, if I should neglect stating to your Lordship whatever occurs to me on the subject. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Alex^r Schaw

Orange Street [London]

8 November 1775.

[P.S.] After finishing my letter, I met with the inclosed rates of pilotage for Cape fear river, as established by Act of Assembly, which prove incontestibly, that ships drawing Eighteen feet water, can readily pass the barr. I consider it of much consequence, to have such a proof of the practicability of the attempt, be the success of it, what it may.

[Enclosure]

Rates of Pilotage, established by Act of Assembly for Cape fear River in North Carolina. —

	f feet	Proclamation Money
For a Vessel when loaded drawing	6 . .	£ 2 – 10 . .
	7 . .	2 – 15 . .
	8 . .	3 — . .
	9 . .	3 – 10 . .
	10 . .	3 – 15 . .
	11 . .	4 – 10 . .
	12 . .	5 – 10 . .
	13 . .	6 – 10 . .
	14 . .	7 – 10 . .
	15 . .	8 – 10 . .
	16 . .	9 – 10 . .
	17 . .	11 — . .
	18 . .	13 — . .

And it be enacted by the Authority aforesaid that any pilot appointed to pilot Vessels from Brunswick to Wilmington & back, shall and may receive one half of the above rates. And if only to the flats, and back to Brunswick, then one fourth of the said rates, respect being had to the particular draught of water such vessel shall draw

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

2. Schaw's previous letter dated October 31, 1775, was not presented as a memorial, Volume 2, 792–97.

CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER ATKINS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir. In Answer to your Letter of the 4th Inst with their Lordships directions for me to receive on board the *Actaeon* a quantity of Jackets for the use of the Marines at Boston. — I beg leave Sir to signify to you for their Lordships information, that it will be impossible for us to carry them out without a very great risk of damaging the Cloathing, the Ship is so very full already, that we cannot find room enough to put away our own Slops, — I have the honor to be with all imaginable respect Sir

Xpher Atkins

Actaeon Spithead the 8th Novr 1775

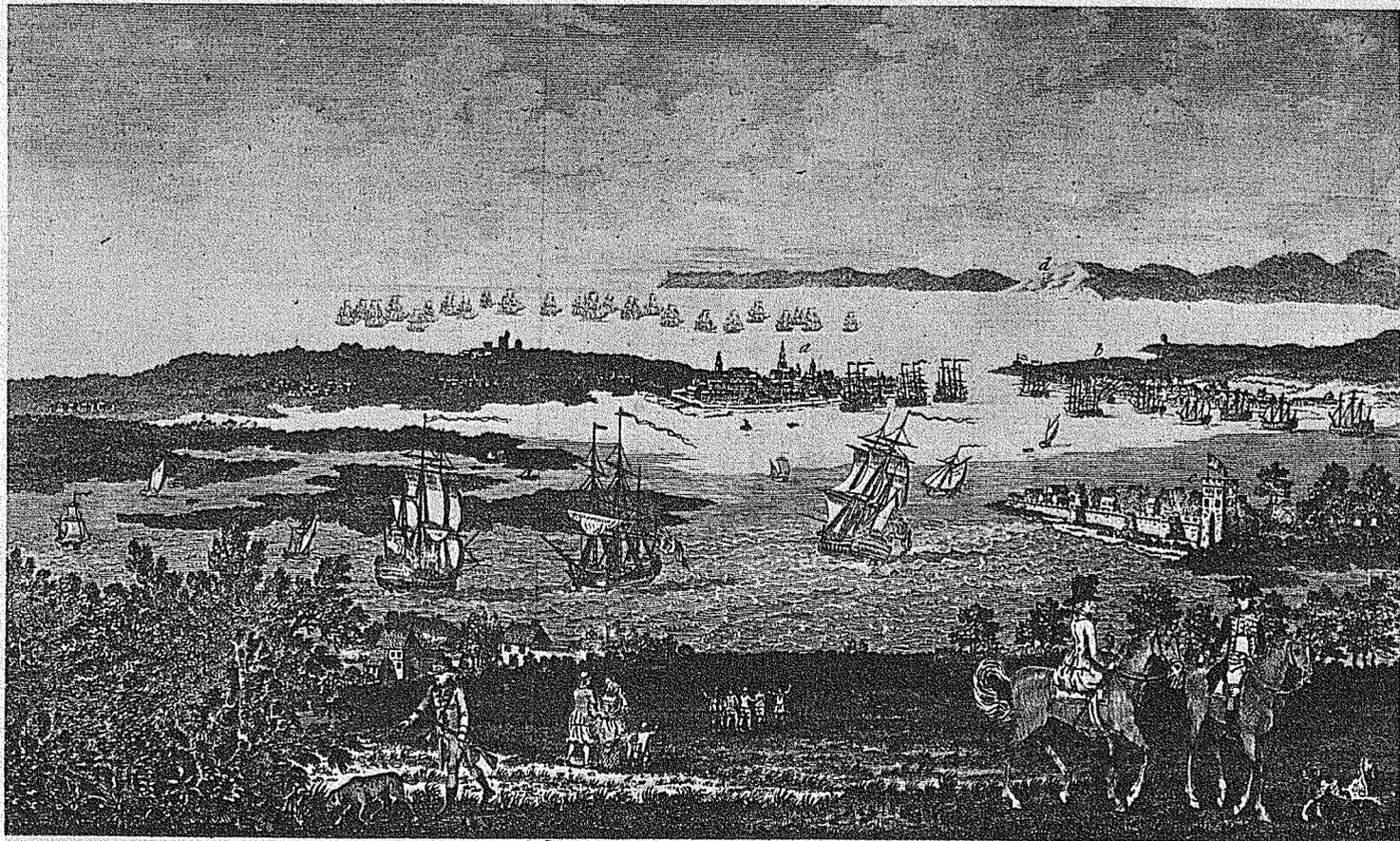
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1445.

CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER ATKINS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Actaeon at Spithead Novr 8th 1775

In answer to your Letter of the [blank] instant, I have examin'd Mr John Jarrat Masters Mate of His Majesty's Ship *Actaeon* under my Command (the Person whom I apprehend my Lord Sandwich means, the other Mate not having been on the Coast of America) respecting his knowledge of that Coast —



The Town and Harbour of Portsmouth with a View of his Majesty's Fleet at Spithead.

a Portsmouth b Gosport c Portchester Castle d Isle of Wight.

I beg you would be pleased to acquaint His Lordship that he appears to me to be well acquainted with the Coast from Philadelphia to Georgia, to having, in quality of Mate, and Master of Merchant Ships, been upon it seven Years

Sir Richard Bickerton knows him very well, and since he has been with me, his Character has been unexceptionable – I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Xpher Atkins

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1445.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON¹

Novr 1775	Remarks &ca <i>Speedwell</i> Sloop
Sunday 5th	AM at 10 Heileghland ² EbN 6 miles at 11 a Danish Snow ³ and galliot in Compy First and Middle part strong gales and Squally weather, the latter Modr breezes, sounded Occasionally,
Monday 6th	at 8 AM haild & brought too, the Danish Snow in the Latd 52°20' No and Longd 3°31' E by Acct from Heileghland dist about 67 Leags on board of which sent a mate & midshipman with directions to Accompany us at half past 10 Made sail the Danish Snow in Compy Modr breezes and hazey Wr sounded occasionally
Tuesday 7th	at 10 AM fir'd a shot and brought too a french fishing boat, saw the So foreland bearing Wbs 8 Leags snow in Compy Modt and Cloudy with rain at 4 pm the So foreland WbS 5 Leagues at ½ past the No foreland NWbN about 5 Leags At ¾ past 6 found the Sloop to be near the breakers on the So End of the goodwin sand and douting of our Clearing of them at 7 Anchd in a qr less 3 fm and veard to a ⅓ of a Cable fir'd a gun for the snow to Anchor, but she run clear, at ½ past fir'd a gun a sigl for a Duch ship to run clear sent the Mastr to Sound round the ship at ½ past 10 weigh'd and made saile under whole topsailes
Wednesday 8th	At 1 AM the So foreland lights WbN 6 or 7 Miles at 2 Do took in the 3d reefs in the topsailes, got down top galt yds At 4 Anchd in Dover road in 7 fm water So foreland lights EbN Cockpt Wt ¾ of a mile at noon the Danish Snow working into the road Sent our boat to Assist her Fresh Gales and Squally Wr at 7 pm Came on board Jno Richards Pilot and took charge of her for the Harbr at 11 Do weigh'd & made saile in to the Harbr As did the Danish snow & lashed to the Cross wall.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

2. Heligoland, an island about forty miles off the mouth of the Elbe river, from which the *Speedwell* had just departed.

3. The Danish snow was the *Patriot*, seized on suspicion of carrying supplies to the rebels, but later released after being searched. See "Extract of a letter from Dover, December 26."

9 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS,
H.M.S. *Seaford*, PORTSMOUTH¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Seaford* at Portsmouth which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for a Voyage to North America mann'd with One hundred & fifty Men & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for Two Months in lieu of the Remainder; You are hereby required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then proceed to Spithead and wait for further [orders].

Given &c. the 9th. Novr. 1775

J.Buller Lisburne H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 239-40.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, NOV. 9"¹

John Douglas, Esq; is appointed to the command of his Majesty's ship *Isis*, of 50 guns, and will go to America shortly, as third in command; Admiral Shuldham being first, and Sir Peter Parker second in command.

1. *London Chronicle*, November 11 to November 14, 1775.

BARON GRANTHAM TO LORD ROCHFORD¹

[Extract]

No 58.

Escurial 9th November 1775.

My Lord, Since I had the Honour of writing last to your Lordship, M. Grimaldi has given me official Assurances, that proper Orders shall be sent from hence, to prevent the Exportation from the Ports of Spain of any warlike Stores upon British Vessels, and I enclose to your Lordship a Copy of my Note to him, & of his Answer to it, together with a Translation of the latter. Besides which Assurances, I have, from the Information which I have collected learnt, that any Search for Gun Powder in the Ports of this Kingdom would be fruitless, as the Regulations concerning it prevent any Quantity laying in the Hands of any body, who could dispose of it. — The Powder Magazine at Carthagena with no less than three thousand six hundred Quintals of Powder, has been struck by Lightning & blown up; some Lives were lost, but the Distance from the Town prevented the Damage extending so far.

From Cadiz I hear, that four Ships of the Line, and four Frigates were ordered to be equipped. . . .

There is no Answer from Portugal yet of any kind, tho' a fresh Promise of one is arrived; I am of opinion that if one does not come soon, Troops will be

sent out to Buenos Ayres; & that nothing but continuing the Negotiation will prevent it . . .

His Majesty's Consul at Corunna will I doubt not be very exact in his Intelligence, as He acquaints me that He always sends the same both to your Lordship & to me.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Truth & Regard My Lord [&c.]
Grantham

1. PRO, State Papers 94/199. Thomas Robinson, 2d Baron Grantham, was British Ambassador to Spain.

10 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE,
H.M.S. *Triton*, SPITHEAD¹

Notwithstanding our Order to you of the 20th of last Month, directing you to proceed to Boston; You are hereby required & directed, to proceed first to the Island of Fayal, where you are to receive on board from the Contractor with the Commissr for Victualling His Majts Navy, as soon as possible, so much Wine as may be sufficient to complete her proportion of Beer to six Months, and then make the best of your way to Boston; and follow the directions of Vice Adml Graves, or the Commander in Chief for the time being of His Majts Ships & Vessels there, as directed by Our Order abovementioned.

Given &c 10th Novr 1775.

Sandwich J.Buller H Palliser.

By &c P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 243.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON
LUTWIDGE, R.N.¹

Advices having been received from different parts of America, that the Inhabitants of the Colonies in general which are in Arms against the King, are collecting & fitting out Armed Vessels for effecting in various way their rebellious purposes; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His Principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 22d Ulto to exert your utmost endeavors to prevent such preparations, and to burn & destroy every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out from any of the Colonies with such traiterous designs.

Given &c 10th Novr 1775

J Buller Lisburne H Palliser

Capt. Lutwidge – *Triton* – Spithead

By &c P. S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 243–44.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Dear Sir

It is intended to send Lord Dartmouths Dispatches to Sir James Wright & Governor Tonyn by the *Hawke* which is now on her passage from the Nore to Spithead – If you wish to send Duplicates of Your Dispatches to Lord Wm Campbell & Governor Martin (which are on board the *Syren*) they may go by the *Hawke* Sloop. –

I shall send away tomorrow Your Dispatches for Boston & the Northern Colonies by the *Triton* instead of the *Actaeon* – I am, Dear Sir, [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

Admiralty 10 Novr 1775

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122. Pownall was deputy Secretary of State.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON, H.M. SLOOP
Speedwell, DOVER¹

Sir,

[London] 10th Novemr 1775.

The Earl of Suffolk, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, having acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Lords of the Treasury have given Orders for two Custom House Cutters to proceed immediately to Dover and to follow your directions as to the properest Station for intercepting the *Anna Catherina* supposed to be laden, with Warlike Stores and Accoutrements intended for His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America; I am commanded by their Lordships to inform you thereof, and to signify their direction to you to station the said Two Cutters in such manner as you shall judge most likely to answer the purpose beforementioned. I am &c.

Php Stephens

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

PHILIP STEPHENS TO LIEUTENANT JOHN BAZELEY, H.M. CUTTER *Greyhound*,
AT THE NORE¹

Sir,

[London] 10th Novemr 1775.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their direction to you to proceed to Sea without a moment's loss of time and cruize between Dover and Calais in order to join, as soon as possible, the *Speedwell* Sloop, and upon joining her, to put yourself under the Command of Captain [Richard] Pearson and follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

If you should fall in with the *Anna Catherina* a Danish Frigate built Ship of about 400 Tons Burthen, Andreas Stander Master, bound from Altona to Cadiz, before you join the *Speedwell* Sloop, It is their Lordships direction that you sieze and bring her to Dover, and that you acquaint me therewith by Express, transmitting to me at the same time the Manifest of the Ship's Cargo and such other Papers as you may find on board of her, for their Lordships information. I am &c

Php Stephens

[Endorsed] The like Letter with the undermentioned Postscript to Lieut Walton, *Wells* Cutter, Nore.

Ps. You are not to wait to have the Cutter refitted, but put to Sea as soon as possible after you receive this.

P. S.

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

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London. – November [10] 1775 ²

News from the Ports

Plymouth

The ship *Chatham* and the frigate *Orpheus* sailed for America.

Syren still in the Sound.

The cutter *Folkstone* is being put into commission.

Portsmouth

Nothing new since our last dispatch dated 3 November.

Chatham

Isis is being put into commission, repaired and sheathed.

Ardent with 64 guns will be repaired.

Conquestadore is being put into commission.

The frigate *Carysford* will not be ready for some time.

Work is being done on *Emerald* as well as other frigates afloat.

Resolution is being fitted out.

The mortar galiot *Racehorse* has changed names; she is now called *Thunder*.

The Government has two frigates with 20 guns and six corvettes under construction in the merchants' shipyard on the river.

Thetis is destined for the Channel, *Sphynx* for the East Indies, *Pallas* for the Coast of Guinea, *Isis* for North America.

Deal-Castle, *Fox*, *Greyhound*, *Seaford*, *Thunder*, formerly *Racehorse*, are to serve abroad, but they have not yet been assigned any specific destination.

Table sent to the Admiralty and showing the number of Sailors and Marines aboard all various ships as of the 30th of September last, drawn from the log-books of the ships.

Sailors:	on the rolls	14 815
	mustered	14 636
Marines:	on the rolls	4 239
	mustered	2 005

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

2. The date is established by Vergennes' letter of November 19, acknowledging de Guines' letter of the 10th, and the statement in the above table for Portsmouth, "Nothing new since our last dispatch dated 3 November."

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

Fontainebleau, 10 November 1775

I had the honor to receive, Sir, your letter dated the 6th of this month and a copy of the one which Mr. Prévost de la Croix, General Commissioner at Lorient, sent you. I think that we must show the consideration which we hold for the Court of London by preventing the Americans from trading arms and war ammunition in our ports, but, at the same time, I am of the opinion that this courtesy must not turn to the detriment of our own trade. Furthermore, Sir, if we obstruct the trade in destination of the English Colonies, our precautions must not, in my opinion, extend to transactions concerning shipments marked ² for Holland or other European ports.

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

2. Vergennes first wrote "destined for Holland and other European ports." He scratched out "destined" and substituted "marked." In other words, his policy was to assume that if they were marked for Holland, he had preserved his desire to satisfy the English, but that they reached Holland was none of his affair. "Destined for Holland," however, would presume an actual shipment to that country, a nice distinction, but a salve to his conscience.

11 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775.

His Majesty having judged it expedient that a Body of Land Forces supported by a Squadron of Ships of War should be sent to North or South Carolina not only to encourage & support His Loyal Subjects in those and the adjacent Colonies to the Southward, but in order to make a Division from the Rebel Army acting against His Towns to the Northward; I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith, and that in consequence thereof Sir Peter Parker in the *Bristol* with the Ships and Bomb Vessel named in the Margin, ² will proceed from Corke in about a Month's time with Seven Regiments of Foot to Cape Fear, where he will be joined by the *Syren*, now under orders to proceed from Plymouth, with Dispatches to the Governors of North and South Carolina to collect such information as may be necessary to regulate the Operations of the said Sea & Land Forces. — Their Lordships will send Duplicates of the abovementioned Dispatches, as also Dispatches to the Governors of Georgia and East Florida, upon the same subject, in a few days by the *Hawke* Sloop, whose Commander will also join Sir Peter off Cape Fear with such Advices as he shall have obtained, and when Sir Peter can conveniently spare the Sloop, proceed to Jamaica to reinforce the Squadron under the Command of Rear Admiral Gayton.

As it is probable that from the Advices Sir Peter Parker may receive upon his arrival on the Coast, the Operations may be directed against Charles Town; the reinforcement of one, or two, two-decked Ships, may contribute greatly to the success thereof; Their Lordships therefore recommend it to you to send the *Experiment*, or a 40 Gunship, or both, to join Sir Peter off Cape Fear, if you can spare them from other Services; In which case you will also send him any Pilots

you can collect who are acquainted with the Ports on that part of the Coast, and such Advices of the State of Affairs in America as you may think proper to communicate to him.

Their Lordships command me to add that altho' Sir Peter Parker is appointed to Command upon this particular Service, you are nevertheless to consider the Ships that accompany him as a part of your Squadron, and to take both him & them under your command & employ them in such manner as you shall judge best for the General Service; without diverting them however from the Operations beforementioned, the progress & success of which he will be instructed to inform you of. — But when these Operations are over, you will direct Sir Peter to station the Ships he has with him in such manner as you shall think most proper; And to the end that they may be the better enabled to continue upon those Stations, their Lordships have ordered a Storeship & a Victualler to be prepared to send with the Squadron from England in order to supply their wants. I have the honor to be &ca.

Php Stephens.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.
2. *Actaeon, Boreas, Solebay, Deal Castle, Sphynx, Thunder Bomb.*

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS, H.M.S. *Bristol*,
SHEERNESS ¹

You are hereby required and directed to enter Sir Peter Parker, together with his Secretary, Retinue & Servants, on the Books of the Ship you command, from the 1st instant; being the day on which he had our Order to hoist a broad Pendant on board the said Ship. Given &c. the 11th Novr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller Lisburne

By &c. PS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 254.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 11th Novemr 1775.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received Advices that Vessels belonging to His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America, and more particularly those of Philadelphia, do find means to elude the vigilance of His Majesty's Cruizers, and proceed with Cargoes to Ferrol, Lisbon, & several Ports in France, and return with Cargoes of Salt-petre, Gunpowder and other War-like Stores; and that there are at this time two Vessels at Port L'Orient belonging to Philadelphia laden with Saltpetre ready to return thither, the one a Brigantine, the other a Schooner of about 100 Tons burthen, fitted out like a Privatier and mounted with eight carriage Guns; And their Lordships having also received Advices of the Track these Philadelphia Vessels pursue in their voyage to Europe after they leave Sandy Hook; I am commanded to send you Copies of some of the most material of the said Advices, and particularly of the last mentioned, for your information. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

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

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775.

I send you herewith twelve Pacquets from Lord George Germain, as by Schedule at back hereof, made up in three seperate Covers, and am to desire you will please to forward them according to their respective addresses by the first opportunity that offers. I am &c

Php Stephens

Schedule of Pacquets.

- 1 Major Genl [William] Howe
- 1 Governor [William] Tryon
- 1 Depty Govr [John] Penn
- 1 Lieut Govr [Thomas Oliver] Massachusetts Bay
- 1 Govr [Francis] Legge
- 1 Govr & Co. [Joseph Wanton] – Rhode Island
- 1 Govr [John] Wentworth
- 1 Govr & Co [Jonathan Trumbull] Connecticut
- 1 Lord Dunmore
- 1 Govr [Robert] Eden
- 1 Govr [William] Franklin
- 1 Earl [Hugh] Percy.

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

PHILIP STEPHENS TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sr.

[Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775

I send you herewith Twelve Pacquets from the Earl of Dartmouth for the Governor, Deputy Governor & Commr in Chief of several of His Majestys Colonies a Schedule whereof is at the back hereof, And am to desire you will please to take the earliest opportunity of forwarding them according to their respective Addresses I am &c

P S

Schedule of Packets

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1. Govr Legge | ----- | Nova Scotia |
| 1. Govr Wentworth | ----- | New Hampshire |
| 1. Govr & Compa | ----- | Connecticut |
| 1. Govr & Compa | ----- | Rhode Island |
| 1. Govr Tryon | ----- | New York |
| 1. Govr [William] Franklin | ----- | New Jersey |
| 1. Depy. Govr [John] Penn | ----- | Pensylvania |
| 1. Depy. Govr | ----- | Do |
| 1. Govr Eden | ----- | Maryland |
| 1. Depy Govr | ----- | Do |
| 1. Ld Dunmore Govr Virginia | ----- | |
| 1. Commr in Chief | ----- | Do |

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 298.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH¹

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 11th Novr 1775.

I send you herewith three Pacquets addressed to Rear Admiral Shuldham, which I am to desire you will please to forward to him by Captain [Skeffington] Lutwidge of the *Triton*. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

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

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE, H.M.S. *Triton*, PORTSMOUTH¹

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 11th Novemr 1775.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received advice that Ships belonging to His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America, and more particularly those of Philadelphia, do find means to elude the vigilance of His Majts Ships cruizing upon that Coast and proceed with Cargoes to various Ports of France and Spain and Portugal in Europe; and that such Vessels are under injunctions upon their departure from America to use their utmost efforts to go so far to the Southward immediately after their leaving Sandy Hook as the 35th Degree of North Latitude until they reach the 50th Degree of West Longitude from London & then proceed with the utmost dispatch to the Ports to which they are bound in the parts of Europe beforementioned; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to look carefully out for any Ships or Vessels that may fall within the above description and in case you meet with any such to seize and carry them with you to Boston. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

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

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS, H.M.S. *Pallas*, SPITHEAD¹

Whereas we intend that you shall proceed in the Ship you command to the Coast of Africa for the protection & security of the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects in those Parts; You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea with the first opportunity of Wind and Weather, and proceed with all possible dispatch to the Island of Madeira or Teneriffe where you are to take in a sufficient quantity of Wine for the use of your Ships Company.

Having so done you are to make the best of your way off the River Senegal, and, if you shall find the Garrison or Factories there to stand in need of your assistance, you are to give it them, and then proceed to the River Gambia to inquire into the State of Affairs there, and to give the Garrison and Factories in that River such countenance and assistance as they also may stand in need of.

You are to proceed from thence to Sierra Leon, where you are to cause the Ship to be supplied with Wood & Water, and then proceed down the Coast to Cape Coast Castle, taking particular care to call at Cape Appollonia, where the African Company are erecting a Fort in consequence of an Act of Parliament obtained for that purpose, and to give such assistance & protection to the People

employ'd on that Work as circumstances may require, and may be consistent with the other Services which you are hereby required to perform.

From Cape Coast Castle you are to proceed to Whidau, stopping not only at the places herein before particularly mention'd but at all the British Forts, Settlements & places of Trade on the Coast of Africa, and to give such countenance & protection to His Majesty's trading Subjects in those parts, as they may respectively stand in need of, and particularly to endeavour to take, destroy, or drive away, any Pirates who may infest the same; taking care however, not to make any longer stay at any of the said Forts, Settlements or places of Trade, than may be necessary for the abovemention'd Services, and to inspect & examine into their State and Condition, the number of Soldiers therein, and the Military Stores &c. belonging to the African Company, in the manner directed by an Act of Parliament passed in the Twenty third Year of His late Majesty's Reign, which we herewith inclose & which you are most punctually to comply with; taking care that the Reports you make, in consequence thereof, be all drawn and conformable to the annex'd Scheme, and that the State of such Forts &c. as you may not be able to inspect and examine yourself, be attested by the Officers you appoint to inspect and examine the same, as well as by the Servants of the African Company.²

When you have examin'd the State of the Settlements at Whidau, you are to cruise between that place and Cape La Ho, so long as the State of your Provisions will admit of it, reserving a sufficiency to carry you to Jamaica.

And whereas the Inhabitants of several of His Majesty's Colonies & 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 & South Carolina have traiterously combined together for the general Purpose of resisting the Authority of this Kingdom, and have in a hostile manner array'd themselves in Arms and committed Acts of open & actual Rebellion, And there being great reason to suspect that His Majesty's rebellious Subjects in North 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; You are, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth one of His principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 29th of August last, hereby required and directed to seize all such Ships & Vessels belonging to the Twelve associated Colonies abovemention'd or own'd by the Inhabitants thereof, as you shall find trading at Fort or Factory, not only between Whidau and Cape La Ho but upon any part of the said Coast.

When from the exhausted State of your Provisions you find it necessary to leave the Coast, you are to repair to Princes Island or the Island of St Thomas to recruit your Wood and Water and proceed from thence to Jamaica, carrying with you such Ships & Vessels as you may have seiz'd under the circumstances abovemention'd & delivering them into the Charge of Rear Admiral Gayton or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships on that Station for the time being, to be there detain'd til' His Majts further pleasure shall be known, or proceeded against according to Law, as the nature of the Case may require. You are then to take in as much Provisions of each Species as may be necessary for your Passage to

England, and make the best of your way to Spithead, and to wait there til' further Order, transmitting to our Secretary, for our Information, an Account of your arrival & proceedings.

It being difficult to procure Wood and Water in some parts of the Coast of Africa, some of the Men belonging to His Majesty's Ships having been formerly killed and others wounded for attempting to Supply themselves therewith, without making some acknowledgements to the Natives, We do hereby empower your Purser (and you are to direct him accordingly) to procure & carry thither Goods, such as you may judge may be most agreeable to the Natives of the Places where you may want to Wood and Water not exceeding in value Ten Pounds, which the Purser is to dispose of as you shall direct, at such places where the Wood and Water cannot be got otherwise; And you are to let the Purser know that the said Goods are to be provided out of his standing allowance of necessary Money under the Condition of his being allowed Credit on his Accounts for such part thereof as may be expended for the aforesaid purposes, upon his producing a Certificate under the Hand of the signing Officer of the *Pallas* of the particular Quantity & Value of the Goods applied to that Service, And you are to cause Invoices of the Goods so provided by the Purser to be lodged in the Office of the Commissioners of the Victualling.

And whereas complaints have been made that the Captains of His Majesty's Ships have made ill use of this liberty by trading themselves on the Coast of Africa, and have even transported great numbers of Negroes in His Majesty's Ships to Barbadoes for public Sale, to the dishonor of His Majesty's Service, the prejudice of the fair Trader, & in breach of an Act of Parliament pass'd in the eighth Year of King George the first, which prohibits under severe Penalties the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships to receive any Goods or Merchandize on board in order to Trade with the same: We do hereby strictly require and enjoin you, neither directly or indirectly, to concern yourself in any sort of Trade whatever, as you will answer the contrary at your peril, and in order to prevent any evasive excuses whatever hereafter We do hereby declare that if we get any Information of any Goods, Slaves or other Merchandize of what kind soever being receiv'd on board the Ship you command in the way of Trade, we shall esteem the same to be your own Act, and shall expect you to be accountable for it, in as much as such a Practice cannot possibly be carried on without your knowledge and consent.

For the preservation of the Health of your Ships Company whilst you shall be on the Coast of Africa, you are to be careful to observe the following Instructions Vizt

1st Never to lie Twenty four Hours in any River, except Gambia and Sierra Leon, nor to suffer your Officers or Men to lie on shore, or to drink Palm Wine.

2d You are not to let your Men cut Wood, or do any Work on shore which the Natives can be hired to do for a small expence.

3d When any of your Men are on the recovering hand from Sickness you are to cause them to be excused from duty as much as possible, until they are perfectly recover'd.

In case of the death of any of your Officers during such time as you shall not be under the command of a Superior or Senior Officer, you are to appoint such

other Persons to act in their room, as by the quality of their Employment ought to succeed therein.

And in case of your inability by Sickness or otherwise, to execute these Instructions, you are to be careful to leave them with the next Officer in command to you, who is hereby empower'd to carry the same into execution.

Given &c. the 11th November 1775.

Sandwich J.Buller Lisburne

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 244-52.
2. *Ibid.*, 253, the form is in blank.

12 Nov. (Sunday)

REAR ADMIRAL GEORGE BRYDGES RODNEY TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My dear Lord,

Paris Novr 12th 1775

Mr Sackville this morning most agreeably surprised me with the News that your Lordship was appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies,

No Friend whatever can more truly rejoice than I do that Justice has at last been rendered to your Merit and that you are in some degree made Amends, for the gross, Cruel, base, unjustifiable persecution you underwent in the late Reign, and that you may long continue to fill the very Important Post to which you are called, with Credit to Yourself and to the Honour of your King & Country, is the most Ardent and sincere Wish of him who will ever be, with real Truth and Respect [&c.]

G B Rodney ²

1. Germain Papers, CL.
2. Losses at play in fashionable circles and other misfortunes had caused Rodney to live in Paris until he could pay his debts.

13 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW, H.M.S.
Carysfort, CHATHAM ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Carysfort* at Chatham which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for a Voyage to North America – mann'd with one hundred and eighty Men & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Blackstake take in her Guns & Gunners Stores at that place and proceed to the Nore for further Order. Given &c the 13th Novr 1775

Sandwich J.Buller H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 255.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords

Whitehall 13th Novr 1775.

The King having signified His Majesty's pleasure that Seven Regiments of Infantry should hold themselves in readiness to embark on or about the first of December and to proceed to North America, in order to give countenance and protection to His Majesty's well affected Subjects Inhabitants of the Southern Provinces, and to assist in the suppression of Rebellion and restoration of legal Government there; I am commanded by the King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's further Pleasure, that you do appoint such a number of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels and of such a rate to accompany this Armament, as your Lordships shall think proper, acquainting me at the same time, for His Majesty's Information, with the names of the Ships so appointed and also with the name of the Officer who is to have the Command of the whole. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 32.

JOHN POWNALL TO JOHN BODDINGTON ¹

Sir

Whitehall 13th November 1775.

I am directed by Lord George Germain to desire you will transmit to me for his Lordship's Information, a return of the Ordnance, Ammunition, and Stores intended to be sent with the Seven Regiments now preparing to embark for an Expedition to North America, with the Names of the Vessels on board which such Ordnance, Ammunition and Stores either are, or are intended to be embarked. I am &ca.

J Pownall./

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 112. Boddington was a deputy in the Board of Ordnance.

14 Nov.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, H.M.S. *Arethusa*,
AT THE DOWNS ¹

You are hereby required and directed, to return forthwith in the Ship you command, and cruize very diligently again for the space of Ten days more, between Dungeness and the Coast of France, to endeavour to intercept the Vessels mention'd & described in our Order to you of the 28th of last Month; And, not falling in with, or receiving any good Intelligence to induce you to expect to fall in with, the said Vessels or any of them, you are, at the expiration of that time, to make the best of your way back to the Downes, and remain there until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 14th of November 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 258.

15 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 15th Novr 1775.

Your Lordship having acquainted us by your Letter of the 13th Instant that His majesty has been pleased to order Seven Regiments of Infantry to hold themselves in readiness to embark on or about the 1st of December next; And your Lordship having at the same time signified to us His Majesty's Pleasure that we should appoint such a number of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels & of such a Rate to accompany this Armament as we shall think proper; We have in consequence thereof ordered the Ships & Vessels named in the inclosed List to be prepared to accompany the said Armament, & shall appoint Commodore Sir Peter Parker to command the same; which we signify to your Lordship for His Majesty's information, and are My Lord, [&c.]

Sandwich Lisburne
J Buller H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 36a.

"A LIST OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS & VESSELS APPOINTED TO ACCOMPANY SEVEN REGIMENTS OF INFANTRY." ¹

[15 November, 1775]				
Rate	Guns	Ships	Men	Commanders.
4	50	<i>Bristol</i>	365	{ Comdre Sir Peter Parker Capt John Morris
6	28	<i>Actaeon</i>	180	Chrisr Atkins
"	28	<i>Boreas</i>	180	Chas Thompson
"	28	<i>Solebay</i>	180	Willm Symonds
"	28	<i>Syren*</i>	180	Tobias Furneaux
"	20	<i>Dealcastle</i>	150	James Worth
"	20	<i>Sphynx</i>	150	Anthy Hunt
Slo	10	<i>Hawke*</i>	80	Robt Palliser Cooper
Bom	8	<i>Thunder</i>	80	James Reid

*These will proceed the others with preparatory Dispatches.

[Endorsed] In the Lords of the Admiralty's Letter of the 15th Novembr

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 36b.

WILLIAM EDEN TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN ¹

Copy.

Downing-Street [London] Novr [15th 1775]

My dear Bob:

Tom Eden is so violent a Patriot, that he will not let me write one Word worth your reading, as he says that my accursed Politics have already brought a Slur on the Blood of our Family – take plain Facts therefore without any Comment – Ld Dartmouth has quitted the Seals ² for the Privy Seal, which was vacated by the Dismission of the Duke of Grafton, his Grace having made a Crane-necked Turn in his Politics since last Year: ³ it is another of my disgraces

to be honoured with the Friendship of your new Principal, who I believe will fill his Department ably and actively, and is particularly intimate with the Commanders in chief on your Continent –⁴ Ld Rochford has retired on honourable and amicable Terms,⁵ we are removing to his Office as Senior, but retain the Northern Department, Ld Weymouth⁶ succeeds to the Southern – the other smaller Promotions you will see in the Papers – about four fifths of the House of Commons continue as blindly devoted, as your humble servant to a System of Exertion, that this Nation can make beyond any Nation in the World, and that we are Fools enough to think the Nation thoroughly disposed to make – You, who are a moderate Man, and wish well and kindly to both Parties, at the same Time that you dislike the Extremes of the Language and Conduct pursued by both, will distinguish Truth from Falshood in the strange Jumble of Misrepresentation, with which our News-papers are stuffed – I shall only add for the present, that I hope we shall all find some Bridge at last to head us back to our old good Humour and Prosperity: but we have a rough Road to go over, before we can arrive at it. – Believe me ever very affectionately yours

Wm Eden

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch. Enclosure No. 20 in Maryland Council of Safety to Maryland Delegates in Congress, April 16–19, 1776. William Eden was Under Secretary of State; Robert Eden, Governor of Maryland.
2. William Legge, 2d Earl of Dartmouth, had been principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and was “kicked upstairs” into the Privy Council in November, 1775.
3. August Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Grafton, had resigned from the Privy Council, being in favor of conciliatory action towards the Colonies.
4. Lord George Germain.
5. William Henry Zuytlestein, Lord Rochford (1754–1830), retired as Secretary of State for the Southern Department, in November, 1775.
6. Thomas Thynne, 3d Viscount Weymouth, previously had been Secretary of State for the Southern Department from 1768 to 1770. He had resigned in December, 1770, and was now returning to his former post.

INTERCEPTED LETTER TO THOMAS RINGGOLD¹

[Extract]

London Novembr 15th 1775

Dear Sir I wrote you a long letter about a month ago, in answer to the only one I have had the pleasure of receiving from you in England. I have had no reason to alter the sentiment I even at that time expressd of public affairs. Ministry has not been so bold in their measures as was expected, but They still are abundantly able, notwithstanding some defections to carry every Thing they please – You will find that there is some talk of conciliatory measures & you will as a Lover of your country rejoice, even at the Idea; But when every hostile preparation is continued & continued under the direction of Men, whose designs against America have been the fatal cause of our misfortunes what terms can They offer which consistent with our declarations & conduct, we can honourably or safely except – An Armament will sail most certainly next month for South Carolina. You will see an account of it in the daily papers I send to my relations But as I have it from much better authority, I beg you to communicate it Where it is necessary it should be known. A Gentleman has promisd me a list of the force intended to be employd on that service – which I hope to receive time enough to inclose² –

My health is so bad, that I shall not in all probability be able to Leave England for some months . . .

Tho^s Ringold Esq Chester Town Maryland

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

2. The enclosure was probably removed when the letter was intercepted.

16 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th November 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of yesterdays date, informing them that a Whaling Brig belonging to Rhode Island and Nantucket, bound to Falklands Island is arrived Spithead from Fayal, where she was seized by Captain [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* and that the Petty Officer who brought her home informd you that four more are seized by the *Renown* and *Experiment* and on their passage to Spithead, and therefore desiring to have their Lordship's directions what to do with them; and I am commanded to acquaint you that you may expect to receive their Lordship's direction respecting them very soon. I am &c

P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 312.

17 Nov.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 17 November 1775

No. 308

News from the Ports.

Plymouth

Syrène sailed for America. The frigate *Apollo* left dry dock. Repairs have been discontinued on the ship *Rippon* in order to work on *Fame*.

Portsmouth

Romney arrived in port. The frigate *Boreas* is at Spithead. She has on board 18 carpenters and 5 locksmiths for Halifax.

The frigate *Triton* is at Spithead with the ships that were there last week. The frigate *Juno* needs a new bottom: hers is full of holes and eaten by the worms. *Pallas* has not left yet. Lately, many sailors died on board the guard ships.

Chatham

The frigate *Flora* will be sheathed. *Emerald* is in need of important repairs. Work on the frigates *Galathea* and *Eolus* is done with dispatch, and the transport ships are being readied in a hurry.

The Admiralty has given order to build a ship with 74 guns and a corvette in the King's shipyard at Deptford.

A transport ship left Chatham carrying the masts, yards and riggings for the ship *Sultan* of 74 guns now being built in Harwick. This ship will be launched about next Christmas and she will then be brought to Chatham.

Isis has left dry dock. *Ardent* is in dry dock.

The mortar galiot *Thunder* is being fitted out. The two frigates of 20 guns and the six corvettes which the Government ordered to be built in the merchants' ship-yards on the river, are to be launched at the end of March 1776.

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

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER¹

London, November 17.

Orders were on Tuesday night sent to Portsmouth for the *Greyhound* sloop of war, now in dock, and fitting for America, to be got ready with all possible despatch. It is reported some persons are to go in this ship with powers to propose terms of reconciliation, the event of which may be known time enough to prevent the sending more forces in the spring.

The calling in foreign troops seeming to be considered an indispensable measure by the friends of Administration, it was judiciously remarked by General [Henry Seymour] Conway, that if once we set America the example, she too would apply for foreign aid; and if she offered her commerce to France, he did not doubt but that country, finding England had applied to Russia for aid, would protect America, and thus a general war be brought on.

At twelve o'clock this day arrived a mail from New-York, brought by the *Harriot* packet, Captain Lee, to Falmouth; she has brought a great many letters. This is the last mail that will arrive from thence till farther orders.

The *Charming Sally*, Wilson, a transport from London to Boston, is lost on the Goodwin Sands, and all the people perished.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, January 30, 1776.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol Novemr [17] 1775²

I enclose you a Copy of the Bill which Mr [Edmund] Burke intended to have introduced into the House, as a ground of reconciliation. I also send you an imperfect abstract of what he said, and even not yet concluded, but you will see the ground which the Friends of American have taken by it. I wish it had been more perfect, but such is the dislike the present Ministry have to their Debates being heard, that in all probability one of the best, and most judicious Speeches ever made, will be lost. Mr Burke was above three hours speaking. The Propositions were supported by 105, and if Mr Burke had not been obliged to defer it for a Week, they would have been by 150, for so many are the friends to America at this time. Its Enemies are so much diminished, as not to exceed the 210 who voted against them. The rest, though disposed to Ministry, are tired of the Expence and uncertainty of the American War, and are not fond of acting.

The Number of Lords favourable to America is very considerable for fortune and Influence; but above all, for their great Characters. The Minority in both Houses are almost wholly composed of those who adhere to Lord Rockingham, who is at the head of the remains of the Whig Party, and have been ever steady friends to America, as you may judge by the Notes and Protests they have signed from the beginning of these Troubles, as well as by their Conduct when in Administration. Many Persons have endeavored to alienate the minds of the Americans from them, who alone are able and willing to serve them, by putting them out of Humour with the declaratory Act; but those who know this Country are sensible, that the declaratory Act was the price paid to the prejudices of the Country for the relief then given to America; and which if it had been in temperate hands like those who first made it, and repealed the Stamp Act at the same time, might have proved not only safe to America, but useful to her, and the whole Empire: but the new Arrangements which Lord Chatham unfortunately made upon their Ruins, which turned out the Whigs and put the Tories into place, have enabled the Latter to dominate in this Country ever since, and to revive the old Scheme of making America submit to Taxation, and to pursue it with unremitting Rancour. The Whigs in England are the only body which the Whigs in America have to trust to, if they do not mean Independence, for if they have any such Views, the Whigs in England must equally be her Enemies with the Tories who are now in Power; Though they love the Liberty of America upon Principle, because they would have all Men possess Liberty as well as themselves, & yet they have a strong predilection, even a stronger to the Interest of their own Country than the Tories, and never will abandon or give it up. They are willing to make Concessions as you see by the Bill, and trust for a grateful Return to the Duty and affection of America. They are willing to give the strongest publick assurances, which in the Nature of things can be given for the Liberty of America in the one great and essential point but must require that America should on her side abandon, or at least not insist on some Claims that tend to weaken or rather take away the rest of the general superintending legislative Authority. When Men are inclined to reconciliation, and the great point is secured, they will not be embarrassed, it is to be hoped, upon matters of less moment, and which perhaps may be of no moment at all, when the fundamental point of Liberty, relative to Taxation, is secured.

What has strengthened Administration, and weakened the Hands of the Whigs in this Country more than can be conceived is this, that it is Misrepresented here, that America is adverse to every set of Men among us, and this is urged as a Proof of their aiming at Independency. This is continually urged by Lord Mansfield in the House of Lords, and the Declaration & Resolutions of the Congress, which make no sort of distinction between that Administration, which risked every thing for their Relief, (and in attempting it, ruined their Interest at Court, and has kept them out of Power ever since), and this subsequent Administration, who have uniformly acted against America upon System, have given but too much Countenance to this opinion. It is inconceivable how much the Whigs have suffered in the publick opinion from these Proceedings.

Lord Chatham is now so ill that it is impossible, taking his advanced Age and extreme Infirmary together that he can live long, and he is now, as he has been for some time past utterly incapable of all Business. when he did come out, he did not act in concert with the Whigs, which considering his great Name and Talents, is much to be lamented. The Propositions which he made in the House of Lords were without any consultation whatsoever with them, and were in several respects contrary to their Sentiments, and were supported by them in the House of Lords only that the Ministry might not derive any appearance of triumph from any Disunion among them. The Plan to which Lord Rockingham and the Body of the Whigs adhered is that expressed in the Bill, which I send you, and which in substance were the resolutions moved for by Mr Burke last Sessions. You are to judge, which of those two Plans you like best, but to one of those two you ought to give Countenance, or you cannot expect friends in this Country. The Duke of Grafton, and his friends, as well as several other Gentlemen have returned to the Whig Cause, from which they have been unhappily separated, and I believe, will tenaciously adhere to it. I repeat it again, and I speak it from authority, that the Whig Party, which is composed of Men of the first Rank reputation and knowledge in this Country, is the only reliance of America, supposing she means honestly and sincerely to be dependent on Great Britain. The Individuals here who act in opposition from their private purposes, or the clamours of the Mob which may be easily raised, and as easily silenced, she must pay no Regard to. But then America, instead of discrediting the Whig Party, must give them Credit and support by shewing, that it is of a bad System that they complain, and not of the whole Country. The Quarrel between a party here, and all America may be decided in favour of America, without prejudice to this Country but a Quarrel between the whole body of the two Countries must be [disastrous?] to both, and it is hard to say to which of them in the greatest [degre]e.

I am ever with the most sincere regard Gentlemen [&c.]

R Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

2. The date is approximated. Burke introduced his proposals in the House of Commons on Thursday, November 16, and the vote rejecting them was taken "just prior to 4 A.M." on Friday, November 17. The news could have reached Champion in Bristol by Friday night.

18 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 18th November 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty understanding by a Letter transmitted to them by the Lords Commrs of His Majestys Treasury that private Merchants endeavour to have Money conveyed to North America in His Majesty's Ships which is not intended for payment of His Majesty's Forces there; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to acquaint the Captains of His Majesty's Ships now fitting out, or that may hereafter be directed to fit out at Portsmouth for North America, that they are not to receive any

Money or Bullion on board the Ships they respectively command consigned to any Person or Persons in North America, without their Lordships permission for so doing. I am &c

P:S:

[Similar letters directed to]

Capt [Thomas] Graves, Senior Officer, Plymouth

Commodore [George] Mackenzie or Senior officer at Chatham

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 321.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO SIR GREY COOPER ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 18th Novembr 1775

Having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of this date, informing them that the Lords Commissioners of His Majestys Treasury have received undoubted information that Ten Vessels which sailed about the middle of September last, from the Port of Philadelphia for Ireland, are engaged to go from thence to Russia & Hamburgh there to take on board coarse Linnens of different kinds, which it is intended they shall land in the River Delaware or at some part of the Coast near it in this present Winter; That six Vessels more are soon to be engaged in the like destination and Service, and that this attempt is made at the risque of the Province of Pensylvania, or of the associated Colonies in General, and not undertaken by private adventurers, the very great scarcity of coarse Linnens in America, and particularly those proper for the Army, being the reason of such attempt, and signify their Lordship's desire, that such directions may be given to the Commanders of His Majestys Ships in Europe, as well as in America, as shall be judged proper; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that Orders will be given accordingly, and that if the Lords of the Treasury have received any description of the said Vessels my Lords desire to be furnished with it I am &c

P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 322-23. Cooper was a secretary of the British Treasury.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 18th November 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of Yesterday's date, informing them of His Majesty's Ship *Pallas* being sailed to the Westward, and of the Sloop *Diana*, the *Minerva* and *Abigail* Brigs American Vessels, the first two taken by the *Experiment*, the latter by the *Renown* being arrived at Spithead; and I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you, to send to Boston by the *Triton* the Petty Officers and Seamen belonging to His Majesty's Ships the *Experiment* and *Renown*, who came in the above American Vessels. I am &c

P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 322.

CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Boreas Spithead Novr 18 – 1775

In answer to yours of the 16th acquainting me that my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty desire to know what money I have received on freight onboard the Ship I command, from whom, and by what leave or permission, and to whom consigned: I beg you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that I have received onboard, between Seven and Eight thousand pounds, from Messrs Barnard and Apthrope Merchants in London, it is consigned to Nathaniel Coffin Esqr Deputy to the Treasurer of the Customs in America, the time I received it, was under orders for Boston and did not know it was necessary to ask leave to take it onboard and I intended acquainting the Commanding Officer at Boston on my arrival there and taken his permission before I landed any part of it. I am Sir [&c.]

C Thompson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2591.

19 Nov. (Sunday)

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 19h: Novemr 1775

I received on the 14h Instant by the *Pallas* Transport your several Letters of the 6h, 12th, 22d & 26h of September, and of the 3d and 9h of October last, giving an Account of the proceedings of the Squadron under your Command; also which were immediately communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and Copies thereof sent to Lord George Germaine for His Majesty's Information.

Their Lordships approve of the reasons you have offered for increasing the Complement of the New *Halifax* Schooner to 40 Men And it is their direction that you order her Complement to be increased to that number of Men accordingly.

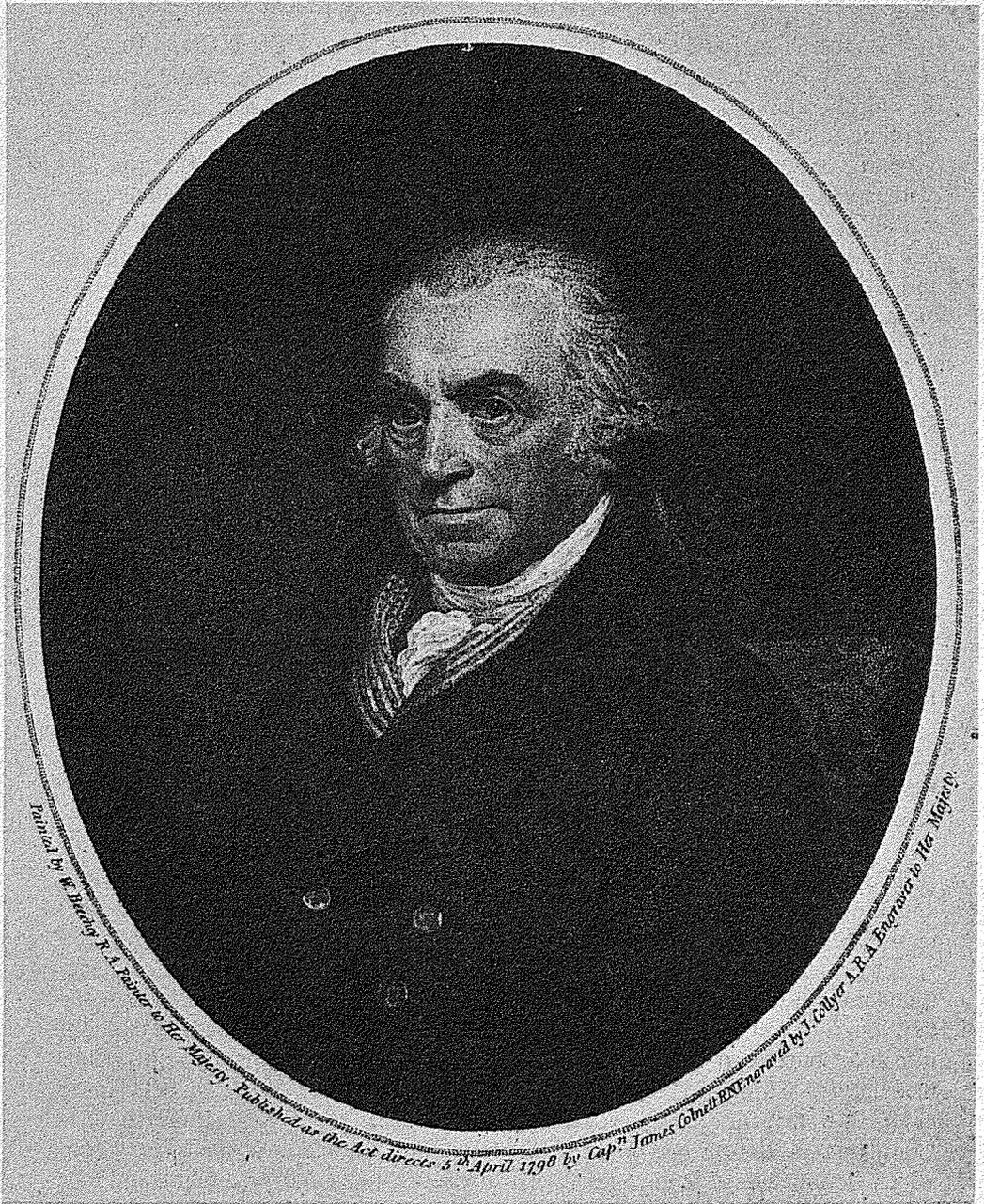
Their Lordships also approve of the directions you have given to Captain [Edward] Le Cras to wear a distinguishing Pendant while he continues at Boston, and they will consider of your recommendation of Captain [John] Collins for a remission of the Mulct inflicted upon him by the Sentence of a Court Martial.

My Lords approve of your having permitted Captain [David] Pryce to resign the Command of the *Viper* on account of his ill state of health also of your intention to send Captain [John] Macartney to England to have his Conduct enquired into at a Court Martial here. And they have in consequence thereof, signed Commissions for Captain James Montagu of the *Kingsfisher* Sloop to be Captain of the *Mercury*, and for Lieutenant Alexander Graeme and Samuel Graves to be Commanders, the former of the *Kingsfisher*, and the latter of the *Viper* Sloop, which Commissions I send you in a separate Letter, to be delivered them, and have the honor to be &c

P: S:

Vice Admiral Graves, at Boston (By the *Triton*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 323–24.



Philip Stephens, Secretary of the British Admiralty.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES¹

Versailles, 19 November 1775

I had the honor to receive, Sir, the letter you wrote me on the tenth of this month and the various documents which were enclosed; they are all very interesting and I beg you to receive the sincere expression of my gratitude.

The unexpected retirement of Lord Rochford is an event to which we are particularly sensitive since we knew his manner of thinking and since we could trust his disposition in maintaining harmony and understanding between our respective Courts. It seems, Sir, that you do not hold the same opinion about his successor: indeed, Lord Weymouth is not to be recommended for his peaceful intentions judging by his behavior during the affair of the Falkland Islands;² he came very close to having this dispute degenerate into an open war, and, because his advice did not prevail, he resigned from the Ministry. Furthermore, whatever his principles and political views may be, it can be assumed, Sir, that the present circumstances will suspend his fighting ardor against France and Spain if at least they do not weaken it. When one considers the critical situation where England finds herself with respect to America, it is difficult to imagine that there would be a minister with so little sense that he would add a foreign war to the existing domestic problems. In the present state of affairs, it would increase by far the tendency on the part of the Americans to seek complete independence rather than a reconciliation with the mother-country. Regardless of the consequences which will sooner or later stem from this recent change in the British Ministry, the manner of thinking of the King [Louis XVI] remains unchanged: you are aware of it, Sir, and His Majesty expects from your wisdom that, while conforming to the spirit of His instructions which you received through me, you will use in their application all the modifications required by the difference of personalities. We feel that since you do not entertain with Lord Weymouth the same friendly and trustful relationship which existed between you and Lord Rochford, you must endeavor far more to learn his manner of thinking than to instill your own into him.

Whatever Lord Weymouth's disposition may be, our Newfoundland affair will hardly give you the opportunity for some time to determine his true way of thinking: his lack of instructions and the fact he will need them will make it very easy for him to evade the issue at first. In this respect, I cannot help but remind you, Sir, that, although we wish to bring this affair to an end once and for all, it is not the intention of the King, however, that you should handle it with such assiduity that the English Ministers might be led to believe that we are trying to make an issue out of it.

The debates of the House of Lords are very interesting. They bring much light on the real views of the government which, while speaking only of war and all the preparations to wage it, seems far more interested in peace and the means to make it, even at the cost of a few sacrifices. I would be obliged to you, Sir, if you continue to send us the reports of the debates. The expenses which you will incur shall be exactly reimbursed.

I conveyed to His Majesty the mark of appreciation on the part of the King of England who instructed you to do so, for the assistance given by Mr. de Robec

to an English transport ship which ran aground near Dunkerque and to the Hanoverian troops she carried. His Majesty hereby instructs you to assure His British Majesty that he can expect at all times, on the part of the King, the same expression of friendship and agreement. On the order of the King, I wrote to M. de Robeck to express the satisfaction of the King and to authorize him to continue providing shipwrecked crews and troops with all the assistance they may expect or need.

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

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

2. The Falkland Island crisis in 1770, when the Spanish government attempted to expel a British settlement.

20 Nov.

LORD NORTH'S PROPOSAL OF A PROHIBITORY BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS¹

Nov. 20 [1775].

Lord North rose and moved, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill, to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, during the continuance of the present rebellion within the said colonies respectively; for repealing an Act, made in the 14th [year] of his present Majesty, to discontinue the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of goods, wares, and merchandize, at the town and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachuset's Bay; and also two Acts, made in the last session of parliament, for restraining the trade and commerce of the colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned; and to enable his Majesty to appoint commissioners, and to issue proclamations in the cases and for the purposes therein to be mentioned." His lordship explained the necessity of restraining the Americans from all trade during the present rebellion, and the justice there would be in immediately taking off the restraint from such colony wherein it might cease; that the Boston Port Act, and the Acts passed last year, being framed upon other grounds and for other purposes, would stand in the way of this operation; that the restraining Bills were civil coercions against civil crimes; but we being now at war, the provisions were incapable, and other provisions were necessary: those provisions he now proposed were such as would be made use of in case of war with any country in the world; but they were framed under such provisos as might open the door of peace upon its first approach. That if we were ready also to repeal the Charter Bills, yet he could not do it while they denied the right that we had to make them; that as to the Bill for the administration of justice, there was no need to repeal that, because the country being in actual war, martial law took place, and there were no courts of justice in which it could operate; it was a temporary Bill for three years, two of which are expired; and it would cease of itself. That he should also be ready to repeal the tea duty on the same grounds, that he would suspend every exercise of the right of taxation, if the colonies themselves would point out any mode by which they would bear their share of

the burden and give their aid to the common defence. The purport of the clause respecting the commissions, had been very well explained the other day by a noble lord (George Germaine,) that it meant besides the granting of pardons that they should enquire into any matter of change of circumstances in which the colonies were now, from the time they were when the laws were made: if there were any matter of real grievance that could be remedied, that they were to have the power of judging whether any part or a whole colony were returned to that state of obedience, that they might declare that colony or part to be in peace, upon which the restrictions in the present Bill were so formed as to cease. . . . That there were two grounds, upon which every minister ought to stand: the first was, that the king had an undoubted right of naming his own servants: the second, which formed the happiness of this country, that if the people by their representatives did really disapprove the measures of any minister, to that degree that they would not go along with him, the king, however he might approve such minister, could not carry on business by him, and must part with him. That this business of quarrel with the colonies about taxation, was begun and prepared for him before he engaged in it as a minister; that he took it up, not when it was a question whether it was right to tax the colonies or not, but when they disputed our having any such right, and at a time when this country was determined not to give it up: as he engaged when this dispute had actually begun, he was bound to see it through; and if the colonies, by appealing to arms, had made war the medium, although peace was the only point he ever retained in his view, he must pursue it through that medium: being thus engaged, he did declare, that unless the King dismissed him, or a majority of the House, disapproving his conduct, desired his dismissal, he would not give up the conduct of this business to any body else. As to the means of conducting the war, he declared there never was any idea of employing the negroes or the Indians, until the Americans themselves had first applied to them; that general Carleton did then apply to them; and even then, it was only for the defence of his own province. As to the events of the war, things wore a much better aspect at present, than a little while ago; that Halifax was now absolutely safe; that there were indeed two expeditions against Canada, but he did hope that Canada would not fall into the hands of the rebels. He would almost venture to say that Quebec was safe; but he begged the House would not understand him as promising that: his own opinion was, that it would not fall into the hands of the rebels.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 992-94.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER ¹

House of Commons

Monday, November 20, 1775.

Lord North made a motion to the following purport: For leave to bring in a bill to cut off all intercourse between Great-Britain and the colonies of America, now in actual rebellion, so long as they shall continue in rebellion, and to repeal the Boston port bill, the fishery bills, and another bill passed last sessions against the Americans; and to authorise his Majesty's naval commanders to seize all ships

belonging to America as lawful prizes. For the motion, one hundred and ninety-two; against it, sixty-four.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, February 13, 1776, "The ship *Centurion*, Capt. Allen, is arrived at the Capes, after a passage of eight weeks and five days from Newry; and from the papers brought by the vessel, we have made the following extracts, viz."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS, R.N.¹

You are hereby required & directed to proceed without a moments loss of time, in his Majestys Ship under your command to Spithead, & there wait for further Order.

Given &c 20th Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Penton

Capt Morris, *Bristol* – Sheerness

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 271.

21 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT P. COOPER, H.M. SLOOP
Hawke, SPITHEAD¹

You are hereby required & directed to put to Sea in the Sloop you command the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather; And, when you get out of the Channel, you are to open the inclosed Sealed Pacquet, & put in execution the Orders you will find contained therein for your further proceedings.

Given &c 21st Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Palliser

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 274.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT P. COOPER, R.N.¹

The Inhabitants of several of His Majestys Colonies & Plantations in North America Vizt in New Hampshire Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland Virginia North Carolina & South Carolina having traiterously combined together for the general purpose of resisting the Authority of this Kingdom & having in a Hostile manner arrayed themselves in Arms & committed Acts of open and actual rebellion; You are hereby required & directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Darmouth, one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State to seize all Ships & Vessels belonging to any of the said Colonies and also to Georgia 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 Majestys 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 & Ammunition on board, which Ships & Vessels are to be seized in all Cases whatsoever unless it shall appear that the Arms & Ammunition shall have been shipp'd

with Licence either from His Majesty in Council, from the Master General & Principal Officers of the Ordnance or under the usual Clearances from the Commissrs of His Majestys Customs: And you are to send all such Ships or Vessels as you may seize under the above Circumstances into the first convenient Port of Safety, there to be detained 'til further Order or proceeded against according to Law as the nature of the Case may require.

And it having been represented to His Majesty that a resolution had 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 should be discontinued and there being great reason to suspect that the Ships & Vessels belonging to those Colonies & hitherto employed in those Channels of Commerce (many of which Ships are of large burthen) may be fitted out for the purpose of supporting the unnatural rebellion now carrying on; You are in pursuance of His Majestys further pleasure signified as aforesaid in case you find any Ships or Vessels which come within the above description in any of the Ports or Harbours you may visit within the said Colonies to take away their Masts & Rudders or otherwise so disable such Ships & Vessels that they may not be fitted & employed for the purpose abovementioned And if you find that the Inhabitants of any of the above Colonies are collecting & fitting out Armed Vessels for affecting their rebellious purposes; You are to exert your utmost endeavours to prevent such preparations and to burn & destroy every Vessel that shall appear to be fitted out with such traiterous designs. Given under our Hands the 21st Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Palliser

Capt.Cooper - *Hawke* - Spithead

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 274-76.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN ROBERT COOPER, R.N.¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 21st Novemr 1775.

In addition to the Order of this date from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty (which you will receive herewith) for proceeding to the Carolinas, Georgia & East Florida; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to engage, upon your arrival at those Provinces, as many Pilots as you can who may be acquainted with any part of the Coasts thereof, and to keep them on board until the arrival of Sir Peter Parker; And you will communicate this part of my Letter to the Commanders of any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels which you may fall in with on the said Coasts, and acquaint them that it is their Lordships directions that they do the like.

I have also their Lordships commands to send you herewith two Press Warrants empowering you to impress Seamen in North America, and to signify their further direction to you, in case the Pilots abovementioned should not be willing to engage in His Majesty's Service, to impress them by virtue of those Warrants, and to keep them on board the Sloop you command until you receive directions from Sir Peter Parker, or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, for their further disposal; And I send you herewith by their Lordships

orders a Manuscript Copy of a Plan of Cape Fear River in North Carolina, and of a Survey of the Coast about Cape Look-Out; also an engraved Plan of the Entrance into Cape Fear Harbour with printed directions for anchoring at that Cape; and an engraved Plan of Jeckyl Sound in the Province of Georgia; as the same may be useful to you in your present intended Voyage; And am &ca
 Php Stephens.

PS. It is their Lordships directions that you keep this Letter and the Order it refers to a profound Secret, and on no account to make known (except as before-mentioned) to any person whatever any part thereof, more especially what relates to the Pilots and to your being directed to cruize for Sir Peter Parker.

Capt. Cooper, *Hawke* Sloop, Spithead.

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

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 21st Novr 1775.

The Lords of His Majts Treasury having acquainted my Lords Commrs of the Admty that they have received undoubted information that Ten Vessels wch sailed about the middle of September last from the Port of Philadelphia for Ireland are engaged to go from thence to Russia & Hamburg there to take on board coarse Linnens of different kinds which it is intended they should land in the River Delawarre or at some convenient part of the Coast near it, at a time, in the present Winter when it is expected His Majts Ships will not be able to cruize upon the Coast or lay with safety in the River; And that Six Vessels more are soon to be engaged on the like destination & Service That this Attempt is made at the risque of the Province of Pensylvania or of the associated Colonies in General, & not undertaken by private Adventurers And that the very great scarcity of coarse Linnen in America & particularly those proper for an Army is the reason of this Attempt; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith & to recommend it to You, as it is of the highest importance that the said project should be defeated to take every measure in your power to prevent it taking effect &c

P S

By the *Albion* Victualler

Duplicate

By the *Prs Augusta* Victualler

Both enclosed in 2 Letters of this Date to the

Commrs for Victualling –

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 331–32.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN ROBINSON ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 21 Novr 1775

Having laid before My Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 18th Inst transmitting a Copy of One the Lords of the Treasury have received from the Commrs of the Customs relative to two Vessels that had been hovering in Exeter Bay supposed to have come from France or Holland with Ammunition for

America; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that directions were given to the Commr of His Maj's Cutter the *Meredith* to look out diligently for the said Vessels & to seize & carry them into the first convenient Port, if they prove to be laden in the manner suspected; And that Capt [Thomas] Graves Senior Officer of His Maj's Ships at Plymouth hath informed their Lordships that the Collector of His Maj's Customs at Exeter haveing given Mr Ourry Commissr of His Maj's Customs at Plymouth an Account of the two Vessels beforementioned & the Commissioners having acquainted him therewith he has ordered the Commr of His Maj's Cutter the *Folkestone* to Cruize off Exmouth in quest of the said Vessel &c

PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 333-34. Robinson was Treasury Secretary.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr [Admiralty Office] 21st Novr. 1775

The Commrs for Victualling being directed to send to Boston on board the *Albion* Victualler a quantity of Potatoes & other Vegetables, also on board the *Prs Augusta* Victualling Sloop a Quantity of Sour Krout for the use of His Majestys Ships under your command And His Majesty having been pleased to signify His Pleasure that the whole thereof shall be issued as his Gift to the Crews of the said Ships, in such manner as you shall direct; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to acquaint you therewith And to signify their directions to You to give Orders for the said Vegetables & Sour Krout being issued accordingly &c

P S

Duplicate by the *Prs Augusta* Victuallg Sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 336.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr [Admiralty Office] 21st Novr. 1775

The Lords Commrs of His Majts Treasury having this Day transmitted to my Lords Commrs of the Admty an Extract of a Letter from Port L'Orient containing some Intelligence of a Philadelphia Vessel consigned from hence to Messrs Botards [Bérard Frères & Co.] of that Place for a Cargo of Salt Petre I am commanded by my Lords to send you a Copy of the said Intelligence for your information that you may give Orders to the Commanders of such of His Majts Ships of your Squadron as you shall judge most likely to fall in with her upon her return to America, to use their utmost endeavours to intercept & seize her I am &c

P S

Vice Adml Graves, or the Commr in Chief for the time being of His Majts Ships &c at Boston } By the *Albion* Victualler

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 340-41.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER ¹

London, Nov. 21.

Numbers of seamen are out of employment at port Glasgow, Greenock, &c. owing to the stagnation of the American trade.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, February 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON ¹

Novr 1775	Remarks &ca	<i>Speedwell</i> Sloop
Tuesday 21st	at 10 AM spoke a duch ship Called the <i>Eufrou Agatha</i> , Tadamondert Mastr bound to Burdeux laden with deals. So Foreland NNE 9 or 10 Miles The first part mode and Clear middle & latter squally	
	P M at 1 gave chace to a Danish ship at 2 fir'd 2 shot and brought too the Chace A ship from Copenhagen Frederick Fredericks Mastr bound to santa Craix laden with sundry marchandize belonging to London. ² at 6 Shortned saile & took in the 2d reefs in the topsailes at 11 Do in the 3d reefs topsailes	

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

2. The *Speedwell* probably lost a prize by not seizing the ship. She was undoubtedly the vessel about which John Pownall advised Philip Stephens, although Pownall called her Dutch from Amsterdam. See Pownall to Stephens, December 1, 1775.

22 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CALDWELL, H.M.S. *Emerald*, CHATHAM ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship the *Emerald* at Chatham, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, — mann'd with Two hundred Men & victualled for six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns and Gunners Stores at that Place and proceed to the Nore for further Order.

Given &c. the 22d Novr 1775.

J.Buller Palmerston H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 279–80.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT DRING, H.M. BOMB VESSEL *Carcass*, WOOLWICH ¹

Having appointed you Commander of His Majts Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* at Woolwich, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for foreign Service, mann'd with sixty Men & victualled to six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently

stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Galleons Reach, take in at that place her Guns, Mortars and such a proportion of Ordnance Stores, as may be necessary for her on the said Service, and, having so done, proceed to the Nore and remain there until you receive further Order.
Given &c. the 22d November 1775

Sandwich J.Buller Palmerston

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 280-81.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM ANTHONY HALSTED,
H.M.S. *Jersey*, CHATHAM¹

Having appointed you Commander of His Majestys Ship *Jersey* at Chatham which we have ordered to be fitted & Stored at that Place for Foreign Service, manned with One Hundred & Forty Men & Victualled for Six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently [stow] & to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Blackstake take in her Guns & Gunners Stores at that Place & proceed to the Nore for further order.
Given &c. 22d Novr 1775

Sandwich Lisburne H.Palliser

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 283.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER¹

London, November 22.

The transports which sailed from the downs on Saturday last for Boston, were spoke with on Monday last, off Plymouth, all well.

It is said that every vessel in the navy under 40 guns, is ordered to be ready for sea by the first of next month, manned and victualled.

1. *Essex Journal*, March 15, 1776.

23 Nov.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, JR. TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN¹

[Extract]

London Nov. 23 1775 -

The mention of Politics in these unhappy Times is almost sufficient to prevent a Letter from arriving safe in America, but there surely can be no harm in writing, what is not designed to be secret, & no Man can disapprove of Sentiments that tend to Peace & Reconciliation.

You will see by the Papers that a Bill is to be brought in to cut off all Inter-course with the Colonies, & to repeal some of the late Acts. The principle upon which this is founded I am told is - That as America has declar[e]d She will not

trade with Britain, this Country is determined she shall not trade with any other Power if it can be prevented. That the Boston Port Bill & others were intended as a Punishment on that Colony, as being then the most refractory one; since that Time, all have come into the same Measures, therefore all are equally culpable, it is therefore they say unjust to make a Distinction and they propose by repealing these Bills to put them into one Situation & then to punish them all.

I am inclined to believe that the M[inistr]y [is] sick of this Business, and as to the Nation in general those who have the Liberty of thinking for themselves must see the fatal Consequences of the Controversy, & of Course wish for a Reconciliation. The Question then only is how this can be effected. I know not the Powers of the proposed Commissioners, nor the real Intention in sending them; but I am told that the former are very extensive, and that the Latter is to finish the Dispute. If the Design is founded on a Wish to settle with Justice to both Sides, and the Men are as good & as honest, as the Trust will be great, I hope Peace & Happiness will succeed to War & Distress; but if there is any artfull Intention, cloaked under a specious appearance, & the Measure should turn out to be a Trick of State; America knows her Rights and her Ability to defend them – I have therefore only to add my Wish, that Virtue and Justice may be always [serve]d with deserved Success. –

[To] Doctor B Franklin Market Street Philadelphia

Favoured by Capt Hunter via Virginia

1. BM.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 TO THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1775

London. Nov. 23.

Yesterday his Majesty in council was pleased to continue the prohibition on the exportation or carrying coastwise of salpetre, gunpowder, and other military stores, for three months longer.

A person just arrived from Cadiz brings an account, that two vessels laden with ammunition &c. going to America, were stopt there by request of the English Consul from proceeding any farther.

CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON, R. N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Boreas Spithead Novr 23. 1775

In answer to your Letter of the 21st I beg you will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Mr Stiles Comptroller of the Customs at this Port came onboard His Majestys Ship under my Command and told me he had an order to seize some Money that was onboard going to the Rebels I answered him that I had two boxes of Portugal Money consigned, one to the acting Treasurer of the Customs at Boston the other to the acting pay Master of His Majestys Forces I permitted him to put his seals upon them and gave a Certificate of his having done so but would not suffer him to take them out of the Ship as it did not appear to me that they were subject to seizure Mr Apthorpe before he put the money onboard having wrote a publick letter to the Board of Customs desiring to know what Steps he was to take previous to sending it out and having

received an answer from their Sollicitor that no Steps were necessary if it was going in a Ship of War there being an act of Parliament to enable them to carry Bullion or Jewels I beg you will please to signify to me their Lordships directions how I am to act on the occasion as I thought I had given the Comptroller of the Customs every assistance he had a right to demand and fully complied with the 44th article of the general printed Instructions I hope their Lordships will believe that I should be as ready as the Comptroller of the Customs to stop money or any Contraband articles going to the rebels which am certain will appear was not the case with the Money now onboard the *Boreas* I am Sir [&c.]

C Thompson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2591.

24 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Admiralty Office 24th No[v]ember 1775

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Excellency's letter of the 3d ultimo enclosing a Memorial of the Officers belonging to the Two Battalions of Marines serving in America and expressing Your wishes that the Vacancies which had then happened might be filled up by the Officers on the Spot; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that they have had an attention to your Recommendation in the Officers they have proposed to the King to fill up the said Vacancies. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

His Excellency General Gage. Town.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]
No. 310

London, 24 November 1776

The particular news I have concerning Canada confirm the very natural idea I have that the Rebels will not lose precious time, and that their conquest or, which is the same, their seduction before next spring of this interesting part of the American continent will present unsurmountable difficulties for the forces and even the commissioners of Great Britain.

Among the persons destined to fulfill this function the names of Admiral [Richard] Howe and General [Jeffrey] Amherst are mentioned. If this is confirmed as I presume it will be, we must not lose from sight the fact that England will have in America and at the head of its forces, although disguised as negotiators, the two best land and sea officers it now has in its service

News from the Ports

Plymouth

The order to be in readiness within a few days has been given to the frigate *Solebay*. The frigate *Aldborough* arrived from Newfoundland.

A ship arrived from Liverpoole with 100 men on board for *Foudroyant*.

Portsmouth

Hawke arrived in Spithead from the Dunes. *Hazard*, carrying troops, arrived from Scotland. *Triton* sailed in destination of America with 20 workmen for Halifax. *Pallas* sailed for the Coast of Guinea.

Barfleur returned to ordinary service; she will be repaired and another ship will be commissioned in her place.

Romney Action [*Actaeon*], *Boreas* and six guard ships are still in Spithead; *Thetis*, *Pearl*, *Fox*, *Greyhound*, *Active*, *Seaford*, *Sphynx*, *Juno* and two guard ships are in commission in the port.

Chatham

The transport ships are being fitted out; they will take flat bottom boats on board. Resolution is being readied for another trip in the South Seas.

The order to build a ship with 74 guns in Deptford has been countermanded; she will carry only 64 guns.

A brigantine arrived from Newfoundland.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER ¹

London, Nov. 24.

Wednesday several more large ships were contracted for by agency, for the transport service, which are to go to Ireland to take in provisions there for the use of the soldiers at Boston.

1. *Essex Journal*, March 15, 1776.

25 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS,
H.M.S. *Solebay*, PLYMOUTH ¹

So soon as His Majestys Ship under your command is in all respects ready for the Sea; You are hereby required & directed to proceed in her without a moments loss of time to Corke in Ireland & there wait for further Order.

Given &c 25th Novr 1775

Sandwich H.Penton H.Palliser

By &c. PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 283.

London Gazette, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1775

St. James's, November 25.

At the Court of St.James's, the 22d Day of November, 1775, Present, The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas the Time limited by His Majesty's Orders in Council of the 23d of August and 27th of September last, for prohibiting the exporting out of this Kingdom, or carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or

Ammunition, will expire on the 23d of this Instant November; and whereas it is judged expedient that the said Prohibition should be continued for some Time longer, except in those Cases where (for the Benefit and Advantage of Trade, and for the Use and Defence of Ships trading to Foreign Parts) His Majesty, by His several Orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of October last, and of the 6th of this instant, has thought proper to permit and allow the Exportation of, and carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Arms and Ammunition, under certain Conditions and Restrictions mentioned in the said Orders: – His Majesty doth therefore, by and with the Advice of his Privy Council, hereby Order, Require, Prohibit, and Command, That no Person or Persons whatsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant-General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service) do at any Time, during the Space of Three Months, to commence from the said 23d of this Instant November, presume to transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any Parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, except in the Cases comprized within the aforementioned Orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of October last, and 6th of this Instant November, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from His Majesty, or his Privy Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the 29th Year of His late Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Saltpetre, and to enforce the law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the carrying Coastwise of Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." – And the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master General of the Ordnance, and His Majesty's Secretary at War, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

W. Blair.

B. RNT. CASTELEYN TO CORRESPONDENT IN VIRGINIA ¹

My Lord –

Dunkirk, the 25th November, 1775

As the troubles which England has extended to your Colony and the interdiction of all correspondence and trade with her, must necessarily not only cause a general, but partly interruption, in hindering the exportation of her products. I hope your Excellency will agree to the respectful liberty I take to write her, in view that if you judge it convenient, you would make it communicated to the merchants of your Colony to whom it may be of any advantage.

Our town and our harbour are a port frank, in which all sorts of merchandises, from whatsoever strange or foreign places they are coming, may be imported by sea, stay in it any time pleases, be sold or imported by sea, without being liable to any duty whatsoever; she is the only one of all the ports of France that has such an extended privilege, and which by its situation is more fit to communicate

in trade way with England, Holland, Hambro, Sweden, and all this part of the north. This port franks has provoked here a considerable trade, and has made of this town an enterport for all those countries, so as for France and all his other harbours, the trade that goes on in the leaf, sweet scent and orokono tobacco, which were brought here from London, Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool &c. is very great. There are years that I sold for my share as far as 4000 hhds.; part of which I bought on my account in the above places, and part that my correspondents there sent me on sale for their accounts, mostly when the time of payment of the duty to the custom house was expiring, and that they had not found opportunity to sell them there; moreover, the quantity of leaf tobacco that sold here is immense, and it will more increase by the means of the French farmers which lately bought here 500 hhds; and who, finding no more to provide themselves in England, will make their purchases in this town, when the tobacco will been to be got here. It will be the same in regard to the Hollanders, and all the people of the part of the Northern sea.

The trouble for the Colony in the actual circumstances, will be the difficulty to transport here their merchandises, but I fancy to have found the means to do it, without any risk in regard of the English.

There is some years that the King of France, under whose domination is our town, has rendered the town and harbour of Mole St. Nicolas in French St. Domingo, a port frank; and it must not be uneasy to the Colony to transport there her tobacco and other productions in regard of their proximity notwithstanding the vigilance of the men of war of Great Britain.

This production being at the Mole St. Nicolas, I will have them loaded there for this town in one of my ships, or in any other French ship, as being French and my own property, at the destination of this town, which is the only port of all France where the tobaccos are admitted to be landed, kept and sold, paying, as all the other merchandises arriving from the French Colonies, but the usual duty of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 percent of the value.

The merchants of your Colony who should prefer to sell to me their York river, James river &c. tobacco rendered at their charges and risk, at the Mole St. Nicolas; (rather than to send them here for sale on their own account, and to get back the merchandises of Europe which they want,) I will agree with them at a price according to quality; and make pay to them the amount at Mole St. Nicolas when, and at same time my ship will load them. In which case whoever would prefer to sell to me their tobacco, it would be convenient that they should write to me the price in English money; they should ask to deliver me the tobacco at the said Mole, payable there or in any other place in Europe. Should they deliver their letters directed to me, and put in the post-office of Mole St. Nicolas, Port au Prince, or any other of French St. Domingo ports will be handed me.

As I never had occasion to correspond with any of the merchants of your Colony, and that I have not the advantage to be known by them, they may take information on my solidity and character in London, of Mr. Lewis Teesner, Messrs.

Hudson & Worthington, Mr. Wm. Du Bois, Mr. John Campbell, Messrs. Pre Simond & Hankey, & Co. they will find that in all security my house may be trusted. Amongst the above mentioned trading houses, there are of them who should already have wrote, and have caused their friends there to write, in order to make me known to their correspondents in your Colony; if the fear of the danger they should run from the part of the Government, if their letters were intercepted, did not hinder them of doing it.

This is what I had to expose to your Excellency; if any of your merchants have enough confidence to favour me with their correspondence, and to enter into trading business with me, on my part I shall esteem myself happy at being of any service to them, and on their side they will meet with me both candour, probity and solidity in the transactions we may have together.

I remain, with the utmost respect of your Excellency [&c.]

B. Rnt. Casteleyn.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 98-99. This letter, while found in the papers of the New York Provincial Congress, seems to have been addressed to a prominent Virginian. The writer, Casteleyn, French merchant, used the salutation "My Lord," and referred, in the body of the letter, to "Your Excellency."

26 Nov. (Sunday)

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES ¹

[Extract]

No. 164

Versailles, 26 November 1775

We must not conceal the fact from ourselves, Sir, regardless of the consideration we show the English, that we should not expect any reciprocity on their part. It is nevertheless strange in the present circumstances when it is in their best interest not to give us any cause of dissatisfaction which might bring us to give direct or indirect assistance to their rebellious settlers, in North America, they should choose this time to encourage an English establishments among the Mosquitoes. One need only look at the geographic position of this peninsula to realize that, should this establishment be fortified, it might one day be fatal to the Spanish. I hope that those who were warned in time, thanks to your vigilance, are now in the process of heading off this undertaking. Their intentions are unknown to me, but if I were in their place I would know how to make good use of their position in Louisiana to pay back the English with their own coin.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

27 Nov.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES WORTH,
H.M.S. *Deal Castle*, SHEERNESS ¹

So soon as you shall have received on board the Ship you command her party of Marines from Chatham and Twenty supernumerary Seamen which we have

order'd to be discharg'd into her from the *Mars* towards completing her Complement; You are hereby required & directed to repair, in her, without a Moments loss of time, to Spithead, and remain there until you receive further Order Given &c. the 27th Novr 1775

Sandwich Palmerston H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 284.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON,
H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, DOVER¹

You are hereby required & directed to repair forthwith in the Sloop you command to Spithead, where you are to receive on board Ten Supernumerary Seamen which Vice Adml Sir James Douglas is order'd to discharge into her, from the *Barfleur* towards making up the deficiency in her Complement, And, having so done, return & cruize agreeable to the Orders you are now under, for the purpose of intercepting & seizing the suspected Ships & Vessels which you have lately been in quest of.

Given &c. the 27th Novr 1775.

Sandwich Palmerston H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 284.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords

Whitehall 27 Novr 75

Inclosed I have the honor to send your Lordships, by His Majesty's Command, a Paper of Intelligence respecting the Channels thro' which Correspondence & Commerce are carried on with the King's Rebellious Subjects in America; and I am to Acquaint Your Lordships, that it is His Majesty's Pleasure, that you do transmit the same to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, to the end, that being informed of the Manner in which this dangerous Correspondence is carried on, he may be enabled to make such Disposition of the Ships under his Command, as shall be most likely to prevent it, and to intercept the Supplies that are preparing to be sent to the Inhabitants of the Colonies now in Arms against the King. I am &ca

Geo. Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 41.

DR. JONATHAN BOUCHER TO WILLIAM KNOX¹

[Extract]

[London] Novr the 27th 1775.

... If You can bear with the Tediousness of the Disquisition, I will, if You please, take a short View of the present State of all the Colonies from New York downwards, giving my Opinion, as We go along, what Effect any military Operations are likely to have in Them.

New-York, the City, I mean, is peculiarly fitted both by its Situation, & the Sentiments of the People, to be made a Place of Arms. Not less than 10,000

Men shou'd be sent thither. If they embarque in the Winter, They may expect a tempestuous Passage; & of Course, will require Rest & Refreshment after Landing. They are more sure of These in New York than any where else. Armed Vessels can go up to Albany, & with infinite Ease, cut off all Communication between the Northern & Southern Governments. This will be a most essential Service. If possessed of the Passes, they may go still farther back in Batteaus, should it be found necessary. And, possess'd of so large an Extent of Country, all on the Banks of a fine River, no Doubt, they will be well supply'd with Provisions. But the Interruption of all Intercourse between the united Colonies is an Advantage that can hardly be purchased too dear. And, it is most certainly practicable. The King's Troops too will find more Friends & Assistance in that Government, than in any other: in Truth, I cannot but think, they have some Reason to complain of the Neglect of Government. They have long solicited Protection, which, had it been granted, I am confident, a respectable Number of Loyalists wou'd have declar'd Themselves. There is no saying what a happy Effect this would have had all over America: I fear, it is now too late, for this. The Men of chief Note have, in general, been driven away, both from thence & every where else. Yet, the latest Advices still speak honourably of the Zeal of large Numbers: & 'twere a Pity so good a Spirit shou'd not be cherished. If there be one, among the confederated Colonies, that could yet, without Force, be brought back to Allegiance, it is New-York: at any Rate, the Strength of Government shou'd first be try'd there. Their Example wou'd have more Force than better Motives in determining others; as, to try elsewhere, & fail, might defeat the Attempt every where. Five thousand Men, stationed in New-York, so supported as, I am confident, They would there be, & with the Assistance of the armed Vessels on the River, I consider as fully sufficient to resist every military Effort of every Government to the Southward of it.

It is difficult to speak of the prevailing Sentiments of the People of Pennsylvania. They seem desirous to serve two Masters, valuing Themselves on this, that they have so very dexterously managed Matters as equally to have avoided the Imputation of Toryism, & any ouvert Act of Treason. Were They really in Earnest, They, doubtless, have Men to spare: but You will judge of their Eagerness for War, by this, that, maugre all the Ordinances of their Lords, they have not yet rais'd a single Minute Man. And, I think I am pretty positive, that none will be rais'd either there or in the more Southern Governments. I foresee little Good that can be done by any military Exertions there; unless Recruits & Provisions were to be drawn from them, and they will be more easily got in the adjoining Provinces. They shou'd, however, be well watch'd, & kept in constant Fear of the Navy: not that I think it wou'd answer any good Purpose to destroy Philadelphia, which They affect to dread; tho' it might, notwithstanding their Booms & one-gunn'd Gondolas, easily be laid under Contribution; which it deserves.

In the Aggregate of American Strength, the two Carolinas Virginia & Maryland cannot fairly be reckon'd as making any Part: it is well, if They are equal to their own internal Enemy. How far it may be prudent to keep their Fears perpetually awake, either by Apprehensions of having their Slaves armed against Them, or their savage Neighbours let loose on their Frontiers, Circumstances must

determine: the actually embodying Them is, however, an Expedient which, were Humanity out of the Question, sound Policy wou'd reprobate. They resemble the Elephants in the Armies of old: they may, it is true, exceedingly annoy your Enemy, but You have no Security that, even in the Moment of Victory, They will not turn on Yourselves. — About fifteen Years ago, by Order of Government, the Men able to bear Arms in Maryland were numbered, & amounted to 15000. I cannot, from Memory, say how many there may be in Virginia, & the Carolinas; but, having liv'd fifteen Years & upwards in the two former Provinces, I think I may venture, with some Authority, to promise You, that, unless sought for in their Woods & Fastnesses, They never will seek regular Troops in a hostile Way. I mean not, by this, to reflect on their Courage; thinking, with Them, that it is as little their Interest, as their Inclination, to come to Blows. As to their Arming, & all their boasted Pomp of War; I look upon it as a mere Bravoë, intended only to alarm & intimidate England. — At any Rate, however, it would be ill Policy to carry War amongst them: for, in the first Place, they never will come to an Engagement, but, in their own Way, in Woods & behind Trees; & shou'd They be defeated again & again, the only Consequence will be, that They will retreat out of Reach; & return to inflict Vengeance on any such as, under Protection of the Soldiery, may have avow'd their Loyalty, whenever that Protection shall be withdrawn. — These Colonies, beyond all Question, are most easily to be subdued by Embargos on their Trade, the Distresses this will bring on Them will exceed those of any others, & they are the least able to bear Them. I dread to think what will become of my own poor Slaves, next Winter. — But, besides the Slaves, the two Tobacco Colonies have, in their very Bowels, another Enemy, not a little to be dreaded: I mean, their white Servants. The Case of this Class of Men is singular. They are decoyed from hence by romantic Promises, &, on their landing in America, are sold for their Passages; & for three, four, or five Years, are, to all Intents & Purposes, Slaves. It appears to Me to be worth while to send Troops thither, if for no other Purpose than the enlisting of these Men, whom I cannot but think peculiarly fit for the American Service. They will bring with Them an ill Humour & Prejudice against the Country, which it will not be un-useful to have propagated amongst those with whom They may be incorporated; They have some Knowledge of the Country, the Manners, & Mode of living of the People; &, above all, They have been seasoned to the Climate. How many of Them may be had, which is a very necessary Enquiry, I am almost afraid to guess, confident of This only, that there is not One in ten, who will not enlist, if He can. A Gentleman of Baltimore, not addicted to random Declarations, is positive, that five hundred may be got in that Town, & its Environs: it is certain, the richest Harvest of Them may be gleaned there, at Elk-Ridge, the Iron Works & Annapolis. If, haply, This should be thought an Object deserving Attention, I shall hardly need to say, that it will require some Address & Management: as; in this & every Thing else, the Commander may lay it to his Account to meet with every Difficulty which a peculiar Shrewdness & Subtlety can throw in his Way. Parties should be detached, at one & the same Time, in armed Vessels to the various Towns at the Heads of the Rivers in Pensylvania, Maryland & Virginia: with Instructions to have Notice spread, if possible, to the back Settlements, where

most of these People have been carried. If any Natives of Consideration enter into the Service, which They should be tempted to do; They may greatly facilitate this measure: for, sanguine as I am in recommending it, it is but fair that I apprise You of the Difficulties that will attend it. No Man, whether Native or Foreigner, Bond or free will be permitted to join the Regulars, but by Stealth: this, however, will not prevent their attempting it; Many have already run away from their Masters in Maryland, with the Hope of joining the King's Army in Boston; & I doubt not but some have succeeded.

Heretofore, Virginia was distinguished for her firm Attachment both to Church & State: They still profess the same Principles, & many do hold them, however incompatible with their present Practice. The chief Abettors of Violence among them are young Men of good Parts, but spoil'd by a strange, imperfect, desultory Kind of Education which has crept into Fashion all over America. Some of the Northern Academies, which, in my Wrath, I can scarce forbear calling Seminaries of Sedition, led the Way; &, like other Plagues, it soon spread. — With Respect to the sending of Troops thither, what I have said of Maryland applies equally to Virginia: at present, They can be serviceable only in the Way above-mentioned, & in foraging. All these three Provinces are every where pervious to Shipping; all abound in Grain, Stocks, & Herds, all on the Banks of Rivers, or Islands. It cannot be then, One wou'd think, but that, in such a Country, Descents may be made to some Purpose.

North Carolina is, in general, the poorest Country on the Continent, Nova Scotia excepted, & one of the Floridas. With a few very honourable Exceptions, much the same Character may be given of the People, the Bulk of Them have been Renegadoes from the other Colonies. They are just emerging into Notice & Consideration; but have hitherto, I think, distinguished themselves only by an Insurrection about four Years ago. Early in these Confusions, some of the Counties there made a very gallant Stand against Congressional Tyranny; but, for Want of Support, like many others, I imagine, they soon fell off: tho' I was told, I remember, not many Months before I left America, that Thousands would still repair to the royal Standard, could They but see it erected. I fear, the Opportunity for this has been suffered to elapse; & a Gentleman, just arrived, from thence, confirms Me in the Opinion. In Truth, I know not well how, under the present Circumstances, even the most Loyal could declare Themselves. They live dispersed, &, of Course, can have no collective Strength; they must, therefore, fall an easy Prey to the Committees, & the Independent Companies, who, on the first appearance of a Suspicion only of their Defection, as it wou'd be called, wou'd be sure to fall on them: and, I beg Leave to ask how any Armament cou'd give Assurances of Protection to their Persons, when, perhaps, in a few Weeks, they might be ordered away, or to their Properties, in the interior Parts of the Country. On the whole, tho' persuaded that there are in all these Governments a respectable Number of People, adverse to the Measures now pursuing there, yet, anxious as I am not to misinform or mislead You, I dare not flatter You with the Hope that Many wou'd step forth, in the Cause of the Constitution, even tho' They had Troops there.

Of South Carolina I know nothing from my own Observation, having never been in it. In the Nature of Things, however, it must be weak; but, were it otherwise, shou'd the Plan I spoke of respecting N: York, be adopted, I see not how either They, or any others cou'd possibly furnish Men to the Northern Army: and it will exceed any Ideas I can form even of American Madness, for them to think of forming One in the South.

It fell not within my Province to speak of the Navy: yet, if I guess aright, the War carried on by the Ships, especially in the South, will not be the least efficacious. The Seizures that probably will be made from the Americans themselves, promise to be well calculated for the Purpose of scouring their Rivers & Creeks; a Service, in which it will be as proper to avoid giving any personal Insults, or offering any personal avoidable Injuries to unarm'd & unoffending Colonists, as it will, to be active, vigilant, firm, & determined.

All depends on the Issue of the first general Action: not to be thoroughly & totally defeated may again have the Effect of a Victory: and so not only tempt the Country at large still to go on with the War, but actually do, what nothing else could — that is, make Soldiers of their Men. But, I augur better things; & God forbid, I should be mistaken! . . .

Unwilling to leave any Enquiry unsatisfied, which I cou'd suppose You likely to make, I am sorry to find what a Task I have imposed on You: but, I am not afraid to trust to your Candor to excuse this, as well as its other Demerits, to which, however, I will not add, by teizing You with Apologies.

I am, with infinite Regard & attention sir, [&c.]

Jonaⁿ Boucher.

P.S. I have mentioned 10,000 Men are necessary for N. York, only from an Apprehension that [David] Wooster & his trowser'd Ragamuffins might, possibly, muster up Spirits enough to attack a smaller Number, 'ere They cou'd get any Works erected. When This is done, They may be draughted out on Parties to the South. The considerable Towns shou'd always be fix'd on; &, in these, they must instantly publish fair, full & liberal Manifestoes, promising all loyal & good Subjects, a free Press, free Enquiry, & free Trade. To this last especially they should, by all means, be invited; &, if the next Campaign be but tolerably successful, I think, they will not be invited in vain. News-Papers every where greatly bias the Multitude, in America altogether — When the King's Arms shall have acquir'd some Eclat in N. Engld, which I trust will soon be the Case, perhaps N. York will be found to be the best Station for the main Army.

1. Germain Papers, CL. Knox was Under Secretary of State.

28 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAINS RICHARD PEARSON AND DIGBY DENT, R.N.¹

Sir,

[London] 28th Novemr 1775.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith a Copy of some late Intelligence which has been transmitted by Mr Mathias to the Earl of Suffolk, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in relation to a Ship said to be laden with Warlike Stores for the Rebels

in North America by Captain Slander, and to have been on the point of sailing from Gluckstadt about the middle of this Month; in order that you may look out for and endeavour to intercept and seize her, as well as the others which you have already been directed to go in quest of. I am &ca

Php Stephens.

Capt Pearson, *Speedwell* Sloop, Dover.

Duplicate [to] Spithead.

Capt Dent, *Arethusa*, Downes.

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

29 Nov.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Queens Square 29 Novr 1775

The Right Honble the Lords Commissrs of the Admty having been pleased to direct His Majesty's Ship *Bristol* to be supplied at Sheerness, with as much more Wine or Spirits, in addition to what has been allready ordered, as with the Beer she can [co]nveniently Stow, will be sufficient [fo]r her Complement for Six Months, and [as] there is [now] Wine at present in Store [in] London, I [de]sire you will please to move their Lordships, that the said Ship may be supplied with no more Spiri[ts] at Sheerness, than will admit of her being supplied with Two Months Wine at Portsmouth to compleat to Six Months. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] 30 Nov Directn to V. Bd acc[ordingly] Let him know it.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

30 Nov.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 30th November 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 27 Instant, representing that if agreeable to their Lordships orders the Petty Officers belonging to the *Experiment* and *Renown*, who came home in the American Vessels are sent out with the Seamen to their respective Ships, there will not be any persons left for Evidences should any Trial commence concerning the said Vessels; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to transmit to them a List of the names and quality of the Petty Officers, and names of the Men abovementioned distinguishing the Ships to which they properly belong, and where they now are. I am&c—

P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 367-68.

WILLIAM LEE TO HIS OVERSEER IN VIRGINIA ¹

Sir!

London 30 Novr 1775

As 5000 Troops are orderd to sail from Ireland in 8 or 10 daies for Virga & North Carolina & Genl Clinton is orderd by an express sent from hence 6 daies

ago to go from Boston to Virga to take the command of these Troops, I apprehend much injury to my own private Estate now under your management, therefore request you will instantly on receipt of this go to either of my Brothers Richd Henry or Frances Lightfoot if they are in the way or to Richd Lee Esqr of Lee hall & the Honble Colo Taylor & consult with them on the following plan if it can be put in Execution, which is, to remove all the Negroes immediately to some part in the back Country, except those who are too old or too young to travel, The very young ones may be left in the care of the old ones. The Stocks &c should be also removed and all the Provisions, as far as you can, in the Country remote from the water side – I suppose you will at first day, where can the people be removed to – you must have seen an advertisement in the Virga papers, from the County of Buckingham wherein they offer an asylum and lands to work for any of the people in the lower Counties and I suppose the people in Hanover & Amelia will chearfully do the same if you apply to Colo [Patrick] Henry or the Council of Safety – It is impossible for me at this distance to form so proper a judgment of what ought or can be done, in this alarming state of Affairs, as you and the Gentlemen I have already mentioned can do, because you are on the spot – but I rely on your ability diligence firmness and Integrity to do every thing that is possible to be done, for preserving any Estate free from any kind of Injury. I am [&c.]

William Lee

NB It may not be improper to make the Treasurer acquainted with the above as soon as this comes to hand – ²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.
2. The letter never came to hand. It was intercepted and stopped in the London Post Office, as Lee was informed later, that it and other letters “are now in the Secretary of States Office.” *Ibid.*

PRÉCIS PREPARED FOR THE KING OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE EXPEDITION
AGAINST THE SOUTHERN COLONIES ¹

[Extract]

[November 30, 1775]

The plan & extent of the Expedition to the Southern Colonies having been accordingly settled, & the necessary Instructions and orders issued in consequence thereof, the Earl of Dartmouth, very early in the beginning of Novr wrote letters to the Govrs of the said Colonies acquainting them therewith, and signifying to them His Majesty’s Pleasure, that they should lose no time in sending emissaries among the Inhabitants of the well disposed Counties, with authority & Commissions to the principal persons of trust & confidence, for raising & embodying as many men as could be procured, & informing them of His Majesty’s Intentions of supplying them with Arms, and giving them the same pay as the Regular Troops, as soon as they should come down, which they were to be encouraged to do, as soon as they heard of the arrival of the Troops, & to bring down with them their horses and Waggons for the use of the Army, for which they were to be very liberally paid & rewarded.

It was further directed that these Emissaries, should also be instructed, to assure the Men so raised, that they would not be obliged to serve out of the Province without their consent, & that besides the abovementioned encouragement they should have a remission of all arrears of Quitrents for their lands; & further grants in proportion to their rank & merit, with an exemption from the payment of Quitrent for 20 Years.

At the same time that these Dispatches were wrote, it was ordered by His Majesty, that the Force destined for the Southern Expedition should be augmented by an addition of the 28th & 46th Regts which had sailed from [*sic* for] Quebec, but had been forced back in a hard gale of wind, except three Companies of the 46th which had been separated from the rest, & were supposed to have proceeded on their voyage.

The necessary orders were accordingly issued for this purpose, & Lord Dartmouth, in a Dispatch of the 8th Novr acquainted Major Genl Howe with this Arrangement & with the directions which had been given respecting the Expedition, to the Govrs of the Southern Colonies: to his observations upon which he adds, that if the Expedition should succeed according to the assurances that have been given us, in encouraging the friends of Govt to stand forth in the defence of the Constitution, & in enabling them to wrest the sword out of the hands of the Rebels, it will be a great point gained, but even if it should fail of that consequence, it can have no effect to weaken the operations to the northward, as there are many situations in the Southern Provinces, where the Army may be posted with great security, and with every advantage of a healthy climate, until the season arrives for their joining the Body of Forces under his command, a junction that will be made with great advantage, & at a much earlier period than it could be from England.

In consequence of the orders issued, & Instructions given, by Lord Dartmouth as abovementioned respecting the Expedition to the Southward, Lord Geo: Germain, who received the American Seals on the 10th Novr directed on the 13th that an account should be laid before him by the Board of Ordnance, of the Artillery, Stores, & Ammunition intended for the said Expedition, with the names of the Vessels on board which such Stores were intended to be embarked. His Lordship at the same time, signified His Majesty's Pleasure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they should provide Victualling for the two Companies of Artillery intended for that Service, & that they should also appoint such a number of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels, & of such a rate, to accompany that armament, as they should think proper, acquainting his Lordship at the same time, for His Majesty's Information, with the names of the ships so appointed, & also the name of the Officer who was to have the Command of the whole.

On the 15th November, the Lords of the Admiralty acquainted Lord Geo. Germain, that in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands signified in his Lordship's letter of the 13th they should appoint Sir Peter Parker to command the Armament for the Southern Expedition which was to consist of the following Ships & Vessels Vizt

	Guns
The <i>Bristol</i>	50
<i>Actaeon</i>	28
<i>Boreas</i>	28
<i>Solebay</i>	28
<i>Syren</i>	28
<i>Dealcastle</i>	20
<i>Sphynx</i>	20
<i>Hawke Sloop</i>	10
<i>Thunder Bomb</i>	8

On the 26 of November, Lord Geo. Germain in consequence of a Note from Mr [John] Boddington, acquainting Mr [John] Pownall, that the two Companies of Artillery ordered on the Southern Expedition were ready to embark, together with the Artillery & Stores on board three Transports, taken up for that purpose, signified to the Master General of the Ordnance His Majesty's Pleasure, that so soon as the Embarkation was compleated, the Transports should proceed to Corke, where a Body of Troops destined for the intended Expedition, would be assembled.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/232, 379-430.

1 Dec.

NATHANIEL BAYLEY'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AGAINST THE PROHIBITORY ACT¹

Dec. 1 [1775].

Mr. Bayley said, he must tell those vociferous gentlemen, who were calling out in such a hurry for the question, that he must first call on the noble lord (North) for his estate which was going to be taken from him by this Bill. He said, if all trade and intercourse were stopped between the West Indies and North America, the plantations were at once ruined, as it was impossible to make either sugar or rum, or send it to this country, without American supplies. That as soon as it was made lawful to take American vessels, he did not doubt but all the sugar ships would be made prizes of; for as they were obliged to come home by the coast of America, it would be easy for a petty officer of a man of war to say those ships were found hovering upon that coast, and that they had arms and gunpowder on board (which no merchant ship is without) and were going to supply the rebels with them: this pretence is sufficient to condemn them, so that every planter's property would be confiscated and shared amongst the favourites of the minister. Proof had been given to the House, that the annual exports to North America, before this fatal war broke out, amounted to three millions and a half, of which more than three-fourths were of our own manufacturers, and that we got great profit from the other fourth, but that the whole of this exportation was lost, as also 600,000*l.* exported in the same manner from Scotland. That the West Indies took more than 1,100,000*l.* annually of British manufactory, and 470,000*l.* worth of goods were annually exported to Africa, to carry on the West India trade; all this added together, amounting to the amazing

sum of nearly six millions sterling; and if this Bill passed, the whole of this immense export would be stopped, and thereby so great a national benefit would be lost, besides the infinite advantages we reaped on our trade and imports from thence, and a million of net money annually paid into the Exchequer. Therefore he implored gentlemen would consider whether it was not madness to risk so great a loss, and put the nation to so immense expence of blood and treasure, in order to establish an unjust right in America.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 1037-38.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, H.M.S. *Arethusa*,
AT THE DOWNS ¹

You are hereby required and directed to return and cruize in the Ship you command between Dungeness and the Coast of France, and use your best endeavours to intercept seize and bring into Port the suspected Vessels concerning which you have already received our directions; calling once in a Week or Ten days in the Downes to enquire for Orders, and not finding any to return and cruize in like manner until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 1st Decr 1775

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton.

By &c

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 287.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HUGH DALRYMPLE,
H.M.S. *Juno*, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Having appointed you Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Juno* at Portsmouth, which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, manned with Two hundred Men, & victualled for six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow; with Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder, You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then repair to Spithead, & remain there until you receive further Order.

Given &c. the 1st Decr 1775

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c. P.S.

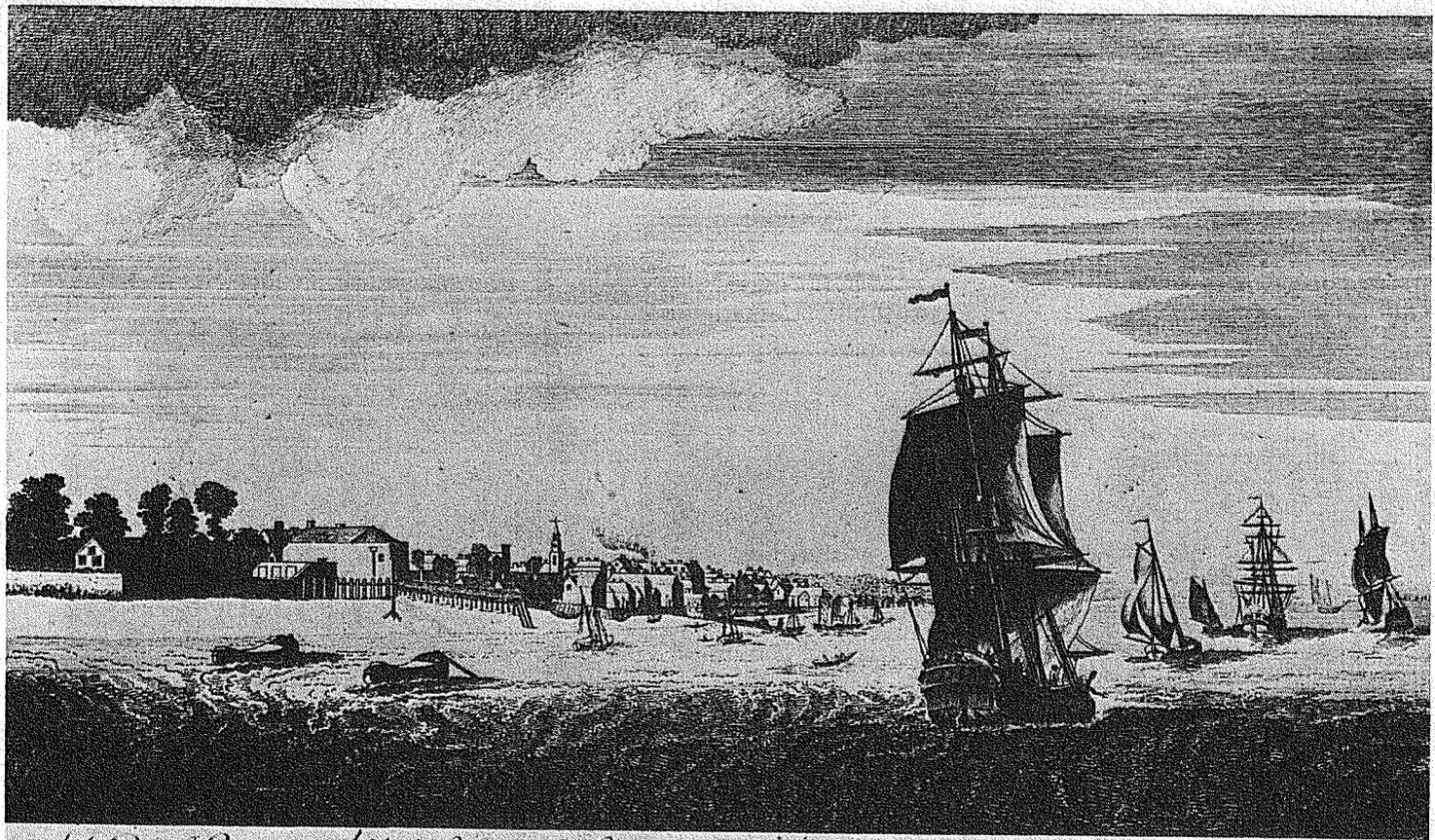
1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 288.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir

Admty Office 1 Decr 1775

Lieutenant Tonken, Agent for the Transports, now in Milford Haven, having by his Letter dated the 27th past, informed by Lords Commissrs of the Admty, that a few days before, arrived in Dale Road, within that Haven the *Commerce* Brigantine, Thomas Rice, Master, from North Carolina, who spoke, with His Majesty's Ship the *Lizard*, with a Brig in tow dismasted, in Latitude 46°00 N. Longitude 48°30^m West of London; And that as she only passed within hail, she brought no



A View of Gravesend in the County of Kent.

Vue de Gravesend dans le Comté de Kent.

London printed for Robert Sayer Map & Printseller near Sejeants Inn Fleet Street.

Letters; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint You therewith for the information of Lord George Germain. I am Sr [&c.]

Php Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 43.

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Whitehall 1st December 1775.

In Addition to the Intelligence of improper intercourse with the Rebellious Colonies, a State of which was inclosed in Lord George Germain's Letter to the Lords of the Admiralty of the 27th of last Month; I am directed by his Lordship to acquaint you that there is a great probability that a Dutch Ship ready to sail from Amsterdam to Santa Cruz on the Coast of Barbary with a large quantity of Gunpowder on board, will upon her Arrival there deliver her Powder over to a New York Ship the *Minerva* Captain Jos. Jauncey who is also preparing to sail at the same time from Amsterdam for the Coast of Barbary. I am &ca

J Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 42.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 1st Decr 1775

I have communicated to my Lords Commrs of the admty your Letter of yesterdays date informing of the *Falkland* Brig, another of the American Whaling Vessels from Rhode Island bound to Falklands Island & seized by Capt [Robert] Keeler of the *Experiment* being arrived at Spithead from Fayal, and of the request of Capt [Mark] Milbank of the *Barfleur* to have Ten Days leave of absence on his private Affairs. And I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to comply with Capt Milbank request &c

P S

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 370-71.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN ROBINSON ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 1st Decr 1775

Having communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 29th past enclosing by the direction of their Lordships of the Treasury Copy of a Petition that had been presented to them by Messrs Rotch & Smith relative to the seizure of Five Vessels of their property by the Commanders of His Majs Ships the *Renown* & *Experiment*; And signifying their Lordships desire to be acquainted with the cause of those Vessels being seized, & with the Circumstances relative thereto; I am commanded by my Lords of the Admty to acquaint you that in consequence of the Kings pleasure signified to them by the Earl of Dartmouth in his Letter of the 29th of August last directions were sent to Vice Adml Graves Commr in Chief of His Majs Ships in No America & to the Commanders of all Ships of War going to those parts to seize all Ships & Vessels they should meet with belonging to the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania and the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland Virginia, North Carolina & So Carolina or

owned by the Inhabitants thereof, except only in cases where it should clearly appear that they were bound to, or returning from some Port or place in Great Britain Ireland or His Maj's Islands in the West Indies; That in consequence of these Orders Capt [Francis] Banks of the *Renown* & Capt [Robert] Keeler of the *Experiment* having fallen in with several American Vessels bound to Falkland Islands on the Whale Fishery made seizure of them & sent them to England; That Ld Geo Germain has been made acquainted with the arrival of these Vessels & the Circumstances attending their Capture, and that their Lordships are now waiting to receive His Maj's pleasure

I return to you the petition abovementioned I am &c

P S

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 377-78.

JOHN ROBINSON TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sir,

Treasury Chambers 1st Decr 1775.

My Lords Commrs of His Majesty's Treasury having just received Information, by a Return from the Custom house, that the Ship *Commerce* arrived at Milford the 21st of Novr last, Capt Patrick Rice from Edenson [Edenton] in No Carolina, that the Captain on the 20th of Octr last spake with the *Lizard* Frigate having a Brigantine in Tow Lat. 46 Long. 48 & 30 West of London; And their Lordships having been also acquainted by the Collector & Comptroller of Plymouth that by the *Ranger* of Jersey, Capt James Remon, from the Danish Island of St Croix in the West Indies, they learn that about the latter end of August sailed from thence for some part of No America a double decked Sloop of about 120 Tons, with about 300 Barrels of Gunpowder, and that several other Vessels were smuggling of Gunpowder in small Quantities. As it was not allowed to be exported, I have their Lordships Orders to communicate this Intelligence to you for the Information of Lord Geo: Germain. I am &c.

John Robinson.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/248, 174-75.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London [1] December 1775

News from the Ports. -

Portsmouth.

It is believed that the frigate *Triton* sailed for Halifax and the corvette *Hawke* for Boston. The Admiral himself wrote the orders for this corvette; an officer carried the package on board and she sailed immediately.²

The transport ships which are to take the 36th regiment in Ireland have arrived. There are very few men on board the ships and the frigate *Pearl* does not have a single one even though she had been commissioned for three weeks.

Plymouth.

The corvettes *Wasp* and *Wolfe* arrived with recruits from Ireland.

The cutter *Folkstone* sailed, destination unknown. It is believed it will be used against the smugglers in the Channel because it is fit only for this duty.

Chatham

The frigate *Repulse*, 32 guns, will be repaired.

The holds of almost all the frigates are being prepared as if they were going to be commissioned. They are still working on the frigates *Blonde*, *Eolus*, and *Galathea*. The corvette now being build in Harwich will be called *Cormoran*. Two fire ships, *Strombolo* and *Carcass*, are being commissioned. The latter has on board 60 sailors and 20 artillery men from Woolwich.

Destination: *Carysfort* is destined for North America; *Aldbrough* and *Ranger* for the Channel; *Carcass* and *Strombolo*, two fire ships to serve outside.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

2. "Boston, February 29. The *Hawke* sloop of war, with the *Hope* and *Adventure* transports, sailed from Portsmouth for this place the 27th of November." *Boston Gazette*, March 4, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, DEC. 1"¹

Since my last the *Pearl* and *Seaford* frigates came out of dock, and are now fitting for sea.

Capt. Halsted, of this town, is appointed to the command of the *Jersey*, of 50 guns, and is to go to Boston, there to lie as an hospital ship for the use of the sick.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 5 to December 7, 1775.

2 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO ALL COMMANDING OFFICERS IN HOME WATERS¹

The King having been pleas'd, by His Order in Council of the 22d Novr 1775 to prohibit under certain restrictions, and with certain exceptions therein mention'd, the exporting out of this Kingdom, or carrying Coastwise Gunpowder, Salt Petre, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition for three Months longer; We send you herewith a Copy of the said Order in Council, and do hereby most strictly require and direct you to use your best endeavours to intercept seize and bring into Port, during the Time therein specified, all Ships and Vessels whatever having on board Gunpowder, Salt petre, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition shipp'd or laden on board them in the Ports of this Kingdom (except as in the said Order in Council is excepted) and intended to be transported into parts beyond the Seas, or carried Coastwise, without leave or Permission in that behalf first obtained from his Majesty or His Privy Council.

Given &c. the 2d Decr 1775 –

To The respective Flag Officers,
Captains & Commanders of
His Majts Ships & Vessels²
By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
Palmerston

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 289–90.

2. The order book lists the names of fifty-seven commanding officers to whom the above was sent.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO WILLIAM EDEN ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 2d December 1775

Captain [Digby] Dent of His Majesty's Ship the *Arethusa*, who was ordered to cruize between Dungeness and the Coast of France, and is arrived in the Downs from his said Cruize, having informed my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that during his Cruize he spoke with and examined a variety of Vessels, but had not the least suspicion of any except a Dutch Snow american built of about 200 Tons burthen, but on sending his Boat on board, she appeared to be from Amsterdam, belonging to Merchants there, bound to St Eustatia with only fifty Barrells of Gunpowder on board, and no small arms; and that on examining her orders, he did not think himself authorized to detain her; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for Lord Suffolks information. I am &c—

P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 380-81.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 TO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2,
1775

London. Dec. 2.

A letter from Portsmouth, Nov. 30, says, "Just came into harbour, the *Falkland*, from Fial, a prize taken by Capt. [Francis] Banks, on his voyage to Boston." ¹

1. Banks was captain of H.M.S. *Renown*.**3 Dec. (Sunday)**"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 3." ¹

Orders are received at the Commissioner's office here, for the sail-makers of this dock-yard to work double days, in order to give the greatest dispatch in making sails for the ships that are fitting at this port for America.

The *Milford* of twenty-eight guns, commanded by John Burr, Esq; is nearly fitted, and will sail from hence in a few days for America.

The *Carysfort*, of twenty-eight guns, is put into commission at this port, and the command given to Robert Fanshaw, Esq. She is also to go to America.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, February 20, 1776.**4 Dec.**LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE MASTER GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE ¹

My Lord,

Whitehall 4th Decr 1775.

It having been represented to the King that it may be a great Convenience to the Troops, now preparing to go upon Service in North America, to have some small Carts, to be drawn by Men, for the purpose of attending the Field Train, and conveying Ammunition from Place to Place, as occasion shall require; I am commanded to signify to Your Lordship His Majesty's Pleasure, that, if such small Carts can be prepared, to be put on board any of the Transports now in the River,

or upon their Arrival at Portsmouth, without creating any Demurrage or Delay, Your Lordship should order as many of the said Carts as you shall judge proper to be shipped accordingly. – I am &c

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/161, 118.

5 Dec.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sr

Admiralty Office, 5th Decr 1775

Inclosed I send you a List of Transports which arrived in the Downes on the 3d Instant, and remained there yesterday when the Post came away, and am Sr [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

PS. Those ticked Thus ✓ are Vessels that are to carry the Troops from Portsmouth to Ireland.

[Enclosure]

Transports in the Downes

The <i>Thetis</i>	Burns	✓ <i>Nancy</i>	Tyrrel
✓ <i>Marqs of Rockingham</i>	Boyman	✓ <i>Union</i>	Burton
✓ <i>Seville</i>	Brown	✓ <i>Myrtle</i>	Wallis
<i>Neary</i>	Wilson	✓ <i>King George</i>	Kelly
<i>Emmanuel</i>	Spencer	<i>Myrtle</i>	Burton
<i>Earl of Oxford</i>	Twyman	<i>Union</i>	Wallis.
<i>Golden Rule</i>	Thompson		

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 45a, 45b.

INVOICE OF GOODS SHIPPED ON BOARD THE *Susannah* ¹

Pack'd for the 65th Regt Foot Lieut General Urmston's

No 1. A Cask contg	2 Serjts & 40 Private	Lt Infantry	Cpas	
2. A Do contg	2 Do & 39 Do	Grenadiers	Do	
3. A Case contg	30 Yds Supr fine	Scarlet	Cloth	} For Capt Mackay
	20 Yds Do	white	Do	
	4 Pieces Do	Do	Shalloon	
	A Papr parcel	Lace &c		
	20 Setts Regimtl	Buttons		

Ship'd on board the *Susannah* Capt Fraser for Boston –² 5th December 1775.

1. US Revolution, LC.

2. The *Susannah* was taken March 6, 1776, by three of Washington's armed schooners and sent into Portsmouth, N.H.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE, H.M.S. *Flora*,
CHATHAM ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Flora* at Chatham, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that Place for Foreign Service, mann'd with Two Hundred Men and victualled for six Months with all Species

of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to be have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready accordingly and then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns and Gunners Stores at that place and proceed to the Nore for further Order.

Given &c. the 5th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 294. A similar letter was sent at the same time to Captain Philemon Pownall, commanding H.M.S. *Blonde*, also at Chatham.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Queen's Square Westmr 5 Decbr 1775

His Majesty's Ship the *Bristol* being almost Ready to proceed to Sea, and Her allowed Complement of Seamen, nearly completed, I beg you will please to move Their Lordships to Order Her Rendezvous to be broken up. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] 5th Decr

Usual Order to the Lieutt Cauldfield

Acq Sir Peter

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

LORD STORMONT TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Sir,

Paris, 5 December 1775

A few American ships have appeared lately in several European ports; their Captains have openly admitted that they intend to obtain arms and ammunition. I have the honor to forward this information to Your Excellency because I am convinced that you will dispatch the required orders to forbid in the ports of the Kingdom the exportation of war ammunition of all kinds on British vessels and even on vessels of other nations bound to America.

I have the honor to be with the most respectful consideration [&c.]

Stormont

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy. Stormont was British Ambassador to France.

6 Dec.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall, 6th Decemr 1775

Having laid before the King the States which have been from time to time transmitted to Mr Pownall by Mr Stephens of the Vessels taken up for the Trans-

portation to America, of five Regiments ordered to be embarked at Corke; I am Commanded by His Majesty to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that directions be given for their proceeding to Corke with as much Expedition as possible, and that Sir Peter Parker be also ordered to proceed thither directly, with the Ships under his Command. It is necessary your Lordships should be informed of the Object and purpose of the Armament intended to be sent to the Southern Colonies; and I am therefore further Commanded by the King, to make a confidential communication to your Lordships of the orders given respecting the operations of the Land Force, which you will find in the inclosed Copy of my Letter to the Major General, who shall be appointed by Major General Howe, to command that Force, upon its arrival on the Coast of America, and of my Letter to the Earl Cornwallis, who will have the Command of the Troops untill they arrive at Cape Fear; And I am to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Commands, that You do give such Instructions to Sir Peter Parker, as shall correspond therewith, and as your Lordships shall think may enable him, to give every possible Assistance and Facility towards effecting the Object and End of this Expedition. — I am &c

Geo. Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 46.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir

Admty Office 6 Decr 1775

The honble Captain [Keith] Elphinstone having informed my Lords Commrs of the Admty that he has received a private Letter by His Majesty's Ship the *Surprize*, which is arrived at Portsmouth from Cadiz, advising that there were near Twenty American Vessels in that Port when the said Ship sailed from thence; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for the information of Lord George Germain. I am [&c.]

Geo: Jackson D S

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 47. Jackson was Deputy Secretary of the Admiralty.

GEORGE JACKSON TO REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th Decr 1775

I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admty to send you inclosed a Copy of a Letter from Mr [John] Robinson Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of His Majs Treasury giving Intelligence of Vessels employed in carrying Powder and small Arms from Cape Nichola Mole to America and of others which Trade from the Island of Bermuda to Europe, And to signify their direction to you to give Orders to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under your command to cruize for such of the Vessels beforemention'd &c as may be within the Limits of your Station, and in case of falling in with them to seize them

agreeable to the Orders you have received from their Lordships for that purpose. I am &c.

Geo Jackson D.S.

Vice Adml Gayton at Jamaica.

Duplicate sent by the *Winchelsea*

Vice Adml Young at Antigua

Duplicate by the *Shark*

By the Packet the same day/

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 393.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER ¹

London, December 6.

Most of the American Governors will be appointed Commissioners, and the reason of sending so many Commissioners (thirty-six) to America, is, to treat with each province separately about an accomodation, and so despatch the business; — they are not now to treat with the Congress, as was first reported.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, February 20, 1776.

7 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir

Admty Office 7 Decr 1775

The several Transport Vessels mentioned in Mr Stephen's Letter of the 5th instant, also the *Robert and Elizabeth* another of the Transports under Orders to proceed to Corke, having sailed yesterday forenoon, from the Downes to the Westward; I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admty to acquaint you therewith for Lord Geo: Germaine's information. I am Sr [&c.]

Geo: Jackson

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 49.

8 Dec.

CHARLES JAMES FOX'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS UPON THE PROHIBITORY ACT ¹

Dec. 8 [1775].

I have always said, that the war carrying on against the Americans is unjust, that it is not practicable; but admitting it to be a just war, that it is practicable, I say, that the means made use of, are by no means such as will obtain the end. I shall confine myself singly to this ground, and shew that this Bill, like every other measure, proves the want of policy, the folly and madness, of the present set of ministers. I was in great hopes, that they had seen their error, and had given over coercion, and carrying on war against America by means of acts of parliament. In order to induce the Americans to submit to your legislature, you pass laws against them, cruel and tyrannical in the extreme. If they complain of one law, your answer to their complaint, is to pass another more rigorous than the former: but they are in rebellion, you



George III.



Charles James Fox.



Benjamin Franklin.

say; if they are, treat them as rebels are wont to be treated. Send out your fleets and armies against them, and subdue them; but let them have no reason to complain of your laws. Shew them, that your laws are mild, just, and equitable, that they therefore are in the wrong, and deserve the punishment they meet with. The very contrary of this has been your wretched policy. I have ever understood it as a first principle, that in rebellion you punish the individuals, but spare the country; in a war against the enemy, you spare individuals, and lay waste the country. This last has been invariably your conduct against America. I suggested this to you, when the Boston Port Bill passed. I advised you to find out the offending persons, and to punish them; but what did you do instead of this? You laid the whole town of Boston under terrible contribution, punishing the innocent with the guilty. You answer, that you could not come at the guilty. This very answer, shews how unfit, how unable you are, to govern America. If you are forced to punish the innocent to come at the guilty, your government there, is, and ought to be at an end. But, by the Bill now before us, you not only punish those innocent persons who are unfortunately mixed with the guilty in North America, but punish and starve whole islands of unoffending people, unconnected with, and separated from them.² Hitherto the Americans have separated the right of taxation from your legislative authority; although they have denied the former, they have acknowledged the latter. This Bill will make them deny the one as well as the other. What signifies, say they, your giving up the right of taxation, if you are to inforce your legislative authority in the manner you do. This legislative authority so inforced, will at any time coerce taxation, and take from us whatever you think fit to demand. It is a Bill which should be entitled, a Bill for carrying more effectually into execution the resolves of the Congress.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 1058-59.

2. Referring to a petition against the bill from West India planters and merchants; see remarks of Nathaniel Bayley against the bill, December 1 and 11, 1775.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office, 8th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Adml [James] Young, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, dated the 30th of August last at Antigua, relative to the Rebels in North America being supply'd with Gunpowder & other warlike Stores from the Island of St Croix, and the other Caribbee Islands in that neighbourhood, and of the measures he has taken to prevent the same in future; We sent your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, and of the several Papers inclosed therein, for his Majesty's information, and are, My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich C Spencer H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 52a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS,
PORTSMOUTH ¹

Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State having signified to Us the Kings pleasure that the five Vessels seized by His Maj-

esty's Ships the *Experiment* and *Renown* on their Voyage to Falkland Islands should be restored, together with their Stores and Furniture to their Owners; – We do hereby require & direct you to cause them to be restored accordingly, on the Owners application for them.

Given &c. the 8th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J.Buller C.Spencer

To Sir James Douglas

By &c G.J. DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 296–97.

WILLIAM KNOX TO ANTHONY TODD¹

Sir,

Whitehall 8 Decr 1775

I am directed by Lord George Germain to desire that a Packet Boat may be got ready to sail with Dispatches, which will be sent from hence, on Saturday Night the 16th instant, to Virginia and from thence to proceed to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and East Florida; And as his Lordship is desirous that the Merchants should avail themselves of this Conveyance for sending Letters to their Correspondents in those Provinces, he has Commanded me to acquaint you, that he has no objection to your giving public Notice of the intended Sailing of the said Packet I am &c.

W^m Knox

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/250, 298. Todd was Secretary of the Post Office.

DAVID GREENE TO RUSSELL HUBBARD¹

[Extract]

London Decr 8 1775

. . . the Ministry seem to be taking some Steps towards attempting a Reconciliation; Whether they will proceed in a Rights Path, or go far enough, I can't say; I fear they will stop rather short. Commissioners are to be sent to America, to treat with the Provinces, or propose to them certain Terms of Accomodation. A Bill is now in the House of Commons which will undoubtedly pass into an Act, "to prohibit all Trade with the Colonies during the Continuance of the present Rebellion; for repealg the Boston Port Act & the two Acts made in the last Session for restraining the Trade of the Colonies, & to enable his Majesty to appoint Commissioners" &c This is the Title – It empowers the Men of War to seize all Vessels & their Cargoes belongg to the Inhabitants of the Colonies wherever found; & all other Vessells found loadg in, going to, or coming from, any of them; . . . the Commissioners are to be empowered to grant Pardons where they find necessary, & to issue Proclamations declaring any Colony, County, Town &c to be "at the Peace of the King;" After which the Restraining Act to be of no Force with Respect to such Colony &c . . .

There has been lately a small Change in the Ministry; It will produce no Alteration in our Affairs – Ld George Germaine is Secretary of State for the American Departmt instead of Ld Dartmouth, made Ld Privy Seal in the Room of the Duke of Grafton resigned. Ld Rochford, Secretary of the Southern Departmt, goes out with a Pension; Ld Suffolk, Secretary of the Northern, takes his

Place, & Suffolk's is given to Ld Weymouth who was Groom of the Stole, which Office is now fill'd by the E of Ashburnham, which makes Room for Young Ld Lyttelton, as Keeper of the Wardrobe. . . .

To Mr Russell Hubbard Merchant In New London

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 8 December 1775

All the owners from the West Indies presented yesterday a petition to the House of Commons with respect to the frightful losses brought upon them by the present war. This is a very important matter because the trade of the Islands is going to be completely destroyed. Thus develop little by little the misfortunes of England, and we will see finally that the loss of America will be a decisive one in spite of everything said up to now by the Ministry to try to convince us that they are concerned more with the dignity than the interest of Great Britain.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, DEC. 8." ¹

The ships fitting in this harbour for Boston, are greatly distressed for want of men, although so many rendezvous are opened in London, Bristol, &c. inso-much that the people belonging to the guardships are lent to assist the rigging of them.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 7 to December 9, 1775.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO LORD STORMONT ¹

Sir,

Versailles, 8 December 1775

I had the honor to receive the letter which your Excellency wrote me on the 5th of this month to inform me of the notice that had been given to him concerning the Captains of a few American ships which appeared recently in several European ports, who confessed that they intended to obtain arms and ammunition. In consequence, Your Excellency requested the King to dispatch to his ports the orders necessary to prevent the exportation of war ammunition of all kinds on British vessels and even on vessels of other nations bound for America.

I gave, Sir, a report of your request to His Majesty at his Council. He has commanded me to reply to you that he will never have anything more at heart than to give to the King of England the most convincing proof of his sincere and constant friendship, as well as his desire to maintain and perpetuate the fortunate harmony which exists between the two nations. To this purpose he will renew his orders to his ports to prevent the exportation of war ammunition to Northern America either on English ships or on ships of any other nation.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

Versailles, 8 December 1775

You were present, Sir, when I gave my report to the King yesterday at the council on the letter in which the English Ambassador requests that the orders forbidding the exportation of arms and ammunition from our ports to the English colonies be renewed and you will remember that His Majesty is determined to assent to this request. I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the letter from the Viscount of Stormont as well as the answer which His Majesty commanded me to make, and I request that you be so kind as to dispatch the orders in consequence to all the ports of the Kingdom where the expeditions of arms and ammunition to North America might take place.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LG Photocopy.

9 Dec.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office, 9th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Adml Young, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, dated the 23d of October last, at Antigua, inclosing copies of the Answers to the Letters he had wrote to the Governors &ca of all his Majesty's Caribbee Islands; copies of two Letters from the Governor of Bermuda, relative to some Gunpowder stolen out of the Magazine in that Island; Copy of Intelligence he had received of a new mode of carrying on a contraband Trade from the French Islands to North America; and of a Letter he wrote to the Count de Nosier, Govr General of the French Windward Caribbee Islands on that Subject; Copy of a Printed Paper circulated by the Masters of American Vessels among the People of the Leeward Islands, to induce them to supply Gunpowder &ca to the Rebels; Copy of a Letter to the Vice Adml from Count de Nosier, complaining of the behaviour of Captain Gordon of the *Argo*, at Martinico, and of his answer thereunto; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy of Vice Admiral Young's said Letter, and of the several Papers inclosed therein, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich C Spencer H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 53a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 9th Decr 1775

Having just received a Letter from Vice Admiral Young, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, inclosing the Count de Nosier's Answer to the Letter he had wrote to him by Captain Gordon of the *Argo*; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, in addition to our former Letter of this date on the same Subject, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich C Spencer H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 54a.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 9th Decr 1775.

There being reason to beleive that a Ship, supposed to be now on her Passage from Quebec, may have on board some Rebels, who have been taken Prisoners in that Province; I am commanded by the King, to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure, that you do give Instructions to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels, in their different Stations upon the Coast of Great Britian, that they do, immediatly upon the Arrival of any Ship or Vessel from Quebec, send a proper Officer on board, and in case it shall be found that there are any Rebel Prisoners in the Custody of the Master of the said Ship or Vessel, that they do take the said Prisoners on board His Majesty's Ship; But if the Person having Custody of such Prisoners shall make any difficulty of delivering them up, in that case to detain the Vessel until His Majesty's Pleasure be known.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 51.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

This News may be depended upon –

The Government do not intend to make their grand Armament at Boston. They will only reinforce the Army there, so as to enable them to maintain their ground, if the Provincials do not carry the place this winter.

The whole force is to 26000 Men including those now in America and three Regiments of Scotch Dutch, who are to come over in the Spring from Holland, and be sent to Scotland to recruit, & from thence to go to America. No other foreign Troops are to be had nor would the Dutch have given them but they were paid a most extravagant Price for them. They are now about 2000 tho' normally 3000 which Number they are to be made.

This whole force is to be divided in America, and sent to New York Virginia & So Carolina, so that there will be no very considerable Army, though strong bodies of perhaps 8, 6, & 4000 Men to these places, but the numbers are not ascertained though they will be strong bodies.

All Commerce is prohibited with America, but Commissioners are certainly going out, but their Names not yet mentioned

The Scotch Faction prevail at Court. The Bedford Party are a good deal divided some having join'd the opposition. Lord Chatham will never again appear out. The Ministry is considerably strengthened Lord Rockingham is the head of a formedable party indeed almost all the Minority are immediately attached to him. The Strength however is greatly inferiour to the Ministry, and will be except the rest of the Bedfords, which are the strongest part of that party and the support of Ministry leave them. It is impossible to say what may happen.

[Bristol] 9 Decr 1775

1. Morris Papers, HUL. This appears to be a postscript to letter of November 17, 1775, indicating that the latter was not dispatched until three weeks after it was written.

LORD STORMONT TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Sir,

Paris, 9 December 1775

I shall not waste a moment to answer the letter with which Your Excellency honored me and of which I shall give an account to my Court without fail. I dare assure you already now, Monsieur le Comte, that the King my master, whose intentions are all aimed at perpetuating the fortunate harmony that exists between the two nations, will receive with pleasure the renewed assurance of constant friendship on the part of His Most Christian Majesty of which new evidence was given by renewing the orders forbidding the exportation from his ports of arms and war ammunition destined for Northern America either on English vessels or on the vessels of any other nation.

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

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Versailles, 9 December 1775

I had the honor to receive, Sir, along with the letter which you wrote me on the 8th of this month the enclosed copies of Viscount de Stormont's letter and of the answer which you sent to this Ambassador. In consequence I have renewed the orders which had already been given to the Intendants and Commissioners of the Ports to forbid the loading of arms and War ammunition destined for Northern America either on English Vessels or on the Vessels of any other Nation.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the most sincere attachment [&c.]

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

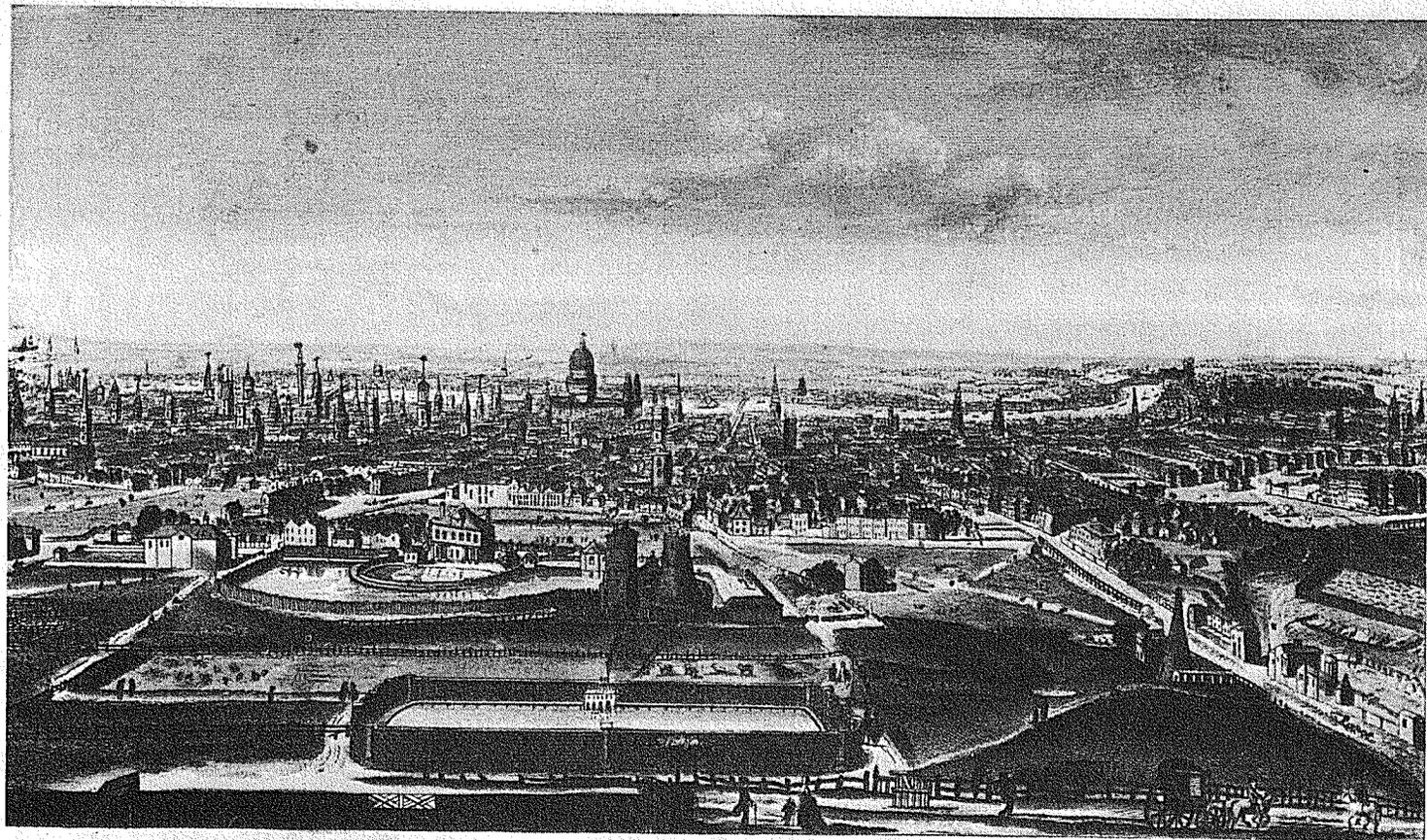
10 Dec. (Sunday)COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES ¹

[Extract]

No.166

Versailles, 10 December 1775

The remarks made by Lord Stormont confirm what you wrote me, Sir, with respect to the hope entertained by the Government to end amicably and soon its quarrel with America. According to this Ambassador the division of the Congress is at its highest point, the Generals are at daggers drawn among themselves, and the people, dissatisfied, are only waiting for the signal to rebel against the usurped authority. All this is beautiful if is true. But this is not the first time that we have been given an illusive picture. I must be even that the Ministry does not count with certainty on these dispositions and on the possible success of the commissioners since they seem to wish to increase their means of force. Lord Stormont announced to me triumphantly that Ireland had consented to provide the King with 4 thousand men from its establishment. If we add to this reinforcement the Scotch regiments which Holland [*sic*] is apparently willing to loan, and a few levies now taking place



A General View of the City of London, taken from the Bowling Green at Islington. | Vue Generale de la Ville de Londres, du Boulin Grin à Islington.

Printed for Carington Bowles, Map & Printseller, N^o 69 in S^t Pauls Church Yard, London.

in Germany, England will be able to have 36 thousand good troops in America by next spring. I no longer mention the Russians because it seems that this project has been abandoned at least for the moment, although there still exists a movement of negotiation the purpose of which is still not quite clear.

If forces as strong as those which England has apparently decided to gather in America do not meet with decisive success, the Ministry will have difficulty to survive. But this event is so contingent and far away in the future that it is not possible to plan any precautionary measures. Regardless of the outcome, the King observes with satisfaction that Lord Weymouth displays the same feelings as his predecessor in order to sustain the most perfect understanding with us. Since this attitude corresponds with the principles held by the King, the British Ministry may rest assured that it can expect the most complete and cordial reciprocity on our part. We have just given them new evidence of our feelings. Lord Stormont having complained that a few American ships had come to various European ports to trade for war ammunition, the King has just re-issued his orders forbidding the sale of such articles to American ships or any vessel which would be bound for Northern America.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

11 Dec.

NATHANIEL BAYLEY'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AGAINST THE PROHIBITORY ACT ¹

Dec. 11 [1775].

Mr. Bayley said: I am well convinced there never entered this door, a Bill fraught with such injustice and cruelty as the present. In order to wreak the revenge of a vindictive ministry on the Americans, you are now going to ruin all the plantations in the West India islands, and to give their present produce up for plunder to your sailors, before the inhabitants can have any notice of your intentions. And by this infamous trick you think you shall be able to man your fleet without giving any bounties to your seamen, which I much doubt if you will find answer after all; yet the attempt is so very base and wicked, that I defy any one to mention such an instance even amongst the most savage nations, where a minister ever dared to give up such a number of innocent people to plunder, without the least crime being laid to their charge. Sir, I have several times told the House, that before the Congress had shut up the American ports, which was the 10th of Sept. last, a great number of their vessels sailed for the West Indies, chiefly in ballast, where the planters are now loading them under the sanction of our Acts of Navigation, never suspecting that we are this day capable of making a law which is to entrap them, by enacting, that unless American vessels came to them loaded with lumber or provisions, and obtained a certificate of it to bring with them to Great Britain or Ireland, with a particular description of their cargoes then on board, that the planter's property was to be seized and made lawful prize of, although they could not possibly know of any such stipulations; therefore, Sir, I frequently urged how unjust it would be, not to give the inhabitants of those islands timely notice of your design before you subjected their

goods to forfeiture. I now again, Sir, have a clause in my hand to offer for this purpose, and if it be not accepted, all mankind will agree in seeing the intention of this Bill in the same light that I do. But, Sir, the noble lord at the head of the Treasury insinuates, that no injury is meant by this Bill to any of the proprietors of West India estates: if that was really the case, his lordship could have no objection to such a clause; but what serves to convince me more than any bare profession is, that no one will accept the 1,000 guineas I have declared myself ready to give, to whoever will indemnify my property that is now at sea from being seized, until I can send information to my managers in Jamaica to forbear shipping any more on American vessels. Sir, I think it an infamous robbery to have my property taken from me without having infringed any law whatever, and without giving me time to guard against such laws as you are making. Although the loss I may sustain on this occasion may not much effect me, I know many of the inhabitants of the West India islands will be ruined by it, having the greatest part of what they are worth in the world on board American ships now on their passage to this kingdom, and which is now out of their power to remedy. And notwithstanding they are insured against the risk of the seas, and even pirates, yet I am sorry to say that after escaping all these, their ruin is inevitable, from rapacious and unprincipled ministers.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 1063–65. Bayley's clause was not accepted.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES REID, H.M. BOMB
VESSEL *Thunder*, GALLEON'S REACH ¹

You are hereby required & directed so soon as you shall have taken on board the Bomb Vessel you command her Guns, Mortars & Ordnance Stores to proceed without a moments loss of time to Spithead & there wait until you receive further Order.

Given &c 11th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller Palmerston

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 297.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords

Whitehall 11th Decemr 1775

Having received information that an American Vessel named the *Betsy* will fall down the River for Gravesend this Evening's Tide and proceed immediately from thence to the Downs having cleared out for Antigua, tho' really destined for North America, I am commanded by the King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you do direct the Commander of any of His Majesty's Ships at the Nore to employ a proper Officer to intercept the said Vessel upon her Passage to the Downs, and to search for, seize and transmit to me any Letters addressed to Persons in any part of North America.

[Endorsed] Drat to Lords of the Admiralty 11th December 1775.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 55.

GEORGE JACKSON TO COMMODORE GEORGE MACKENZIE, Chatham ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 11th Decr 1775

Ld George Germaine one of His Majs Principal Secretaries of State having acquainted my Lords Commrs of the Admty by Letter of this date that information has been received that an American Vessel named the *Betsey* whose description is on the other side hereof will fall down the River for Gravesend this Evenings Tide & proceed immediately from thence to the Downes having cleared out for Antigua tho' really designed for No America I am commanded in obedience to His Majestys pleasure signified in Ld Geo Germaines Letter aforesaid to signify their Lordships direction to you to put a discreet officer on board the *Goodwill* Cutter, or any other proper Vessel under your command with Orders to proceed to the Downes & there to use his endeavors to intercept the said Vessel and in case of falling in with her to search for Seize & transmit to Ld Geo. Germaine any Letters addressed to Persons in any part of No America &c

G J DS

By messenger at ½ past 10 P M

Painted black, Square Sterned, rakes much abaft abt 70 Tons burthen with a Top sail Yard rigged aloft. deep wasted & two port Holes on each side The Masters Name is Paine & the Pilots Williams

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 407-08.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRALS SIR JAMES DOUGLAS AND JOHN AMHERST ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 11th Decr 1775

There being reasons to believe that a Ship supposed to be now on her passage from Quebec may have on board some Rebels who have been taken Prisoners in that Province; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to signify their direction to you in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to them by Ld Geo Germaine that you give Orders to the several Captains of His Majestys Ships & Vessels under your command immediately upon the arrival of any Ship or Vessel from Quebec to send a proper Officer on board her and in case any Rebell Prisoners Should be found in the Custody of the Master of such a Ship or Vessel to take them out of her & convey them on board the Ship of War. And in Case the Person having Custody of any such Prisoners should make any difficulty in delivering them up, in that case to detain the Vessel til His Majestys further Pleasure shall be known &c

G J DS

Vice Adml Sr Jas Douglas - Portsmo

Vice Adml Amherst Plymo -

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 403.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 11." ¹

Thursday the *Emerald* frigate, of 32 guns, was put into commission at this port, and the command of her given to Benjamin Caldwell, Esq. She is to go to America.

Friday a detachment of marines from this division, consisting of a serjeant, a corporal, a drummer, and 35 private men (all fine young fellows) under the command of Lieutenant Burn, embarked from hence on board his Majesty's frigate *Milford*, of 28 guns, commanded by John Burr, Esq; for America.

Saturday the *Brune* frigate, of 32 guns, was taken into dock to be sheathed.

The above ships are daily expected to be commissioned, and are to go to America.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 12 to December 14, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON ¹

Decembr 1775	Remarks &a <i>Speedwell</i> Sloop
Saturday 9th In Dover Peer	[Moderate and Cloudy] Wt AM Arrived in Dover road the <i>Greyhound</i> Cutter with the <i>Anna Catherina</i> a danish ship detained from an Information of having warlike stores on board for the rebels in America ² sent the Lieut Cook a mastrs mate & ten men & a pilot on bd to take Care of her
Sunday 10th	Do Weather the <i>Anna Catherina</i> & <i>greyhound</i> Cutter in the road
Monday 11th	Fresh Breezes and Cloudy the <i>Anna Catherina</i> & <i>grayhound</i> Cutter sailed for the Down's.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

2. The *Anna Catherina* was searched and no contraband found on board. For account of her release, see "Extract of a letter from Dover, December 26."

12 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir

Admiralty Office 12th Decr 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Lieutenant Knowles, Agent for Transports going with Troops from Ireland to North America, dated the 10th instant on board the *Myrtle* Transport at Spithead, giving an account that the 32d and 36th Regiments of Foot were embarked on board the Transport Vessels named on the other side in order to proceed to Cork and were then under Sail, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for the Information of Lord George Germaine I am [&c.]

Geo: Jackson D S

Marquiss of Rockingham
Saville
Union
Myrtle

Blessing
Admiral Shulldham
King George

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 56.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 12." ¹

About noon the *Milford* frigate, of 28 guns, Capt.[John] Burr, sailed from hence for America, but had to stop at Blackstokes to take in her powder and guns, after which she is to proceed on her voyage with the greatest expedition.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 14 to December 16, 1775.

14 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 14th December 1775

Sir With respect to the delivering up the five American Vessels that were seized and sent to Portsmouth by the *Experiment* and *Renown*, I am to acquaint you that their Lordships approve of your delivering up the said Vessels to their respective Masters upon their producing orders from Messrs Rotch and Smith, on whose application on behalf of themselves and Aaron Lopez of Newport in Rhode Island as owners of the said Vessels they were ordered to be restored. I am &c
Geo. Jackson D:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 413-14.

15 Dec.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sr

Admty Office 15th Decr 1775

Lieut Tonken, Agent to the Transports, going to Corke, having by his Letter dated the 11h instant in Milford Haven, informed my Lords Commissrs of the Admty that the preceding Morning at day light he sailed from thence with the Transports under his direction with the Wind at East, but by the time he got 15 Leagues to the Westward, the Wind came round to the WSW, and as it began to blow strong, with the appearance of dirty Weather, he thought it most prudent to bear away again for the above Port, from whence he shall sail the first fair Wind; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for the information of Lord George Germaine And am Sr [&c.]

Geo: Jackson D S

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 58.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VARIOUS CAPTAINS ¹

You are hereby required & directed to proceed without a Moments loss of time, in the Ship you command to Corke in Ireland, & upon your arrival there, to put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker, & follow his Orders for your further proceedings

Given &c 15th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

Capt [Charles] Thompson - *Boreas* - SpitheadCapt [Christopher] Atkins - *Actaeon* - DoCapt [James] Reid *Thunder* Bb Vessel - Do

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 302.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VARIOUS CAPTAINS ¹

You are hereby required & directed to put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker upon his arrival at Spithead & follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c 15th Decr 1775 ²

Capt Hunt – *Sphynx* – Spithead
 “ Worth – *Deal Castle* – Do

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 303.

2. *Ibid.*, the above order was also sent to Captain Symonds of the *Solebay* at Plymouth.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER,
PORTSMOUTH ¹

You are hereby required & directed to order Capt [John] Morris of His Maj's Ship the *Bristol* to receive on board the Earl [Charles] Cornwallis Commr of the Troops under Orders to proceed to North America with his Attendants, Servants & Baggage and give them a passage to Corke and from thence to North America, victualling them during their continuance on board as the Ships Company. Given &c 15th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 303–04.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

You are hereby required & directed to order Mr Richard Molesworth Deputy Paymaster to the Troops going to North America under the command of Earl [Charles] Cornwallis to be received on board such one of His Majestys Ships under your command as you shall think proper, together with his Cash, Servants & Baggage directing the Captain of her to Victual him & his Servants during their continuance on board as part of the Ships Complement –

Given &c 15th December 1775

To Sir Peter Parker

Commander of a Squadron of His Majts Ships

to be employed on a particular Service

By &c G J DS.

Sandwich

J Buller

H Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 301–02.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE,
H.M.S. *Surprise*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Having given directions to the Navy Board to supply the Ship you command with proper materials for giving her Boot hose tops, and also to complete her Provisions & Stores, on her arrival at Plymouth; You are hereby required and directed to cause Boot hose tops to be given her accordingly, and to use the utmost

dispatch in receiving her Provisions & Stores on board, and having so done, wait there for further Orders.

Given &c 15th of Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 304.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 313

London, 15 December 1775

We received news from America a few days ago and it gave rise to different rumors, among others an action which took place at Bunker-Hill near Boston; but the latter is unfounded. I know it from Mylord [Frederick] North and mylord Weymouth who gave me the following details concerning the state of affairs in America.

Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, left the ship on which he had been forced to take refuge as I had the honor to inform you in the past. He gathered about 80 soldiers and led several successful expeditions. He dispersed the rebels numbering 300, took 26 guns from them and a large quantity of ammunition, and carried off a member of Congress.² He has great hopes, provided he is supported, to bring about the separation of Virginia. It is the opinion of the Ministry that the troops about to be sent there and those which have already been taken to Carolina will produce this desired effect in the southern provinces. Mylord North rests his expectations on the fact that the settlers, deprived of the tobacco trade and especially the cereal trade which is of considerable importance to them and which went down from 4 and a half shillings to one per bushel, far away further more from the theater of war and the troops of the Congress, composed in part of Scots faithful to the Government and negroes to whom freedom can always be promised, will have nothing better to do but give up the general cause in order to take care of their own.

I brought this Minister back to the subject of the Commissioners so as to find out if he still placed his faith more in peaceful methods than war. I no sooner mentioned the word Commissioners than his face lit up and he replied in his own terms: "Sir it is the only real solution. When negotiations will only take place, then everything will be over." However, he still counts on 70 warships of various sizes and 25 thousand men for the expedition to America. If the latter fails, Mylord North will topple and these means, if they materialize, might become deadly in the hands of another less peaceful Minister who might wish to become famous by compensating his country for his losses.

It seems certain that Admiral [Richard] Howe will be among the Commissioners. He is the most undertaking sea officer England has. He belongs to the Opposition, has constantly refused to be used in time of peace and has declared that he would never serve unless he really had something to do. Lord North has promised him the position of Lieutenant-General of the marines which became

available after the death of Admiral [Charles] Saunders. But Lord Sandwich gave the position to Mr.[Hugh] Palliser without consulting Lord North because of the misunderstanding that reigns between this Minister and the Bedford party to which Lord Sandwich belongs. We believe, that, as a result, Admiral Howe will no longer want to go to America. From what I have explained, I would rather another one be chosen.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

2. It was not a member of Congress who was seized when Lord Dunmore took possession of Norfolk, but William Robinson, a delegate to the Virginia assembly. See William Bell Clark, *George Washington's Navy* (Baton Rouge, 1960), 95. Hereafter cited as Clark, *Washington's Navy*.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London [15] December 1775

News from the Ports.

Plymouth.

The corvette *Wasp* left for Ireland.

Portsmouth.

Nothing new concerning the ships of the line.

Deal-Castle arrived from the Downs. It is believed that this frigate will sail for Ireland with transport ships.

Sphinx received orders to keep in readiness.

Deptford.

Jersey and *Blonde* are out of dry-dock. The frigates *Brune* and *Repulse* are in dry-dock.

Emerald is being commissioned. She will not be ready for some time because she requires a great deal of work.

Milford is taking on her guns and ammunition; ² the mortar-galiot *Thunder* is taking on her mortars and guns, &c.

Still very few men are available. They are working with dispatch on *Resolution* which is to sail back to the South Seas.

The frigate *Juno* is destined for Northern America.

Ambuscade and *Amazone* are to be repaired. Large and shallow-draught merchantmen have been taken to carry arms; they will carry as many guns as can be mounted on them and they will be under the command of a lieutenant of the Royal Navy.

Work is being done on *Namur*. Masts, sails, rigging, anchors, &c. are being loaded for Halifax and Boston.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy. The list is dated only "December 1775." The suggested date of December 15 is used because of the information from other sources, and movements of various vessels. For example, the *Wasp* came in from Ireland, according to the Port News of December 1, 1775, and sailed for Ireland in the above Port News; allowing her about two weeks in port would bring the departure in line with the date December 15. See also note 2 below.

2. "Deal Dec. 30. Sailed yesterday after post, his Majesty's ship *Milford*." *London Chronicle*, December 30, 1775 to January 2, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DEC. 15."¹

This day the *Jersey*, of 60 guns, was put into commission at this port, and the command of her given to Capt. Halsted.

The *Blond* frigate, of 32 guns, is likewise put into commission, and the command of her given to Capt. Pownall.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 16 to December 19, 1775.

16 Dec.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER,
PORTSMOUTH¹

For the better maintaining a proper Government & strict discipline in the Squadron under your command; We do hereby authorize & empower you (from the time of your departure from England until you shall receive Orders from Rear Admiral Shuldham to put yourself under his command, or the Service you are going upon shall be at an end) to call and assemble Courts Martial in Foreign parts as often as you shall see occasion; And whereas Commanders in chief of Squadrons of His Majesty's Ships employed in Foreign parts have sometimes neglected to hold Courts Martial for enquiring into the occasion of the loss of His Majesty's Ships when such Misfortunes have happen'd, whereby the Crown has been put to an unnecessary expence and the Officers & Company to great inconvenience by being kept out of their Wages, You are in case of such an Accident to cause a Court Martial to be assembled as soon afterwards as possible, to try the Officers & Company for the same, and to transmit to our Secretary the proceedings & judgment thereupon by the first conveyance.

Given &c. 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 303.

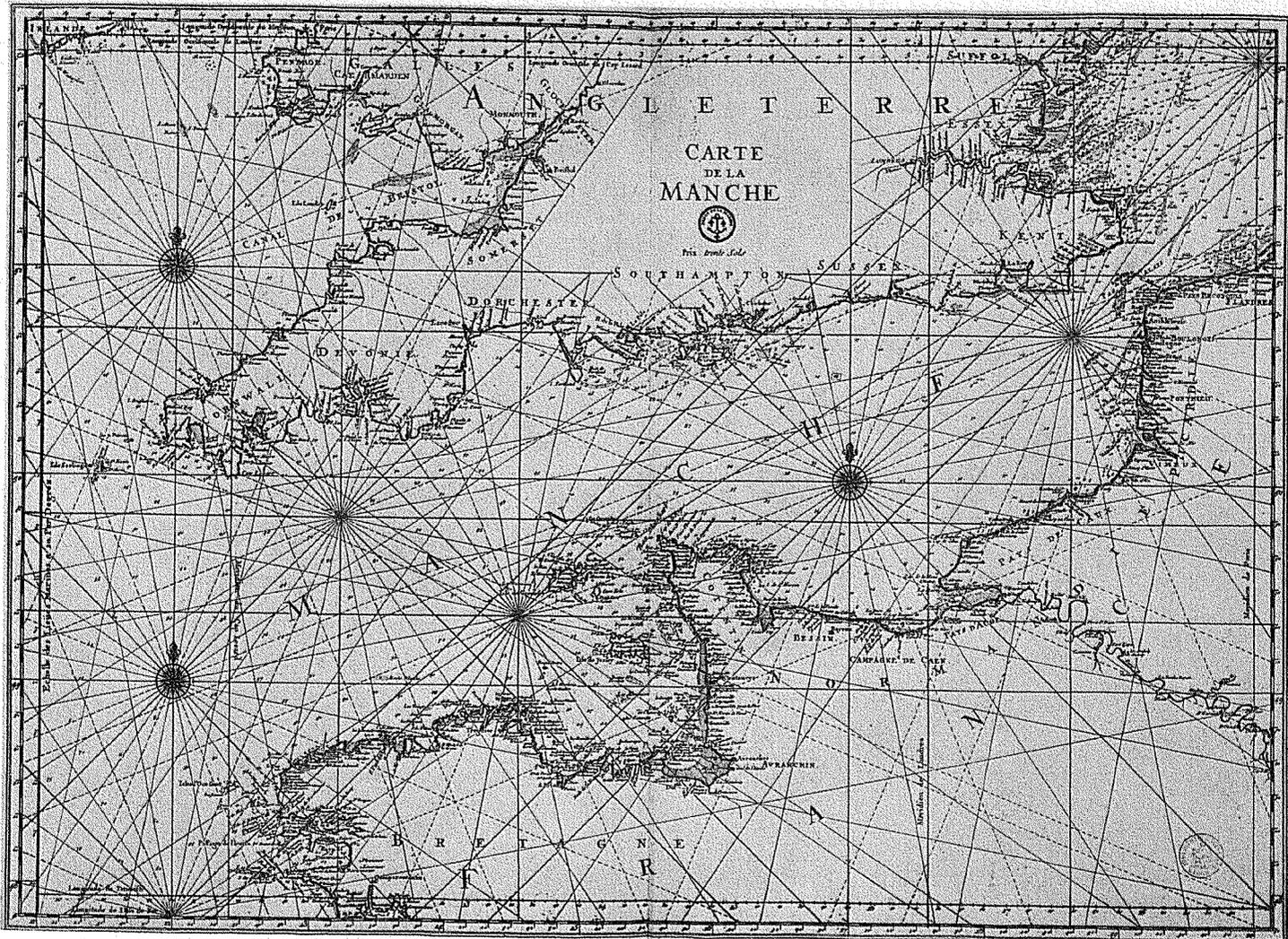
LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER¹

You are hereby required and directed, in case of the death of any Officers belonging to the Ships and Vessels under your command, during your present intended Expedition, or the dismissal of any of them by Court Martial before you put yourself under the command of Rear Adml Shuldham, to appoint such other Persons as by the quality of their Employments ought to succeed, to act in their rooms, particularly observing to appoint Commanders to act as Captains of Post Ships in preference to Lieutenants; And upon your joining Rear Admiral Shuldham, to deliver to him a List of such appointments as you shall have made for his further directions thereupon.

Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 306.



LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAINS SERVING UNDER
SIR PETER PARKER ¹

The Inhabitants of several of His Majts 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 & South Carolina, having traiterously combined together for the general purpose of resisting the Authority of this Kingdom, and, having in a hostile manner array'd themselves in Arms and committed Acts of open and actual Rebellion; You are hereby required and directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure, signified to Us by the Earl of Dartmouth One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 29th of August last, to seize all ships & Vessels belonging to any of the said Colonies, or owned by the Inhabitants thereof, except only in Cases where it shall clearly appear by 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 & Ammunition shall have been shipp'd with Licence, either from His Majesty in Council, from the Master General & Principal Officers of the Ordnance, or under the usual clearances from the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs.

You are to bring with you into some British Port, not within the twelve afore-said Colonies, such Ships & Vessels as you may seize in the Cases abovemention'd, there to be detained til further Order, or be proceeded against according to Law, as the nature of the Case may require.

Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775
 Captn [John] Morris, *Bristol*
 " [James] Worth, *Deal Castle*
 " [Anthony] Hunt, *Sphynx*
 " [Charles] Thompson, *Boreas*
 " [Christopher] Atkins, *Actaeon*
 " [Thomas] Symonds, *Solebay*, at Cork
 (by the *Bristol*)
 " [James] Reid, *Thunder Bomb*
 By &c. G.J. DS.

Sandwich
 J. Buller
 H. Palliser

Sent to Sir Peter
 Parker in Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 309-10.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

The Lords Commissioners of His Majts Treasury having transmitted to Us, a List of Ships which have been taken up us Victuallers to attend the Expedition under the command of the Earl of Cornwallis and also a Copy of the Charter Party under which they are contracted for; We send you herewith a Copy of the said Papers, And do hereby require and direct you to take the said Ships under your convoy, and, when the Service for which they have been taken up shall be

perform'd, you are either to take them as Transports, or send them home according to the Conditions of the Charter Party, as the Exigencies of His Majesty's Service shall require. Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

Sir Peter Parker at Portsmouth

[Enclosure]

<u>Ships Names</u>	<u>Masters Names</u>	<u>No of Tons each Ship</u>
<i>Sovereign</i>	— Flyn	360
<i>Thaetis</i>	Wm Burns	177
<i>Thomas & William</i>	Jas Smith	152
<i>Sea Nymph</i>	Jno Levitt	138
<i>Friends Adventure</i>	Jno Cox	126
<i>Prince of Piedmont</i>	Fras Harman	227
	Dispatch'd	1180
<i>Nancy</i>	John Pearson about	225.
		1405.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 311-12.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN BURR, H.M.S. *Milford*,
BLACKSTAKES ¹

You are hereby required and directed to proceed without loss of time in the Ship you command to Spithead, and there wait for further Order.
Given &c. the 16th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 306.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir

Admty Office 16 Decr 1775

Lieutenant Johnston, Commander of His Majesty's Cutter the *Goodwill* (who, in consequence of Lord George Germain's Letter of the 11h Instant) was directed to proceed to the Downes in quest of an American Vessel called the *Betsey*, and upon meeting with her to search for, seize and transmit to his Lordships any Letters addressed to any persons in any Part of North America, having by his Letter of the 14h Instant dated in the Downes informed by Lords Commissrs of the Admty that a Vessel answering the description given of the *Betsey*, having arrived there that Morning, he boarded her, and made the most diligent search, but found no Letters on board addressed to any Person in North America; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for the information of Lord George Germain; And am Sr [&c.]

Geo: Jackson, DS

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 59.

GEORGE JACKSON TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th December 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having previous to Rear Admiral Shuldham's Departure for North America settled private Signals for the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships there to know each other by in case of meeting And their Lordships having since the said Rear Admirals Departure received from Vice Admiral Graves a Copy of Signals which he had settled for the like purpose, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith Copies of both the said Signals for your Information and Guidance, and am to signify their direction to you to keep them as secret as possible, and on no account to communicate them to any Person whatever unless to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships under your Command who you are to furnish with Copies of them, or the Commanders of such of His Majestys Ships which you may fall in with on the Coast of North America who may not already have received them, giving them the like Caution. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D:S:

Commodore Sir Peter Parker, Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 422-23.

18 Dec.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CHARLES FLYN ¹

Whereas we have sign'd a Commission appointing you Master & Commander of the *Weymouth* Pacquet Boat; You are hereby required & directed, not to hoist any other Colours worne in His Majesty's Fleet besides a Red Ensign Jack & Pendant on board the said Pacquet Boat at any time or on any account
Given &c the 18th Decr 1775

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 312.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT DRING, H.M. BOMB VESSEL *Carcass*, WOOLWICH ¹

So soon as the Bomb Vessel you command shall have taken on board her Guns Mortars and Ordnance Stores in Galleons reach, You are hereby required and directed, to proceed without loss of time to Cork in Ireland, and upon your arrival there put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker, Commr of a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships employ'd on a particular Service, and follow his Orders for your further proceedings; But in Case Sir Peter should be sailed from thence, before you arrive there, you are to follow such Orders as you shall receive from the Captain of the Frigate Sir Peter will leave there for that purpose, which you are to follow til' you join Sir Peter Parker, and then, put yourself under his com-

mand and follow his Orders as aforementioned.

Given &c. the 18th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 314-15.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HENRY DAVIS, H.M.S.
Repulse, CHATHAM¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majts Ship *Repulse* at Chatham, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, mann'd with Two hundred Men & victualled for six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the Remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, And then falling down to Blackstakes take in her Guns and Gunners Stores & proceed to the Nore for further Order.

Given &c. the 18th Decr 1775

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 315-16.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 18th Decr 1775

I came Here Yesterday Evening at Six O'Clock, and His Majesty's Ship the *Bristol*, anchored at Spithead about the same Time; I have this Morning Hoisted my Broad Pendant on Board of Her, and have taken the *Deal Castle* and *Sphynx* under my Command, and shall get ready to proceed with Them, as soon as possible.

The *Boreas*, *Actaeon* and *Thunder Bomb*, will I Hope Sail to Morrow Evening or Wednesday Morning, and I expect to follow Them the next Day.

I shall Order Captain [John] Morris to receive on Board the *Bristol* the Deputy Pay Master Mr Molesworth together with His Cash, Servants and Baggage, &c and also Earl [Charles] Cornwallis with Attendants, Servants and Baggage - I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 18 Decbr 1775

On Saturday Evening before I left Town, I received the following Orders, Instructions &c. viz Order from Their Lordships Dated the 15th instant to Direct any Captain of my Squadron to receive Mr. Molesworth, the Deputy Paymaster, together with His Cash, Servants, and Baggage &c Order of the same Date, to Direct Captain Morris to receive on Board the *Bristol*, Earl [Charles] Cornwallis

with His Attendants &c Your Letter of the 16th instt, with the private Signals of the Admirals Graves and Shuldham – Copy of a Letter from Lord George Germain to Earl Cornwallis Dated the 6th instt – Copy of a Letter from Lord George Germain to the Major General who will Command &c Their Lordships Instructions to me Dated the 14th instant. List of Transports, List of Ships under my Command – Order of the 16th instt, Empowering me to call and Assemble Courts-Martial in Foreign P[ar]ts, until I shall receive Orders from Rear Admiral Shuldham, to put Myself under His Command – Orders of the 16th instant, about appointing Officers to Act, in Cases of Death or Dismission by a Court Martial – Your Letter of the 16th instt, with Seven Press Warrants Directed to the Captains of the following Ships, Viz *Bristol Actaeon*, *Boreas*, *Solebay*, *Sphynx*, *Deal Castle*, *Thunder Bomb*, and this Morning I received Your Letter of the 17th instant, signifying Their Lordships Directions to me, to Order the Captain of One of the Frigates of my Squadron to remain at Cork 'til the Arrival of the Army Victuallers, the *Carcass Bomb Vessel*, *Friendship* armed Vessel, *Sybilla* Storeship, and *Pigot* Hospital Ship, and to take Them under His Convoy, and follow me without a Moments Loss of Time to such Rendezvous as I shall Appoint for that Purpose. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

19 Dec.

DIARY OF THOMAS HUTCHINSON ¹

[London] 19 Dec 1775

It is generally believed that Falmouth in Casco Bay, is burnt by Cap. Mowat, and 2 or 3 more ships. The last time I saw Lord G[eorge] G[ermain], he observed that Adm. Graves had been put in mind of his remissness; and he imagined he would run to the other extreme.

1. Peter Orlando Hutchinson, comp., *The Diary and Letters of His Excellency Thomas Hutchinson* (London, 1883-86), I, 583. Hutchinson was former governor of Massachusetts.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Notwithstanding former Orders, You are hereby required & directed to continue the *Hawke* Sloop as part of the Squadron under your command, And to inform Rear Adml Shuldham thereof the first opportunity that offers for so doing. Given &c 19th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To Sir Peter Parker Commr of a Squadron of
His Majy Ships employ'd on a particular Service

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100,318.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE, H.M.S.
Surprise, PLYMOUTH ¹

Having ordered the Provisions of His Majts Ship under your command to be completed to Four Months of all species except Beer of which she is to have as

much as she can conveniently stow, and be supplied with one Months Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting the same on board & then repair into the Sound and wait for further Order.

Given &c 19th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G J DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 318. An order using the same wording was issued the same day to Captain William Bennett, of H.M. Sloop *Alborough*, also at Plymouth.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 314

London, 19 December 1775

Sir, I had the honor to receive your dispatch No. 166 dated the 10th of this month.

You were able to judge, Sir, from my preceding dispatches that Lord Stormont in Paris and the Ministers in London are only smiling in the face of adversity. It is true that General Washington and General [Charles] Lee are not perfectly agreed; but the Congress is unanimous; it will direct the operations and the generals will necessarily do better than a Council and a Parliament which are not in agreement and whose divided members are less concerned with the safety of England than with the loss of their enemy. As to the dissatisfaction of the people who are only awaiting a signal in order to rebel Mylord North does not go as far as Mylord Stormont. He speculates, he hopes, he follows his plans, finally, because an English Minister cannot, without discrediting himself, come back on those which he has already announced.

I am surprised that Lord Stormont announced the resolution of Ireland as a triumph. Dublin is very close to Paris and such a thing cannot be believed very long. You have read, Sir, that I had the honor to write you on this subject: this triumph was quite naturally an interesting question lost by the government.

I saw Mylord in the evening of Friday at the moment, Sir, when I had just received your dispatch. I told this Minister of the orders which the King had just renewed in his ports following the request made by Lord Stormont. Lord North was extremely pleased by our attitude; rather remarkable is the fact that it is equally praised by the Opposition. It is true that the latter interprets them in a different manner and considers them as the result of a skillful policy which lets England commit herself and encourages her trust in order to abuse it more usefully when her means will be weakened still more. I do not lose a single opportunity to fight and destroy this notion. The Ministry is willing to discredit it; but the Opposition whose interest is to encourage it is more difficult to convince.

Bad news arrived from Canada, Sir, by way of New-York. The garrison of St. Jean has capitulated. It is suspected that they surrendered as prisoners of war because Mr.[Guy] Carleton who was coming to their aid was forced to withdraw with losses to Montreal. This fortified town cannot hold and it contains all the

Royal artillery. Since I sent you my last dispatch I have learned from some one who fought in Canada that the Season will not stand in the way of a march on Quebec, that this city even, when its moats are filled with snow, is not secure from a surprise attack, especially if it is defended only by townsmen. Half of the regular troops were taken at St. Jean, which leaves Mr Carleton with this last resort to defend the position on which depends the fate of America. I must add however that the true source from whence originates this news is not yet known. It is put forward by the Opposition and the Ministry does not deny it. Here are the facts, and nothing else is needed to believe them.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Captain [James] Reid of His Majesty's Bomb Vessel the *Thunder*, has just now acquainted me, that his Tender is not arrived at Spithead, and that she has got in all the Shells, Powder &ca – and that he has not received any Orders concerng her; that Lord [George] Townshend acquainted him, that she should sail two Hours after him – The *Thunder* will be ready to proceed to morrow, agreeable to their Lordships' Orders, to Cork, and as the *Bristol* cannot sail before Thursday evening, or Friday morning, I shall be glad to know their Lordships pleasure concerning her, in case she should arrive before I sail, and whether she has Orders to proceed directly to Cork, without calling in here. I am Sir [&c.]

P:Parker

Bristol at Spithead 19th Decr 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

20 Dec.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

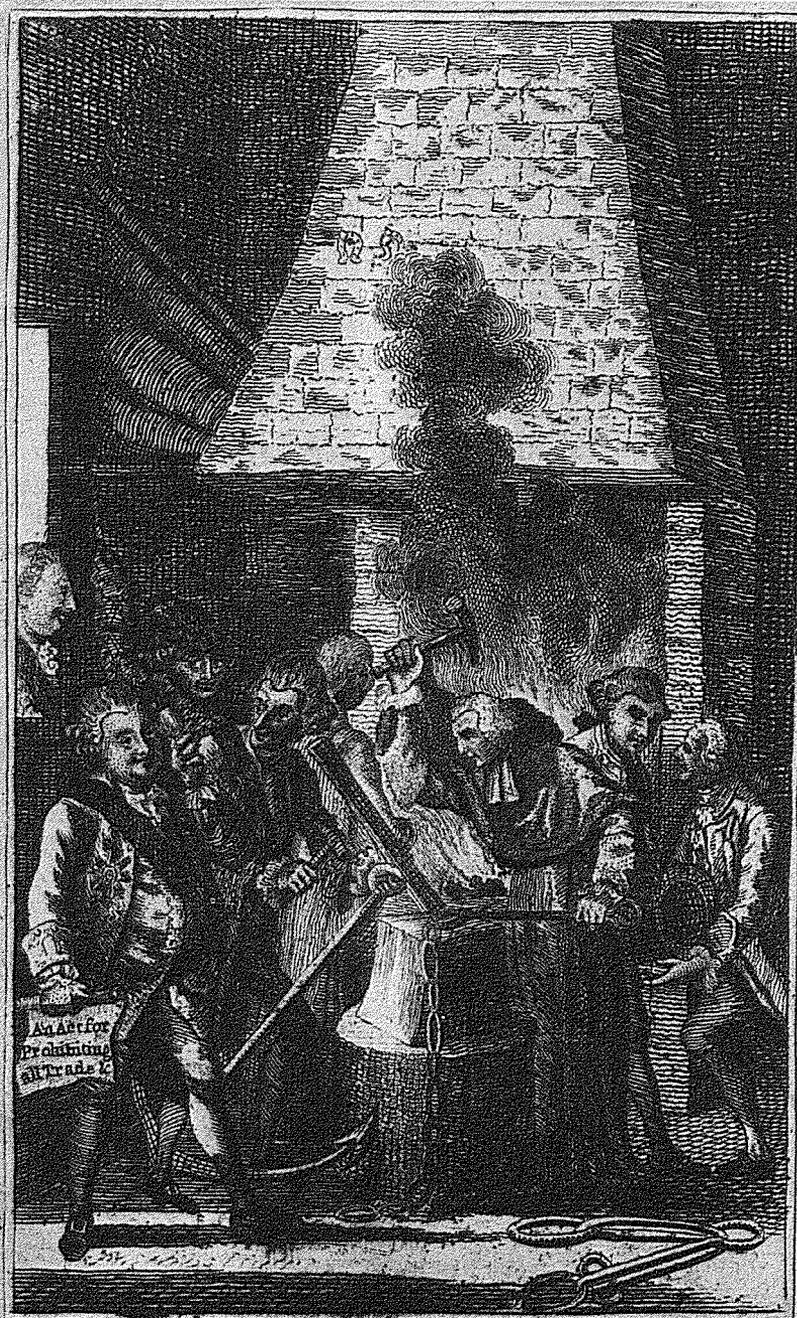
Bristol at Spithead 20th Decr 1775

Their Lordships having thought proper to put a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, and to give me Instructions to observe, in the execution of which many months may elapse before I can join Rear Admiral Shuldham – I have taken up Stationary from Messrs Mount & Page on Tower Hill for the use of the said Squadron, amounting to £29..10..0 – Inclosed is their Bill, which I beg you will please to move their Lordships to direct the Navy Board to pay –

Major Innes of the Artillery informs me, that the three Ordnance Vessels – (Vizt) *Earl of Darby*, *Nancy* and *Noble Bounty*, sail'd on Wednesday last from Gallions, that he had order'd the two latter to proceed to Cork, and the former to call here for him, and to take in 5000 stand of Arms, and 2700 Pallisadoes – We expect her arrival every moment – It now blows strong at So Et I am Sir [&c.]

P:Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.



THE STATE BLACKSMITHS
Forging fetters for the Americans

Published according to Act of Parliament: 4th March 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 20th Decr 1775

I have received their Lordships Order of the 16th Inst to take the Army Victuallers under my Command, and have also received a List of them, with a Copy of their Charter Party – Lord Cornwallis came to Portsmouth last night, the money will be down this evening, and to morrow it shall be ship'd on board the *Bristol*. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

21 Dec.DAVID HARTLEY'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AGAINST THE PROHIBITORY ACT ¹

Dec. 21.

Mr. Hartley. Sir, upon this pause which is offered to you by the return of this Bill from the Lords, I confess that I feel a kind of superstition to wish for one last word to deprecate the fatal blow, and that our unremitted opposition and remonstrance from the first to the very last stage of this Bill may remain as a memorial, that some of us, at least, lament this final separation of America with an affectionate regret. We are overpowered by numbers, and all our entreaties and remonstrances are in vain. An inflexible majority in parliament have now declared all America to be an independent hostile state. Disputes originally between administration and America, are become, by the influence of administration, the ground of a parliamentary war with America. The sense of the nation is not with that war, and I trust it never will be. However, speaking in parliament to ministers as they seem determined to drive all things to extremities, I must ask whether you are to expect that while you burn their towns, take or destroy their ships and property, they will sit with their arms folded, or whether they will not be driven to repel injury by injury. You have found their active powers of defence by the experience of the last year, when by your orders the shedding of the first civil blood was precipitated on the fatal 19th of April, before your pretended conciliatory motion could be proposed to any of the American assemblies? Why were you found unguarded in Canada? You have lost all Canada. Two regiments are taken prisoners. Your officers are hostages, and yet you proceed in this unjust and unnatural war, with fire, sword, and rapine. What farther hostages may fall into their hands at Boston, or what blood of our fellow subjects may be shed there, I contemplate with horror. I dread some fatal event there. Public report threatens. When the provincials shall hear the fate of their late and last petition, and when they see all prospect of peace become desperate, what can you expect but that they should exert every power to destroy your land forces in America during the severity of the winter, before you can support or relieve them. Who will be answerable for these things? When this Bill of rapine, which now lies before you, gets to them, they will set themselves to retaliate upon your fleet. Your land force has been disgraced and annihilated in the first campaign, notwithstanding all your boastings. Are we not then to expect that those ministers of

vengeance who shall press on a naval war with America, shall be responsible to their country, for the consequences of their headstrong measures, if the navy of this country should be brought to disgrace and defeat. Weigh the consequences. If you send large ships they will not be able to act; if small ones, may they not be overpowered? Consider the distance of your operations. Every port in America will be a Dunkirk to you. We know their skill and bravery as privateers in the last war. In any case you are laying the foundation of an hostile marine in America, which has been and ought to be the source of the marine of Great Britain. I cannot be an adviser or a well wisher to any of the vindictive operations against America, because I think the cause unjust; but at the same time I must be equally earnest to secure British interests from destruction; neither a victory of Great Britain over America, nor of America over Great Britain can afford any matter of triumph. Both are equally destructive. If nothing can abate your fury against the Americans in this ministerial war, we shall expect at least that you should guard your own vulnerable parts. Are you guarded at Newfoundland? Are you prepared against any expedition of retaliation if the provincials should meditate any thing to the destruction of your fisheries there? Administration have been the aggressors in every thing, step by step. By this fatal Bill of separation you now declare the Americans to be enemies in form, therefore it is yourselves that force upon them the rights of enemies. You must now be responsible to your country for the events of your own war, to which they have been so reluctant and you so precipitate. When this country shall come to open its eyes, to see and to feel the consequences, they will know of whom to require an account. Sir, I shall now move you, instead of agreeing to the amendments of the Lords, to adjourn the consideration of them for six weeks; I confess with very little hopes of averting this Bill, but as I told you at my out-set, from a superstitious feeling in my mind, to perform the last ceremonial office of affection and everlasting farewell to peace and to America. The fate of America is cast. You may bruise its heel, but you cannot crush its head. It will revive again. The new world is before them. Liberty is theirs. They have possession of a free government, their birthright and inheritance, derived to them from their parent state, which the hand of violence cannot wrest from them. If you will cast them off, my last wish is to them; may they go and prosper. When the final period of this once happy country shall overtake ourselves, either through tumult or tyranny, may another Phoenix rise out of our ashes! ²

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 1103-05.

2. Hartley's motion was defeated. *Ibid*, 1106.

JOHN BODDINGTON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Dear Sir,

Ordnance Office 21st Decr 1775

The Ordnance Transports were ordered to go to Cork except the *Earl of Darby*, which was to receive 5000 Stand of Arms at Portsmo taken out of the *Rus-*

sia Merchant (a Storeship bound to Boston) in pursuance of Lord Dartmouth's Letter, and according to the best of my Judgment the *Thunder Bomb's* Tender is gone thither. Lord George Germain may rely upon every thing depending on the Ordnance Department having been dispatched –

I say this in Confidence to you, and that the Weight has fallen heavily on &c
John Boddington

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/248, 211–12.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Dear Sir!

The *Thunder Bomb* Vessel has been arrived at Portsmo some days. I rather think Lord [Charles] Cornwallis means her Tender, in which are the Shells Powder &ca and which, I have a Letter from Sir Peter Parker saying she was not arrived.

Upon this Letter from Sir Peter enquiry was made at the Ordnance Board after her, and Mr. Boddington's answer was that she saild from this River the 15 inst with the *Noble Bounty & Nancy*, both Ordnance Transports & would go to Cork without stopping at Portsmouth. This was signifi'd to Sir Peter by last nights post I am with esteem, Sir [&c.]

Geo: Jackson

Admiralty 21 Decr 1775

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 60.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 21st Decr 1775

I have received a long deal Case, directed for me to the care of Commissioner [James] Gambier, containing Maps and Drafts – I have also received their Lordships Order of the 19th inst directing me to continue the *Hawke* Sloop as part of the Squadron under my command, and to inform Rear Admiral Shuldham thereof the first opportunity – Sr James Douglas has acquainted their Lordships by Express last night of the accident that happen'd to the *Boreas*, she got off at Ten o'Clock, and came to Spithead this morning, it is not apprehended that she has received any considerable damage, but I believe it will be necessary to have her Bottom examin'd before she can proceed on her Voyage, which will not cause a delay of above two or three days, should she be found capable of going, and as the Wind is now at S by W, and blows hard, with no appearance of a change, it is probable she may be ready by the time the weather breaks up, and the wind comes favourable – Had the wind permitted, the *Bristol's* Company would have been paid this morning, and every thing been on board. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

22 Dec.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 TO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1775

By the King,

A Proclamation,

Appointing the Distribution of Prizes taken during the Continuance of the Rebellion now subsisting in divers Parts of the Continent of North America.

George R.

WHEREAS by an Act, made in this present Session of Parliament, intituled, "An Act to prohibit all Trade and Intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachuset's-Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, during the Continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively; for repealing an Act, made in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, to discontinue the Landing and Discharging, Lading or Shipping, of Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston, in the Province of Massachuset's Bay; and also Two Acts, made in the last Session of Parliament, for restraining the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned; and to enable any Person or Persons, appointed and authorized by his Majesty, to grant Pardons, to issue Proclamations, in the Cases and for the Purposes therein mentioned;" it is, amongst other Things, enacted, That all Ships and Vessels of or belonging to the Inhabitants of the said Colonies, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, except as in the said Act are excepted, and all other Ships and Vessels whatsoever, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, which shall be found trading in any Port or Place of the said Colonies, or going to trade, or coming from Trading, in any such Port or Place, except as are therein also excepted, shall become forfeited to his Majesty, as if the same were the Ships and Effects of Open Enemies, and shall be so adjudged, deemed, and taken, in all Courts of Admiralty, and in all other Courts whatsoever:

And, for the Encouragement of the Officers and Seamen of His Majesty's Ships of War, it is thereby also further enacted, That the Flag Officers, Captain, Commanders, and other commissioned Officers in His Majesty's Pay, and also the Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers on Board, shall have the sole Interest and Property of and in all and every such ship, Vessel, Goods, and Merchandize, which they shall seize and take, (being first adjudged lawful Prize in any of his Majesty's Courts of Admiralty) to be divided in such Proportions, and after such Manner, as His Majesty shall think fit to order and direct by Proclamation or Proclamations hereafter to be issued for those Purposes: We, taking the Premises into Consideration, do, pursuant to the said Act of Parliament, (with the Advice of Our Privy Council) by this Our Proclamation, order direct, and appoint, That the neat Produce of all Prizes taken, in Pursuance of the said Act, by Our Ships of War, be divided into Eight equal Parts, and be distributed in Manner following, that is to say, To the Captain or Captains of any of Our Ships of War, who

shall be actually on board at the taking of any Prize, three Eighth Parts; but in case any such Prize shall be taken by any of Our Ship or Ships of War, under the Command of a Flag or Flags, the Flag Officer or Officers being actually on Board, or directing and assisting in the Capture, shall have One of the said Three Eighth Parts, the said One Eighth Part to be paid to such Flag or Flag officers, in such Proportions, and subject to such Regulations, as are herein-after for that Purpose mentioned: To the Captains of Marines and Land Forces, Sea Lieutenants and Master, on Board any such Ships, One Eighth Part, to be equally divided amongst them: To the Lieutenants and Quarter-Masters of Marines, and Lieutenants, Ensigns, and Quarter masters, of Land Forces, Boatswain, Gunner, Purser, Carpenter, Master's Mate, Chirurgeon, Pilot, and Chaplain, on Board any such Ship, One Eighth Part, to be equally divided amongst them: To the Midshipmen, Secretary to Flag Officers, Captain's Clerk, Master Sail Maker, Carpenter's Mates, Boatswain's Mates, Gunner's Mates, Master at Arms, Corporals, Yeomen of the Sheets, Coxswain, Quarter Masters, Quarter Master's Mates, Chirurgeon's Mates, Yeomen of the Powder Room, and Serjeants of Marines or Land Forces, on Board any such Ships, One Eighth Part, to be equally divided amongst them. To the Trumpeters, Quarter-Gunners, Carpenter's Crew, Steward, Cook, Armourer, Steward's Mate, Cook's Mate, Gunsmith, Cooper, Swabber, Ordinary Trumpeter, Barber, Able Seamen, Ordinary Seamen and Marine, or other Soldiers, and all other persons doing Duty or assisting on Board any such Ships, Two Eighths Parts, to be equally divided amongst them.

And in case any Sea Captain, inferior Commission or Warrant Sea Officers, belonging to any Ship of War, for whom any Shares of Prizes are hereby allowed, be absent at the Time of the Capture of any Prize, the Share of such Sea Captain, inferior Commission or Warrant Sea Officer, shall be cast into the Shares hereby allowed to the Trumpeters, Quarter Gunners, Carpenter's Crew, Steward, Cook, Armourer, Steward's Mate, Cook's Mate, Gunsmith, Cooper, Swabber, Ordinary Trumpeter, Barber, Able Seamen, Ordinary Seamen, and Marine or other Soldiers, and other Persons doing Duty or assisting on Board any such Ships, to be equally divided amon[g]st them. Provided, That if any Officer or Officers on Board any of Our Ships of War, at the Time of taking any such Prizes, shall have more Commissione or Officer than one, he or they shall be intitled only to the Share or Shares of the said Prizes, which, according to the above-mentioned Distribution, shall belong to his or their respective superior Commissions or Offices.

And We do hereby strictly enjoin all and every Commander and Commanders of any Ships of War, taking any Prize, as soon as may be, to transmit, or cause to be transmitted, to the Commissioners of Our Navy, a true List of the Names of all the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers or others, who were actually on Board Our Ships of War, under his or their Command, at the taking such Prize; which List shall contain the Quality of Service of each Person on Board, and be subscribed by the Captain or Commanding Officer, and Three or more of the Chief Officers on Board. And We do hereby require and direct the Commissioners of Our Navy, or any Three or more of them, to examine, or cause to be examined, such Lists by the Muster-Books of such Ships of War, and Lists annexed thereto, to see that such Lists do agree with the said Muster-Book, and

annexed Lists, as to the Names, Qualities, or Ratings of the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers and others belonging to such Ship of War; and, upon Request, forthwith to grant a Certificate of the Truth of any List transmitted to them, to the Agents nominated and appointed by the Captors, pursuant to the said Act, to take Care and dispose of such Prize; and also, upon Application to them, to give, or cause to be given, unto the Agents who shall, at any Time or Times be appointed as aforesaid by the Captors, all such Lists from the Muster-Books of any such Ships of War, and annexed Lists as the said Agents shall find requisite for their Direction in paying the Produce of such Prizes, and to be otherwise aiding and assisting to the said Agents, as shall be necessary.

And as touching the said One Eighth Part, herein before mentioned to be granted to the Flag or Flag Officers who shall be actually on Board at the taking of any Prize, or shall be directing and assisting therein, We have thought fit, and do, by these Presents, publish, order, and declare, that the following Regulations be observed: First, That a Flag Officer commanding in Chief, where there is but One Flag Officer upon Service, shall have to his own Use, the said One Eighth Part of the Prizes taken by Ships under his Command. Secondly, That a Flag Officer sent to command at Jamaica, or elsewhere, shall have no Right to any Share of the Prizes taken by Ships employed there, before he arrives at the Place to which he is sent, and actually taken upon him the Command. Thirdly, That when an inferior Flag Officer is sent out to reinforce a superior Flag Officer at Jamaica, or elsewhere, the said superior Flag Officer shall have no Right to any Share in the Prizes taken by them before they arrive within the Limits of his Command, and actually receive some Orders from him. Fourthly, That a Chief Flag Officer returning Home from Jamaica, or elsewhere, shall have no Share of the Prizes taken by the Ships left behind to act under another Command. Fifthly, That if a Flag Officer is sent to command in the Out-Ports of this Kingdom, he shall have no Share of the Prizes taken by Ships that Sailed from that Port, by Order of the Admiralty: Sixthly, That when more Flag Officers than One serve together, the Eighth Part of the Prizes taken by any Ships of the Fleet, or squadron, shall be divided in the following Proportions, videlicet, If there be but Two Flag Officers, the Chief shall have Two Thirds Parts of the said One Eighth Part, and the other shall have the remaining Third Part, but if the Number of Flag Officers be more than two, the Chief shall have only One Half, and the other Half shall be divided equally among the other Flag Officers: Seventhly, That Commodores, with Captains under them, shall be esteemed as Flag Officers, with respect to their Right to an Eighth Part of Prizes taken, whether commanding in Chief, or serving under Command.

Given at our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-second Day of December,
One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Sixteenth Year of
Our Reign.

God save the King.¹

1. *London Chronicle*, January 2 to January 4, 1776, contained the following item from Edinburgh, Scotland: ". . . the proclamation for distributing the prizes taken in the American war, among the Seamen, was read at the Cross by the Heralds, with the usual formalities."

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 22 December 1775

The rumor has it that Falmouth in America has been burned by the fleet. I did not feel I should mention it because the report was only vague; but the Opposition has no doubts about it from what I was told yesterday by Lord Shelburne. No word has come from the Ministry. It appeared to me that these Circumstances deserved some attention. I already had the honor a long time ago to acquaint you that the decision has been made to destroy America as much as possible if she would not submit. This plan will hardly bring two million Sterling net to the Government per year.

I enclose herewith, Sir, the news from the ports.

News from the PortsPlymouth

The *Blenheim* is in dry-dock. The frigate *Solebay* is ready to sail with the first favourable winds for Ireland from whence she will escort the vessels which will take the troops from this Kingdom to America. Arrival of two Corvettes *Martin* and *Ranger*, the first one from Lisbon; and the second from Ireland with recruits.

Portsmouth

The frigate *Surprise* is sailing for Plymouth. The Corvette *Hazard* is being repaired. The frigates *Active*, *Thetis*, *Pearl*, *Greyhound*, *Fox*, *Sphynx*, *Seaford*, *Juno* are repaired but have not been commissioned yet. In addition to these frigates there are 3 guard-ships in port.

There are at Spithead 5 guard-ships, *Romney* with 50 guns, and the Frigates *Surprise*, *Boreas*, *Acteon*, *Deal-Castle* and the mortar-ketch *Thunder* which is to sail for America. Order has been given at Portsmouth to keep 200 marines ready to embark at first notice.

Deptford

The ship *Victory* has been damaged in an accident. The frigate *Blonde* is being commissioned. Men are still lacking for the ships which are being readied. Work is being done on a new corvette which will be called *Dispatch*. The frigate *Favourite* is in repairs.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, 317, LC Photocopy.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead, 22d Decr 1775

I have received your Letter, signifying their Lordships direction to take the *Active* under my command, in the room of the *Boreas* – I am [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 22d Decr 1775

I have received your Letter of the 20th instt signifying their Lordships direction to me, to take the Tender belonging to the *Thunder* Bomb Vessel under my Convoy, should she arrive at Spithead before I sail, but not to wait for her – I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

23 Dec.LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNORS IN AMERICA ¹

Sir,

Whitehall 23d December 1775. –

The King being determined, in Concurrence with His Parliament, to pursue the most vigorous Measures for reducing His rebellious Subjects in North America to Obedience, and for restoring legal Government, has given the Royal Assent to the inclosed Act, which I am commanded by His Majesty to transmit to you, and at the same time to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that you do exhort all Persons, upon whom the execution of this law shall depend, to pay a due attention thereto, and to use their best endeavours for carrying the provisions of it into effect; and I trust that when His Majesty's deluded Subjects in the associated Colonies are better apprized of the fatal consequence of the conduct they have adopted, and see the determined spirit of the nation to maintain its constitutional Rights, they will avail themselves of the means which the justice and benevolence of the supreme Legislature have held out to them, of being restored to The King's grace and peace; and that a happy and lasting reconciliation and Union will be effected;—And I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that in order to accelerate this desirable object, the proper steps have been taken for passing a Commission under the great Seal, in conformity to the last Section but one, of that Act; and that the Commissioner or Commissioners to be appointed for that purpose, will have full power to inquire into the state and condition of the Colonies, and to confer with proper persons upon such points as may be necessary for effecting a restoration of the public tranquillity. – I am, sir [&c.]

Geo: Germain

1. VSL. This copy of the circular letter was intended for Governor Robert Eden of Maryland and was intercepted in Virginia.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

(No 1.)

Whitehall Decr 23d 1775.

My Lord, It is with great Satisfaction that I avail myself of the first Opportunity that has occurred since I entered upon Office to express to your Lordship The King's Approbation of the great Zeal your Lordship has manifested for His Service, & of the Fortitude with which you have not only resisted but repelled the Insults which had been offered to You by His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in Virginia.

What your Lordship states in your Dispatches of the 22d Octr of the disposi-

tion that had appeared in many Persons to take an open part against the Rebels, encourages me to hope that upon the Arrival of the *Liverpoole* with the Store Ship under her Convoy, & which might have been expected very soon after the date of your Letter, you would have been enabled to exert with a greater Effect that Activity in support of Legal Government which has already done you so much Honour.

Your Lordships will probably have heard of the Armament that has been prepared here for the purpose of reducing the Southern Provinces to Obedience, & of obtaining with the assistance of the Friends of Government, the Restoration of the public Tranquility. That Armament consists of 7 Battalions which go out under the Command of Lord Cornwallis, but will upon their Arrival in America be commanded by Major General Clinton: It also consists of a Naval force under the Command of Sir Peter Parker composed of a Fifty Gun Ship, Six Frigates, & one Sloop and the *Thunder Bomb*; and as every thing for the Embarkation of the Troops is now in great Forwardness, I hope it will arrive upon the Coast of America, as soon as this Letter can reach Your Lordship.

The Place of its immediate & first Destination is Cape Fear River in North Carolina, from whence it will proceed either to Virginia, or South Carolina, as the General shall, upon such Information as he can collect upon the Spot, judge most advisable; for as this Expedition has been formed (in great Measure at least) upon the Assurances given, with equal Confidence, from each of the Southern Provinces, that the bare Appearance of a Military Force would encourage the Friends of Government to shew themselves, the particular Direction of that Force must consequently be left to the Discretion of the Commander in Chief.

Whatever Intelligence Your Lordship may be able to transmit to General Clinton cannot but be very useful; and I am particularly commanded by the King to recommend to Your Lordship, to give every Assistance in your Power to an Expedition, from which we entertain so well grounded Hopes of Success. I am &c

Geo: Germain.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, Part II, 635-38.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN ¹

(No 1.)

Whitehall, Decr 23d 1775.

Sir, Lord Dartmouth having, in his Letter of the 7th of November, fully instructed you upon all points relative to the object and Plan of the intended Expedition to the Southern Colonies, it only remains for me to acquaint you, that the Armament is now ready to proceed upon that Service - It consists of seven Regiments, wanting only three Companies of the 46th, a detachment of Artillery equal to three Companies, under the Command of Lord Cornwallis, and is accompanied by a Naval Force consisting of His Majesty's Ships, *Bristol*, *Acteon*, *Boreas*, *Solebay*, *Syren*, *Sphynx* and *Deal Castile*, the *Hawk* Sloop and *Thunder Bomb*, commanded by Sir Peter Parker.

If this Dispatch should reach you before the arrival of the Armament, which is however uncertain, you will exert every Effort to carry into Execution the orders contained in Lord Dartmouth's Letter above mentioned, of which, for fear of

Accident, I enclose a Copy, and will take every necessary preparatory Step for collecting a Corps of Provincials to serve with the King's Troops and to join them upon their Landing. —I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318, LC Photocopy.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN¹

(No 1.)

Whitehall, 23d Decr 1775

Sir, It was not 'till the 27th of Novr that your Dispatch to Lord Dartmouth of the 27th of August was received here, when I had the honor of laying it before the King; and I have it in command from His Majesty, to express to you His Majesty's Approbation of your Zeal for the public Service, and of the unalterable Attachment you have shewn to His Person & Government, from the first Commencement of the present unhappy Disputes, which have involved His Majesty's faithful Servants in the Colonies, in Difficulties & Distress, that are only to be equalled by the Fortitude with which they are borne.

Your Letter contains a great deal of very useful Information, and your confidential Communication of the Characters of Individuals, more especially of such as come over into England, is of great Advantage; and you may rest assured, that every possible Precaution will be used, that no part of your Letter shall transpire.

An Armament, consisting of seven Regiments, and a Fleet of Frigates & small Ships, is now in readiness to proceed to the Southern Colonies, in order to attempt the Restoration of Legal Government in that part of America. It will proceed in the first Place to North Carolina, and from thence either to South Carolina or Virginia, as Circumstances of greater or less Advantage shall point out; — If to the latter, it may have very important Consequences to the Colony under your Government, and therefore, you will do well to consider of every Means, by which you may, in Conjunction with Lord Dunmore, give Facility & Assistance to its Operations. I am, Sir [&c.]

Geo: Germain

1. VSL. This letter was intercepted in Virginia, never reaching Eden until it was presented to him by a committee of the Maryland Council of Safety on April 16, 1776.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

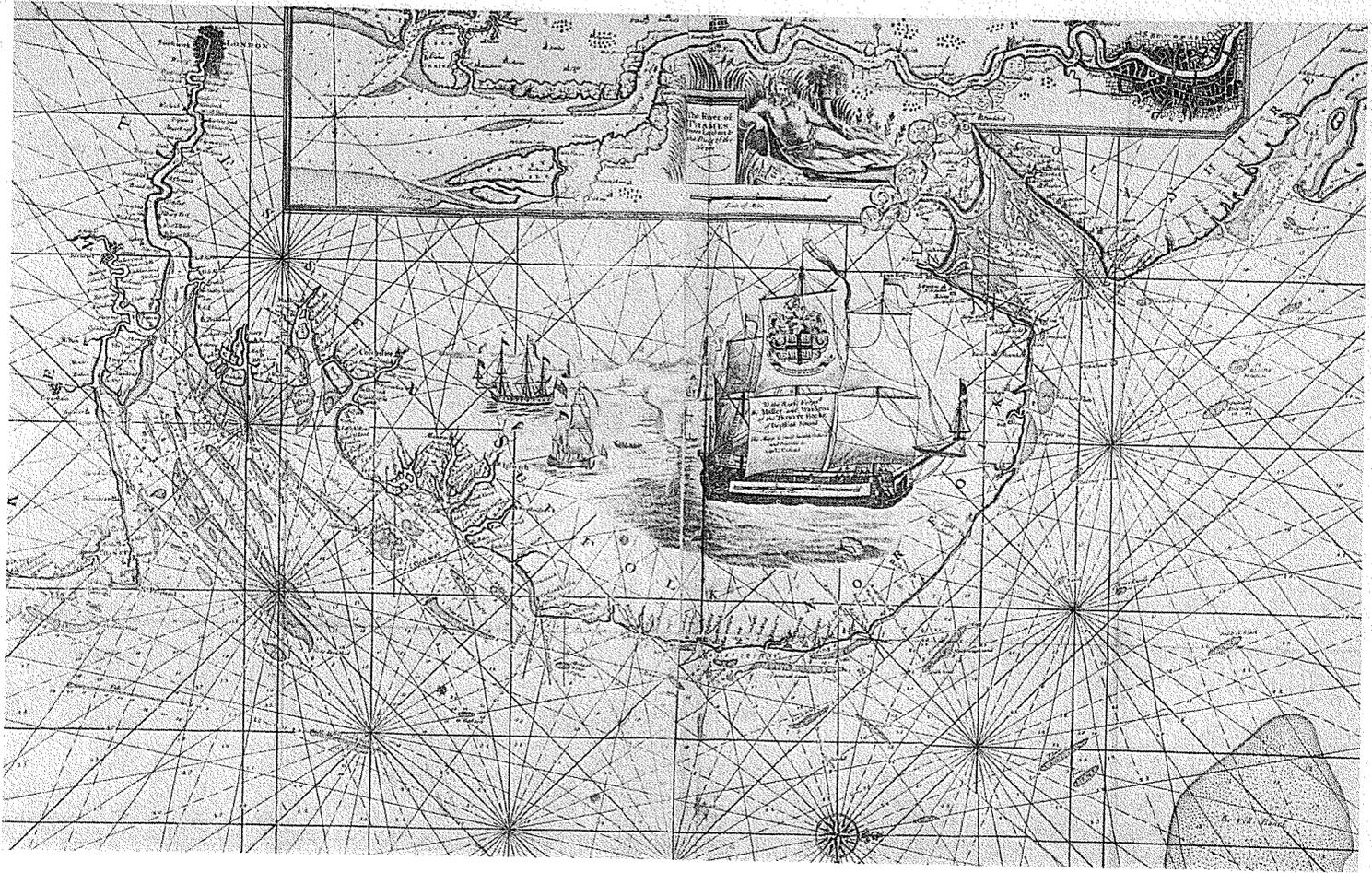
My Lord

Admiralty Office 23d Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Captain [John] Hamilton, Commander of his Majts Ship the *Lizard*, dated the 9th of last month at Quebec, giving an account of St Johns being in the possession of the Rebels, and that Quebec was invested by them; We send Your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, for His Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J Buller H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 61a.



"The River of Thames from London to the Bucy of Nouré."

JOHN HOBSON TO STEPHEN WEST ¹

Dear Sir

London Decembr 23d 1775.

I have Just received your favor of the 5th Novr p the *New York Packett*, by which conveyance also I intend this shall be forwarded to you – I have wrote you many Letters since the one you mention to have received by Mr Sims, which I hope are got safe to hand before this time [I wrote] a Letter dated 5th Sept p the *Rachell* Capt [James] Tibbet which I should be very sorry should miscarry, as it was of Consequence, but in the present Dreadful Situation of Affairs, we have few Opportunities of writing and out of those few, have reason to fear some never come to hand. – You cannot conceive any situation more unhappy and every way disagreeable than the American Houses, or rather the Houses concern'd in the American Trade are [one line torn] very unfavorable situation of American Affairs, will hold out with me, God only knows, but I have dreadful fears and Apprehensions about me, respecting them. –

Respecting what you have said in several of your Letters about sending out the *Adventure* again, in the present situation of things it cannot be done, As the Parliament have [enacted] a Bill restraining all Intercourse between Great Br[itain and] America while these troubles last, and as the Post O[ffice] have Advertized they will for[ward] free of Postage [to any] body here desirous of sending it to [torn]ds in [torn] Copy of this new Act, I have wrap a Couple for you As to the *Adventure* I shall sell if I can, for I see not [the] least prospect of having Employ for her unless it was [in] the Government Service, which you may suppose I n[ever] should think of putting her while She must be Impl[oyed] against our Country Men and fellow Subjects in Amer[ica] and therefore as I said before I mean to sell her – Inclosed you have a Letter from a Gilbert Ormsby Es[qr] [line torn] was known, is really not equal by an $\frac{1}{8}$ th or $\frac{1}{4}$ d pt to what it was sold for, at this time last year I have made a finish of the *Adventures* Load as you will see by the Inclosed List of prices, and since selling that Cargo the price has rather got down than up – Indeed to speak more properly there has been no market at all, but what the Sellers out of mere Necessity have been obliged to force, and you may easily Judge how that would Operate; I have, as I before [wrote] you I should been Obliged to make one of the above mentioned Sellers of Tobacco, and have parted with some part of Our Patapsceo, Potomack, & Patuxent Cargoes for the best of which I have not been able to Obtain more by the Lighter than 3d $\frac{3}{4}$ pt for the Middling sorts 3 $\frac{5}{8}$, and for lower sorts only 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ – and yet I was obliged to sell, as this I am not Singular in, every body have done the same, or what I esteem worse, and that is, Ship't it off to Holland or Hambro and drawn upon it –

[Let me kn]ow in what manner Mr Dulany has [line torn] that nothing of Consequence is to be expected from there – You may let Wallace & Davidson know that I applied to Joshua Johnson to have the Value of our Tobacco in McKirdy wrote off on his Policy but that he did not Chuse to do it Not withstanding your Agreement in the [torn] I was therefore obliged at a short Notice to [torn] Insurance for it myself, The Ship is since arrived [torn] I've got the Tobacco – Expecting to have an [torn] I remain

J. H.

1. Oden Papers, MdHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Speedwell*, CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON ¹

Decembr 1775	Remarks & <i>Speedwell</i> Sloop
Friday 22d In Dover Peer	Fresh gales and fair wr seased and detain'd the <i>Hawke</i> brigg Thos Tingey Mastr belonging to Carolina from Amsterdam for the Island of St Thomases in the Wt Indias. ²
Saturdy 23d	Fresh gales and fair wr Came into the peer and made fast his Majs Cutter <i>Wells</i> , recd from On board her Lieut Cook & the people who Navigated the <i>Anna Catherina</i> to Portsmouth ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

2. This is the earliest mention in the American Revolution of Captain Thomas Tingey, who was later, on September 3, 1798, commissioned a captain in the United States Navy.

3. The *Wells* had escorted the *Anna Catherina* to Portsmouth on December 15, 1775, after the vessel had been liberated; *Speedwell's* journal, PRO, Admiralty 51/918.

CAPTAIN RICHARD PEARSON, R.N., TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Copy *Speedwell* Sloop Dover 23d Decr 1775
 Sir You'll be pleased to inform my Lords Commissrs of the Admty that the *Hawk* a Brigantine from Amsterdam bound to St Thomas's a Danish Island in the West Indies belonging to North Carolina, Thos Tingey Master having put into this Port, as he says to procure him a Mediterranean Pass, that upon my going on board her and examining her papers, found her to be American property, I therefore in consequence of their Lordships Order to me dated the 9th of September last as well as from a probability of the Act having passed for making all American Property lawful Seizure – have seized and detained her, and have herewith inclosed an exact Copy of the Ships Register (the Original being lodged with the Collector of this Port as I find it is customary upon any foreign Vessels coming into this Port)² as also an account of her Cargo as delivered me by the Master and shall be glad to have their Lordships directions for my farther proceedings herein, I am &c

R^d Pearson

PS the *Wells* Cutter is just arrived from Portsmouth

1. PRO, State Papers 42/49.

2. The register, dated November 21, 1774, showed the *Hawk* to be of about 100 tons burden; a square sterned vessel built in Port Roanoke (Edenton), North Carolina in 1774, the property of Francis Hardy of Edenton and William Lowther of New York. Tingey was appointed master, November 29, 1774, *ibid*.

THOMAS TINGEY'S CARGO LIST FOR THE BRIGANTINE *Hawk* ¹

Brigantine *Hawk* British Plantation Built, Viz North Carolina. Registered the Property of Francis Hardy of North Carolina and Wm Lowther of New York – Now from Amsterdam bound to the Island of St Thomas in the West Indies with the following Cargoe

Sixty eight Thousand Dutch Bricks
 Eleven thousand & forty bundles of Hoops
 One hundred Thirty Casks of Horse Beans
 Five Casks of Oats
 Eighty Kegs of Nails

Sixteen Do of Paints

Twenty stone ² of Bottles Paint Oyl

One Package & One Case of Bale Hoods

In Witness that this is the true & just Cargoe recd on bd sd Brig^t by me, I hereunto subscribe my name this 23d Decr 1775

Tho^s Tingey

1. PRO, State Papers 42/49.

2. A British measure of weight, commonly equal to fourteen pounds.

24 Dec. (Sunday)

WILLIAM EDEN TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN ¹

Copy

My dear Brother,

Downing-Street, Decr 24th [1775]

I am very unable to say a tenth Part of what I ought to say to you this Evening, when there is So much to be said, and so few Opportunities of saying it. – but my Head is disabled by this Influenza, which has disabled us all by Turns, and my Attention, as far as I am competent to employ it, is engaged by official Business. –

Our Campaign this Year has certainly not been brilliant, and the News (reported a few Days ago, and confirmed this Morning) of the taking of St Johns compleats our Disgrace — We have wanted a few hard Knocks to rouse us, and I trust that we are rouzed (at Least we had the Knocks) I also trust that we are not stunn'd by them, but animated to a just Sense of the Contest, in which we are engaged, and determined (and let me add able) to take Measures equal to it's Difficulties – You have rather a Predilection for America, let me repeat to you however what I have always Said, and what the chearful disposition of the People of this Country under all their Disappointments in this Business confirms “We are too steady and too resolute to give Way, and either you or we must give Way” if we were less steady than we are, we could still be too much for you by the relative Advantages, which we enjoy, in Spite of the great Expences, to which you are putting us, in great Naval Equipments, and in more numerous Armies, than have ever yet been seen in America. – it is a cursed Business – we may be mistaken, but we think you in general in a state of Frenzy – You will neither hear Reason, nor act reasonably, & the only Question now is, whether you will be brought back to common Sense and general Happiness, or whether you shall succeed in destroying both us and yourselves – as for your Excellency individually, you are behaving in a Manner to deserve great Credit; you are acting the dignified determined Part. – and are showing yourself a Friend to both Sides of the Atlantic – you have all due Honour for it here, and I hope you will be treated with equal Candour on your own Side of the Atlantic. –

The Bill, which had the Royal Assent yesterday puts an End to all commercial Intercourse between us. I hope the Southern Countries will begin to see the Consequences of continuing upon themselves the Miseries, which that Bill must bring on them, and that they will learn what they might have learned longer ago, that if they succeed in their present united Enterprize, they will immediately find themselves in a State of Subjection to the New-Englanders, and that the

longer they persevere in that Enterprize (if they are fortunate enough in the End to fail in it) the more they must suffer – for other Matters I must refer you to the Papers from the Post-Office, and remain very affectionatly yours.

W^m Eden

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch. This is another of the letters intercepted in Virginia which apparently never was given to Eden.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

[London] 24 [December, 1775]

News from the Ports

Plymouth

An Account of the six guard-ships.

Ships	Guns	Lieutenants	Cadets	Men	Marines	Servants	Total
<i>Ocean</i>	90	4	10	230	30	20	294
<i>Foudroyant</i>	80	4	10	220	30	10	274
<i>Dublin</i>	74	3	8	140	20	10	181
<i>Albion</i>	74	3	8	104	20	10	145
<i>Non Such</i>	64	3	8	59	20	10	100
<i>Torbay</i>	74	3	8	108	18	10	147
6	456	20	52	871	138	70	1141

This account is as exact as could be obtained.

The frigate *Surprise* came from Portsmouth. Arrival of the Ship *Boyne* from America. The frigate *Solebay* is awaiting favourable winds in order to get under way.

Portsmouth

Arrival of three Infantry Regiments from Gibraltar, and of transport ships carrying two artillery Companies from Woolwich destined for America.

The frigate *Boreas* which has been damaged is being repaired.

Admiral Parker will go to America with the ship *Bristol* and five frigates under his command.

Deptford

The frigate *Flora* is being commissioned. *Emerald*, *Repulse*, and *Brune* are still in dry-dock. The *Sultan* of 74 guns has been bought at Harwich; she will be taken to Chatham.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, 316, LC Photocopy.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 24th Decr 1775

The *Sphynx* will be ready for Sea on Tuesday next, and the *Active* on Wednesday, or Thursday – The Wind blows strong from the So Wt and I fear it will continue some days longer, should it change in our favour before those Ships are ready, I shall leave Orders with their Captains to follow me to Cork, with the

utmost expedition, which I hope will be acting agreeable to their Lordships intentions – As the *Actaeon* and *Thunder Bomb*, are now at Spithead, and we shall be ready to sail together, I shall be glad to know, whether their Lordships would have me take them under my Command here. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] approve and of his taking the said Ships under his command at Spithead

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 24th Decembr 1775

I have received your Letter of the 23d inst with one Act of Parliament, prohibiting all Trade and intercourse with the Colonies therein mentioned, and one of the King's Proclamations appointing the distribution of the Prizes, that may be taken in consequence thereof; and also twenty more of the said Acts & Proclamations to be distributed among the Ships & Vessells under my command, and such other of His Majesty's Ships, as I may happen to fall in with – I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

25 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM WILLIAMS, H.M.S. *Active*, PORTMOUTH ¹

You are hereby required & directed to put yourself under the command of Sir Peter Parker Commr of a Squadron of His Maj's Ships: And follow his orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c 25th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 322.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER, SPITHEAD ¹

Whereas His Majestys Ship the *Boreas* has received damage in getting upon the Dean Sand which will prevent her proceeding on the expedition under your command We have therefore substituted the *Active* in her place; And do hereby require & direct you to take the said Ship under your command her Captain being directed to follow your Orders.

Given &c 25th Decr 1775

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G J DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 322.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Having ordered Captain [Robert] Dring Commander of His Majesty's Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* to put himself under your Command and follow your Orders

for his further Proceedings You are hereby required and directed to take him under your Command accordingly and employ him as part of your Squadron. Given &c the 25th December 1775.

Sandwich J: Buller H: Palliser

By &c G: J: D: S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 326.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office, 25th Decr 1775

Captain [Richard] Pearson, of his Majesty's Sloop the *Speedwell*, having acquainted Us, in his Letter of the 23d Instant, from Dover, that in obedience to Our Orders to him of the 9th of September last, grounded on his Majesty's Pleasure, signified to Us in the Earl of Rochford's Letter of the 1st of the same month, he had seized and detained a vessel bound from Amsterdam to St Thomas's, which appears by her Papers to be American Property; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy of Captain Pearson's said Letter, together with a Copy of the Ship's Register, and an Account of her Cargo, all which We desire your Lordship will please to lay before the King, and that you will receive and signify to Us His Majesty's Pleasure, how the said Vessel shall be disposed of. We are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

1. PRO, State Papers 42/49.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 25th Decr 1775

In consequence of the Investiture of Quebec by the Rebels, of which We apprized Your Lordship in our Letter of the 23d Instant, a Council of War was held by the Lieutenant Governor, and composed of the Sea and Land Officers in the Place, to consider of the properest measures for the Defence of the Town, Copy of which was immediately dispatched by Captain Hamilton of his Majesty's Ship the *Lizard*, to Vice Admiral Graves, together with an Account of the Proceedings in consequence thereof; But the Officer who was sent on this Service, in the *Elizabeth* Storeship, which had lately arrived with Stores from England, having been blown from the Coast of America, & obliged to bear away for England, and having upon his arrival at Portsmouth transmitted unto Us the Dispatches he was charged with, as aforementioned, We send your Lordship herewith copies thereof, for His Majesty's Information, and are My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 63a.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 25th Decr 1775

An Act having passed the present Sessions of Parliament "To Prohibit all Trade and intercourse with the several Colonies in No America therein named during the continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies" in

which Act it is declared that all Ships & Vessels trading to & from any of the said places except as in the said Act is excepted shall be forfeited & become the Sole property of the Captors; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the admty to send you one of the said Acts Also of the Kings Proclamation appointing the distribution of the Prizes that may be taken in consequence thereof for your information & guidance

I send you also 12 more of the said Acts & Proclamations which you will please to distribute to the Captains of the Ships & Vessels named in the Margin &c

G J DS

P.S. There are likewise Ten more of each to be delivered to Ships that may happen to arrive not already furnished with them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 456-57. Similar letters and copies were sent to flag officers commanding on various stations.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

His Majestys Ship *Boyne* Plymouth Sound

Sr

December 25th 1775.

Please to acquaint the Rt Honbl the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that agreeable to Admiral Graves's Order,² and my own request, I am come to England, to vindicate my Conduct, censured by Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, during my Commanding the *Mercury*, and Senior Captain upon that Station. – Therefore, I must beg their Lordships will be pleased to give me leave to come to London, where, I hope, I shall be able to convince their Lordships, that I have acted in every respect to Merit their Lordships Approbation. I am Sr [&c.]

John Macartney

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2119.

2. See Samuel Graves to Philip Stephens, October 9, 1775, Volume 2, 371-73.

26 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 26th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Captain [John] Hamilton, Commander of his Majesty's ship the *Lizard*, dated the 20th of last Month at Quebec, giving an account of the Measures that have been taken in consequence of the Resolutions of the Councils of War held there by the Lieutenant Governor on the 11th and 16th of the same Month, and of the arrival of General Carleton; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy of the same, and of the several Papers inclosed therein, in addition to our Letter to your Lordship of yesterday's date, on the same subject, for his Majesty's information, and are, My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

P. S. The Petition of the Owners & Masters of the Merchant Ships laid under an Embargo, did not come inclosed.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 62a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 26th Decr 1775

The *Elizabeth* Storeship which was taken into the Service, in pursuance of his Majesty's Commands signified in the Earl of Dartmouth's Letter of the 29th of June last, to carry Stores to Quebec, having returned to England, as We acquainted your Lordship in our Letter of yesterday's date; with the greatest part of the Stores on board which she carried out; We desire your Lordship will receive and signify to Us His Majesty's pleasure, how the said Ship and Stores shall be disposed of. We are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 64.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DOVER, DEC. 26."¹

Yesterday came in here his Majesty's cutter the *Greyhound*, having split all her sails in the late hard gales.

The *Anna Catharina* (A Danish frigate of about 400 tons) that was detained by the above cutter upon an information of her having military stores for the Americans on board, is delivered up to her Master, the information having proved to be a groundless one.

The Patriot, a Danish snow, detained by his Majesty's sloop *Speedwell*, is now reshipping her goods, after having been searched to the keel, and nothing contraband found on board her, from the same mal-information.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 28 to December 30, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, DEC. 26."¹

Arrived here the *Elizabeth*,² Tune, from Quebec. She sailed from England the beginning of Sept. with a cargo of the following stores for General Carleton's army, viz. 10,000 stands of arms, cloathing for 10,000 men, 500 barrels of gunpowder, and a large quantity of ball. On her arrival at Quebec, the Governor would not suffer the stores to be landed, but ordered the ship to sail immediately for England, lest they should fall into the hands of the Provincials, who were then with a large army in full march to attack that place.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 30, 1775 to January 2, 1776.

2. The *Elizabeth* sailed from Quebec November 22, 1775; journal of H.M.S. *Magdalen*, PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.

27 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 27th Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, dated the 4th Instant, giving an Account of a Ship being arrived at New York, with 255 Emigrants from Scotland, which Captain Vandeput, of his Majesty's Ship the *Asia*, had sent to Boston; and that he had reason to believe most part of the Men would enter to serve in the Army, and that, the rest, with the Women & Children, he should send away to Nova

Scotia; We send your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 65a.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 27th Decr 1775

Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, having transmitted to Us, in his Letter of the 22d of last month, Seven Private Letters taken on board different Vessels bound to Jamaica, which contain Intelligence of Moment; We send your Lordship herewith a copy of Mr Graves's Letter aforementioned & the said Seven Letters in original, for his Majesty's Information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 62a.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall December 27th 1775.

Inclosed I send your Lordships a List of the Names of Thirty Four Persons taken in Arms against The King near Montreal of the 25th of September last, which Prisoners have been sent from Quebec in Custody, and are now Prisoners in His Majesty's Castle of Pendennis.

It is The King's Pleasure that these Prisoners should be forthwith send to Boston in North America on board His Majesty's Ship *Solebay*, which I am informed is now ready to proceed to North America, and Orders have been given to the Commanding Officer at Pendennis Castle to put the Prisoners into the Custody of Mr James Cleverley, One of His Majesty's Messengers, who will deliver them to the Commander of any of His Majesty's Ships who shall have Authority from your Lordships to receive them; I am therefore to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Command that you do instruct the Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Solebay*, or of any other of His Majesty's Ships now under Orders for North America, to repair forthwith with the Ship under his Command to Falmouth, & having received the said Prisoners on board to put to Sea with the first fair Wind, and upon his arrival at Boston to deliver them up to such Person as the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America shall appoint to receive them, and I inclose to Your Lordships a Letter to Major General Howe, signifying His Majesty's Pleasure respecting the said Prisoners. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 67.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS,
H.M.S. *Solebay*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Inclosed we send you the names of 34 Persons taken in arms against the King near Montreal on the 25t September last ² who are now Prisoners in Pendennis Castle; And do hereby in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified by Lord George Germain one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter

of this day, require and direct you to call in the Ship you command at Falmouth in your way to Cork and receive on board the said Men which will be delivered to you by Mr James Cleverly one of His Majestys Messengers giving him a Receipt for them, specifying their names; and having taken them on board, proceed with them to Cork following such orders as you will receive from Sir Peter Parker for your further proceedings concerning them.

You will be careful to keep the said Prisoners in Custody; bearing them on a Supernumerary List for Victuals, and victualling them as the Ship's Company while they are on board.

Given &c the 27th December 1775.

J. Buller Palmerston H: Palliser

P.S. If the Prisoners are not provided with Beds you are to order the Purser to supply each Person with one of the Ships Beds.

[Endorsed] By Mr Cleverly a Kings Messenger the 28t Decemr at 2 o Clock in the Morning.

By &c Geo. Jackson D:S:

[Second endorsement] (Duplicate given to Mr Cleverly to be delivered at Falmouth if the Ship should have sailed from Plymo).

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 328-29.

2. The list is printed below the Lords Commissioners' letter of the same day to Sir Peter Parker.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Inclosed we send you the names of 34 Persons taken in Arms against the King near Montreal on the 25t September last, which Persons are now Prisoners in Pendennis Castle; and whereas in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified by Lord George Germain one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of this day we have ordered Captain [Thomas] Symonds of the *Solebay* to call at Falmouth in his way to Cork and receive on board the said Men, who will be delivered to him by Mr James Cleverly, one of His Majestys Messengers giving him a Receipt for them specifying their names and having taken them on board proceed with them to Cork following such Orders as he will receive from you for his further proceedings concerning them.

You are hereby required and directed upon the *Solebay's* joining you if the said Men are on board her to dispose of them on board the several Ships under your Command as you shall think fit giving the Captains of such Ships orders to keep the Prisoners in custody, bearing them on a Supernumerary List for Victuals and victualling them as the Ship's Companies while they are on board.

But lest the *Solebay* which is detained at Plymouth for [want of] a Wind only shall have sailed before the Orders to her Captain can reach him, you are to order the Captain of one of the Frigates under your Command at Portsmouth to call at Falmouth, and in case he shall find the Prisoners then in Pendennis Castle to take them on board and follow the directions contained in the aforementioned Order to Captain Symonds.

When the Ships having the said Prisoners on board shall arrive on the Coast of North America, You are to take the first opportunity that offers of a Ship

going to Boston and send them in her ordering her Captain to deliver them to Major General [William] Howe with the Letter from Lord George Germain which is herewith inclosed. Given &c the 27^t December 1775.

J: Buller Palmerston H: Palliser
[Endorsed] By Haysom the Messenger 28 Decemr at 2 O'Clock in the Morning
A M.

[Enclosure]

List of the Rebel Prisoners put on board the Ship *Adamant*, Henry Wilson
Master Quebec 9^t Novemr 1775

Names	Places of abode	Companies	Names of the Gen- erals and Colonels
<u>Taken near Montreal 25 Septemr 1775</u>			
Colo Ethen Allen			General Schuyler
Roger Moore	Shannon	Captain Bucks	General Mont- gomery
Samuel Lewis	Do	Major Ailmers	Colonel Hinman
Levi Barnham	Norfolk	Capt Watson's	General Worster
Peter Noble	Sheffield	Do	Colonel Vanshuick
William Gray	Shannon	Majr Ailmers	Colonel Waterbury
Ebenezer Mack	Norfolk	Capt Watsons	
Ethereel Hower	New Hartford	Capt Griswells	
Barney Cann	Ireland	Capt Benedicts	
Zacha Brinsmaid	Bethlam	Majr Hillmans	
Levi Manson	Wallanford	Capt Douglas's	
Preston Denlon	Hampsted	Capt Grahams	
Wm Drinkwater	New Milford	Capt Stars	
Jonathan Mays	Gosham	Captain Star's	
David Glass	Shannon	Majr Hillmans	
Adonizah Mexom	Do	Do	
John Gray	Narawaak	Capt Fishers	
Jean Jac Bourquin	Switzerland	Capt Motts	
Charles Stuart	Stamford	Capt Watson's	
Serjt Amos Green,	taken by	Major Le Maistre	
John Venamay	taken by	Colonel Maclean	
Canadians taken 25 September 1775			
Michael Gautier	St Denis		
Louis Trudeau	Do		
Louis Roche	Longuiel		
Antoine Bellisle	St Charles		
Augustin Mayotte	Bellaisle		
Francois Livernois	Do		
Pierre La Roche	Do		
Alexis Pluse	St ours		
Fras, St Laurent	St Jean		
	Deschaillons		
Pierre Trichet	St Denis		
Jean La Marche	Chambly		
Menard } Charlan }	Taken carrying Letters and Messages		

Quebec 9^t October 1775

H:J. Cramahé

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN SIR GEORGE COLLIER,
H.M.S. *Rainbow*, SHEERNESS¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship the *Rainbow* at Sheerness which we have order'd to be fitted and stor'd at that place for foreign Service, Mann'd with Two hundred and fifty Men and victualled to six Months will all Species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder, You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, & then proceed to the Nore for further Orders.
Given &c. the 27th Decr 1775.

By &c G.J. DS

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 333. An identical order was given this same day to Captain Elliot Salter, H.M. Sloop *Cygnets*, with a complement of 110, at Portsmouth.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 27 Decr 1775

Having received a Letter from Commissioner Arbuthnot, dated the 18th of last month at Halifax, giving an Account of his arrival at that Place, and of the Measures taking to put the yard into the best Condition possible for it's Defence against any Attempts that may be made upon it by the Rebels; and likewise inclosing a Copy of a Letter he had wrote to Vice Admiral Graves on that Subject; We send your Lordship herewith copies thereof, for his Majesty's information, and are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 68a.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 27th Decr 1775

I have received their Lordships Order of the 25th instt to take the *Active* under my Command in the room of the *Boreas*. – I have also received your Letter of the 25th signifying their Lordships directions to me to take the *Actaeon* & *Thunder Bomb* under my command here. I am Sir [&c.]

P. Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

28 Dec.

LORD WEYMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY¹

St James's 28th, Decr 1775.

Lords Commissioners of }
the Admiralty } My Lords,

Having laid before The King Your Lordships Letter of the 25th instant, together with it's inclosures, relative to the *Hawk* Brigantine, Thomas Tingey Master, bound from Amsterdam to St Thomas's, which is detained at Dover

by Capt [Richard] Pearson of His Majesty's Sloop the *Speedwell*, I have The King's Commands to acquaint your Lordships that it is judged expedient the said *Hawk* Brigantine should be forthwith released, and it is His Majesty's Pleasure that Your Lordships should give the necessary Orders for that purpose.²

1. PRO, State Papers 42/49.

2. As the King had signed the Prohibitory Act on December 23, 1775, his order to release the *Hawk*, an unmistakable American vessel, was probably because she was sailing from one neutral port to another and was not carrying contraband.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 TO THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 28, 1775

London, Dec. 28.

A large Dutch ship has been seized by the sloop of war stationed off Dover, and brought into that port, upon suspicion of her having ammunition and warlike stores on board for the use of the Americans, but after having unloaded her whole cargo, nothing was found to support the suspicion. It was not without some difficulty, therefore, that the Dutch Captain could be prevailed on to re-ship his cargo, and receive a consideration for his expence and loss of time.

On Saturday [December 23] another large vessel (American built) bound from Rotterdam to one of the American ports, with goods on board for the Colonists, was seized by the before-mentioned sloop, and brought into Dover harbour, where she now lies; and it is imagined she will be condemned as a lawful prize.

LORD SANDWICH TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Hinchingsbrook Dec: 28. 1775

I am honored with your Lordships letter by Lieutenant [Thomas] Pringle, whose opinion gives me great hopes that Quebec will hold out till succours arrive. Your Lordship will find that everything will be done by Sir H: [Hugh] Pallisser the same as if I was on the spot, if I was not certain that would be the case, no consideration should have made me stir from town.

I have received a letter from Commissioner [Marriot] Arbuthnot containing an account of the state of things at Halifax, which I must beg the favour of you to lay before his Majesty for his information.

The loss of the ordnance storeship is a fatal event,² and by what Mr Pringle tells me has been most probably owing to the treachery of the master, who went out under convoy, which he parted from in his passage; and tho' a frigate on the coast of America which he met at Sea took him under her protection, he parted from her also & continued to be beating backwards & forwards near the shore 'till he was picked up by the enemy's whaleboats. I think it will be adviseable that these valuable ships should have a sea Lieutenant in them to keep the masters in order, and I write to Sir Hugh Pallisser by this conveyance to that purpose. Captain [John] Hamiltons behaviour will entitle him to every favour that can be shewn him, tho' I do not think he can have a greater reward than the satisfaction he will feel (if the Place is saved) that it will have been owing in great measure to his timely assistance & activity. I am [&c.]

Sandwich

Captain Hamilton is a very deserving man, & as I understand related to Ld Abercorn.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. "London. Dec. 28. The *Nancy*, [Robert] Hunter, a Transport, with five hundred barrels of gunpowder [*sic*], a large quantity of balls, bombs, and other warlike stores, is taken by the Provincials, within sight of the fleet at Boston," *London Chronicle*, December 26 to December 28, 1775.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 28th Decr 1775

I have received their Lordships Order of the 27th instt by a Messenger, directing the method I am to pursue relative to the Thirty four Persons taken in Arms against the King, the 25th of Septembr last, near Montreal, and now Prisoners in Pendennis Castle with a List of the said Prisoners; and also a Letter from Lord George Germain, to Major General Howe, which is to be sent with them. — I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, DEC. 28."¹

The following men of war are now fitting out with all expedition at Chatham, Sheerness, and Portsmouth, for the American station, viz. the *Carysfort*, [Robert] Fanshaw; the *Fox* [Patrick] Fotheringham; the *Active*, [William] Williams; and the *Seaford*, [John] Culpoys; which ships will be all ready for service in the course of two months.

1. *London Chronicle*, December 28 to December 30, 1775.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE¹

Versailles, 28 December 1775

The English Ambassador told me yesterday, Sir, that he had intelligence that three ships from Northern America had arrived in Marseille with cargoes of cereals and that it was their intention to exchange them for war ammunition. I believe, Sir, that I should acquaint you with this fact in order that you may take the steps which you will deem appropriate following the orders requested by the Court of London.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

29 Dec.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords,

Whitehall December 29th 1775.

It is His Majesty's Pleasure that the *Elizabeth* Storeship mentioned in your Lordships Letter to me of the 26th Instant, should be ordered, as soon as she is properly refitted for Sea, to proceed to Boston, and to delivery her Cargo to such Person as Major General Howe shall appoint to receive the same, the Officer

having the care of the Vessel taking with him and delivering to Major Genl Howe and Admiral Graves, the Orders he received at Quebec.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 71.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol at Spithead 29th Decbr 1775

I have received Their Lordships Order of the 25th instant, to take His Majestys Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* under my command; and also your Letter of the 27th instant, with a Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral Graves to Captain Bellew dated the 30th November 1775, wherein is shewn the Force, He had stationed to the Southward of Philadelphia.

The Wind is Northwest, I have made the Signal to unmoor, and will sail to Day if it even continues as it is.

The *Sphynx* is coming out of the Harbour, and the *Active* will come out to Morrow.

I shall leave Orders for Those Ships to follow me, and also for the *Carcass*, should She Touch Here. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS MASON ¹

[Lorient, October 31-December 29, 1775]

That Necessity Obliged me to Charter a Dutch vessel for Amsterdam ² I proceeded in Company with her the 27th of December 1775 and Dropt Anchor the same Day Between Bell Island & the Isle of Groy [Groix] w[h]ere I Received her Cargo on Board the Brigg *Chance* which I principally Loaded on acct of Congress – the 29th in the morning we made saile Which is the Reason why my Receit from Cap Creig [John Craig] is dated at Sea –

1. "The Following is an Extract from the Journal of my proceedings from the Commencement untill the Conclusion of my Voyage," Papers of Robert Morris, LC. Previous extracts covering the voyage to France and the events there, along with the parallel autobiography of Charles Biddle, appear in Volumes 1 and 2.
2. Fearing seizure by French authorities, Mason, on October 30, had dispatched his own vessel under Captain Charles Biddle, who had sailed from Lorient under cover of night.

30 Dec.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES FERGUSON,
H.M.S. *Brune*, CHATHAM ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majts Ship *Brune* at Chatham which we have order'd to be fitted & stored at that place for foreign Service mann'd with Two hundred Men and victualled for six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required and directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling

down to Blackstakes take in her Guns & Gunners Stores and proceed to the [Nore] for further Orders.

Given &c. the 30th Decr 1775.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 336.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 30th Decr 1775

Advices having been received, that several Vessels have been surprised and taken upon the Coast of America, by armed Ships fitted out from the Rebellious Colonies; it is His Majesty's Pleasure, that the *Elizabeth* Storeship do not proceed upon her Voyage without Convoy, or without being properly armed for Defence in case of Attack.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/122, 72.

LORD SANDWICH TO AN UNIDENTIFIED CORRESPONDENT ¹

[Extract]

Hinchbrook Dec: 30. 1775

. . . Our disgraces have been great & repeated in America, but I am clear in the opinion I allways had, that they are entirely owing to our having begun too late, and having suffered ourselves to be amused by what were called conciliatory measures; fleets and armies, admirals & generals, can do very little without ships, troops, and orders; & the consequence of their having gotten them by slow degrees has been that we have been on the defensive the whole campaign; & to compleat the whole we are now warring with the elements, for all our difficulties in Canada have arisen from the attack having been made when the season was too far advanced to afford us the means of throwing in the necessary supplies of men & provisions. The loss of the Ordnance Storeship ² is a very unfortunate event; but that is a mere misfortune, for she went from England under convoy, parted company at Sea, was then picked [up] by another frigate on the Coast who took charge of her, parted from her allso, and then suffered herself to be taken, most probably on purpose.

It is however our business to look forward & not to lose our time in complaints, the next campaign promises fair, & you have done so much for us in your department, that every other branch of government, must be piqued into keeping pace with you. I am [&c.]

Sandwich

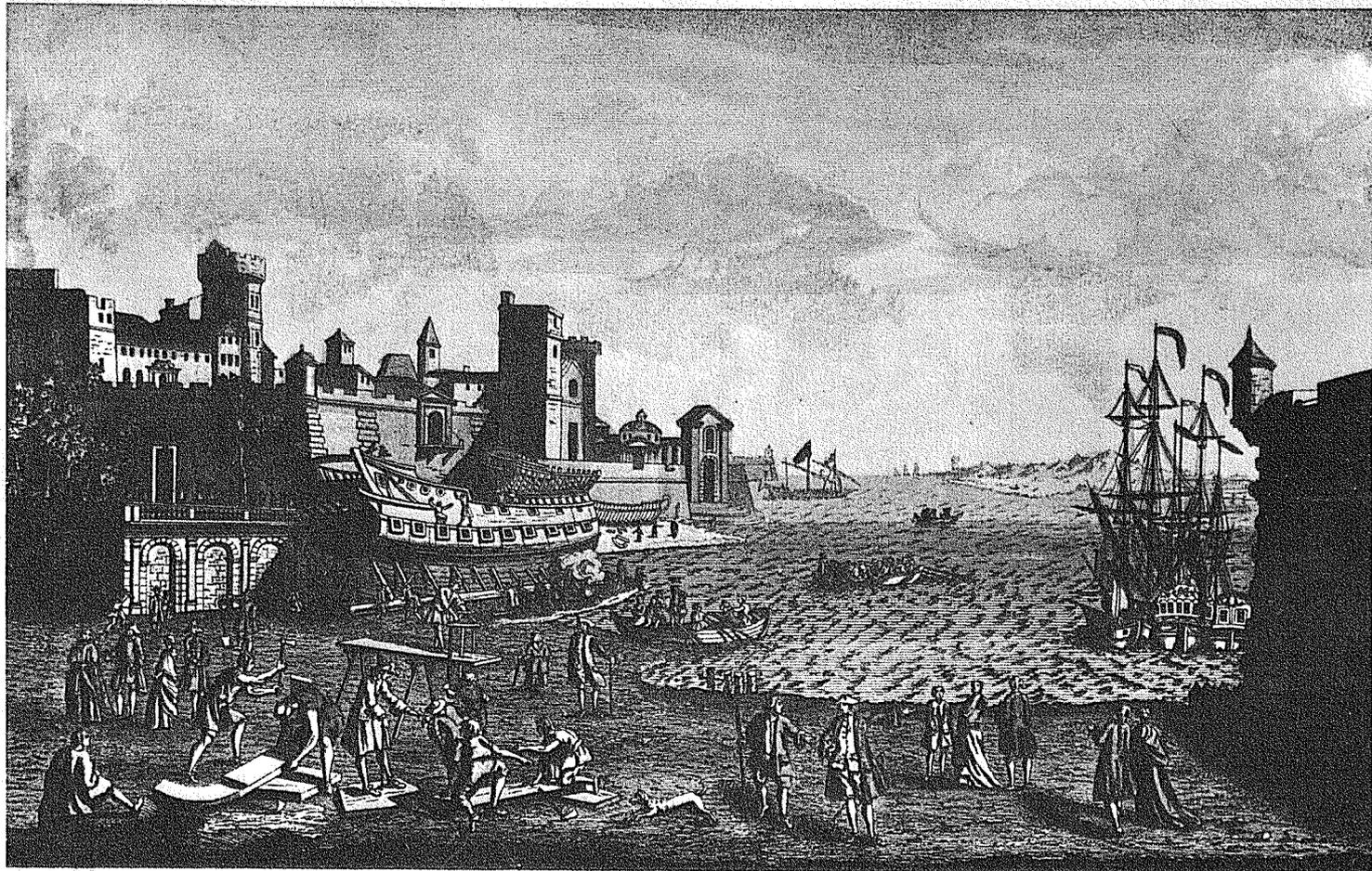
1. Sandwich Papers, DUL Photocopy.

2. The brig *Nancy*.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1775 TO
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1776

Bristol, Dec. 30.

In the *Liberty*, Thompson, arrived here last Sunday [December 24] from Quebec, was brought over one of the American Rifle-men, who was taken prisoner: he is committed to our Bridewell till further orders.



Gravé par M. Goussier.

A Paris chez Duvoux, rue St. Martin.

Navalia

*30^e VUE D'OPTIQUE
Représentant*

Chantier pour la Construction des Vaisseaux.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Versailles, 30 December 1775

I have just received, Sir, the letter with which you honored me on the 28th of this month in order to forward me the information which the English Ambassador gave you with regard to the arrival in Marseille of three vessels from Northern America, whose cargoes of wheat their Captains intended to exchange for war ammunition. I hasten to inform you that I have just renewed in Marseille the most precise orders so as to forbid the loading of arms and war ammunition destined for Northern America either on English vessels or on vessels of any other nation in accordance with His Majesty's decision which you have conveyed to me.

I have the honor to be with very sincere attachment, Sir [&c.]

De Sartine

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.

31 Dec. (Sunday)PRÉCIS PREPARED FOR THE KING OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE EXPEDITION
AGAINST THE SOUTHERN COLONIES ¹

[Extract]

[December 31, 1775]

On the 6th of December Lord Geo: Germain wrote to Genl [Henry] Clinton, acquainting him with the state of the Armament, prepared for that Expedition, & signified to him His Majesty's Command, that upon the arrival of the Troops at Cape Fear he should take them under his command, & concert with Govr Martin the best means of employing them for effecting the restoration of legal Government in that Province. He was instructed that after the place of landing the Troops had been fixed upon, a Proclamation should be issued containing assurances in His Majesty's name, of free pardon to all such who should lay down their Arms, & submit to The King's Government; requiring that the Provincial Congress, & all other unlawful associations should be dissolved, & the Judges allowed to administer Justice, & hold their Courts according to the Laws and Constitution of the Colony. – After such Proclamation, & after the plan of operations was fixed, he was to proceed to hostilities against these Towns & places, the Inhabitants of which should refuse to submit, & to endeavour to arrest the persons, & seize & destroy the property of such who should actually continue in Arms & refuse to give those Tests of their obedience which public safety might require. He was told, that if from the nature of the coast, the landing of the Troops should be attended with hazard & difficulty, or if he should find the Inhabitants disinclined to join The King's Troops so that no considerable advantage could be expected, he should in that case, proceed with the force under his command, to any other of the Southern Governrs where, according to his judgement upon the best information the object of the Expedition might be most effectually answered – It was observed to him, that if a landing was made in No Carolina, the operations there would probably not be of long duration, & therefore it would be necessary to look forward to the other objects of the Expedition – That it was impossible to say whether it would be most advisable to proceed to Virginia or to South Carolina, & therefore he must use his own discretion in the choice of those objects – That

if he should think fit to proceed in the first place to Virginia, the plan of his operations must be directed by such Information & opinion as he should receive from Lord Dunmore – That if he should judge it expedient, in the first place, to proceed to So Carolina, the possession of Charles Town, & the restoration of legal Government there, would from the importance of that place, have very beneficial consequences, & therefore if that Town refused to admit The King's Forces he was to attack it, & it was hoped, that with the assistance of the Fleet he would be able to reduce it, in which case it was most probable the other Towns upon the Sea coast would return to their duty, so that he might safely detach a part of his force to Savannah in Georgia, in order to effect a restoration of legal Government, & of The King's Authority in that Province – It was observed to him that the well affected persons there who unprepared to resist, had been compelled to submit to the violence of the times, was very great, & therefore, that there was the fairest prospect of that Province being reduced to obedience, in which case that it might be a proper station for his Troops until the season would admit of his joining Genl Howe as early as possible with the greatest part of his Force, leaving only, in any Colony which might be reduced to obedience, such a number of Troops as might be sufficient to secure the well affected from further insult & danger.

To the observations made by Lord Geo. Germain upon the probable convenience that might arise from making Georgia a station for the Troops in case that Province was reduced to obedience, his Lordship added the like observations upon other places that, in different circumstances might be found advantageous in that respect, & particularly mentioned Port Royal Harbour & James Island on the South side of Ashley River.

On the same day that these Instructions were prepared for General Clinton, namely on the 6th of December, Lord Geo: Germain signified His Majesty's command to the Lords of the Admiralty that the Transports taken up for the reception of the five Regts ordered to be embarked at Corke, should proceed thither, with as much expedition as possible; that Sr Peter Parker should also proceed thither directly with the Ships under his Command; & that their Lordships should give Sr P. Parker such Instructions as should correspond with the directions contained in his Lordships Letter to Genl Clinton, a copy of which was communicated to them. His Lordship at the same time communicated to them a copy of his letter to Major General Clinton of that day's date, and acquainted them, that it was His Majesty's Pleasure that they should give such Instructions to Sir Peter Parker as should correspond therewith & as they should think might enable him to give every possible facility towards effecting the object and end of that Expedition.

Whilst these preparations were making, & before the Instructions to Genl Clinton were finally completed, Lord [Charles] Cornwallis expressed a wish to serve upon this Expedition, & also that his Regt the 33d might make part of the Armament, & His Majesty having been graciously pleased to accept his Lordship's offer, orders were given, that the said Regiment should be substituted in the place of any one of the other 5 Regts which the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with the advice of the Commandr in Chief, should think most proper; & Lord Geo: Germain, in a letter of the 6th Decr signified to Lord Cornwallis, His Majesty's Pleasure, that he should immediately proceed to Corke, on board one of the ships

of War destined for that service, & which was then at Portsmouth, waiting for a favourable wind. It was further signified to him, that upon his arrival at Corke, he should take upon him the Command of the Land Forces destined for that Expedition – That he should use all possible dispatch in embarking the Regts & when the whole Armament was collected, to proceed without delay to Cape Fear River in No Carolina, where he was to put himself under the command of such superior officer as he should find to have been sent thither by Major General Howe.

Notwithstanding the orders which had been given early in October, that the Armament intended for the Southern Expedition should be ready to proceed from Corke on the 1st of Decr the preparations making in consequence of those orders, both in the Admiralty & Ordnance Departments, met with a variety of unexpected difficulties & delays. It was not till the middle of Decr that the Ordnance Storeships & the Tenders to the Bomb Vessels, were in readiness to proceed from the River. A continued easterly wind prevented their getting round to Portsmouth; & it was the 29th Decr before Sr Peter Parker sailed from that place.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/232, 399–408.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, DEC. 31.”¹

On Friday last [December 29] the following Men of War sailed from Spithead for Virginia; but as the Wind is come round to the South West, we expect they will return, viz. the *Bristol*, Commodore Sir Peter Parker; the *Acteon*, Capt. [Christopher] Atkins; the *Deal Castle*, and the *Thunder Bomb*, . . .

1. *Daily Advertiser*, London, January 2, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 31 December 1775

We understand, Sir, that as mightily armed as the English will be in Northern America by next spring, the destination that they might assign to their forces would be most important to us. Allow me to observe, however, that unless the reconciliation with their Colonies came first and was soundly assured, these forces could not be as easily moved as you seem to presume. Thus, it is not so much this prospect which concerns at the moment the foresight and the solicitude of the King’s Council as the events which might result from the rigorous precautions being taken in order to intercept all forms of trade between Northern America and the rest of the world. The King is far from disapproving this rigor as well as protecting those among his subjects whose avidity would determine to engage in a trade prohibition by the law of nations; but if His British Majesty’s justice is anxious to punish rebellious subjects, it is no less concerned to prevent that the most frivolous pretexts be used to confuse the innocent and the guilty.

It is well known, Sir, that our ships returning from the Antilles, as well as the Spanish which come out of the Gulf of Mexico, emerge by way of the Bahama Channel and, following the coast of Northern America, they sail northward in order to catch the winds which will insure their return to Europe. The cargoes of these ships are commonly rich enough to tempt the greediness of

captors, and since the property of such prizes is assured to those who will take them, it is to be feared that the English officers, encouraged by these lures, will make a thousand difficulties for the vessels they will meet on this sea-route and that they will finally seize them. They can always claim that they found war ammunition on board; indeed there is hardly a merchantman that does not carry arms and powder; furthermore such stores could always be introduced onboard these vessels in order to impute designs to them which were not theirs in the first place. I do not doubt that satisfaction was obtained from the English admiralty courts in cases involving such captures; you understand, Sir, how disagreeable it would be for the King to see his subjects compelled to go plead their cause before courts of law in order to recover their property: they would be exposed to delays which would ruin them, and consumed by legal expenses. We are in good faith with the English ministers, we do not wish to catch them by surprise and, in fairness to the honesty of our principles, we must warn them of the embarrassments which we foresee. For this reason, Sir, it is the King's intention that, in the course of your first meeting either with Lord Weymouth, or Lord Suffolk, or even Lord Sandwich, if you deem it proper, you acquaint them that we should be most apprehensive about the Bill of Restrictions² which has just been passed and the Consequences which it would not fail to bring about with regard to our American trade, were it not for the wisdom and friendship shown by His British Majesty in issuing clear instructions and formal orders to his sea officers so as to prevent our trade being disturbed or harmed in any way. You will obtain knowledge in confidence with regard to the nature of the precautions which will have been taken, and should they have been neglected because of the multiplicity of the present affairs you will make earnest representation so that they be attended to without delay. The King is convinced that this attitude which reflects his care to obviate anything that might alter in the least the good correspondence between His Majesty and the King of Great Britain, will be agreeable to His British Majesty.

In spite of the circumstances related in the English gazettes concerning the burning of Falmouth, I can hardly believe this absurd as well as barbaric procedure on the part of an enlightened and civilized nation, more especially as the perpetrators of this terrible crime allegedly declared that the order had been given to burn all maritime towns from Boston to Halifax. If the English had resolved to abandon America to its own and to cut the last threads binding them to their brothers, one could see in this resolution the effect of furious and boundless despair. But in view of the intention the Government seems to have to carry a large army to America, it seems inconceivable to destroy the places for shelter and storehouses. If it is the plan on the part of the British to turn the coast into a desert, how will they penetrate the country and where will they establish their magazines? I have read with great interest, Sir, the account of the debates in the House of Lords which you have sent us; they are presently in the hands of the King who wants to read them himself. I do not doubt that his Majesty will be delighted with the speeches made by Lords Littleton and Mansfield, the latter especially is a masterpiece.

I gave to the King the letter which you had sent in my care to His Majesty. I must warn you that the practice is to send such letters unsealed.

I have the honor to be &c.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 513, LC Photocopy.
2. Prohibitory Act.

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND¹

An Act of Parliament passed at the Close of the year 1775 prohibiting all Trade & Commerce with the twelve United Colonies till they submit properly to Government Also to tolerate the Shipping belonging to Great Britain to take & make Legal prizes of all Shipp & Vessels belonging to the above said refractory Colonies &c &c –

12 Mo: 1775.

1. WPL.

1 Jan. 1776

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN AMHERST¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 1st January 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having taken into consideration the case of Captain [John] Macartney who is under orders of suspension and has been brought to England in the *Boyne*, in consequence of the order (Copy of which came in your Letter of the 26th of last Month) from Vice Admiral Graves, to the Captain of the said Ship, by which Order he is forbid to go out of the Ship without their Lordships directions and their Lordships thinking it reasonable that he should be allowed to come to Town that he may have an opportunity of laying the particulars of his Case before them for their further information and directions, and having received a Letter from him requesting the same; I have it therefore in command from their Lordships to signify their directions to you to give him Leave accordingly. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 482–83. For Macartney's arrest and the reasons therefor, see Volumes 1 and 2.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1775 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1776

London. Jan. 1, 1776.

On Friday [December 29] arrived a transport from Boston at Dover, after a very short passage; she brings a confirmation of the taking of the *Nancy*, Hunter; the particulars are as follows: She stood in for a pilot, when a boat with 8 men put off, and told them that they would pilot them in; but no sooner had they got on board, than they drew their hangers and pistols, and insisted on carrying her into Portsmouth [*sic*] instead of Boston. She had on board, besides what has been mentioned, a great many stands of arms, and a large brass mortar, upon a new construction.¹

1. Although suspect, this seems to be the only printed version of the *Nancy's* capture by Washington's schooner *Lee*, Captain John Manley.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, JAN. 1.”¹

The following ships are put into commission here, bound to America, viz. The *Jersey*, of 60 guns, William Halsted, Esq; the *Isis*, of 50 guns, Charles Douglas, Esq. the *Emerald*, of 32 guns, Benjamin Caldwell, Esq; the *Blonde*, of 32 guns, Philemon Pownall, Esq; the *Flora*, of 32 guns, John Brisbane, Esq; the *Repulse*, of 52 guns, Captain's name not known, commanded at present by Lieut. Tolle-mache; the *Carysfort*, of 28 guns, Robert Fanshaw, Esq.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 2 to January 4, 1776.

2 Jan.

SIR GREY COOPER TO WILLIAM KNOX¹

[Extract]

Worlington, Jan 2, 1776.

Many thanks to you for your letter, bad as the News was it conveyed; The taking of the Ordnance Brig is a most unfortunate & mortifying accident My accounts say she was seen by the *Cerberus* Man of War about the 16th of November, & that the Man of war, After having put some men onboard her parted with her in a hard Gale;² If the Town of Boston & the Cantonments of the army should be burnt by the very Carcasses & Bombs which were sent for in order to burn Roxburgh & Cambridge, The Saints & Predestination will have it to say That the Lord hath delivered them into their hands, – I see the[ir] proclamation for a fast Ends with God save the People.

1. Knox Mss., CL.

2. Journal of the *Cerberus* contains no reference to putting men on board the ordnance brig *Nancy*.

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1776

London [January 2].

Certain Accounts are received of seven of the Vessels, which sailed from Europe for Boston, having fallen into the Hands of the Provincials; and it is not unlikely but the next Advices will bring Accounts of others having shared the same Fate.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JAN. 2.”¹

Came in his Majesty's ship the *Acteon* from Portsmouth for America, and his Majesty's bomb ship *Thunder*, from ditto for ditto; and this day his Majesty's ship the *Solebay* sailed express for Ireland from this place.

Yesterday his Majesty's ship *Deal Castle*, from Portsmouth, coming-to between the island and the Main, ran on shore at Easter-king Point, and was obliged to cut away all her masts; she got off the same day, but with some damage. Happily no lives were lost.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 4 to January 6, 1776.

LORD STORMONT TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Paris, 2 January 1776

Knowing the feelings of this Court and its desire to prevent that the American Rebels obtain war ammunition from France, I consistently follow my adopted principle which is to inform Your Excellency of any intelligence I receive with regard to this matter. I have just learned that there is presently in Dunkerque a vessel of 120 tons called the *Charming Peggy*, whose Master, going by the name of Conyngham, is from New England; ² to all appearances, this vessel purporting to be Irish is destined to carry gun powder to the Americans. She is moored near the Merchants' powder magazine. Barrels have already been loaded during the night in great secret and we have every reason to believe that they are filled with powder. With this information, it should be easy to get to the core of this matter and to prevent this vessel to receive her cargo, if my information proves to be correct. I have the honor to be with perfect attachment, Sir [&c.]

Stormont.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1300, LC Photocopy.
2. Gustavus Conyngham, an Irishman by birth (1747-1819), had married in Philadelphia in 1773, and sailed from there in the *Charming Peggy*. His attestation as to this voyage reads: "NB, in the yr. 1775 I. went on a voyage from philad. to Europe to procure powder, salt-peter, arms, medecins & every thing Necessary for War well known the Great need & scarcity the little Supply we had at that day. Arrived at dunkirk - here the suplys could not be procured, some part could, but we could not take any thing in hear - a agent went to amsterdam -" Robert Wilden Neeser, ed., *Letters and Papers Relating to the Cruises of Gustavus Conyngham . . .* (New York, 1915), 159.

3 Jan.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹My Lord, Admiralty Office 3d Janry 1775 [*sic* 1776]

Having received two Letters from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in No America, the one dated the 8th of Novr giving an account of the Proceedings of Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat in destroying the Town of Falmouth, the other dated the 4th of Decr, relating the Particulars of an Expedition made under the direction of Captain Barkeley [Andrew Barkley] to bring off some Cattle from the Rebels.² We send Your Lordship Copies of the said Letters, & of the Papers therein inclosed, for His Majesty's Information. We are &ca

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 1.

2. Captain Barkley's expedition to Charleston was to secure the rice ships, not cattle.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord, Admty Office 3d Janry 1776.

Having received 3 Letters from V.A. Graves Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in No America, dated the 2d & 20th of Novr & 4th of

Decr last, giving an account of his proceedings with the Squadron under his Command; We send Your Lordship Copies thereof, & of the several Papers inclosed therein for His Majesty's Information.

We also inclose Your Lordship a Copy of the Disposition of the Squadron under the Command of V.A. Graves, received in his Letter of the 3d of Decr We are &c

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 4.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR VICTUALLING ¹

Whereas you have informed Us by your Letter of the 29th of last Month that Mr Robert Grant, who is under Contract with you for supplying His Majestys Ships at Nova Scotia, New England & Virginia with Sea Provisions and also at Nova Scotia with fresh Beef has represented to you that the disturbances in America have stopt the communication between the Colonies, and reduced every place to depend on its own produce & what may be sent from Europe; And that in consequence thereof the prices have risen so much that he cannot at the Contract Prices (without a very great loss) make the necessary Supplies for the said Contracts. And has therefore proposed continuing to make the abovementioned Supplies upon Commission; And we thinking fit to try the effect of Mr Grants said proposals do hereby require & direct you to employ him in furnishing Sea Provisions to His Majestys Ships at Nova Scotia New England & Virginia & fresh Beef to those at Nova Scotia until further Order, reporting to Us upon a proper experience of the aforesaid Plan of supplying His Majestys Ships in those parts how you find the same to Answer & whether you think it advisable to continue it.

Given &c 3d Jan'y 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 344.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1776

London [January 3].

Letters from Philadelphia, of the 26th of November, say, "in about six Weeks or two Months we shall have upwards of twenty armed Vessels ready to sail from hence, two of which mount 24 Guns, besides a Number of Swivels.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1776

London. January 3.

The *Homer*, Dennet, bound for Hull from North Carolina, arrived at Dover, brings advice, that a large ship from St. Eustatia was arrived at Bath-town in the said province, with 400 barrels of gunpowder; and also a sloop from Eustatia, arrived off the Bar of Peacock [*sic* Ocracoke] with a quantity of gunpowder and musket balls, having information of two tenders belonging to his Majesty, sent by the *King Fisher* sloop of war from Virginia, being in the harbour, dispatched all the powder in pilot boats up the country. The said sloop which brought the powder was taken the next morning by the Tenders, and carried to Virginia, the Captain and Mate having first got on shore. . . .

The *Good Intent*, Capt. Woodfall, from London to North Carolina, was drove off the coast of Carolina in the late hard gales of wind, and it is feared is lost, with all the crew.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 3.”¹

The *Bristol*, Sir Peter Parker; the *Acteon*, Capt. [Christopher] Atkins; the *Deal-Castle*, and the *Thunderer* bomb, which had sailed from Spithead, are put into Cowes Road; the wind having shifted.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 4 to January 6, 1776.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH¹

Very Secret

Paris Janry 3d 1776.

My Lord, I am very happy to find by Your Lordship's Letter No 20., that the manner in which I transmitted the Intelligence I received with regard to the intended Armament at Brest, has met with His Majesty's most gracious approbation.

Without seeming to have taken the least Alarm, I make that Armament a principal Object of my Attention. All the Secret Intelligence I have been able to collect, agrees pretty nearly as to the Number of Ships, Vizt Four Ships of the Line, and one or two Frigates, but varies as to their Destination. I was assured the other day, but cannot entirely credit my Informer, that this small Fleet is designed, not for the East, but for the West Indies, is to go to S. Domingo, and carry thither a large Quantity of Ammunition, and some Troops to reinforce the Garrison there. It is pretended, that M. d'Ennery, who Your Lordship knows is an able active officer, closely connected with Choiseul,² and bred in that School, represents S. Domingo in a weak defenceless State, says, that it would fall a prey to any Invader, and that he has not even Troops enough, to keep the Inhabitants in awe. This may be true, but it may likewise be a Feint, a Fleet, however small, sent to St Domingo at this time, would certainly deserve the utmost attention, especially if there were Troops on board. there is a French officer, whose name is Kersan, lately come from S. Domingo, who, as I am told, talks much of the Projects of the American Rebels, and the confidence they have of success.

What has been related to me of his conversation with regard to a Design they have of filling Sledges with combustible matter, and attempting to set fire to such of our Ships, as they can come at when the Frost sets in, seems too wild, and incoherent, to deserve the least notice; but, he speaks very positively, of a design to attack Boston in the Winter, and in general, talks I am told of every thing that relates to them, like a Man, who is zealous in their cause. This, My Lord, is no farther material than, as he may be supposed to eccho M. D'Ennery. The Sentiments of the Duke of Choiseul, and consequently of his Party, are indeed well known. He says openly, as I think I have already observed to Your Lordship, that the Ministers are Ideots for missing this golden opportunity; their Sentiments, however, are I hope entirely different; It is certain, that their Language upon all occasions, is uniformly the same, friendly to Us, and as pacific as possible.

Our Coffee house Politicians, on the contrary, and those Wits who take the lead in all Companies here, & who when they talk upon such Subjects as these, may fairly be placed in the same line with the Politicians I have named, Speak



*Prospectus Pontis BV Marice, versus Palatium Regii, Parisiorum.
Quai du Pont-Neuf, vers le Louvre a Paris.*

M. d. Fol. N^o 22.

*Viso del Ponte della Madonna, verso del Palazzo Reale, a Parigi.
Gesicht, Unser L. Frauen Bruck, gegen dem Königl. Palast zu Paris.*

C. P. S. C. M.

Georg. Balthasar. D. 1675. April. 11.

A VIEW OF PARIS.

with great complacency of the late success of the Rebels in Canada. When I happen to be present, they moderate their Language but cannot conceal their Joy. I think no Stress is to be laid upon, or conclusions drawn from the Language & Sentiments of Men, who are incapable of distinguishing, sense, from sound, who are totally ignorant of the real Question, who know nothing of Liberty, & Independence, but the name; and, who are eternally led astray by that Declamation, which they retail. Their opinion can never be taken, as an Indication of that of the Ministers, who like Men of real knowledge, and Business, try things in very different Scales.

When I say this, I am far from meaning, to pledge myself for the Sincerity of any French Ministers' Professions tho' I am inclined to believe, that the Professions of the present French Ministry are sincere, and their general Intentions, & Plan of Administration pacific. I am not however without Some Apprehension, that the present State of Canada, and the manifest Defection of the Lower Canadians, may throw a tempting Bait in their way. An Offer of Canada, which I am persuaded the Rebels would make without Hesitation, might be such a temptation, as it would be hard for the good faith of any French Ministry to resist; especially, if there was a probability of immediate, and easy Success.

I am no Stranger to the Intelligence, Your Lordship lately received, relative to this Object, and am making Secret Inquiry with regard to it; But, cannot yet discover any traces of such a Project. Your Lordship will have better Opportunities than I can have, of knowing from Brest, when the intended Fleet will be ready to sail, and what Troops, if any are to Embark. If those Troops should be the same with those mentioned in the Note Your Lordship received, it would be a very Suspicious Circumstance indeed, and Sufficient to give a real Alarm. A Fleet, which sails in appearance for S. Domingo, might but too easily go to Canada, when the Season permits. I will do what I can, My Lord, to discover its real Destination; The Progress of this Armament, & the motions of this Fleet when it does sail, will not escape the attention, & active vigilance, of him who so ably fills the first Place at our Admiralty board,³ and who, if he sees the least probability of such an Attempt, will no doubt take such Measures, and place such a Force there, as will prevent a possibility of Danger.

Nothing but the prospect of easy, certain success, would I think induce the present French Ministers, to hazard a Blow, which if unsuccessful, must be followed by shame and Disgrace.

I hope Your Lordship will do justice to the Motives, that have engaged me to give you this long trouble, and consider what I have said, as coming from a wish to guard against the Possibility of Danger, where so much is at Stake; not from any Intention of conveying Suspicions, for which, I as yet see no Sufficient Grounds.

I am with great truth and respect, My Lord, [&c.]

Stormont

1. PRO, State Papers 78/298. Thomas Thynne, 3d Viscount Weymouth was Secretary of State for the Southern Department.
2. Étienne François, Duc de Choiseul, French statesman, who was hopeful that Louis XVI would recall him as Minister of Foreign Affairs.
3. Stormont's flattering words were intended for Lord Sandwich, whose administration of the British navy was one of incompetence.

4 Jan.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 4th January 1776.

It is the King's Intentions that every Effort should be made to send Relief to Quebec as early as possible.

For this purpose three Ships of 180 Tons each, have been contracted for to carry Provisions; and I am commanded to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that one fifty Gun Ship, two Frigates, and a Sloop of War be forthwith prepared to accompany those Victuallers, and to be ready to sail by the middle of February.

It is also His Majesty's Pleasure that Your Lordships do direct two large Vessels to be taken up to serve as Transports, each of sufficient tonnage to contain Provisions for Six Months for three Hundred Men, & also Accomodation for about Ten Commissioned Officers of His Majesty's Land Forces, and One Hundred and Eighty Eight Non Commissioned Officers and private Men, with half the Baggage, Camp Necessaries, and Women, belonging to a complete Battalion, and that these two Transports have each a Lieutenant on board, as also that a Pilot, well acquainted with the Navigation of the Gulf & River St Lawrence (if such can be procured) be put on board each of the said Ships, as well as on board the Ships of War.

It is His Majesty's Pleasure that the 29th Regiment, now lying in Chatham Barracks, should be embarked on board the different ships of which the above Fleet will consist, to be distributed in the manner described in the inclosed Paper, & that such part of the Battalion as is to be put on board the 50 Gun Ship, and on board the Transports and Victuallers, be embarked at the Nore, and that such part as is intended for the two Frigates and the Sloop of War, be conveyed to Plymouth on board a Vessel to be provided by Your Lordships for that purpose. I am, &ca.

Geo: Germain

[Enclosure]

Disposition of a Regiment consisting of 677 on the Establishment (Officers and Contingent Men included) intended to be embarked for the Relief of Quebec early in the Spring, in the following Ships, to sail from England the 15th or 20th of February.

	Commissioned Officers	Non Commissioned Officers & private
One fifty Gun Ship	4	74
One Frigate	3	27
One Do	2	27
One Sloop	1	18
One East India Ship	10	188
One Do	7 & the Surgeon's Mate	188
Three Victuallers, 2 each	6 each 30	90
Total	34 Includg Surgeon's Mate	612

The above numbers, with the Colonel, who is a Major General, & the 30 Contingent Men, make up the Establishment, vizt 677. –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 4a, 4b.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 4th Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received Intelligence of a Ship now on her passage from L'Orient to some Port in North America with 200,000 lb Salt Petre on board; I send you by their Lordships directions a Copy of the said Intelligence for your information, that you may give such Orders thereon to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your Command as you may think most likely to answer the purpose of intercepting the said Ship. I am &ca

Geo. Jackson D S.

Rear Adml Shuldham, at Boston

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy. Shuldham was promoted to Vice Admiral December 7, 1775.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1776

London [January 4]

The Report gains Ground, that Admiral Shuldham was met by three of the Congress Frigates, and, after a sharp and sudden Engagement, was taken. We hope this may be premature.

Two American armed Vessels, with a Number of Provincials and one of the Delegates belonging to the Congress on board, are said to be taken by two Ships belonging to Admiral Greave's Squadron. ¹

1. Two rumors without foundation.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1776

London. Jan. 4.

Two ships laden with wine, from Fyal, have been seized in the River St. Lawrence, belonging to London Merchants, and their cargoes have been used by the Provincials.¹

Yesterday expresses were sent to Portsmouth and Plymouth to open houses of rendezvous for entering soldiers and sailors to go on the American service.

1. Probably referring to vessels taken in the river when fleeing from Montreal.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

Bristol, Jan. 4.

The Rifleman who was taken prisoner at Quebec, and brought over here in the *Liberty*, Capt. Thompson, as mentioned lately, was on Saturday [December 30] discharged from his confinement, there not being sufficient evidence to detain him in gaol.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO LORD STORMONT ¹

Sir,

Versailles, 4 January 1776

I forwarded without delay to M. de Sartine the letter which I had the honor to receive from Your Excellency on the 2nd Instant, And I am certain that this minister immediately sent orders to Dunkerque with regard to the vessel called the *Charming Peggy*.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1302, LC Photocopy.

5 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN BURR, H.M.S. *Milford*,
SPITHEAD ¹

You are hereby required & directed to proceed without a moments loss of time with the Ship you command to Boston in New England where you are to deliver the inclosed Packet to Rear Adml Shuldham or the Commanding Officer for the time being of His Majestys Ships in North America and putting yourself under his command follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c 5th Jany 1776 ²

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 346.

2. On the same day Captain Burr was supplied with instructions similar in text to those given Sir Peter Parker's captains, December 16, 1775.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Having ordered Capt [John] Burr Commr of His Majts Ship *Milford* (by whom you will receive this) to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for her further proceedings, You are hereby required & directed to take him & the said Ship under your command & employ them as you shall find best for His Majestys Service entrusted to your care.

Given &c 5th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

To Molineux Shuldham Esqr

Rear Adml of the White &c &c at Boston

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 346.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 5h January 1776

The Captains of His Majesty's Ships the *Renown* and *Experiment* having in their Letters dated at Fayal the 1st November last, informed their Lordships that in their passage thither they had seized five American Vessels bound to Falkland Islands on the Whale Fishery, and that being apprehensive they could not carry them in safety to Boston, they had sent them to England and put on board three Petty Officers and seventeen Seamen from the *Renown*, and four

Petty Officers and fifteen Seamen from the *Experiment*. And the said Vessels having arrived at Spithead I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, and that they have directed that Twenty of the said Men (being those belonging to the *Renown*) be sent on board the *Milford* and the rest on board the *Greyhound*, in order to their being returned to their proper Ships upon their arrival at Boston, for which it is their Lordships directions you give orders accordingly. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D:S:

Rear Admiral Shuldham at Boston (by the *Milford*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 501-02.

Public Advertiser, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1776

London [January 5].

Letters from the Hague say, "the English Minister, Sir Joseph York, leaves no Stone unturned to prevent any Stores being shipped from any of our Ports for America: English Spies are fixed at the Sea Ports to give the earliest Notice where they have a Suspicion of any such Intentions."

The Person appointed by the American Congress, Commodore of their Marine, is an Englishman, named Brice; he was Master of Admiral Shuldham's Ship in the late War. There is a strong Enmity between them. He is cruising with three Frigates of 32 Guns each in a particular Latitude, to intercept Shuldham, who is gone in a 50 Gun Ship. He is also cruising with the further View of intercepting the last Packet from England.¹

1. The whole paragraph was probably a fabrication of H.S. Woodfall, the printer of the *Public Advertiser*.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

London. January 5.

Capt. Chevalier, of the *Unity*, who is arrived at Jersey from Canso, was stopped in the gulph of Canso by two armed vessels, fitted out from Beverly, but was released on account of the small value of the cargo, being lumber. These ships had in their possession many vessels, chiefly loaded with cod fish, and were waiting for others to send them all to New England.¹

1. This was one of the two vessels, of which Captain John Selman, in his letter to Elbridge Gerry, on March 18, 1813, said: "went into the Gut of Canso . . . boarded two Jersey-men, took the pilots out of them which was acquainted with the Island of St. Johns." *Salem Gazette*, June 22, 1856.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 5."¹

Since my last the *Milford* frigate, Captain John Burn [Burr], from Chatham, arrived at Spithead.

Capt. Burn has received orders to sail for Boston with all expedition.

Orders are sent to Portsmouth for his Majesty's ship *Greyhound*, of 28 guns, Capt. Dixon [Archibald Dickson], and the *Pearl* frigate of 32 guns, Capt. [James] O'Hara, to be fitted out for the North American station.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 6 to January 9, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JAN. 5.”¹

Yesterday sailed his Majesty's ship *Acteon*, Capt. Atkins, for Falmouth. It is said she is to carry over the American Col. Allen, of the provincial army, and the provincials brought over and lodged in Pendennis Castle.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 9 to January 11, 1776.

6 Jan.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

London. Jan. 6.

The American prisoners, whom Mr. Brooke Watson brought over from Canada, are about 20 in number. Amongst them is Colonel Ethan Allen, who took Ticonderoga. Mr. Watson thought it better to lodge these men in Pendennis castle, Cornwall, than to bring them up to London. General Carleton sent over these men. They were taken prisoners in an attempt to surprize Montreal. Such of the English merchants and others, as General Carleton hath taken, he keeps confined in Canada.

Mr. Dunning and Mr. Alleyne are retained in behalf of Ethan Allen, and the rest of the prisoners lately arrived from America.¹

Houses of Rendezvous for entering Seamen are ordered to be opened at every sea port in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

1. Ethan Allen relates: “A small place in the vessel [the *Adamant*], enclosed with white-oak plank, was assigned for the prisoners, and for me among the rest. I should imagine that it was not more than twenty feet one way, and twenty-two the other: Into this place we were all, to the number of thirty four, thrust and hand-cuffed, two prisoners more being added to our number, and were provided with two excrement tubs; In this circumfance we were obliged to eat and perform the offices of evacuation during the voyage to England, and were insulted by every black-guard sailor and tory on board, in the cruelest manner; but what is the most surprizing is, that not one of us died in the passage. When I was first ordered to go into the filthy enclosure, through a small sort of door, I positively refused, and endeavoured to reason the before named Brook Watson out of a conduct so derogatory to every sentiment of honor and humanity, but all to no purpose, my men being forced in the den already; and the rascal who had the charge of the prisoners commanded me to go immediately in among the rest: He farther added that the place was good enough for a rebel; that it was impertinent for a capital offender to talk of honor or humanity; that any thing short of a halter, was too good for me; and that that would be my portion soon after I arrived in England; for which purpose only I was sent thither. About the same time a Lieut. among the tories, insulted me in a grievous manner, saying that I ought to have been executed for my rebellion against New-York, and spit in my face; upon which, though I was handcuffed, I sprang at him with both hands, and knocked him partly down, but he scrambled along into the cabin, and I after him; there he got under the protection of some men with fixed bayonets, who were ordered to make ready to drive me into the place aforementioned. I challenged him to fight, notwithstanding the impediments that were on my hands, and had the exalted pleasure to see the rascal tremble for fear; his name I have forgot, but Watson ordered his guard to get me into the place with the other prisoners, dead or alive; and I had almost as lieve die as to do it, standing it out till they environed me round with bayonets; and brutish, prejudiced, abandoned wretches they were, from whom I could expect nothing but death or wounds; However, I told them that they were good honest fellows; that I could not blame them; that I was only in a dispute with a calico merchant, who knew not how to behave towards a gentleman of the military establishment. This was spoke rather to appease them for my own preservation, as well as to treat Watson with contempt; but still I found that they were determined

to force me into the wretched circumstances, which their prejudiced, and depraved minds had prepared for me: Therefore, rather than die, I submitted to their indignities, being drove with bayonets into the filthy dungeon with the other prisoners, where we were denied fresh water, except a small allowance, which was very inadequate to our wants; and, in consequence of the stench of the place, each of us was soon followed with a diarrhoea and fever, which occasioned an intolerable thirst. When we asked for water, we were, most commonly, instead of obtaining it, insulted and derided; and, to add to all the horrors of the place, it was so dark that we could not see each other, and were overspread with body lice. We had, notwithstanding these severities, full allowance of salt provisions, and a gill of rum per day; the latter of which was of the utmost service to us, and, probably, was the means of saving several of our lives. About forty days we existed in this manner, when the land's end of England was discovered from the mast head; soon after which the prisoners were taken from their gloomy abode, being permitted to see the light of the sun, and breathe fresh air, which to us was very refreshing. The day following we landed at Falmouth.

When the prisoners were landed, multitudes of the citizens of Falmouth, excited by curiosity, crowded together to see us, which was equally gratifying to us. I saw numbers of people on the tops of houses, and the rising adjacent grounds were covered with them of both sexes. The throng was so great, that the king's officers were obliged to draw their swords, and force a passage to Pendennis castle, which was near a mile from the town, where we were closely confined, in consequence of orders from gen. Carleton, who then commanded in Canada.

The rascally Brook Watson then set out for London in great haste, expecting the reward of his zeal; but the ministry received him, as I have been since informed, rather coolly; for the minority in parliament took advantage, arguing that the opposition of America to Great Britain, was not a rebellion. If it is, say they, why do you not execute col. Allen, according to law? but the majority argued, that I ought to be executed, and that the opposition was really a rebellion, but that policy obliged them not to do it, inasmuch as the Congress had then most prisoners in their power; so that my being sent to England, for the purpose of being executed, and necessity restraining them, was rather a foil on their laws and authority, and they consequently disapproved of my being sent thither:" *A Narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen . . .* (Albany, 1814), 33-39. Hereafter cited as *Ethan Allen*.

Public Advertiser, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

London [January 6].

We hear that the Provincials have fitted out three Ships of twenty-eight Guns, well manned and provisioned, to cruize against the East India homeward and outward bound Ships, being determined to convince the East India Company, as well as Government, that they will still drink Tea Duty free.¹

Private Letters by Tuesday's Dutch Mail bring an Account, that two Dutch Ships loaded with Arms and Ammunition, which were consigned to People at St. Eustatia, were stopped from proceeding on their Voyage by Order of the States, till an Enquiry can be made whether the Cargoes were intended for the Use of the Provincials.

1. Probably a concoction of the editor; an attempt to be humorous, rather than factual.

HUGH PALLISER TO LORD SANDWICH¹

[Extract]

Abingdon Street, 6th January, 1776.

My Lord - by the dispatches from Vice-Admiral [Samuel] Graves which Mr [George] Jackson forwards, you will see an American vessel of war is taken. Her commander's commission from the Congress and his instruction from their general shows how their forces by sea and land are formed, and that their proceedings at

sea is at present limited against ships and vessels employed in the service of the fleet and army in America.

Their regulations for their army is curious: we have sent all the originals to the King, and copies to Lord G. Germain; with the last one we have desired to know the King's pleasure respecting the prisoners on board the *Tartar*, as well as others that may be taken, that we may give Admiral Shuldham orders accordingly.

Captain Medows has brought the American vessel's colours, it is a white field with a green pine tree in the middle: the motto, Appeal to Heaven. He says Admiral Graves expressed a wish that it might be sent to Admiral [John] Montagu, as it was taken by his son.² I have the honor [&c.]

Hugh Palliser

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, 96-97. Hereafter cited as Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*.

2. Washington's brig *Washington*, taken by Captain George Montagu in H.M.S. *Fowey*.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 6 January 1776

I have not failed to lay before the King Your Lordships Letter to me, of this day's date, and I am commanded to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that the Crew of the American Privateer brought home Prisoners in the *Tartar*, should be distributed onboard any of His Majesty's Ships that Your Lordships shall think advisable, & kept under proper confinement, until His Majesty's further pleasure be known. — I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 9.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords,

Whitehall, 6th January 1776

There being ground to suspect that, the Rebels in North America may early in the Spring invade the Province of West Florida, by the Channel of the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers, and may make some Attempt upon Pensacola; It is His Majesty's pleasure, that Your Lordships do Instruct the commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships on the Jamaica Station, to be very attentive to that Province, and to keep one or two of the smaller Ships under his Command, constantly Cruizing upon the Coast of West Florida, with directions to bring immediate Intelligence to him, in case any such Attempt should be made, in which case, he is to take onboard the first Battalion of the 60th Regmt now on Duty at Jamaica, which the Governor will have orders to embark accordingly, and to proceed with his whole Squadron to Pensacola, consulting upon his arrival with Governor [Peter] Chester, the Measures it may be advisable to pursue in such an Event. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 7.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 6th Janry 1776.

Having received a letter from Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America dated at Boston the 15th of last Month, giving an Account of the Capture of an Armed Brig fitted out by the Congress. We send Your Lordship a Copy of the Vice Admiral's Letter, together with Copies of the Commission and Instructions to the Person who commanded the Brig, for His Majesty's Information.²

We are at the same time to desire Your Lordship will please to receive, and signify to Us His Majesty's Pleasure concerning the Crew of the said Armed Brig, whom Vice Admiral Graves hath sent to England in the *Tartar*; And also, upon the Admiral's request relating to the future Disposition of the Crews of such Vessels as may be taken in Arms against His Majesty. We are &c

J. Buller H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 2-3.

2. Washington's brig *Washington*, Captain Sion Martindale.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH [ENGLAND], JAN. 6." ¹

This morning arrived the *Tartar* man of war from Boston, after a fine passage of twenty-one days, having on board seventy-five rebels of the American army, which were taken by a privateer the Americans had fitted out at Boston.² She brought some fresh dispatches, which were sent up to the Secretary of State's office on Saturday night.³

1. *Connecticut Courant*, April 29, 1776.

2. Washington's brig *Washington*.

3. From *Life and Remarkable Adventures of Israel R. Potter . . .* (Providence, 1824), 19: "we was put on board the British frigate *Tartar*, and orders given to convey us to England. — when two or three days out I projected a scheme (with the assistance of my fellow prisoners, 72 in number) to take the ship, in which we should undoubtedly have succeeded, as we had a number of resolute fellows on board, had it not been for the treachery of a renegade Englishman, who betrayed us — as I was pointed out by this fellow as the principal in the plot, I was ordered in irons by the Officers of the *Tartar*, and in which situation I remained until the arrival of the ship at Portsmouth (Eng.) when I was brought on deck and closely examined, but protesting my innocence, and what was very fortunate for me in the course of the examination the person by whom I had been betrayed, having been proved a British deserter his story was discredited and I was relieved of my irons." Hereafter cited as *Life of Israel R. Potter*.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT¹

Janr 5th [1776] arrived at Portsmouth² & at Eight in the Evening Captn Meadows and I sett out for London in a post chaise with Captn Harris a Horse back.³

Janr 6th nine in the morning arrivd at London; went immediately to General Gages where I spent the day. After dinner when the Ladies retir'd He surprizd me with somewhat very unexpected.⁴

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

2. The journal of H.M.S. *Tartar*, in which Moffat had sailed from Boston on December 16, 1775, reads, for Friday, January 5, 1776, "at Noon saw Land bearg N E Dist 4 or 5 Leagues at 2 P M came through the Needles at 8 came to Anchr at Spithd wth best

- Br Veerd away & moor'd wth a Cable each way found Riding here His Majts Ships *Resolution*, *St Taur* [*Centaur*] *Egmont*, and *Malbrough*." PRO, Admiralty 51/972.
3. Edward Medows was the commander of the *Tartar*, and Harris was Captain George Harris, of the Grenadier Company of Lord Hugh Percy's Fifth Regiment. Harris had been badly wounded in the head at Bunker Hill.
 4. Moffat stated earlier in his diary that before leaving Boston he had a conference with General William Howe "on singular business." Gage's disclosure which was "unexpected" may have related to the same business.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 6th Janry 1776

Please to acquaint their Lordships, that I arrived here yesterday evening in His Majesty's Ship *Bristol* – The 31st past, finding that I greatly outsail'd the *Deal Castle* & *Thunder Bomb*, I determin'd to make the best of my way, and accordingly parted Company with them that evening, and ordered the *Actaeon* to proceed to Falmouth, to take in the American Prisoners, in case the *Solebay* had not been there – I found in this Port all the Transports under the direction of the Lieuts [Thomas] Tonkin & [John] Knowles, excepting the *Marquis of Rockingham*, the loss of which Ship their Lordships have already been made acquainted with – All the Army Victuallers are here, excepting the *Nancy*, Jno Pearson Master, who is expected every day – Not one of my Squadron, the Bombs Tenders, Ordnance Ships, *Sibella* Storeship, *Levant* Victualler, *Pigot* Hospital Ship, or *Friendship* Arm'd Ship, are as yet arriv'd; but I hope in a few days we shall be all assembled, or at least, as many as will enable me to proceed on the Expedition – When we have got as many together as will be absolutely necessary, I shall leave a Frigate to wait for, and bring the remainder after me. All the Troops are embark'd excepting three Companys of the 15th Regiment, which the *Clibborn* (taken up in the room of the *Marquis of Rockingham*) will be ready to receive tomorrow. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

7 Jan. (Sunday)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH [ENGLAND], JAN. 7." ¹

Arrived the Carcass tender from London, bound to Corke, to take on board recruits, also the *Tartar* man of war from Boston, having on board 75 of the American rebels, who were taken in a privateer belonging to Boston [*sic* Plymouth] . . .

Sailed . . . the *Sphinx* sloop of war, Capt. Hunter, and the *Harriot*, Lusby, for Jamaica, with all the outward-bound ships; also sailed Sir Peter Parker's fleet. Wind at N.E. blows hard.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 6 to January 9, 1776.

8 Jan.

"A LETTER FROM GLASGOW, DATED JAN. 8" ¹

I should not wonder if the Scotch of this city should erect a statue to the memory of Lord Dunmore. – Every bit of news concerning the situation of Mary-

land and Virginia is read here with the greatest pleasure, as the very existence of Glasgow depends upon these colonies. The tobacco imported here is more in quantity than at London, on account of the re-exportation from hence to France and Holland, and the reason given is, the cheapness of navigating their vessels, their fitting out, and smaller expence than at London of landing the tobacco and reshipping, which on the whole amounts to a considerable profit, and they are thereby enabled to undersell the Londoners. Every one here will do his utmost to stimulate his correspondents and agents in these provinces to side with the King, and render Lord Dunmore every assistance, if not openly, at least clandestinely.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 16 to January 18, 1776.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admty Office 8th Janry 1776.

Your Lordship having in your letter of the 2d instant, inclosed to Us an Extract of a letter from Major General [William] Howe at Boston, wherein it transmitted a Return of the Transports in His Majesty's Service, & acquainted Us, by the King's Command, of the Expediency of sending out Seamen to complete the Transports to their proper Number, and of augmenting the Crews of His Majesty's Ships to a War Establishment; We are in return to acquaint Your Lordship that Directions are given to the Navy Board to take proper Measures with the Owners of the Transports to complete them in their respective Complements, & that having foreseen the Necessity of augmenting the Complements of His Majesty's Ships employed in North America, We gave the necessary Orders to V.A. Graves for that purpose on the 7th of September & 6th of October last.

We are &c.

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 6-7.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDMAN, BOSTON¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 8th Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty were pleased in a Letter from Mr. Stephens dated the 11th of Novemr last, which was forwarded by the *Triton*, to acquaint you that His Majesty had judged it expedient that a Body of Land Forces supported by a Squadron of Ships of War under the command of Sir Peter Parker should be sent to North or South Carolina with a view to the Objects mentioned in the said Letter.

The *Triton* sailed from Plymouth on the 21st of Novemr, but on the 14th of last Month had the misfortune of losing all her Masts in a hard gale of Wind, which has obliged her to return to Plymouth and now lays their Lordships under the disagreeable circumstance of transmitting their aforementioned information in this Letter by the *Milford*, whose sailing at this time may probably occasion the Reinforcement you are therein directed to send to assist the Operations of Sir Peter Parker's Squadron to arrive later than was expected; but it is from that reason more strongly recommended by their Lordships that upon the *Milford's*

arrival you give such immediate Orders with respect to such Reinforcement as you conceive will be most effectual to his Majesty's Service.

The Instructions given to Sir Peter Parker being drawn conformable to what is mentioned in Mr Stephens's aforementioned Letter, I have only to trouble you further on this Subject with observing that the *Boreas* which was intended to have made part of his Squadron, in turning from Spithead unfortunately got on the Dean Sand and received such damages as made it expedient to order the *Active* to proceed in her room. — That the *Deal castle* another of his Squadron has likewise had the misfortune to lose her Masts, but it is expected she may be refitted so as to arrive on her Station by the time or soon after Sir Peter shall get there. — That their Lordships instead of ordering the *Hawke* as mentioned to you in Mr Stephens's Letter to join the Squadron at Jamaica, have directed Sir Peter to continue her as one of the Vessels under his Command; And that an addition is made thereto of the *Carcass Bomb* and the *Friendship* a hired Vessel of 489 Tons to serve occasionally as a Transport or Armed Vessel, for which last mentioned purpose she is provided with Eighteen Nine Pounders & Six Six Pounders and a proper proportion of Ordnance Stores.

The severity of the Weather which there has been of late has prevented the Ships employed on this Expedition assembling at Corke so early as was expected; the Ships of War are now on their passage thither, and my Lords have confidence that no time will be lost in embarking the Troops and putting to Sea the first favorable opportunity that may afterwards offer. I am &ca.

Geo. Jackson DS.

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

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 8th Jan'y 1776

An Act having pass'd the present Sessions of Parliament "To Prohibit all Trade & Intercourse with the several Colonies in North America therein named during the continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies." In which Act it is declared that all Ships and Vessels trading to & from any of the said Places except as in the said Act is excepted shall be forfeited & become the Sole property of the Captors; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to send you one of the said Acts also of the Kings Proclamation appointing the distribution of the Prizes that may be taken in consequence thereof for your information & guidance

I send you 70 more of the said Acts & Proclamations which you will please to distribute to the Captains of the several Ships & Vessels under your command & to such as you may happen to meet with who have not already been furnished with them &c

G J DS

(By the *Milford*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550,507-08.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sr. [Admiralty Office] 8th Jany 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received Advices of several American Armed Vessels Cruizing in the Bay of Canso & of one in the Gulph of St Laurence I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for your information & taking such measures thereon as may appear to you to be necessary to protect the property of His Majts Subjects in those parts &c

G J DS

By the *Milford*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 508.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sr. [Admiralty Office] 8th Jany 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received an Article of Intelligence² which appears very necessary for your information; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you inclosed a Copy thereof I am &c

G J DS

Rear Adml Shuldham — Boston — By the *Milford*

The like to Commodore Sir Peter Parker — at Corke by the Post

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 509.
2. Shuldham's acknowledgment of the foregoing, received by him on March 27, 1776, states it was "intelligence from Virginia and Maryland," PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sr. [Admiralty Office] 8th Jany 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having procured a Set of Draughts for different parts of the Coast of No America which have never yet been published; I have it in command from their Lordships to send You the same herewith for your information &c

G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 514.

GEORGE JACKSON TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER, CORKE¹

Sir, [Admiralty Office] 8th Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having, in their General Instructions of the 14th of last Month, observed to you that Rear Admiral Shuldham had been apprized of the Expedition on which you are employed and the grounds on which it was adopted; I have it now in Command from their Lordships to acquaint you that the *Triton*, which was to carry the Dispatches containing the said Information and sailed from Plymouth the 21st of Novemr, had the misfortune, on the 14th of last Month having got 450 Leagues to the Westward, to lose all her Masts in a hard gale of Wind, and in consequence thereof is returned

to that Port; by which their Lordships are obliged to send her Dispatches by the *Milford* which is yet at Spithead, but under Orders to sail as soon as the wind will permit.

From this Misfortune it is to be doubted whether the Reinforcement which Rear Adml Shuldham was ordered to send to assist in your Operations, can arrive by the time you may expect it; but their Lordships have recommended it to him, upon the arrival of the *Milford*, to give such immediate Orders with respect to the said Reinforcement as he finds to be most effectual to His Majesty's Service.

I am &ca

Geo. Jackson DS.

[Endorsed] Sent by the *Active* at Portsmo Duplicate sent to Corke

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

Morning Post and Daily Advertiser, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1776

[London, January 8]

News from America.

The *Tartar* man of war, just arrived from Boston in twenty-one days, brings the alarming advice to administration, that *three* more of their transports, with troops and warlike stores for the King's service, were, after a smart engagement, taken by some Provincial privateers, who carried them with great triumph, into one of their ports, unshipped the stores for the immediate use of the rebel army, and marched all the men and officers prisoners up the country.

We learn from the same quarter that Capt. Montague of the *Fowey* man of war had taken a provincial letter of marque with 70 soldiers on board; ¹ the colours she carried were an ensign, on which was displayed a pine tree on a white field.

London.

Can a stronger proof be required, that Providence militates for the Americans, than the following facts:

The *Actaeon* frigate sails for America, but she runs ashore, and receives so much damage as to retard her at least three months; —

The *Boreas* frigate is sent on the same service, and shares the same fate; —

The *Triton* sails to cruize against the Americans, but soon returns dismasted; —

The *Deal Castle*, in her way from Portsmouth to Plymouth, runs ashore at Easterking Point, in Plymouth harbour, and is obliged to cut away all her masts; —

The *Bristol* of 50 Guns, sails on the same service, but the winds have driven her back, and the genii of America have driven her ashore: —

The *Rockingham* sails with troops; but when even *Rockingham* goes forth against America *Rockingham* shall suffer, and her troops perish: —

Two other transports, with British troops have shared the same fate since September: —

The hardy sailors, coming from the North to combat America, perish in that rash enterprize even on their own element, for five ships in which they were passengers, were driven on the sands in November, and they all perish.

1. Washington's armed brig *Washington*.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1776

London. January 8.

The *Tartar* man of war is arrived at Portsmouth, in 21 days, from Boston; and brings advice that two or three transports from England are taken by the Provincials; and that Capt. Montague of the *Fowey* had taken a cruizer with 70 soldiers on board, together with the colours of the United Colonies, on which are a white field and a pine tree.

It is said Col. Ethan Allen, and the other Prisoners in Pendennis Castle, will be ordered back to America in the first vessel to Boston.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER ¹

London, January 8.

A Commodore with six line of battle ships and eight frigates, will sail, we are told, to America, the beginning of March next; the above ships are to take on board their full complement of marines, and are to be laden as deep as possible with provisions, &c.

Press warrants are sent out to Admiral Graves to press all American seamen.

Press warrants are expected to be issued out soon, as the Captains of all the outward bound ships have been very solicitous to procure protections.

Orders have been sent to Plymouth for all the guard ships there to take on board their full complement of men, as in time of war.

Orders have been sent to all the out-ports, to be very cautious and strict in examining all persons, vessels, &c. that may be judged the least suspicious.

Orders are given for a quantity of beef and pork, sufficient for ten ships of the line for six months, to be got ready as soon as possible.

Several transports are brought up to the Tower in order to take in cannon, balls, and other warlike stores, for Boston; which transports are to be convoyed by six men of war, to prevent their being taken by the Provincials.

A small vessel will be dispatched to America this week, with orders for all the transports that have delivered their cargoes at Boston, &c. to leave that place immediately, and return to England with all expedition.

1. *New York Packet*, April 25, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 8.” ¹

The *Boreas* is come out of dock, and is fitting for sea.

The *Romney*, of 50 guns, Capt. [George Keith] Elphinston Commander, is come into the harbour to dock, and fitting out for her station at Newfoundland.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 11 to January 13, 1776.

Public Advertiser, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1776

Corke, Jan. 8.

Last Friday [January 5] arrived at Cove, his Majesty's Ship *Bristol*, of 50 Guns, Sir Peter Parker, Commander, as Convoy to the Troops bound to America, now under the Command of Lord Cornwallis.

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH¹

No 1.

[Madrid] 8th January 1776.

I have been well informed that the Spanish vessel which M. Grimaldi² has assured me was detained at Gixon, was hired by the master of an American vessel mentioned in mine No 57 of the last year, and had brought from Holland a very considerable quantity of gunpowder. The American vessel which was to receive the powder, has kept out of the Spanish ports. On my mentioning these circumstances to the Spanish Minister, he repeated to me his promise that no part of these stores should fall into the hands of the American captain.³

1. Letters and Extracts from the Correspondence of Lord Grantham In Spain, January 1776 to June 1779, Sparks Transcripts, No. 23, I, 1, HU.
2. Jeronimo, Marquis de Grimaldi (1720-1785), Spanish Minister of State.
3. Captain John Wilson, of the ship *Lion*; see H. Katenkamp to Lord Weymouth, January 24, 1776.

9 Jan.GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 9th Janry 1776.

Sir Hugh Palliser has desired me, upon the Paper of Memoranda which you inclosed to him for private Information, in your letter of the 7th of January, to desire you will please to inform me.

First, the Names of the three Victuallers which have been taken up by the Treasury, also their Masters, & where they lie.

2d The Size or Dimensions of the Sloops proposed for the Navigation of Lake Champlain, & a draft of those Sloops, with what other particulars you can, & to note whether designed for fast Sailing or for Burthen.

3d The nature of the Batteaux to be provided in frame, these being a sort of Vessel unknown in this Country, so that if it can be done, they should be described by a Drawing. What part of the Materials may be provided on the Spot, which, if to be done at all, would be with more Expedition and Advantage than by carrying the same from England to Place where they are to be set up. I am &c.

Geo: Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 5-6.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 9th Janry 1776.

My Lord George Germaine having transmitted to my Lords Commrs of the Admiralty a return He had received from Major General [William] Howe of the Transports in His Majts Service at Boston by which it appears the greatest part of the said Ships are deficient in the Compliments of Men which by the Charter Parties with the Owners they are required to have; And the General observing that sixty five of the Men wanting to complete the Transports have entered or been pressed into His Majesty's Ships on that Station: I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith & to signify their direction to you, if it shall be found that Men have entered or been pressed as aforementioned to cause such

Men to be returned to the Transports to which they properly belong, and in future, Order the Captain's of His Majts Ships or Vessels under your Command, not to receive any Seamen belonging to the Transports or other Vessels in the King's Pay, and on no Account to suffer any such Men to be impressed into the Service. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS

(By the *Milford*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 522-23.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 9th Jany 1776.

Vice Adml Graves having in his letter of the 10th of Octr requested to have some of the General Printed Instructions to deliver to such Gentlemen as may be appointed Lieutenants, also a few Extracts from Marine Treaties, & Statutes, I have therefore taken the opportunity of sending you by His Majesty's Ship *Milford*, a Box, containing Six Books of Statutes, Six of Marine Treaties, & twelve of the Naval Instructions, and am to desire you will please to transmit to me a List of the Persons who are furnished with them, and if any remain unissued, you will also please to cause them to be delivered into this Office on your return from America. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS.

(By the *Milford*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 517.

GEORGE JACKSON TO WILLIAM EDEN ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 9th Janry 1776

Having communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your letter of Yesterday's Date, inclosing an Extract of a letter from Mr Crawford to the Earl of Suffolk, containing particular Intelligence of several Pieces of Cannon, with a quantity of Ball & Chain Bullets, being put on board a Dutch West India Vessel at Flushing, and of the sailing of the Brigantine therein referr'd to; Their Lordships are pleased to desire you will transmit them a Copy of Mr Crawford's former letter of Intelligence, in order that they may be better able to consider on the Directions proper to be given on the Occasion. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550, 519-20.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, JAN. 9." ¹

The *Brune* frigate is taken into dock to be sheathed, and is daily expected to be commissioned for America.

The *Isis*, of 50 guns, commanded by Cha. Douglas, Esq; is ready for sailing to America, and only waits a fair wind.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 11 to January 13, 1776.

10 Jan.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III¹

Admiralty Jan 10. 1776.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that he came to town yesterday in order to pay his duty to your Majesty this day, but on his arrival at the Admiralty was met by the melancholly account of the death of his son at Lisbon, which will prevent his attending to recieve your Majesty's Commands till Sunday next.

As your Majesty does not disapprove of being troubled with the sight of such private letters as relate to the business of this department, I take the liberty to send those I have recieved from Admiral Graves, and from Lieutenant Collins of the Marines; as also one from Sir Hugh Pallisser, which will serve to shew your Majesty that the business has not been neglected during my absence, & that we shall probably be able to supply everything that is wanted, tho' the short notice we have had for such enormous demands is without precedent. Imagining your Majesty might chuse to see the Rebel flag it is sent herewith, I propose, if your Majesty permits, to send it to Admiral [John] Montagu.²

1. Sir John Fortescue, ed., *The Correspondence of King George the Third from 1760 to December 1783* (London, 1928), III, 328. Hereafter cited as Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*.
2. Flag of Washington's brig *Washington*.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 10th Janry 1776.

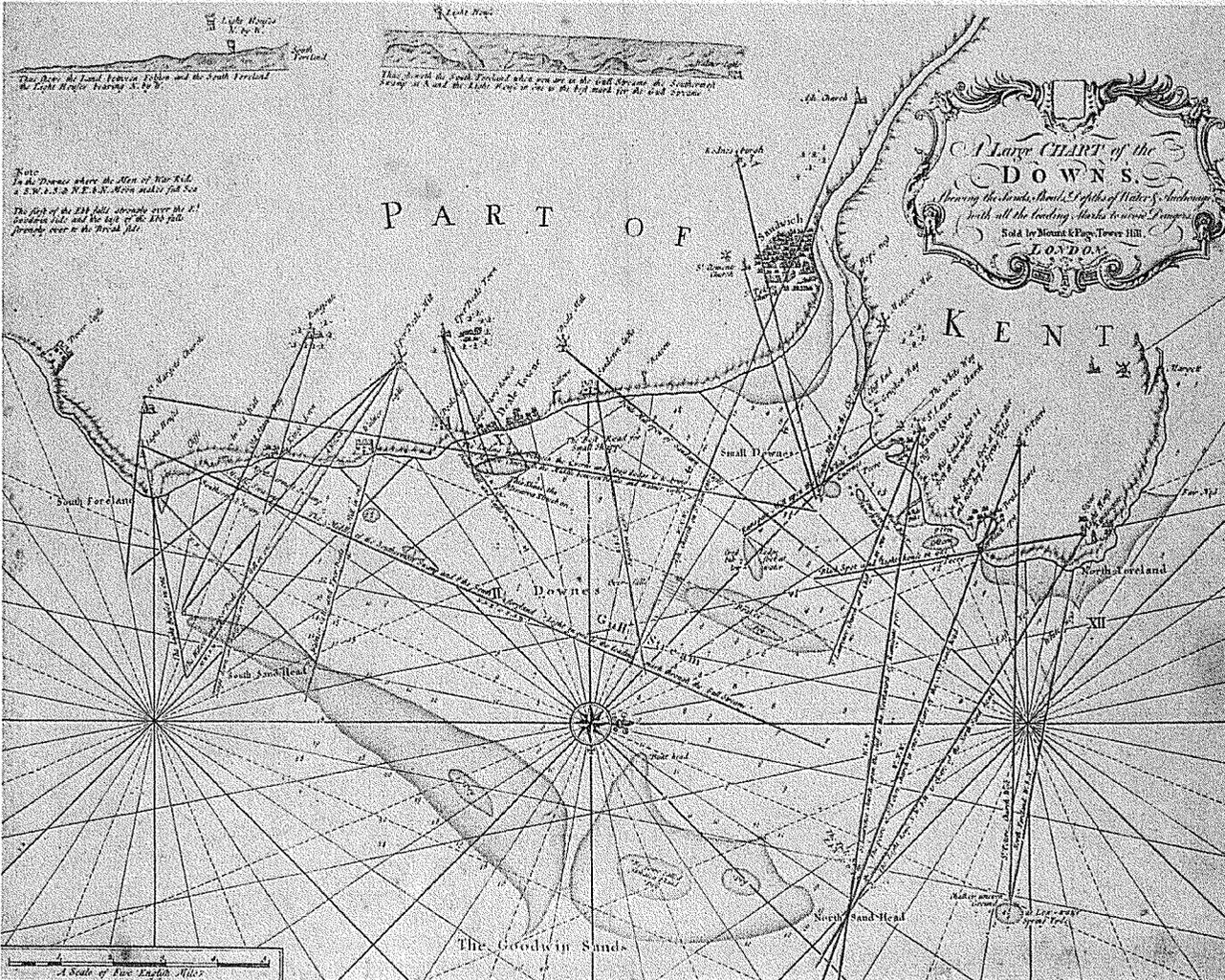
Your Lordship having in your letter of the 6th instant, signified to Us the King's Pleasure that a Frigate, or 20 Gun Ship, should be stationed at the Bermuda Islands, for their Security; we beg leave to acquaint Your Lordship that, in consequence of the King's Pleasure, signified by the Earl of Suffolk in his Lordship's Letter of the 14th of October last, We the next day sent Directions to Vice Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, to station one of the small Ships of his Squadron at the Bermuda Islands, and another at the Isle of [New] Providence, for the Safety & Preservation thereof, in case any Attempts should be made against them. We are &c.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 7-8.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT,
H.M.S. *Arethusa* AT THE DOWNS¹

You are hereby required & directed to proceed forthwith in His Majestys Ship under your command to Spithead where we have ordered her Provisions to be completed to Eight Months of all Species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, & Stored to a proper proportion for Foreign



Service; using all possible dispatch in getting the same on board & holding yourself in constant readiness for Sailing.

Given &c 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

[Endorsed] Duplicate sent the next day to Portsmouth

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 348.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN MITCHELL GRAHAM,
H.M.S. *Thetis*, PORTSMOUTH¹

Having ordered the Provisions of His Majesty's Ship under your command to be completed to Eight Months of all Species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow & Stores to a proper proportion for Foreign Service; You are hereby required & directed to use all possible dispatch in getting the same on board & hold yourself in constant readiness for Sailing.
Given &c 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 348.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO REAR ADMIRAL JAMES DOUGLAS¹

In pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by Lord George Germain One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 6th Inst You are hereby required & directed to cause the Crew of the American Privateer who are brought home prisoners in His Majesty's Ship the *Tartar* to be put on board such one of the Guardships at Spithead whose course of Docking is at the greatest distance & to be kept under proper confinement until further Order directing her Captain to bear them on a Supernumerary List & Victual at Two thirds Allowance while they shall be on board.²

Given &c 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To Sir James Douglas Knt Rear Adml of the White
& Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships at Portsmouth

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 349.

2. Crew of Washington's brig *Washington*. Consignment to a guard ship at Portsmouth was the prelude to their impressment into the British navy.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN EDWARD MEDOWS, H.M.S.
Tartar, SPITHEAD¹

You are hereby required & directed to repair with His Majs Ship under your command into Portsmouth Harbour where we have ordered her to be cleaned, graved & refitted Stored for Foreign Service & her provisions completed to Six

months of all Species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, & to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for two Months in lieu of the remainder.

Applying to the Commanding Officer at Portsmouth for the security of his Men

And repairing when ready to Spithead for further Order.²

Given &c. 10th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 349-50.

2. *Ibid.*, the last two paragraphs appear on page 350, and read as if they were a memorandum by the deputy secretary of what he intended to put into proper letter form.

JONATHAN SEWALL TO EDWARD WINSLOW¹

London, Brompton-row, No 1

Dear Ned

Janry 10. 1776.

Imprimis, God bless you, here and hereafter, forever & ever, for preserving the Life of my dear Jenny, till the 14th Decr last, & then procuring for her a passage to Halifax under the Care of Capt Watson of the 65th – Heaven grant that no untoward Accident prevent this happy Incident from being co-incident with my Wishes – had she starved in Boston, it would have been Death to me – had she fallen into the hands of your infernal Rebels, it would have been the Devil – how have I felt for her since I left her – how much more pungently since I recd yours of 3rd Decr – well, God bless you & your's again & again – if I can but hear she has had one good Belly full before she dies, I shall feel perfectly resigned to her future fate – wishing however, that I may once more see the dear charming Creature before she or I die.—

Your history of the Dispute between the Adml² & the Custom-house is curious – I can't conceive what put it into the head of the Lord of your Sea's that the Exercise of the Law martial (or military Law, as he quaintly phrases it) operates as a Supersedeas to the residence of the Commissioners there in their official Capacity; & gives him a power of dispensing with an Act of Parliament. – The truth is, some of your Gentry have conceiv'd most absurd Notions of the Nature & Effect of Law martial – it has no other Operation than to carry into Execution the criminal Law of the Land in those Instances where the Course of the Common Law is interrupted by War [however that] does not affect the official Capacity of [the Commission]ers or any other constitutional (I hate that Word) Officer any more than it affects the official Capacity of an Admiral on the high Seas in the Moon – I have no doubt but the Commissioners are right & the Adml wrong for most surely if he was invested with a dispensing power, it was to be exercised only when the Necessity of the Case required it – & tho' (for a Moment we admit) he could dispence with the port-bill it wod by no Means follow that he could knock the Cus[tom Commission]ers in the head, & dispence with all the

[blurred] but I suppose by this Time he has recd his Supersedeas by the Arrival of Adml Shuldham & this Dispute will drop where it is – tho' if it shod be brought over hither, you may depend upon every Assistance in my power.

I am out of all patience at hearing, from you & others, the Accounts of your Sufferings – what Excuse can be found for a British Admiral, who, with 30. or 40. Ships under his Command, suffers a Garrison to starve tho' surrounded with plenty of every Necessary, within the reach of his Ships! who tamely & supinely looks on & sees Fishing Schooners, Whale-boats and Canoes riding triumphant under the Muzzles of his Guns, & carrying off every Supply destin'd for your relief! Heaven grant you patience, & reward every one according to the Deeds done in the Body. – I can tell you, for your Comfort, that he is cursed as hard upon this Side the Water, as he can be on yours – he has now no Advocate here, & I believe will scarcely find a Friend in England upon his return. I hope by this Time, you are relieved in some Measure, as, out of the great Number of Ships wch have sailed loaded with provisions & Coal, it will be hard indeed, if some dont get in safe, maugre the Vigilance of the Rebels, & the Inactivity of Trunnon³ – I verily believe your Sufferings are drawing near a period – you will undoubtedly have, early in the Spring, an Army of 40,000. & a Fleet [of] upwards of 70. Ships, & then the Mettle of the Rebels [will] be try'd – hitherto their Successes have been owing to their having none to oppose them – the poor infatuated Wretches, as yet, know Nothing of War – they have been treated as froward Children heretofore, but now, they will be treated as incorrigible Traitors – I pity, I feel for the Majority, but, for their Sakes, I wish the Vengeance of G. Britain may speedily overtake their base Deluders.

I wish you were here Ned, with Money enough in your pocket – you can have no Idea what a noble Country this is for a Gentlemen – every Thing is upon an immense Scale – whatever I have seen in my own Country, is all Miniature, yankee, puppet-shew – I was at Court the Day before yesterday, being the Queen's Birth Day, (I am now at the 20th) & I believe in my Conscience, the prime Cost of the Drapes I saw there, was sufficient to have purchas'd our whole Continent – the Wealth of this Country is truly astonishing, but unless a Gentleman can get his Share of it, he has no Business here – £600 pr An. is but as a Drop in the Ocean – the Man is lost – he is Nothing – less than Nothing & Vanity – & his Contemplation on his own comparative Littleness, is Vexation of Spirit – but, humiliating as it is, I wish to stay here for the Sake of giving my Boys a Chance for the grand prizes which every profession presents to View – however, I fear, the cold, inhospitable Lilliputian Region of Halifax will finally bring me up; for as to Massachusetts Bay, I wish it well, but I wish never to see it again, till I return at the Millenium – No; believe me, Ned, the mad Conduct of my Countrymen has given me a Dose I shall never get over – God mend them, & bless them – but let me never never be cursed with a residence among them again – I hate the Climate where Rebellion & Fanaticism are ingendred – & would shun it as I would a Country infested with the plague, – from all which, good Lord, deliver

me. — I thank you for writing to me, & beg for such favours every Oportunity — & in return, you shall have frequent Scribblings from, dear Ned [&c.]

Jon: Sewall

[Endorsed] answerd July. — Staaten-Island.

1. Winslow Papers, DAC. An edited version appears in W. O. Raymond, ed., *Winslow Papers A.D. 1776–1826* (St. John, N.B., 1901), 13–14. Jonathan Sewall, former attorney general of Massachusetts, had gone to England in 1775. He had been an intimate friend of John Adams.
2. Vice Admiral Samuel Graves.
3. A rather obscure reference to the cylindrical projections which hold a cannon on its carriage, and which Sewall used as a symbol of Graves's inactivity.

HUGH PALLISER, ADMIRALTY, TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Dear Sir,

Admiralty Office Janry 10th 1776.

I wish to be informed as soon as possible of the Names of the Victuallers for Quebec, & where they are to be found, also of the other particulars mentioned in Mr. [George] Jackson's Note to you, in answer to Your's to me the 7th instant, for want of which we cannot be doing any thing relating to those matters. I am &c
Hugh Palliser.

(private) I. P.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 8.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1776

London, January 10.

Yesterday the King's proclamation for the encouragement of Seamen, &c. to enter into his Majesty's service, was read at the Royal Exchange gate.

A ship from England, belonging to James Anderson of Boston, with a cargo of cloathing, wines, &c. Also a vessel with rum and sugar from the West Indies; and a ship with coals from England, are all taken by the provincials.¹

They write from Portsmouth, that orders are come down there to take particular care of the prisoners on board the *Tartar* man of war, and to treat them with the greatest humanity, that they may be sent back to Boston, in order that they may be exchanged for some of the King's troops.

1. The ships *Concord* and *Jenny*, and the brig *Little Hannah*, taken in December by Captain John Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee*.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1776

London [January 10].

By the last Letters from America we are informed, that the Provincials are very successful in their naval Enterprizes, and that the British Flag in those Parts has already received every Sort of Insult; some of our Vessels being almost daily taken under the Eyes of the Fleet: On the other hand, the Provincial Army seems by its Inactivity to be already benumbed by the Season; not one British Post near Boston had been disturbed within two Months before the Date of the above Letters.

INTELLIGENCE FROM A LONDON NEWSPAPER ¹

London, Jan. 10.

Several of the Captains have complained by letters to the A[dmiralty], that their respective ships were too weakly manned to proceed to sea, which has been taken no notice of; in consequence of which they have had private surveys, and attestations signed by several officers of the exact state of their complements, in order to exculpate themselves, in case of accidents that may arise from the scandalous manner in which they have been sent to sea.

1. *New York Packet*, May 16, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, JAN. 10." ¹

Arrived at Spithead the *Arethusan* man of war from the Downs: went out of harbour to Spithead the *Greyhound* man of war, Capt. [Archibald] Dickson; she is bound to North America, and has 40,000 *l.* of foreign specie on board for the King's troops.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 11 to January 13, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 10th Janry 1776

The 6th instant I informed You of my Arrival Here, the preceding Evening, with His Majesty's Ship the *Bristol*; Not a Pendant has appeared of[f] this Harbour since, but this Morning, One of the Ordnance Ships called the *Noble Bounty* came in, and as the Wind has been favourable, and the weather sufficiently moderate for Two or Three Days past, I hope Our whole Force will be assembled in the Course of to Morrow and next Day, or at least such part of it, as I may venture to proceed with. All the Troops are Embarked, and I have Anchored the Transports in convenient Births for putting to Sea. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

Very Secret

Paris Janry 10th 1776

My Lord, It is with Pleasure that I can assure Your Lordship, that I have now pretty good Reason to beleive, that the Report I mentioned in a former Letter, of the small Fleet preparing at Brest, being designed for the West Indies, is void of all Foundation: My Informer is positive, that the Destination of this Fleet has been invariably the same, Vizt to the Isle de France, and Pondicherry; but adds, that it is now determined to send only One Ship of the Line & 2 Frigates, notwithstanding the News received here, of the Marratoes ² having attacked the French Comptoir ³ called Mahé, which it is thought has Strength sufficient to defend itself: The same Informer adds, that a Person of some consequence, whom M. de Sartine ⁴ Sent for to get Information with regard to the real State of the above-mentioned Comptoir, had a long conversation with him upon the

present State of Canada, and the unexpected Success of the American Rebels there: He gave it as his Opinion that 'tho a hostile attempt to recover Canada, might be liable to great Objections, as it would necessarily draw on an expensive War; Yet, he saw no Reason, why France should not attempt to recover it by Treaty, making an offer to give us the most effectual Assistance to reduce the Rebels, in case that Cession was made; to this M. de Sartine answered in the most positive manner "Qu'il ne falloit pas penser à cela Et que la France etoit très décidée de ne se meler de rien." [']

I have, I think, good Reason to believe that M. de Sartine did hold this Language, But how far it was sincere, or how far he has the real Secret of this Court, I will not take upon myself to determine; I will however venture to repeat to Your Lordship, what I have more than once said already; that the present Sentiments, of the present French Ministry, seem to me pacific; But then, My Lord, it is but too obvious, that this Ministry hangs entirely by M. de Maurepas's Life, which cannot be as strong a thread as I could wish it. His Successors might have a very different Plan of Policy; that of the Duke of Choiseul would be as decidedly hostile as possible.

I am sure Your Lordship will be beforehand with me in drawing the natural Inference from all this, and will think the State of this Country, a Strong additional Reason, for that Speedy, as well as vigorous Exertion of our Strength, which the present most unhappy Emergency demands. I am with great truth, and respect, My Lord, [&c.]

Stormont

Lord Viscount Weymouth

[Endorsed] Paris 10 Janry 1776 Lord Stormont very secret R 21st by Express fm Dover.

1. PRO, State Papers 78/298.
2. Mahrattas, inhabitants of central India.
3. Factory, or settlement.
4. French Naval Minister.
5. Jean Frédéric Phelippeaux, Comte de Maurepas (1701-1781), French Minister of State, and principal adviser to Louis XVI.

11 Jan.

GEORGE III TO LORD SANDWICH¹

Queens House Jany 11th 1776

Lord Sandwich

$\frac{m}{33}$ pt 10.A.M.

I sincerely condole with You on the melancholy event that prevents Your coming before Sunday to St James's.

Sir Hugh Pallisser's letter shews he has not been idle during Your absence, and I trust Your activity will instill that vigilance into the inferiors in Your great department that no delay in sending out the Succours in the Spring will arise from the short notice You have had; You call it unprecedented, the expression in ordinary times ought undoubtedly to be attended to, but when such acts of

vigour are shewn by the Rebellious Americans, we must shew that the English Lion when roused has not only his wonted resolution but has added the swiftness of the Race Horse. I should not be so desirous of employing Your tallents at the Head of the Admiralty Board if I did not entrust You with the general idea that is of late entertained that the Navy is not so quickly when called on fitted out as was expected by those who know Your unremitted ardour to effect whatever You undertake; my answer on all occasions has been that I did not deny that every other Department has been ready for the Southern Expedition three weeks sooner than the Navy but that the difficulty of obtaining Sailors was the cause of this, and that now a bounty is ordered, I trust things will be carried on with infinite dispatch.

I cannot too strongly inculcate the necessity of setting all Official forms aside that in the least delay the engaging Transports; I have reason to think the Ships of force fitting out at Philadelphia are not to attempt any engagement with Our Vessels of force but to intercept homeward bound India Men to obtain Salt Petre. Ships must be fitted out for to prevent their Succeeding; I cannot help on this occasion reminding You of the idea You mentioned some months ago of buying some Coal Vessels and fitting them out as Ships of War; in short every means of obtaining many Vessels ought to be adopted, and a considerable addition ought with the utmost expedition to be sent to strengthen the Southern Squadrons, for every intelligence points out St Eustacia as the Port from whence the Americans hope in the course of the Winter to obtain Gun Powder, therefore between that place and N.America we ought to cover the Sea with Vessels to disappoint them in this essential article for carrying on the next Campaign.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 331-32.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III¹

Admiralty Jan: 11.1776.

Your Majestys great goodness in mentioning to me some things that have been thrown out, intimating that it has been hinted that the Naval Department has not been so expeditious in the equipment of the Southern expedition as they might have been, will I hope incline you to forgive the liberty I take in explaining that matter in which I think your Majesty has been in some part misinformed.

When the first orders were sent to prepare transports for the expedition, they were ordered to be ready the beginning of December; they were ready at the time. The men of war were allso ready except the *Bristol*, which was delayed in the dock only four or five days after the time fixed for her being fit for Sea; and I fear your Majesty will never have a sea expedition that will be in readiness so near the given time as this has been. what delay has been since the *Bristol* sailed from the Nore, has been occasioned by contrary winds & accidents, and I am certain by nothing that human wisdom could guard against; the *Boreas* one of the squadron run ashore in going out of Spithead, and received considerable damage; she was immediately replaced by another ship and no time lost on her account. the ships that were left behind in the river were the armed Transport, the Hos-

pital ship for the Army, and the Bomb tender; the former of these was taken up when the others were ready for the sea, therefore could not go at the same time; the second was delayed principally by the Physical people with whom we have no business, the Bomb tender is entirely under the direction of the ordnance, and they best know why she was not ready; however that no time might be lost to the expedition, Sir Peter Parker was directed, if they did not join him before he was ready to sail from Corke, to sail without them; & to leave one of his squadron to follow him as soon as the missing ships arrived.

The Elements have certainly warred against us most cruelly, for the *Actaeon*, *Thunder Bomb*, & *Deal Castle* that sailed with Sir Peter Parker have been driven back to Plymouth, and the latter run ashore and was saved with the utmost difficulty, having lost all her masts, and greatly damaged in her hull, so that she will require a considerable time to refitt, and must be replaced by some other ship.

The *Actaeon* is put again to sea, and the *Thunder* will sail in a day or two at furthest, but I am perswaded Sir Peter Parker will not stay for them, as they will overtake him on account of his being obliged to keep company with the transports. I do not mean the word unprecedented as a complaint, I readily acknowledge every office must exert itself to the utmost, & that rules must not be attended to, unless they are such as would prejudice the immediate purpose if they were broken thro': my whole meaning is conveyed in what your Majesty has seen in Sir Hugh Pallissers letter, namely that if we do get the transports required at so short a notice, it is more than ever was done before, & your Majesty may be assured, that whatever constant attention & money can do, shall be done in the whole of this important business.

The second assistant to the Surveyor of the Navy & the Boatswain of Deptford Yard are ordered to repair to Glasgow to procure transports for the men that are to come from Scotland, and to attend to their equipment; & every ship that can be got in the river, or the out Ports will be taken; but if ships are not to be got for money, your Majesty will permit me to say that it is out of the reach of this department to provide the means of supplying that want at so short a notice. however as I have allready said, I do believe we shall be ready in time with all the transports that are wanted.

Your Majesty has had the goodness to make an excuse for us to which we are not entitled, as no ship of Sir Peter Parkers Squadron has been delayed a single moment for want of men; & I hope that such measures are taken as will prevent any of the ships that are fitting, from lying in Port an hour after they are wanted for service: when I forsee a want of seamen I will apply in time for leave to press, but I still hope to do without it.

The Marine recruiting goes on so well, that when I have the honour of paying my duty to your Majesty, I propose to ask whither [*sic*] a farther addition might not be made to that usefull corps, an additional second Lieutenant to each company & ten private[s] would add considerably to our strength & without much expence, but I doubt whither that would enable us to have an additional Battalion on shore; however I shall put this calculation into writing in order to be prepared to lay the whole properly before your Majesty.

The *Arethusa* & *Thetis* of 32 guns each are ordered to be fitted for the protection of the India ships, they are both ready for the sea, & have nothing to take in but their additional provisions & stores.

Reinforcements are ordered to the two Southern Squadrons, where the services your Majesty points out deserve and will meet with the utmost attention from this board, and therefore we were rather surprized that orders were sent to us to direct Admiral Gayton to proceed with his whole squadron to Pensacola in case of an attempt being made upon that place, we have therefore thought proper to write Our opinion to the Secretary of State upon this subject.

One armed Transport is gone with Sir Peter Parker, two others will go to Quebec but the two last are not colliers, but there are many proper vessells among the transports that the commanders in chief may arm if they think proper, and so much call for colliers for the transport service, that I am unwilling to take them from the more immediate & material service.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 328-31.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office Janry 11th 1776.

Your Lordship having in your letter of the 6th instant acquainted Us that there is ground to suspect that the Rebels in North America may, early in the Spring, invade the Province of West Florida, by the Channel of the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers; & may make some Attempt upon Pensacola; & having signified His Majesty's Pleasure that We do instruct the commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships on the Jamaica Station to be very attentive to that Province, & to keep one or two of the smaller Ships under his Command constantly cruizing upon the Coast of West Florida, with Directions to bring immediate Intelligence to him in case any such Attempt should be made, in which case he is to take on board the first Battalion of the 60th Regiment, now on Duty at Jamaica, which the Governor will have Orders to embark, accordingly, and to proceed with his whole Squadron to Pensacola, consulting upon his Arrival with Governor [Peter] Chester the measures it may be advisable to pursue in such an Event. In return, We think it necessary on this occasion to acquaint Your Lordship that the Ships and Sloops that are at present Stationed at Jamaica, are 1 Ship of the 4th rate, 2 of the 6th & 3 Sloops, and that, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified in a letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, We gave Orders on the 11th of August last to Rear Admiral Gayton, the Commander in Chief, to station two of the said Ships or Sloops, one at Heneago, the Other at the little Caicos, in order to intercept North American Vessels which were represented to resort to Cape Nicholas Mole & other Ports in the Island of Hispaniola, where they do load with french Produce and secretly take in large quantities of Arms & Ammunition. From which, Your Lordship will please to observe, after executing our aforementioned Order, there will remain only four of the Ships or Sloops under the Admiral's Command, which We think not sufficient for all the Services recommended to his Protection; & to prevent the Island being left intirely exposed, which would be

the Case, if the Admiral, upon receiving the Intelligence aforementioned, should proceed with his whole Squadron to Pensacola. We submit whether, instead of giving him Orders so to do, it may not be more expedient to send Orders to the Governor to hire Transports to carry the said Battalion, and for the Admiral to proceed therewith in his own, or any other of his Ships, which may be most fit for the Service, by which we conceive he would be equally able to execute His Majesty's aforesaid Intention.

We cannot help observing to Your Lordship upon that part of Your letter desiring two of the smaller Ships under the Admiral's Command may cruize constantly upon the Coast of West Florida, to be ready to carry Intelligence, that, by this means of Conveyance, it must necessarily be a considerable time in reaching him, as the Ship to be dispatched, must be obliged, during her Passage back, to work all the way to Windward.

We are further to acquaint Your Lordship as a matter immediately relating to this Subject, that we have this day been attended by a Committee of the West India Merchants, who have requested such a Reinforcement may be made to the Squadron stationed at the Islands, as may effectually protect the Trade, for which We shall give immediate Orders.

All which desiring Your Lordship will Communicate to His Majesty, that We may receive His Majesty's Pleasure thereon, We remain &c

Sandwich. J.Buller. H.Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 9-11.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1776

London. Jan. 11.

The *Tartar* man of war had orders sent down on Tuesday by express, to land the Americans she has brought over, and to go into dock, to be repaired for another voyage, with all expedition.

A letter from Portsmouth says, that people flock from all parts of the country to have a sight of the prisoners brought home in the *Tartar* man of war from Boston; that a great deal of money has been collected for their support during their residence in England.

The flag taken from a provincial privateer, is now deposited in the Admiralty; the field is white bunting, with a spreading green pine; the motto "Appel to Heaven!"

Orders are sent to Chatham, for his Majesty's ship *Repulse* to be fitted out for the American station. She is already put in commission, and the command is given to Capt. [Henry] Davis.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 11th Janry 1776

Please to acquaint Their Lordships, that this Evening, only the *Nancy* Ordnance Ship, and the *Nancy*, the missing Army Victualler arrived Here. There are yet to come, the Five Frigates, Two Bomb Vessels, and Their Tenders, One

Ordnance Ship, the Hospital Ship, Store Ship, Navy Victualler, and the *Friendship* armed Ship. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

12 Jan.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III¹

Admiralty Jan: 12.1776.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that a thought has occurred to him that a large number of Transports may be procured at Hamburg, which would aid us exceedingly, add greatly to the dispatch & be particularly convenient for the embarkation of the foreign troops at Stadt and Ritz-buttell. The Hamburg Ships are five [*sic fine*] large Vessels of the Collier sort, and I believe are very fit for the purpose.

The Comptroller of the Navy is now with Lord Sandwich & greatly approves this idea, and Ld Sandwich has sent to Mr [William] Eden that no time may be lost in communicating it to Ld Suffolk.

If we get the Scotch from Holland, possibly it might be advisable to bring them in Dutch Ships.

The enclosed letter will shew your Majesty why we do not immediately send agents to Bristol &c. And as soon as the letters that were written on Saturday are answered, if the present mode does not succeed, proper people will be sent immediately to see what can be done on the spot.

Admiralty *half past eleven.*

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 332.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 12 January 1776

You may recall, Sir, that at the time when parliament gathered the rumor spread that the Americans had marched on Halifax. I had the honor to inform you of this at the time. The Ministers and everyone else believe it. However, this is what happened.

I had the honor to write you in a private letter before I left for Bath that M.[Benedict] Arnold had marched on Quebec and had captured the *Point of Levi* which is close enough to Quebec so that the city could be shelled from there. M. Arnold, who is quite simply a horse trader, left with fifteen hundred men of the Rebel army near Boston and spreading the rumor that he was marching towards Halifax. He embarked and made sail for the French[man's] bay, landed at Cas[c]o Bay, went up the Kimbeki [*sic Kennebec*]. He made a portage from the source of this river to Nansacanti, then went down the River of Etchemins to Quebec² The obstacles were almost insurmountable; he was abandoned by a third of his party. The Canadians helped him on the way with all sorts of assistance and he finally succeeded with this undertaking. Meanwhile, Colonel [Richard] Montgomery marched on fort Chambly and St. John and attracted to this region General [Guy] Carleton who, going ahead with the elite of his

forces, left Canada and Quebec open to M. Arnold whom Colonel Montgomery must have rejoined immediately after his expedition. You will easily follow this bold undertaking Sir, on the maps of Canada drawn by M. D'Anville. . . .

Lord Weymouth acknowledges the treaty with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel of which you were informed, Sir, by the last Bulletin. He told me, however, that this agreement was not signed yet, but that they had good reason to believe it would be. This minister stated positively that it was a matter of twelve thousand Hessians; that the Duke of Brunswick was giving five thousand of his own forces; that more were expected from a German Prince; that all would be embarked for America as soon as possible; and finally that England expected to have there eighteen thousand foreign troops at her service and at least as many national troops.

These are finally the real means; I would consider them sufficient if the greater part of these forces could be taken to Canada in order to attack the English Colonies on land from the rear, while, at the same time, a considerable fleet with landing troops could threaten the whole length of the American coast. But if the Canadians side with the American rebels, and if the united continent makes a common cause, this campaign will probably be like the last one and furthermore the Germans, who are slaves at home, will become recruits for the Americans. To believe those who know the Americans well and who were brought by their intrigues and their own opinions to study this matter closely, American independence is assured; especially once Canada is taken, the Ministry will no longer be in a position to prevent this misfortune with their plan involving force which they adopted so inconsiderably and carried out so poorly.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1307, LC Photocopy.

2. Arnold's force crossed the Height of Land to Lake Megantic, and descended the Chaudiere River to Point Levis.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 12 January

Indeed, Sir, nothing is more alarming than the factors which presently affect the foresight of the King's Council. Much can be feared from the rigorous measures of precaution taken by England in order to intercept all trade between Northern America and the rest of the world. To illustrate this point, I quote what has just happened. Two Danish vessels have just been seized in the Channel on pretext that they were carrying ammunition to the Americans. They were taken to Dover; they were visited, insulted, but nothing was found.² Denmark requested that the English Captains be punished, but this cannot be done because Lord Suffolk made a ministerial declaration to the effect that this action had been taken on his orders. I don't even know what will result from this; the Danish Minister is waiting to see what his Court will reply in such circumstances. We must flatter ourselves that better attention will be given to the French and Spanish ships; but at the same time, we must not overlook the fact that the danger of a blazing rupture will always rest on the possibility that an English Captain will find a way to satisfy his cupidity under the protection of his instructions. Those that you have

given me, Sir, are too important and I shall not neglect any means to conform to them with the scrupulous attention which, while revealing the coming dangers to the English Ministers, may show them how to foresee and prevent them.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1308, LC Photocopy.
2. See journal of H.M. Sloop *Speedwell*, November 5–8 and 21, 1775, and December 9–11 and 22–23, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 12.”¹

Last night came down four large casks, containing money, which is going to be sent to Boston in his Majesty’s ship *Milford*, Capt. [John] Burr, in order to pay the troops there.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 13 to January 16, 1776.

13 Jan.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1776

London. January 13.

Great numbers of seamen have within these few days been sent from the houses of rendezvous in and about London, to the different ships they have entered for.

It is said, that advice by a ship just arrived at the Cove of Cork, in a quick passage from Virginia, that since Lord Dunmore’s success in defeating the Virginian militia, four counties had voluntarily come in and swore allegiance to the Royal standard; that the King’s forces under his command had been joined by upwards of 5000 effective men; and that the Provincials in that and the neighbouring colonies were, in consequence of this event, thrown into the utmost consternation.¹

1. “The report of three provinces declaring for government, and joining Lord Dunmore, is false,” *London Chronicle*, January 16 to January 18, 1776.

14 Jan. (Sunday)

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GREENOCK, JAN. 14.”¹

Last post we received a letter from Captain James Laurie of the ship *Concord* of this place, dated Cambridge, in America, 6th of December, advising of his being taken by a provincial privateer, within 30 miles of Boston, after a hard passage of ten weeks and five days.²

1. *London Chronicle*, January 20 to January 23, 1776.
2. Taken by John Manley in Washington’s armed schooner *Lee*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CROOKHAVEN, JAN. 14.”¹

The *Thunder* bomb is put in here by a strong easterly wind; she is one of Sir Peter Parker’s squadron, and sailed from the Downs four weeks ago, in company with several other ships of war for Corke; but three of them have been dismasted

or otherwise damaged, so as to prevent their proceeding till repaired, viz. the *Boreas*, *Triton* and *Deal Castle*.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 6 to February 8, 1776.

M. D'ANGLEMONT TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

Milord,

Boulogne, 14 January 1776

I had the honor to receive your dispatch of the 4th instant in which were enclosed copies of the letters from Count de Vergennes and Count of Stormont concerning the complaint made by this ambassador to the effect that there was presently in Dunkerque a vessel of 120 tons, called the *Charming Peggy* and commanded by Capt. [Gustavus] Conyngham, and which was suspected to have taken on powder. I have the honor to report to you that this ship arrived in Dunkerque on the 3rd of December last coming from Londonderry from whence she had sailed on the 11th of November; that she intended presently to take on spirits for England, but that M. Viguhard, Captain of the ship *la Breton* which carried the Hanovrian troops that had run aground on the coast of Dunkerque about two months ago, spread the rumor among the public that being moored by the flat boat for repairs with the ship *The Charming Peggy*, he had seen many barrels being taken on board the latter at night, which barrels he suspected to be filled with powder. This rumor was credited among the English and M. Frazer, Commissioner of His British Majesty went to see all the English brokers in order to obtain information with regard to the cargo of this ship and requested and obtained from the officers of the Admiralty that a visit be made. It took place on the 3rd instant and nothing was found except some ballast and some supplies which were probed throughout with iron-rods. I am certain that M. Frazer reported the results of this visit to his Court.

Moreover, the orders which you sent me to prevent the exportation from our ports of arms and war ammunition destined for the English Colonies are so precise that I give my strictest attention to them.

[Endorsed] Copy of the private letter from M. d'anglemont, General Commissioner of the Navy in Dunkerque, to M. de Sartine.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1311, LC Photocopy.

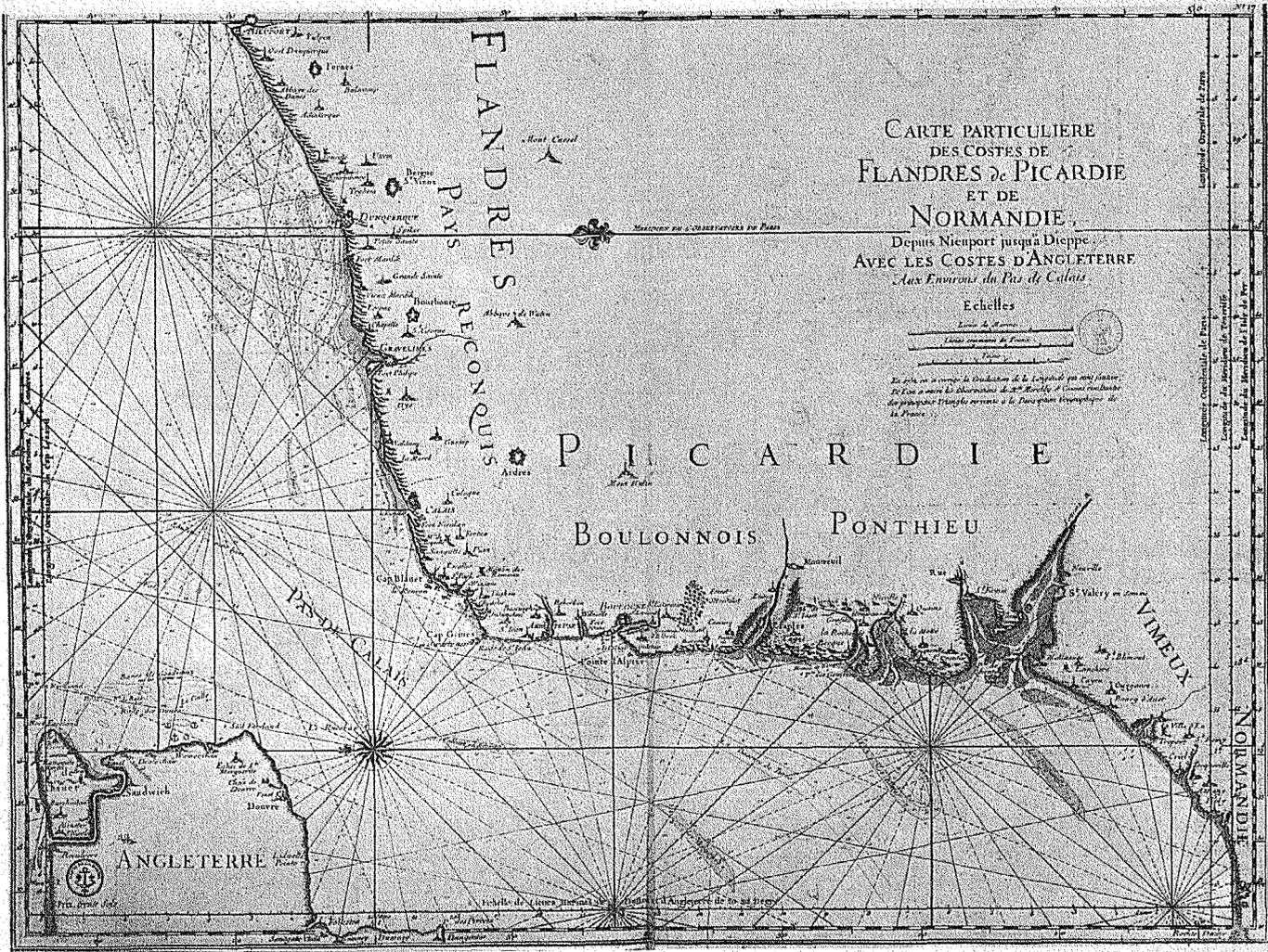
15 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 15th Janry 1776.

In pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us in your Lordship's Letter of the 6th instant, We gave Directions to Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Portsmouth to cause the Crew of the American Privateer who were brought home Prisoners in the *Tartar*, to be put on board one of the Guard Ships, & to be kept under proper Confinement till farther Order,² And Sir James Douglas having in return, acquainted Us that



CARTE PARTICULIERE
 DES COSTES DE
 FLANDRES de PICARDIE
 ET DE
 NORMANDIE
 Depuis Nieuport jusqu'à Dieppe
 AVEC LES COSTES D'ANGLETERRE
 Aux Environs du Pas de Calais

Echelles
 Lignes de 10 toises
 Lieues communes de France
 Lieues de Hollande

*Se sçait en la carte la situation de la Tour de la Vierge qui est située
 sur le rivage de la mer de Picardie, & comme plusieurs
 de plusieurs François venant à la Navigation vers l'Angleterre de
 la France.*

FLANDRES
 PAYS
 RECONQUIS

P I C A R D I E

BOULONNOIS PONTHEU

VIREUX

ANGLETERRE

Longitude Océanale de Paris

Longitude Océanale de Paris

NORMANDIE

Echelle de 10 toises de Paris

some of the above Prisoners have had the small Pox on board the *Tartar*; That others are troubled with Disorders, & having no Cloaths, will, if removed into other Ships, in all probability carry their Disorders with them, and infest the Ships' Companies, which he is informed was the Case in some of the Ships at Boston, on board which Rebel Prisoners were sent; He hath therefore proposed these Prisoners may be sent to Haslar Hospital, put into small Pox Ward, & have clean Cloaths given them, without which the Infection cannot be removed; We are to desire Your Lordship will lay the same before His Majesty for His Information, in case it should be thought necessary, upon what Sir James Douglas hath represented, for Us to receive His Majesty's further Directions concerning the said Prisoners. We are &c

Sandwich. J. Buller. Hugh Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 13-14.

2. The crew of Washington's brig *Washington*, taken in December 1775. Douglas' orders are in PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 2-3.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 15th Janry 1776.

Your Lordship having acquainted Us, by your letter of the 4th instant, that it is the King's Intentions every effort should be made to send relief to Quebec as early as possible, & that for this purpose three Ships of 180 Tons each have been contracted for to carry Provisions. And Your Lordship having at the same time signified His Majesty's Pleasure that one Fifty Gun Ship two Frigates and a Sloop of War be forthwith prepared to accompany those Victuallers, and to be ready to sail by the Middle of February, and also that two large Vessels be taken up to serve as Transports each of sufficient Tonnage to contain Provisions for Six Months for 300 Men, and likewise Accomodation for about ten commissioned Officers of His Majesty's Land Forces, and 188 Noncommissioned Officers & private Men, with half the Baggage & Camp Necessaries & Women belonging to a complete Battalion, and that these Vessels have each a Lieutenant on board. We are to acquaint Your Lordship that, in pursuance of His Majesty's said Pleasure, the Ships named in the Margin,² being both of them large Ships are taken up, & are fitted to serve as Transports, & that Lieutenant Thomas Pringle and Lieut Anthony Parry, who lately came Express from Quebec, have Our Orders to take charge of, & proceed, the former in the *Lord Howe*, the Latter in the *Bute*; And as these Vessels, together with the Ships of War mentioned in Your Lordship's Letter, will be ready by the time His Majesty hath been pleased to direct, We are to desire Your Lordship will signify to Us the King's further Pleasure whether any particular Directions are requisite to be inserted in the sailing Orders to be given to the Captains of His Majesty's Ships & whether some of the Men of War may not proceed to Sea, & make the best of their Way leaving a proper Convoy for the Protection of the Transport Vessels. We are &c

Sandwich. J Buller. Hugh Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 12-13.

2. *Lord Howe* and *Bute*.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 15th Janry 1776.

I am commanded by My Lords Commrs of the Admiralty to desire you will be at the trouble to learn, and inform them, if any of the Transports, which will be first ready for Service, are intended for the reception of Horses, such Information being necessary with respect to the further Orders their Lordships may give for their Equipment. I am &c.

Geo: Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 11-12.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1776

London [January 15].

The Congress have appointed two Admirals, [Esek] Hopkins, a brave old seaman; and Brice, an Englishman. Also 300 marines and officers. They have sent Brice after Lord Dunmore, whom they intend to bring to trial for piracy. The Americans say, he has broken four of the Province laws, which he was bound by oath to preserve, any one of which is capital; therefore, in a paper printed there, "they just caution him, that his privilege of Peerage will not protect him in that Province." . . . Hopkins was to sail with his fleet on the 25th of December, to intercept the transports from England and Ireland.¹

1. This seems to have been the earliest account printed in England of the appointment of Esek Hopkins to command the Continental Fleet. The mythical "Brice" again appears.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1776

London, January 15.

The naval force destined to act against America will, we hear, consist of fifty-six ships of war, from 50 to 15 guns each, besides sloops, bombs, &c. and will be manned by 16,000 seamen and 3000 marines; the expence of which will be 1,800,000 *l*. The army will consist of 34,000 effective men, which will cost 1,500,000 *l*. so that the whole of the armanent for America, by sea and land, for the year 1776, will be 53,000 men, and the expence 3,300,000 *l*.

16 Jan.GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 16 Janry 1776

I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to send you herewith a Copy of their Order address'd to Vice Adml Graves or the Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships at Boston dated the 15th Octo last, directing him to Station one of the small Ships of His Squadron at the Bermuda Islands & another at the Island of Providence for the safety & preservation of the Ordnance & Stores belonging to His Majesty at those places And I am commanded by their Lordships to recommend it to you to cause the directions therein contained, if not carried into execution when this shall reach you, to be done with all the dispatch the

nature of the Service will admit of, the securing of the Stores mentioned in the said Order being an Object of great consequence &c

GJ DS

By the *Milford*

(By Express at 2 PM under Cover to Commissr Ourry at Plymouth)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 6.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1776

London, Jan. 16.

It is reported that Brice, the American Commodore, with three armed vessels under his command, which mounted from 24 to 28 guns each, had fallen in with his Majesty's ship *Preston*, of 50 guns, and two frigates, when the Commodore was taken, together with his squadron, without exchanging one broadside, and carried into Boston.¹

1. While the report was without foundation in fact, it seemed to the printer, probably, an excellent way to dispose of the mythical "Brice."

VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

[Copy]

Resolution, Spithead 16 Janry 1776

Please to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that agreeable to their Order of the 10th Instant I have sent the Seventy Prisoners from the *Tartar* on board the *Centaur* at Spithead; and as all of them were bare of Cloaths and some of them almost naked I took upon me to order each of them, except the Officers, to be supplied with a Suit of Slop Cloaths, to be washed and cleaned and their old Cloaths to be thrown overboard to prevent Infection, being full of Vermin. I have ordered them to be mustered and have herewith inclosed the numbers and name of the Country in which each of them were born, who are all, except the Officers, desirous of entering into the King's Service, and would not choose to be sent back to America.

Rhode Island	32	Pensylvania	1
New England	20	New York	1
Old England	7	Quebec	1
Corke in Ireland	3	Lisbon in Portugal	1
Germany	2	Virginia	1
Philadelphia	1		
		Total	70

James Douglas

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 26b.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 16th Janry 1776

Be pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that this evening His Majesty's Ship *Acteon*, *Carcass* Bomb Tender, and *Earl of Darby*, Ordnance Vessel arrived here; and that Captain [Christopher] Atkins inform'd me that the *Solebay* sail'd from

Falmouth on Sunday the 7th instt with the Thirty four American Prisoners on board.² I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.
2. Ethan Allen and the men captured with him before Montreal.

JOHN MARSH TO LORD WEYMOUTH¹

Malaga, 16th January 1776.

I think it necessary to acquaint Your Lordship that information having been given me by two masters of English vessels, with their voluntary declarations on oath to the truth of what they affirmed, that an American sloop, under American colors, that put in here a few days since, by a contrary wind, from Barcelona bound to New York, had warlike stores on board, I thought it my duty to insist upon a proper scrutiny, and the search was accordingly made, but nothing found on board of what had been mentioned to me, tho' there were undoubtedly the greatest motives for suspicion, the sloop being of infinitely too small a burthen to suppose that a lawful trade at this juncture could be anyways answerable, added to the circumstance of her going from Cadiz to Barcelona with ballast, and returning here with the same, bound to New York.

Both the masters of the English vessels assert in their declaration, that they had had their intelligence from another who was at Barcelona when the American was there, who affirmed to them that he was confident arms had been shipped on board the sloop at that place, that he knew the person who had procured them for the American captain, and whom they were in particular intended for at New York.

So many circumstances concurring to enhance my suspicions, I thought it incumbent on me to take the step I have mentioned, and as similar cases may daily happen, I should be glad to be informed if my conduct in the present, meets His Majesty's approbation.

The Master had no pass, and the two English captains still insist that the arms were on board, but concealed in such a manner as not to be easily come at; he sailed a few hours after the search was made. I have great reason to think that many of those American vessels that have lately sailed from the different ports of this kingdom, bound to the continent, have carried with them warlike stores. I shall endeavour to prevent any thing of this kind happening here, tho' I suspect that two of them that left this port the latter end of October, did smuggle on board a small quantity of muskets, as I then advised the Earl of Rochford in my letter of the 31st of the said month.

1. Letters and Extracts from the Correspondence of Lord Grantham In Spain, January 1776 to June 1779, Sparks Transcripts, I, 1-3, HU. Marsh was British Consul at Malaga.

17 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES DOUGLAS,
PORTSMOUTH¹

Whereas we think fit that the Complements of His Majestys Ships the *Arethusa* & *Thetis* shall be increased to Two Hundred Men to serve on board

the said Ships during their present intended Voyage; You are hereby required & directed to cause Twenty Men each to be lent from the Guardships to complete the Complements of the said Ships to the aforementioned number accordingly their Captains being directed to receive & bear them as Supernumeraries. Given &c 17th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 362.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAINS DIGBY DENT AND MITCHELL GRAHAM, R.N. ¹

Whereas we have thought fit that the Complement of the Ship you command shall be encreased to Two Hundred Men to serve on board during her present intended Voyage & having for that end given directions to Vice Adml Sr Jas Douglas Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships & Vessels at Portsmouth to cause Twenty Men to be lent from the Guardships at that Port; You are therefore hereby required & directed to receive the said additional Men bearing them as Supernumeraries for Wages & Victuals during their continuance on board.

Given &c 17th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

Capt Dent - *Arethusia* - Spithead

" Graham - *Thetis* - Do

[By &c. G J DS]

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 362.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 17th Janry 1776.

Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Portsmouth, having acquainted Us by his Letter of Yesterday's date of his having sent the 70 Prisoners brought to England in the *Tartar*, on board the *Centaur* at Spithead, & that they are desirous (the Officers excepted) of entering into the King's Service. We send Your Lordship a Copy of Sir James Douglas's Letter for His Majesty's Information, submitting it to His Majesty whether it may not be advisable to permit the said Prisoners to enter on board the King's Ships as they desire. We are &c

Sandwich. J. Buller. H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 15.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 17th January 1776

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of yesterday's date, informing them of your having sent the Seventy american Prisoners from the *Tartar* on board the *Centaur* and that as all of them were bare of Cloaths and some of them almost naked you have ordered each of them except the Officers to be supplied with a Suit of Slop Cloaths to be washed and

cleaned, and their old Cloaths to be thrown over board to prevent Infection being full of Vermin; also of your having caused them to be mustered, and that all except the Officers, are desirous of entering into the Kings Service and would not chuse to be sent back to America and I am commanded to acquaint you that their Lordships approve of what you have done and that Lord George Germain is made acquainted with what you represent respecting the said Prisoners inclination to enter into the Kings Service, for His Majesty's Information, and it is submitted whether it may not be adviseable to permit them to do so. I am &c.

Geo. Jackson D:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 14.

GEORGE JACKSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SICK AND HURT ¹

Gentn

[Admiralty Office] 17t January 1776

Having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 15th Instant, transmitting in original a Letter you received from the Physician and Council of Haslar Hospital, with an order from Sir James Douglas addressed to the Agent directing him to receive into the said Hospital Seventy Prisoners from New England, and desiring that you may receive their Lordships directions thereupon; I am commanded by their Lordships to return you the said Papers, and to acquaint you that the said Men are put on board the *Centaur*, where they will remain til further Order. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 16.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, JAN. 17." ¹

This day sailed his Majesty's ships the *Milford*, Capt. [John] Burr, and *Boreas*, Capt. Thompson, with stores, &c. for the service of his Majesty's troops in America.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 16 to January 18, 1776.

18 Jan.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1776

London [January 18].

The Ship called the *Washington* (after General Washington) taken by one of his Majesty's Ships from the Provincials, with 70 Men and 17 Guns on board, is arrived in the Downs, and Notice of her received at the Admiralty.¹

1. An erroneous report; the *Washington* was left in Boston when the British evacuated in March, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 18." ¹

Since my last the seventy-two Rebels that came home in the *Tartar* man of war, were ordered to be sent to Haslar hospital, and there to stay till opportunity will admit of their being sent back.

Yesterday the *Juno* frigate came out of dock.

The *Hazard* sloop is come out of dock, and is fitting for sea.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 23 to January 25, 1776.

19 Jan.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 19 January 1776

Sir, I had a conference yesterday with Lord Weymouth on the important matter which you entrusted to my care in your despatch of 31 December last. I depicted to this Minister all the dangers presented by the last bill ² and I made use of the remarks which you sent me concerning the possibilities that might disrupt the harmony which subsisted between this court and ours; they produced all the effect that could be expected. Lord Weymouth conceded that it would be necessary to give all the Captains of the English ships particular instructions with all the details and precisions required to keep them from abusing the terms of the Bill; he confessed to me that this would be absolutely essential in order to provide means of punishment against those who would commit infractions. He will talk about it with Lord Sandwich and the other Ministers of His British Majesty before next Thursday, and he asked me to assure you that all the necessary precautions would be taken so that order and equity be respected or at least to insure that on no account repairs, compensations or other acts of justice required in such circumstances shall be dispensed with. I will speak on this same subject to Lord Sandwich with whom I am intimately acquainted and I would not be surprised if I obtained even a copy of the particular instructions given to the Captains destined to cruise along the American coast.

a few days ago, I had a very interesting talk with a merchant who left Quebec on the 28th of October who has a business there as well as another one in Philadelphia where he spent part of last year and witnessed the beginnings of the disorders and their progress; he was more interested and in a better position than anyone to ponder their consequences . . .

This same merchant who, on his way from Philadelphia to Quebec, saw all the military forces of the Americans and is personally acquainted with their commanders has views which are quite different from those to which the supporters of the Government try to give credit here. Their army is well paid, well clothed, well armed and full of good will and zeal. All the country people have become more soldiers at heart than farmers; thus, this army is countless and led by officers several of whom are German and well experienced. They even have good engineers; this merchant saw them fortify Ticonderoga, Crown Point and a fort on the river of Philadelphia, 20 miles below the city, which opposes the approach of even the largest ships as it is so strongly built. Finally, the Americans have foundries; they manufacture salt petre and powder; paper money is circulated with great confidence; even the merchants are determined to limit their trade to the local resources and to secure real and eternal advantages through this temporary inconvenience. . . .

The Landgrave of Hesse has agreed to furnish troops to the English Commissioners on the 1st of April only; it will take these troops a month to march to Stade where they will embark; the month of July will almost be over before they are taken to America and ready for action.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1313, LC Photocopy.

2. Prohibitory Act.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 19th January 1776.

The Navy Board having informed My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the *Dorothy* Transport, which is fitted to carry 100. Soldiers of the 29th Regiment from Sheerness to Plymouth, would have sailed the 14th if the great Quantities of Ice in the River had not prevented, and that the same Cause had made it impossible for anything to be done on board the *Lord Howe* and the *Bute* Transports, which are fitted for Service to Quebec, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for Lord George Germain's Information. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 16.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 19th Janry 1776

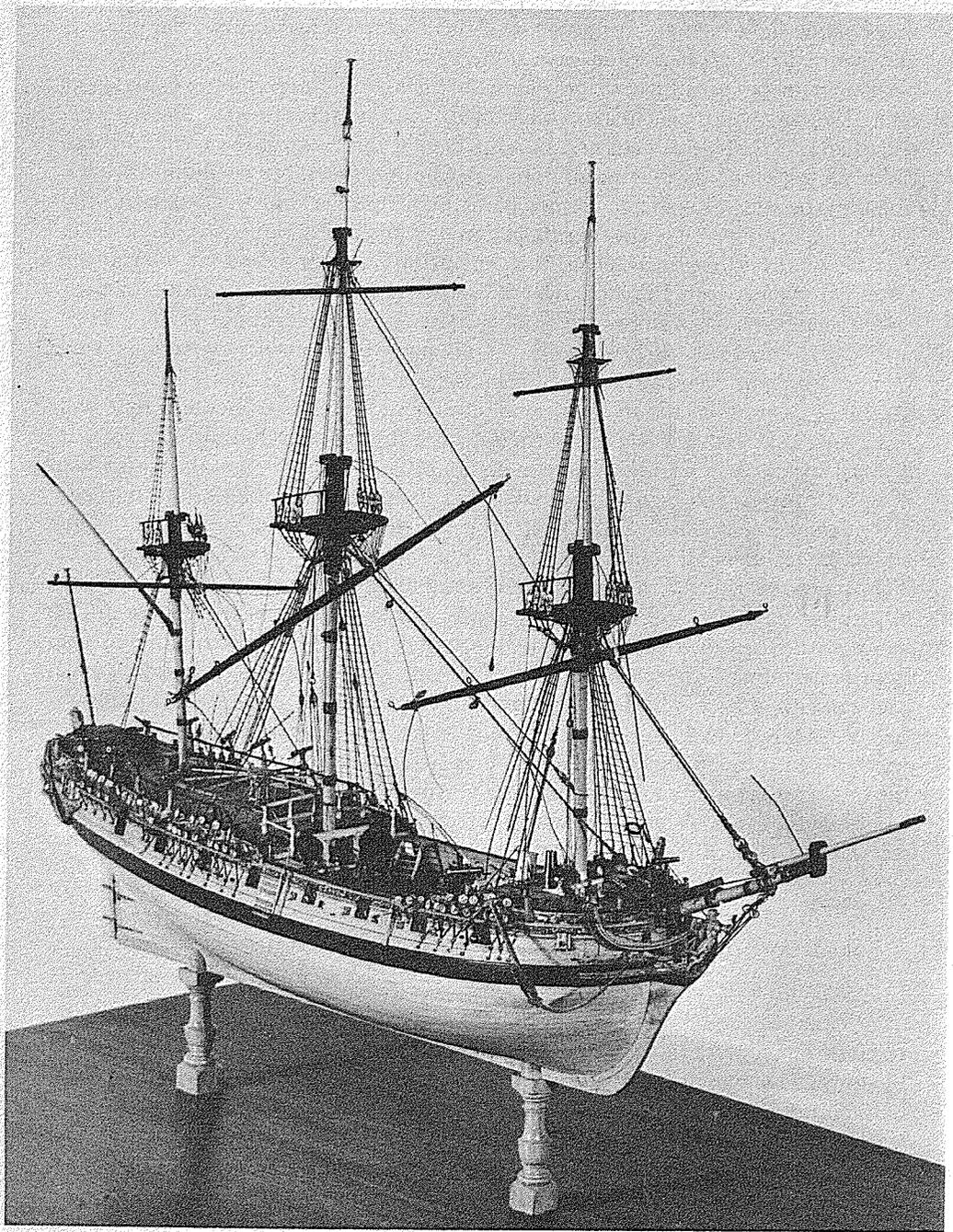
Having laid before the King Your Lordship's Letter of the 17th Instant, inclosing Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas, stating his Proceedings in regard to the Prisoners brought home in the *Tartar* Man of War, and the Desire of all the private Men to return to their Allegiance and engage in His Majesty's Service; His Majesty, whose Magnanimity is only equalled by His Clemency, commands me to acquaint Your Lordships, that His Majesty very much approves the humane & prudent Treatment which the Vice Admiral has shewn to those Prisoners, and to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's most gracious Acceptance of the Offer of those deluded Persons to return to their Allegiance, and His Royal Permission to be received into His Majesty's Service on board his Fleet; and Your Lordships will give the necessary Directions to Sir James Douglass, for entering and distributing them on board His Majesty's Ships, in such manner as Your Lordships shall think fit.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 27.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 TO SATURDAY,
JANUARY 20, 1776

London. January 19.

The difference between General Howe and Admiral Graves, at Boston, no matter from what cause originating, has arisen to such a height, that the Admiral treats the military with great contempt. General Howe is obliged to repair the light-house with his own people; the Admiral refused to have any thing to do with it. The distress of the troops and inhabitants in Boston, is great beyond all possible degree of description. This account is dated December 14. Neither vegetables, flour, nor pulse, for the inhabitants; and the King's stores so very short, none can be spared from them. No fuel; and the winter set in remarkably severe. The troops, and inhabitants, absolutely, and literally, starving for want of provisions and fire. Even salt provision is fifteen pence sterling per pound. The only three coal ships from England, which had been able to get near Boston, were



HM Sloop Atalanta, 16 guns, 1775.

taken at the mouth of the harbour by the American privateers; as was also a vessel with live-stock from Halifax. They boarded another vessel within two miles of the light-house. On account of this accumulating distress, the inhabitants petitioned Gen. Howe for leave to quit the town. He refused. They then petitioned to be permitted to go out with their wives and children only; and offered to leave all their effects in the town. But he still refused. As they consist chiefly of the select men, and other principal inhabitants, the General keeps them as hostages. It is impossible to describe the miserable condition of these unhappy people. Language cannot paint their distress; and this, added to the hourly expectation of a bombardment, makes their situation truly deplorable. The frost having begun to set in, the provincial Generals intend, as soon as the water is froze between Dorchester Neck and Boston Neck, to erect batteries upon Dorchester Point. No ships, nor floating batteries, can then annoy them. They waited for the frost, otherwise this would have been done long ago. From Dorchester Point they can not only command the town of Boston, but render it absolutely impossible for the troops to stay in it. — This is a measure that will most certainly be taken. The next news from Boston, therefore, will be, that it is taken by the Americans. There is no doubt Gen. Howe will make a vigorous defence. But he will be overpowered. The town, it is probable, will be burned; that it may not be made a place of arms for the regulars in the spring. This attack, it was thought, would commence about the 17th or 18th of December last. The Americans ridicule the excessive folly and extreme ignorance of the ministry, in sending transports to Boston, with troops, stores, and provisions, so late in the season; when, as they say, the north-west winds alone will prevent four in five from ever getting to North America. The American privateers constantly cruize at the mouth of Boston harbour and between Cape Cod, Cape Anne, and Jefferys's Ledge. Only four companies of one of the last two regiments which were sent had arrived, though the whole sailed together. The other six companies, and the other regiment, are lost or taken by the Americans, or drove away to the West Indies by the violent north-west winds, which are common upon that coast at this season.

20 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN THOMAS UNDERWOOD,
H.M. SLOOP *Atalanta*¹

Whereas Capt [William] Cornwallis of His Majestys Ship the *Pallas* hath received our Orders to proceed with that Ship together with the *Weazle* and the Sloop you command upon a particular Service; You are hereby required & directed notwithstanding any Orders you may be under from Capt Cornwallis to the contrary to proceed with His Majesty's Sloop under your command to such part of the Coast as you may think most likely to meet with him.

Given &c 20th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 364. A similar letter was sent to Captain Samuel Warren, commanding H.M. Sloop *Weazle*. The destination of the letters is not given.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 20th Janry 1776.

The *Charming Sally*, *Hope*, and *Russian Merchant* Ordnance Storeships which were intended to have gone to North America, under Convoy of the *Actaeon*, but were afterwards left to go under Convoy of any other Ship that might be ordered thither, being still at Spithead waiting for Convoy; I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith for Lord George Germain's Information, and to desire you will let them know if the said Ships are to proceed to Boston as at first intended, as their Lordships in that case will give Orders to the Ships of War which may convoy the first Embarkation of Troops to that part of America to take these Storeships under Convoy also. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 16-17.

GEORGE JACKSON TO THE BRITISH NAVY BOARD¹

Gentn

[Admiralty Office] 20th Janry 1776

I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to signify their direction to you in consequence of what passed on your attendance upon them this Morning upon the Subject of providing Ships to serve as Armed Vessels in No America, to propose to them a method of taking up Ships for this Service, observing that if such Vessels as offer are capable of being Armed, it will not be necessary to pay regard to the nature of their construction, And that you are to give the preference to such Vessels as are not fit to be employed as Transports which is a Service that must not be interfered with.

I have it farther in Command from their Lordships to recommend it to you to treat with the Owners of the *Lord Howe* & *Bute* Transports, in order to their being employed as Armed Vessels when the Troops they are at present ordered to Carry to Quebec are landed at some Port in No America &c

G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 21-22.

21 Jan. (Sunday)GEORGE JACKSON TO PETER MITCHELL¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 21st Janry 1776.

A Paper of Intelligence having been transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty representing that two Ships, one to carry 34 Guns, & the other 30, with two single decked Brigantines to mount 16 Guns each, are fitting out at Philadelphia, and that they were to be joined by a 20 Gun Ship from Rhode Island, and to proceed to the Island of Ascension and cruize betwixt that place & the Island of St Helena for the homeward bound East Indian Ships. - My Lords immediately upon receipt thereof took into consideration the measures that would be the most adviseable not only for the intercepting the aforementioned Cruizers

should they proceed into those parts, but to protect and defeat any attempts that may be made on the homeward bound East India Ships; and, in consequence of their own Opinion on the Subject, and of what has passed at several Meetings with the Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the East India Company, their Lordships have thought it expedient to appoint the two Frigates mentioned in the Margin for the Services aforementioned, and which they expect will be ready to proceed to the Island of St Helena in a few days.²

I have their Lordships directions to add for the information of the Secret Committee, that the Captain of the *Arethusa* (after calling at Madeira & St Iago for refreshments) will be directed to make the best of his way to St Helena, and return from thence to England with such Ships under his Convoy, and at such time as the Governor, to whom he is to apply, shall signify to him will be the most convenient and effectual to the Service of the Company.

The Captain of the *Thetis*, after calling for refreshments as aforementioned will be directed to keep to the Eastward along the Coast of Guinea, 'til he is in a situation to enable him to fetch the Island of Ascension, where he is to proceed and cruize round the said Island so long as his Provisions and Water will allow; reserving sufficient to carry the Ship to St Helena, where he is then to make the best of his way, and from thence return to England under the like Orders as are described for the *Arethusa*.

Besides the said Frigates their Lordships have thought it further adviseable to send directions to the Captain of the Ship and Sloops named in the Margin,³ which are at present stationed on the Coast of Africa, to proceed to the Island of Ascension, and cruize at and about it so long as their Water & Provisions will allow, in hopes if any American Cruizers shall be in those Seas, of their falling in with them. – Having so done, the *Pallas* and *Atalanta* are to proceed to Jamaica agreeable to former Orders, and, in case of falling in with any Homeward bound India Ships to take them under Convoy so far as their way lye together: The Captain of the *Weazle* being order'd to return immediately to England, he is, under the event of falling in with any of the said Ships, to take them under his Convoy 'til he shall arrive on the Coast.

The Chairman & Deputy Chairman having observed to my Lords that a Vessel is on the point of sailing with Advices from them to the Island of St Helena, I send you therefore a Pacquet directed to the Governor & Council of Cape Coast Castle, containing their Orders to the Captains of the Ship & Sloops on the Coast of Africa; and am to desire the same may be forwarded in her, together with an Order which is under a flying Seal from the African Committee to their Governor & Council at the Fort aforementioned, directing them to forward the Orders to His Majesty's Ships upon whatever part of the Coast they may happen to be when the same shall be received.

I send you also other Dispatches directed to the Captains of the aforesaid Ship & Sloops respectively, being Duplicates of those under Cover to the Governor & Council at Cape Coast Castle, which Duplicates the Officer commanding the East India Packet not having met with the King's Ships before, is to deliver to them in his way to St Helena, or Princes Island or St Thomas's, – where it is

hoped he cannot fail to find them; but it is not expected he should delay his Voyage by waiting for them at either Place. I am &ca

Geo Jackson DS.

Peter Mitchell Esqr East India House.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.
2. *Arethusa*, 32 guns, and *Thetis*, 32 guns.
3. *Pallas*, 36 guns; Sloops *Atalanta* and *Weazle*, of 14 guns each.

JOHN BODDINGTON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Dear Sir.

Tower – Sunday 21 Jan: 1776

The Ordnance Storeships mentioned in Mr [George] Jackson's Letter are as follows –

For Boston	{	The <i>Russia Merchant</i>	Has on board 500 Barrels of Gunpowder – and great part of Captn [John] Montresor's Demand of the 19 August
		The <i>Hope</i>	Has 1600 Carbines – 1500 Barrls [of Gunpowder] and the remainder of Captn Montresor's Demand of the 19 August
		The <i>Charming Sally</i>	Has on board – Iron Ordnce Shot Powder and Stores for the Fleet – 1000 Stand of Arms & Barrack Bedding for 3 Regiments all Consigned to Halifax –

Your Letter contains the first and only Intelligence to this Office of their being still at Spithead

I am Dear Sir [&c.]

John Boddington

P.S. These Ships were ordered to proceed with Convoy & application made for the same, therefore orders will be necessary for Convoy to be appointed. The *Russia Merchant* & *Hope** were first intended for North Carolina, afterwards Countermanded & ordered for Boston, since which no alteration has been made in their Destination

[Endorsement] *These sailed under the *Greyhound* for Boston; the *Russia Merchant* reached Halifax in May & the *Hope* was taken by the Americans.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 61–64.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, JAN. 21.” ¹

Friday [January 19] orders were received at the Commissioner's office in this dock yord, for the *Richmond*, *Diamond*, *Lark*, *Ambuscade*, and *Amazon* Frigates, to be fitted out with the greatest expedition for America.

1. *London Chornicle*, January 23 to January 25, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, JAN. 21.” ¹

Prompted by a paragraph in one of the evening papers I went to see the American prisoners brought home by the *Tartar*. I intended to contribute something towards cloathing them, and expected to find them all in irons; but how great was my disappointment, when I found them removed from the *Tartar* to

the *Resolution*, at free liberty, victualled the same as the ship's company, and since removed on board the *Centaur*, where their old cloaths were changed for new, at the expence of Government; this surprised me much.

The weather has been so bad that few would venture to the place, nor do I find many of the American friends so free with their contributions. The commander of these poor Americans, who seems to be an intelligent man, gave me the following information: I think he said his name was Nightingale,² that being bred to the sea, he was commanded, by General Washington, together with seventy men, to fit out the vessel, and although he saw the impropriety of embarking in such hazardous enterprizes, and represented to the General the same; and though a petition was drawn up by the whole crew, and sent, begging they might return again to the camp, their answer was, that if they did not proceed to sea immediately, they were to be sent to him in irons, and would have been hanged as traitors to America, for daring to refuse his orders.

Many of them say they are married men, and were forced into the field against their own inclination; that the common soldiers grumbled much at their situation, and, in fact, that the whole camp is in such a state of rebellion against their commanders, that they entertain not one doubt but the army before Boston is by this time dispersed; . . . As these people are under no apprehensions, kindly treated, denied no liberty but that of going on shore, these facts may easily be credited, as they were not forced into a confession.³

P.S. The sick, to near twenty, are in Hasler Hospital: I believe one is dead of the small-pox.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 25 to January 27, 1776.

2. Captain Sion Martindale.

3. John Walkar, a member of the crew, wrote, in a letter to Benjamin Franklin, dated February 19, 1779, "when we got home to England our Captain patitiend to the Cort that his men ware willing to serve S.M.volontirily which was falce & by that he was Sent home to amarica again & I was put on bord of the *royal oak* & frome thence on bord of the *ousstrige*[*Ostrich*] & was Sent awy to the west Enges [Indies]," Franklin Papers, XIII, 123, APS. John Vail, gunner's mate on board the *Washington*, deposed, "We arrived in England in January, 1776, we were then put into the Hospital, the greater part of the crew being sick in consequence of the confinement during the voyage, where many died—I remained in imprisonment about sixteen months when I made my escape— . . . According to my best recollection nearly one third of the crew died in the hospital—" *Life of Israel R. Potter*, 107–08.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JAN. 21." ¹

Last night went out of dock his Majesty's ship *Deal Castle*, having had her leaks stopt, and the damage she received when on shore repaired.

We have now fitted at this port for America, and will soon be ready for sea, the *Triton*, *Surprize*, *Martin*, and *Deal Castle* ships of war.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 25 to January 27, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 21st Jany 1776

I have received your Letter of the 8th instt inclosing a Copy of an Article of Intelligence respecting Virginia and Maryland, which I shall endeavor to make

a proper use of when occasion offers. – I have also received the Duplicate of your Letter of the 8th instt giving an Account of the return of the *Triton* to Plymouth, dismasted, and that their Lordships had order'd the *Milford*, which was then at Spithead, to carry the Dispatches &ca. to Rear Admiral Shuldham. The 16th instt I inform'd their Lordships of the arrival of the *Actaeon*, *Carcass* Bomb Tender, and the *Earl of Darby* Ordnance Ship. – This evening His Majesty's Ship *Solebay* arrived here, and also the *Friendship* Arm'd Ship. – Inclos'd is the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command at this Port. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

22 Jan.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords,

Whitehall, 22d January 1776

Having laid before the King your Lordships Letter to me, of the 15th Inst in which you desire to be informed whether any particular Directions are necessary to be inserted in the sailing Instructions to the Captains of His Majesty's Ships, under orders to proceed to Quebec, and whether some of them may not put to Sea, and make the best of their way, leaving proper Convoy for the Victuallers & Store-ships; I am commanded to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that Isle aux Coudres, in the River St Lawrence, be the place of Rendezvous for all the Ships of which the early Fleet for the relief of Quebec, is to consist, that the Commander of each Ship be Instructed that, if upon entering the Gulph of St Laurence, he shall find the Passage through the Gulph impracticable, on account of the Ice, he do make the nearest & safest weather Port, watching with great Attention, the earliest Opportunity of proceeding upon his Voyage; that upon his arrival off Kamaraska he should use his utmost endeavors to procure Intelligence from the Inhabitants of that Parish, of the State of Quebec, and in case he shall learn that the Town is still in His Majesty's Possession, that he do exert his utmost Efforts to get up to the Bason, or as near to it as possible, contriving all practicable means of sending Intelligence to Major General Carleton of his arrival, and of the relief which may be expected, and also desiring his advice & Directions with respect to such further steps as it may be proper to take; But, if on the contrary he should learn, that the Town of Quebec has been taken by the Rebels, he is not to proceed higher up the River than the Isle aux Coudres, where, it is hoped, the 29th Regiment may be landed & continue in safety, under the Protection of His Majesty's Ships, until the arrival of the larger Body of Forces, which will Sail from Ireland, early in the Month of March. –

What your Lordships have suggested of the Propriety of some of the King's Ships destined for this Service proceeding to Sea, before the rest, is approved by the King & your Lordships will give the necessary Orders accordingly. – I am & ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 32.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 22d January 1776.

Having laid before the King Your Lordship's Letter to me of the 11th instant, on the subject of the Steps it may be advisable to pursue, in case of any Attempt by the Rebels upon West Florida; It is His Majesty's Pleasure to recall the Orders upon that head, contained in my letter to you of the 6th instant, and I am to signify to you His Majesty's Commands that Rear Admiral [Clark] Gayton be instructed that he do, as soon as conveniently may be, place one of the small Ships of his Squadron upon the Station of Pensacola, and that he do also procure, & fit out, a proper armed Vessel, drawing about 6 foot Water abaft, & mounting 2 four Pounders & 2 three Pounders to be stationed in the Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, in order to intercept any Craft that may attempt to pass through that Channel, with an Intention to commit Hostilities in West Florida.

It is also His Majesty's further Pleasure that Rear Admiral Gayton should be instructed that, if at any time he should receive Intelligence of West Florida being invaded by the Rebels, he do in that case immediately send such part of his Squadron to Pensacola, for its Relief & Protection, as can be spared from the necessary Services of the Jamaica Station. I am & ca

Geo Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 33.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 22.” ¹

Yesterday sailed his Majesty's ship *Acteon*, Capt. [Christopher] Atkins, for America, and the *Carcase* Bomb for Ireland.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 25 to January 27, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORKE, JAN. 22.” ¹

His Majesty's ship *Solebay* arrived yesterday at Cove, and we hear has on board Ethan Allen, and some other Americans who were lately sent home prisoners, and are now sending back to America.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 6 to February 8, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 22 Jany 1776

Please to acquaint their Lordships that this evening His Majesty's Ship *Active* came in here, and by her I received the Original Letter dated the 8th instt relative to the return of the *Triton*, and the *Milford's* being order'd to carry her dispatches to Rear Admiral Shuldham. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO LOUIS XVI ¹[January 22, 1776] ²

To the King Only.

Sire, — When considerations of State impel you to extend a helping hand to the Americans, Policy requires that your Majesty proceed with such caution, that aid secretly conveyed to America may not become in Europe a brand to kindle strife between France and England. Above all, it is the part of prudence to be certain that the money cannot possibly pass into other hands than those of your own choice. Moreover, since the present state of the finances does not at once permit of as great an expenditure as events seem to require, it is my duty, Sire, to submit to your judgement the following plan, having for its principal object, under the semblance of a purely commercial affair, to remove all suspicion that your Majesty or your Council are at all interested in the matter.

Another advantage of this plan is that your Majesty's Council can easily, and at a glance, follow the money throughout all its changes in the course of trade, from the generous hand of the giver to the grateful hand of the receiver, without a fear of its diversion or loss through dishonest agents.

But the principal advantage of this plan is, that it increases the prestige and maintains the continuity of your aid to such a degree, that by multiplying this money by its increase, a single million enhanced by being again put in circulation produces the same results in favor of the Americans as if your Majesty had actually paid out nine millions for their benefit. This requires further explanation.

Finally, this plan, in execution, unites with many other advantages, the power of retarding or accelerating the course of these supplies as your prudence may dictate, and according as the situation of the Americans becomes more or less pressing, with the result that these aids, wisely administered, will serve not so much to terminate the war between America and England, as to sustain and keep it alive to the detriment of the English, our natural and pronounced enemies.

Besides, should your Majesty in pursuance of this important object be obliged to increase the amount, it is certain that every million spent by you to enable the Americans to defend their soil, will cost the English 100 millions, if they persevere in going 2,000 leagues from home to attack them. In other words, to sacrifice a million in order to occasion a loss of 100 millions to England, is precisely the same thing as advancing a million to gain ninety-nine millions; and, in a calculation of chances throughout the longest reign, it is impossible, Sire, that you could ever find another opportunity to make a less expensive, more practical or greater gain.

Let us consider the details of the scheme. The unvarying impression of this affair to the majority of the Congress, should be the delusion, that your Majesty has nothing to do with it, but that a Company is about to entrust a certain sum to the prudence of a trusted agent, to furnish continuous aid to the Americans by the promptest and surest methods, in exchange for returns in the shape of tobacco. Secrecy is the essence of all the rest.

But the two vital points of the operation are, first, the ease with which your Majesty may obtain as much power as you wish, at a moderate price, and,



Louis XVI.



Caron de Beaumarchais.

second, the impossibility of the Fermiers-Généraux now obtaining tobacco at any price whatever. Admitting this, I would proceed as follows:

Your Majesty will begin by placing one million at the disposal of your agent, who will style himself Roderique Hortalez and Company, this being the signature and title of the firm under which I have agreed to conduct the entire business. One half of this sum, changed into moidores or Portuguese pieces, the only foreign money that passes in America, will be immediately forwarded thither; for it is necessary that the Americans should have a little gold at once, to put in circulation their own paper money which, lacking this impetus, is likely to become valueless and stagnant. It is the leaven that must be poured on the heavy dough to make it rise and properly ferment.

From this half million, no other benefit can be derived than its return in the form of Virginia tobacco which the Congress ought to furnish to the Firm of Hortalez, the Ferme-Général having previously agreed with the latter to purchase the tobacco at a good price. Yet, this is of small consequence.

Roderique Hortalez intends to use the remaining half million in procuring powder, and in conveying it without delay to the Americans. Instead, however, of buying this powder in Holland, or even in France at the current prices of 20 or 30 sols tournois a pound, the price at which the Dutch hold it, or even higher, when supplying the Americans, the real device of the operation consisting, as Roderique Hortalez hopes, in secretly procuring, with the sanction of your Majesty, all necessary powder and saltpetre of your Registrars, on a basis of from four to six sols a pound.

If the firm of Hortalez contracts with the Americans to forward to them powder on the basis of 20 sols a pound, and pays the equivalent to the merchants, it cannot send to Philadelphia for the remaining 500,000 livres more than 500 milliers of powder, and this second operation will be as barren as the first, in regard to the gold coin, nor will it yield further profit, beyond a payment in tobacco, confining the speculation to the same return as in the first instance. As has been stated, this is of small consequence in itself.

But if Hortalez secretly obtains powder from your Majesty's Registrars, at 5 sols a pound, with the 500,000 livres remaining he can obtain 2,000 milliers, or 20 thousand quintals, of powder, which forwarded to America, at 20 sols a pound, will leave Congress in debt to Hortalez to the amount of 2 millions tournois. The profits, returning in the shape of tobacco, sold in advance to the Ferme-Général, will enable the firm of Hortalez to settle with the real owner, namely, your Majesty, for the sum of two million five hundred thousand livres; and in addition there remains to be calculated the profit on sales of tobacco, that may rise in round numbers to 500,000 livres.

The return of these various sums will place at the disposition of Hortalez an actual capital of 3 millions, with which to renew the operation, to rehabilitate the American paper money with 1,500,000 livres in gold, and to supply American mortars and cannon with 60,000 quintals of powder, while this 60,000 quintals, although costing Roderique Hortalez but 15 thousand livres, will nevertheless

make the Americans his debtors to the amount of 9 millions in return for both the powder and the Portuguese gold received by them.

Enough has been stated to demonstrate to your Majesty, how the returns in this affair treated in accordance with a large conception of the principles of commerce ought to grow by circulation, not merely by using two for a multiple, as 1,2,4,8, etc., but by using three, as 1,3,9,27, etc.; for if the first million produced three, these three employed in further operations on the same theory, ought to produce 9, and these 9, 27 etc., as I think that I have sufficiently demonstrated.

Your Majesty will not mistrust the plan as I have stated it, because of its complications, when you realize that no commercial speculation either advances or succeeds by a method more simple or natural than this.

I have exhibited the matter to you, Sire, in the character of a large merchant who wishes to speculate to advantage, and I have explained the real secret by which a wholesale business, drawing its profits from abroad, by a profitable exchange of its returns, increases the prosperity of all nations sufficiently intelligent to foster it. This art is far superior to that of the financier, who, invariably drawing his profits from speculations at home, directed against the subjects of the home government, cannot increase the revenue except at the expense of the manner of life of the governed. Thus, instead of the healthy plethora occasioned by commerce, that destructive science only produces a monstrous swelling like a tumor on the head, the result of penury, discomfort, and the general clogging of all other parts of a sickly body.

But to return to the subject, my primary object is less to embark your Majesty on a lucrative speculation than to secure to your first gifts the air and effect of a much larger sum.

The outcome of my first operation, above described, will be the receipt by the Americans from your Majesty, through Hortalez, of actual aid to the amount of 2 millions 500 thousand livres; that is, 500 thousand livres in gold and 2 millions in powder, while your Majesty will have parted with only one million livres. Besides, if the assets in tobacco and the sale of this return proceed as I have indicated, your Majesty can soon recommence, by the hand of Hortalez, the redistribution of the three millions arising from the sale and profit of these returns, and begin the operation anew on a larger scale. Thus, following the geometrical progression indicated above, the Americans will have received in two installments from your Majesty a sum of 9 millions – that is to say, 2 millions in gold, and 7 millions in powder – although your Majesty, having merely invested a second time the profits of the former operation, will have actually paid out in all but a single million.

Admitting the foregoing as sufficiently explained, it is the same to the firm of Hortalez whether it employs for the trade a French or a Dutch ship. In either case there are advantages and disadvantages that I will briefly enumerate.

The choice of a Dutch ship conceals more effectually the source of the supplies, but it also renders the munitions and the returns liable to be intercepted by English cruisers during the long course of transportation, and thus we may be deprived in an instant of all the profits of the operation; while by employing a

French ship the transportation is absolutely safe as far as the French Cape, selected by Hortalez as the first depot for his trade with America.

This way, however, gives ground for a suspicion that the French government favors the enterprise, but considering that proof of the fact cannot be produced, we can disregard this, for whether France assists the Americans or does not assist them, the English for some time past, have been certain that we are lavish of our aid to the brave rebels in America.

Supposing, then, that a French ship be employed and freighted on account of Roderique Hortalez and Company, Congress, or rather Mr. Adams, the General Secretary of Congress³ will alone be informed by the American agent in England that a ship will carry to the French Cape gold and munitions to be paid for in Virginian tobacco, in order that he may send to the Cape his representative with the tobacco and with authority to receive the gold and munitions; to give his receipt, and to transfer to the captain and supercargo of Hortalez all the tobacco, or else a note to Roderique Hortalez for the proportion of the debt still outstanding.

Whereupon, the French captain will deliver to him all his cargo, and carry to Europe the cargo of the American – contriving that if the American ship is captured during the short run between San Domingo and the mainland, no trace can be discovered of any-thing beyond a simple commercial transaction between Hortalez and an American war-vessel.

The cargo of tobacco landed in France may meet a part of the loss, and the operation can be repeated in the hope of a better result and without compromising any one.

Before terminating this paper I wish to hazard an idea suggested during its composition, namely, that it would be a pretty thing to aid the Americans with English money. Neither is this difficult.

It would suffice should your Majesty, adopting an English usage that exacts a tax of 75% *ad valorem* on all French vehicles entering England at Dover, decree that in future all foreign vehicles and horses landed at our ports shall pay a tax equal to that levied on ours when entering England.

Considering the enormous number of carriages, horses, etc., that fashion, foolishness, or trade draws hither from that country, I promise your Majesty that were I allowed to arrange this little matter to your advantage you would have no need to contrive how to furnish the firm of Hortalez with funds, but would soon possess sufficient to enable the concern, which is really your own, to flourish on the grandest scale.

This stroke of finance is far superior to all the other speculations in that deadly science, since the cost is borne by the English and not by your Majesty's subjects; and it accords with the principle adopted by the merchant, economist, and politician, Hortalez de Beaumarchais, that foreign merchandise and products ought not to be admitted into any country, unless they create a revenue equivalent to their cost.

By putting in practice this conceit, your Majesty would have the pleasure of using for the relief of the Americans the very money squeezed out of the English, and this seems to me to be quite an agreeable consideration, and, so to speak, like planting a few flowers amid the dry waste of explanations of the output, return,

and profits of the commercial capital of the firm of Hortalez, of which your Majesty is about to become the sole proprietor.

After what has been said, it is not necessary that I prove to your Majesty your power to retard or accelerate these aids at pleasure. The trade contracted or expanded by Hortalez, according to the exigencies of the case, will have this effect without raising a suspicion of the true reason of these fluctuations.

Such is the scheme that I submit to your Majesty for this affair, after deliberate reflection upon it, and a calculation of the chances. The decision depends on your commands: the execution on my prudence and the success is left to Fortune. Under these conditions it appears to me the most profitable of any.

In case your Majesty does not adopt it, I shall, at least, be credited with having again shown in your service a zeal as extended as my experience and as active and pure as it is unalterable.

Caron de Beaumarchais.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886* (New York, 1887), I, 108-15.
2. This date is based upon a statement in Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*, I, 369: "It was to Beaumarchais, according to Doniol, that the acquiescence of Louis XVI in Vergennes' policy of aid to the colonies was due. Two months, he tells us, after his departure for London, at the end of November, 1775, and again on January 1, 1776, Beaumarchais returned to Paris, and addressed to Vergennes appeals for action as vigorous as they were vivid. These letters, with a detailed report not now to be found, were presented by Vergennes to the King on January 22, 1776." The foregoing document is undoubtedly "the detailed report" not then to be found. Apparently Beaumarchais supplied the copy to Silas Deane.
3. The secretary of the Continental Congress was Charles Thomson, not a Mr. Adams.

23 Jan.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Hawke*¹

Janry 1779 [*sic* 1776] [Lizard] N71E Distance 768 Leagues
 Sunday 21 at 7 Saw a Sail to the NEt out all reefs & got up T Gt Yards.
 at 11 one Sail in sight.
 [Fresh Gales & Squally]
 ½ past 1 PM Set Fore & Main Top studing sails at 2 Haul'd
 down Fore topmast Studing sail at 4 Strong Gales & Squally,
 ½ past Carried away the Fore Topsail Yard in the Slings got up
 another brought the sail in 3d reef set the foretopsail at 7 Got
 down T Gt Yards & handed the Mizen Topsail. at 8 in 2d reef
 Main T Sail,
 Monday 22d at 11 hauld up the Foresail brought Ship too under the Mn sail –
 a great Sea.
 Hard Gales & Squally Wr
 at 1 PM Hauld up the main sail & laid the Ship too under
 Mizen Staysail & Mizen. at 4 more moderate set Main topmast
 Staysail at 8 Strong Gales & Squally – hauld down the main
 topmast Staysail & laid her too under the mizen Staysail furld
 the foresail & mainsail. at 11 very hard Gales, with Lightening

Tuesday 23d

& Rain at 12 Ballanced the Mizen & brought her too under her bare Poles a heavy gale with a prodigious sea running.

at $\frac{1}{4}$ past a hurricane of wind which lade the Ship on her beam ends which with the body of water on her deck, she was deprived of the power of Motion beat out the ports on the le[e]side & cut away the Mizenmast. after puting the helm up but being water logg'd & the sea breaking violently over us. The helm had no effect on us. we then cut away the main mast, & got the Ship before the wind. & then threw overboard all the Guns Carriages Shott, & every thing off the deck by which means the Ship began to be lively tho the waist was continually full of water. at 1 we got clear of the wreck [of] the Mainmast. Stove the pinnace & carried away w[ith] it the reefed trisails 2 small Anchors. and the major part of the boom the mizen mast carried away the barricade swivel Stocks, & 1 swivel hen coops wh all the ship & boats oars &c Stove in the larb[oar]d Quarter & Chains at 2 Ship'd a heavy sea over the Stern which Stove in the Larbd Quarter dead light & fill'd the waist wh water, scuttled the Longboat. at day light found the casks of Tar Pitch Varnish Pine harness Cask Strip tubb with their Contents, which was Stowd in the Manger, Stove to pieces during the night & washd overbd also the brick work of the Stove & fire hearth in the Galley.

at 8 AM a very hard gale & a great Sea following us. hoist'd the fore TGt sail to scud under & keep her before the sea. at 12 am Hard Gales & a great sea followg us scudding under the F T Gt Sail hoist'd on the foremast First and Middle parts Strong Gales and heavy Squalls with a Confused Sea. Latter more Moderate & the sea much fallen at 4 PM Reef'd the fore sail & Scudded under Do & the Top Gt Sail under it.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1780.

2. This storm, as described by the master, Richard Burlace, explains why the *Hawke* did not join Sir Peter Parker's fleet before Charleston, South Carolina, according to orders given Captain Robert Cooper. See Philip Stephens to Rear Admiral Molyneux Shuldham, November 11, 1775.

GEORGE JACKSON TO THE CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY¹

Gentn

[Admiralty Office] 23d Janry 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty upon a consideration of the Orders proper to be given to the *Arethusa* and *Thetis*, have thought it may be most adviseable instead of ordering One of them to go directly to St Helena and the other to Ascension, to order them both to call at Ascension; but they do not choose to give their Orders for so doing 'till they have had an opportunity of knowing whether such Orders can be of any inconvenience with respect to your homeward bound Ships; and on which their Lordships will be glad of the favour of seeing

you to morrow morning at 11 oClock, unless you approve of this alteration, in which case it will not be necessary for you to take the trouble. I am &ca

Geo Jackson DS.

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

24 Jan.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO SIR BASIL KEITH ¹

(No 2.)

Whitehall 24th Janry 1776

Sir, The inclosed Copy of my letter to the Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty of the 22d Int will inform you of the Instruction which His Majesty has ordered to be given to Rear Admiral Gayton, for stationing a Sloop of War & a small armed Vessel for the Protection of West Florida, and for his Conduct in case he should receive Intelligence of any Attack by the Rebels upon that Province, and I am commanded to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that you do, in the like Case, detach to Pensacola, in Vessels to be procured by you for that Purpose, such Part of the first Battalion of the Royal Americans as can be safely spared from the necessary duty in Jamaica. I am [&c.]

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part I. Keith was Governor of Jamaica.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO SIR BASIL KEITH ¹

(No 3)

Whitehall 24 January 1776.

Sir, The inclosed Copy of my letter of the 20th Inst to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, will inform you of the Orders given in respect to the future Destination of the 50th Regiment; and I am to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that, upon the arrival of the Transport Vessels from England, you do give the necessary Orders for the Embarkation of the said Regiment.

As soon as the two additional Battalions, and the additional Companys to the Royal American Regiment are completed to the augmented Establishment, the whole of the Regiment will be stationed in the West Indies; & I hope it will not be long before the 50th Regiment is replaced by another Battalion of the Royal Americans. I am &c

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part I.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 24th Jany 1776

I send you herewith an order from my Lords Commrs of the Admty directing you to Order the American Prisoners to be distributed on board the Guardships under your command

It is their Lordships direction that you send me the Names of the American Officers who came home Prisoners with the aforementioned Men And that in the mean time you do keep them under proper confinement on board one of the said Guardships agreeable to their Lordships order of the 10th Inst &c

G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 35.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1776

London, January 24.

On the 19th instant arrived at Plymouth, his Majesty's ship *Milford*, bound to Ireland, and from thence to America.

The *Concord*, Laurie [James Lowrie], which sailed from Clyde, in September, for Boston, and is taken by the Americans, was richly laden with stores for the King's troops. She is valued at upwards of 5000 *l.* sterling.

Orders are sent to Sheerness for his Majesty's ship *Rainbow* to be fitted out for the North American station. She is already commissioned, and the command is given to Sir George Collier.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GEORGE JACKSON¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 24th Janry 1776

In my last Letters of the 21st & 22d instt, I mention'd the arrivals of the *Solebay*, *Friendship* Arm'd Ship, and the *Actaeon* – and yesterday I received a Letter from Captain [James] Reid, that he put into Crook: Haven the 12th instt, and that the *Pigot* Hospital Ship was forced in by bad weather the day before – Captain Reid complains that the *Thunder Bomb* is weakly Handed, and Fourteen short of Complement; I have therefore wrote to Lieutt Hay at Cork to send me fourteen of the Seamen he has lately raised, in order to compleat her Complement on her arrival at this Port. – The *Thunder Bomb* Tender arrived the 12th instt at Castle Haven – I received a Letter of yesterday's date from Captain [Anthony] Hunt, informing me of his arrival at Kinsale, with His Majesty's Ship *Sphynx*, and that he had met with so strong a Gale at No Et, that he was oblig'd to run into Latte 46°28' No Longtd 10°36' Wt. Captain Hunt transmitted to me your Letter of the 3d instt acquainting me with the accident that had befallen the *Levant* Victualler, and the measures taken in consequence thereof, and with their Lordships directions to me, not to leave a Frigate to wait for her alone, should all the Ships & Vessels, which are to accompany me, be arrived, before the Victualler, whose Master, in that case, would have Orders to wait for Convoy. – The Thirty four Rebel American Prisoners who arrived in the *Solebay*, I have distributed among the Ships of the Squadron, agreeable to their Lordship's Order of the 27t past.² – Be pleased Sir to inform their Lordships that the Rendezvous I have appointed, is from three to Ten Leagues So Wt from Cape Fear in North Carolina, with directions to make the Land every day. I am
Sir [&c.] P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

2. Taken with Ethan Allen before Montreal.

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH¹

[Extract]

Corunna, 24th January '76.

I make no doubt Your Lordship will have had particular information of the vessel that was lately stopped by order of this government at San Antonio, near Bilboa, to prove the property of two thousand barrels of gunpowder which she had

brought from Holland with intention to put it on board a vessel, supposed to be the *Lyon*, Capt John Wilson, belonging to Messrs Willing & Morris, merchants in Philadelphia, which vessel remained cruising on the coast of Biscay in expectation of meeting with her.² As I have no deputies there, and consequently heard nothing of it but by mere chance, and even then, not until I was convinced, Your Lordship had received more perfect accounts thereof from Madrid, I thought it unnecessary to be troublesome with any thing on that subject hence. . . .

1. Letters and Extracts from the Correspondence of Lord Grantham In Spain, January 1776 to June 1779, Sparks Transcripts, I, 1, HU. Katenkamp was British Consul at La Coruña, Spain.
2. "In September 1775 Willing, Morris & Co entered into an agreement with the Honble Congress by their Committee appointed for that purpose to deliver them Certain Arms & Ammunition they had written for by the Ship *Lion* Cap Wilson provided she arrived safe with the Goods, on which they received an advance of Eighty thousd Dollars. This Ship arriving in Europe at the time the Foreign Courts were most watchfull to prevent the Exportation of such articles from their Dominions Cap Wilson was disappointed altho he applied to different Merchants in Spain, France & Holland, and was obliged to return without the Goods bringing back the Specie & bills intended to pay for the purchase." Robert Morris' account of his transactions in behalf of the Secret Committee of the Continental Congress; incomplete, Morris Papers, HUL.

25 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 25 January 1776.

Having received a Petition from the Merchants and others of the Town of Pool trading to Newfoundland, setting forth, that they are alarmed at hearing several armed Vessels are fitted out, by the American Colonies, and that they apprehend the same may interrupt their Trade; therefore praying Directions may be given to defend and protect their Property in that Country; and that Convoy may be appointed, for the greater Safety of their outward bound Ships.

We desire your Lordship will please to acquaint His Majesty therewith, and suggest to His Majesty, besides appointing a proper Convoy, for which we shall give the necessary Directions, whether it may not be highly advisable for the better Security of the Island, to give orders for the Troops which have been taken from thence, to be returned thither so soon as the same can possibly be done. We are &c

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 17.

GEORGE JACKSON TO CAPTAINS DIGBY DENT AND MITCHELL GRAHAM, R.N.¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 25th Janry 1776

The Secret Committee of the East India Company having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Pacquet addressed to you containing some Cautions & Signals for you to observe when you make the Island of St Helena; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to pay attention thereto.

I am further directed by their Lordships at the desire of the said Committee, to signify their direction to you to be very careful to deliver the Instructions you will find in the said Pacquet to the Commanders of such of the homeward bound East India Ships as you may fall in with during your Voyage. I am &ca

Geo Jackson DS.

Capt Dent, *Arethusa*, Spithead

Capt Graham, *Thetis*, Spithead

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

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

[London] Janr 25th attended Ld G[eorge] G[ermain]'s Levee was first calld out, well receivd and desird to call on The 28th at His House.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC. See entries of January 5 and 6, 1776.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 TO THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25, 1776

London, Jan. 25.

Besides the men of war now fitting out at Chatham for the North American station, the *Repulse*, Capt. Davies [Henry Davis], the *Carrysford*, [Robert] Fanshaw, and the *Flora* [John] Brisbane, all frigates of 32 guns, are getting ready with the greatest dispatch.

Advice is received by the Irish mails, that his Majesty's ship *Bristol*, under the command of Commodore Sir Peter Parker, is safe arrived at the Cove of Cork. The *Milford* man of war is sailed from Plymouth for America.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 25." ¹

Yesterday his Majesty's ship *Cygnat* was launched from Portsmouth dock-yard. She is ordered to be commissioned for foreign service.

This morning sailed out of harbour to Spithead, his Majesty's ships *Fox* and *Seaford*, and saluted the Admiral, which was returned.

The *Tartar* frigate is ordered to sea again; there 26 of the provincials in our hospital, 20 of which have got the small pox, and one has died. ²

1. *London Chronicle*, January 27 to January 30, 1776.

2. *Life of Israel R. Potter*, 20: "The prisoners were now all thoroughly cleansed and conveyed to the marine hospital on shore, where many of us took the small-pox the natural way from some whom we found in the hospital effected with that disease, and which proved fatal to nearly one half our number."

26 Jan.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 26 January 1776

Lord George Germain pushes actively all the preparations for the next campaign. I was assured that he was gaining more and more the King's confidence and that Lord North's credit was decreasing. Indeed, I received him and his family at my home on the same day I received Lord North and his family and they

both avoided each other in marked manner. The re-assembly of Parliament will tell us more about it within a few days. I do not expect anything interesting during the course of the next week. The weather is so bad and the cold so severe that no one is in a hurry to leave his country home and get on the road to return to London.

The three Regiments of the Guards have proved their great zeal as they represented how cruel it was that they should not be of use to their country in such important circumstances. They have offered a thousand volunteers. The choice of the officers who volunteered makes it embarrassing to accept their services; most of them are General Officers and they would bring more hindrance than help to the army.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, 1317, LC Photocopy.

GEORGE JACKSON TO CAPTAIN DIGBY DENT, R. N.¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 26th Janry 1776

The Orders you will receive herewith from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty being of a private nature; I have it in command from them signify their direction to you not to reveal the contents thereof to any one but the Captain of the *Thetis*, whom you are to enjoin to observe a like Secrecy. I am &ca

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

ORDERS TO JOHN TOONE, MASTER OF ORDNANCE BRIG *Elizabeth*¹

(Copy) Instructions for Mr Jno Toone Master of the *Elizabeth* Brigantine Loaded with Ordnance Stores, for the Service of the Expedition under the Command of the Right Honble [Charles] Earl Cornwallis.

You are immediately to proceed to Cork and on your arrival there you are to acquaint the Officer Commanding the Royal Artillery on the Expedition therewith: and follow such Orders as you may receive for your future Guidance from him, or the Officer for the time being.

You are also by the first Post after your arrival at Cork to acquaint the Honourable Board of Ordnance therewith.

Given at the Office of Ordnance at Portsmouth this Twenty Sixth day of Janry 1776

Signed

Rich^d Veale
Storekeeper

J Blake
Clerk of Survey

T^s Matthews
Clerk of Checque

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 207.

27 Jan.

THOMAS LYTTTELTON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

[Extract]

My Lord

I hope your Lordship will excuse my not waiting upon you this Morning as I am indisposed by a violent Cold I brought with me from Ireland, the Master of the Brig instead of bringing [us] to Liverpool carried us thro' a narrow Channel

between Rocks and Shoals into four mile Water near Bantrey Bay, where we had a very providential escape from being entirely Lost. That we have made the best of our way thro' Ireland to London is evident I think from this Circumstance, that a Letter I wrote to my Brother Deputy reciever of the Excise, a Day before we left Cork came to hand a Day after our arrival here. I have taken the Liberty to send your Lordship the inclosed paper in which I have related every Circumstance I can at present recollect relative to the Situation of Bermuda, & tho I omit mentioning those who have misbehaved & do wish they may repent of their Folly & by due submission prevent Correction yet I hope it will not be thought too great a Liberty to name some few who have been most active in supporting Legal Authority viz Thos Burch Esqr uncle to the Chief Justice Benjn Williams Esqr Justice of Devonshire Tribe. Capt Miller Cox of the same Tribe who has serv'd some Time in the Navy has a large Family & would make a good Customhouse Waiter. Many others I might mention, were it not that I am afraid I have been already Too tedious. I am [&c.]

No 41 Charlotte Street

Tho^s Lyttelton

Rathbone place Jany [27] 1776 -

[Enclosure]

Bermuda being situated in Lat. 32.25 N & Long 66.38 E. containing 12,000 Acres, Inhabited by 6500 Whites, & an equal number of Blacks, is an Island capable of great improvement & may be rendered of great importance in Time of War, it being in the Tract of all the West India Trade to France Spain Holland,&c. There is in this Island a spacious Harbour, capable of admitting Vessels drawing 18 or 20 Feet Water, having places convenient for heaving down careening & repairing. There is in the said Island a Number of good ship Carpenters, whose common Wages are so moderate that Ships may be repaired &c at a Third of the expence of what they can in the West India Islands. The Climate & Temperament of the Air is so excellent that were there a Hospital erected for the Sick in the Navy & Army upon the West India Station, it will in all probability be found, that with little or no assistance from Medicines they will recover more within a few Weeks than they can in the West Indies in many Months with the best attendance.

The Entrance of the above Harbour is commanded by a Fort, very advantageously situated, & which in a great measure commands the whole Island; which Fort, & all the rest are in so ill a situation, & the Island left in so defenceless a State, that the Governor & the Officers of, & Friends to Government, who have been active in opposing the ill concerted Measures of certain persons, do entirely lie at the Mercy of every Armed Vessel from the Continent of America, one of those Vessels having taken 100 Blls of Powder, & there having been two Cruising off of the Island in Nov. supposed to have come with an Intention to have taken some Ordnance. But if the above Fort should be taken by an American Vessel & should they repair it & sufficiently Man it, they will be in actual possession of the Island, & there will be only a shadow of Government on behalf of his Majesty, the recovery of which may be attended with much expence, & the Loss of the Lives of many of

his Majesty's good Subjects. The Burmuda Vessels are reputed the swiftest Sailing Vessels in America & consequently require an attention to be paid them lest under . . .

As matters are at present circumstanced in Bermuda all Vessels in his Majesty's Service, bound there should endeavour to go in at the Eastermost End, where they may have a better chance of meeting with a pilot. Capt. [John] Tallemache of the *Scorpion* has an excellent Black pilot on board of his Ship. The Difficulties of the Navigation to Bermuda might be easily obviated by a Light house being erected there. – The Chief Justice, who has been of late very serviceable to the Governor, & persevered steadily in the Line of his Duty, hath been 11 yrs in that office, & for the Trouble & Fatigue inseperable therefrom has receiv'd no other satisfaction than the pleasure of having served the Public, there being no Salary annex'd to his Office; if it should be thought expedient to assign him a small Salary a way may be pointed out by wch 100 £ p Ann. may be paid without any additional Expence to Government.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36.

28 Jan. (Sunday)

LORD NORTH TO GEORGE III ¹

[28 January, 1776] ²

Lord North has the honour of troubling his Majesty with this note to inform him that Lord Sandwich has consented with great good humour, & readiness to appoint Lord Howe Commander of the Fleet, giving a separate command to Adl Shuldham of the Fleet in the River & Gulph of St Lawrence. Lord Sandwich having just left Ld North, & being upon the point of attending his Majesty at St James's, Lord North thinks his Majesty ought to be apprized of it, as Ld Sandwich will probably mention the subject to his Majesty.

Sunday Mornng

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 338.
2. Fortescue suggests the date of February 4, 1776, for this letter. Evidence derived from the contents, as well as from Lord North's letters of February 2 and 3, however, would indicate that it was written on January 28, 1776; this letter contributed to the situation whereby Lord Howe refused to accept the appointment unless his command included the St. Lawrence.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

[London] Janr 28th had conference with Him ² and directed to come again Febr 2d Then referd by a message to Sr Grey Cooper.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.
2. Lord George Germain; see January 25, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Pallas*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS ¹

January 1776	In Frenchman's Bay Sierraleona River
Monday 22d	A M punished John Cormick (Seaman) for Swearing, Sailmaker converting Foretopsail into a Mainsail for the <i>St John</i> . Moderate and Cloudy, Employed wooding and watering, fired a Shot to bring to a Sloop coming in, sent 13 Butts of Bread, 4 Butts and a hog-head of Wine, 4 Casks of Beef, 2 of Pork, 1 of Flow'r, 2 of Pease, 1 of Oatmeal on board the <i>St John</i> Arm'd Sloop having been taken into the Service, sent also several Boatswain's, Gunner's and Carpenter's Stores. ²
Tuesday 23d	Sailed the <i>St John</i> arm'd Sloop. Light Breezes and hazey, Employed wooding and watering . . .
Wednesday 24th	AM clear'd Hawse. Do Wear, Employed Wooding, Watering, and stowing the hold.
Thursday 25th	Little Wind and fair
Friday 26th	AM punish'd Thos Parkeson and Richd Barker (Marines) for Insolence, sent the Cutter mann'd and arm'd with an Officer to the Banana islands in search of an American Vessel, Employed wooding and watering. Do Wear. P M Employed Painting the Ship, Wooding, Watering, and stowing the Hold.
Saturday 27th	Do Wear, Employed as before, P M sent the Longboat to an American Schooner in the Offing which the <i>St John</i> had taken ³
Sunday 28th	A M the Cutter return'd from the Banana Islands the American Vessel she went after being gone from thence, Punish'd John Brown (Marine) for Theft, at 10 Came in the long boat with the American Schooner.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/667.

2. The *St. John* had come into the bay on the afternoon of January 22, 1776, and had saluted the *Pallas* with six guns, receiving three in return.

3. The schooner *Mary*, as subsequently identified in the journal. The last entry regarding her was on May 6, 1776 when forty-one leagues west of the Island of St. Thomas, "at 6 [P. M.] lost sight of the *Mary*." St. Thomas (São Tomé) lies in the Gulf of Guinea, approximately 200 miles west of Libreville, Gabon, Africa.

29 Jan.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Whereas we think fit that the Complements of His Majestys Ships under your command of the following Classes shall be increased to the Number of Men set out against each; You are hereby required & directed to cause their Complements to be increased to those Numbers accordingly, directing their Captains to bear them until further Orders.

<u>Guns</u>	<u>Men</u>
44	280
32	220
28	200
24 & 20	160
16 & 14 Sloops	125
10 do	110
8 do	80

Given &c 29th. Jany 1776

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 379.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 29th Jany 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty intending that His Majesty's Ship the *Greyhound*, which is proposed to join the Squadron under the Command of Rear Admiral Shuldham, shall Sail without loss of time to Cork, and take such Ships as shall desire to proceed under her Convoy from thence to Boston; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for Lord George Germain's Information, and to desire if it is approved, that the three Ordnance Storeships now at Spithead shall go under Convoy of the said Ship, they may be directed to lose no time in proceeding to Cork so that they may arrive at that Port before the 15th of next Month, it not being proposed the *Greyhound* should wait there beyond that time. I am &ca

Geo: Jackson

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 18.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ROCHESTER, JAN. 29." ¹

The river Medway is so frozen up, that the *Isis* Man of War, which was to have sailed on Monday last, has not yet been able; the Sheerness boats with all their passengers are frozen up, and cannot proceed.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 1 to February 3, 1776.

30 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, H.M.S.
Ambuscade, CHATHAM ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majts Ship *Ambuscade* at Chatham which we have ordered to be fitted & Stored at that place for a Voyage to North America, Mann'd with Two Hundred & Twenty Men & Victualled for Six Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow & to be supplied with a proportion of Wine or Spirits for Two Months in lieu of the remainder You are hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly & then falling

down to Blackstakes take in her Guns & Gunners Stores at that Place & proceed to the Nore for further Order.

Given &c 30th Jany 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 383.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 30th Jany 1776

Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships at Portsmouth, having in his Letter of the 26th Inst transmitted to Us, a List of the Names & Rank of the Officers belonging to the Armed Brig taken in North America & brought to England Prisoners in the the *Tartar*; We send your Lordship a Copy of the said List for the King's Information, and are to desire you will signify to Us His Majesty's pleasure concerning the disposal of the said Prisoners. We are My Lord [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerston H: Palliser

[Enclosure]

A list of the Officers Names &c that came home in the *Tartar*, belonging to the American Privateer.

<u>Where borne</u>	<u>Names.</u>	<u>Rank.</u>
Rhode Island	Sion Martindale	Captain
Do	Moses Turner	1st Lieut
Do	James Childs	2d Do
Plymo New Engl	Consider Howland	Master
Quebec	Jno Marwide	Surgeon, desirous of entering into His Majts Service.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 44a, 44b.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 TO TUESDAY,
JANUARY 30, 1776.

London, Jan. 30.

His Majesty's ship *Milford* is sailed from Plymouth for Halifax, with a number of ship carpenters, caulkers, &c. to repair any of his Majesty's ships that may put into that port and stand in need thereof.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JAN. 30."¹

The weather is got to be so severe here that the harbour is frozen up at the upper part, the lower part is very bad.

The *Juno* frigate has been in commission upwards of six months, and has only five men on board; most of the ships now fitting for sea are greatly distressed for want of men; the guardships men are sent on board many of them to assist in rigging them.

The *Worcester* and *Royal Oak* guardships are ready to go out of harbour, and will go to Spithead the first wind.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 1 to February 3, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO GEORGE JACKSON¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 30th Jany 1776

In my last Letter of the 24th instt I acquainted you with the arrival of the *Thunder Bomb Tender* at Castle Haven, and His Majesty's Ship *Sphynx* at Kinsale, and sent, for their Lordships information, the Rendezvous I have appointed, which is from three to Ten Leagues So Wt from Cape Fear in North Carolina, with directions to make the Land every day. On Thursday evening the 25th instt His Majesty's Bomb Vessel the *Carcass* arrived here, since which time, it has blown so strong to So Et that we have not had any communication with the shore, and it now continues to blow from the same point, but more moderately – I have received your Letter of the 13th instt signifying that their Lordships were much displeas'd with Lieutt Knowles, for having taken up the *Clibborn* without Orders, and leaving it to me, to continue, or discharge her, from the Service, as I may find it most adviseable. The *Clibborn* is taken up for six months certain, and is well fitted for a Transport, I shall therefore (as the *Friendship* is here and properly fitted to receive Troops) move those from on board the *Clibborn* into her, and give Lieutt Knowles Orders to direct the Master of the *Clibborn* to proceed as soon as possible to Spithead, giving immediate notice of his arrival to the Navy Board – Captt Dring having reported to me, that the Lieutt of the *Carcass* Bomb, is left behind & absent without leave, I have appointed Mr. John Rickman (who has passed his Examination for a Lieutenant) to act as Lieutenant of her, 'till further Order. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Minute of Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty]

Send a Commission for Lt Rickman for the *Carcass* The Marshall of the Admiralty to be ordered to apprehend the Lieut who has deserted from her in order that he may be tri'd Own rect & acqt Sir Peter Parker as above Lieut Jno Stoddart

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 30 Janry 1776

Lieutenant [John] Knowles has just now brought me the Copy of a Letter dated the 13th instt from the Navy-Board, address'd to Mr Foxworthy Naval Officer at Kinsale, desiring him to apply to Lieutt Knowles, to order the *Clibborn* to proceed to Plymouth, giving the Master Orders to give them immediate notice of his arrival there – As I find it is the Navy Board's desire, that the *Clibborn* may be sent to Plymouth, I shall give directions accordingly. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Pallas, Sierraleona 30th Jan'y 1776.

I beg you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that after having stop'd off Senegal and Gambia agreeable to their Orders, I proceeded to this place where upon my arrival I was inform'd that several American Vessels belonging to the Rebellious Colonies had got up the different Rivers upon this part of the Coast and were hiding there until we were gone, when they would come out and probably get supplied with Powder and Ammunition from the European Vessels. I sent Lieut Bray in a Boat mann'd and arm'd to the Banana Islands about nine leagues from hence to seize a Schooner which I heard was there, but upon his arrival the person settled there inform'd him that some of her people had been found on shore arm'd among the Bushes endeavoring to take off some of his Negroes, but upon being discovered they got off and put to Sea, and Lieut Bray could not follow her in an open boat. It was impossible for the *Pallas* to go up the Rivers after their Vessels if there had been time and I had no Vessel of any kind with me, but the Officer whom I sent up to Bence Island inform'd me there was a Sloop call'd the *St John* belonging to the proprietors of that Island which mounted eight four Pounders, and he thought would be of force sufficient to seize the Vessels up the Rivers and guard this part of the Coast. As their Lordships in their Orders to me mention'd a Su[s]picion of the Rebels in America being supplied with Powder and Ammunition from hence, I thought after the information I had received, and what happen'd upon my sending Lieut Bray to the Banana's, I could not leave this part of the Coast entirely clear for them to carry on their Plan, at the same time I am well aware that I have no Authority to Commission a Vessel, but as it must appear clearly to their Lordships that I could not execute this part of their Orders without it, the Exigence of the Service in time of actual Rebellion will I flatter myself plead an excuse for my doing what I was not sufficiently authorised to do. I have therefore taken this Vessel into the Service until their Lordships pleasure shall be known. I have been obliged to put her upon an Establishment of Men, for as the *Pallas* was at her lowest Complement and nine short it was impossible for me to lend her Men; I have left Lieut Agnew in her to Command her with a Complement of Thirty Men, fifteen of which I have discharged from the *Pallas* which I hope to compleat in my way down the Coast, and I do not doubt but that he will be able to Compleat his Complement from the different Guineamen he may meet with upon this part of the Coast and the Men that belong'd to the Vessel before. I have not taken upon me to appoint Officers to the arm'd Sloop, only Lieut Agnew to Command her with a Mate, Midshipman and Surgeon's Mate, and I have fill'd up Mr Agnew's Vacancy in the *Pallas*, by removing Lieut Bray to first Lieutenant and appointing Mr James Cornwallis who was acting Lieutenant, second. I am conscious that it must be an additional expence to Government, but I do not doubt it will appear to their Lordships as necessary an Expence as any occasion'd by this Rebellion.

Mr Agnew has just sent in a Schooner belonging to South Carolina which he seized coming out of Quia port River, and I intend taking her with me.

I have ordered Mr Agnew to keep constantly cruising upon this part of the Coast and to be particularly careful that no Powder or Ammunition is carried off that he may suspect to be going to the Americans and to seize and detain all Vessels belonging to the Colonies specified in my Orders from their Lordships, 'till the arrival of some of his Majesty's Ships or 'till farther Orders. I am Sir [&c.]

W: Cornwallis

[Endorsed] Recd 5 June & Read

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, Part I.

31 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 31st Janry 1776

Having received a Letter from Rear Admiral [Clark] Gayton, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels at Jamaica, dated the 7th of November last, giving an Account of the Proceedings of Captain [William] Judd of His Majesty's Ship the *Squirrel*, whom he had sent to the Mosquito Shore & Bay of Honduras, to examine into the State of the Logwood Cutters; We send Your Lordship a Copy of his said Letter, together with the Papers therein referred to, for the King's Information.

And the Rear Admiral having at the same time, transmitted to us a Letter he received from His Majesty's Agent at Turks Island, giving an Account that a Number of lawless People on that Island, had illegally & forcibly detained a Spanish Schooner & his Crew on Suspicion of her Masters facilitating the Escape of a Servant belonging to one of the Inhabitants; We send Your Lordship the said Letter herewith, for the King's further Information. We are &c

Palmerston H. Penton H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 19.

NARRATIVE OF COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN¹

[January 8 to January 31, 1776]

The prisoners were . . . ordered on board of the *Solebay* frigate, Capt. [Thomas] Symonds, the eighth day of January, 1776, when our hand irons were taken off. This remove was in consequence, as I have been since informed, of a writ of habeas corpus, which had been procured by some gentlemen in England, in order to obtain me my liberty.

When we were first brought on board Capt. Symonds ordered all the prisoners, and most of the hands on board, to go on the deck, and caused to be read, in their hearing a certain code of laws, or rules for the regulation and ordering of their behavior; and then, in a sovereign manner, ordered the prisoners, me in particular, off the deck, and never to come on it again; for, said he, this is a place for gentlemen to walk. So I went off, an officer following me, who told me, that he would shew me the place allotted for me, and took me down to the cable tire, saying to me, this is your place.

Prior to this I had taken cold, by which I was in an ill state of health, and did not say much to the officer; but stayed there that night, consulted my policy, and found I was in an evil case; that a Capt. of a man of war was more arbitrary than a king, as he could view his territory with a single look of his eye, and a movement of his finger commanded obedience, I felt myself more desponding than I had done any time before; for I concluded it to be a governmental scheme, to do that clandestinely which policy forbid to be done under sanction of public justice and law.

However, two days after, I shaved and cleaned myself as well as I could, and went on deck. The Capt. spoke to me in a great rage, and said, "did I not order you not to come on deck?" I answered him, that at the same time he said, "that it was the place for gentlemen to walk," that I was Col. Allen, but had not been properly introduced to him. He replied, "G - d damn you, sir, be careful not to walk the same side of the deck that I do." This gave me encouragement, and ever after that I walked in the manner he had directed, except when he, at certain times afterwards, ordered me off in a passion, and I then would directly afterwards go on again, telling him to command his slaves; that I was a gentleman, and had a right to walk the deck; yet, when he expressly ordered me off, I obeyed, not out of obedience to him, but to set an example to his ship's crew, who ought to obey him.

To walk to the windward side of the deck is, according to custom, the prerogative of the captain of the man of war, though he oftentimes, nay commonly, walks with his lieutenants; when no strangers are by; when a capt. from some other man of war, comes on board, the captains walk to the windward side, and the other gentlemen to the leeward.

It was but a few nights I lodged in the cable tire, before I gained an acquaintance with the master of arms; his name was Gillegan, an Irishman, who was a generous and well disposed man, and, in a friendly manner made me an offer of living with him in a little birth, which was allotted him between decks, and enclosed with canvas; his preferment on board was about equal to that of a sergeant in a regiment. I was comparatively happy in the acceptance of his clemency, and lived with him in friendship,

Nothing of material consequence happened till the fleet rendezvoused at the cove of Cork,² except a violent storm which brought old hardy sailors to their prayers. It was soon rumored in Cork that I was on board the *Solebay*, with a number of prisoners from America; upon which Messrs. Clark and Hays, merchants in company, and a number of other benevolently disposed gentlemen, contributed largely to the relief and support of the prisoners, who were thirty-four in number, and in very needy circumstances. A suit of clothes from head to foot, including an over coat, or surtout, and two shirts were bestowed on each of them. My suit I received in superfine broadcloths, sufficient for two jackets, and two pair of breeches overplus of a suit throughout, eight fine Holland shirts and stocks ready made; with a number of pairs of silk and worsted hose, two pair of shoes, two beaver hats; one of which was sent me richly laced with gold, by Mr. James Bonwell. The Irish gentlemen furthermore made a large gratuity of wines of the best sort, old spirits, Geneva loaf and brown sugar, coffee, tea and chocolate, with a large round of pickled beef, and a number of fat turkies, with many other articles,

for my sea stores, too tedious to mention here. To the privates they bestowed on each man two pounds of tea, and six pounds of brown sugar, These articles were received on board, at a time when the capt. and first lieut. were gone on shore, by permission of the second Lieut. a handsome young gentleman, who was then under twenty years of age; his name was Douglass, the son of Admiral [James] Douglass, as I was informed.

As this munificence was so unexpected and plentiful, I may add needful, it impressed on my mind the highest sense of gratitude towards my benefactors; for I was not only supplied with the necessaries and conveniences of life, but with the grandeurs and superfluities of it. Mr. Hays, one of the donators before mentioned, came on board, and behaved in the most obliging manner, telling me, that he hoped my troubles were past; for that the gentlemen of Cork determined to make my sea-stores equal to those of the capt. of the *Solebay's*; he made an offer of live stock and wherewith to support them; but I knew this would be denied: And to crown all, did send to me by another person fifty guineas, but I could not reconcile receiving the whole to my own feelings, as it might have the appearance of avarice; and therefore received but seven guineas only; and am confident, not only from the exercise of the present well-timed generosity, but from a large acquaintance with gentlemen of this nation, that as a people they excel in liberality and bravery.

1. *Ethan Allen*, 47-52.

2. The *Solebay* arrived in the Cove of Cork the evening of January 21, 1776.