

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 3

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

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

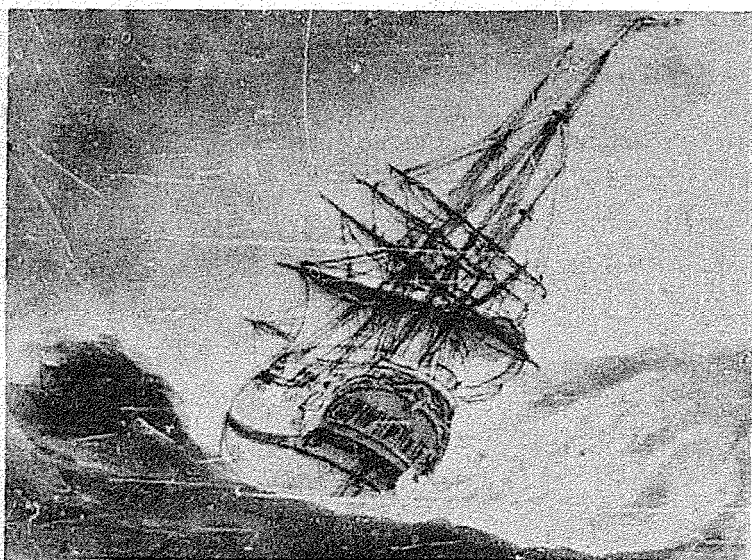
AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1776–Feb. 18, 1776

Part 4 of 8

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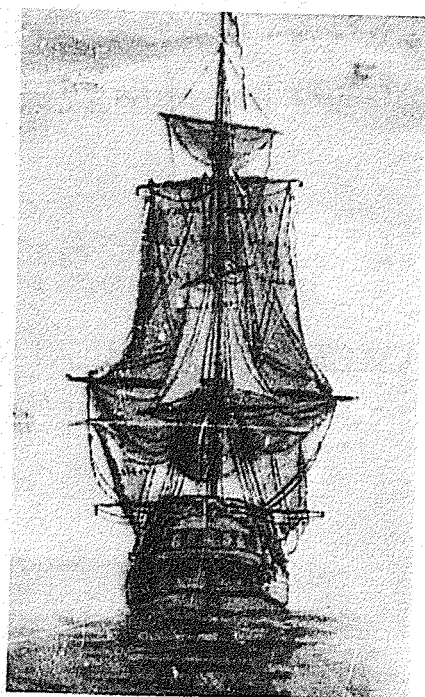
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AMERICAN THEATRE

From January 1, 1776, to February 18, 1776



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SUMMARY

Toward the close of the Year 1775, the outlook in America was most favorable. Washington had overcome innumerable difficulties to embody a new Provincial army in the very face of the enemy, and had maintained an unbroken land blockade around the British in Boston. The enemy's only access to the beleaguered town was by sea, and already the tiny schooners *His Excellency* had commissioned in September and October, had taken an ordnance brig and several supply transports. While this little fleet was not expected to close the sea lanes, its captures had had a disturbing effect upon the morale of what the embattled Americans were prone to call "the ministerial army."

The ambitious plans for the subjugation of Canada seemed close to consummation. Commanded by a sickly Schuyler, and spear-headed by a spirited Montgomery, the invaders had subdued a stubborn garrison in St. John's, marched unopposed into Montreal, and were now before the walls of Quebec, joined with the force under Arnold which had made its fatiguing way through the Maine and Canadian wildernesses. That Quebec would fall was confidently expected and predicted throughout the Colonies; unaware, until days later, that the fondest hopes of the Canadian campaign had been blasted in the disastrous assault which closed out the old year.

Broader steps to create a navy, to import powder and arms, to encourage the home manufacture of gunpowder, to increase the army, and to take into the continental establishment the battalions and regiments raised for their own defense in the Southern Colonies, had been taken in its stride by the Continental Congress in the closing months of the year. Not content with the fleet of expediency, outfitting in the Delaware, a broader program, to build thirteen frigates, had been inaugurated in December.

From New Hampshire to South Carolina every colony had sent forth cargoes of home products to be sold in the French, Spanish, Dutch and Danish West Indies, and the proceeds applied to the importation of gunpowder. Along a wintry coast the cruisers of the "ministerial navy" were seeking, with varied success, to intercept such vessels, inward or outward bound. With the exception of the ports of Newport and New York, yet lying under the menace of man of war guns, the custom of supplying provisions to British ships had been suspended, breaking a practice that had existed for half a century or more. And in all of the Colonies, from New Hampshire to Georgia, the business of protecting their seaports with fortifications of various design was being pushed with renewed vigor in the face of rumors of prodigious invading forces on the way from England.

1 Jan. 1776

ADVANCE PAY TO CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY AND THE CREW OF THE ARMED
SCHOONER *Hancock*¹

Manly

Capt. –	£8. –
1st Lie[u]t –	5. 8
2d Lie[u]t –	5. 8
Master –	4. –
Mate –	3
Boatswain –	3.
Steward –	2. 8 –
Gunner –	2. 8 –
Gunners mate	2. 4 –
30 men	60. –
	<hr/>
	£95.16 –

[Beverly] 1st Jany 1776 advance pay

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY'S MEMO OF SUNDRIES¹[Beverly, January 1, 1776]²

One Cutlass –
Two Brass Blunder Busses
one new Beaver Hatt
Two China Mugs
one pair Curtains
one of hadley's Quadron
one Delph soap Dish
One Muskitt –
Two Jappand Candlesticks

One Compass –
Two Four hour Glasses
One Speaking Trumpet
One Copper Candlestick
One Copper Stew pan
One two Gallon China Bowl
Several Coffee Cups
One Coffee Mill

[Endorsed] Capt Manly's Memo

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5744, BHS.

2. While the memo was undated, it is likely that the Captain would have provided it at about the same time that the advance pay was received.

Receipt for Indian Corn and Oats from the Prize Sloop *Betsey*¹

Recved Beverly the 1st Jana 1775 [sic 1776] from On Board the Sloop *Betsey* one
hundr[e]d bushells of Oates wich I promise to deliver to Thos Mifflin Esqr Must[er]
Master Genl at Head Quarters P me

100

Francis Shay

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5708, BHS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S COMMISSION TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM BURKE, ARMED
SCHOONER *Warren*¹

By his Excellency George Washington, Esqr, Commander in Chief of the Army of the United Colonies.

To William Burke, Esqr

By virtue of the powers & authorities to me given by the Honourable Continental Congress, I do hereby Constitute & appoint you Captain and Commander of the Schooner *Warren*, now lying at Beverly port, in the Service of the United Colonies of North America, To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of Captain & Commander of the said Vessel, & to perform & execute all matters & things which to your said Office do or may of right belong or appertain untill farther Order shall be given herein by the Honourable Continental Congress, myself or any future Commander in Chief of said Army, Willing & commanding All Officers, Soldiers & persons whatsoever anyway concerned to be obedient & Assisting to you in the due Execution of this Commission. Given under my Hand & Seal at Cambridge thi[s] day of Anno Domini 1776²
By his Excellencys command –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. This form of commission, created by Washington, was issued first on January 1, 1776 to John Manley, captain of the armed schooner *Hancock*. Subsequent commissions were given Daniel Waters, *Lee*, Samuel Tucker, *Franklin*, and Charles Dyar, *Harrison*, on January 20, and to William Burke, *Warren*, and John Ayres, *Lynch*, on February 1. The form Washington composed is entirely different from the commissions issued by the Continental Congress to the captains of Esek Hopkins' Continental fleet, copies of which had reached Cambridge in December 1775. Washington apparently rejected them and devised his own. See Clark, *Washington's Navy*, 105–06.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WINTHROP SARGENT¹

Sir You being recommended to His Excellency as a proper person to transact the business of the Severall Armed Vessells fitted out, or to be fitted out at the Continental expence – will be pleased to Consider what follows as your Instructions

1st When any of the Continental Vessells put into Cape Ann you are to Supply them with Such necessarys as are absolutely wanting – when any prize is Sent in, you are without delay to go on board, receive all the papers on board, and transmit them by express to Headquarters –

2 You are to make out an Inventory of the Cargo, as near as you Can from the papers found on board, or information from the Master or Mate of the prize – all possible Care that Can be taken Must be used, to prevent any embezzelment of the Cargo – or of the Captains, Crews or passengers, private property, which must be given up to them, except Some extraordinary Circumstances Shoud arise, to Make an alteration of this order necessary –

3 All Sailors belonging to a prize to be detained with you, or Sent to a neighbouring town where you may think them more Secure, untill you receive orders from Headquarters for the further disposall of them –

4 all prisoners of whatever Rank, or denomination to be treated with the utmost Humanity & tenderness –

5 As you are appointed a Continental Agent only, if the Officers & men chuse to appoint an Agent for their one third of any prize taken – they May do So, in that Case you are to permit him to take a Copy of all papers relating to the Cargo, & when the vessell is discharged, you Must give unto Said Agent a Copy of what was on board –

6 the Hulls of all vessells taken, with all their apurtenances to be carefully Laid up in a Secure Port untill further Orders

7 Whatever advice you at any time have respecting the armed vessells or prizes – that is Material, you will Send up to Headquarters by Suitable Oppertunities –

8 forasmuch as the port of Cape Ann Lyes Convenient for the Armed Vessells to run into, When in Want of Provisions and other necessarys – you will Lay in on the most reasonable terms, 12 barrells of beeff and 12 barrells of Porke, 20 barrells of bread will be orderd to you from Beverly where a quantity is reserved for the use of the Armed Vessells, and as you Supply any vessells with a part of these Articles you are to replace them So as allways to Keep up that quantity on hand you must take the Stewards receipt for every thing you Supply –

9 As the Harbour of Cape Ann is not Lookt upon as Safe to Lay up, any Prizes or their Cargoes, you Must as Soon as possible, have Such as may be brought in there – sent up to Beverly, where William Bartlett Esqr is by his Excellency appointed an Agent. you and Mr Bartlett Must agree amongst yourselves about the terms upon which you will do business of this Sort for each other – the Commission allowed to all Agents is two and one halfe perCent on Sales of any prizes &c and the Same on the amount of provisions & necessarys Supplied the vessells with –

10 In Makeing up your Accounts you are to remember that the Original bills or Invoices are to be Sent as Vouchers – that your own account is to be Genl and at the bottom an affidavit of the justice of your Accounts – this is not done from any jealousy or Suspicion but that the utmost Satisfaction may be given the Country and that all Agents May be on the Same footing –

You will at all times give the utmost dispatch, & if any irregularity, Misconduct, or Negligence in the Officers of any vessell, you are desired to give imediat information to the General

should any of the Vessells unnecessarily remain in Port you are to give orders to the Commander to proceed forthwith to Sea, Should he refuse, you are to demand his reasons, & transmit the Same to Headquarters

By his Excellencys Command

Head quarters [Cambridge] 1st January 1776

1. Washington Papers, LC. Sargent was Continental agent at Gloucester.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1776

Watertown, Jan.1.

In our *gazette* of the 11th instant, we mentioned the brig taken by capt. Manly, bound from Antigua to Boston, being consign'd to one *Brimer* – As there

are several lately removed from the town of Boston, by the name of *Brimmer*, we would inform the public that the forementioned Brimer should have been one Alexander Brymer, a Scotch agent to the victuallers of the ministerial navy at Boston.

We hear that a brig from Portugal, bound to New-York, which had been taken by the enemy, and ordered to Boston, was retaken a few days ago by one of the continental cruizers, and carried into Plymouth. She was laden with salt, and had on board, when retaken, a midshipman, and 6 or 8 seamen belonging to the enemy¹

Saturday last Admiral Shulldham, 'tis said, arrived at Boston to supercede Admiral Graves.

At the same Time arrived seven Transports, we hear without any Troops.

1. The editor was in error in calling the brig from Portugal a prize of a Continental cruiser. Her captor has not been identified, but the vessel was probably the brig *St. Lawrence*, of 165 tons, James Coffin, master, libeled against at Plymouth March 25, 1776. The *St. Lawrence* was the only brig carried into Plymouth between October 7, 1775, and March 26, 1776, according to the list of libels covering all prizes sent into that port to that date.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT ANTHONY PARRY, R. N.¹

Whereas there is an absolute necessity to send to his Majesty's Islands in the West Indies for Rum to enable the Contractor to furnish his Majs Ships on this Station, it being impossible for his Agent to procure Spirits by any other means.

You are therefore hereby required and directed to order the *Union* Transport to be got ready for that purpose as fast as possible, and to take from the other Transports under your Direction as many empty Casks, in addition to what are now on board the *Union*, as may be sufficient; taking care however not to have less than three Months Cask in each Transport, and you are also to direct the Master of the *Union* to take down the Soldiers Births to make room.

When she is ready to depart you are to order the Master to proceed without loss of time to Antigua, to deliver the Letters he will receive from Mr Alexander Brymer the Contractors Agent here to his Correspondents Messrs Reed and King Merchants at St Johns; having so done he is to use all possible diligence in taking in a Cargo of Rum, and return again with the utmost Expedition to Boston; but if a Cargo of Rum cannot be so soon procured at Antigua, as at any of the neighbouring Islands, you are to direct the Master to proceed to such other of his Majesty's Islands as the said Messrs Reed and King shall desire, and there load as before mentioned. You are to direct the Master to be on his guard going and returning, to avoid speaking with anything until he has first made the private Signal inclosed, and finds it answered as a friend. And you are further to order him to keep the said Signal as secret as possible, and to deliver the same to you on his Return, but to destroy it if chaced and in danger of being taken.

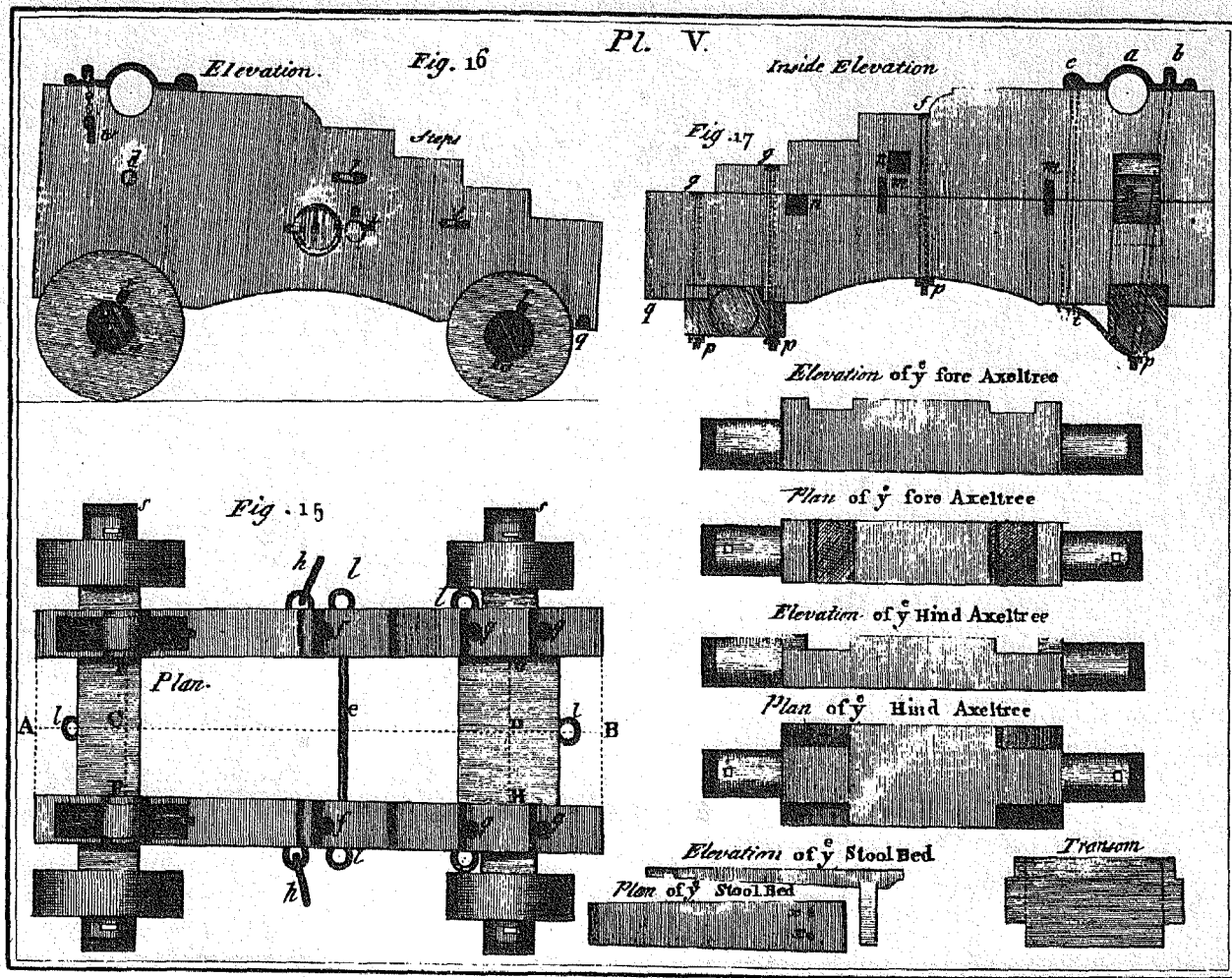
Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 1st Janry 1776

Sam^l Graves

To Lieut. Parry Agent of Transports

By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 114-15, BM.



Plans for ship gun carriage, 1780.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 1776 Janry 1

The Victuallers, which had arrived with Supplies of Provision for the Fleet, came without Wine or Spirits. The latter the Commissioners of the Victualling had contracted with Mr [Robert] Grant to deliver at Boston at two periods, for 5000 Men four months in October 1775, and for 6000 Men four months in January 1776, being no less a Quantity than 77,000 Gallons of Rum, the greater part if not all to be distilled in Boston. Without observing how improbable it was that this Contract could be fulfilled in the then State of that Town, or if it was, in the manner designed, the bad Effects the use of such Spirits would have on the health of the Seamen: It is only necessary to say the Want of Fuel prevented this destructive Scheme from taking Effect; although a very considerable part of the Melasses intended for the purpose, was taken by the Rebels. That the Squadron might not be distressed in this Article, the Admiral ordered a Transport to be dispatched to Antigua for a Cargo of Rum which the Correspondents there of the Contractors Agent could without Delay put on board.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 24-25, BM.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1776

Newport, January 1.

A brig loaded with salt, belonging to New-York which was brought into this harbour by one of the King's cruisers some time past, was drove ashore on Goat Island last Saturday se'nnight, where she still remains; 'tis supposed most of the salt is melted.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Lebanon, 1st January 1776

The 23d yours of the 14th of Decemr came to hand p Monsieurs Penet and De'pliarne – every necessary Assistance for Expediting their Journey was afforded without Delay – they set out the Next Morning – You shall be made acquainted with the Expencc incurrd on their Account when the same is known –

The 28th instant at Evening Our General Assembly adjourned. There is great Unani[m]ity in our Common Cause, Among others they passed . . . A Resolve to provide so that we shall have two Armed Vessels – One of 16 Carriage Guns, the other 14 – with a Schooner called the *Spy* of 4 carriage Guns – and four Row Gallies –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sr

Norwich Jan 1st 1776

In Conversasion with Govr. Trumball Some days ago about the affair of the Powder that you was to provide for the Colony [he] told me he wanted to know if you had any Late Intelligence; if you have any thing to Communicate to him

on that affair please to forward a Letter P the barer Mr [Killingsly] and I will take Due Care that it goes to the Govr from your [&c.]

Jz Huntington

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA, TRANSMITTED BY GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON¹

[Received the beginning of January 1776]

The following is a Coppy of what was written under a bill of Such Goods as was immediately to be procured the List of the Goods I havent time to Coppy but they were various Sorts – Gunpowder Lead flints &c to the amount of Twenty five Thousand pound Sterling –

Viz. Those Goods Should be purchased in Holland & france and the most Probable way to affect it will be immediatly to Send Vessels with Provisions for Portugal Spain & the Streights – Order the proceeds to be Remitted by Bills to Amsterdam or London – A factor Capable of Transacting this Business in Holland Hamboro & France Should be Imediatly employed, Goods at Holland may at a Small Risk & Charge be Sent to Dunkirk & there be Sent off –

At Holland Dutch Bottoms may be Got for St Ostatia at Holland or ham-boro Danish Bottoms for St Croix –

I Cannot find that the persons Nominated as yet for this Buisness, I Shall endea[vo]r to Learn who they are to be and what Vessals I think by what little I Can discover that the Vessals fiting out here is part of them that are to be employd for the Above Expedition one of them is a Ship of 36 guns the head is the figure of a man as Drawing his Sword Bottom white, Sides black & yellow above² – the Brig has no head at all however as they Don't Sails as yet I will inform you of more particular[s] about them and who will be their Comanders –

There is to be issued a further Sum of three Millions of [Dollars] I have Inclosed part of a letter from Mr [Michael] Hillegas the Treas[urer] it is Broke to pieces but twill Serve to Convince you that an additional Sum is to issued³

The Congress are very Resolute to Persefere in their wars now so Came that yesterday that one Regt of foot & 3 Companys of Light horse was Come to Long Island Coll [William] floyd Said he was Glad if they ware & that they would Soon be their horses he Said if the Regulars Should Guard a Sertain place he between Sume [Noted Iland] & hell Gate it would be Difficult for the Provincial Troops to Get on Long Iland –

Here are three persons from N york one Capt Greenol one Brasier & one palmer with a new Draft of Hudsons River Signyfing the Nesessaty of Building another fort on pooplopers Kill [Pooplopens Kill] in the above River – They also Brought Letters from the Convention of N york⁴ I Coppyed off the follow[in]g but oppertunity would not alow me any further –

We take the Liburty to inclose you a Coppy of our Proceedings Respecting the Delinquents in Queens & Richmonds Countys we apprehend we have proceeded against them as far as a prudent Regard to present Circumstances of the Cappital of this Collony Capital &c the

Safety of the Colony in General as far as it Depends upon the Security of its Capital will permit & for this assertion we beg to Suggest the following Reasons to Witt

1st The power which the Kings Ships have for Destroying the property in this City —

2dly our being almost utterly Destitute of powder for the Defence of this City were it in other Respects Defensible against Naval force

3dly The Great Probability that an array of Troops against the above mentioned Delinquents by authority of this Congress even were we sufficiently Provided for the Purpose with Powder, would Bring on a firing upon this City —

4ly We are now Expediting Vessels from the Importation of Powder &c &c this Object Should we unnecessarily Incense the Navy we may lose, as well as the opportunity of Supplying the Inhabitants of this City with the Necessaries of Life in a Severe Season which Necessaries it is well known we are almost entirely supplied with by water —

The Latter part of the Letter Signified that Troops should be Sent from Some other parts against the above mentioned Countries — ⁵

Another Letter and a Copy of one that had been Sent to Governor Thrumbull Requesting of him that the Type &c Taken from [James] Rivington might be Delivered into the hands of the Chairman of the Committee of New York & that he would Use his endeavors to prevent any inroads or incursions into the province of New York for the future —

Here Is one Capt [Simeon] Sellick in this Town with Three others that Came Down from the Back forts with the prisoners taken at St Johns &c I have made it my Business to Get acquainted with them Sellick is the Fellow that Took the Goods & Stores from Turtle Bay with his own Sloop which he made free to tell me (being a friend of his) Says he “I had authority and went to New York on purpose to Take that Old Tryon my Self I warrant I would have Secured him but when I Came there the D—nd Tories pretended to Say it would be best to Lett him alone a little longer hadent it been for Them I should have had him Safe enough” — he is now applying to the Congress for a Reward for his Bravery he Told me he Intend[ed] to fit out his own Sloop with 6 guns & a Number of Swivels for Privateering he is one of Connecticut he further assured me that there [are] at that Place two fine Schooners fitting out one for Capt Seears of New York the other for one Capt Craig ⁶ one of the others Told me that 3 Companies of Troops was Stationed at Tyconderoga & Ft George, with a greater Number at St Johns 27000 more was fixt on to be embodied next Spring but Since the News Came from England that an army of 30000 are to be Sent over I believe they are about to Augment their forces however Probably I may Learn what Numbers they will Resolve on The privateers is froze up but now the Thaw will free them and I Shall know when they Saile here is upwards of 100 flats Built to be Set on fire if any fleet Come up this River they are to Chained one to another in two Rows across the River and a Large Chain to be put a Cross there is Something of Great Consequences going to be put in motion at Boston as Soon as the frost

Sets in they mean to Use the utmost in their power as I herd s[o]me of tham Say that it would be of Greater Consequences than the Reduction of Cannada –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1107, Part I, 255–57. This is the copy enclosed in a letter of January 5, 1776, from Tryon to Lord Dartmouth. Another copy is in the Shuldhham Papers, PRO, Admiralty 1/484, supplied by Captain Hyde Parker, Jr., H.M.S. *Phoenix*. The intelligence came to Tryon from James Brattle, valet to James Duane, one of the New York delegates in the Continental Congress.
2. The *Alfred* had been the merchantman *Black Prince*, and the figurehead probably was a representation of that heroic son of Edward III.
3. Congress resolved on December 26, 1775, that “a farther sum of three millions of dollars be emitted in bills of credit,” Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 457.
4. The three gentlemen from New York were Captain John Grenell, Abraham Brasher and Thomas Palmer, who had been dispatched by the New York Provincial Congress to present a recommendation that there be a further fortification erected on Pooplopens Kill. They carried a letter to that effect, dated December 20, 1775.
5. Brattle quoted from a letter of December 21, 1775 from the New York Provincial Congress to its delegates in the Continental Congress.
6. Simeon Sellick’s petition, which he had submitted on December 29, 1775, was referred to a committee of three, one of whom was William Floyd, of New York. For the action thereon, see Journal of the Continental Congress, January 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 1, 1776

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to consider on Captain Simeon Sellick’s petition,² which was agreed to, as follows:

That they have maturely considered the petition, and have examined Captain Sellick particularly thereon, and are of Opinion, that the petitioner be allowed, as a compensation for his expences, trouble, and risque in taking the goods at Turtle bay, for the use of the United Colonies, the sum of 333⅓ dollars, and that the committee of Fairfield be directed to take into their possession, for the use of the said colonies, all the goods taken by Captain Sellick, which are not already delivered by him, and to forward the two boxes of saltpetre now in Captain Sellick’s custody, to the powder Mill in Ulster county, to be manufactured into powder for the continental service.

The committee to whom the letters from General Washington, and the intercepted letters,³ were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the seizing and securing the barracks and castle of St. Augustine will greatly contribute to the safety of these colonies, therefore it is earnestly recommended to the colonies of South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia to undertake the reduction of St. Augustine, if it be thought practicable.

Resolved, That the president of the provincial council of North Carolina and Georgia, be requested to procure committees of their several bodies to repair immediately to Charleston, and there to confer with a committee of the council of safety of South Carolina, upon weighty and important matters relative to the defence and security of those colonies.

Resolved, That the first resolution together with copies or extracts of such of the intercepted letters as tend to shew the state of the forts and garrison at St. Augustine be transmitted by express to Henry Middleton and John Rutledge Esqrs members of Congress to be by them laid before the committees directed to

meet [at Charleston] in consequence of the above resolution and in case the enterprize be judged practicable that immediate preparations be made by the joint force of the said colonies (viz South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia) and the expedition be undertaken without delay at the expence of the united colonies.

Resolved, That it appears the British ministry and their agents have meditated and are preparing to make attacks upon Charleston, in South Carolina and several places in Virginia, and probably in North Carolina; and that it be recommended to the conventions or committees of safety of the two former colonies, and to the provincial council of the other, by all possible means, to make a vigorous defence and opposition; and that it be farther recommended to the committee of safety of Virginia, and the provincial council of North Carolina, to meet together and confer and conclude upon such operations as they may think most for their mutual interest.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 13, 15, 16.
2. Sellick's petition was presented to Congress, December 29, 1775, and a committee appointed to consider it. The committee reported the next day, but no action was taken at that time.
3. The intercepted letters were those taken in the British sloop *Betsey* by Captain John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee*. Washington's covering letter was read in Congress, December 30, 1775, and a committee of five was appointed to consider it and the thirty or more intercepted letters.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday 1 January 1776. An Expedition agt St Augustine recommended to the Colonies of S. & N. Carolina & Georgia if the ruling Powers there shall deem it practicable. . . . the report on Capt Sellicks Affair confirmed - . . . Motion by [Eliphalet] Dyer to pay a Gentlemans Expences who accompanied the 2 Frenchmen ² from Gen Washns Camp, was postponed -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Pliarne and Penet.

ORGANIZATION FOR BUILDING THE FOUR PHILADELPHIA FRIGATES ¹

[Philadelphia, January 1, 1776] ²

For the Frigates building in Philadelphia the following Boards &c are employed
Four Commissioners to Superintend & direct the whole business.

- A Committee of Four to inspect, examine & Correct all the Accounts relative to this business & return them with Certificates or remarks to the Commissioners who order payment of such as said Committee pass as being right & just
- a Committee of Four, to buy & provide all Timber, Plank & Trenails wanted for these Ships, to keep a general Acct of all they buy & a particular Acct of what they deliver to each Ship, to return their Contracts and Accounts to the Committee of Accts for examination &c
- a Committee of Four to buy & provide all Hemp, Cordage, Canvass, & Stores &c necessary for the Ships keeping a general Acct of their whole purchase & a particular Account of what is assigned for the use of each Ship -

a Treasurer to receive the Money assigned him by the Marine Committee & to pay the orders of the Commissioners –

No pay Stipulated with any of the above Boards, it must be proportioned to their trouble & expences, and submitted to Congress, or the Marine Committee, some of them will not ask any pay, others cannot afford their time & trouble without pay

a Superintendant & Clerk to each Ship Yard, to keep an exact Account of the time all persons Work or are employed in this Service, of all Materials expended to procure all things Wanted from Trades men & keep Account thereof. The Master Carpenters have 10/ p day Journey Men Carpenters 7/ p day. Labourers 3/6 to 5/ as they deserve. Superint[er]nd[er]ts 24 Dollrs p Month Clerk £8 p Month each Board or Committee is allowed a Clerk

1. USNAM. The document is in the handwriting of Robert Morris.
2. The date is approximated. The memorandum must have been prepared prior to January 4, as it refers to the various committees as already appointed, and the Timber Commissioners on January 4, 1776 advertised for rising timbers, floor members and knees.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] January 1st, 1776.

Upon the Application of the Naval Committee of Congress, this Board grant them Permission to engage any three of the Pilots in the Pay of this Province, to conduct the Vessels belonging to the Congress down to Reedy Island, and immediately afterwards to return to their proper Stations.

Mr. Robert Towers, Commissary, is directed to deliver fifty Stand of arms to Capt. Sam'l Nicholls,² for the use of the Congress.

Upon application of this Board to the Navy Committee of Congress for some Russia Sheeting, for the use of Colo. [John] Bull's Battalion, this Board was furnished with an order for Forty Pieces, which was ordered to be delivered to Messrs. Mease & Caldwell, or order.

Upon Application of the Naval Committee of Congress, that this Board would permit a number of men from the armed Boats to navigate the vessels belonging to the Congress down to Reedy Island, this Board gave the following order to Capt. [Henry] Dougherty:³

Sir;

You are hereby required to order such a number of men to go from on Board the armed Boats under your command, as may be necessary to navigate the vessels belonging to the Congress down to Reedy Island; [to] appoint some discreet Officer or Officers to take [them down] and to bring them back by such [means as may] be provided for them by the Naval Comm.

To Capt. Henry Dougherty.

Upon application of Capt. Allen Moore, that this Board could indulge him with the liberty of resigning his command as Commander of one of the Armed Boats, and having given reasons why his request should be granted,

Resolved, That he, the said Capt. Allen Moore, have permission to resign his Command of the Armed Boat *Effingham*.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 441-42.

2. Samuel Nicholas, senior Marine Captain, and assigned to the *Alfred*.

3. Henry Dougherty, senior galley commander in the Pennsylvania Fleet, and captain of the galley, or armed boat, *Washington*.

THOMAS WHARTON TO SAMUEL WHARTON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia Jan'y 1st 1776.

Two French Men arrived in this City two Days since,² and have made their Application to Congress, their Business is a perfect Secret out of Doors, therefore thou must not expect I shall hazard a Conjecture: Its said One of Them is a Count or Marquis They landed from the West Indies at Providence Rd Island, and proceeded from thence to Genl Washington and its said communicated to Him their Business. He has sent Them to the Continental Congress – Time must reveal their Views –

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

2. Pliarne and Penet.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1776

Philadelphia [January 1].

By Captain Hunn [Robert Hume], from Edentown, North-Carolina, we learn, that a certain Cullen Pollock, a man of great fortune in that place, having by various ways and means proved himself an enemy to America, at last by insulting a number of Officers and Soldiers when under arms, and being too great a coward to give any of them personal satisfaction, he drew on himself the resentment of the people, who waited upon him the latter end of November, took him out of his house, paraded him round the town to the whipping post, where he was tarred and feathered, and then dismissed. They afterwards burnt his coach.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

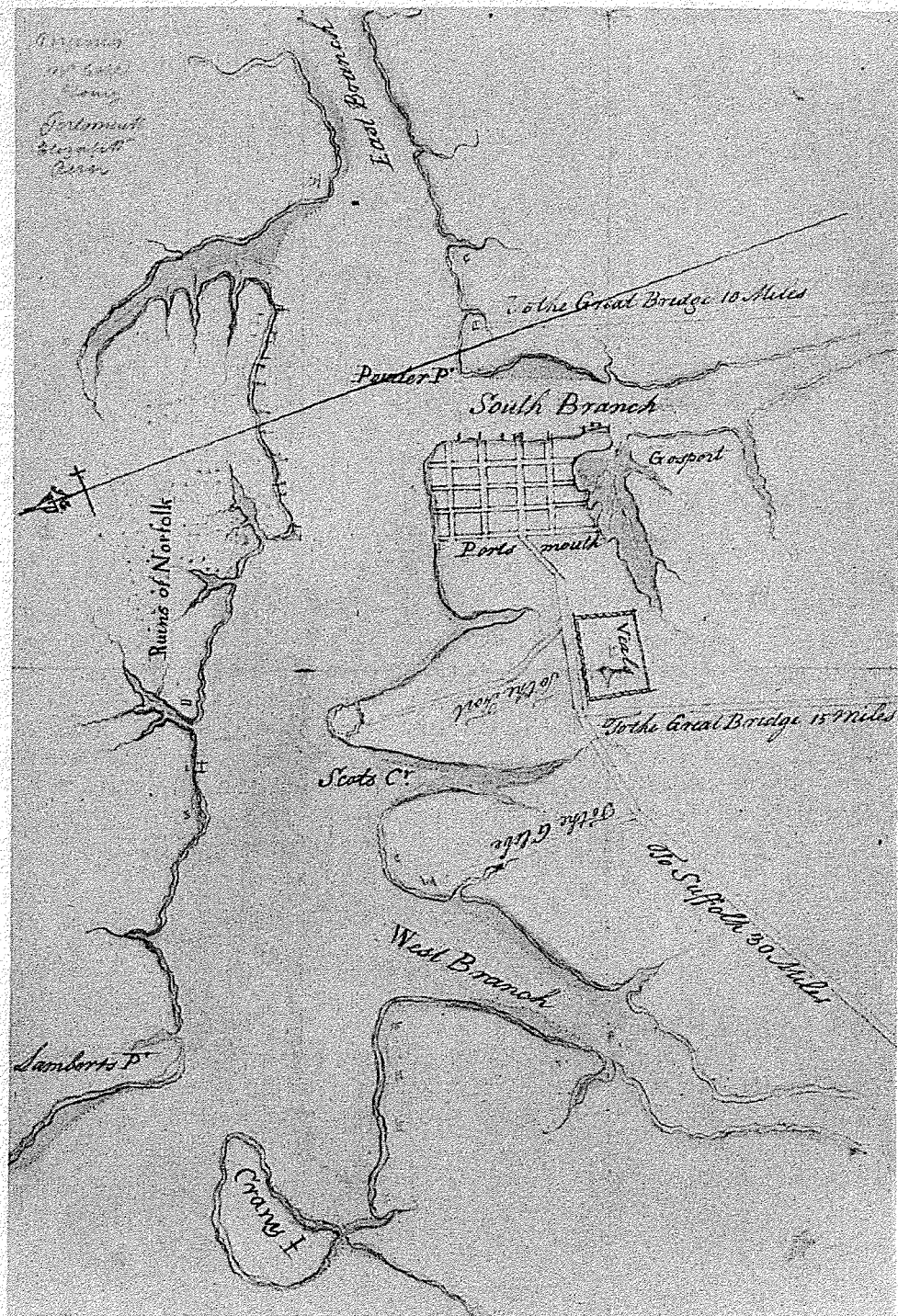
Jan'y 1776

Off Norfolk in Virginia

Monday 1st Long Boat Watering, dry'd Sails, unbent main Topsl Jibb main-topmast Stay sl and Mizn

at 3 PM fired 3 Shot at the Rebels Guard house, to Disperse them, at 4 saw a number of Arm'd Boats put off from the Dunmore towards the shore, 1/2 past, many of the Store houses were on fire upon the Wharfs, kept a constant fire on the Shore till AM to cover the Boats.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.



Norfolk and Portsmouth on the Elizabeth River.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU¹

January 1776 Moored in Elizabeth River Virginia Abreast the Town of Norfolk

Monday 1st A M Recd on Bd Water
 At 3 P M Began A heavy Cannonading on the Town of Norfolk
 as did the *Otter* & *Liverpool* which Continued Some Time
 Landed A party of Seamen sett Fire to the Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE¹

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Monday 1 A M Received 3 Hhds of water by the long boat
 Mostly little Wind & fair. at 4 P M began a brisk fire from the
 Squadron on the Town and continued till 11 during which time
 the boats landed & set fire to the different wharfs, had two Men
 wounded by the Rebels Musquetry. The Rebels set fire to many
 parts of the back of the Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety
 [Charleston] Monday, Jan. 1st, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Edward Blake be authorized to purchase one hundred and fifty barrels of salted pork, and as many of salted beef, on the public account, for the use of the naval armament of this colony.

Mr. [John] Rutledge reported the following answer to the delegates from Georgia, which being read, was agreed to by the Council:

Gentlemen – We have maturely considered what you offered to this Board from the Council of Safety in Georgia, and are sorry to find, that the information which occasioned our letter to them, is so well founded.

You know, that by the Continental Association, no produce of the United Colonies, could be exported, from any of them, to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies, after the 10th of last September, except rice to Europe – yet it appears that a vessel loaded with indico, sailed for England from your province, about a month ago; it is said, indeed, her clearance was dated before the 10th of September, but it is admitted, that very little, if any of her cargo was then shipped. It also appears, that a vessel at Savannah is now nearly loaded with indico for England, her clearance also, it is said, bears date before the 10th of September, but, it is confessed, that she did not arrive in your colony till last month. Surely, gentlemen, these acts cannot possibly receive any kind of countenance; such subterfuges to evade the association, are

at least as criminal as declared and open violations of it. It further appears, that vessels with cargoes, laden long since the 10th of September, have sailed from Georgia to Bermuda; this is also contrary to the association. It is pretended, indeed, that they were permitted to load, on account of the great scarcity of provisions, from which, it was feared, the people on that island might starve, if not supplied, but we apprehend it is not in the power of any of the colonies to relax the association, from motives of compassion, for the distress of a particular island. Bermuda applied to the Congress for relief, where only she could properly obtain it, and where she certainly would, if not inconsistent with the plan which they had adopted; but if the colonies should severally relax the association, in favour of that, or any other island, such practice might open a door for supplying many others, or perhaps all in the West Indies.

As rice is the only article which the association allowed to be exported to Great Britain, after 10th September, it clearly follows that deer skins could not be exported, and we are assured that application was made by your delegates to the Continental Congress, for permission to export deer skins, which was refused.

Now, as to the article of rice, that certainly might have been shipped for Great Britain after the 10th of September. We cannot, however, forbear observing, that New-York and the lower counties on Delaware might have shipped their produce to any places except Great Britain, Ireland, and the West Indies, and that North-Carolina and this province might have exported rice to Great Britain, after that time, consistent with the association and the restraining act, yet they all forbore, and every colony (yours excepted) suspended exportation, till the sense of the Congress should be declared on that head. We are well assured they made no doubt that Georgia had done so. Upon this supposition, for which, from the resolution of your convention, respecting the restraining act, they had good grounds, the Congress returned thanks to your colony, as well as to the other privileged colonies, for not taking advantage of the exemptions in that act. However, that you had a right, by the association, to export rice to Great Britain after the 10th of September is not denied. And we conceive that, until you had notice of the non-exportation resolution which you say was not till 15th December, you could not, in equity or justice, be bound by it, and therefore, that any cargoes, or parts of cargoes of rice, which were actually laden for Europe at that time, may be exported, but no more. Clearing out empty vessels, or vessels partly loaded, when the resolution was known in Georgia, with intent to load, or complete their loading afterwards, is the same kind of evasion, as clearing out before 10th September, and loading indico afterwards.

We wish to preserve union between this and every other colony, particularly at a time when it is essentially necessary, for the support of American liberty, and are desirous that your conduct may appear to

all the world, in as favourable a light as that of any other colony. We are concerned for what has happened; we have, however, no jealousy, no animosity; we mean not to arraign or condemn, but as friends and brethren, deeply interested in the event of one common cause, to remonstrate, and to offer our advice, and assistance if wanted. How to punish for past offences, and prevent future, seem to be the points for present consideration. By the Continental Association, persons who violate it, as those who shipped and exported indico to England after 10th of September certainly did, are to be advertised, as inimical to the liberties of America, and all dealings or intercourse with them are to be broken off. But, is this a sufficient terror or punishment to evil-doers? Are not the liberties of America, or at least the safety of the colony in which such offenders reside, endangered by the conduct of men, who are so daring, as to set their country and the continent at defiance, and, if so, do they not well deserve to be treated, as the Congress on the 6th of October last recommended to the several Provincial Conventions or Councils of Safety, viz: "To arrest or secure every person in their respective colonies whose going at large may in their opinion endanger the safety of the colony, or the liberties of America." Every colony may moreover adopt punishments for it's own inhabitants, violators of the association, suitable to the degrees of their offence. We are, gentlemen, unanimously of opinion, and recommend that all deer skins and indico shipped since the 20th [*sic* 10th] of September, and all cargoes or parts of cargoes of rice shipped for Europe since the day when you received the continental resolution of November 1st, and still in any port or river in Georgia, should be re-landed, and not suffered to be exported thither. The sending away immediately, in ballast, vessels which are not admitted to load, would be a good step to prevent fraud, or further trouble with them. We cannot conclude, without mentioning, that as we think ourselves bound to do our utmost, in support of the friends of liberty, in any of the colonies, if you have occasion for assistance, to enforce an observance of the Continental Association and resolutions in your colony, we will most readily afford you all in our power, which we doubt not will effectually crush every attempt to infringe them. We hope our sentiments will meet with the concurrence of you, gentlemen, and of your colony, and request that you will communicate them fully, on your return, to your Council of Safety and General Committee, and to your Provincial Convention at its next meeting.

In the Council of Safety, 15th [*sic* 1st] Jan., 1776.

By order.

Henry Laurens, President.

Stephen Drayton, William Ewen, esqs.,

Delegates from the Council of Safety in Georgia.

Read a letter from Archibald Bullock, esq., dated Savannah, 26th December, 1775.

Ordered, That Mr. President be desired to answer the several letters lately received from the Provincial Council at Wilmington, in North-Carolina, and that the case of Capt. Alexander Wyly be recommended to their attention.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake be desired with all possible expedition, to fit out the *Hawke* pilot boat, so as to proceed under the command of Capt. Robert Cochran, in the service of the colony.

An application was made by Col. [George Gabriel] Powell, for two-nine pounders, and a quantity of gunpowder and warlike stores for the *Comet* brigantine.

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 136-38.

LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]
No 10

Cherokee Armed Ship in Rebellion Road
1 January 1776.

My Lord On the 30th of November the *Scorpion* with the Transport under her Convoy arrived here having Governor Martin on board, who, I soon found, had left Cape Fear only to secure the *Scorpion*'s immediate return, his situation has long been very disagreeable on board a very small Sloop and it was natural for him to wish to keep the Ship appointed to the North Carolina Station, and he therefore applied to Captain [Edward] Thornbrough to order the *Scorpion* immediately back, which he did. I plainly foresaw the consequence of this step would be his abandoning Charlestown Harbour, I therefore thought it my Duty to remonstrate against it, but without effect; and the *Scorpion* with the Transport and three Vessels that had been stopped here sailed for Cape Fear leaving us in a worse situation than they found us, as the Rebels were greatly elated at their Departure and the very next morning landed a body of men on Sullivan's Island where they never had ventured before, burned the only house upon it, consumed the little all of three poor families who had taken refuge there, carried off the people with two men belonging to the *Cherokee* who were ashore watering & destroyed their Casks. The day after, the Rebels got some Guns upon the main Land on the North side of the Harbour nearly opposite to the end of Sullivan's Island, off which, the King's Ships lay and immediately threw up a work and erected a Battery of four eighteen Pounders. These Circumstances which I clearly foresaw are so truly distressing to me, as I could not agree in opinion with Governor Martin as to the comparative importance of the two Provinces, nor with the Commanding Officer of the King's Ships as to the propriety of his conduct; that I will not dwell any longer upon the subject. I only beg leave to transmit to your Lordship some Letters that passed between Governor Martin Captain Thornbrough and myself. - ²

I can with the greatest truth assure your Lordship no consideration of any merit that might be attributed me from the first impression being made in His Majesty's Province under my Command influenced my conduct; had I thought it would have been more conducive to the King's Service I would have chearfully served as a Volunteer with Mr Martin in North Carolina rather than have divided our little Force, but I cannot from what I have hitherto seen give up

my opinion of the vast difference between the Provinces in Wealth, Strength, and of course in the power of doing mischief. I therefore must have good reason to make me think our whole puny Force ought not to have been collected in Charles town Harbour to keep the Port open; leaving a small vessel to cruise off Cape Fear to give necessary information to any King's Ships that might arrive.

While I so freely declare my Sentiments, and my dissent from the proceedings in Rebellion Road, I have the pleasure to assure your Lordship, the only dispute that can be between Mr Martin and me, will be which of us can most effectually serve our most gracious Sovereign. —

I have the Honor to be with great Truth and Esteem My Lord [&c.]

William Campbell

[Endorsed] R/ 29th Feby [1776].

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/396, LC Photocopy. Campbell was Royal Governor of South Carolina.
2. See Campbell to Martin, and Martin to Campbell, both December 1, 1775. Volume 2, 1225–27.

WILLIAM HEYWARD TO MRS. PEMBLE ¹

January 1, 1776

Copy

On board the Packet in Charles Town Road

To Mrs Pemble

No 92 Portland Street }

This Epistle my dear Mother must be as laconic and enigmatical as possible, that it may take up but little of the Inspector General's time at the Post Office and disappoint the impertinent Curiosity of every insolent Caitiff that may think proper to break my Seal.

I arrived here on Christmas Day after a Passage of ten tedious Weeks, and am now a Prisoner on board the Packet, detained by Lord William Campbell the Governor, and my Letters and Papers taken from me, and no reasons given — How long I shall continue in this Situation I know not, but at present see no probability of my getting on Shore, as all Communication between the Town and Men of War has ceased, and Hostilities commenced — I have been allowed to write to my Father, (my Letter subject to the inspection of the Governor) but have not yet received an Answer, therefore I cannot be perfectly satisfied of his Health & Safety — these circumstances, you will conclude give me some Uneasiness — they are so — yet I often lose the Thoughts of the Prisoner in the Idea of the willing Captive — 'Tis rather discouraging to a young Soldier to be made a Prisoner without being allowed to strike a Blow or even to declare War — but I must meet with greater Difficulties before I despair of executing my Intentions — I think you will not doubt me after my late Effort — My Victory is not so great as I myself expected — I still bear with me an Image engraven on my Heart which whatever may be my Fate, will descend with me to my Grave — We know not the Value of our Friends but by their Loss.

If I should ever have an Opportunity of writing after I get on Shore, I most undoubtedly shall embrace it; if not, I must now entreat you to present me as I am and ever appeared unto my Friends, and particularly so — present me to

all and God bless you all – this from Your dutiful Son and most affectionate Friend
Will: Heywood

I have just received the Governor's permission to go on Shore – and no reason given – I have only time to say once more God be with you all, acquaint my particular Friends, and let it be my Excuse for not writing, commend one to –
Adieu W.H.

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

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

January 1776 Moored at Plymo Road. Nevis.
Monday. 1st A M ½ past 6. Saw His Majesty's Sloop *Lynx* in Chace of a Brigg, and Brought Her too. She Soon after took Her in tow for Bassetarre.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

2. The brig *America*, Jonathan Lambert, master, from Surinam, with a cargo of molasses. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

2 Jan.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER ¹

Copy.

General Hospital Jan'y 2d 1776.

Dear Sir I wrote You three Days since of our Defeat & the Death of General Montgomery & others, with all the Information I then had of the Matter, We have been in suspence, with Regard to my Detachment until this Afternoon when Major [Return Jonathan] Meigs was sent out with a Flag for the Officers Baggage who he says are all taken Prisoners, Except Captain [William] Hendricks – Lieut [William] Humphreys of the Rifle Men and Lieut [Samuel] Cooper who were killed in the Action – General Carleton says our Loss in killed & wounded is an hundred – Major Meigs thinks it does not exceed sixty and about three hundred taken prisoners who are treated very humanely – These brave Men sustained the Force of the whole Garrison, for three Hours but were finally obliged to yield to Numbers, and the advantageous Situation the Garrison had over them; several other Officers I am told are slightly wounded we had the Misfortune of losing one Brass six pounder in the Engagement and all our Mortars were taken from St Roche the Evening after the Engagement – This was the Fault of some of the Officers who commanded, as they might very easily have been brought away, agreeable to my positive Orders for that purpose our Force at this Time does not exceed eight hundred Men including Colo [James] Livingston's Regiment of two hundred Canadians, and some scattered Canadian Forces amounting to 200 more, many of the Troops are dejected and anxious to get Home and some have actually set off. I shall endeavour to continue the Blockade while there are any Hopes of Success – for God's Sake order as many Men down as you can possibly spare consistent with the Safety of Montreal, and all the Mortars Hoits [Howitzers] & Shells that you can possibly bring I hope you will stop every Rascal who has deserted from us and bring him back again Every possible Mark of Distinction was shewn to the Corpse of General Montgomery who was to be interred in Quebec this Day. – Had he been properly supported by his Troops I make no Doubt of our Success,

We are short of Cash not more than 4 or 500 pounds and only twenty Barrels of salt pork If any can be spared from Montreal, I think best to bring it down and all the Butter. I beg you will transmit a Copy of this Letter to the Honorable Continental Congress and another to his Excellency General Washington I think it will be highly necessary with the Reinforcement which I make no Doubt the Congress will send; that they should order all the large Mortars and Hoits at Crown point Ticonderoga and Fort George on to this place – Monsieur Palliser who has a Furnace at three Rivers assures me that [he] can cast any Size and Number of Shells between this and the Beginning of April. – I hope the Honorable Continental Congress will not think of sending Less than eight or ten Thousand Men, to secure and form a lasting Connection with this Country – I am in such excessive pain from my Wound as the Bones of my Leg are effected I can only add that I am with the greatest Esteem Dear Sir [&c.]

B. Arnold Colo &c.

N.B. Many Officers here appear dispirited. Your presence will be absolutely necessary. I don't expect to be in a Capacity to act this two Months

B. Arnold.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 400–01, NA.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Salem January the 2d. 1776

Mr. Adams I wrote you sometime Ago, desireing you to inquire of the So. Carolina Gentlemen whether they wanted to make Exchange of some money, I had in So. Carolina, but as itt is not very likely I Apprehend I have concluded, to send a Vessell to bring the Value in Rice, which I find is Allowed – so would not give you the trouble. . . .

Grain will be very much wanted the ensueing spring and Year – And am sending several fishing schooners to Virginia &c. for Corn &c. – but unless that Coast could be kept clear itt will be Attended with a great resque. As the Contineltal money we suppose will pass there I have sent and shall send more, and as the resque is great I have been thinking that iff Your Congress would pass some resolve simelar to an Act in former times when paper Currency past here, that were a person was possest of any sum of money which was lost by fire or by sea and could bring satisfactory proof, that in such cases itt was made good to the sufferers. And as grain will be greatly wanted and in case such a resolve could be past itt would be a means of incorageing people to send there Vessells, the Act to be binding, that the money so sent should be laid Out In the United provinces – and in faith that something simelar may be Acted upon, to Answer such a purpose I have been and Noted in a Noterary's office about seven hundred Dls., which I have sent by one Vessell having taken the Number's of the bills and [. . .] Names and then taken the Masters Oath that he received such money's to carry to Virginia, for the purchaseing of grain. And As the money should not fall into the Enemy's hands, I have Orderd the Master to throw itt Over board – for there is not the least doubt but sometime or Other, or even now in many places they could get friends to keep or transact such money's so as to be equal to them as silver or gold. Now, the supposition I go upon is, that by renewing those bills

there can be no disadvantage to the Colony's as there will be no more money Issued, and, the person who may be the looser of itt cant be suppos'd but what would gladly pay the charge of haveing them renu'ed, indeed iff he did not he Ought not to be benifited by such an indulgency. I am aware there may be An Objection to such an Act and this may be said, that the money may be hid in the Vessell or by some means or Other securd, but, in that case there would [. . .] a possibillity of secreating itt by the people as they are generally made prisoners and would be found Out One way or Other and that no fraud of that kind should take place the Master should when returnd be upon Oath that the money was thrown Over board and destroyed. Should you think some such Act was legible doubt not you may think of some method to prove the satisfactoriness of the Loss. Some Others have and purpose takeing the steps I have mentioned in Confidence of something of this kind might take place.

As any News we have nothing very Material no prizes lately and am sorry the privateers are not Out which is Occasioned by there time being up but hope there will be new Men and Officers soon as now is the Only time and many Ves-sells must be on the Coast.² . . .

I suppose the Troops thought to be gone to Rd.Island are gone to joyn Ld.Dunmore. We suppose a New Admiral Arrived last saturday³ with 2 or 3 M[en of] Warr who lay att Nantasket with 2 or 3 more. A number of ships is gone up within a few days so that its likely they will have a supply.

They have taken a brigantine belonging to Newbury and a schooner belonging here the latter Very Valuable.

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers*, Series II, *Adams Family Correspondence* (Cambridge, 1963), I, 339–41. Hereafter cited as Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*.

2. Referring to Washington's five armed schooners, manned by men from the Continental Army.

3. Vice Admiral Molyneux Shulldham, who succeeded Vice Admiral Samuel Graves in command of the fleet on the American Station.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED¹

[Extract]

Camp [Cambridge] January 2d, 1776.

Manly is truly our hero of the sea; — poor — [Sion Martindale] is gone to England — his vessel was not at all calculated for the service; she was fitted out at an enormous expense, did nothing, and struck without firing a gun.² [William] Coit I look upon to be a mere blubber, — and — [Broughton and Selman] are indolent and inactive souls. Their time was out yesterday, and from frequent rubs they got from me (under the General's wings) they feel sore, and decline serving longer. I hope we shall pick out some more active men. It will be possible to bombard Boston from Letchmore's Point; give us powder and authority, for that you know we want, as well as the other. I say give us these, and Boston can be set in flames.

I have heard of your fleet, and I have been much surprised that any of the difficulties you mention should occur in such a place as Philadelphia³ How often have I exclaimed at the delays attending the fitting out our Beverly Fleet. How often have you descanted thereon in your letters; — but I find this country should not bear so much blame as both of us have laid at its door. I wish the

scheme of fitting both fleets out was adopted some months earlier; it would have been of infinite advantage to the cause. I believe I told you that Broughton and Selman were returned; they never entered the River St. Lawrence; indeed, the quantity of provisions ordered to be put on board, was far short for such an expedition: — there is now no help for it. The accounts you give from Virginia are very agreeable, — though I cannot suppose that a want of provisions to support the motley army can be the reason of [Lord] Dunmore's going on board his vessel again. The letters by a sloop, from him bound to Boston,⁴ spoke a very different language; he in some of them says he can spare a great deal to the army in Boston. I need not tell you that this sloop was taken by Manly; the Congress have all the letters, and of a very interesting nature they are.

I am just informed all the vessels are now in port, the officers and men quitted them;⁵ what a pity, as vessels are every day arriving: indeed the chance of taking any, is pretty well over, as a man-of-war is stationed so as to command the entrance of Beverly, Salem, and Marblehead — we must have ships to cope with them. I shall set out to-morrow and try to get some of them to sea while the weather continues mild. . . .

1. William B. Reed, *Life and Correspondence of Joseph Reed* (Philadelphia, 1847), I, 137–40.

2. Washington's armed brig *Washington*.

3. The Continental Fleet being outfitted at Philadelphia.

4. The sloop *Betsey*, taken December 17, 1775.

5. The vessels were the five schooners of Washington's fleet in New England waters—*Hancock*, *Franklin*, *Lee*, *Warren*, and *Harrison*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, January 2, 1776.

A Petition of Ivory Hovey, in Behalf of the Eastern Districts, lying between the River of Penobscot and Machias, praying the Court to establish a Court of Admiralty at Union-River, for Reasons set forth in said Petition.

Read and committed to Col. [Azor] Orne, and Mr. [Daniel] Hopkins, with such as the Hon. Board shall join.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Preston at Boston Janry 2d 1776

Rear Admiral Shuldham arrived at Nantasket in his Majesty's Ship *Chatham* the 30th. Ultio And I had the honour to receive their Lordships Orders hereafter mentioned, Vizt

Of Sept 28, 1775 To intercept seize and bring into Port all Ships and Vessels whatever having on board Salt Petre, with Copies of the Kings Order in Council of the 27th September.

Octr 15 To station a small Ship at [New] Providence and one at the Bermuda Islands for the safety and preservation of his Maj's Ordnance Stores at those places.

Octr 15 To send a Force to destroy the floating Batteries and to weigh up and render useless the Machines sunk in the River Delaware with a View to obstruct the Navigation.

Octr 23 To give the most positive Orders to the Captains of the Squadron to burn and destroy every Vessel fitted out from any of the Colonies in Support of the Rebellion.

I had also the Honour to receive their Lordships Orders dated the 29th of September to remove my Flag from the *Preston* to one of the three Guard Ships named in the Margin, and so soon as I shall have communicated to Rear Admiral Shuldham, who is to succeed me in the Command of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, such Intelligence of the State of Affairs in this Country as may be material for him to know, and have delivered to him Copies of such of their Lordships Orders and Instructions as remain unexecuted, either in the whole or part, and of which he has not already been furnished with Copies by their Lordships, to make the best of my Way to Plymouth Sound or Spithead.

The *Boyne* sailed for England the 5th of last month, The *Somerset* is at Halifax, The *Asia* at New York; so that altho' I would most readily obey their Lordship's Command and come to England in one of the two large Ships last mentioned, it will take up so much time, and it is such a Risque to attempt getting to either of them at this Season, that I think it better at once to proceed to England in the *Preston*; and as this Ship has not been cleaned since she left England, she may be docked and return again to Boston in nearly the same time it would take to careen her at Halifax.

The Business necessary to be done upon leaving the Station shall be finished as soon as possible, and I hope to get away the latter End of this Month. I am &c
Sam^l Graves.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 25-26, BM.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

Hond Sir

Provid[ence] Janry 2nd 1775[sic 1776].

I wrote you 25th Inst to wch Refer - Capt Nichs Power who went to Newport a 2nd Time to Enlist seamen as Mention in My last return'd last evening, after the Most Disagreeable perplexing Jobb in the very Seveer Wheather of last Week has bro't to this Town sixty four Seamen, Affected thro' his Grait Zeal And Indefaticable Industory I just now left him paying of[f] & Setling with the Seamen Sixty of wch he is Assur'd May be got onbord Messrs C[lark] & Night[in]g[al]e Sloop ² tomorrow wheath[er] permitg. & will sail emediatly for Ph[iladelphi]a this has bin Something Expensive As well as Troublesome Jobb, but Conducted with as Much prudence as the Nature & Circumstances of things would admit, Capt Power out of Choice has Advanced the whole Money out of his Own Pocket, Supposing it May be less Trouble to settle the Affair, As I look upon it apice of singular Servis to the Grand Cause I have no doubt but the Honbl Congress will readily reimburse Capt Power with some future Notice of him Capt Wm Grinnal of Newport is now on the same Business Collecting what Seamen May be left had got Abot 9 or 10, & in Expectation of getg in All this Week Upwards of thirty, if so they will be forwarded as Soon As they Can be got way, but Hope before they get to Pha the fleet may be Saild sufficiently Man'd for Some Important expedi-

tion, in that Case they must follow, or Entr onboard Some Other Vessel wch May be fitg on the Same servis – These Seamen of Powers have some wages due & Some [things] advanced by the Commesary wch it was Impossable Could be got settled for Want of three Accots wch would have taken time, Therefore it was tho't Advis[able] to Dispatch them & forward these Accts with this Govrmt As soon as may be, & whats found due to be Stopped out of there next Mos pay – There is no such thing as getg them Away with our Advanc[in]g for them – doubtless you'l Observe by our last weeks paper that Coll: Wanton &c was bro't here as they refus'd takeing the Oath Genl [Charles] Lee had Tender'd them, which being Alter'd And expunging the last paragraff, wch Obgd them to take up Arms in Defence of the Country Agt the Kings Troops if Call'd upon tho' Other ways as Strong as before, They took the Oath & Return'd To there Own Homes, I have not Copy [of] the Oath or wo'd forward it. Its tho't Adviseable that the Regmt now rais'd by the Governt Shod be Exchgd for One from the Camp near Cambridge wch will be of emenent servis As there is now no kind of Order amongst our Troops at Newport Its Also Absolutly Necessary The Genl Officer Com-mandg in this Colony Shod be from Some Other Governt If these regulations are not Come in to & no More Regements rais'd & station'd in the Colony, the Eneme will doubtless take possession of Rhode Isd in the spring – Every possable preperation for the Good of the Whole o[f] each Governt Ought to be forth with put in to exécution As its found by experience to be A thing of Some [time] to raise Men & fortifie there minds Agst Cannon So as to be Usefull in Many Circumstances

Copy.

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL

2. The sloop *Fly*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Bolton*, LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES¹

January 1776

Moored without Fort Island [off Newport]

Tuesday 2

at 6 A M veer'd away to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable Lighthouse SW $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Flag Staff on Fort Island SBE $\frac{1}{3}$ a Mile.

at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 A M saw the Hospital and Outhouses on fire on Fort Island, our Boats going on shore drove the Rebels off found our Water Casks burnt by the Rebels at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 unmoored & hove into $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable on the smll Bower at 11 weighed and came to sail working out of the Harbour.

First parts little wind & Cloudy Wr latter Do with Rain.

P M sailed the *George* Sloop for Boston. at 2 P M standing towards James Town Ferry Cannanicutt Island, [a] Number of Rebels fired from thence at the Brigg with small Arms, returned it with Carriage Guns & Howitzers at 3 bore away for the [Newport] Harbour, at 4 Anchor'd with small Bower in 9 fm Water, veer'd away $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.



By his EXCELLENCY
WILLIAM TRYON, Esq;

Captain General and Governor in Chief, in and over the Province
of *New-York*, and the Territories depending thereon in *America*,
Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of this Province stands
prorogued to the first Day of *February*, now next
ensuing: I have thought fit for his Majesty's Service,
and I do, with the Advice of his Majesty's Council,
and by Virtue of the Power and Authority unto me granted by his
Majesty, dissolve the said General Assembly, and the said General
Assembly are hereby dissolved accordingly.

*GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at Arms, in the City of
New-York, the second Day of January, One Thousand Seven
Hundred and Seventy-six, in the sixteenth Year of the Reign of
our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of
Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith,
and so forth.*

WM. TRYON.

By his Excellency's Command,
SAM. BAYARD, jun. D. Secry.

GOD save the KING.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL CORNELIUS D.
WYNKOOP¹

[Copy]

Albany January 2d 1775 [*sic* 1776].

Sir, Capt: [Andrew] Billings will deliver You the Officers that were made Prisoners in Canada. I do not hesitate a Moment to apply to You on this Occasion, as I have had Experience of your Attention to promote the service.

You will be so good as to forward the Officers & their Baggage to Trenton, together with the Baggage of the St Johns Garrison, the Officers Servants & four or five Men to take Care of the Baggage; All the Other Men, Women & Children, You will please to desire the Committee to Canton, agreeable to my request of the 13th Ult. –

Should the Snow fall when You arrive at Delaware And the River not be Navigable & No Possibility of going down on the Ice, You will leave the Baggage & proceed with the Officers & their Servants to Trenton, from whence You will please to repair to Congress & report what You have done in Execution of this Request. –

The Officers are now on their Parole of Honor, but when You take them in Charge, You will request them to renew their Parole agreeable to my former Orders. –

The Expences run so high, that the greatest Oeconomy is to be Used in Conveying these Troops. – I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

Colo: Wynkoop att Esopus.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 380, NA.

MINUTES OF THE MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, COMMITTEE OF
OBSERVATION¹

In Committee, Jan. 2d, 1776.

Whereas, on or about the seventh day of October last, a certain small sloop, said to be the tender of the *Viper* sloop of war, was taken with three persons on board, in Barnegat Bay, and is now detained in possession of the Committee of the county of Monmouth, in New-Jersey: Said Committee, in pursuance of the direction of the Provincial Congress, do publish the following descriptive advertisement, viz.

That the length of said small sloop from stem to stern is about thirty feet; depth of her hold three feet and an half; her quarter deck twelve, and her main deck eighteen feet long; three cloths in the head, and eight in the foot of her main sail; her bowsprit five feet over her stem, with a bar of iron up the same; her horse piece of iron, and her burthen about three cords. – The person, who says he is a midshipman, and had the command of her, informs, that she was taken from the Provincials at a place called Holme's Hole, laden with fruit, &c. and was sent by Admiral Greaves to the *Viper* for a tender. – If the original owner shall apply, prove property and pay charges, any time before the first of May next, he may have her again, in present condition.

1. *New-York Journal*, February 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 2, 1776

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due,

To Judah Alden 50 dollars, advanced on Account of expences in attending the French gentlemen.²

Resolved, That General Schuyler be directed to have Brigadier General Prescott, lately made prisoner by the continental forces in Canada, taken into custody, and him safely and securely kept until the further orders of this Congress.

Resolved, That a copy of the above be sent immediately to General Schuyler, and that the general be informed by letter of the reasons which induced the Congress to give such orders.³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 16.

2. For accompanying Messrs. Penet and Pliarne from New England to Philadelphia.

3. Occasioned by the brutal treatment accorded Ethan Allen when captured at Montreal.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 2. Jany Agreed to write to Gen [Philip] Schuyler ordering Him to confine Brig. Gen Prescott [Richard Prescott] now at Kingston in Ulster County, till further Order, acquaintg Him, (Schuyler), of the reason viz the ill Usage of Col. Ethan Allen, We did not order the Prisoner into Irons because it is not quite certain how Allen is treated - . . . [Christopher] Gadsden moved to add a Friend of his to John Rutledge & [Henry] Middleton now in S. Carolina to whom the Dispatch of Congress relative to the Attack on St Augustine are to be directed, & he further moved for Leave to repair to S. Carolina he being Commander in Chief of the Militia there where an Attack is apprehended these Motions were opposed by his Colleagues [Thomas] Lynch & E[dward] Rutledge & others and were carried in the Negative

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA¹

[Philadelphia] January 2, 1776.

Resolved, That no master or owner of any vessel or vessels, shall ship any provisions, goods or merchandize, *of any kind*, from this port, without first giving satisfaction to, or receiving the approbation of this Committee.

By Order of the Committee,

Robert Strettell Jones, Sec.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, January 8, 1776.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., ANNAPOLIS¹

Sir

Baltimore Town 2 January 1776

Your orders by Mr Isaac Vanbibber I have followed the *Rachel* Cap [James] Tibbet will be full this day by 12 oClock the Invoices shall be sent you to morrow, the Frost setting in sooner than I Ex[pecte]d prevented the mills from Work, I took out of Capn [Thomas] Kell about 170 Bils to get Tibbet

Loaded as he might be ready in case the River Opened, I shall order her out of the way of the Ice this afternoon, the Brigg I first Loaded is at the Mouth of our River, the Owner is Calling upon me Every day for his orders, [Cornelius] Cornthwaits Brigg and Capt Kell will both be loaded in a few days if the weather Continues favourable, and [will] bring down the Invoices of their Cargoes I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^d Buchanan

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch. Johnson was president of the Maryland Convention.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, January 2, 1776

The President laid before the Convention a letter from Col.[Robert] Howe, and also a letter from Col.[William] Woodford, informing the Convention they had received petitions from several of the persons who had joined Lord *Dunmore*, and were on board the vessels in the harbour at Norfolk, desiring they might have leave to return, as their wives and children were greatly distressed; that they had given for answer, the women and children were at liberty to come on shore, and should receive assistance and protection, but not to be at liberty to return or give intelligence to our enemies; that the men should have no other violence offered them than to remain prisoners till they could be fairly and impartially tried by their country, for taking arms against it; which being read,

Resolved, That this Convention will immediately resolve into a committee on the said letter.

The Convention accordingly resolved itself into the said committee, and after some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair; and Mr.[James] Mercer reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the letter from col. Howe and col. Woodford, and had come to the following resolution thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to by the Convention.

Resolved, That this convention do highly approve of the offer made by col. Howe and his officers to the distressed women and children now on board the vessels in the harbour at Norfolk, and the terms offered to those who have taken up arms against this country; and that col. Howe be requested to repeat the same, in the name of the delegates and representatives of this colony.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 80-81.

COLONEL ROBERT HOWE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Extract]

Norfolk, January 2

The cannonade of the town began about a quarter after three yesterday, from upwards of one hundred pieces of cannon, and continued till near ten at night, without intermission; it then abated a little, and continued till two this morning. Under cover of their guns they landed and set fire to the town in several places near the water, though our men strove to prevent them all in their

power; but the houses near the water being chiefly of wood, they took fire immediately, and the fire spread with amazing rapidity. It is now become general, and the whole town will, I doubt not, be consumed in a day or two. Expecting that the fire would throw us into confusion, they frequently landed, and were every time repulsed, I imagine with loss, but with what loss I cannot tell. The burning of the town has made several avenues, which yesterday they had [not], so that they may now fire with greater effect. The tide is now rising and we expect at high water another cannonade. I have only to wish it may be as ineffectual as the last; for we have not one man killed, and but a few wounded. I cannot enter into the melancholy consideration of the women and children running through a crowd of shot to get out of the town, some of them with children at their breasts; a few have, I hear, been killed.

Does it not call for vengeance both from God and man? It is but justice to inform you, that I had the pleasure to find every officer ready to execute orders at a moment's warning, and that the men behaved with steadiness and spirit. Col. [Adam] Stevens went down at my command, and headed some men near the water, where he engaged a party who had landed, with the spirit and conduct of a good officer. Of my friend Col. [William] Woodford it is almost needless to speak, but I cannot avoid expressing, that I received from him every assistance which conduct and spirit could give me.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, January 15, 1776, Supplement, January 16, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW¹

Jan'y 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Tuesday 2 at 7 [A.M.] the Rebels began to fire upon us with musketry which we returned with great Guns untill they Dispersed.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU¹

January 1776 Moored in Elizbth River Virginia
Abreast the Town of Norfolk

Tuesday 2 AM The Rebels Continuing firing at the Ship we Returning it
with Great Guns Swivels & Musquetry
[P. M.] the Rebels as Before. ret'd it as Before.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Wilmington] Tuesday Jan'y 2. 1776.

Capt Batchelder applied for Leave to clear out his Brig in Ballast for Newyork.

Resolved, That no vessel whatever in this Port Clear out for any other Port until further Orders from this Committee or a superior power, & that Capt Batchelder be served with a Copy of this Order.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774-1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan 2nd, 1776.

Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, esqs., the delegates from the Council of Safety in Georgia, attended, and received the answer of this board to their memorial or representation of the 30th ult., and also a copy of the following letter to the Council of Safety in Georgia:

In the Council of Safety,
Charles-Town, Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Gentlemen – We had the honour of your dispatch of the 19th past, presented to us by Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, esqs., with whom, as delegates from your board, we have conferred freely and fully upon the very momentous subject of preserving friendship and harmony between the other United Colonies and Georgia.

We have delivered to those gentlemen, in answer to their memorial or representation, our sentiments in writing, which we have desired them to lay before you; and we strongly confide in your inclination to co-operate with us, and your zeal for promoting the important interests of America, as to assure ourselves, that all ground for jealousy will be speedily removed.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Council of Savannah, Savannah.

Information being given to the board, that the ships of war now in our road, intend for Georgia, the following letters were written, and ordered to be sent by express:

Charles-Town, Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Sir – The inclosed paper had been sealed up and directed to you in form of a letter, which was opened for the perusal of the Council of Safety, who had some thoughts of writing in form to your board, but upon reflection, they determined to let it, with this addition, go to yourself, confiding in you and a few other friends to do all that shall appear needful with dispatch, and without alarming opposition. I am sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens, President
of the Council of Safety.

Charles-Town, South-Carolina,
Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Sir – I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 25th December, by the hands of Mr. Sheftal, and immediately laid it before the Council of Safety. We had before heard too much of the deplorable state of affairs in your colony, particularly of the falling off of one whom I always believed to have been as sincere as he was zealous, and who I hope may still, by proper means, be brought back to his duty.

Our Council of Safety has written such a letter to yours by the hands of Mr. Drayton and Mr. Ewen, as I hope will animate all the friends of liberty on your side, to oppose face to face, those open, and to ferret out the secret enemies of whom you speak. Arduous struggles are before you, but not insuperable. Resolution and steadiness, without unnecessary violence, will carry you through, and I believe you may depend upon all the aid that we, in our weakness, can afford. We indeed have nothing to boast of, beyond the hearty endeavours of a few to save from slavery many very lukewarm, and many who even fight against us, some daringly, and many more under the covert of good wishes and affected neutrality.

But, sir, my principal business at present, for otherwise I should not have troubled you before Mr. Drayton's return, is to inform you that the *Tamar*, *Cherokee*, *Sandwich packet*, and an armed schooner made sail this morning in Rebellion Road, and attempted to go over the bar, but the wind failing, they all came to an anchor again. From undoubted intelligence, we learn they are intended for your river, in order to obtain provisions (of bread particularly) which since the practice of harbouring and protecting our negroes on board the *Cherokee*, we have refused to supply them with. Perhaps, too, there may be a concerted plan between the two great men, for covering the loading of all the ships which now are, and which may come into your river, for overawing the friends of liberty, and for giving energy to the projects of our enemies; in a word, for every mischievous, and no good purpose towards the former. These will receive the warning – enquire what quantity of bread and flour, beef and pork, is in the town, and act a part that we hope will do them honour. I have the honour to be, with great regard, Sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens.

Archd. Bulloch, esq.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 139–41.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a meeting of the Council of Safety[Savannah] on Tuesday, Jan.2,1776.

The Committee appointed to propose expedients for supplying the Province with arms and ammunition brought in their report, which the Board proceeded to consider and came to the following resolutions.

Whereas, It has been resolved by the Continental Congress, that for the better furnishing these Colonies with the necessary means of defending their rights, every vessel importing gunpowder, saltpetre, sulphur, provided they bring with the sulphur four times as much saltpetre, brass field pieces of good muskets fitted with bayonets, within nine months from the date of this resolution, shall be permitted to load and export the produce of these Colonies, to the value of such powder and stores aforesaid, the non-exportation agreement notwithstanding ²

Resolved, Therefore, that a sum of money be provided for the purpose of obtaining arms and ammunition for this Province.

Resolved, That Saml. Elbert, Edwd. Telfair and Joseph Habersham be a committee to agree with a proper person to undertake to supply this Province with arms and ammunition.

Resolved, That such person shall have power to draw on the said committee for the sum necessary to be paid for such arms and ammunition, who are empowered and required to accept the same upon the faith of the public of this Province.

Resolved, That the holder of any such bills may send any vessel or vessels to any port of this Province which shall be permitted to load and carry off any produce of this Province to the amount thereof.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee to contract for the supply of 400 stand of arms with bayonets, as nearly to the size recommended by the Continental Congress as possible, 20,000 lbs. of gunpowder, 60,000 lbs. of ball, bullets, bar lead, grape, swan and goose shot, properly proportioned.

Resolved, That all the military stores at the Fort of Frederica be immediately secured and lodged in some place of security.

Resolved, That the President be empowered to issue orders by authority of the Board to some person willing to undertake the same.

Resolved, That the expense attending the taking and securing such stores be paid by the public of this province.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 82-86.

2. Resolution of July 15, 1775.

3 Jan.

ELIAS HUNT AND ZEBEDEE HUNT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY ¹

States of Massachusetts Bay

To the Honourable the Council & the Hon. the House of Representatives of the State aforesaid

Humbly shew

Elias Hunt & Zebedee Hunt Traders all of Newbury Port in the County of Essex & State aforesaid that just before the embargo last made upon all the Vessels of this state they had a small sloop called the *Dove* lying in Sheepscut just ready to sail for the Island of Martinico or Gaudaloupe laden with lumber & fish to purchase molasses arms ammunition & other military stores that said schooner has all her hands already shipped who have been upon pay some time before said Embargo to this time wherefore your petitioners pray your honours that they may be relieved from said expence of paying those hands & that said Vessel may pursue her voyage aforesaid as her importing said Melasses arms ammunition & military stores into this state will be of great service thereto.

And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray –

Elias hunt for Self
and Zebdee Hunt

Jany 3. 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 279.

PORTAGE BILL FOR WASHINGTON'S ARMED SCHOONER *Franklin* ¹

when Ship	mens names	Stations	wages pr month	Advance Wages	when dischargd	wages due
octbr 6d	Jno Roundey	master	£4.0.0	£4.0.0	Janry 3d	£8.8.6¼
	Jno dinnes	mate	3.0.0	3.0.0		6.6.5
	Bjm Stevens	Seaman	2.8.0	2.8.0		5.1.1½
	hezy poor		2.8.0	2.8.0		5.1.1½
	Jno Redden		2.8.0	2.8.0		5.1.1½

[Endorsed] octbr 6d 1775 A portrage Bill For the Schooner *Franckling* in and upon a Cruse in Service of the Contenent to the year 1776

[On reverse] Reced Beverly 3 Janry 1775 [*sic* 1776] of William Bartlett Twenty Nine pounds 18/4¼ in full for the within

Jn^o Roundey

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 19, LC.

COMMITMENT OF MOSES WAYMAN AND SAMUEL WEBB ¹

Colony of the
Massachusetts Bay } The major part of the Council –

To the Keeper of the Goal at Plymouth in the County of
Plymouth – Greeting

You are hereby ordered & directed to take into your Custody, Mos[es] Wayman & Samuel Webb both of Westchester in the Colony of New York, Mariners, lately taken Prisoners in the Sloop *Live-Po[i]nt*, attempting to pass into Boston & to supply our Enemies there with Provisions &c and them and each of them safely keep in close confinement, till the further Order of the Council – or they be otherwise discharged by due course of Law –

Given under our hands, at the Council Chamber in Watertown, the 3d day of January Anno Domini 1776

By their Honors' Command

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 230.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, January] 3.

The Admiral sent Captain [Andrew] Barkley of the *Scarborough* a Copy of his Letter to Captain [Henry] Bellew of the *Liverpool*, dated the 30th November 1775: and the *Scarborough*, *Hinchinbrook* and two Transports sailed from Nantasket. General [William] Howe by a Letter of Yesterday had requested of the Admiral that the *Scarborough*, when she had performed the important Service she was going upon, might be ordered to join Major General [Henry] Clinton at Cape Fear, or, if not there, to endeavour to find him on the Coast. And in another

Letter of this day his Excellency inclosed Extracts of a Dispatch from Lord Dartmouth, whereby the Admiral (as he observed) would be fully acquainted with every thing communicated to his Excellency, who in consequence desired that as Major General Clinton was to have the Execution of his Majesty's Commands therein mentioned, the Admiral would appoint some Ship of War, the best calculated for the Service proposed, and that her Captain might have Orders to put into such Places on the Coast as General Clinton should require for the purpose of procuring Intelligence for any other Publick Service.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 26, BM.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston 3d Jany. 1776

I have the Honor to send you enclosed, Extracts from a Dispatch received from Lord Dartmouth, one of His Majesty's principal Secretary's of State, dated Whitehall 22d October 1775, whereby you will be fully acquainted with every thing communicated to me relative to His Majestys Intentions therein specified. Major Genl [Henry] Clinton will have the Execution of these His Majesty's Commands, and I am to request, that you will appoint a Ship of War, best calculated for the proposed Service, to receive him on Board, and convoy him to the Place of Destination

Your particular Instructions to the Officers Commanding His Majesty's Ships to the Southward will of Course coincide with His Majesty's Designs, and I humbly request in Addition to any Orders you may please to give the Officer with whom Genl Clinton may sail, that you will direct him to put into such Places on the Coast as the General shall require, to procure Intelligence, or for any other Consideration which Major Genl Clinton may recommend, to expedite or facilitate the General Service I have the Honor to be, Sir,

A true Copy

signed/ W^m Howe

Robert Mackenzie Secretary

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR ¹

1776 January

Moor'd in Nantasket Road

Monday 1

AM do Wr bent the Sheet Cable & got Anchor over the side at 1/2 past 11 the light house fired 2 Guns and made a signal on which we Discover'd a boat belonging to the light house driving out to Sea his Majts Schooner *hinchinbroke* Slipp'd & made sail after her, but could not pick her up, as She was seen to drive on Shore and the people taken by the rebels Came on board John Stebbins Pilot for Boston & took charge of the Ship. Fired Evening & Morning a Volley of small arms – at 3 PM Sent a party of marines to the lighthouse at 5 Struck yards & top masts

- Tuesday 2 A M Mode & Clear Wr at 9 got up Yards and topmast & set the rigging up fore & aft a large Quantity of Ice drifting down with the tide makes it very dangerous Lying in Nantasket road at 10 Unmoor'd & hove into $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable Mr Christopher Mason 1st Lieut was appointed to Command the *Nautilus* pr Order of vice Adml Graves –
 Little Wind at 2 PM weigh'd & warp'd farther into the road to get out of the Ice at 4 the wind came to soward & made sail for Boston at 6 came too off Spectacle Island in 7 fm Water & Veered to $\frac{1}{2}$ Cable the Island S W $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile the lighthouse E S E
- Wednesday 3 at 8 AM weighd and made sail for Boston
 at 9 Castle William Saluted with 13 Guns returned 13 More at 10 Saluted Vice Adml Graves with 13 Guns at 11 Came too in Boston Harbour in 6 fm water & veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable found riding here Vice Adml Graves in his Majs Ship *Preston* with his Majs Ships *Lively Falcon Adventure* Store Ship & Several transports & Victuallers. At Noon Weighed & Shifted our birth fired Evening and Morning a Volley of small Arms –
 Do Wr at 1 Came too in 6 fms veer'd & moor'd a Cable each way the best bower to the S E the small bower to the N W Long Wharf S S W distance off Shore one Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT ¹

- Janry 1776 Boston Light House N W b W 4 Leagues
- Tuesday 2d at 9 A M got up do [lower Yards] empd Watering & getting ready for Sea –
 Light Breezes & Cloudy Wr received from the *William Brig & Brothers* Snow ² the Arms supplied them on the Passage – Anchd here two Arm'd Schooners & a Transport – empd as before
 PM sailed for Boston His Majestys Ship[s] *Chatham & Renown*; anchord here the *Cancaux*
- Wednesday 3rd At 8 AM unmoor'd – received fresh beef for the Company, at 10 AM weighd & came to Sail – set Steering sails –
 First and Middle parts light Breezes & Calms, latter part moderate & Cloudy
 at 1 PM Saw a Schooner to the S Wt fired two 12 pounders at do, but could not bring her too, as she got in shore at 9 PM being Calm came too with the best Bower in 28 fathoms Veer'd $\frac{2}{3}$ d of a Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

2. The *Niger* had arrived from England on December 31, 1775 with these vessels under convoy.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,
during the recess of the Provincial Congress.
[New York] January 3d, 1776.

Die Mercurii, A.M.

Col.[Alexander] McDougall informed the Committee that some days ago he received a letter from Mr. Lewis Pintard informing him that a vessel from Hispaniola with gunpowder on board, was on this coast; that he apprehended Delaware river was so obstructed with ice that the vessel would not be able to enter there, and that therefore there is reason to expect her to attempt coming into this port; and that Mr. Pintard had farther informed him, that if this vessel succeeded in her voyage, an armed vessel was ready at Hispaniola to follow her with a like cargo.

Col. McDougall, farther informed the Committee, that no proper pilot boat could be obtained to go to Sandy-Hook to look out for the said vessel, to navigate her to a place of safety; and that by the advice of the other members of the Committee then present he had purchased a whale boat, with oars, for \$27, and had employed Capt. William Dobbs at 10s. per day, and four other men at 5s per day each, besides their necessary provisions and expenses, and given them proper directions and sent them to Sandy-Hook to watch and look out for the said vessel, there to remain 8 days, if the said vessel did not arrive sooner.

The Committee of Safety fully approved of and ratified the said agreement made by Col. McDougall, and direct him to return an account of the expenses to this Committee, as soon as he can ascertain the same.

Ordered, That Mr.Wm. Lowther be permitted to supply one hhd. of rum, or spirits, to the purser or officers of His Majesty's ship *Phoenix*, and to have the same conveyed on board of the said ship.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 235-36.

PIERRE VAN COURTLAND TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New York,
appointed by the Provincial Congress to act in their recess –
New York January 3d 1776.

Sir,

As it is an object of great Moment with us as well as the continental Congress to have the Important pass on Hudsons River properly secured & fortified, we think it our Duty to furnish them with all possible Information on the Subject. For this purpose we send Mr [Bernard] Romans the Engineer employed in that Department, who is prepared to lay before the Congress his Drafts with the necessary Information –

We beg Leave to Mention that the place at which the works are erected was fixed before Mr Romans was employed in the Service, and from his Ideas of the Matter that place cannot be rendered sufficiently Secure for a Lodgment of Troops, and to answer the End of a Fortified pass without more Expence than our Commissioners appointed to superintend that Business think prudent; besides which

they observe, that his Scheme cannot be compleatly executed with that dispatch the Service may require.

Mr [Thomas] Palmer in Conjunction with the rest of the Committee appointed by our Congress to remove the Difficulties occasioned by a Difference of Opinion between the Commissioners and Engineer, has doubtless pointed out to Congress certain places on the River which would better answer the purpose of a Temporary Defence, and at much less Expence than will necessarily attend the Execution of Mr Romans Scheme – We are fully of Opinion that the places in Mr Palmers proposal ought by all Means to be covered with Fortifications that will cost but little; and command two considerable Reaches of the River. We at the same Time submit it to the Consideration of Congress how far the Completion of the Fortifications already begun ought to be carried on either upon Mr Romans plan or that which has doubtless been proposed by Mr Palmer, as the Sense of our Committee who were Sent to view the works – ²

We hope that this Application while Mr Palmer is attending on the Congress will not be construed to his disadvantage. Had we been possessed of Mr Romans plan in its present compleat State, and had he been in Town at the Time of Mr Palmer's Departure, we should have required his accompanying that Gentleman. And as there is some prospect that Mr Romans may reach Philadia before the plan of Fortification is finally determined by Congress, we should think ourselves inexcusable in withholding from them any Means for enabling them to determine so important a Matter, on the best Lights in our power to furnish –

We are Sir [&c.]

By order of the Committee.

Pierre Van Cortland Chairman

To the Honble the President of
the Continental Congress
Philadelphia –

1. Papers CC (New York State Papers), 67, I, 145, NA.

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, January 13, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, January 3, 1776

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the Secret Committee, and thereupon came to the following resolutions.

Resolved, That the following goods and stores ought to be imported as soon as possible, for the use of the United Colonies, viz.

60,000 striped blankets.

120,000 yards of 6-4 broad cloth, the colours to be brown and blue, from 3/ to 6/ ster. per yard.

10,000 yards of do. of different colours for facing, a 4/.

3,000 pieces of duffils, or some such cloth.

100 m. sorted needles.

50 m. do. none fine.
 10 m. do. for sail cloth.
 3,000 pieces of Raven's duck.
 3,000 pieces Ticklenburghs.
 1,500 pieces oznabrugs.
 1,000 pieces vitrey.
 4,000 pieces Hamburg dowlas.
 20,000 stand of arms.
 300 tons of lead.
 1,000,000 flints.
 1,500 boxes of tin, and iron wire properly sorted for it.
 Medicines, surgeons' instruments, lint and bandages, to the amount
 of £2,000 sterling.
 500 sheets of Copper of different sorts.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered and directed to pursue the most effectual measures for importing the above articles.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of this report be postponed.

A letter from the committee of Frederick, in Maryland, brought by the officer who had the charge of bringing down [Dr. John] Connolly and his associate, was laid before Congress and read.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania to carry into execution the resolution of Congress for confining said Connolly, and his associates, in the gaol of Philadelphia, and that they take their examinations.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 24, 25, 29.

2. *Ibid.*, III, 415. A Congressional resolution, December 8, 1775, reads: "*Resolved*, That the said Allen Cameron, John Smith, and John Connolly, be confined in Prison in Philadelphia until the further order of Congress, at the continental Expence."

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

Wednesday 3d [January] In Congress the Report on the State of New York was considered – Col. Nat. Heard of the Minute Men at Woodbridge & Col. [David] Waterbury of Connecticut are ordered to take each a large Body of their Men & meet at a Day agreed on, in Queens County Long Island & there disarm the Tories & secure the Ringleaders who it is said are provided with Arms & Ammunition from the *Asia* Man of War,² & other Parts of the Report agreed to as was a Report from the Secret Comee implying that a large Quantity of Produce shall be exported for a Supply of Sail Cloth, other Cloth, Blankets, Needles, Military Stores & other Necessaries to fit out our Fleet and Army – . . . A Letter was received from Mr [John] Hanson Chairman of a Comee in Maryland with Conolly & Cameron Two Prisoners – Smith made his Escape the Comee of Safety here were desired to secure & take the Examination of these Criminals & a Letter was directed to be sent to the Comee of Frederick County to search a certain Saddle for Conollys Instructions, Intelligence of this Saddle had been recd from Gen Washtn . . . Application was made from the Comee of Philada asking Advice

Whether to secure Ld Drummond and Andrew Elliot now in Philada some Members gave them good political Characters & they remained unhurt —

1. Richard Smith's Diary, L.C.

2. Later orders to Waterbury were rescinded, and the expedition was undertaken by Heard and his men.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] 3d January, 1776.

Upon application of the Naval Committee of Congress, an order was directed to Robert Towers, Commissary, to deliver to their order Eight hundred Swivel Shot.

Mr. Rob't Towers, Commiss'y, was directed to apply to Mr. Dunwick, Blacksmith, for 46 Firelocks made by him for Chester County, and 40 firelocks made by him for this County, and to deliver the same to Capt. Sam'l Nicholas, for the use of the Congress.

At a Special meeting of the Members of this Board,
3d January, 1776, in the evening.

Robert Morris, Esq'r, by direction of [the Continental] Congress, delivered the following Resolves to this Board, vizt:

"In Congress, 3d Jan'y, 1776.

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Committee of Safety for Pennsylvania, to see the Resolution of Congress for confining [Dr. John] Conolly and his accomplices, in safe and close Prison, in Philadelphia, till the further orders of Congress be carried into execution.

"Extract from the minutes,
"Cha's Thomson, Sec'ry."

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the said Committee to take the examination of said Conolly and his associates.

"Cha's Thomson, Sec'ry."

John Conolly & Allen Cameron, and their Servants, having been brought to this City as persons inimical to the liberties of America, were ordered to be confined in close prison; agreeable thereto the following commitment was issued:

3 Jan'y, 1776.

You are required to receive into your custody John Conolly and Allen Cameron, & their servants, charged with treasonable Practices against America, and keep them safely, without Pen, Ink or paper, and from all intercourse with other persons, until discharged by this Board or the orders of the Continental Congress, In which this shall be your sufficient warrant. Given under my hand, & by order of the Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania.

Signed John Nixon, Chairman.

To the Keeper of the Gaol of the City of Philadelphia.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 443-45.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 1776 3 Jany

We wrote you the 8th Decr Since then have recd yr favour of the 10th Sept^r and note the contents. our last went by a Mr matt Gardiner for Belfast. & We find he is not yet gone from new York so its probable this may reach you as Soon as it. I intend this for the packett by a young man one mr Jones from this town who takes his passage in her and Shall not make it Long, as I only intend business in it I am still of opinion on the arrival of the Schooner² with you & you Cannot get her Sold, that you might venture her out here with woman Sarvants if to be got Early in the Spring Spinners would do but what keeps me of that opinion is I think you had better Come out. & I know you cannot do that untill you get Clear of her, & get your accts Settled. had you bu[t] been here this fall, one or the other of us Could have gon out to the west Indies to advantage, & I make no Doubt of Something of that sort offering if you was here now amongst the accts . . . I would wish to have Settled if in your power before you Come out as you well know ther will be no doing it after, and Should affairs be Settled here after, you may be assurd it would not hurt our Credit and I make no Doubt of your Complying if in your power. I am pleased to find the Sentiments of the people with you towards us. but no more of that. your Son is well and so is all the family, but you seem more Scared about us than we are our Selves. Wheat 4/ flour 13/ but little comes in at those prices. Ex[change] 10 pCt.

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Schooner *Industry*.JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, January 3, 1776.

Mr.[Thomas] Blackburn, from the committee to whom the petition of Stephen Pierce was referred, reported, that it appeared to the said committee, that the sloop whereof the petitioner was master cleared out at the port of North Potomack, in the province of Maryland, for Antigua, on the 25th day of September last, with 300 barrels of flour, 200 bushels of corn, and some live-stock; that she arrived at Antigua the 16th of November following, and on the 28th cleared out from Turk's island with 800 bushels of salt, for the county of St. Mary's, in Maryland; that, by means of the late storm, she was driven into Hampton, and taken by captain [James] Barron; that the said Stephen Pierce alledges, in his justification for exporting the flour and other articles after the 10th of September, that the gust on the 6th of that month retarded his sailing, and he was permitted to sail at the same time he did; but no evidence of those facts appears to your committee, nor can any be produced at this time; and that they had come to the following resolution thereupon, which he read in his place, and then delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

Resolved, That there is probable cause to suspect that the said Stephen Pierce hath, in the first instance, been guilty of a breach of the continental association; but, as our friends in Maryland may be in want of the salt, it is the opinion of this committee that the said vessel be permitted to proceed on her voyage, and that the

committee of the said county of St. Mary's ought to be informed of that transaction, that they may take such measures as to them may appear necessary.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 84.

COLONEL ROBERT HOWE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

Sir I inclose you a Letter from the President of the Provincial Council of [North] Carolina which just now came inclosed to me by express. I am so happy as to have my conduct approved by that Honorable body & to receive their orders to continue here while my assistance shall be thought necessary to your Colony which I assure you Sir gives me real pleasure. Things here remain much in the way as when I wrote last only that at least seven eighths of the Town is reduced to Ashes, by which means we are more exposed to their shot than formerly, we however are dispos'd of in such a manner as to be least liable to accident & most likely to prevent their Landing should they attempt it; They keep up a pretty smart fire every now & then and seem now taking post where they can fire with the greatest probability of annoying us; this induces me to think we shall have warm work presently. We had several men wounded yesterday & last night, a Corporal of the Carolina Troops I fear mortally. I must beg of you Sir, to excuse the inaccuracies of this Letter for I am not only exceedingly fatigued, but a good deal indispos'd. Two Companys of the Amelia people are come in good season, for many of the men are sick. I have the Honour to be Sir [&c.]

Robert Howe

Norfolk Jany 3d 1775 [*sic* 1776].

1. Misc. Mss., Robert Howe, NYHS.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE *Otter* SLOOP OF WAR, DATED OFF THE RUINS OF NORFOLK, 3D OF JANUARY, 1776" ¹

I have the pleasure to assure you that this rebel town of Norfolk is in ashes. It is glorious to see the blaze of the town and shipping. I exult in the carnage of these rebels. The signal was given from the *Liverpool* and in an instant the place was in flames. We are now proceeding on this business, and will burn every port on the sea shore.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, March 5, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the Council the following letters which he had written by their direction:

Charles-Town, South Carolina,
Jan. 2nd, 1776.

Gentlemen – Your several letters of the 20th and 25th Nov., and 9th Dec., and one of the 5th Dec., from the Committee of Safety for the District of Wilmington, are before this board. . . .

We wish it was in our power to assist you with the article of gun-

powder. But as we are ordered by the continental representatives to defend Charles-Town to the last extremity; and as we have undoubted intelligence that a formidable attack is very soon to be made upon this capital – we considered our store very scanty, even for the purpose of defence – and we trust our people will exert themselves to such effect, as to make, if we are to be overpowered, the want of ammunition the last extremity.

We have various voyages in motion for procuring that article; and if your wants continue, you may depend upon sharing in our success, if one half of our vessels return agreeable to our expectations.

The *Scorpion* man-of-war has been here, and sailed again about a fortnight ago, with two Bermuda sloops and a coasting schooner, together with, as we are informed, thirty or forty negroes which Capt. [John] Tollemache was pleased to seize while he was in Rebellion Road. From the time of such seizures, we resolved to supply the men-of-war with no more provision, nightly maraudings and robberies on our sea-coast immediately followed; but those being soon well guarded, and a descent made upon Sullivan's Island, where the house thereon was burnt, and some important prisoners taken, the *Tamar* and *Cherokee*, together with the *Sandwich packet* and an armed schooner, have been reduced to a very small stock; these vessels, therefore, are now to remove from out of this harbour in search of provision, and would have gone over the bar yesterday if the wind had not failed. We are told they are bound to the river Savannah – and we fear they have more mischievous schemes a foot than merely to obtain bread and beef – probably to protect ships loading there in violation of the General Association, and to over-awe the friends of liberty.

We have been frequently spurred on to preparations for defence, by such reports as you had received of ships and fleets on our coast. Hitherto, however, we have remained quiet from the sea board. But no doubt the day will come; the longer it is postponed the better, we shall be provided against it. We have no great powers, and, therefore, make no boast – such as we have we trust will be fully and properly exerted.

The bearer of this Capt. Alex Wyly, is the owner of the schooner which Capt. Tollemache conducted from hence, as Mr. Wyly learns for North-Carolina, in order to obtain a condemnation in admiralty. He is satisfied in himself, that there is no foundation for condemning the vessel, and, therefore, intends to lay a claim, and hopes for success. He has procured recommendations from some of his friends here to merchants in your colony. We beg leave to recommend him to your countenance and such protection as you can afford to an unfortunate man brought to poverty by one common enemy.²

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Provincial Council of Wilmington, N. C.

Charles-Town, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Gentlemen – Your favour of the 28th Dec. did not reach us till yesterday. We are sorry to learn that the New-England vessel had sailed before you received our letter; but are nevertheless well satisfied with your proceedings.

Your informations of the illicit practices by Ellis, Findlay and Tidyman, we hope will produce good effects. We have committed particular examinations to be taken by the General Committee. Last night Mr. Ellis was called before the Committee, and after much prevarication and many improbable excuses, he acknowledged the cargo of rice in question was shipped by Mr. Todd (of this town) without his knowledge and consent; said, that the master's going with the schooner into Santee was also contrary to his order. Mr. Todd said the cargo was the property of Mr. Ellis one half, himself one quarter, the master one quarter, and intended for Cape Nicola; and both acquitted Mr. Tidyman, from whom they had purchased the rice, from having any interest or concern in the exportation.

The General Committee have ordered a special messenger to summon and cause to appear before them on Wednesday, the 10th instant, Mr. Tidyman and Mr. Philips on the second information; and we request you to transmit, either to the General Committee or this board, such further evidence in these cases as may or shall have in the mean time come to your knowledge.

We shall write to the Committee for St. James, Santee, by this opportunity, and hope that committee will be more active hereafter than they appear to have been hitherto.

Mr. Scott will probably obtain permission, this day, to load his vessel on public account, agreeable to order of the continental resolutions.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

Committee of George-Town.

Charles-Town, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Gentlemen – In order to prevent the increase of an illicit practice of loading vessels in this colony, contrary to the resolutions of the Continental Congress, we have found it necessary to write to the Committees of George-Town and Beaufort, to be watchful against all attempts to contravene the said resolutions. We have just received advice from the Committee at George-Town, of a schooner loaded in South Santee river, within your district, the master's name is Findlay, the owners Messrs. Ellis and Todd, and that Mr. Philip Tidyman was concerned in the cargo. We desire you will collect and transmit to us all the information you can in this affair and that for the future you will be watchful to guard against such violations of the continental orders, and also that you will suffer no vessel to load in any river, creek, or other water within

your district, without special permission from this board; and that, if necessary, you will use force against any person who may attempt to resist or condemn your orders, and give, upon every occasion, the earliest notice to this board; or to the [Provincial] Congress if sitting.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee for St. James, Santee.

Upon information that the armed schooner in Rebellion Road had put to sea this morning, full manned, the following letter was written.

Charles-Town Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Sir – This morning early the armed schooner from Rebellion Road sailed, and as the wind is at S.W. 'tis probable she is gone up Santee river, in order to rescue and bring off Findlay's schooner, which was stopt by the Committee of George-Town. We give you this immediate notice thereof, and desire you will, without delay, cause the said schooner to be run up the river into some place of greater security than where she now lies – to land the cargo if possible – or even to scuttle and sink the vessel, if you can by no other means save her from falling into the enemy's hands. We know not the names of the Committee for Santee, but presume you are one of them. Be that as it may, we are persuaded you will do, and cause to be done what may be needful in this case. If the armed schooner is intended for Santee, you may expect her to arrive by 10 o'clock to-morrow, or perhaps earlier, therefore not a moment should be lost.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Elias Horry, Sampson Negle, esqs. or any of the Committee for St. James, Santee.

The following was also written :

In the Council of Safety, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Gentlemen – We desire you will be particularly attentive to prevent any vessel whatever from loading any of the produce or commodities of this colony in any of the rivers, creeks, or other waters within your district, without special permission from this board, or the [Provincial] Congress when sitting.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Committee of Ponpon.

Henry Laurens, President.

In the Council of Safety,
Wednesday Evening, Jan. 3rd, 1776.

Mr. Samways attended, and acquainted the board, that he had come to town express to inform them, that the armed pilot boats in the service of the colony, having conducted a snow and a brig. into Stono this morning, the armed schooner (late Stone & Duall's) had followed in and taken possession of both vessels.

Read a letter from Capt. John Wigfall, dated Cainhoy, 26th Dec, 1775.

Capt. Joseph Vesey, of the armed pilot boat *Hawke*, attended the Council and reported, that he with Capt. Smith in the other boat, had this afternoon [*sic* morning], about 11 o'clock, conducted a brigantine from the Mediterranean, belonging to Mr. Scott of this town, laden with salt and some brandy, and also a snow from Jamaica, homeward bound, having lost her bowsprit, into Stono. But that the armed schooner (late Stone & Duvall's) full of men, had followed them in, and about three o'clock this afternoon, taken possession of both vessels.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 142-47.

2. Wylly's schooner, the *George Town* packet, foundered at sea according to Shulldham's prize list of April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

4 Jan.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER ¹

Holland House 4 Jan'y 1776.

[Near Quebec]

Dear Gen

A person going to three Rivers presents an Opportunity of informing you that Nothing of Consequence has happened since I wrote you Yesterday Morning. We have a Number of Canadians joined us, most of them without Arms – which are much wanted, I make no Doubt you will send all you possibly can with three or four hundred pair of Snow Shoes, A few Barrels of Sugar for the Hospital and fifty light Shovels – our Cash is nearly expended – Inclosed is a Letter I received this Minute from Montreal; I have sent back Lieutenant [William] Hull but detained his party at point Aux Trembles, he has in Charge Capt Belat the Villain who destroyed the powder, he has behaved exceeding ill here. I think it necessary to confine him in Montreal or send him into the Colonies – I must also beg Leave to observe the Lenity shewn to our prisoners heretofore in Montreal and places adjacent – it may be justified by principles of Humanity at the [same] Time, under our present Circumstances would be highly imprudent and dangerous – It is my Opinion that every Soul who were in Office at the Reduction of the Country and others who are looked upon inimical should be immediately sent over the Lake without Respect of persons. If they are suffered to remain in the Country and [were] we defeated the Consequence will probably be the Loss of the whole Country. – You will be good enough to excuse the Incorrectness of my Letter which I am obliged to write lying on my Back – If there is any absent officers belonging to the Regiments here – perhaps it may further the Service to order them to join immediately – Col Nicholas went from this yesterday Morning for Montreal without Liberty or taking Leave I am Dear General [&c.]

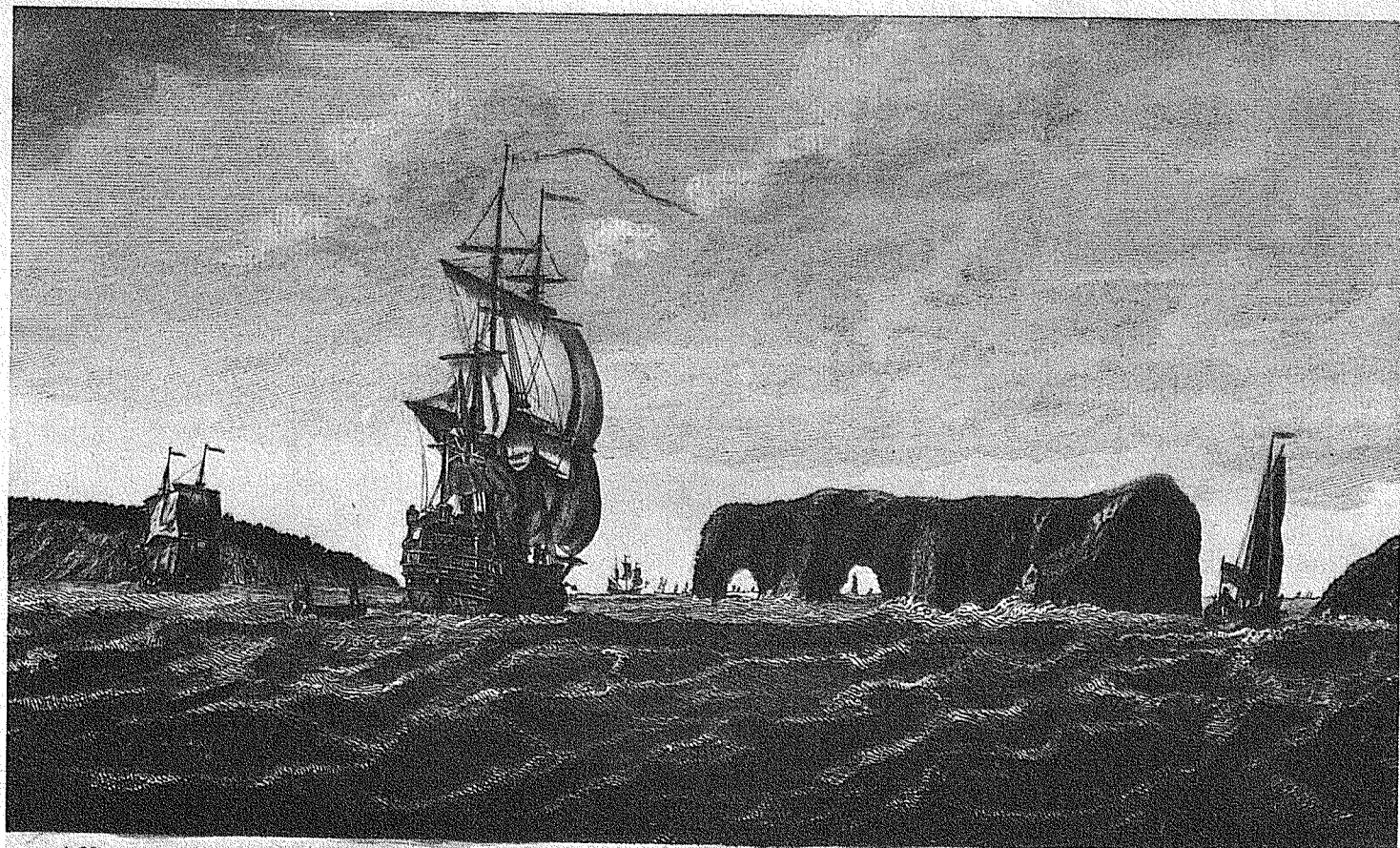
B. Arnold Col &c

P.S. I hope you will think it necessary to send back every Soldier who has deserted from us under pretence of his Time being out.

B.A.

Copy

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 458-59, NA.



A View of the Pierced Island, a remarkable Rock in the Gulf of St. Laurence, two Leagues Southward of Gaspee Bay. -

Printed for Carington Bowles, at his Map & Print Warehouse, B7 69 in St. Pauls Church Yard London

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir –

Roebuck at Halifax 4th Janry 1776

By his Majesty's Ship the *Cerberus*, which Arrived here yesterday, I had the honor to receive your Orders of the 25th December directing me to proceed in the Ship I command to Virginia, to take the command of his Majesty's Ships and vessels on that Station, and employ them as I shall find best for the Kings Service, which I shall lose no time to obey.

Enclosed is a list of the Letters and Orders I received at the same time. I am [&c.]

A S Hamond

[Enclosures]

List of orders and letters received from Vice Admiral Graves commander in chief &ca &ca &ca

An order dated 25th December 1775 to put myself under his command: General and additional Codes of Orders and instructions of the same date.

Four press Warrants; Two restraining Acts of parliament past last Session, with an order to put them in execution, dated the 25th december; Letter of the same date, enclosing his Majesty's Proclamation of the 23d August last, an Order dated 25th December not to proceed to England upon the requisition of the Governor of any of his Majesty's Provinces; A Letter of the 25th december enclosing one from Lt Mowat of the 9th of the same Month containing intelligence to be communicated to the Captains serving to the Southward, Memdum concerning the Masters being allowed whole Pilotage; a form of a Weekly account: Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* at Halifax the 4th January 1776.

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1771–1777, UVL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Exeter] Janry 4th 1776

Voted that Capt Long, Capt Wait & Ichabod Rawlins, Esqr be a Committee to Lay a plan for orders & Restrictions to be Laid on Capt Eliphalett Ladd before he sail to the Foreign West Indias according to a Vote of the 26th December last and lay such plan before this Congress.²

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 708.

2. A different committee had been appointed on December 26, 1775 for the same purpose. It evidently had not complied with the directions given at that time. Ladd was sailing at his own risk, and presumably would return with powder and arms.

DR. EDWARD A. HOLYOKE'S BILL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ¹

The Colony of the M. Bay to E.A.Holyoke

Dr

1775 [Salem]

Dec 17 Jno Marble soldier on board Capn.[Winborn] Adams

18 To phlebot. 1–4 To Meds – 8 visit 1–4

3–4

Dec. 28 to

Jan'y 4	Ralph Taylor a captive (carpent'r of the store ship) [<i>Concord</i>]	
	To 8 visits 10-8	} per order of
1776	To meds at 6 several times 3-2	Mr Felt
Jan'y 3	Jno Sinclair (captive) of the ordnance stor Brige [<i>Nancy</i>]	
Jan'y 4	To phlebot. 1-4	
	To visit 1-4 meds-8	3-4

1. *Essex Institute Historical Collections* (Salem, 1877), XIII, 234-35.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE CONTINENTAL AGENTS ¹

Sir

Cambridge [4 Jany] 1776

You have annex'd a Copy of the Resolves of the Continental Congress respecting Captures made, or to be made, by Armed Vessels fitted out at the Charge of the united Colonies & others in Compliance With the Resolution of the 20th Ultimo you must on receipt hereof Libel such Vessels as have been taken by the *Lee* schooner or any other of the Continental Arm'd Vessels, which may be now under your Care, in the Court of Admiralty established in this Colony, you mus[t] use all your diligence that the trial be brought to as Speedy an issue, as possible, in order that a distribution be made to the Captors, Conformable to the Resolves of the 30 of Novembr

Jonthan Glover Esquire Marble Head

William Bartlett Esquire Beverly

William Watson Esquire Plymouth

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COLONEL JOSEPH REED ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, January 4, 1776

We are at length favored with a sight of his Majesty's most gracious speech, breathing sentiments of tenderness and compassion for his deluded American subjects; the echo is not yet come to hand; but we know what it must be, and as Lord North said, and we ought to have believed (and acted accordingly), we now know the ultimatum of British justice. The speech I send you.² A volume of them was sent out by the Boston gentry, and, farcical enough, we gave great joy to them, (the red coats I mean,) without knowing or intending it; for on that day, the day which gave being to the new army, (but before the proclamation came to hand,) we had hoisted the union flag in compliment to the United Colonies. But, behold, it was received in Boston as a token of the deep impression the speech had made upon us, and as a signal of submission. So we learn by a person out of Boston last night. By this time I presume they begin to think it strange, that we have not made a formal surrender of our lines. Admiral Shulldham is arrived at Boston...

I fear your fleet has been so long in fitting, and the destination of it so well known, that the engd will be defeated, if the vessels escape.³ How is the arrival of French troops in the West Indies, and the hostile appearance there, to be

reconciled with that part of the King's speech, wherein he assures Parliament, "that as well from the assurances I have received, as from the general appearance of affairs in Europe, I see no probability that the measures, which you may adopt, will be interrupted by disputes with any foreign power"? I hope the Congress will not think of adjourning at so important and critical a juncture as this. I wish they would keep a watchful eye to New York. From Captain [Isaac] Sears' account, (now here,) much is to be apprehended from that quarter.

A fleet is now fitting out at Boston, consisting of five transports and two bomb-vessels, under convoy of the *Scarborough* and *Fowey* men-of-war. Three hundred, some say, others more, troops are on board, with flat-bottomed boats. It is whispered, as if designedly, that they are intended for Newport; but it is generally believed that they are bound either to Long Island or Virginia; the other transports are taking in water and a good deal of bisquet is baking, some say for the shipping to lay in Nantasket Road, to be out of the way of ice, whilst others think a more important move is in agitation. All, however, is conjecture.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 210-12.

2. George III's speech to both houses of Parliament on October 26, 1775.

3. Washington's reference was to the Continental fleet under Commodore Esek Hopkins.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

Cambridge January 4. 1776

Since my last of the 31st Ult., I have been honoured with your favour of the 22d Inclosing sundry resolves, which shall, in matters they respect, be made the rule of my conduct.

The resolution relative to the Troops in Boston,² I beg the favour of you Sir, to assure Congress, shall be attempted to be put in execution, the first moment I see a probability of success, and in such a way, as a Council of Officers shall think most likely to produce it; but if this should not happen as soon as you may expect, or my wishes prompt to, I request that Congress will be pleased to advert to my situation, and do me the justice to beleive, that circumstances, & not want of inclination, are the cause of delay.

It is not in the pages of History perhaps, to furnish a case like ours; to maintain a Post within Musket Shot of the Enemy for Six months together, without [powder] and at the same time to disband one Army and recruit another, within that distance, of Twenty odd British regiments, is more probably than ever was attempted, But if we succeed as well in the last, as we have heretofore in the first, I shall think it the most fortunate event of my whole life.

By a very intelligent Gentleman, a Mr Hutchinson from Boston, I learn that it was Admiral Shulldham that came into the harbour on Saturday last – that two of the five regiments from Cork are arrived at Halifax; two others had sailed for Quebec (but what was become of them could not be told), and the other, the 55th has just got into Boston. Certain it is also that the greatest part of the 17 Regiment is arrived there, whether we are to conclude from hence, that more than five Regiments have been sent out, or that the Companies of the 17 arrived at Bos-

ton, are part of the Regiments destined for Hallifax & Quebec, I know not — We also learn from this Gentlemen & others, that the Troops embarked for Hallifax, as mentioned in my Letter of the 16 — were really designed for that place, but recalled from Nantasket road, upon advice being received, of the arrival of the above Regiments there — I am also informed of a Fleet now getting ready under the Convoy of the *Scarborough* & *Fowey* Men of War, consisting of 5 Transports, & 2 Bomb Vessels, with about 300 Marines & Several Flat bottom'd Boats — It is whispered that they are designed for Newport, but generally thought in Boston, that it is meant for Long-Island, and It is probable It will be followed by more Troops, as the other Transports are taking in Water, to lye as others say in Nantasket road, to be out of the Ice — a large quantity of Biscuit is also baking.

As the real design cannot with certainty be known, I submit it with all due deference to the superior Judgement of Congress, Whether It would not be consistent with prudence, to have some of the Jersey Troops thrown into New York, to prevent an evil, which may be almost irremediable, should It happen: I mean the landing of Troops at that place, or upon Long Island near it.

As it is possible you may not yet have received his Majesties most gracious speech, I do myself the honour to Inclose one, of many, which were sent out of Boston yesterday. It is full of rancour & resentment, and explicitly holds forth his Royal will to be, that vigorous measures must be pursued to deprive us of our constitutional rights & liberties — These measures whatever they be, I hope will be opposed by more vigorous ones, and rendered unavailing and fruitless, tho san[c]tified and authorized by the name of Majesty, a Name which ought to promote the Blessings of his people & not their oppression. I am Sir [&c.]
[Copy]

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 407–09, NA.

2. The resolution of December 22, reading: “*Resolved*, That if General Washington and his council of war should be of opinion, that a successful attack may be made on the troops in Boston, he do it in any manner he may think expedient, notwithstanding the town and the property in it may thereby be destroyed.” Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 444–45.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO SPEAKER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

Sir

Head Quarters 4th Janry 1776—

I send by Order of the Commander in Chief The Prisoners undernam'd, which The General desires you will Order to be Secured in some Inland Goal, Worcester we are told has no Prisoners of War, & there is a Secure Goal if you Approve of their being sent to it

Soldiers

John Guilderoy
Will: Collins
John Smith
Benj: Ward
George Morrison
Alexr Garden

Seamen

William Beard
George Mitchel
James Richardson
Francis Ossy
Anth[ony Simons]
Jacob [Wilson]
Joseph [Mason]

By the enclosed from [Colonel John] Glover, I dare say you will think [with me, that John Thomer,] William Clark, William Wallis & Thomas [Gorthrop,] Seamen of the Ship *Jenny*, Capt. [William] Forster, ought also [to be confined—]

The Men [named upon this] side were Seamen, belonging to a [Ship, Brigantine and] a Sloop, taken by the Continental [armed Vessels If you] see no Material Objection to [their being discharged they] may be Dismissed upon their Arrival at Worcester; and be at Liberty to Work for their Living in the Country, or seek their Fortunes as they like. I am sir [&c.]

Horatio Gates Adjut. General

P.S.

William Beard² appears to be an Impress'd Man, on board of a Man of War, at Hampton in Virginia; he may also have his Liberty at Worcester. There are Reasons, why the General [does not] think proper to discharge [him here.]

Seamen belonging to the Brigg *Hannah* belonging to the Ship *Jenny*

John Gallard

Will: Middeldith

John Jenkins

James Gray

Thomas Riley

John Morgan

Francis Spunier

Henry Baldwin

John Waterstone

Will: Clark } attempted to get
Thos Gothorp } on board the Man
John Thornhill } of War off Cape
Will: Wallace } Ann

James Donaldson

Belonging to the Sloop *Betsey*³

George Bennet

Robert Younger

Daniel Malony

William Harris

[Endorsed]

In Council Jan'y 5 1776 Read & ord[er]ed that the Prisoners be disposed of in the same [manner as] hinted in the foregoing Letter — And [that a mitti]mus go to the Keeper of the Goal at W[orcester] And that a Letter be wrote to the Selectmen of [Worcester] directing them to dispose of those Prisoners [there] to be confined in the manner herein s[et forth].

Perez [Morton Dpy Secry]

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 182–84.

2. Beard was taken on board the sloop *Betsey*, which had been sent by Lord Dunmore from Norfolk for Boston, and had been intercepted by John Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee*, December 1775.

3. The brig *Hannah*, ship *Jenny* and sloop *Betsey* were prizes of John Manley in December 1775.

BOND OF CORBAN BARNES, CAPTAIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER
SLOOP *Yankee*¹

Know all men by these presents that I Corban Barnes of Plymouth in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay as principal (Mariner) & Samuel Jackson Merchant of the Town & Colony aforesaid as Surety are holden & stand firmly bound & obligd unto Henry Gardner Esqr of Stow in the County of Middlesex & province aforesaid Treasurer & Receiver General of said Colony or his successor in said

office in the full & just sum of Five Thousand pounds Law[ful] money to be paid unto the said Treasurer or Receiver General or to his Successor in said office, to the true payment whereof we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors & administrators, jointly & severally firmly by these presents: seald with our Seals the fourth Day of January Anno Domini 1776 –

The Condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas, the said Corban Barnes did on the seventeenth day of December 1775 Receive a Commission to command an armed Vessel called the *Yankee* burthen about seventy five Tons (a Sloop) to make Reprisals of all armed & other Vessels, that shall be found supplying the Enemy or acting counter to a Law of this Colony entitled “an act for encouraging the fixing out of armed Vessels to defend the Sea Coasts of America & for erecting a Court to try & condemn all Vessels, that shall be found infesting the same” If therefore the sd Corban Barnes shall, and, and do, in & by all things, well & truly observe, and fulfil such Instructions, as he shall receive from the Council of this Colony, & shall in all respects conform himself to the Directions given in & by the act aforesaid, then the above written obligation to be paid otherwise to remain in full force & affect

Corban Barnes
Saml Jackson

Signd Sealed & deliverd }
in presence of us }
Jas: Warren }
W^m Watson }

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 139, 118.

COLONEL DAVID WATERBURY'S ACCOUNT WITH CONNECTICUT¹

[December 17, 1775–January 4, 1776]

Stamford December 17th. 1776 [*sic* 1775] Then Recd An order from the Honorable General Assembly to go & View Briggontion in Company with Capt Isaac Sears belonging to Capt. John Griggs of Greenwich. In order to See if [sd] Briggont[ee]n was Suitable for an Armd Vessel, & to report our opinion to the [sd] General Assembly then setting at New Haven, we according to order Viewd Sd Brigonteen then Lying at Greenwich & on the 19th of Inst, waited on the General Assembly according to orders & Reported Sd Briggonteen to be a Suitable well built Vessel for the Purpose on the 20th Inst I recd orders from sd General Assembly to return to sd Greenwich & Purchase Sd Briggonteen & take a bill of sale in the name of the Governor & Company of Connecticut & to Bring sd. Briggonteen & set about as quick as possible To Rig & Ballace sd Briggonteen as soon as possible & Likewise I had orders from his honour the Governor to Bring some Artillery, Stores from Greenwich – The Whole cost of my Proceeding from the first till arrived at New Haven with the Briggonteen is as Follows –

Sept [<i>sic</i>].	To My Horse hire from Stamford to }	8 . . 5
[Dec] 18	New Haven }	
	To my Expences while lying in New Haven	2 . . –
	To my Expences while lying in New Haven	4 . . 9
	To my Expenses in Returning home	3 . . 9



An acct of the Mens Wages while on board –

To Abraham Shays 12 days on board & two allowed to	
Return home to Greenwich at $\frac{2}{3}$ pr Day	1 . 11 . . 6
Alexander Stewart 12 days at $\frac{2}{3}$ pr Day	1 . . 7 . . –
Joseph Eldon 12 days at $\frac{2}{3}$ pr day	1 . . 7 . . –
Patrick Canada 12 Days at $\frac{2}{3}$ pr Day	1 . . 7 . . –
Obadiah Shu[]n 12 Days on board & two	
Days allowd to Return home to Greenwich }	1 . . 11 . . 6
To Silvr Waterbury as Pilote & hand on }	
board 8 days & two days to return home }	2 . . – . . –

To Stores put on board the *Lilly* ²

To 83½ lb of Salt Pork at 4d pr lb	1 . 7 . 10
To 50 lbs Beef at 2½d pr lb	10 . . 1
To 1 Bushels of Potatoes	1 . 6
To 1 Barrel full of Cider	7 . 6
To 1½ Galls Rum	6 . . –
To ¼ 1 Bread	4 . 6
To 12 q Rum at N Haven	1 . . –
To 12 lb Bread	2 . 6
To 2 lbs Candles	1 . 6
To Diating ashore	10 . . –
To Carting the Artillery Stores on board the Brigg	11 . . 3
To 12 lb Beef	2 . . 3

To my own time from the first order Recd on the 17th Day of December 1775 till the 4th Day of Janry 1776 which was the time of my returning home from Delivering Sd Brigg, at New Haven which in the Whole Was 18 days

To the Expenses of my horse from New Haven 9 . . –

The foregoing a Count is Payed to me

David Waterbury

1. Account Book of Col. David Waterbury No. 2, US Revolution, LC.
2. Subsequently the Connecticut State brig *Defence*.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Jany. 4th, 1776.

Die Jovis, 10 HO. A.M.

Mr. Thomas McFarren attending was called in. The Committee conversed with him on the subject of shipping flaxseed to Ireland, to obtain gunpowder.

Thereupon, a draft of a letter to the Continental Congress was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,
During the recess of Congress.

January 4th, 1776

Gentlemen –

We have engaged two vessels to despatch with produce to Europe, for the purpose of procuring arms and ammunition, but the season of the year has prevented wheat from coming to market to expedite them

so early as we could wish, to have a return in a proper time. In these difficulties we are unable to get bills of exchange, or gold or silver to despatch those vessels, which we fear will totally defeat our design. We have therefore been led to cast our attention on flaxseed, as the only commodity in our power which will rid us of our difficulties, but find that the resolution of Congress permitting the exportation of produce for ammunition, is confined to the foreign islands. As our safety depends upon the country being well supplied with powder, we submit it to you whether the sense of Congress, should not be taken without delay, on our exporting two cargoes of flaxseed to purchase powder. The measure recommends itself by several considerations; there is the highest probability of procuring powder in Ireland at a moderate rate. If this should not be the case, the flaxseed will sell at an advanced price there, and be a fund upon which he can draw from any quarter of the world. And if the enemy should take the vessels, the supply will not be so prejudicial to us, or beneficial to them, as the loss of provision vessels. We request you to get a speedy answer on this point, and transmit it to us by express for our government.

We are, with great truth and regard, Gentlemen [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Safety.

To the President of the Continental Congress, Philadelphia ²

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 236-37.

2. There is no record in the *Journal of the Continental Congress* of the receipt of this letter, nor was there any action upon the subject matter recorded in the *Journal*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 4, 1775

The Committee of Claims report, that there is due,

To James Whitehead, for provisions for the prisoners taken on board the *Rebecca and Mary*, the sum of 64 dollars.²

To the committee of Frederick Town, Maryland, for the expences incurred by [John] Connolly, [Allen] Cameron and [John] Smith, during their confinement, the sum of 74 dollars, and that the same be paid to the delegates of Maryland.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 29-32.

2. The *Rebecca and Francis* (not *Mary*) went ashore on the New Jersey coast in October 1775 with a British recruiting party under Captain Duncan Campbell.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 4 Jany Comee of Claims allowed the Accots for keeping Conolly & his Associates & bringing them from Maryland to Philada . . . Debates on the Report of the State of N York, great Fault found with the Fort now constructing in the Highlands under the Auspices of Bernard Romans the Engineer, as too large and expensive and ill calculated to annoy the Enemy - Maps produced and Proceedings of the N York Convention thereon read. Mr [Thomas]

Palmer attending on their Behalf, ordered that he be heard To Morrow Mornng – a Vessel or Two of War are now fitting out in Maryland on Acct of the Congress –²

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety
[Philadelphia] – 4th Jan'y, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. Henry Dougherty order a proper guard from the Boat's Crews, to be fixed at the State House, over the Artillery & Military Stores, and at the Powder House.

On motion,

Resolved, that Colo. [John] Cadwalader, Mr. Wilson [*sic* Alexander Wilcocks] & Mr. [Joseph] Reed, wait upon Mr. Andrew Ellicot [Elliot], Esq. & Lord Drummond, and take their parole of Honour that they will not give any intelligence of, or correspond with any persons whatever, on public affairs, during their stay in this City. And when they shall leave this place, they will give no information of any facts which may have come to their knowledge while here of public nature, and be prejudicial to the interests of the United Colonies.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 445.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1776

Ship Timber, Wanted Immediately

Philadelphia, January 4, 1776.

A large quantity, consisting of rising timbers, floor timbers and knees; the rising timbers to be from eight to nine feet long in each arm; the floor timbers from 17 to 19 feet long, to rise from 20 to 30 inches in 14 feet; and to be left deep in the throat; the knees to be about 5 feet long in the arm and 6 in the body; the whole of the timber to be very large. Any person having a quantity of the above articles, may apply to David Thomson, or Francis Grice, Ship carpenters, who will pay ready money for the same.¹

1. The advertisement was repeated in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, January 17, 1776. David Thomson and Francis Grice, along with William Pollard and Samuel Penrose, had been appointed Timber Commissioners for the four frigates to be built in Philadelphia. See memorandum on building the Philadelphia Frigates, January 1, 1776.

COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Alfred*¹

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr

For the Ship *Alfred*

Dr

Fitted as a Ship of War

To John Turner for	38 days work
“ Jos: Bowers	41
Thom. Thomson	42
James Reynolds	19
Will: Beaty	34

Will: White 19
 Jerea Much 12
 John Christian 2
 Alexr Brown 18½
 James Singleton 15
 John Coats 37½
 Will: Coats 13
 Warwick Coats 19
 Chas Laurence 27
 Patk Hamilton 22
 Reynold Wharton 34
 Will: Toy 18
 Francis Holton 2
 Charles Bradley 23
 Andrew Smiley 12
 James Carr 15
 Zacariah Feariss 10
 Henry Rail 16
 Francis Tussey 9
 Will: Murray 10
 Will: Edmondson 11
 David Edmondson 5

	524 days a 8/	209.12..-
James Day 13 a 7/6	13 a 7/6	4.17..6
Roger Herle 37 a 7/	37 a 7/	12.19..-
Abel Lee 11		
Norman McLeod 7		
Saml Harman 9		
	is 27 a 6/	8..2..-
John Cohoon 5 a 5/		1..5..-
Alexr Craig & Mate Sawyers	11 a 11/	6..1..-
5 Stages each 2 days	a 13/6	1..5..-
4 Potts & Ladle 2 do	7/6	..15..-
Wharfage Heaving down & Capston		1..5..-
		<hr/> £ 246..1..6

[Second page]

Amount brought over

246..1..6

To 133 feet of 1 Inch boards a 2d	£ 1..2..2
1056 feet of 2 Inch planks a 4d	17.12..0
914 do 2½ Inch do a 5d	19..0.10
463 do 3 Inch do a 6d	11..11..6
288 do 3½ Inch do a 7d	8..8..-
186 do 4 Inch do a 8d	6..4..0
24 do 4½ Inch do a 9d	18..-
62 do 6 Inch do for Combings 12d	3..2..-
54 lb of Oakum a 4d	..18..-
8 Tar bbls a 2/ & 10 poles a 9d	1..3..6
1 Ps in the Keel	2..6
6 Knees a 10/ & 8 Knees a 4/	4.12..-
Bellfree Top and Cheeks	1.15..-
Axeltree for Bell	..2..-
Partners for the Capston	2.10..-
Whelps for ditto 30/ & barrel for do 10/	2..-..-
Sweep for the Tiller	..15..-

Blocks for the Tiller Rope	8..-	
2 bitts and Cross Pieces	3.10.-	
1 pr of Gallows bitts & Top	2.15.-	
1 pr of Bitts abaft the Main Mast	15.-	
2 head Ledges a 7/6	15.-	
20 Staunchions in the Waist a 5/	5.-	
2 Catheads a 22/6	2.5.-	
10 feet of Anchor Stocks 2/	1.-	
2 Boat Chocks a 10/	1.-	
2 ps of Stuff for Bow Chaise ports on deck	5.-	
Sundry Augurs	14.-	
paid Portage of Capston & Sundrys	2.6	
To Joshua Humphreys Attendance	15.-	114..16..0
		<hr/>
		£ 360..17..6

bill deliver'd Dated Jany 4: 1776.

1. Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP.

COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Columbus*¹

Philadelphia Decemr 30, 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Ship *Columbus* Dr

Fitted for a Ship of War in the Continental Service

To John Christian for 11 days work a 8/	
Natl Jackson 12 do	
Joseph Goven 15 do	
Abraham Nelson 12½ do	
Zacariah Feariss 15 do	
Hugh Edmondson 13 do	
Will: Edmondson 8 do	
John Raworth 8½ do	
John Molloy 12 do	
Will: Murray 11½ do	
James Carr 23 do	
Charles Bradley 10 do	
Robt Biddison 20 do	
David Edmondson 10½ do	
Reynold Wharton 9 do	
Will: Toy 13 do	
Patk Hamilton 23½ do	
Will: Hays 17½ do	
Will: Garwood 23 do	
Will: Donaldson 22 do	
James Miller 20 do	
Henry Rail 26 do	
Richard Shephard 9½ do	
Will: Coats 14½ do	
Warwick Coats 10½ do	
Francis Tussey 7 do	
Thos Havens 6½ do	
John Turner 16 do	
Will: White 4 do	
	is 410 a 8/ 164

James Day		7 a 7/6	2..12..6
Abel Lee	13 do		
Norman McLeod	14 do		
Saml Harman	5 do	is 32 a 6/	9..12..-
Thomas Linwell	22 do		
John Cohoon	7 do	is 29 a 5/	7..5..-
Alexr Craig & Mate Sawyers		16 a 11/	8..16..-
5 Stages each 2 days a 2/6 p Stage			1..5..-
4 Potts & Ladle 2 do a 18d p Pot			..12..-
			<hr/>
			£ 194..2..6

[Second page]

Amount brought Over				194..2..6
To 2 days Wharfrage heaving down and use of Capston			1..5..-	
2 bitts & Cross ps			3..10..-	
Bellfree Top & Ch[ec]ks			1..15..-	
Axeltree for the Bell			..2..-	
Partners for the Capston			1..15..-	
Whelps for do 30/ barrel for ditto 10/			2..-..-	
Sweep for the Tiller			15..-	
Blocks for Tiller Rope			8..-	
2 head Ledges a 7/6			15..-	
18 Staunchions in the Waist a 5/			4..10..-	
2 Boat Chocks a 10/			1..-..-	
1 ps of Scantline 7/6 & 6 poles a 9d			..12..-	
122 feet of 1½ Inch Plank a 3d			1..10..6	
980 do 2 do do a 4d			16..6..8	
844 do 2½ do do a 5d			17..11..8	
386 do 3 do do a 6d			9..13..-	
63 do 4 do do a [8]d			2..2..-	
181 do 4½ do do a 9d			6..15..9	
96 do 6 do for combing 12d			4..16..-	
14 do 7 do 14d			..16..4	
sundry Augurs			..12..-	
paid Portage of Capston & sundrys			2..6	
Joshua Humphreys for his Attendance			13..0..0	91..13..5
				<hr/>
				£ 285..15..11

bill deliver'd dated Jany 4, 1776

1. Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP.

COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*¹

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775.

Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Brigt *Andrew Doria* Dr

fitted for a Vessell of War

To John Christian for 16 days work a 8/-		
Jerea Much 34	Thomas Havens 9	
Frans Holton 29	Will: Mahoney 8	
Nathl Jackson 16	Zaca: Feariss 9½	
James Shillingford 12	Hugh Edmondson 6½	
Richard Shephard 17	Will: Edmondson 5	
Joseph Goven 10	John Raworth 6½	
William Hays 13	Joseph Hulings 29½	
Francis Martin 11	Abra: Williams 12½	
John Stuart 6	John Molloy 14	
Thomas Davis 14	James Singleton 18	
William Flood 28	Patk Heany 6	
Jacob Slack 7	Thos Hood 7	
Reynold Wharton 6½	Alexr Brown 12½	
William Toy 7	Abra Nelson 8	
Charles Bradley 7	Will: Murray 2	
Andrew Smiley 7	Francis Judson 1	
James Carr 5½		

is 401 days a 8/- 160..8..-

James Day 4 do a 7/6 1..10..-

Abel Lee 14

Norman McLeod 19

James Shillingford junr 2 is 35 do a 6/ 10..10..-

Alexander Craig & Mate Sawyers 8 do a 11/- 4..8..-

2 Stages 2 days & 1 ditto 10 days a 2/6 pr Stage 1..15..-

2 Potts & Ladle 2 days & 1 Pott 10 days a 18d pr pot 1..1..-

2 days Wharfage heaving down & Capston 1..5..-

£ 180..17..-

[Second page]

Amount brought Over

180..17..-

To 154 lb of Oakum a 4d	£ 2..11..4	
" 1 pr of Scantline	10..-	
1 Knee for Catheads	5..-	
45 Timbers a 5/-	11..5..-	
2989 feet of 2 Inch Plank a 4d	49..16..4	
951 do 2½ Inch do a 5d	19..6..3	
270 do 3 Inch do a 6d	6..15..-	
55 do 3½ Inch do a 7d	1..12..1	
58 do 4 Inch do a 8d	1..18..8	
198 do 4½ Inch do a 9d	7..8..6	
116 Trenels a 2d	19..4	
sundry Augurs	10..-	
Joshua Humphreys for his Attendance 24 days a 10/	12..-	115..7..6

£ 296..4..6

bill delivered dated Jany 4.1776

1. Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP.

PARTIAL COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* ¹

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr	for Brig <i>Cabot</i>	Dr
To 26 feet of 3 Inch Planks a 6d		13..-
1 ps of Scantline a [2d]		10..-
1 boat Chock 10/ & 25 Trenels 4/2		14..2
		<hr/>
		£ 1..17..2

bill deliver'd dated Janry 4. 1776

1. Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP. It is apparent that the *Cabot* was outfitted in some other shipyard, and that this bill represents only a few items supplied her.

COST OF OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Providence* ¹

Philadelphia Decemr 30: 1775

Stephen Hopkins Esqr	for Sloop <i>Providence</i>	Dr
To Francis Williams for 4 days work a 8/		
Thos Hood 1	William Edmondson 1	
James Carr 2½	Alexander Brown 6	
William Toy 1	Zaca: Feariss 2	
Andrew Smiley 1	William Coats 1	
Thomas Havens 5½	Charles Bradley 1	
Natl Jackson 1½	Patk Hamilton 4	
John Tuner 1½	Joseph Bowers 1	
Henry Rail 1	Francis Holton 1	
James Miller 1	Richard Shephard 2	
		<hr/>
	is 39 days a 8/	15..12..-
2 Stages 1 day & 1 ditto 3 days a 2/6 p Stage		12..6
2 Potts & Ladle 1 day a 18d p Pot		3..-
Heaving down Wharfage & Capston		1..5..-
4 Poles a 9d		3..-
12 feet of 1½ Inch Plank a 3d		3..-
36 do 2 Inch do a 4d		12..-
56 do 2½ Inch do a 5d		1..3..4
Joshua Humphreys for his Attendance		1..-..-
		<hr/>
		£ 20.13.10

1. Joshua Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts (Ledger D), HSP. The *Providence*, having been delivered to the Naval Committee as the armed sloop *Katy*, required less overhauling than the converted merchantmen, *Alfred* and *Columbus*.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ¹

Naval Committee [Philadelphia] January 4th. 1776 -

This Committee are of Opinion that all the Officers and Men employed in the Service of the United Colonies by sea who do their duty properly but who notwithstanding their utmost efforts are taken Prisoners, are properly entitled to the same Wages that they Received before they were made prisoners, until they

are Released from Captivity – And the Commander in Chief is hereby desired to signify the same to the Officers and Men under his Command

Sign'd	Step Hopkins	Silas Deane
	Christ Gadsden	Joseph Hewes

The above is a true Copy
Esek Hopkins Comr in Cheff

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, HCL.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE ORDER ¹

Copy./

The Naval Committee give possitive Orders, that every Officer in the Sea and Marine Service, and all the Common men belonging to each, who have enlisted into the Service of the United Colonies on board the Ships now fitting out, that they immediately repair on board their respective Ships as they would avoid being deemed deserters, and all those who have undertaken to be Security for any of them are hereby called upon to procure and deliver up the men they have engaged for, or they will be immediately called upon in a proper and effectual Way.

Boats will constantly attend at Messrs. Willing and Morris's Wharf to carry all people on board the Ships.
Philadelphia. Jan'y 4th 1776.

By order of the Committee
T^y Maltack Secy

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. This order was copied by James Brattle, valet of James Duane, and supplied to Governor William Tryon. In copying, the name of the secretary of the Continental Naval Committee, Timothy Matlack, was erroneously spelled "Maltack."

ASSIGNMENT OF MARINES IN THE CONTINENTAL FLEET ¹

[January 4, 1776]

Arrangement of Officers and Men, of the Marines, on board the American Fleet

On board the ship *Alfred*

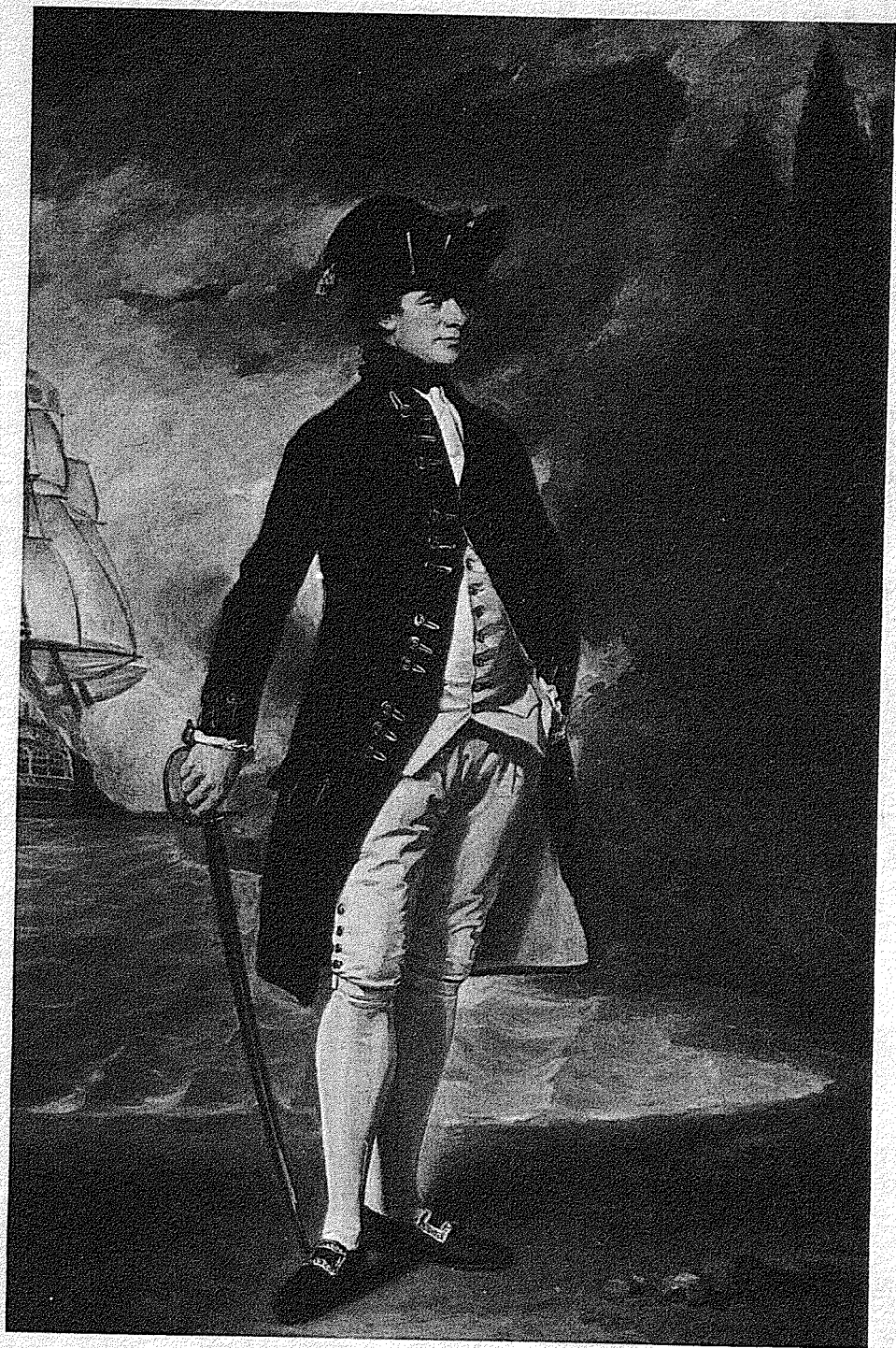
Capt [Samuel] Nicholas
Lieuts [Matthew] Parke & [John] Fitzpatrick
and the whole company –

On board the ship *Columbus*

Capt [Joseph] Shoemaker
Lieuts Miller ² & [Robert] Cummings
and the whole company –

On board the *Andrea Doria* Brigg

Lieutenant [Isaac] Craig and thirty ~~six~~ of the
Men he raised –



Captain Hyde Parker, Jr.

On board the *Cabot* Brigg

Captain [John] Welsh

Lieut [James Hood] Wilson

and the forty men raised by the Capt

On board the sloop *Providence*

Lieutenant [Henry] Dayton

and the fourteen men raised by Lieut Wilson and six of

Lieut Craigs men

Extract from the Minutes

Ty Matlack secy

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. The date is suggested as the list was probably compiled at the time the fleet was ready to depart from Philadelphia.
2. There is no Lieutenant Miller on the muster roll of the *Columbus*. According to that roll, John Trevett on February 13, 1776, was promoted from Midshipman to First Lieutenant of Marines, an indication that Miller either failed to accept his commission, or left the service prior to the fleet's departure from the Delaware capes.

"A JOURNAL OF A CRUSE IN THE BRIG *Andrew Doria* NICHOLAS BIDDLE ESQR
COMMANDER FROM THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, BEGUN JANUARY 4TH
1776 -" ¹

Thursday At 2 PM Cast off from the Warf In Company with the
January 4th Comodore Ship *Alfred*, *Columbus* & *Cabot*, Light airs from the
Westward & much Ice in the River, At 6 Do Came to at the Pierse
at Liberty Island, & was there Detain'd by the Ice till the 17th

1. Enclosure A, Shuldhham to Stephens, July 8, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. This journal, kept by First Lieutenant James Josiah, *Andrew Doria*, was found in his possession when the transport *Crawford* in which he was prize master was taken by H.M.S. *Cerberus*, June 12, 1776. Hereafter cited as *Andrew Doria* Journal.

INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA, TRANSMITTED BY CAPTAIN HYDE
PARKER, Jr., R.N.¹

Copy/

Thursday, 4th January 1776.

This day about one o'clock sailed the Ship *Alfred* and the Ship *Columbus* with Two Brigs,² the *Alfred* Carries 36 Guns 9 and 12 pounders, 60 Marines, and about 200 Sailors. *Columbus* about the same number of Men, and 32 Guns, the Two Brigs carries 16 Guns, they sailed with 5 or 6 Merchant Ships Loaded with Flour from the Congress. [Esek] Hopkins Commands the *Alfred*, she has Yellow sides, her Head the figure of a Man, English Colours but more Striped, - The *Columbus* is all Black, except white bottom, with no Head, Com-manded by one [Abraham] Whipple.

Hopkins says he will board after a few Shot at all events, they have got a Number of Grapnels, Spikes &ca for boarding, with Cohorns on the Main top. A Sloop of 12 Guns³ is to sail this Evening, she is a Sloop that came from Rhode-Island. I don't know whether or not these Vessels are going but it is probable they will Convoy these Merchantmen off the Coast as they are going for Powder &ca to Spain, Portugal and Holland and to France but I cannot understand

INTELLIGENCE ON CONTINENTAL NAVY [JANUARY 4, 1776]¹

Ships or Vessels Name	Commanders Names	Guns Pounders					Number of Swivels		Men	Remarks
		32	24	18	9	6				
<i>Alfred</i>	(Ship) " Hopkins	"	"	"	{ 20	10		Lower Deck Upper Deck	Philadelphia 220 Including 60 Marines	Figure head, Yellow sides, her lower Deck Ports not above 18 inches from the Water.
<i>Columbus</i>	(Ship) " Whipple	"	"	"	{ 18	10		Lower Deck Upper Deck	220 Including 60 Marines	Black sides without a Head
<i>Annodora</i> ²	(Brig) " Dunn ⁴	"	"	"	"	16	12		130 Including 30 Marines	Black sides without a Head.
<i>Cabinet</i> ³	(Brig) " Hopkins Junr	"	"	"	"	14	12		120 Including 30 Marines	Figure Head and Yellow sides
<i>Providence</i>	(Sloop) " Hazard	"	"	"	"	12	10		90 Including 28 Marines
Row Gallies Thirteen No										
Vizt		One Mounting	1	"	"	"	"	"	} 50 each	
		Some	"	1	"	"	"	"		
		and some	"	"	1	"	"	"		

One Floating Battery 120 feet long, 20 feet wide, the Parapet of which is only Plank.

Thirty Fire Rafts, Built like a Scough 18 feet long and 12 feet Wide.

Two Ships Twenty Guns each

Two Brigs 14 and 16 Guns each

Thirteen Frigates, ordered to be Built by the Continental Congress from 28 to 36 Guns, Two Allotted to be built at this Port.⁵

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosure No. 4 in Shuldham's letter of March 8, 1776, to Philip

Stephens. This status summary was probably compiled about January 4, 1776.

2. The *Andrew Doria*.

3. The *Cabot*.

4. Nicholas Biddle. Benjamin Dunn was the Sailing Master.

5. Four, not two of the frigates, were built in Philadelphia.

Baltimore

Fitting out.

New Haven

Fitting out.

they have any particular Alliances as yet. by some words as I heard I believe they will pay Lord Dunmore a Visit soon, he is on board and is fallen down Ten Miles below Newport [*sic*] he has lost many Men. Three Companies is going to March from here very soon Captain Williams Alens, Dawson and Jenkenses all for Virginia.⁴ The *Neptune* and the *Aurora* is Two of the Above Merchantmen, there Names is in their Sterns, they are certainly going for Powder and Ammunition let their pretence be what they will⁵. very bad News from Canada Arnolds Regiment have lost great numbers of Men Starved to Death and Perished with Hunger and Cold. Governor Carlton has great Numbers in Quebec. Long Faces in the Congress because they are Almost out of hopes of taking it: the head of the Tories on Long-Island are to be taken and Secured in Goal and the Others to be disarmed; more Vessels are loading here with Flour none of them Cleared out at the Custom House, they are all Freightied by the Congress. N.B. The first part of this Information was a Mistake, The Privateers having only fell down the River and did not sail.

(Sign'd) H. Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Information supplied by James Brattle.
2. The *Andrew Doria* and the *Cabot*.
3. The sloop *Providence*, formerly the Rhode Island sloop *Katy*.
4. Captains William Allen, Samuel Dawson and William Jenkins, of the 1st Pennsylvania Battalion.
5. The *Neptune* and the *Aurora*, two of seven vessels owned by Willing, Morris & Co., were freighted on account of the Secret Committee of the Continental Congress, Morris Papers, HUL.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO COLONEL THOMAS ELLIOTT¹

Norfolk, January 4, 1776, 3 o'clock P.M.

About a quarter past 3 on Monday afternoon [January 1] the whole fleet began a heavy cannonade, which lasted 7 hours, without any intermission, and indeed continued, off and on, till last night, since which we have been tolerably quiet. Under the fire of their ships, they landed in many places, and set fire to the houses on the wharves. In these attempts, many of them, we are certain, were killed, and never failed being repulsed by our people. We had not a man killed, and only 5 or 6 wounded, one supposed mortally, and two or three women and children are said to be killed. Providence certainly interfered in our favour, or more lives must have been lost. They once landed and got into the streets with field pieces, but were beat back with loss, and no execution done by their fire. Nine tenths of the town are destroyed, but the fire is now out.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, January 17, 1776.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

[On board the Ship *Dunmore* off Norfolk]

[No. 34].

January 4th. 1776

On the 19th Ultio I was most agreeably surprised by the Arrival of an Officer from Captain [Henry] Bellew, who informed me that the *Liverpool*, and the Brig *Maria* were in the Bay; next Morning I went down to the *Liverpool*

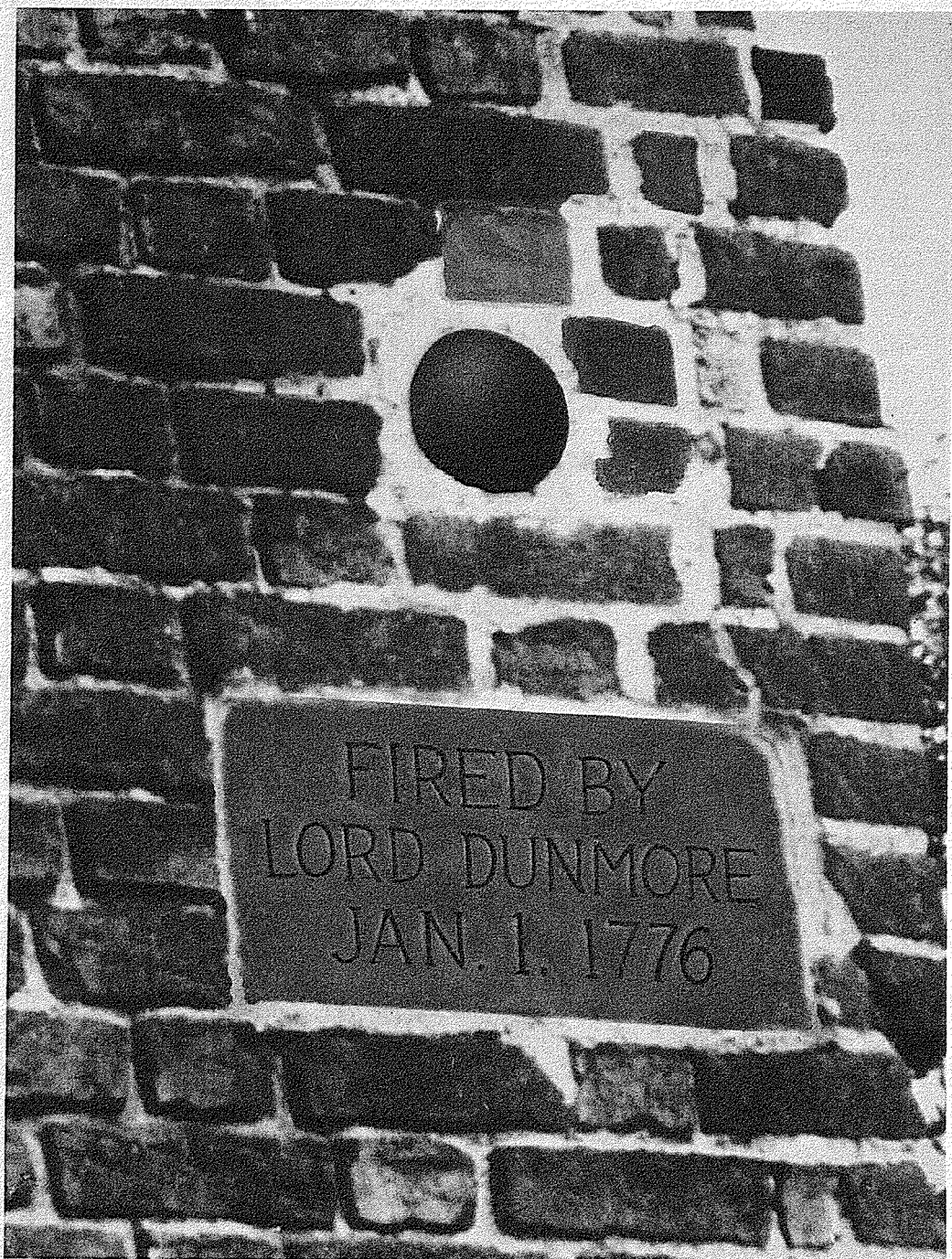
with a Pilot who brought her up the day following. After reading your Lordships' dispatches Nos. 21, 22 & 23, which were the first I had received from the 30th of May, I then informed Captain Bellew (who now Commands His Majesty's Ships here) of part of their Contents, and of the Situation of Affairs in this Colony; and of this place in particular; I was so fortunate as [to] concur with him in opinion, and in consequence thereof, he immediately ordered the *King Fisher* to the upper end of the Town, the *Otter* a little below her, and Captain Bellew lay with the *Liverpool* pretty near the middle of the Town, and I lay with the Ship I am on board of a little below him; Captain Bellew unwilling to Shed the blood of any of His Majesty's Subjects, and much more so that of the innocent, sent a Flag of Truce on Shore with a Note (Copies of which with the Answers is inclosed (No. 5).

On the first Instant Captain Bellew discovering the Rebels parading in the Streets, sent a few Cannon Shot amongst them, his example was immediately followed by all of us, and under Cover of the Cannon, I sent some boats on Shore to burn some detached Warehouses on the lower part of the Wharfs (from whence they used to annoy our boats as they passed) I, at the same time hailed Captain Bellew to beg he would send his boats to burn the Brig with the Salt, which he did immediately, the Vessels from the Fleet to shew their Zeal for His Majesty's Service, sent great Numbers of Boats on Shore, by which means the fire soon became general on the Wharfs, the wind rather blowing off Shore would have prevented the fire from reaching any farther than the Wharfs, but the Rebels so soon as the Men of War ceased firing, and our People came off, put the finishing Stroke to it, by Setting fire to every House, which has given them employment for these two days past, they have also burnt many houses on both sides of the River, the property of individuals who have never taken any part in this contest, in Short from every transaction they appear to me to have nothing more at heart, than the utter destruction of this once most flourishing Country, Conscious I suppose that they cannot long enjoy it themselves, they wish to make it of as little use as possible to others; We had only one man killed and two or three Wounded, the loss of the Enemy, as they say, are eighteen killed, and between forty and fifty wounded, but from other Accounts I think their loss must be much more considerable, they still keep constantly firing upon us when ever an opportunity offers, they are imprisoning every Man that they even suppose wishes well to Government, nay the Ladies who have dared to write or Speake disrespectfully of them, have not been exempted by them.

Your Lordship will see by the inclosed Paper (No. 6) the correspondance that has passed relative to the exchange of Prisoners, but I am persuaded from all I can learn, or see, that they mean to adopt Adams's plan of securing as many Prisoners as possible; and Settling no Cartel.

In my letter No 32 I informed your Lordship of Several Vessels being sent by the Rebels to the West Indias for Gun Powder, and it being reported that a certain John Goodrich of this place, had sent out a Vessel of his, with his Son William in her on that errand, and having also intercepted the inclosed letter (No 7) from a Mr [Robert]Sheddon, Son in Law of the said Goodrich,

I had him and John Goodrich junr another son immediately apprehended, from whom I learn that their brother William Goodrich was arrived in their Fathers Vessel in Ockrocock in North Carolina, with Powder, for the Rebels of this Colony, which was to be brought from thence to Williamsburg over land; I took every Step in my power to intercept it, but my want of force prevented my effecting it. Mr Sheddon having exculpated himself to my Satisfaction, from having any concern in this affair or of being privy to it, and that his only motive for writing the inclosed letter, was to prevent as far as lay in his power the ruin his friends had involved themselves in, I therefore discharged him; A few days afterwards Mr Sheddon brought me a letter from John Goodrich, his father in Law, declaring his Sincere repentance of what was past, and his earnest desire of returning to his duty, and begging I would permit him to see me. I accordingly appointed a time and place to meet him, he then discovered to me the whole affair, and declared that he and his Son had no other motive for engaging in this business but the prospect of a good freight for their Vessel; and if I would permit him, he would himself go to St Eustatia and bring me the balance of the Money they had received from Mr Robert Carter Nicholas, the Treasurer of this Colony, for the purpose of purchasing of Gun Powder, which his Son had lodged in the hands of a Certain Van Dam a Merchant there, and that he would either bring it to me in Bills or Powder, as might be most agreeable, and as a Security for the performance thereof, he desired I would apprehend his Son William, whom he would order to be at a place fixed upon, where I should send for him, which I accordingly did, and as soon as I had him in Custody, took his Deposition (a Copy of which is inclosed (No 8) as is also a Copy of his Account with the Colony (No 9). I then granted his father the inclosed Pass (No.10) who Set out immediately on his Voyage, but hapning to fall in with a Tender belonging to the *Kings fisher*, Commanded by a Mr Jones Master of the above Ship, he did, without paying the least regard to my Pass, for which he says he had his Captains orders, Seize Mr Goodrich and his Vessel and after detaining them many days brought them in here; I made not the least doubt but from this detention the Rebels would have got information of the matter and have sent a Vessel out to have procured the Powder, however I was determined nothing should be wanting on my part, and being fully Satisfied that this poor family had been drawn into this from their ignorance of the Consequences, I sent the Son William on the same business (in a Tender belonging to the *Otter Sloop of War*) who has orders from me to purchase what Powder and Arms he can (both of which were much wanted here) and to bring the Surplus in Cash, if any; Your Lordship will see how the Rebels are supplied with Arms and Ammunition by the inclosed papers which is the principal reason for my sending them, and that your Lordship might also see how little confidence can be put in the Assertion of our Allies the Dutch.



Cannonball, fired from one of Lord Dunmore's ships, embedded in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

"A LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD THE *Liverpool*, OFF NORFOLK IN VIRGINIA, DATED JAN. [4]"¹

We arrived here the 18th ult. after a very long and disagreeable Passage of fourteen Weeks continued bad Weather, with a Brig under Convoy, that obliged us to be continually bearing away, lying too, or shortening Sail; when at length we arrived here, promising ourselves every Good, but instead of that we had every Ill to encounter with. The Rebels have been in Possession of Norfolk three Weeks, when Lord Dunmore was forced to retire afloat, with all the Inhabitants that were well affected to Government, after an Engagement with the Loss of very few. The *Otter*, Capt. Squire, and *King's Fisher*, Capt. Montagu (Sloops) are stationed here, with 160 Men belonging to the 14th Regiment. The Negroes, by Lord Dunmore's declaring them free, left their Rebel Masters, and joined his Lordship, to the Number of Three Hundred, with about fifty Volunteers, which was the whole Force before our Arrival, of the Government Party. A Week before our Arrival, the 11th ult. his Lordship landed with this Force, but was obliged to retire, as they fought in their Intrenchments, and had the Superiority of Numbers; they galled our Men much, who came off with the Loss of 65 killed and wounded. Lord Dunmore was quiet till the Night before we came to Lynhaven Bay, when he had formed a Plan to burn the Town; but on the News of our Arrival, he desisted, on our coming up the River: Nothing could equal the Acclamations of Joy from near 200 Sail, large and small; the Rafts on which were poor Families, were not the least to welcome us. From the time of our Arrival till the 31st, was spent in Flags of Truce, to try if they would supply us with fresh Provisions; but they were equally as treacherous as rebellious. On the 29th at Night, they fired into our Guard-boat, which was returned with a few Nine Pounders from us, and Six's from the Sloops: They were quiet the Remainder of the Night, but the next Morning their Centinels were parading before us with their Hats fixed on their Bayonets, and every other menacing Action they could think of. At Four o'Clock we fired a Shot at them, which was immediately seconded by his Lordship, the *Otter* and *King's Fisher*, Tenders and Merchantmen: The Cannonade lasted Half an Hour, when a Boat was sent from us, to set fire to a Brig they had taken, laden with Salt. His Lordship sent his Boats in also, and in less than eight Minutes the Brig and Town was in Flames: It burnt with great Rapidity all Night; we kept firing occasionally, to silence their rifle-barrelled Musquetry. The only Damage we received, was one Man losing his Arm; a Man from the *Otter* was wounded in the Groin, and a Carpenter killed belonging to the *Dunmore*. Their Loss must be very great. The next Day, Jan. 2, was ushered in with a dismal Sight of Ruins, and the Town still in Flames. As soon as the Shirtmen could see, they peppered us with their Rifle barrels; and as they have every Advantage over us, they do not fail to make use of it, which renders our Firing useless, as we cannot see one of them; let them fire ever so thick, as soon as they have fired, directly they fire they tumble down flat on their Bellies, load again, and then rise up and fire. The Town is still burning, as it will be for three or four Days.

The Rebels are called Shirtmen from their Uniforms, being a long Shirt down to their Heels, with a Leaden Medal at their Breasts, in the Shape of an old English Shield, on which is inscribed, "Liberty or Death."

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, March 13, 1776. Date of letter is approximated.

JOURNAL OF H.M.SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Thursday 4 at 7 A M unmoor'd at 8 weighed and dropt down abreast of the Mills in order to guard the watering place. Moor'd a Cable each way. the Best Bower to the N W. the small to the S E. distance off shore two Cable length. fired several times at Parties of Rebels. Open'd a Cask of Beef. Mostly moderate & fair [P.M.] Fired several times at the Rebel Sentinels at the Mills on Norfolk side.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

January 1776 Cape Fear E N E

Tuesday 2nd A M at 6 Shoal'd to 9 Fath's TKd: at 7 Wore and Stood in, saw the Land from the Mast head W N W 6 Leagues: bore up for the Frying pan Shoal, Sounded from 7 to 5 Fath's then to 7 Fath's round the So end of the Shoal & then regular Soundings, from 7 to 10 Fath's Sandy Bottom, at 9 hauld in for the Land, at Noon Working up for Cape Fear River - Found the Bottom in general Grey Sand with brown Specks. - Light breezes & fair, regular Soundings from 7½ to 9 Fath's sandy bottom. P M saw 2 Sail in Shore, at 3 hoisted the Coulers & fired a Gun which was Answered, at 4 fired another Gun which was answered by 2; Working up for the mouth of Cape Fear River, after Dark heard the Report of several Guns & fired One in Answer. at ½ past 7 came on board a Pilot at 8 Anchored with the small Bower in 8 Fath's sandy Bottom the Rivers Mouth E N E ½ Et, 4 or 5 miles;

Wednesday 3d A M at 10 weighted & Run in for the Bar, at 12 dropt the small Bower in 6 Fath's -

Light Airs & Cloudy - P M at 2 weighed & fired a Gun, Sigl for Assistance, at 5 Anchor'd with the small Bower in 4½ Fath's & Moor'd a Cable each way; Found riding here His Majesty's Sloops *Cruizer* & *Scorpion*, with 3 Ships & 2 Sloops -

Thursday 4th A M Saluted Govr [Josiah] Martin with 13 Guns on his coming on board - Calm Wear; Empd: Occasionally.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

2. The *Syren*, 28 guns and 160 men, had sailed from Plymouth at the beginning of November 1775 with dispatches for the governors of North and South Carolina, and with instructions to collect information in advance of the arrival of a fleet under Commodore Sir Peter Parker. See Stephens to Furneaux, November 6 and 7, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 4th, 1776.

John Rutledge, esq., was chosen by the Council, to be their president, during the absence of Col. Henry Laurens.

Read a proposal of Mr. Isaac Caton for importing ammunition

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed.

The Council issued orders on the treasury for the following payments:

Capt. Robert Cochran, for his voyage, [£]350 0 0

Ordered, That Capt. [George Gabriel] Powell do immediately proceed, in the brigantine *Comet*, through Wappoo, into Stono river, and there fit her for service with all possible expedition, and wait for further orders; that her guns and stores be sent after her by Capt. [Edward] Blake; and that Capt. [Simon] Tufts and Capt. [William Henry] Drayton do afford Capt. Powell all possible assistance in removing the *Comet* thither.

Ordered, That Col. [William] Moultrie be desired to order the soldiers now serving as marines on board the *Hawke* pilot boat, to be removed on board the brigantine *Comet*, and there remain for her defence.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake do enquire and report to this board the particulars and value of the cargo on board the Jamaica ship, now lying at Hobcaw.

John Campbell applied for, and obtained leave to depart the colony, in the *Sandwich packet*.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III 148, 149.

JOURNAL OF H.M.SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Jan'y 1776

Wednesday 3

Dominica No end West 5 or 6 Leags

at 6 AM Made sail Set Studding sails at 8 Made the Land of Dominica bearing W B S 10 or 12 Leags Marrigallanta N E 6 or 7 Leags

Fresh breezes & Squally P M Empd working into Prince Ruperts Bay at 1/2 past 2 Fired 2 Shot to make a ship shew her Colours at 1/2 past 5 Anchord with the best bower in 8 fm Moord with the small bower 1/2 a Cable When Moord the Customhouse E B N 1/2 N Prince Ruperts head W NW the So part of the bay S S W² Found Rideing here his Majs Sloop *Pomona*

Thursday 4th

Moord in Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica.

AM Empd Clearing the Hold and Sending empty Casks on shore Fresh breezes & Squally heeld ship Starboard side out and hogd her to the keel people Empd filling water Cooper Repairing the casks detained the brig *Mary* from Gaspee for Dominica belonging to Rhode Island Thomas Stacy Master.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

2. *Ibid.*, while not mentioned in the journal, the prize ship *Peggy*, taken December 10, 1775, was brought in by the *Viper*. The *Peggy* was mentioned in journal of the previous day, January 2, "*Peggy* in Compy," and again on January 11, when en route to Antigua, "*Peggy* in Company."

5 Jan.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER¹Copy
Dear General.Holland House Jan'y 5th 1776.
[Near Quebec]

Last Night a faithful Accadian belonging to our Train of Artillery, and who was taken prisoner in the unhappy Affair of the 31st was sent out of Town by [Guy] Carleton and Lanaudiere with the inclosed Note and Seal, previous to which he was terrified with Threats of being hanged & when thought a true Convert he was told to carry the Note to one Mange at Verrenne who was to raise two hundred Men &c the Seal was to be delivered to Mr Jacob Jordan the King's Commissary at Montreal,² this the Man seemed to consent to, when they promised him his Fortune should be made, He was further ordered to call on the Captains of Militia on his Way up and endeavour to prevail on them, to raise their parishes against us, the Needful to be done in Consequence of this Intelligence I have no Occasion to mention, I make no Doubt of your sending those people out of the Way of Danger & Mischief – Every Thing remains quiet here at present, I believe the Enemy dare not Venture out tho' they threaten it, I pray God they may not, for we are in a miserable Condition to receive them – We have brought three peices of Cannon from our Battery I intend getting the whole here as soon as possible for defending our Magazine – As there was several French prisoners in Town who will doubtless be tampered with and may not be proof against their Artifice, I have thought proper to send an Express on purpose that you may guard against their plots – I find by our exact Return made the 2d Instant we have not quite eight hundred Men including Col: [James] Livingston's Regiment of about 200 – Some of the Country people have come in to our Assistance in general they appear friendly & concerned for us, many offer to join us who have no Arms I have given out several Commissions to the Inhabitants who are raising Men we are entirely out of Lead – Inclosed is a List of sundry Articles, much wanted which with such as have been wrote for before, I make no Doubt you will order as soon as may be – I am very anxious to see you here – The Burthen lies very heavy on me considering my present Circumstances – I find myself unequal to the Task, my Wound is in a fair Way and less painful – I hope The Express will meet you on your Way down and am very respectfully Dr General [&c.]

B. Arnold Coll: &c

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 460–61, NA.

2. *Ibid.*, Lanaudiere's note read: "We have drubbed the Rebels We have taken seven hundred kill'd wounded & Prisoners, & their General Montgomery, It remains with You to compleatly drive away our Enemies, We fear Nothing here, & Will soon give You Proofs My Dear Fellow Citizens Signalize Yourselves, to retrieve the Honor of the Canadians & to gain every Happiness to Your Parish the Others will all follow Your Example, two hundred Men will destroy the Remains of these Miserable Wretches for You will raise all the Other Parishes coming down. – Lanaudiere Junr Maje the 4th in the Evening."

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

Jany 1776 Remarks &c in Quebec

Mondy 1st a m came in some deserters from the Rebels the thanks from his Excellency Major General Carelton was read in the Barracks for their spirit and behavior Yesterday –

Tuesdy 2nd p m went out of Town the Generals aid de Camp with a Rebel Officer to get the Prisoners Baggage but were stopped by their advanced Guard and returned into Town –

Wednesdy 3 Light Breezes with Snow Enterd with Military Honours the Body of Captain Anderson killed the 31st of last Month sent out on his Parole of Honour until the 5th the rebel Major to get the Prisoners Baggage ²

Thursdy 4 Light breezes with Snow p m departed this Life one of the Navy Battalion who was wounded on the 31st of December last fired a Number of Shells & Shotes at the Enemy & into St Roques –

Friday 5 Little Wind with thick fogg a m went out a Forageing party with a party to cover them came in the Rebel Officer with the Prisoners Baggage firing Guns at times.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

2. Major Return Jonathan Meigs.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N.¹

Pursuant to orders from Vice Adml Graves. You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under his command, to use the utmost dispatch in getting His Majesty's Ship under your command ready for Sea, to complete your Sea Stores to Twelve Months, and your provisions of all Species to Six, and follow his orders for your further proceedings, for which this shall be your order: Given under my hand at Halifax the 5th January 1776.

M Arbuthnot

Captain Hamond

Roebuck

By Commnd of the Commodore J White

1. Hamond, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

PHILLIP CALLBECK TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord

Halifax 5th January 1776.

I did myself the Honor by My dispatch dated, as well as I can recollect, the 3d of August last, to inform Your Lordship of Governor Paterson's having sailed, the day before, from the Island of St John for England, & that I had, as the eldest Councillor, in his absence, taken upon me the Command of the Island. – Shortly after, General Gage sent a recruiting Party to the Island, & I thought, my Zeal Could not be more usefully Exerted, than by Promoting His Majesty's Service at a time, when Rebellion was taking such hasty Strides.

For this purpose, I publickly forwarded, & assisted the Recruiting Service, and even in our little Island had the Pleasure of Meeting with Success. – In consequence of an Express, I received from Lieutenant Governor [Hector T.] Cramahe, the People that had been collected, were sent up to the assistance of Quebec, & in order to be of as much use as I possibly Could, I forwarded Copy's of Mr. Cramahe's Letter, to General Howe and Governor Legge, also kept a Corporal to carry on the Recruiting Service, with an Intention of sending up to Quebec, whatever Force I raised.

By this I would not be misunderstood to claim any merit, as the Part I acted was no more than the Duty I owe my Sovereign, & what My Inclination strongly prompted me to; however, I had the Misfortune to feel the effects of the Rebels disapprobation of My Conduct.

On the Seventeenth November last, two Privateer Schooners belonging to Beverly in New England, one of them Armed with Six Six Pounders, the other four Six Pounders; & each of them with a number of Swivels, & Seventy-five Men, Arrived at Charlotte Town, the Capital of His Majesty's Island of St John, where I resided. They immediately made Preparations to fire on the Town, at the same time their Commanders, with Armed Party's landed. Not having heard that the Rebellious Colony's had fitted out Privateers, I Judged them to be Pirates, by their Conduct they were actually such.

In order to preserve the Town from being burn'd, I determin'd (not having force of any Kind to make Resistance:) to face them singly. – Upon their landing, they made me Prisoner, & instantly Convey'd me on board one of the Privateers, after which they proceeded to Commit the most Wanton & flagrant outrages on Governor Paterson's & My House – I may say they possess'd themselves of whole of my Property, to the amount of upwards of Two Thousand Pounds Sterling, & then sail'd with me and a Mr [Thomas] Wright, one of the Council & Surveyor General whom they also made Prisoner. – Prior to their attacking the Island, they had remained in the Gut of Canso upwards of three Weeks, for the purpose of intercepting Vessels coming from, or going to Quebec, during which time they took five Vessels, loaded with Fish, & on their Return, they took three more, without meeting with the least opposition.

Armed with that boldness, My Lord, which your well known humanity inspires, aided by an approving Heart, and persecuted allmost to ruin in the Service of my Sovereign, I shall take the liberty to trouble Your Lordship with a tale of woe, which can best be felt by a Heart like Yours. –

These unfeeling Monsters, not satiated with their flagitious Depredations on the whole of my Property, & the common Rights of Mankind, blood-thirstily sought Mrs Callbeck for the purpose (to use their own Words:) of cutting her throat, because she is the Daughter of a Mr Coffin at Boston, who is remarkable for his attachment to Government. – Fortunately she was at my farm, four miles distant, Else it is likely her treatment wou'd have been equal to their savage Declarations – It is true she Escaped their diabolical machinations, yet she is left in so wretched a situation, that I am to suppose she is barely breathing the breath of life, without a neighbour, or person, capable of soothing the Affliction Natural to a young Wife in the absence of her Husband, Father & Friend, who

has been torn from her; & to add to all, in a situation, that demanded every attention, she being with Child. These brutal Violators of domestic felicity, have left her, without a single glass of Wine, without a Candle to burn, or a sufficiency of Provisions of the bread-Kind; most of the furniture of her house taken away, & for what I know all her Cloaths. They certainly have taken away her best things, together with her Rings, Bracelets &c, none of which have been restored, altho' some of them have been seen wearing by the Connections of these Villains. — Mr Wright has thought proper to goe to Britain, to make a personal application for redress — I declin'd such a step, & intend as soon as possible, tho' at the risk of my life, to attempt getting to the Island, to attend my Duty; also to relieve a most distressed Woman, whose anxiety must be great, by her not having heard, what is to become of me. — If I am fortunate enough to get to her, I present myself beggar'd & undone, & have only the consolation to reflect, that I have lost my all in the Service of my King & Country. — Even in this favorable View my situation is peculiarly distressing.

I have had the Honor, My Lord, of His Majesty's Warrant Appointing me His Attorney General for said Island, upwards of Six years. Immediately after obtaining it, I repaired to the discharge of my Duty and in that Office, as well as others, also in my last, that of Commander in Chief, I flatter myself I have met with approbation. Yet tho' so long in His Majesty's Service, I have received but a single year's Sallary. This has arisen from the failure of the Fund, His Majesty was graciously pleased to appropriate for the Payment of His Servants Sallarys in that Government. On my arrival, I was obliged at a Considerable Expence to build an Habitation, to shelter myself from the Inclemency of the Weather. Every year since, I have been in Expectation, under the auspices of Your Lordship that there wou'd be a change, so as to bring the Sallarys to a certain Payment; In the mean time to support myself, and the Service, I have been Employ'd in, I have exhausted the whole of my private fortune, as well as every aid I cou'd get from my Connections or friends, so that what I have lost of my Property has been acquired without the aid of the Payment of My Sallary. —

Pardon me, My Lord, for this long digression; to apologize wou'd occasion me to be more troublesome — All I shall offer in my Vindication is, that I was desirous to make you in part Acquainted with the distress of a man, whose hopes of Independence were crushed just as they began to dawn. These Sufferings, My Lord, related without Exaggeration, will, I flatter myself, interest Your Sympathy on my behalf, so as that you will be pleased to lay me, and my distress, with all Humility, before My Royall Master.

After a Passage of fourteen days, I arrived at Winter-Harbour East of Cambridge One hundred & ten Miles. — On my Arrival I was received by Mr Washington very politely. The Relation of the many Acts of Cruelty that accompanied the seizing of my Person, affected those in Power so much, as shortly after to liberate me. Had I been taken without so much accumulated Barbarity, I suppose I should have been detained, until their ungrateful Chimeras were at an end. Fearing a change in their favourable Resolutions, which I had a right to expect, the Corporal I before mentioned being a Prisoner with me, and having Accounts in his Pocket of Money I advanced to carry on the Service, I hastened away after

three days stay, & at a considerable Expence have fortunately got thus far, having been brought in a state of Captivity Six hundred Miles by sea, & travelled one hundred & twenty miles by land all which I have repeated on my return.

The Accounts of the Enemy that I can give Your Lordship are but very imperfect, My Situation, & time being so short, I had an opportunity of gaining but very little Knowledge Either from View or hearsay. The Strength & Extent of their Works Surprised me. The Hill named Prospect Hill is by far the best fortified, so much that it appears to me as if intended for the dernier resource. There lie behind the Lines; considerable Quantity of Spears, which they call Harpoons, but they are exactly resemblant to what We read of the Romans using in battle. These they have prepared under the direction of Mr [Charles] Lee, who at that time (: because there was a Scarcity of Gun Powder:) declared Powder was totally useless; that it was not what they ought to depend on. Now that they have got a little more, I believe he changes his note; however the Javelins remain, as I was told, to defend the Lines in case of any attempt to force them. They said they had in Camp twenty-two thousand men, I suppose they had sixteen thousand. Their Pay is forty Shillings lawfull money p month – Provisions Excellent. At the time I was there, they were recruiting, but went on with little success. The Connecticut People had all most to a man declin'd staying. The Hampshire People appear'd the most forward; A Mr [John] Sullivan, who Acts as a General, held forth a Declamation for an hour to them, afterwards near two thirds of the Forces of that Province inlisted. – I was detained at Salem seven days: the People Employed in recruiting were there four days before; during this whole time they got but three men. It appears to me, as if Mr Washington and their other Generals, suspected a failure in their recruiting for they shortly before the time Elapsed, that the Soldiers had been inlisted for, addressed them, representing how much they were indebted to the Southern Colonys for their liberal Supplys, for their rejecting what they called Lord North's proposals, & the Unreasonableness, on account of their distance of Expecting any of their People to assist in the field. – After using every Argument to stimulate the People in Camp to inlist, they reduced their Army from thirty-Six thousand to Twenty-Six thousand. – As far, as I could collect from the Southern People's Conversation, they Zealously wished for an Accomodation & by no means an Independency. The Northern Sentiments were in general otherwise; I heard they intended to push for opening a free Trade to their Ports in the Spring. If they do, I shou'd imagine that it will be the quickest means of a disunion, the Southerns being averse to any measure that bears the least resemblance to an Independency. They seem aware of the Consequence, that would Ensue, that of a Civil War among themselves, They talk with great freedom against the Northern Colony & take every opportunity of ridiculing them; Some say they are made tools of, that the Massachusetts Quota of the Supplys Amount to but fifteen p Cent, that by the Seat of War being with them, there is above forty p Cent Spent with them. In this manner they goe on in measuring many other Jealousies, & Grievances. In short they have Every Suspicion of the deceit & baseness of the New England Provinces. I believe they are sorry they even connected themselves with

them, & continue only to Act upon the Apprehension, that, what they deem'd, their honor wou'd be called in Question, were they now to withdraw. Cou'd I venture to give my Opinion, it wou'd be, that if We keep possession of Boston, before next Campaign wou'd be over, there wou'd be a disunion among them; If that shou'd fortunately happen, the New England Provinces, notwithstanding their Numbers cou'd not hold it out. – In my Circuit I observed a Shyness in taking Paper Money, tho' they have Nominated it Cash; what we call so, goes under the Denomination of hard Money, which the People give the preference to & are greedy after. – They talked as if determined to burn Boston and that they only waited for the severe Weather to Sett in, to Answer two purposes, first that the fire Engines wou'd be impeded in their playing, & that at the same time they wou'd be accomodated with a bridge of Ice to attack the Town. I am inclined to think they are serious, at least in burning the Town; I form my opinion on the Conversation of the People at the Camp, from the Inquiries and Declarations of some of the better sort of People. As I travelled the road Eastward on my return, they seem'd desirous for the Accomplishment of it, as they formed to themselves the hope that His Majesty's Forces wou'd be obliged to abandon the Town – There was another reason struck me, that at the time I came away, agreeable to an order, the Militia were coming in very fast which I conjectured to be for the purpose of maning the Lines &c. However it might be on a Surmise that recruiting wou'd goe on but slow, & that they had provided the Militia to supply the Defect. They also talk'd that on their getting Quebec, they wou'd attack this Province: I suppose they will & if not sooner, very early in the Spring. – All that I cou'd collect came from themselves; It wou'd have been imprudent to me to have appear'd inquisitive. I did not hear a conjecture that His Majesty's Forces were to be any way distributed, nor the Scene of war to be changed to any other part of the Continent. They mentioned they had heard it was intended to take Long Island, & that some of the King's Forces were to Encamp there, for the purpose of getting fodder &c. But in their own mind, they make no scruple of defeating us. They were so self sufficient, that I had no way of bringing them down, but dinging in their Ears that Twenty thousand Russians wou'd be landed amongst them next Spring. The name of Russians seem'd to scare them much. What surpris'd me exceedingly, was the trade they carried on at most of the Ports East of Boston, while I passed and repassed, there were daily arrivals from the West Indies, but most from St. Eustatia, every one of which brings more or less of Gun Powder – Some Vessells had sailed, numbers were fitting out, loaded with Fish & Lumber, & some with Specie, all I believe bound for the West Indies. At Portsmouth, Province of New Hampshire, there were four ready to sail. – At Sacho, Province of Massachusetts, two Brigs. I suppose they will be on their Return in March, & most of them will bring Gun-Powder. – At Cape Anne, Marblehead & Bervery. they have Forts, & now some Powder: the Second is a strong one. – Salem & Newberry have Vessells sunk, so as to Confine the Channel to a narrow Pass. – Portsmouth has same; besides a Boom & three strong Forts. – From Portsmouth to Casco, every harbour & Creek has some insignificant Redoubt, Logg Wall or other Defence, & upon the least Alarm,

the Country People come in. But from their Appearance & Preparation, I shou'd imagine they wou'd be but of a short duration. Shou'd it [be] judg'd proper to attack the Enemy, I am confident Lyne, which lies between Salem and Cambridge, wou'd be the best place to make a Landing. That part of the Coast is naked of Defence, the Country is clear & has every convenience for forming &c of these particulars I thought it my duty to inform General Howe, by Letter. If any Account or Hint, that I have given shou'd be of the least Service, I shall look on my distresses to be much Alleviated, & the Event in some measure fortunate. – I neglect now, My Lord, to apologize for this Intrusion on your time, which at this distressfull period, must be precious to my Sovereign & to the British Nation. But from my unparalell'd Suffering and Your Lordship's Magnanimity I draw my Security from censure. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Phillp Callbeck

1. DAC, copy from PRO, Colonial Office, 226/6.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDEDIAH PREBLE TO JEREMIAH POWELL¹

Falmo the 5th Jany 1776

Sir. The Receipt of your favor of the 20 ulto. we acknowledge & observe the contents. Your Anxious Concern for the credit of Falmo afords us great Pleasure, But are Very Sorry so many of the Members of The Honbl Court (as you Intimate) should be prejudiced against the Town for not throwing up a Bullwork the Night Preceding the conflagration, when that Night was the only time we had allow'd by that Villain (Mowatt [Henry Mowat]) to secure our wives, children & Effects. Besides, if Cannon had been mounted we had not powder enough to have serv'd properly half an hour, it is Impossible any Person can with any propriety condemn the conduct of Falmo in that respect. If the town is to blame, it is for not being provided with Stock of Powder. It is Cruel as well as unjust to charge the Town of Falmo with Capt'n Noyes Cowardice – we wish sincerely that the officers & soldiers behaviour on that day had been such as to have justified their Conduct

1. Willis Mss., MeHS. Powell would have been a likely recipient of the letter, but it is only a surmise that it was written to him.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Exeter] Friday Jany 5th 1776.

Voted. That Capt. Titus Salter & Capt. Eliphalet Daniel be appointed to go over to the Isles of Shoals and Inform all the Inhabitants there that it is the opinion of this Congress that the situation of said Islands are such that the Inhabitants are expos'd to our enemies in the Present unhappy controversie and may be obliged (by their weak Defenceless circumstances & Inability to Defend themselves) to assist our enemies, and that for said reasons it is absolutely Necessary that they should Immediately remove with their effects to the main Land to such place or places as they shall chuse & to tarry During the present Dispute – and

provided they neglect to comply herewith for the Term of ten days after this Notice That they be Informed that they must be bro't off by authority.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 709.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN¹

Dear Sir

Beverly 5 Decr [*sic* January] 1776

A few minutes after I tu[c]k my Leave off you Capt John Derby of Salem came to me and made a demand of the Guns Belonging to the *Lee* Schr which Collr [John] Glover borrow'd of him I interceeded with him as much as Lay in my Power to have them only for one Cruse more but he Utterly Refused and insists upon having off them imediately upon Receiving the demand I togeather with Collr Glover Pursued you to Give the information but Could not Over take you what Can be done about this matter must be Left to you in Hast I am Sir [&c.]

William Bartlett

Sir I would remind you of the Cash wanting

1. Washington Papers, LC:

COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS TO KEEPER OF WORCESTER JAIL¹

Colony of the }
Massachusetts Bay } The Major part of the Council -

To the Keeper of the Goal in Worcester in the County of Worcester -
Greeting -

You are hereby order'd & directed to take into your Custody, John Guildero, Wm Collins, John Smith, Benja Ward, George Morrison Alexr Gordon Soldiers; George Mitchell, James Richardson, Francis Ossy, Anthy Simmins, Jacob Wilson, Joseph Mason Seamen, all prisoners of War sent here by his Excelly Genl Washington to be confin'd - also John Thorner, Wm Clark, Willm Wallis & Thomas Gorthorp Seamen of the Ship *Jenny*, Capt Foster; likewise sent here by his Excelly Genl Washington to be confin'd, they having attempted to desert from sd Ship & go on board his Majestys Ship *Foye* - and them and each of them safely keep in Close Confinement 'till the further Order of this Council, his Excelly Genl Washington or they be otherwise dischargd by due Coarse of Law -

Given under Our hands at the Council Chamber in Watertown the fifth day of Jany AD 1776 -

By their Honor's Comm'd -

Eldad Taylor

W. Spooner

Saml. Holten

Caleb Cushing

Jabez Fisher

B Chadbourn

B White

John Whitcomb

B Lincoln

James Prescott

John Taylor

Cha Chauncy

John Adams

Michael Farley

G Palmer

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 231.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Friday, January 5, 1776.

A Petition of John Bunker, of Mount Desert, representing that in Nov. last he took and carried into Goldsborough, a Schooner between fifty and sixty Tons, bound from Nova-Scotia to Boston, and laden with Cattle, Butter, Cheese, &c. and praying that he may have Orders from the Court to remove her to some secure place for his benefit and that of his Country.

Read and committed to Mr. [James] Ingalls, Col. [Daniel] Thurston, and Mr. [Isaac] Low.

Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to report what Sum is necessary to be put into the Hands of the Committee who are impowered to fit out Vessels for Powder, reported.

Read and recommitted.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

Sir

Preston Boston 5th Janry 1776

I have had the Honour to receive your Letters of the 2d and 3d instant, the last inclosing Extracts from a Dispatch from Lord Dartmouth, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State to your Excellency, fully acquainting me with the Scope of his Majesty's Intentions respecting the present War with the Rebels. The *Mercury* is the Ship with me best calculated for the Service proposed to the Southward; Captain [Alexander] Graeme shall have Orders to receive General Clinton on Board and convey him to the Place of his destination. Your Excellency may depend that my Orders and Instructions to the Commanders of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels shall exactly coincide with his Majesty's Designs; and that the Ships of the Squadron shall be directed to give every possible Assistance to the Land Force on every occasion.

With respect to General Clinton in particular, one of his Majesty's Ships shall attend him, whose Captain shall have such Directions as you have desired, and I am satisfied he will facilitate the Kings Service, agreeable to General Clintons wishes, with the utmost Alacrity and Readiness.

As I imagine the bringing a Cargo of Rice for the use of this Garrison is what your Excellency wishes to have effected with as little risque as possible, I have not ventured to alter my first Order to Captain Barkley on that head, being firmly persuaded that whichever of his Majesty's Ships may be with General Clinton her Captain will zealously cooperate with and assist him to the utmost of his Power. I hope to stand excused with your Excellency for so long delaying to answer your Letters, and that you will believe me to be with the greatest Respect Sir &c

Sam. Graves.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 26-27, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES.¹

[Boston] 1776 Janry 5.

Lieutenant [Christopher] Mason, who now commanded the *Nautilus* by Order,² received directions of the accustomed kind to proceed to Sea and cruize in Boston Bay and about Cape Anne and Marblehead; to be careful not to be blown off; in bad Weather to anchor off Cat Island, in Cape Cod Harbour, Nantasket Road, or any other Place he should think best, and put to Sea again as soon as Weather would permit, to sink, burn and destroy the Rebels, assist and protect all Vessels coming to Boston, and see them safe within the Lighthouse: and to remain on this Service till further Order.

The *Renown* was ordered to continue in Nantasket Road for the protection of every thing below, and in particular of Georges Island whereon was a Well of the best Water in the whole Harbour and from which all the Ships in Nantasket were supplied. And the *Canceaux* armed Ship was ordered to be surveyed, her Captain having reported her unfit to keep the Sea.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 27, BM.

2. Extract from Master's log of the *Nautilus*, Wednesday, January 3, 1776: "P M came on board Lieut Ch: Masson of the *Chatham* and took Command of the ship." PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY¹

Jany '76 Moored in Boston Harbour

Friday 5th at 10 AM fired a Gun and made the Signal to Unmoor, Unmoor'd & hove short on the Small Br at ½ past 11 fired a Gun & made the Signal to weigh, at noon weigh'd & made sail, with H. Majys Schooner *Hinchinbrook*, the *Symetry*, *Hatfield*, *Diana* & *Whitby* Transports, Running out of the Light House Channell: Ships draught of water abaft, 16 foot: 8 Inches.

First & Middle parts fresh Breezes & Squally, Latter fresh Gales & Squally with rain. at 3 P M Boston Light House Wt ½ N. disce 4 Leagues the Convoy in Co Handed Topgallt sails & Got the yards down, at 5 double reefd the TS, at ½ past Handed the Mizn & made the *Hinchinbrooks* Signal to keep in the Rear, the Convoy in Co²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The *Scarborough* and most of her convoy were en route to Georgia for rice.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONTINENTAL NAVY DESERTERS¹

DESERTED from the Continental Navy, the following Persons, viz. Daniel Collier, a short thick Fellow, about 23 or 24 Years of Age, has a red Face, Pock-broken' stutters very much, supposed to be gone to the Eastward. – An Indian Fellow named Ben Hazard, about 23 or 24 years of Age, about 5 Feet, 5 or 6 Inches high, supposed to be gone to Hoosack. – John Young, about 5 Feet 3 Inches high, about 35 Years of Age, been in Newport, had on a light coloured Jacket and

Breeches – Elijah Simmons, 48 Years of Age, 5 Feet 10 Inches high, pitted with the Small-Pox, stoops when he walks, wears his Hair, which is somewhat grey – Richard Springer, a middle sized Man, of a middle Age, supposed to be gone to the Westward. – Whoever will take up and secure either of the said Deserters, and bring them, or give Information to the Subscriber, shall receive Thirty Shillings Lawful Money Reward for either of them, and all necessary Charges, paid by

Providence, January 5, 1776

Nicholas Power.²

1. *Providence Gazette*, January 13 and 20, 1776.

2. These five deserters were from the group recruited by Nicholas Power for the Continental navy. Nicholas Brown wrote to Stephen Hopkins about the contingent on January 2, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety at

Lebanon, Friday 5th January, 1776.

Moved to conclude where the 4 row-gallies lately ordered by the Assembly under the direction of said committee shall be built, and on consideration resolved, that one of them be built at Norwich, and one at East Haddam, and tho't proper not now to determine as to the other two.

On a letter and request from Mr. Dean [Silas Deane] in behalf of the Naval Committee at Congress, requesting that Cap. [Robert] Niles of the *Spy* be sent to carry recruits from N. London to Philadelphia, for the navy it was consider'd, concluded and voted, that we cannot properly and safely permit him to be absent so long, and do not agree to the proposal.

Being informed by letter from Mr. [Nathaniel] Shaw, that Capt. [Elisha] Hinman has bro't in about two tons of powder for the Colony, procured by him, and landed the same at Bedford near or in Dartmouth: Voted, that said Shaw be desired to cause said powder to be bro't to Providence and committed to the care of Gov. Cook; and that the Governor be desired to write to Govr Cook, to take care of the same till further order. And letter wrote &c. And Mr. Shaw came in and received his directions &c.

On motion that the men on board Cap. Niles have served out the term for which they engaged, at the 1st of December, and have since been continued by order &c. and that they appear desirous to be released &c.: Voted and ordered, that said Cap. Niles be directed to raise and inlist 20 men such as he can confide in, to serve on board the schooner *Spy* for the term of one year, unless sooner discharged, on the following wages, viz. for able seamen forty-eight shillings, and for seamen forty shillings per kalendar month. *And copy sent him.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 222–23.

JAMES RICE'S BILL FOR SUNDRIES SUPPLIED THE CONNECTICUT BRIG *Defence*¹[New Haven, January 5, 1776]²

Colony of Connecticut	To James Rice	Dr
Jany 5th To 16 Four pound Carriages	a 35/	28. . . .
To 0.2.q 3 lb Iron		19. . 8
To Caleb Fords Bill For mending a Gun		1. . 4. . .
To Hamblin Dwight for Carting Guns		18. . . .
To Stephen Herrick For painting Carriages		15. . . .
To Hezekiah Sabins Bill For Paints & Oil		19. . 7½
To 16 Cartridge boxes for Cannon a 3/		2. . 8. . .
To 24 Ram[m]e]rs & Spung Staff a 1/		1. . 4. . .
To 20 ditto ditto Heads a 9d		18. . . .
To 16 match staffs 9d		12. . . .
To 16 Tompkins 6d		8. . . .
To 8 days work boring & knocking Rust off[f] the Cannon 3/ }		1. . 4. . .
To Charles Prindles Bill for Iron Work		15. . 0. 10
		<hr/>
		£ 54. . 11. . 1½

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 54, ConnSL.2. *Ibid.*, date given in Summary of the *Defence* Accounts.GOVERNOR WILLIAM FRANKLIN TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

Perth Amboy, Janry 5. 1776

Enclosed is a Copy of a Paper said to be wrote in New England, and sent to all the Sea Coasts in North America, to persuade the People to suffer their Towns to be destroyed rather than supply the King's Ships with Provisions. . . .

The Provincial Congress here have given Leave to some Persons to export Country Produce, on Condition of importing the Value in Powder, and other military Stores. A Copy of one of their Resolves for that Purpose is enclosed. — I have no Doubt but a great Quantity will be smuggled into some of the Harbours on the New Jersey Shore from Sandy-Hook to Cape May, particularly into Barnegat, Little and Great Egg-Harbour, unless prevented by the King's Ships.

1. W. A. Whitehead, *et al.*, eds., *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey* (Newark, 1880–86), X, 676–81.JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, January 5, 1776

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due to Adam Fischer, for expences attending his conducting [John] Connolly and [Allen] Cameron from Frederick, in Maryland to Philadelphia, and his charges back again for himself and men, the sum of 156 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The Congress having conferred with the gentlemen sent to Congress by the Convention of New York,² resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the state of that Colony, and the same was agreed to; and is as follows:

Resolved, That for the reasons contained in the papers hercunto annexed, this Committee are of opinion, that no farther fortifications be erected at Martler's

Rock, on Hudson's river, and that a point of land at Puplophen's kill, on the said river, ought without delay to be effectually fortified.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Convention, or in their recess, to the committee of safety, of New York, to carry into execution the above resolution,

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 32-35.

2. Colonel Abraham Brasher, Thomas Palmer, and Captain John Grenell were sent by the New York Provincial Congress on December 20, 1775 to confer with the Continental Congress regarding Hudson fortifications.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 5 [January]. Mr [Thomas] Palmer & Capt [John Grenell] from New York called in & examined as to the Fortifications to be built on Hudsons River, this affair took up several Hours & was at last, after passing a Resoln to abandon the Works at Martilers Rôck with [Bernard] Roman's the Projector of them & to fortify at Poplopens Hill, referred back to the N. York Convention or Commee of Safety to execute this Resolve as they may think fit . . . A long Memorial from the Town of Newport was presented prayg Leave to continue to supply the British Men of War with Provisions otherwise they fear immediate Destruction, this was postponed . . . An application from the Wife of Lieut. Tylee² of Connectt now a Prisoner on Board the Man of War near N York requesting Means may be used for exchanging Him - Deferred - Our Secret Comee have sent to Europe for some able Engineers much wanted now in America -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. Ensign Edward Tilley. See Journal of the Continental Congress, January 11, 1776, and footnote.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

In the Naval Committee

[Philadelphia] Jany 5th 1776.

Orders and Directions for the Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies

You are to take care that proper discipline good order and peace be preserved amongst all the Ships, and their companies, under your command

You are to direct the Several Captains to make out and deliver monthly or oftner, an exact return of the officers seamen and marines on board of each respective vessel noting their particular condition and circumstance - also the quantity and quality of Provisions and stores of every kind together with the State of the respective ships - which returns or copies of them you are to transmit to Congress, or a Committee by them appointed, to receive such returns, as often as opportunity offers

You are by every means in your power to keep up an exact correspondence with the Congress or Committee of Congress aforesaid, and with the Commander in chief of the Continental forces in America -

As by your instructions you are impowered to equip Such Vessels as may fall into your power, and to appoint officers for Such Vessels - As often as this shall happen you are by the very first opportunity to transmit to Congress or the Committee aforesaid, the burthen, force and manner of equipment of such Vessels,

together with an exact list of such officers as you may appoint, in order that their appointment may be confirmed by Congress or others be appointed in their Stead –

You will be particularly careful to give Such orders and instructions in writing, to the Officers under your command as the good of the Service may in every Case require – to devise or adopt and give out to the Commanding Officer of every ship, such signals and other marks and distinctions as may be necessary for their direction –

You are to take very particular care that all the men under your command be properly fed and taken care of when they are in health, as well as when they are sick or wounded. You will also very carefully attend to all the just complaints which may be made by any of the People under your command and see that they are speedily and effectually redressed – for on a careful attention to these important subjects the good of the service essentially depends –

You are always to be exceedingly careful that your Arms, as well great as small, be kept in the very best condition for service and that all your cartridges, Powder shott and every accoutrement whatsoever belonging to them be kept in the most exact order: always fit for immediate service

You will carefully attend to such Prisoners as may fall into your hands – see that they be well and humanely treated – You may also send your Prisoners on shore in such convenient places where they may be delivered to the Conventions, Committee's of safety or inspection in order to their being taken care of and properly provided for

You will also give proper orders and directions to the Captains or Commanders of the ships or Vessels under your command in case they should be separated by stress of weather or any other accident in what manner² and at what places they shall again join the Fleet.

Step Hopkins

Silas Deane

Christ Gadsden

Joseph Hewes

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. These were general orders for management of the fleet. Specific cruising orders follow in the next entry.

2. The manuscript is torn beyond this point. However, it is published in full in Edward Field, *Esek Hopkins* (Providence, 1898), 84–87.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

America

[Philadelphia, January 5, 1776]

To Esek Hopkins Esquire

Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies

Sir

The United Colonies directed by principles of just and necessary preservation against the oppressive and cruel System of the British Administration whose violent and hostile proceedings by Sea and land against these unoffending Colonies, have rendered it an indispensible duty to God, their Country and Posterity to prevent by all means in their Power the ravage, desolation and ruin that is intended to be fixed on North America – As a part and a most important part of defence, the Continental Congress have judged it necessary to fit out several

Armed Vessels which they have put under your Command having the strongest reliance on your Virtuous Attachment to the great cause of America and that by your Valour, Skill and diligence, seconded by the Officers and Men under your Command our unnatural Enemies may meet with all possible distress on the Sea – For that purpose you are instructed with the utmost diligence to proceed with the said Fleet to Sea and if the Winds and Weather will possibly admit of it to proceed directly for Chesapeake Bay in Virginia and when nearly arrived there you will send forward a small swift sailing Vessel to gain intelligence of the Enemies Situation and Strength – If by such intelligence you find they are not greatly superiour to your own you are immediately to Enter the said bay, search out and attack, take or destroy all the Naval force of our Enemies that you may find there – If you should be so fortunate as to execute this business successfully in Virginia you are then to proceed immediately to the Southward and make yourself Master of such forces as the Enemy may have both in North and South Carolina in such manner as you may think prudent from the intelligence you shall receive; either by dividing your Fleet or keeping it together –

Having compleated your Business in the Carolina's you are without delay to proceed Northward directly to Rhode Island, and attack, take and destroy all the Enemies Naval force that you may find there. You are also to seize and make prize of all such Transport Ships and other Vessels as may be found carrying Supplies of any kind to or any way aiding or assisting our Enemies –

You will dispose of all the Men you make prisoners in such manner as you may judge most safe for North America and will least Retard the Service you are upon – If you should take any Ships or other Vessels that are fit to be Armed and Manned for the Service of the United Colonies you will make use of every method for procuring them to be thus equipped – You will also appoint proper Officers for carrying this Matter into execution and to Command said Ships as soon as they can be made ready for the Sea – For this purpose you will apply to the several Assemblies, Conventions and Committees of Safety and desire them in the name of the Congress to aid and assist you by every way and means in their power for the execution of this whole Service –

Notwithstanding these particular Orders, which 'tis hoped you will be able to execute, if bad Winds, or Stormy Weather, or any other unforeseen accident or disaster disable you so to do You are then to follow such Courses as your best Judgment shall Suggest to you as most useful to the American Cause and to distress the Enemy by all means in your power –

You are to consider these as your instructions until you shall receive further or other Orders from the Continental Congress or Committee of Congress appointed for such purpose

You are also authorized to draw on the Continental Treasurers wherever you may be for such Sums as are absolutely necessary for the use of the Fleet under your Command, and such drafts shall be duly honored –

Given under our hands at Philadelphia, Jany 5th, 1776. –

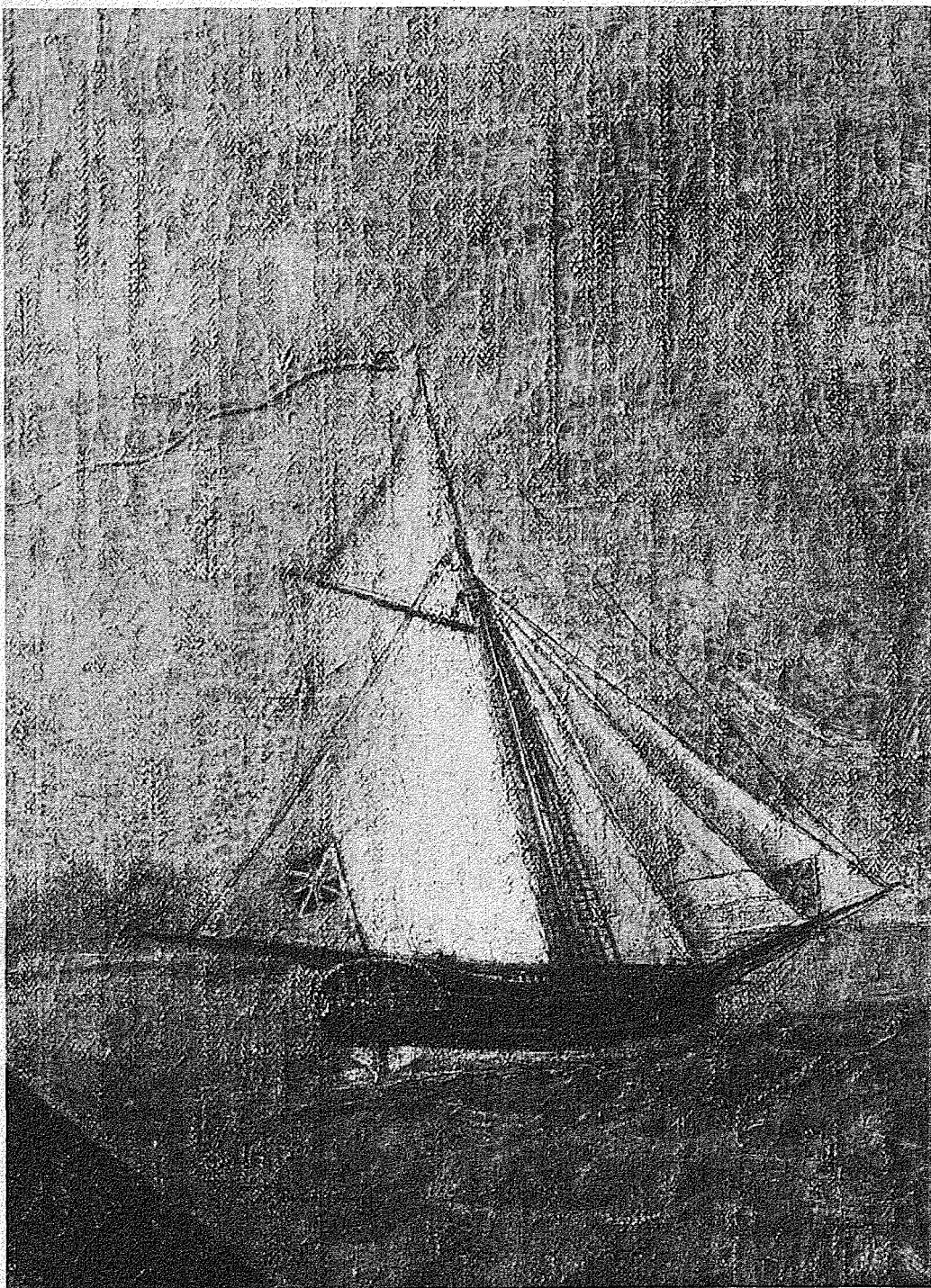
A true Copy p Saml Lyon Secy
to the Commr in Chief

Step Hopkins

Chris Gadsden

Silas Deane

Joseph Hewes



Continental Sloop Hornet.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM STONE ¹

Sir,

Philadelphia [January 5, 1776] ²

You being Commander of the Sloop *Hornet* in the service of the United Colonies, are instructed as soon as the said Sloop shall be armed and manned, to proceed down the Bay of Chesapeak so far as to be certain of not being interrupted by the ice, and choose some safe and convenient Station for annoying the Enemy in every way you can. You are also to order the Schooner *Wasp* to follow or accompany you, and to keep with you in the service. You are to hold yourself in continual readiness to join the Fleet of the United Colonies soon to sail for Chesapeak Bay. And as soon as you shall have joined them you are to follow such directions and instructions as you may receive from the Commander in chief of the said Fleet

1. Hopkins Papers, II, 18, RIHS.

2. The date is approximated. Definite orders to Stone to join the Continental fleet were issued on January 10, 1776, but as will be seen from the Naval Committee's letter of about January 5 to the Virginia Convention, there seemed to be some doubt as to just when Stone's juncture with the fleet was to take place.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

Gentlemen

Philadelphia [January 5, 1776]

The Congress attentive to the safety and security of every part of the united Colonies, and observing the peculiar distresses that the Colony of Virginia is liable ✓ to from a Marine enemy, have with all possible expedition fitted out a small fleet of Armed Vessels, which they have ordered in the first place to the Bay of Chesapeake, if the winds and weather permit, there to seize and destroy as many of the Enemies ships and Vessels as they can. As the best information of the Enemies strength and situation is of the utmost importance to the execution of this service, the Naval Committee request of your Gentlemen to station at Cape Henry a Person of unquestioned honor, understanding, and secrecy, for the purpose of boarding the Fleet when it appears off the Capes of Virginia, and furnish the Commander in Chief with the most accurate information of the then Strength and situation of Lord Dunmores fleet and Land forces. This Fleet will consist of Two Ships, two Brigantines, and one Sloop, with perhaps some smaller Vessel or Vessels – And for still greater certainty, as soon as the Fleet comes within proper distance and until they pass Cape Henry the largest Ship will carry at her Mizzen Peak a Jack with the Union flag, and striped red and white in the field – The Person upon the Cape on his part is to fire a Musket, and hoist a white Flag on the most conspicuous part of the Cape – A Boat will then be sent on shore to get the intelligence – It is judged of the utmost consequence to the Success of this enterprise that you contrive to place 200 expert Rifle Men on such part of the Shore as that they may be taken on board the fleet before they come in sight of the Enemy, and of this, the Gentleman first at Cape Henry must be able to inform the Commander. You will discern Gentlemen, that the greatest dispatch will be necessary as the Fleet will sail from this Port in [blank]

In contriving the Rifle Men as before mentioned, your judgement will point out the propriety of doing it in such a manner as not to awaken the apprehensions

of the Enemy, the success of the Stroke being more sure as it [may] be most sudden and unexpected.

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. The date is approximated, based upon the contents of the letter. From the fact that it is a rough draft and was in Hopkins' possession, it was probably given to him at the time he was supplied with the two sets of orders of January 5, 1776.

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA NAVY, TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

sir

Philadelphia 5th Jany 1776

I am Informed that Barney Mullen ² a young man belonging to the *Experiment* Arm'd Boat under my Command is Now Confined on board the Ship under your Command Should be much Obligated to you to order him out of Confinement and let him Returne to his duty onboard the Sd arm'd Boat I am sir [&c.]

Benj^a Thompson

To John [*sic* Esek] Hopkins Esqr
Commander of the Ship *Alford*

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. Barnabas Mullen, seaman, had enrolled on board the *Alfred* on January 2, 1776. As he deserted the ship at Reedy Island, it is apparent that Thompson's request was not granted.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety
[Philadelphia], 5th Jan'y, 1776.

Robert Towers, Commissary, Reports his having deliver'd the following Articles on account of the Continental Congress, vizt.:

2400 lbs. Grape shot, d'd Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer.²

758 lbs. Musket Ball.

242 6 pound Canon Ball.

200 4 pound do.

26 Cross Barr, Sliding & Starr Shot.

13 Swivel Shot.

1000 ditto small.

38 Barrels,

18 half Barrels,

72 q'r barrels,

} Gunpowder weight 6500 lbs.

36 pounds Salt petre, d'd Doct'r [Joseph] Harrison.³

37 Provincial Muskets & 136 Bayonets, d'd Capt. [Isaac] Craig.⁴

46 Chester County Muskets, with Bayonets.

50 Provincial Muskets, Bayonets, & Scabbards, d'd Capt. Lt. [Samuel] Nicholas.⁵

10 New Muskets & Bayonets, rec'd from Colo. Jno. Cadwalader, & deliver'd to Capt. Sam'l Nicholas.

7 Province Muskets, d'd Capt. Nicholas.
200 lbs. Musket Ball, d'd Capt. Nicholas.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 446, 447.
2. Employed by the Naval Committee to deliver supplies to the fleet.
3. Senior Surgeon on board the *Alfred*.
4. Captain of Marines on board the *Andrew Doria*.
5. Senior Captain of Marines on board the *Alfred*.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

Baltimore Janury 5th 1776

Inclosed I send you the Deposition of a certain Capt John Horn of Providence in Rhode Island who arrived here this day. By said Deposition it appears, That there is the greatest Reason to believe the Ships of War have fired upon & destroyed the Town of Norfolk in Virginia. I thought it a matter of so much Importance that the Congress should have the earliest Advice of this important Transaction, that I have dispatched the Bearer Express therewith. — Mr [William] Wall of Providence a Gentleman of Character Owner of Captn Horn, who is now here, assures me I may depend on the truth of his Deposition. I am with the greatest Respect Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr

P.S. This moment a Young man is arrived from Annapolis, who informs me there was a Boat arrivd there from Hampton who brings the same Advice of the Ships being left firing against the Town of Norfolk. —

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XVIII, 21, NA. Purviance was chairman of the Baltimore Committee.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN HORN, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Snow Bird*¹

Baltimore Town Sst

This day came before Me the Subscriber One of the Lord Proprietor's Justices of the Peace for the County of Baltimore, John Horn, Master of the Sloop *Snow Bird* lately arrived from Sea, who did depose as follows. — That he the said John Horn being at Hampton in Virginia on Monday the 1st Instant, did hear a continued Firing of Great Guns the whole day; supposed to be at the Town of Norfolk That a Boat (as he was inform'd) was sent the same day from Hampton to know the Cause of said firing, which he was inform'd by Captn [James] Barron Commander of a Cruizer belonging to Hampton, brought Advice, that the Vessels of War were firing upon the Town of Norfolk. That about 4 OClock in the Afternoon of the same day, a great Flame & Smoak was perceived at Hampton, supposed to proceed from the Town of Norfolk being on fire: — That this Deponent sailed from Hampton on Monday the same Evening; during which, & the whole Night following he heard a continued firing of great Guns, & observed a great Flame towards Norfolk: — That on Tuesday, all [day] till about the middle of the

Afternoon he heard a continual firing of great Guns, and observed a great Smoak ascending from the same Quarter, And further this Deponent sayeth not.

John Horn

Sworne before Me at Baltimore January 5th 1776 —

Her^s Courtenay

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XVIII, 25, NA.

MATTHEW TILGHMAN TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir,

Annapolis 5 Jany 1776.

Several Vessels being nearly ready to sail for the foreign West Indies agreeable to the Resolutions of Congress, on the Account of this Province, our Convention sent two Gentlemen Express to Williamsburg and Hampton, to gain Intelligence of the Situation of Affairs in Virginia; they have just returned, and the inclosed Copies will inform of the Strength of Lord Dunmore and his present Situation and Circumstances. Our Convention think it imprudent to hazard the probable Seizure of their Vessels and Cargoes by the numerous Tenders & cutters employed to make Captures; but the Loss of Property to this Province from such an Incident appears to them trivial when compared to the Consequences in the Relief of a distressed Enemy. Therefore the Sailing of the Vessels is suspended, and the Convention request the Orders of Congress, if not incompatible with any destined Service, that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* said now to be ready, may convoy the Vessels through the Capes; it is apprehended they will be an Overmatch for Stewart's Sloop or any of the Tenders. Our Convention likewise submit to the Consideration of Congress whether it may not be less dangerous and more for the general Service that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* should push to Delaware then return again up this Bay. The Convention are very desirous of a speedy Answer. I am, Sir [&c.]

Mat. Tilghman

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XXII, 5, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, January 5, 1776.

Mr.[Archibald] Cary, from the committee to whom it was referred to inquire whether the salt, and other goods, lately taken on board several vessels at Hampton,² were imported agreeably to the terms of the continental association, and whether the same were the property of friends to America, or of those who have been in arms, or have taken an active part against this colony, reported that the committee had, according to order, had the same under consideration; and that it appeared to them, that capt. Wilson of the sloop *Agatha* sailed from this colony, sometime in the month of August last, for the Grenades, where he took on board 30 hhds. of rum the property of Isaac Wilson of the town of Portsmouth, two the property of the captain himself, and two the property of Cornelius Calvert, jun. who was super cargo of the said vessel, which appears to be the

property of John Shedden of Norfolk, Robert Shedden of Portsmouth, and John Syme of Smithfield; that it farther appears, that the said Robert Shedden had given orders to his agents in Glasgow to ship large quantities of goods from thence, in direct violation of the association which he had agreed to and subscribed, and had thereby discovered an earnest intention of injuring, as much as possible, the cause of America, and that it appeared, that the sum of 53*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* is now due to the mariners of the said vessel. That the sloop *Swallow*, of which George Burwell is master, cleared out in ballast from Hampton, about the 1st of September last, to the island of Tortuga, where she arrived, and took in great part of her load of salt, and then sailed for Turk's island, and took in 300 bushels more, and arrived in this colony with the same; that 2155 bushels thereof appeared to be the property of Hector M'Allister of Norfolk, and the residue to belong to the captain and his mates; that the said vessel, except about 60*l.* in her value, belonged to the said George Burwell. That the sloop *Molly*, whereof Samuel Servent is master, cleared out at Hampton with a cargo of grain, and other commodities, on the 10th of September last, and sailed about the 20th of the same month for Antigua, and that the whole of her cargo was on board when she cleared out; that she arrived at Nevis, and then sailed for Turk's island, and took on board 1232 bushels of salt; that the said sloop, together with the cargo, except 50 bushels of salt taken on board for the captain's use, belonged to William Turner, Archibald Brown, and James Woddrop, of Norfolk, and that it appeared, from the testimony of Dr. Archibald Campbell, that the said James Woddrop had been very active under Lord Dunmore since the commencement of the present disputes, and had received a commission as an officer of the militia from him, and was one of the party at the Great Bridge, and principally engaged in carrying of[f] the cannon during the action.

That the brig *Corlet*, whereof John Harris is master, sailed from Hampton, some time in the month of June last, for Scotland, and from thence, in September, for this colony, in ballast; that she has on board three pieces of Irish linen, two pieces of diaper, and six macaroni waistcoats, which were for his own use; one piece of osnaburghs, two pieces of Irish linen, three parcels of pins, a parcel of needles, and one piece of green plains, sent by one Maclean of Scotland to his wife at Norfolk; and two pieces of Irish linen, one dozen and ten pair men's thread stockings, the property of Andrew Sprowle of Norfolk; and that they had come to several resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, as follows:

Resolved, That the rum in the sloop *Agatha* was not imported contrary to the continental association, but that 11 hhds. thereof, together with the said sloop, being the property of Messrs. Robert and John Shedden and John Syme, from the inimical conduct of the said Robert, are become justly forfeited to this colony, and ought to be considered as lawful prize; but as the conduct of the said John Shedden and John Syme, two of the owners thereof, cannot be enquired into, they refer the farther examination to the committee of Safety.

Resolved, That the remainder of the said cargo be delivered to the several proprietors thereof.

Resolved, That the said vessel, and 11 hhds of rum, be sold at public auction; and that the sum of 53*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* due to the mariners of the said vessel, for their wages, be paid to them, and the residue be disposed of as the Convention shall direct.

Resolved, That the salt in the sloop *Swallow* doth not appear to have been imported contrary to the terms of the continental association; but that the conduct of Hector M^cAllister, owner of the said vessel and cargo, ought to be inquired into by the Committee of Safety.

Resolved, That the goods imported in the brig *Corlet* be forfeited to this Colony, and sold at public auction.

Ordered, That the said report do lie upon the table.

Ordered, That the cargo of the sloop *Agatha* aforesaid, except 11 hhds. of rum, belonging to Robert and John Shedden, and John Syme, be delivered to the several proprietors thereof.

Mr. [Richard] Parker laid before the Convention the proceedings of the committee of the county of Isle of Wight relative to the conduct of John Goodrich, which were read, and ordered to be referred to the committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the said John Goodrich concerning the importation of gunpowder, and other articles for the use of this colony.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 85–87.

2. See Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, December 22, 1775.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1776

Williamsburg, January 5.

Yesterday afternoon an express arrived from York, with intelligence that two topmast vessels, and one of a smaller size, had hove in sight, which were suspected to be two men of war and a tender, coming up to cannonade that town; upon which capt. [George] Gibson, with his West Augusta boys, were immediately ordered to reinforce the troops stationed there, and prevent any of Dunmore's hell-hounds from landing to set fire to the houses. Many gentlemen volunteers likewise went from this city, to assist their brethern at York; and our worthy delegates, then sitting in Convention, formed themselves under that old intrepid warrior, col. Andrew Lewis, for the protection of the city. Capt. Gibson had marched but a little distance from town, when he was met by col. [Patrick] Henry, from York, with the agreeable intelligence that the two large vessels were, one a provision vessel from Corke, deep laden with beef, butter, potatoes, &c., the other from the Grenades, loaded with rum, sugar, and several other necessaries,¹ and the small vessel the brave capt. Barron carrying them up the river, out of the reach of the men of war.

1. Brig *Fanny*, John Cunningham, master, from Cork for Boston with provisions for the British army, and the brig *Industry*, James Sampson, master, from Grenada for Philadelphia, with a cargo of rum and sugar.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. ELLIOT [THOMAS ELLIOTT], TO COL. PATRICK HENRY, DATED HAMPTON, JANUARY 5, 1776."¹

Enclosed you have the copy of a letter from Col. [William] Woodford to me, dated 3 o'clock yesterday, since which a snow and two small vessels have gone up to Norfolk. She appeared to have a great many men on board, but was not a vessel of war. There are three others (one a brig) in the bay, this morning coming up, which Capt. [James] Barron has just gone to look after. Some little time after my express left Norfolk, with the enclosed,² a very heavy firing began, and continued chief part of the night; and a considerable fire was discovered there about dark, which continued burning many hours.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, January 17, 1776.

2. Woodford's letter of January 4, 1776.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1776

Newbern, (N. Carolina) Jan. 5.

Last night arrived here a vessel from Norfolk with 60 men, women, and children, part of the Scotch settlers which Lord Dunmore's tenders took off the capes of Virginia, bound to Cape Fear, and which were to have been forced into his black and white regiments; but the defeat at the Great Bridge has happily released these unhappy people, who are going to Cross Creek to settle among their friends there.¹

1. See Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette*, December 30, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Wilmington] At a Meeting on Friday, Jan. 5. 1776

The Trade of this Port depending so much upon good Pilots, and the Ships of war in the Harbour having already one or more of the Branch Pilots in their Custody, and the Capt'n of the *Scorpion* exacted from Thomas Bridges (another of the sd Pilots,) his Parole of Honor to return on board the Said Ship, with an intention as it is conjectured, not only to deprive the good People of this Colony of all Benefit of Trade, but to pilot our Enemies up the River when it shall be thought expedient to destroy the property of the Inhabitants; It is the Opinion of this Committee, that all the pilots of this River, be immediately secured, and that Col. [James] Moore be requested to take them into his Custody, And it is Resolved, that as soon as the said Pilots shall be safely secured, that Notice be given to the Capt'n of the *Scorpion*, that the said Thomas Bridges is detained by Order of this Committee.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774-1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety.

[Charleston] Friday, Jan. 5th, 1776.

Read the following letters:

From the Committee at George-Town, 3rd Jan., 1776.

From the Committee at St. James, Santee, 30th Dec., 1775.

From the Committee at Beaufort, 1st Jan., 1776.

From the same Committee, 2nd Jan., 1776.

Col. [Stephen] Bull, at Beaufort, 3rd Jan., 1776.

Mr. John Coram, 4th Jan., 1776.

The Council issued orders on the treasury for the payment of the following sums:

To Capt. Robert Cochran, for his voyage to the northern colonies,	£ 350 0 0
Capt. Geo. Gab. Powell, his account of sundries for the brigantine <i>Comet</i> , the account for which vessel is to be kept distinct,	364 2 6

A permit was applied for, and granted for the Spanish snow *San Miguel*, to pass Fort Johnson, in order to proceed upon her voyage.

The following bill was drawn, and delivered to Capt. Cochran:

Gentlemen – Pay this bill to Capt. Robt. Cochran, or his order, as he may have occasion to draw upon us, for the service, and on account of this colony, as advised in our letter of the 31st December, 1775, any sum or sums of money, not exceeding in the whole ten thousand dollars of continental currency.

In the Council of Safety, 5th Jan., 1776.

By order.

Henry Laurens, President

To Geo. Clymer and Michl. Hillegas, esq., Continental Treasurers at Philadelphia.

The following letters were also written to the delegates from the colony at Philadelphia, and to Capt. Joseph Vesey:

Charles-Town, Jan. 5th, 1776.

Gentlemen – The Council of Safety have thought it expedient to send Capt. Cochran, to procure seamen in the New-England Colonies for the service and defence of this. He will shew you his instructions; and we request that you will give him every assistance in your power, the better to enable him to complete his business. We refer you to him, for information, in any matters respecting this colony, which you may want to know, and shall be glad to hear from you, by return of the pilot boat in which he goes, and to receive any intelligence worth communicating. Be pleased to direct your letters to the President of this board.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Delegates from South-Carolina.

In the Council of Safety.

Jan. 5th, 1776.

Sir – You are to proceed in the pilot boat *Hawke*, in which Capt. Robert Cochran is to go as a passenger, to the Capes of Delaware, and land Capt. Cochran there, or at any port in the Jerseys, which you most

readily and safely make, and as Capt. Cochran shall direct. You will also wait until you are discharged by Capt. Cochran, or by the delegates from this colony at Philadelphia, and then return with the utmost dispatch into one of the inlets to the southward of Charles-Town bar, and give us the earliest intelligence of your arrival.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Jos. Vesey.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 149-51.

6 Jan.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Beverly 6 Jan'y 1776

After Receiving yours p Yesterday together with the Resolve of Congress inclosed I find by Examining there appears to me to be a Contradiction in this paragraff which I now inclose a Coppy which please to inform me

[Enclosure]

Resolved that all Transport Vessels having on board any Troops Arms Ammunition Cloathing provisions or Military or Naval Stores of what kind soever, and all Vessels to whomsoever belonging that shall be employed in Carrying provisions or Other Necesaries, to the British Army or Armies or Navy – that Now are or Shall hereafter be within any of the United Colonies shall be Liable to ² forfeiture and Confiscation, unless the said Vessells so Employ'd belong to an inhabitant or inhabitants of these United Colonies – in which case the said Vessel or Vessels together with her or their Cargoes, shall be Liable to Confiscation I am Sir [&c.]

William Bartlett

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The copyist at headquarters, who supplied the resolution to Bartlett, had omitted at this point the following: "seizure, but that the said cargoes only be liable to." See Volume 2, 1132.

BILL FOR CORDAGE DELIVERED CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY ¹

Salem January 6th 1776

dd Capt John Manly 1 c- 1 qr – 9 lb Cordg @ 66/[9]d also 6 Skains of Marline @ 10d on acct of the younited Colonies of Amaraica

Joseph Vincent

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 7877, BHS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge January 6. 1776

I am told that Capt [James] Wallace's ships have been supplied for some time with provisions by the Town of New port, on certain conditions stipulated between him & the Committee – When this Truce first Obtained, perhaps It was right, then there might have been hopes of an accomodation taking place; But now when every prospect of it seems to be cut of[f] by his Majesty's late Speech;

When the Throne from which we had Supplicated redress breathes forth vengeance & indignation & a firm determination to remain unalterable in its purposes, & to prosecute the System & plan of ruin formed by the Ministry against us, should not an end be put to it, and every possible method be fallen upon, to prevent their getting necessities of any kind? We need not expect to conquer our Enemies by good Offices, & I know not what pernicious consequences may result from a precedent of this sort; other places circumstanced as New port is, may follow the example, and by that means, their whole Fleet & Army will be furnished, with what, It highly concerns us to keep from them.

1. Washington Papers, L.C.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, January 6, 1776

The Committee appointed to consider what Sum of Money should be put into the Hands of the Committee for fixing out Vessels on Account of this Colony, for importing Powder and other Warlike Stores, reported.

Read and accepted.

Resolved, That the Receiver General of this Colony be, and hereby is directed to pay said Committee the Sum of *Eight Thousand Pounds*, they to be accountable to the General Court for the same.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, R.N.¹

Whereas his Excellency Major General [William] Howe has applied to me to appoint a Ship of his Majs Squadron to receive on Board Major General [Henry] Clinton and other Officers of the Army to proceed on a particular Service; and having his Majesty's Ship under your Command for that purpose:

You are hereby required and directed to receive Major General Clinton, his Retinue and Servants and such Officers as the General may desire, and you are to cause Cots to be made for them and Births built with Old Canvas and Deals, and to accommodate them in the best manner you can without prejudice to the Kings Service.

Given under my hand on board his Maj's Ship *Preston* at Boston 6 Janry 1776

Sam^l Graves

To Capt. Graeme of his Maj's Ship *Mercury*

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 115, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, January] 6 [1776]

Captain Graeme of the *Mercury* had Orders to fit for Sea, to receive Major General Clinton his retinue and Servants and such Officers as he should desire, and to cause Cots to be made for them, and Births built with old Canvas and Deals, and to accomodate them in the best manner he could without prejudice

to the King's Service, and Captain Graeme by a subsequent Order of the 10th was directed to receive on board such Ordnance Stores as Lieutt Coll [Samuel] Cleaveland of Artillery should desire to be sent from the *Kitty* Transport.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 27, BM.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

Providence, January 6.

Monday Night [January 1] last a Party from Head-Quarters, on Rhode-Island, set Fire to the House and Barracks on Goat-Island; a Number of Men from the King's Ships landed, and saved one of the Buildings; the others, with a Quantity of Furniture &c. were destroyed.

Tuesday last a Sloop with Passengers, principally Women, in coming up the River from Newport, was stopped by a Barge from one of the King's Ships, although a Pass had been previously obtained from Capt. Wallace. The Vessel was detained two days, robbed of what Provision was on board, and two Passengers were ordered on board one of the Ships, where they remain.

AGREEMENT TO BUILD BATEAUX AND OTHER VESSELS ON THE LAKES ¹

Memorandum of an Agreement made the sixth Day of January, one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy six, By and Between the Honorable Philip Schuyler Esqr Major General in and Commanding the Forces of the United Colonies in the Northern Department of the First part and Jacob Hilton of the City of Albany and the several persons whose names are hereunto Subscribed and seals affixed of the second part.

The said parties of the second part each for himself doth hereby promise and agree that they respectively will immediately repair to Fort George, Ticonderoga and such other places in the province of New York or Quebec as General Schuyler shall direct and there Employ themselves in Building and Constructing such and so many Batteaus other Vessels or Buildings, as by the said General Schuyler or such person or persons as shall be by him appointed to superintend the said business shall be directed or required – That they will during the time they shall be so employed Continue each day at their said Work and Employment between the Times following to witt, To begin their Work at sunrise and Continue at it till sunset excepting one Hour at Breakfast and one and an half Hour at Dinner – That each of them shall and will find and provide Tools and Implements for the Carrying on the said work – and that if any of the said parties of the second part shall Leave the said work and go from the post Where he shall be employed without the Leave of the Commanding officer of such post first obtained the party so going shall forfeit All the wages which shall then be due to him –

In Consideration whereof General Schuyler promises & agrees that the said parties of the Second part shall have and receive The Wages following Vizt The said Jacob Hilton at and after the rate of Ten Shillings and each and every other of the said parties of the second part after the rate of Eight Shillings New

York Currency for each Day they shall be in actual Employment in and about Constructing the said Vessels or other Buildings and That over and above those sums they shall several[ly] receive $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb pork or Beef and one and an half pound of Flour per Day four pints of peas per week one pint of molasses per week, half a pint of rum per Day That the said Wages shall Commence on the Day they Leave Albany – That after Completing the said work, they shall respectively be Allowed Two days for returning if at Fort George, Four days if at Tionderoga and for any Farther distance from Albany at the rate of twenty Miles per day, And it is Further agreed between the said parties to these presents, that if it shall happen that any of the parties of the second part should be taken sick during the time which they shall be employed as above, they shall not be entitled to Wages for the Time they Abstain from Working by reason of sickness unless the Commanding officer of the post where they shall be stationed shall on application to him made refuse to discharge the persons taken sick and then they shall be Entitled to Wages from the Time of such refusal

Sealed and deliver'd by the parties of the Second part

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 195, 50–50a. Enclosed in Schuyler to Massachusetts General Court, June 29, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO.A.M. Jany. 6th, 1776.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to dispatch three vessels for ammunition, despatch two separate orders or invoices of the said medicines to different ports, to wit: one to such port or place in the foreign West Indies, as they shall think best; and another to Europe to obtain the said medicines, and to prevent a disappointment in obtaining them. And

Ordered, That Doctor John Jones and Dr. Treat be requested to speak to proper persons to make or procure the instruments and utensils mentioned in their said estimate; that they direct them to be good of their kind and quality; and that none be purchased or paid for but such as those gentlemen approve of.

3 ho. P.M., January 6th, 1776.

Capt. Kennedy, attending at the door, was admitted; he informed the Committee that the ships of war in the harbour had despatched three boats up the East river, or Sound, with both sails and oars.

Thereupon a letter was wrote to Col. Joseph Drake informing him thereof, and that the Committee are anxious for the safety of the powder for Suffolk County, sent to his care, and requesting him to take means for its preservation, and to forward it with a boat to the chairman of the committee at Huntington.

Ordered, That the said letter be sent to Col. Jos. Drake Sa[mpson]. Dyckman, as a messenger, and it was delivered to the said Sampson Dychman accordingly.

Captain John Hodge, who arrived last night from Lisbon by request, attended this Committee. Notes of his information were taken and read to him and filed.²

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 239, 240.

2. See following entry.

INFORMATION GIVEN BY CAPTAIN JOHN HODGE TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE
OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety, New York, January 6th 1776

Capt John Hodge of New York arrived in the [city] last Night from Lisbon, & left that place Seven weeks ago to morrow –

He says that on the 8th of October last about S.W. from Cape Clear about 125 Leagues, he met two East India Men & a Cat or North Country Collier, very full of Troops, the first Division of Seven Sail, with five full Regiments bound from Cork to Boston, which first Division had then been nine days from Cork –

That in Bourdeaux he afterwards met with sundry Masters of Vessels who sailed from Cork with the last Division of the said Seven Sail – That the three Transports he met had not a Convoy and he did not discover that they had any Guns – That the said Masters of Vessels at Bourdeaux informed him that officers were recruiting in Ireland, and had raised Six Regiments all Roman Catholicks – That the protestants would not enlist – That the said Masters informed him that after the said first Division of Transports had sailed from Cork, a Vessel had been dispatched after them to order them to go to Hallifax to winter – That he was informed by Calder of this port and Capt Cassels of Philadia and by Capt Amory, that two Thousand Fisherman were gone from Newfoundland to Boston to cut down the woods before the Army, as was pretended – That in Lisbon he understood that every English Vessel would be Seized, as soon as the Consent of the King of Portugal could be obtained, who was then absent about Sixty Miles up the River Otagus – That Capt Sandwich (Son of Lord Sandwich) arrived at Lisbon in an Armed Ship rigged Yatch on the day before this Examinant left Lisbon – That his Merchant waited on Mr Sandwich who informed him that if he (Sandwich) had met any of the American Rebels at Sea he would have seized them – That to avoid a Seizure he came out of Lisbon the next Morning in Ballast, together with Capt Alexr Guy of Philadia in a topsail Schooner also with Ballast only – That no powder or Arms can be obtained in the ports of France or portugal – And that they cannot be obtained from the Ports in the Mediterranean as he was informed, on account of the English Ships of War & Cruizers –

That he did not hear of any French Troops being in the west Indies, or about to go there, until he arrived in New York –

That five Sail of Fishermen were taken in & about the western Islands; that three of them at least were Whalers – That the said five Whalers or fishing Vessels were taken by Commodore Banks in a 74 Gun Ship, and with two Frigates in Company – That when the Captain of the Man of War or Yatch at Lisbon examined Guy to whom his Vessel belonged, he concealed his Register, and said She belonged to Par & Bulkley, And he this Examinant said his Vessel was his own property –

That by a Packet Boat from England, which arrived at Lisbon the day before he sailed from thence, he obtained his Majesty's Speech to Parliament, & Newspapers of the 28th of Octr –

That there has been great Crops all over Europe – That Lisbon is the best market – Wheat & flour so low in France that it will not bring the first Cost –

That Capt Cassels had a Letter which he received at Newfoundland from a Gentleman there, informing him that he would be seized if he did not depart; upon which he fled from thence in Ballast – That he (Hodge) left Capt Jones in Lisbon –

That by Masters of Vessels both in France & Lisbon he was informed that 2500 Men were intended for the American Service, but whether beside the Troops now in America, or not, he did not understand – And that Transports were arrived at Giberaltar to take the British Troops from Thence –

A true Copy of Notes by me taken of the Information given by Captain John Hodge to the Committee of Safety. –

John McKesson Secry.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO LORD SANDWICH ¹

(Copy)

Phoenix at New York 6 January 1776.

My Lord By not having had any sort of small Vessel under my Command, it has wholly been out of my power to forward Intelligence to Vice Admiral Graves, the present event of Lieutenant [Hugh] Robinson's going to England is So favorable to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed Pieces of Intelligence which I am led to believe are mostly authentick, that I think it might be deemed negligent was I to omit it; ² at the same time having the honor of laying before your Lordship the particular situation of His Majesty's Ships at this Port.

The *Phoenix* and *Asia* are only here, it was intended by Admiral Graves that the *Viper* Sloop should also have been upon this Station but by some misfortune she is not yet arrived notwithstanding she sailed seven Weeks since from Boston.³ From the severity of the Winter which has already caused great quantities of floating Ice; We are reduced to the necessity of hawling the Ships close to the Wharfs, to which we have fasts that are watched by the Inhabitants of the Town, in consequence of my having represen[t]ed to the Mayor this necessity, least some ill disposed people might cut them, which act I should certainly retaliate upon the Town the Rebel party in the Town we are informed threaten to erect Batteries upon some heights, at the distance of about Seven hundred Yards, by which they would certainly annoy the Ships very much, but I do not imagine they will oblige us to move, until we have in a great measure destroyed the Town; I have great reason to believe that the Citizens in general are very well affected, and am in hopes we shall remain quiet; unless the Connecticut and New Jersey People put their threats into execution, which is to invade this City with a body of three or four thousand Troops; should this take place, I am apprehensive they would bring on the destruction of the Town.

I beg leave to mention to your Lordship the impossibility of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, stopping in any measure the supplies passing to the Rebel army; the want of small Vessels puts this intirely out of my power, as the Stores are landed in the North River and carted to a distance from the Ships, and then reshipped to go up the Sound, from the very great quantities of ice it is impossible to risque rowing Boats as they would inevitably be lost among it or drove on shore, in the latter case the people would be made Prisoners.

By two Seamen that has made their escape from the Rebel Row Galleys about eight Days ago at Philadelphia; I find there are Six Sail of Privateers in that River, one of Thirty Six Guns upon Two Decks, and only Three hundred and Fifty Tons, One of Twenty four, One of Twenty one of Sixteen and one of Ten Guns, the other a small one also thirteen Row Galleys, each with Fifty Men; there is in the City a great number of English Seamen who are so guarded as to make it impossible for them to escape, and are from necessity reduced to enter into the Service of the Rebels the People of Philadelphia in order to interrupt the Navigation of the Delawar, have sunk about nine miles from the City Seventeen Caissons armed with very large Iron Spikes, these are sunk in such a manner as to make a serpentine Channel and very narrow; they themselves have already experienced the Effects, by the loss of three or four Vessels some of which were of considerable Value

At New Haven in Connecticut there is two Brig Privateers of Twelve or Fourteen Guns, which are intended to make an attempt to seize the Powder in a Magazine at Needhams Fort upon the Island of Barbadoes, they have been informed it is weakly guarded

By a Letter of authority from the Island of Hispaniola dated the 23d of November The Port of Ocayes upon the said Island was opened as a free port by Proclamation for Six Months; for the importation of North American Produce, the same Letter mentions also their expectation of the arrival of Seven Thousand five hundred French Troops at Cape Francois; and the same number at Martinique; and that there is a great importation of Ordnance Stores daily coming into the Ports upon that Island.

The Continental Congress have ordered thirteen Sail of Frigates to be immediately built two of them are allotted to this Port; and I find are to be Built above the Fort erected about Fifty Miles up Hudsons River

It is certain that the Rebels get at present supplied with Gun powder from the French. A few days since I am well informed two French Men passed through this City in their way to the Continental Congress with passes from Mr Washington the Rebel General at Cambridge,⁴ these Men had landed a Cargo of Gun powder to the Eastward, and are supposed to be gone in order to settle for the furnishing of further supplies.

It is reported and believed that Mr [Richard] Mon[t]gomery the Commanding Officer of the Rebel Army in Canada, has received a severe Check. But as yet it is impossible to get at the particulars.

My Lord the Papers marked 1. 2. 4 are papers transmitted to Governor Tryon by some body in the Continental Congress.⁵ I have the honor to be with great respect Your Lordships [&c.]

Hyde Parker

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 6lb.

2. See Intelligence from Philadelphia, January 4, 1776.

3. The *Viper* was blown off the coast and went to Antigua.

4. Pliarne and Penet.

5. Supplied by James Duane's valet, James Brattle.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, January 6, 1776

Information being given to Congress, that a quantity of powder was arrived at Great-Egg Harbour; on board the sloop *Sally*, of which 29 bl. a part was addressed to Congress by Mr. [Jonathan] Parsons, a part consigned to Mr. [Pelatiah] Webster and others in Philadelphia, and a part to another gentleman in said city.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to get the powder addressed to Congress, brought to Philadelphia, and to purchase, for the use of the United Colonies, the other quantities of powder.

Resolved, That one ton of the powder arrived, be delivered to the Committee for fitting out armed vessels, for the use of said vessels.

The Committee, to whom it was referred to consider how the shares of prizes, allotted to the captors, ought to be divided between the officers and men,² brought in their report, which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the Commander in chief have one twentieth part of the said allotted prize-money, taken by any ship or ships, armed vessel or vessels, under his orders and command.

That the captain of any single ship or armed vessel, have two twentieth parts for his share, but, if more ships or armed vessels be in company when a prize is taken, then the said two twentieth parts to be divided amongst all said captains.

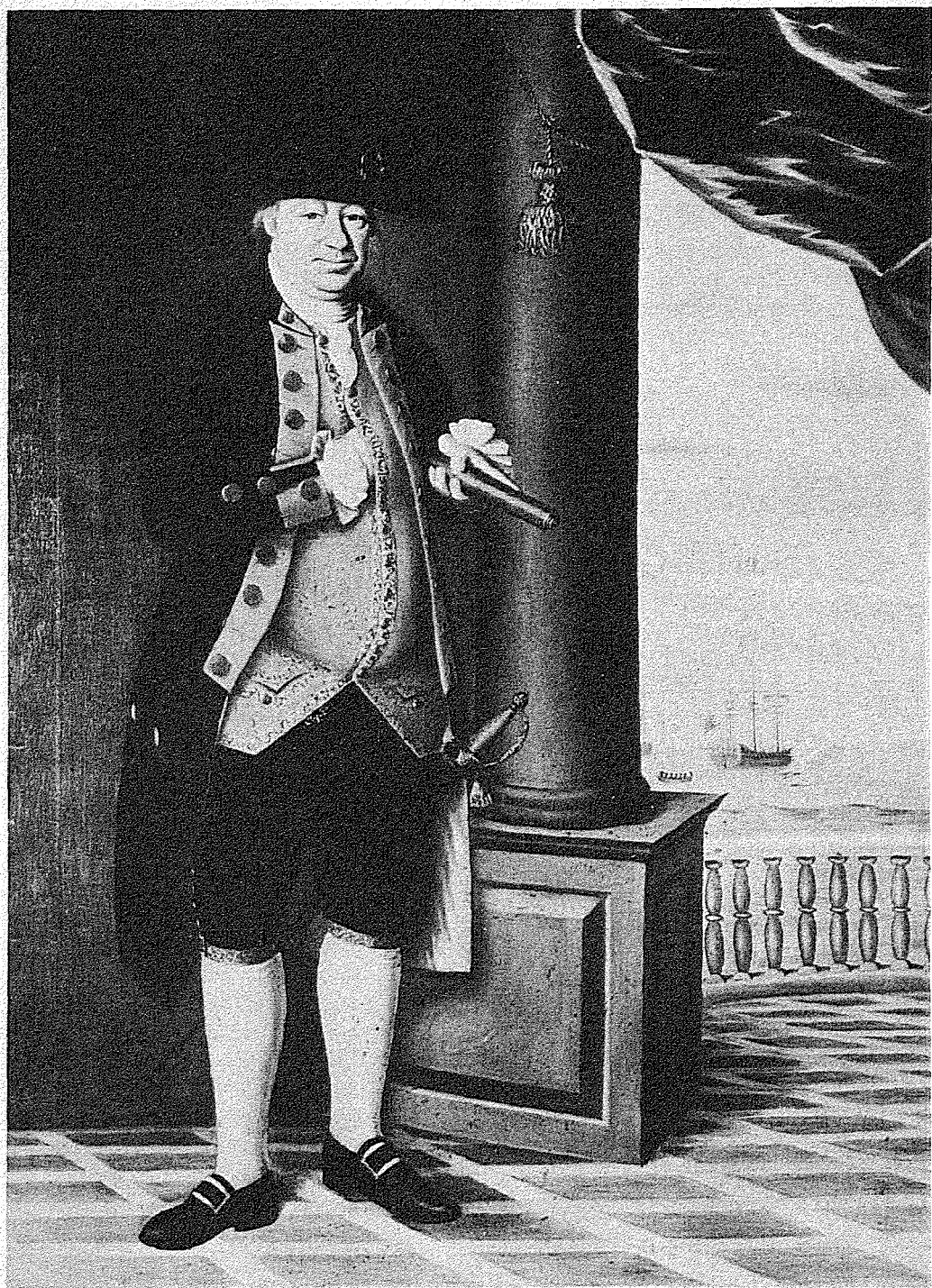
That the captains of marines, lieutenants of the ships or armed vessels, and masters thereof, share together, and have three twentieth parts divided among them equally, of all prizes taken when they are in company.

That the lieutenants of marines, surgeons, chaplains, pursers, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, the masters' mates, and the secretary of the fleet, share together, and have two twentieth parts and one half of one twentieth part divided amongst them, equally of all prizes taken when they are in company.

That the following petty warrant and petty officers, viz. (allowing for each ship, six midshipmen; for each brigantine, four midshipmen, and each sloop, two midshipmen, one captain's clerk, one surgeon's mate, one steward, one sailmaker, one cooper, one armourer, two boatswain's mates, two gunner's mates, two carpenter's mates, one cook, one cockswain, two serjeants of marines for each ship, and one surgeon for each brig and sloop) have three twentieth parts divided among them equally, and when a prize is taken by any ship or vessel on board of which the Commander in chief is, or in company, then the Commander in chief's cook or cockswain to be added to this allotment, and have their equal shares with these last mentioned.

That the remaining eight twentieths, and one half of a twentieth, be divided among the rest of the ship or ship's companies, as it may happen, share and share alike.

That no officer or man have any share but such as are actually on board their several vessels, when any prize or prizes are taken, excepting only such as may have



Captain Abraham Whipple.

been ordered on board any other prizes before taken, or sent away by his or their commanding officers.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 35–37.
2. This was the Naval Committee, which had been given the assignment on December 22, 1775. Contemporary copies of the report are in the Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP, and in the Whipple Papers, Malcolm C. Drake Collection, Middleboro, Mass.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday 6 Jany Minutes of Yesterday read & Letter informing of a considerable Quantity of Powder just arrived at Egg Harbor, some of it consigned to the Congress by Jonath Persons, some consigned to Pelatiah Webster & some to another Person in Philada Congress agreed to purchase the whole & the Secret Comee are desired to have it brought here under a Guard commanded by a Lieut. a Letter of Thanks directed to be sent to Mr Parsons for his Attention to the Public Welfare . . . The Memorial from the Town of Newport was agitated for several Hours & at last referred generally to the Assembly of Rhode Island. – Mr [Christopher] Gadsden from the Naval Comee reported the Rules for Distribution of the Prize Money which was confirmd with One Alteration viz. That the Rewards for extraordinary Exertions shall not be paid out of the Continental Share of the Captures – Letters just recd from Gens Schuyler, Montgomery and Wooster pressing for an immediate Supply of hard Money & for more Troops otherwise they fear all will be lost in that Quarter – Montgomery was before Quebec on the 16th of Decr with 8 or 900 effective Men & some Canadians and had planted by Way Feint a Battery of Cannon agt the Lower Town but intended his chief Efforts by Way of Storm agt the Upper Town, Monday Morng was assigned to consider this Business & Nothing else to interfere

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE ¹

To Abraham Whipple Esquire

Captain of the ship *Columbus*

You having received a Commission from the Congress to command the aforesaid ship You are hereby directed to take charge of her and all her officers men & stores – to see that everything be conducted in the most prudent manner, and that the most careful and exact discipline peace and good order be maintained at all times onboard the said ship – And that you put yourself and the ship aforesaid under the direction of Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies and to follow observe and obey, all such directions, instructions and Commands as you may receive from him – and carefully observe and answer all such signals as he may display – for which purpose you will receive from him an account of the intention and signification of each signal – And you are to be particularly careful that you do not separte from the Fleet unless by express orders from the Commander in Chief – But if by the extremity of weather

it should so happen, You are to use your utmost endeavours to join it again immediately at such rendezvous as may be appointed for that purpose

Dated at Philadelphia Jany 6. 1776.

By Order of Congress²

Step Hopkins

Silas Deane

Chris Gadsden

Joseph Hewes

1. U.S. Navy, Mss., NYPL.

2. This was a form letter in the hand of Timothy Matlack, secretary of the Continental Naval Committee, and signed by four of the committee members. In addition to the letter to Whipple, the one to Nicholas Biddle has been located. Those to Dudley Saltonstall of the *Alfred*, John Burroughs Hopkins of the *Cabot*, and John Hazard of the *Providence* have not been located.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 6th Jany 1776 –

In your favour of the 5th of November the only one I have received from you I observe the plan you Adopted to get Arms and Amunition and your wish that the general Association had not been infringed, I have often wished the same thing, the Congress having adopted and pursued a Similar mode and on a much larger Scale; [however], altho' we have not yet reaped much advantage from it, I have altered my mind on that subject and am now perfectly reconciled to it from a Conviction that our utmost efforts in every way will barely furnish us with a Sufficient quantity of those Necessary Articles, –

Some of the zealous City politicians are alarmed at the Arival of a Lord Drummond who came to Town a few days ago, it seems he is son to the Earl of Perth, has lived several years in New York Government, is possessed of a Landed Estate in New Jersey, went to England in Novemr 1774, came out to Boston in a Man of War in August last, from thence in the same conveyance soon after, to New York; had he left the Title of Lord behind him he might have walked the Streets of this City a long time unnoticed, now the Eyes of all are upon him and consider him as a Suspicious Character, in private company I am told he says he was several months in London and frequently in company with Lord North, that the ministry are heartily tired of the controversy between Great Britain and the Colonies, but the pride of the people of England will not suffer them to relax, he thinks the matter might be easily settled; – if America would consent to give a very small sum Annually so as to save Appearances, England would repeal all the obnoxious Acts and give up more than we ask, he says Lord North was Astonished at the Union and Strength of the Colonies, declared he did not think it was possible for such things to be brought about; that he had no idea of such resistance, some people think this Lord is employed to make Overtures to the Congress, others imagine he is only to sound some of the leading Members & endeavour to find out the whole scope design and Views of the Congress; certain it is he has had private conferences with several Characters of the first distinction Among us, I dont find he has yet Closeted any of the wise men of the East, however I am not certain of it, my indisposition has kept me from Congress for two days past in which time I have seen very few members,

A report prevails this day in Town that by some late advices received to the eastward from England the Ministry are determined to send a large Army to

America early in the Spring and Land it in this Province in order to subdue it at all events considering it the most Active in the present Rebellion, this like many other reports, the talk of a day, wants confirmation, tho all Accounts Agree (except what comes from the Lord above mentioned) that Administration will make one grand effort in the Spring to subdue the Colonies, therefore it becomes Necessary for us to provide for the event, we have Fifty three Regiments raised and raising each to consist of 728 men officers included to this Strength you may add twice the number of Regiments of well regulated Militia, some of our Regiments are in Canada and more must be sent there, I will trespass no longer upon your patience then to request you to present my Complements to Mrs Johnston and family, I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Joseph Hewes

1. Samuel Johnston Papers, Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

WILLIAM SPEAR TO JOHN SPEAR, MERCHANT, ANTIGUA¹

Dear Jonny.

Baltimore 6th January 1776.

Yours of the 12th 17th & 29th by Captns Oakman Chase and Johnson I received. Pierce is not yet arrived. am glad to hear of your safe arrival after your disagreeable passage. Capt Oakman arrived here about the 20th Ult all well. I am sorry you was so much alarmed as not to suffer him to bring Salt, as that Article has been sold at 7/6 this fall. I have taken a freight for the Sloop from the Publick as no private person will be admitted to Load their Vessels for the West Indies. She is to discharge her Cargo at some foreign Island near where you are, who she will be consigned to is yet uncertain. If I could insured them that you would be there ready to receive her Cargo, you would have had the Consignment, and perhaps I may procure it for you yet. A Vanbiber goes out a factor for the publick and says if she is addressed to him that he will give up the Commission to you, he has 5 Vessels Consigned to him and would be glad to have your assistance to which I have no objection provided it does not interfere with your own business and he gives you such part of the Commission as you think worth your notice. as to your coming home I will not pretend to advise. we have no business here nor can I say when we will. I apprehend there will be a risque in coming on the Coast in the Spring after the E. [English] Fleet arrives. therefore if possible be home before that period if you intend coming this Spring. also send your property away with all Speed, as it is expected the American Fleet will keep them employed until they are Reinforced.

I wrote you the 16 Novr by Mr. N[eil]'s Schooner but hope you did not receive it, as the Import of it was to desire you to Remit Bills to London as I then thought the risque too great in bringing goods Home, but now I am of a different Sentiment, and had I any sum would order it all in goods. Such of our Countrymen as has returned with goods has made out well. it is said that R: Makem has cleared above £1500 and some others more.

Such Goods as you have out to sell on Commission be careful to observe the Orders given by the owners. I am sorry you parted with any article of your Cargo that would keep, as every hour you keep it, it must rise in value, as the Ports on

this Continent will certainly be continued Shut whilst the Contest lasts. the Smuggling out of Virginia that you mention was by the Tories at Norfolk I suppose and that is at an end. were peace to be Restored this Winter and you inclined to Stay some time there I will send you out as much produce as you can Sell, but at present every thing is so fluctuating and uncertain that I do not see how we can do any business at an English Island. therefore if you tarry any longer there you must settle your affairs at Antigua and go to whatever foreign Island you think fit, and as soon as I know where you reside, I will send you produce either my own or the publicks

Price Current:

Salt 6/.	Sugar 60/ if good.
Powder 15/. p lb but expected to fall soon	Melasses 2/ and plenty
Osenbrigs 2/ p yd	Cotton 2/6.
Rum 3/9	Coffee 1/2

all kinds of dry goods is very high such as you took a Memorandum of is all much wanted and the price very high.

Flour 12/6.-

Bread 12/ -

Corn 2/2

The news is that L. [Lord] Dunmore and all the forces he could collect is driven on board of His Ships. it is said that he has burnt Norfolk but not confirmed. our whole Continent is Arming both by Sea and Land. Next Summer the whole Coast will be lined with our Armed Vessels. All the Ship Carpenters is now employed in altering old Vessels and building new ones, a great Number is already at Sea, and it is expected if we have not peace before Spring, that the Congress will make a formal Declaration of War and Commission their Ships to Seize all British Property. We have reason to think that Carlton with all Canada is Taken. it is also expected that Boston is demolished by this time. the Provincials carries all before them. The only loss yet sustained worth mentioning is one Capt. Martindall in one of our privateers with 80 Men taken by a Man of War. him and his Crew sent to England.² - Shall write you the morrow by Captain Vanbebor. your friends and acquaintances here are all well. I am your Affect. father

P Capt Burk

W^m Spear.

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Jam^s Young.

[Second endorsement] Copies of intercepted Letters Containing Intelligence of the proceedings and Designs of the North American Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Washington's armed brig *Washington*, Captain Sion Martindale.

WILLIAM SPEAR TO JOHN SPEAR¹

Dear Johny.

Baltimore 6th Janry 1776.

By the same Conveyance I wrote you fully and inclosed a Late paper since that the Confirmation of Norfolk being burned is come to hand and we are all assured that our Trade will meet no more interruption from Dunmore this Winter therefore beg that you will put every Shilling you can Command in dry goods that is in such Articles as you carried your Memorandum of and send them with

all speed. Mr Makem laid his Money out in [St.] Eustatia and has sold the goods for four times the first Coast [*sic*] Your Powder will intitle me to load the Sloop out but would not advise you to be large in that Article as large quantities is expected in daily. I am your affect. Fathr

W^m Spear

P Capt Burk

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Jam^s Young

[Second endorsement] Copies of intercepted Letters Containing Intelligence of the proceedings and Designs of the North American Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

Williamsburg [January 6].

By an express from Norfolk, and letters from colonel [Robert] Howe, we learn, that all the ships and tenders which had been drawn up close to the town with springs on their cables began a heavy fire at 3 o'clock in the evening of Monday last [January 1], that after about an hour's firing, a few boats were sent ashore under cover of the cannon, and concealed by their smoak, which was blown in on the shore, and several houses were set on fire in different places along the river, that this was done so suddenly and amidst so much smoke and noise, that it was impossible to prevent it; that the wind being favourable to their design, the flames spread with great rapidity, and when the fire had run to a great extent, and our enemies imagined they had spread confusion and terror amongst our young troops, by such an incessant cannonade as they had kept up, and by the conflagration around them, they attempted to land a number of men in different parts of the town, but were repulsed with considerable loss in every attempt; all our centinels and guards kept their posts notwithstanding, and had pretty smartly chastised those who set fire in the houses; they were reinforced by lieutenant colonel [Adam] Stephens, with about two hundred marksmen, who behaved with great bravery. Six of the enemy were left dead on the shore, and great numbers were supposed to be carried off in their boats. We did not lose a man; but had six or seven wounded. Some poor women were killed in endeavouring to move out of town. It was a shocking scene to see the poor women and children, running about through the fire, and exposed to the guns from the ships, and some of them with children at their breasts. Let our countrymen view and contemplate the scene! Colonel Howe speaks highly of colonel [William] Woodford, colonel Stephens, and all the officers and men. The cannonade had lasted twenty five hours when the express came away, and the flames were raging (it being impossible to extinguish them on account of the heavy fire from the ships) and had consumed two thirds of the town. Our men, notwithstanding this, still kept their posts. The ships which fired were the *Liverpool*, *Kingfisher* and *Otter*, men of war, lord Dunmore's large ships, the *William* and *Eilbeck*, the store ships, and all the tenders. It is affirmed that one hundred cannon played on the town almost incessantly for twenty five hours, and the express says he heard firing all the way on the road. Notwithstanding this heavy firing, and the town in flames around them, our men had the resolution to maintain their posts, and the coolness to *aim* as usual. They seem animated in their glorious cause and appear to be shielded as the favourites of Heaven.

Upwards of thirty of Jack Dunmore's *hopeful gang*, consisting of soldiers, sailors, and negroes, arrived here yesterday as prisoners under a strong guard. They are taken *proper care* of.

A large snow from Cork, laden with beef, butter, and potatoes, and a fine brig from the West Indies, laden with rum and sugar, were taken last Thursday [January 4] by our good old friend captain [James] Barron. He was in a small vessel, with only six swivels and nine men. The prizes are sent to Cumberland town to unload.¹

1. The brigs *Fanny* and *Industry*; see Journal of the Virginia Convention, January 8, 1776.

SAMUEL INGLIS TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Dear Sir

Williamsburgh Jany 6th 1776

The inclosed Letter I wrote in North hampton, but not chusing to forward it from thence brought It over with me here – before this gets to you, you will have heard of the destruction of Norfolk, friday was a week Lord Dunmore had given Notice to the few Inhabitants that remained in It to remove themselves, for he intended firing It in a few Days accordingly on Monday last about four in the afternoon the horrid Scene was begun by Men from the Ships, principally Negros I understand with lighted Torches, who began at my Stores on the Town point wharf at the North extremity of the Town, from thence they proceeded to the middle, and then to the south East parts, so that the Town was fired in a manner in three different parts at once, there was a considerable value of Jahs & my own property in my Stores upwards of Twenty Tons of hemp I think for one article, by an express from Colo [William] Woodford which arrivd last Night to the Committee of Safety the fire was still raging on Thursday when about Nine Tenths of the Town was in Ashes, before the express had set off his Lordship It seems had given notice to the Inhabitants of Portsmouth to remove out of Town, as he intended to fire It next, and then York Town No pen can describe to you the horrid situation the Inhabitants of Norfolk are drove to, the Country about there was miserably poor at best, the Army lately sent there has drain'd It of any provisions or necessaries the Inhabitants had, so that now these poor Wretches who have been fired from their houses (many of them as genteel people as any in the Colony) must absolutely perish for the mere want of Covering and Victuals, the distress of this Country has now nearly ruined me, but beleive me I look on myself in a happy situation compared with that of most of my Townsmen, for with all their desasters their late Conduct has erected such prejudices against Them in the up Country, that I fear they will meet with little of that humanity which I know the Virginians are so susceptible of in most cases – I can hear nothing yet particular about Bahannon further than that Lord Dunmore first seised his Vessel, and that Capt Montague [James Montagu] afterwards wrested her from his Lordship and claims Vessel and Cargo as his, both my Clerks which I left in Norfolk are aboard of the Vessels belonging to the Governor, one of Them went voluntarily, and the other a prisoner I understand, I have applyd to the Comittee of Safety and they have given me an order to the Commander in Chief of our forces at Norfolk to permit me having an Interview with Them which I shall endeavour in a few

days, my books I have got on the Eastern Shore and most of my papers, but some of the most Valuable I am fearful are in the hands of one of my Clerks – you may imagine the situation of my affairs must give me great uneasiness, but beleive me its little compared to what I feel for my Wifes Unhappy Relations, the Unhappy part they have taken has entirely ruined Them, her Father with one of her Uncles are now prisoners on the Eastern Shore, and their Wives and Children with Them, the Men will be sent for here in a little Time to take their Tryalls, Mr A I hope will clear himself, but the other I tremble for, tho a better man never drew the breath of Life, a misconception of the present Dispute has been his Ruin, they are all at present with Mrs Parker and her Children under mine and Mr Ronalds roof[s] and with great difficulty the Committee of Northampton with Mr Ronalds and myself prevented the [illegible] people there destroying even the Women & Children by firing thè Roofs they were under – I beg you woud let Capt Long know the situation of his affairs here, I expect to be on this Shore best part of the Winter shoud you write to me direct to the Care of Mr [Robert Carter] Nicholas the Treasurer and be pleased to keep the Contents of this Letter to yourself I beg My Complements to Mrs Morris and am &c

S I

1. Correspondence of Robert Morris, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Saturday 6 Sailed hence on a Cruize the *Betsey* Tender

Variable Weather. The Rebels attempted to set fire to the Mills at the Point. fired several six pounders & dispersed them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Wilmington] At a Meeting on Saturday, Jany 6. 1776.

Mr W Campbell came into committee & presented a Letter from the Governor, requesting Mr Campbell to send down Two or Three barrels of Flour, a Tub of Butter, & some Vegetables.

Ordered, That Mr Campbell have leave to send down two Barrels of Flour, a Tub of Butter, & some Vegetables for His Excellency.

Ordered, That the Custom House officers do not clear out any Vessels from this Port hereafter, without Leave from this Committee or some superior power, & that the Officers be served with this Order.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,

[Charleston] Saturday, Jan. 6th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. [George Gabriel] Powell, 5th Jan., 1776.

Whereas, all the British ships of war that were in Rebellion Road, have this day quitted the harbour. Therefore

Resolved, That the order of this board of the 4th instant, to Capt. Powell, to proceed with the brigantine *Comet* through Wappoo Creek into Stono River, be withdrawn; and that Capt Powell do forthwith return with the said vessel into Charles-Town harbour.

Ordered, That Capt. Powell be served with a copy of the above resolution.

Ordered, That Mr. John Rutledge, Col. [Charles Cotesworth] Pinckney, Mr. Bee, Mr. Arthur Middleton, Mr. Thos. Heyward, jun., and Doct. [David] Oliphant, be a committee to inquire and report to this board, what further measures out to be pursued for the better securing and defending the port and harbour of Charles-Town.

An information was given to the board of two schooners loading with flour, etc., for the West Indies by Wm. Gichie [William Ritchie] and Wm. Wayne, pretended to be destined for Georgia, and intended to pass through Wappoo Creek.

Referred to the committee of observation.

In the Council of Safety,
Saturday Evening, Jan. 6th, 1776.

Ordered, That letters be written and sent by express this night.

To Col. [Stephen] Bull, desiring him to confer with the Committee at Beaufort, and to send a boat under the conduct of a proper person to Cockspur, in order to give the earliest intelligence of the arrival at Tybee of the *Tamar*, or any of the ships under her command, which sailed this morning from Rebellion-Road, And

To Archibald Bullock at Savannah, on the same business; and also, if practicable, to send Lord William Campbell to his proper place of residence in Charles-Town, and his Secretary [Alexander] Innes, with his Lordship.

And accordingly the following letters were written, and sent by Muckenfuss.

Charles-Town, Jan. 6th, 1776.

Sir – We received by Muckenfuss, who is bearer of this, your letter of the 3rd inst., which time will not permit us at present to reply to, except to assure you, that we are well pleased with the contents, and are sensible of your continued endeavours to promote the interest of the colony.

This morning sailed out of Rebellion-Road to sea, the *Tamar* and *Cherokee*, the *Sandwich packet*, the armed schooner, and a brig prize, laden with salt, taken in Stono river, and a pilot boat belonging to Georgia. We are told the *Tamar* is gone to North-Carolina to heave down; that the *Cherokee* is to go in at Tybee, and to lie somewhere in Savannah river. The end of our present application is, to request the Committee at Beaufort will immediately send a proper boat to wait near Cockspur, and to give us the earliest intelligence of her arrival, and particularly whether the *Tamar* also arrives there. This is a matter of the utmost importance; we desire the business may be committed to a very careful, judicious man, and that he be charged to conduct it with secrecy and dispatch. You will draw upon this board, for the expence which may attend the present service.

As the vessel or vessels above mentioned may be several days on their voyage, admitting they are really destined for Tybee, as we have been informed, we have therefore written to Archibald Bulloch esq., to give us notice of their arrival. We enclose our letter under this cover. Your messenger may, if the vessels do not appear when he reaches Cockspur, proceed to Savannah, and deliver it into Mr. Bulloch's own hand; after which he may return to Cockspur, and wait or proceed again to Beaufort, as you may order. But Mr. Bulloch should be apprized, if he intends to wait, and how long, in order to save the expence of double expresses. This is one reason for desiring a careful, sensible man to be sent as messenger, that he may confer with Mr. Bulloch, and be capable of following orders with precision.

You will recommend also to the committee to keep a look-out against an attempt by the *Cherokee* or the armed schooner to retake the indico brigantine, if she is in possession of the committee. We beg these gentlemen will excuse our delay of writing to them in answer to their late letters, of the 1st and 2nd inst. It is impossible by this opportunity.

By order of the Council of Safety
Col. Bull.

Henry Laurens, President.
Charles-Town, Jan. 6th, 1776.

Sir – We refer to a letter written to you the beginning of this month by the President, and sent by express.

This morning the *Tamar* sloop, *Cherokee* armed ship, and an armed schooner as a tender, together with the *Sandwich packet*, a brigantine prize, and a Georgia pilot-boat, sailed from Rebellion Road to sea; and this evening we are informed that the *Cherokee* is destined for Savannah river, the *Tamar* sloop for North-Carolina, in order to clean her bottom. We have desired the Committee at Beaufort to dispatch a proper boat to Cockspur, in order to gain the earliest intelligence of any one or all of those vessels; if none are arrived when the Beaufort messenger reaches Cockspur, he will proceed to Savannah, and deliver this into your own hands, and concert a plan with you for giving us the earliest intelligence, either by detaining him a few days, or by such means as you shall judge best. If the *Cherokee* alone arrives there, it will please us more than if she is escorted and guarded by the *Tamar*.

Should Lord William [Campbell] and his secretary, Capt. Innes, walk the streets of Savannah, we doubt not but that our friends there will think they go to hold counsels which cannot be intended to produce benefit to either of the colonies, and that proper means will be taken to send those itinerants, with all dispatch, to their late habitation in St. Michael's, Church street, Charles-Town, where the Governor particularly is extremely wanted, and from whence he retired without good

grounds, and very much against the inclination of the people over whom he presided, and who are exceedingly desirous of his return.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

We write to you particularly – you will best know whom to consult.

Arch'd Bulloch, esqr.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 151–54.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

January 1776

In Rebellion Road So Carolina

[Monday] 1

A M Longboat Employed watering the Pacquet
 $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 P M weigh'd and came to Sail in Company with the
Cherokee, *Sandwich Pacquet* & *Polly* Schooner at 4 Brot up
 with the best bowr in 11 fm water Veered to $\frac{1}{2}$ Cable cum-
 ming's Point SBW, the chimney, on Sullivans Island NBE $\frac{1}{2}$
 a Mile

[Tuesday] 2

A M Boats wooding & Watering
 Do with Showers P M Fired severall guns as a Signal to a Brig
 & a Snow in the offing.

[Wednesday] 3

At 8 A M Sailed the *Polly* Schooner Commanded by Lieut
 Peyton with 25 Men & 6 Carriage Guns which were got out
 of the *Lord Sandwich Pacquet*.

Little wind & foggy Employd Occasionally

[Thursday] 4

First & middle pt Light airs and hazey latter fresh gales &
 Cloudy

[Friday] 5

At 8 A M fired a Six pound Shot & one Swivel shot, at a party
 of Rebels which were taking a fishing Sloop off Sullivan's
 Island the *Cherokee* fired severall Shot as did the Rebels from
 a battery to the Noward of the Road, at Noon came in the
Polly Schooner with a Brigg from the Streights with Salt &
 Brandy which the Cut of[f] Stono ²

P M Sent the Kedge Anchor & hauser of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch to the
Elizabeth Brigg being a prize

[Saturday] 6

at 7 A M Weighd and made Sail in Company with the
Cherokee, *Sandwich Packett*, *Polly* Schooner & the *Elizabeth*
 Brigg at 9 Crossed Charles Town Bar in 17 feet water
 brought too Do Stowed the Sheet Anchor at 11 made Sail
 in Company as before

First pt Calm & Clear – Middle & latter light airs & hazey at
 1 P M Charles town Light house N W 6 or 7 Miles at 5 the
 Light House N $\frac{1}{2}$ E 8 or 9 Miles at 11 Tack'd Ship in Compy
 as before

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*, Philip Sullivan, master and John Scott, owner, from Barcelona for Charles-
 ton, with a cargo of brandy and salt.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* ¹

- January 1776 At Single anchor near Sullivans Island
- Monday 1 A M received from *Tamer* 46 pieces of Beef and W.287 of Bread
First and middle parts Lights Airs and fair Latter moderate and
Cloudy
at 2 P M weighed and came to sail in Company with His Majestys
Sloop *Tamer*, *Sandwich packett* and *Polly* Schooner at 4 do
anchored with the best bower in 9 Fathom Water Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a
Cable
- Tuesday 2 at 7 A M saw a brig in the Offing $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 saw a Snow in the
Offing she fired several Guns and made the signal for Assistance
read the articles of War and Abstract to the Ships Company.
First and middle parts moderate and Cloudy Latter part Light
Airs and hazey
at 3 P M sent our Cutter mann'd and Armed with a pilot to the
Snow at 4 Do saw an Armed Schooner belonging to the Rebels
board the Brig Do we fired two Guns and made the Signal
for our Cutter to return $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 our boat return'd Do all the
Vessells in the Offing bore away to the Southward at 8 Do sent
9 Seamen Armed on board the *Polly*.
- Wednesday 3 at 7 A M sailed hence the *Polly* in quest of the above Vessels
First part mode and Cloudy middle and Latter Light Airs and
foggy at 3 P M heard several Guns fired to the Southward
- Thursday 4 First part Mode and fair
- Friday 5 middle and latter fresh gales and hazey
A M came in here the *Georgia Packett* ² at 9 Do fired four Four
poundrs. and six three pounders Shotted at a Large petty Augre
full of Armed Men who were attempting to carry off the ffishing
boat which we had detained Do the redoubt on the No. shore
fired 8 Guns on us at 10 Do we Weighed the best Bower and
dropt farther down to the Eastward Anchored with the best
Bower in 10 ffathom Water and Veer'd to half a Cable
First and middle parts strong Gales and latter fresh breezes and
fair
P M came in here the *Polly* Schooner with the *Betty* Brig Laden
with Salt which she seized at Stono ³ Do came in here a Schooner
Mr. William Gickie mastr laden with provision for the use of Lord
William Campbell.
- Saturday 6 A M we took all the Provisions out of the Schooner Consisting of
47 barrels of ffLOUR 7 do of Beef 1 do of pork and 15 firkins of
Butter at 7 do weighed and came to sail in Company with His
Majestys Sloop *Tamer* the *Sandwich packet* *Polly* Schooner and
Betty Brig

Showing the true position & bearings of the Banks Shoals Rocks &c. as likewise the Soundings
To which have been added the several Works & Batteries raised by the Americans.
Taken by Order of the PRINCIPAL FARMERS on Rhode Island.

By CHARLES BLASKOWITZ

By CHARLES BLASKOWITZ.

Registered & Printed for W^m TADEN, Clarendon Street, at the Art & Science July 27th 1877.

SCALE of Statute Miles.

*A List of the Principal Families in
RHODE ISLAND*

<i>Mr John Collins</i>	<i>Mr Jacob</i>
<i>Mr James Brewster</i>	<i>Mr Isaac Loring</i>
<i>Mr John Brown</i>	<i>Mr Abraham Packer</i>
<i>Mr Benjamin Brown</i>	<i>Mr James Perry</i>
<i>Mr Horner</i>	<i>Mr Parsons</i>
<i>Mr Charles Blackston</i>	<i>Mr Spruce</i>
<i>Mr Church</i>	<i>Mr Lewis</i>
<i>Mr Amos Burton</i>	<i>Mr Wood</i>
<i>Mr Nicholas Cook</i>	<i>Mr Tibbott</i>
<i>Mr Walter Eaton</i>	<i>Mr Thomas Cowan</i>
<i>Mr David Larkin</i>	<i>Mr Graham Fowler</i>
<i>Mr Barker</i>	<i>Mr John Fowler</i>
<i>Mr Montgomery</i>	<i>Mr Howe</i>
<i>Mr Lynde</i>	<i>Mr Mather</i>
<i>Mr Riker</i>	<i>Mr Tamm</i>
<i>Mr Runkle</i>	<i>Mr Tracy & Mr Thayer</i>

[illegible]

To the Right Honourable
Hugh Earl Darnley

Baron Perry, Lucy, Bonnings, Fitz-Paine, Ryan & Latimer

in GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA

* Show Pl. N. with Ins. Conclusions & Summary
most carefully & thoroughly

En: invet - Fleg.

Grand Prix

11-2-1945

Point: 100%

At Lake and the

First part Light breezes and fair middle and Latter Light airs and Cloudy inclinable to calms ½ past 4 P M Tacked at 6 in 1 Reef Topsails Charles town Light House N N E 3 Leagues at Midnight Tack'd as P Signal in Company as before

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.
2. The *George Town* Packet, a prize of the *Tamar's* tender *Polly*.
3. The *Elizabeth* brig, another prize of the *Polly*.

7 Jan. (Sunday)

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON, PLYMOUTH ¹

To Wm Watson

[Cambridge] Janua 7 1776

orderd him to examine into the Condition of Captn Coits Schooner ² – if fit to be Continued in the Service to Look out for Some person qualified to take Comand of her appoint officers & raise men for that purpose

if unfit. & that a Clever Set of Officers & Men Can be got allso – Schooner remarkable for Sailing, to remove the guns amunition & [c]a from on board the one into the other & [ca.]

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Washington's armed schooner *Harrison*.

"A DISCRIPTION OF THE NARRA GANSETT BAY IN THE COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND" ¹

Boundaries	It Contains all those Bays, Islands and Harbours, Comprehended between Seconett Point and the Nara Gansett Store Extending Northward to the Entries of the Providence, Swanzey & Taunten Rivers –
Navagation	A 20 Gun Ship or larger may pass safely between every Island in the Bay and between the Islands & the Main Land in general –
Harbours	There are several fine Harbours on the main, but none more Commodious than Gut Harbour near Howlands Ferry. this Harbour Admits 20 Feet Water low tide, its Extreme not more than 40 or 50 Yards Across and is Intirely secured from the Annoyance of any Ships that passes the Bay, and there is no Harbours on the Main where the Enemy would Dare to Risque their Shipping for any time. There are no Harbours in the Islands of any Consequence. (New Port Excepted) this is very Commodious but may be secured by Fortifying Town Point, Goat Island & the point Opposite. the Town of Newport is Commanded by a large Hill lying to the Eastward of it. Dudleys' House is the place where the Colony Troops are mostly Stationed but is Commanded by Tomina Hill, the Colony Committee laid out a large Four Sided Fortification with proper Bastions, but Genl [Charles] Lee thought proper only to order the Quarters of the Soldiers secured for the present against small Arms, as this is by no means a place for Erecting any works

of Consequence Either for Defending the Islands or Annoying the ships in the Harbour; they have Two 18 & Two 9 Pounders at this place, mounted on Travelling Carriages; At Howlands Ferry they have a bad Constructed half finished Battery of 6 Guns on Each side the Ferry the Channel here is narrow and very Easily commanded, w[ere] there proper works Erected and well defended. Bristol Ferry may also be Commanded by proper works but with more Difficulty –

Islands Rhode, Conanicut & Prudence are the Principal Islands in this Bay, these Islands are very rich and will produce more Fruit and Afford more Forridge than any lands of the same Extent perhaps in America, the Chief Produce of this Country is, Corn, Oats Barley and large Crops of Grass. No Country Raises more Cattle & Sheep, nor of a larger Breed –

To Accompany the Map of the 7th January 1776, Presented to His Excellency George Washington Esqr by Lt Collo [Rufus] Putnam

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL CORNELIUS D. WYNKOOP, ESOPUS¹

Sir

Albany January 7th 1776

The Expençe of Carrying on the Women & Children by Land will be too heavy, you will therefore detain them with you more especially as it is not certain whether their Husbands are in Connecticut or pennsylvania, Mrs Bliss the Widow of the Serjeant that was killed on board the *Gaspee* you will forward to her parents, and such others may go as chuse to hire their own Sleds.

All the men of the St John's Garrison to go, or Stay, as the Officers commanding the different Corps they belong to shall direct.

If any Officer of the other Troops taken at Montreal chooses to remain with the Men he has my leave,

General Montgomery is well before Quebec I have his letter of the 18th ult: he was In hopes Soon to be In possession, I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 384, NA.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN¹

[Extract]

Philada., Jany. 7, 1776

I am glad that your Attention is turnd so much to the Importation of Powder and that the Manufacture of Saltpetre is in so flourishing a Way. I cannot think you are restrained by the Resolve of Congress from exporting Fish to Spain. I will make myself more certain by recurring to our Records tomorrow when the Secretary returns; he being at this time (6 o'clock P.M.) at his House three Miles from Town. And I will inform you by a Postscript to this Letter or by another Letter by the Post. I have the Pleasure to acquaint you that a Vessel with five

Tons of Powder *certainly* arrivd at Egg harbour the Night before last, besides two Tons in this River. A Part of it is consignd to the [Continental] Congress – The Rest is the Property partly of Mr [Thomas] Boylston and partly of a Gentleman in this City. Congress has ordered the whole to be purchased for publick Use. We are also informd that Six Tons more arrivd a few days ago in New York which I believe to be true. But better still, A Vessel is *certainly* arrivd in this River with between fifty and sixty Tons of Salt petre. This I suppose will give you more Satisfaction for the present than telling you Congress News as you request.

. . . While I am writing an Express arrives from Baltimore in Maryland, with the Deposition of Capt. [John] Horn of the *Snow Bird* belonging to Providence.

The Deponent says, that on Monday the 1st Instant he being at Hampton in Virginia heard a constant firing of Cannon; that he was informd a Messenger had been sent to inquire where the firing was, who reported that the Ships of War were cannonading the Town of Norfolk; that about the Middle of the Afternoon they saw the Smoke ascending from Norfolk, as they supposd; that he saild from Hampton the Evening of the same day and the firing continued till the next day. This will prevail more than a long Train of Reasoning to accomplish a Confederation, and other Matters which I know your heart as well as mine is much set upon.

I forgot to tell you that a Vessel is arrivd in Maryland having as part of her Cargo four thousand yards of Sail Cloth – an article which I hope will be much in Demand in America. Adieu my Friend.

S. A.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 197–200.

TIMOTHY MATLACK TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS.¹

[Philadelphia, January 7, 1776]²

The *Asia* and *Phenix* are stil in New York – Their fast are on shore – their nettings open – and appear in Perfect security – the *Asia* lies opposite Pecks slip – and the *Phoenix* a hundred Yards below. My Friend arrived from thence last night at 12 o'Clock. You have seen the Kings speech – The Parliament address is ten times more violent – A schooner with dainties for Genl [William] Howe at Boston is cast away and all his Poultry spoiled – a fine Cheshire Cheese a Compliment from [George] Vandeput to him, cased in Lead betrayed the intention of the Voyage – it was directed “From Capt Vandeput to General Howe”³

I shall thank you for an exact return of the Officers and Men onboard each ship with the date of the Commissions – Warrants &c — The Resolution of Congress⁴ I have dd to Capt [John] Hazard⁵ last Evening and the Warrants for the *Columbus* He brings with him also the Standard –⁶

Your most Obedient &c

T Matlack

It is said an Inserrection has happened among the Tories in South Carolina – North Carolina marched a thousand men to their assistance and it is quelled we

expect without considerable Loss – North Carolina do themselves honour by their Spirit –

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. First page missing.
2. The date is approximated from the contents of the letter.
3. The sloop *Polly and Ann*. On January 17, 1776, the Monmouth, New Jersey, Committee reported that she stranded lately on Manasquan Beach with a cargo of provisions for the troops in Boston. *New York Journal*, February 1, 1776.
4. The resolution of January 6, 1776, covering the distribution of prize money.
5. Hazard, in the sloop *Providence*, seems to have joined the fleet at Fort Island, sailing from Philadelphia on or about January 7.
6. The Standard was the famous Rattlesnake Flag.

JOSEPH HEWES TO ROBERT SMITH ¹

Dr Sir

[Philadelphia, January 7, 1776] ²

I have not been favoured with a Line from you since I left Edenton, the reason is plain I [did] not wr[i]te to you, therefore you are not obliged to know that I ever arrived here, I wish you had forgiven me and been less Ceremonious.

I find by Mr [Samuel] Johnstons Letter the mode you adopted in Council to get the one thing Necessary we have done the same here on a much Larger Scale, Necessity, dire Necessity induced us to make that infringing of one of our own Laws, I cannot say I approved of it my self at first, but I have altered my opinion of the matter and am now perfectly satisfied we are right, our utmost exertions in every way we could devise have hitherto proved insufficient to furnish the Necessary Supplies of powder consequently some of our movements have gone on heavily; I thank God the prospect now brightens a little, two Vessels arived yesterday from the Foreign west India Islands with each one Ton of Powder, and last night another came into the River with Six Tons more from the same quarter, the Captain of the latter says he left fifteen Vessels behind all waiting for the same precious article, that they had the fullest assurance 150 Tons of it were hourly expected at those places which had been sent for in order to supply the distressed Americans, another Vessel is also Arived in the River from old France with near 60 Tons of Salt Petre on board and I have the pleasure to inform you there is Sulphur enough in this City to work it all up –

On thursday and fryday Last [January 4 and 5] the following Vessels fitted out for the protection of the United Colonies sailed from this City on a Cruise to witt

Ship <i>Alfred</i> , Captain	Saltinstoll	28	Guns
Ship <i>Columbus</i> [Abraham]	Whipple	26	do
Brigg <i>Cabot</i> [John Burroughs]	Hopkins	16	do
Brigg <i>Andrea Doria</i> [Nicholas]	Biddle	14	
Sloop <i>Providence</i> [John]	Hazard	12	
now ready in a Neighbouring port on the same Acct			
Sloop <i>Hornet</i> [William]	Stone	10	
Schooner <i>Wasp</i> [William]	Hallock	4	

These Vessels will all be well maned and I hope get to sea in a few days –

It is currently reported that great Britain intends to make one grand effort in the Spring to reduce the Colonies for which purpose they are to land a very large army in this province and subdue it first considering it as foremost in Rebellion, as they mean to give the land of the Rebels to the Soldiers it will be prudent to begin here where land is best improved and most Valuable.

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Robert Smith is suggested as the recipient of this letter, as he was Hewes' partner and a resident of Edenton.
2. The date is established through Samuel Adams to James Warren, January 7, 1776.

SAMUEL WARD TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 7th Jany. 1776

The Marine service is of such vast Importance, that we doubt not of your utmost Attention to it in all its Branches. The Ravages committed by the armed Vessels & the continual alarms raised by them must be very distressing to the Colony, but what would not a wise man do or suffer, to preserve his Liberty, the alone Source of human Happiness and only Security for the permanent Enjoyment of it The Removal of the Stock is of great importance, & We are happy to find that proper measures are adopted for that Purpose.

1. *The Historical Magazine* (Morrisania, N.Y., 1870), 2nd series, VIII, 45.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN AT NORFOLK, TO THE PRINTER,
DATED JANUARY 7." ¹

I doubt not you have heard before this of the furious cannonade with which the enemy opened the year. They began about 3 in the afternoon of new year's day, and continued, with very little intermission, for 9 hours. Every thing that could carry a gun, from a frigate to a boat, played against us. Under the cover of their cannon, they set fire to the town in four different places, and made several attempts to land field pieces, but were repulsed with loss. The horror of the night exceeds description, and gives fresh occasion to lament the consequences of civil war. The thunder of artillery, the crash of falling houses, the roar of devouring flames, added to the piteous moans and piercing shrieks, of the few remaining wretched, ruined inhabitants, form the outlines of a picture too distressful to behold without a tear. I pray God I may never see the like again. We had 2 or 3 men wounded, none mortally; it is said several of the enemy were killed. The large distillery down the river was set on fire the night of the cannonade, and [Andrew] Sprowle's houses two or three nights after. In short, desolation and ruin have overspread the face of the country, and the once populous town of Norfolk now resembles, in miniature the ruins of Palmyra! ² We have met with no loss since our arrival in this place, excepting 5 men made prisoners by the enemy, nor have we had a wounded man, except 3 or 4 of a detached party, in a small skirmish the night of our arrival; besides these, we have had none hurt before or since the cannonade. I know not how long we shall stay here; at present, every thing appears in the greatest confusion.

1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette*, January 20, 1776.
2. Destroyed by the Romans in 272 A.D.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a Special Meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah], Sunday, January 7th, 1776.

The President informed the Board, that in consequence of information received from the secret committee, informing that two ships of war and one transport had sailed from Rebellion Road,² which, there was good reason to believe, was destined to this Province, in order perhaps to plunder it of life stock, &c., or to support the merchants in the exportation of produce contrary to the Continental restraints. That in consequence of this information, he looked over the list of names of members of the Council of Safety and found there would be difficulty getting a Board, and fearing the public safety would be endangered by a delay, and therefore issued the following orders.

Orders to David Zubly, John Stirk, &c., &c.

It is deemed necessary for the public safety, that a part of the militia should be draughted to do duty at and about the Town of Savannah. You are therefore ordered and required immediately to draught one third of the men in your company and to march them to Savannah by 12 o'clock to-morrow, with their arms and accoutrements and lodging apparel; for which the officers and men will be paid agreeable to a resolve of Congress.

Geo. Walton,

President of the Council of Safety.

The Board, highly approving of the conduct of the President, do resolve that the foregoing orders be valid, as if particularly directed by the Board.

Mr. [Stephen] Drayton represented that he was ready to make the report of his deputation to Charlestown, when the Board thought it proper to defer it till to-morrow morning.

A motion was made and seconded that officers be appointed to command the militia ordered upon duty by the President.

Resolved, That Samuel Elbert, Esquire, be Colonel and Chief in Command, Stephen Drayton, Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel and Second in Command, and Joseph Habersham, Esquire, Major and Third in Command, and that the President be empowered to issue and sign commissions for them.

Resolved, That sufficient number of small craft be forthwith sent down to Cockspur to lighten the Ship *Inverny*, McKenzie, Master, now riding in the road there, in order that the ship may be brought up to Savannah.

Resolved, That it be given in charge to the commanding officer at Cockspur, to use his utmost endeavours to effect this purpose, and in case he shall find it impracticable and that the vessel and cargo must otherwise fall into the hands of our enemies, that then and not till then, in order to prevent the same, he shall have power to scuttle her.

Resolved, also, That it be further given in charge to the said officer to put the ship as soon under way as possible, and that he uses the utmost dispatch in bringing her and her cargo up to Savannah.

Resolved, That the President do commissionate Peter Bard and William O'Bryan, Gentlemen, for this purpose.

Resolved, That the commanding officer at Savannah, for the time being, have power to restrain any Crown officer from going without the limits of Savannah, if he should deem it expedient:

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 86-88.
2. H.M.S. *Tamar* and H.M.S. *Cherokee*, with the *Sandwich Packet*:

8 Jan.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT,
BEVERLY¹

William Bartlett

Cambridge 8th Jan 1776

Answer'd his Letters of the 5 & 6th instant desired he woud purchass the Guns from Capt [John] Darby belonging to the *Lee* schooner if not he must give them to him, to be alert in fitting the vessells out &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Monday, January 8, 1776.

Ordered, that Mr. [Dummer] Sewall, Doctor [Asaph] Fletcher, and Capt. [Timothy] Parker, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for establishing the Fees of the Courts of Admiralty in this Colony.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR¹

January [17]76

Moored at Boston Harbour

Monday 8

at ½ past 7 PM Discover'd Some houses on Bunkers hill on fire at 9 we found the fire to be on Charles Town Neck & heard the report of Several great Guns & Platoons of Small Arms. hoisted out all the Boats & got the ships Company all under Arms and Sent the Boats Mann'd & Arm'd to row Guard between the North Battery & Charles town at 11 the firing Ceased.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

RHODE ISLAND COLONY COMMITTEE TO SAMUEL SOULE¹

Sir,

Providence January 8. 1776.

You being appointed Master of the Sloop *Diamond*, fitted out and laded on Account of the Colony of Rhode Island, are hereby ordered to embrace the first good Weather and Opportunity to sail from this Port to Martinique. Upon your Arrival there apply to His Excellency the Governor for Permission to sell your Cargo, and to purchase Gunpowder, small Arms, Lead, Duck, Saltpetre, Sulphur, Twine, and Flints. procure as much Powder as possible; and take Care that your Small Arms be serviceable and good. If you shall have an Opportunity of shipping your Powder from Martinique in a suitable Vessel, either for this Colony,

Connecticut or the Massachusetts Bay, you are to do it; and in that Case to employ some Drogers to bring you from Dominica a sufficient Quantity of Sulphur to compleat your Loading. If you cannot procure Powder at Martinique, proceed to Guadaloupe, and there make Application and pursue the Directions above given – Should you also fail there, proceed with said Sloop to St Eustatius, and there endeavour to procure the above-mentioned Articles, and to conduct yourself as above directed. If you should be unsuccessful at those Places, proceed to Curacoa, and there lay out the Amount of your Cargo in the abovementioned Articles, giving the Preference to Powder, and Small Arms, and not exceeding 100000 Flints. It is hardly possible to suppose you will fail at all those Places, but in such Case you are to proceed to any Place you shall think proper, and take in a Lading of Salt. When you shall have loaded your Vessel you are to return immediately to this Port, or such other in the two neighbouring Colonies as you shall think best. Be careful during your being at Sea, and speak with no Vessel whatever. In general, if any Accident or any unforeseen Contingency should arise, you are to do your best for answering the Expectations of the Colony. – We wish you a good Voyage and are, Sir, [&c.]

Nicholas Cooke }
John Jenckes } Col[ony] Com[mittee]

[Endorsed] The above and foregoing is a true Copy of my Orders, and which I promise to observe

Samuel Soule

1. Maritime Papers, Revolutionary War 1776–1781, R.I. Arch.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE GOVERNOR OF GUADELOUPE¹

Sir,

Providence January 8. 1776

I did myself the Honor by Mr. Paul Allen to address myself to Your Excellency in a Letter upon the Contest between the Colonies and Great-Britain. Lest that Letter Should by Some Misfortune fail of being put into Your Hands, I now Subjoin a Copy of it by Capt. Samuel Soule, who goes by Permission to Guadaloupe, to purchase Powder and warlike Stores, and whom I beg Leave to recommend to Your Protection.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 299.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

Providence [January 8] 1776.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. John Grimes be commander of the row-galley, to be fitted out, at the wages of £9, lawful money, per month, to commence from this day; and to be commodore of both row-gallies.

That the wages of Capt. Benjamin Page be raised to £9, lawful money, per month, commencing from this time.

That each of the said gallies be manned with fifty men, including officers; and that Thomas Arnold, of East Greenwich, be appointed first lieutenant; Samuel Vial, of Rehoboth, second lieutenant; and John Kelton, of Providence, master of said row-galley.

It is voted and resolved that Mr. Samuel Westcoat be chosen and appointed first lieutenant of the row-galley, commanded by Capt. John Grimes, in the room of Thomas Arnold, who refuses; and that Mr. Francis Bradfield be appointed master of said row-galley, in the room of John Kelton, who refuses.

Whereas, Ambrose Page, Esq., who was appointed to build two row-gallies, for the service of the colony, laid before this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for materials by him furnished; and for his time in attending said business; and the said account having been duly examined by Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, Esqs., who reported a balance of £380 12s.2d., lawful money, due to the said Ambrose Page; which being considered by this Assembly, –

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and the same is hereby, accepted; and that said balance be paid the said Ambrose Page, out of the general treasury.

1. John Russell Bartlett, ed., *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations* (Providence, 1862), VII, 410–15. Hereafter cited as Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

Providence January 8th 1776

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed to Build two ships for the Service of the Continent of America

Present the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr

Nicholas Brown

Joseph Russell

Joseph Brown

John Brown

John Smith.

William Russell

Daniel Tillinghast

John Innis Clarke

Joseph Nightingale

Jabez Bowen²

Voted. That the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esqr be
Chairman of this Committee, and Henry Ward Esqr Clerk

Voted. That Jabez Bowen be Clerke pro tempore

Whereas there is a quantity of ship timber now at Pautauket landing. Tis voted that Jonathan Jenckes Esqr be employed to go to the people that own the same, and purchase it on the best terms he can and that he get as much of it to be Delivered in Town as possible, the Remainder he is to get carted as soon as practicable, and on as reasonable terms as may be; that he purchase One Hundd Tons of Timber more to consist mostly of Floor and rising Timber and plank logs on the best termes he can to be delivered in Providence immediately. –

Voted. that Capt Barnard Eddy be employed to get the Keel, stem, stern post and Transom for the largest of the ships and that he procure the same to be carted as soon as possible. That he agree for the said Timber on the most reasonable termes he can, and that he take as many good Carpenters and Ax men as he may think he can employ to advantage, and also that he get any other kind of timber that may be wanted for the Building the said ships. –

Voted. That Capt Nicholas Power go to Newport and engage all the pine timber that will do to saw into plank and all the spars and plank that will answer for the ships. that he engages all the ship Carpteners in Warren and Newport also that he procure as much Locust for Trenails as he can, that he endeavour to get Major Benjamin Tolman to leave the service to engage in Building the Ships, and that he procure a proper person to get the Timber and spars brot off the Island as soon as possible that he call on Mr Langly and purchase the Boards he has now in this Town, and that he engage all the Navel Stores that are to be sold in Newport.

Voted. That Coll Wm Russell go to Warren and engage Mr M[oses] Tyler or any other suitable person to come to Providence for a Master Builder to carry on one of the ships, also that he go to Swanzey and engage all the Carpenters and plank he can. —

Voted. That there be 25,000 feet plank of 2½ Inches engaged as soon as may be. —

Voted. That the Runing plank under the Whale be four Inches thick. —

Reckoning 12/ LMy paid by John Brown. —³

Meeting adjourn'd to morrow Evening 6 o'clock this place

1. Journal of the Committee who built the Ships *Providence* and *Warren* for the United States AD 1776, RIHS. Hereafter cited as Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.
2. Names of committee members attending each meeting are recorded in the Journal. The names, however, will be omitted from subsequent Journal entries appearing in this Volume.
3. *Ibid.*, the "Reckoning" represented cost of refreshments consumed by the committee and seems to have been paid by one of the members, who, perhaps, collected later from the others. As the meetings continued, the recording of the amount expended dropped the name of the payer, and; eventually, even the amount of the bill.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE¹

January 1776. Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Monday 8 AM at 11 was taken in the Jolly Boat by the Rebels Mr Henry Stevenson and 2 Seamen.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan*, CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH¹

Jany 1776 Single Anchor of [f] Warwick Point

Mondy 8 ½ past 3 [P.M.] hove up the Bt Br and came to sail turning to Windward spoke with the Tender belonging to the *Glasgow* from Boston Bore away running up Conanicut fired at the Rebbels 14 teen 6 Pounders Shotted and 4 Swivels at 5 P M Came too off Warwick Point in 3 fms water with the Bt Bower it Bearing N. B W Prudence E to N West off Shore 2 Miles handed Sails and Veerd to half Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

JOSEPH DENISON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Stonington January 8th 1776—

The Comte of Correspondence & Safety in this place, to whose Consideration Your Excellency, by letter dated the 27th of Novr last was pleased to refer the Affair of one [John] Denny, and his captur'd Vessel² & Cargo; having on the first of December transmitted to You Their Proceedings relative thereto; beg leave now to report further — that (having notified all Persons concern'd) after a full hearing & careful Examination & Enquiry of the several Evidences before us, (consisting of People on Board said Vessel when Taken, and of the neighbours suppos'd best acquainted with the Character of Sd Denny and one Buddington who, for some Reasons weare suspected of being torystical) cannot Find that Either of them have adopted or pursued any measure really inimical to America, or in any thing acted a Part so obnoxious, but that they, upon paying the necessary and Occasional Charges, might without further Delay or Trouble have said Vessel & Cargo Restor'd to them — unless the mere Act of Sd Denny's availing himself & being Possess'd of the inclosed Certificate & Clearance, when taken, should be deem'd a Sufficient Bar in the Way; relative to which, the Bearer is desir'd to wait and Receive Your Excellencys Resolution & Commands. From [&c.]

By order of the [Stonington] Committee

Joseph Denison Chairman

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The sloop *Warren* was taken in November, 1775, by Washington's schooner *Hancock*, Nicholson Broughton, and *Franklin*, John Selman. See Volume 2.NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL¹

Dear Sir

New London January 8 1776

Agreeable to your Directions I have taken all the Flower that is come to hand · paid $\frac{1}{3}$ frt wich is Customary from N York to this Port — a Small Sloop Load Mr [Thomas] Mumford has taken and paid the Skipper $\frac{1}{6}$ frt by whose order I know not & is Shipt it for the West Indias · his giving $\frac{1}{6}$ has made sum trouble among the others that brought — shall Send it up to Norwich as Soon as the River Opens — The Powder I Mentioned to have Arived att the Eastward is Near Four Thousand & the Governour has given me orders to Deliver it to Governor [Nicholas] Cook[e] att Providence · I hope [soon to have Sum more all Accots from the West Indias Agree that a Great Number of our Vessels are safe arrived] Dunmore on Board his Ship — hope our Navy will Soon give sum Accott of him. I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 3 o'clock P.M. Jany. 8th, 1776.

Whereas Mr. Isaac Gouverneur has imported into this Colony 465 quarter casks, contain 116 cwt. and 25 lb. of gun-powder, and by Mr. William Cannon, his consignatory, sold the same to this Committee, for public use: And Whereas

the Honble. the Continental Congress by their resolve of the 15th day of July last past, that every vessel importing gunpowder within nine months from the date thereof, shall be permitted to load and export the produce of those Colonies to the value of such gunpowder; and it is thereby recommended to the Committees of the several Provinces to inspect the military stores so imported, and to estimate a generous price for the same according to their goodness, and permit the importer of such powder to export the value thereof and no more, in produce of any kind: the Committee having by some of their members and other persons, inspected the said gunpowder, do estimate the same at the value of £30 New-York money per ton, and do hereby permit Mr. Isaac Gouverneur, by Mr. Wm. Cannon his agent, to export the value thereof at that estimate, to wit: the amount of the sum of £3,487 10s.0d. New-York money, and no more, in produce of any kind which he may think proper.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 241.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 8, 1776

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the Committee on General Schuyler's letters, thereupon came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That shipwrights be immediately sent from New York and Philadelphia to General Schuyler, or the Commander in chief of the forces at Ticonderoga, to be employed by him in constructing a number of batteaus, not exceeding one hundred, for transporting troops, with their baggage, from that place into Canada, whenever it may be found necessary.

That a sufficient number of suitable men be engaged for rowing said batteaus; and that a large quantity of provisions and stores be sent this winter to fort George.

That General Schuyler be desired to have the river St. Lawrence, above and below Quebec, well explored, and to determine upon proper places, for opposing, by armed boats or otherwise, any attempts of the enemy to penetrate that country by the river; and that he give order for constructing speedily as many such boats as he shall judge necessary.

That two shipwrights be immediately sent from Philadelphia, to be employed under the direction of the committee of inspection at Albany, in constructing scows for facilitating the passage over Hudson's river.

Information being given to Congress, that about 57 tons of salt petre were arrived in Philadelphia, and about 15 tons of powder at New York, for sale:

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to treat for the purchase of the salt petre, and enquire how it may be most speedily manufactured into powder, and report to Congress.

That Mr. P[hilip] Livingston, Mr. [John] Alsop, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [Francis] Lewis, be directed to purchase, on the best terms they can, for the use of the United Colonies, the powder arrived at New York, and forward the same, with all possible expedition, under guard, to the camp at Cambridge.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 37-41.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday 8 January Votes of Saturday read as were letters from Gens [Philip] Schuyler and [Richard] Montgomery, the latter, it seems, was before Quebec the 5th of Decr & expects Success in his intended Storm, he demands 10,000 Men to defend Canada . . . Gadsden moved and was seconded by Me that Col [Benedict] Arnold may be made a Brigadier Gen. and receive the Thanks of the Congress for his extraordinary March from Cambridge to Quebec & for his other Spirited Exertions; this was debated & put off till Tomorrow – The Kings Speech of the 27th of October (1775) arrived to day as did a Report that a large Fleet was seen at Sea with 5000 Troops on Board, but some think this premature – An Express came with Letters from Baltimore informg. that Ld Dunmore has Destroyed the Town of Norfolk in Virginia – 300 Barrels of Powder just arrived at New York as did 8 Ton the Week before – 50 or 60 Tons of Saltpetre arrived here at Phila in [Thomas] Masons Vessel –

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] Janry 8th 1776

. . . this morning arrived via New-york the Kings Speech to both houses of Parliament 27th Octr 1775 also accot of 300 large bbs of Gun Powder Landed not far from New york to the Eastward, . . . this afternoon News Came of the Schoner, *Charming Polly's* Arrival at ches[ter,] with 60 Tunn of Salt Petre, & Sloop *Tryal* with 1000 lbs of Powder –

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

JOSEPH HEWES TO ROBERT SMITH ¹

Dr Sir

[Philadelphia, January 8, 1776] ²

Since I wrote yesterday, Several Vessels have Arived from one of the foreign Islands and brought in Seven Tons of Powder the Master of one of them informs that he left fifteen sails of Vessels all waiting for that Article, that they had the fullest assurance that 150 Tons were hourly expected at those Islands which had been sent for on purpose to supply the Americans. another Vessel is Just Arived in the River from old France with near 60 Tons of Salt Petre,³ We have recd Letters from Gen. [Richard] Montgomery and Col. [Benedict] Arnold dated 16 decr informing us they had sat down before Quebec and were in hopes of taking it in a few days

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDH.

2. Date established by his letter of January 7.

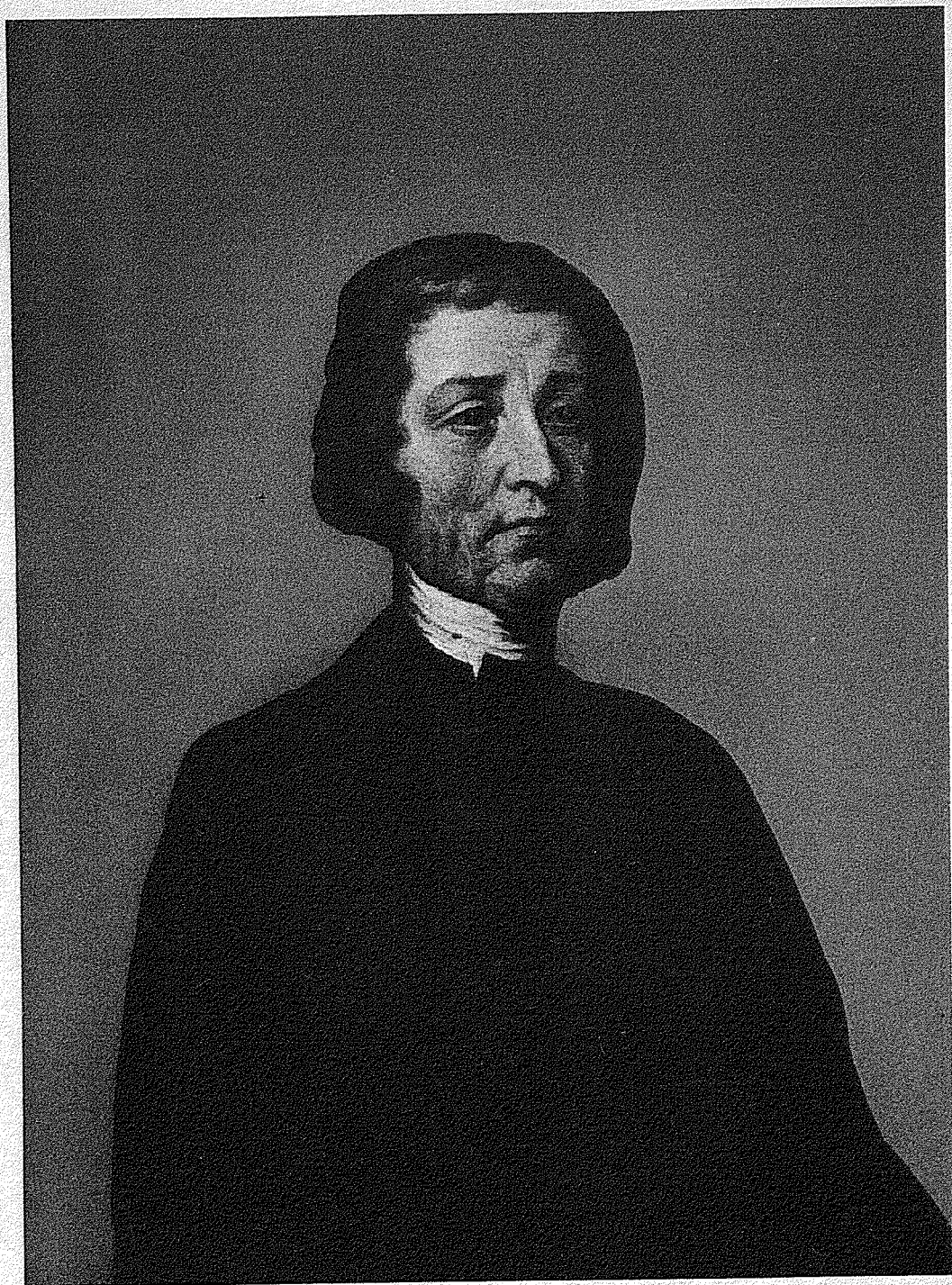
3. Hewes here repeats in slightly different words, what he had already written in his January 7 letter.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia, January 8, 1776] ²

. . . You have seen the King's speech, which you wou'd suppose, must convince everybody of the bloody intentions of the King & Ministry, but it is far



Josiah Bartlett.

from being the case in this City; for there is a certain Ld. Drumond who persuades the Fools who are gaping after a reconciliation, that he is in the secrets of the inner Cabinet, that the sincere wish is, to make up with America, upon her own terms, that even Ld Mansfield is a warm friend to our Cause. All this is so absurd, that you will say, none but rank Tories can pretend to believe it & so shou'd I, did I not find the contrary, for you may be assured that many friends & well meaning people are taken in & wish loudly for Congress to send deputies home. indeed I am not without my fears, that Congress May be somewhat affected. Thursday a motion was made to grave this measure, by myself & some others. You shou'd be here as soon as possible, I mean with tolerable convenience to yourself, for I see no prospect of the Congress adjourning. nine battallions are order'd for Canada, to march as quickly as they can be raised,³ [John] Bull's & [William] Maxwell's are two of them who go off directly. [Richard] Montgomerys last Letter informs us of his being before Québec, & confident of success. We have recd 57 tons of salt petre & 30 tons of powder, & have intelligence of a vessell with 15 tons & 2000 stand of arms which is every day expected [illegible] Yr fleet is not yet out of the River but I beleive thay have now no obstruction, tho Virga I beleive will not receive any benefit, as the pilots are sent home. Norfolk we hear is destroyd, but we are anxious to know the fate of the troops there. God bless you farewell

F. L. Lee

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

2. The date is established by the contents of the letter.

3. Resolution of January 8, 1776.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON¹

Sir,

Philadelphia Jan 8th 1776.

The Congress have ordered the Secret Committee to purchase and bring in for the use of the Navy and Army sundry articles which were under consideration before you left the Congress. At my request, the Committee have directed me to inform you, that they are willing one vessel should be sent from our Colony for that purpose if a proper loading for the European market, such as fish, potash, bee's wax &c can be purchased reasonable.

If you think it will answer and agree to send, you may charter a vessel and procure a loading, and forthwith inform the Committee that they may direct what goods and the quantities you are to send for, and remit you the money to pay for the cargo: this will be of the same nature of your former contract.

Your friend Wharton tells me he has some money in the hands of Mr Tracy of Newburyport, for which he is willing to draw and receive the money here, which will save some expense of conveyance. I think seven or eight hundred pounds L.M.

You will see the necessity of this Committee's being informed of your determination on this affair as speedily as possible.

Last Saturday [January 6] Major Patton's brig arrived with above fifty tons of salt petre, and a few days before another vessel brought 3 tons and a half of powder.

Our fleet fell down the river the latter end of the week.

Please to inform me of the present Situation of our Colony affairs and don't forget to put our Convention in mind to send somebody here to relieve me as soon as convenient.

I am [&c.] Josiah Bartlett
January 9th I have now a proper agreement drawn which — now enclose; if you like it, you will sign it and forward it back as soon as possible. You will give orders concerning the money to be remitted to you. Yours ut Supra

J. B.

N. B. 23 tons of powder arrived at New York.

William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC. Bartlett was a New Hampshire delegate in the Continental Congress.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 8 Jany 1776

Upon Motion Resolved, That no Person shall, after the Publication hereof, & under any Pretence or Direction whatever, presume to load any Vessell, or, after being loaded, shall attempt to depart this Port, without proper Permits from this Committee, as they shall answer to the contrary —

Ordered, That the above be published in the Papers —

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., ANNAPOLIS¹

Sir

Baltimore Town January 8. 1776.

Inclosed you have the Invoice and Bill of Loading for [James] Tibbett's Cargo, I keep a Copy of the Cargoe and have not added up the Invoice sent. I suppose it not necessary until a settlement; I shall very soon be done with Your Commission. If you have any thing else shoud be glad, I suppose the Capns will have their order soon as I imagine the Sloop is near ready. I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^d Buchanan

[Endorsed] 1258

128 138.6

440

1826

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ISAAC VANBEBBER¹

Sr

Annapo 8 Jany 1776.

You are to proceed in the *Rachel* Capt [James] Tibbet to the Island of St. Austatia her Cargoe as well as that of the Brig *Hannah* Capt Elijah Luce and as that of the Brig *Fortune* Capt Moore are consigned to you The *Rachels* Cargoe will probably not be on Account of our province if not then as to that Mr Wm Lux is to direct but the Cargoes of the *Hannah* & *Fortune* and if no Direction from Mr Lux then the Cargoe of the *Rachel* are to be sold by you

either at Statia or where else you may think most to the Interest of the province all three of the Vessels being bound to land at three different foreign ports in the West Indies: the Sale to be at any of them. — You are to have 5 pCt. on the Sales and 5 pCt. on the Returns and remit the proceeds in the Articles mentioned in the inclosed — From the Confidence we have in your Ability and Inclination to perform this Service so essential to your Country we think it unnecessary to be more particular.

[Endorsed] List of the same Articles inclosed as ordered by Mr [Richard] Harrison [e]xcept the Quantities not mentioned and also Dr [Frederick] Weisenthals List of Medicines. —

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, January 8, 1776.

The President laid before the Convention, for their opinion, the cases of two vessels taken by capt. Richard Barron in Hampton roads, and carried up York river. The first is the brig *Fanny*, the property of Joseph Hughes [Hewes] Esqr. of North Carolina, whereof John Cunningham is master; who, being examined, declares, that he sailed about a year ago with the said brig from North Carolina, with instructions from his owner to land her cargo in the island of Antigua,² and there or elsewhere to take any freights that might offer, that, having landed his cargo accordingly, he took a freight to Grenada, and from thence another to Cork in Ireland, where he was offered a freight to Boston, in government service, which he refused; that he was likewise offered a freight in the same service to Gibraltar, which he would have accepted, but the contractor declined employing him; not caring, as he said, to trust an American; upon which he would have returned to North Carolina in ballast, but a man of war arriving, he was informed that all American vessels would be stopped, to evade which he agreed to accept a freight of provisions from government for the troops at Boston; that he sailed from Cork the 18th. of October, in company with seven sail of transports, with three regiments of soldiers destined for Quebec, as he was told, whom he parted with the night after he sailed; that, having sprung his mast, he came into the capes, intending to Norfolk, to get a new one, and then to proceed to Boston, but was taken on his way to Norfolk by capt. Barron; that he shipped one Mr. Wogan, a native of Capel in Ireland, who took his passage for Boston, to collect some money there, and then to proceed to Philadelphia, as he said; that by the bills of lading, dockets, and intercepted letters, it appears the cargo of the said vessel is as followeth, on government account 1050 barrels of pork, 400 firkins of butter, 4 half-barrels of tongues, 2 hhds. and four hampers of potatoes, and one barrel of parsnips; and, on private account, and designed as presents for the officers in Boston, several parcels of beef, butter, cheese, tongues and potatoes.

The other vessel is the brig *Industry*, James Sampson master, an inhabitant of Philadelphia, from whence he had gone to sea many years in the employ of Messrs. James and Drinker, merchants in that city; that, about five years ago, he sailed from thence in the said brig, whereof himself, his mate, William Simpson,

and Laundrice Cuthbert of Pennsylvania, are owners, and has been trading in many ports, chiefly in the Mediterranean sea, till lately, when, inclining to return, he came to the island of Grenada, with intention to take a freight from thence to Philadelphia; but being told a man of war at Newcastle would prevent his passage to that city, and that the port of Norfolk in this colony was open, he engaged the following freight for Norfolk, to wit: 25 puncheons of rum for Messrs. Kerr and company, and 10 hhds. of rum and 2 hhds. of sugar for Messrs. Roper & Boyd; and also laded on board 65 hhds. of rum, 3 barrels of sugar, 2 casks of Malaga wine, and 5 or 6 blankets, the manufacture of Tunis, which are the property of himself and mate. Upon consideration whereof, the Convention are of opinion, and do resolve, that the cargo on board the brig *Fanny* is lawful prize, and justly forfeited to this colony, and that the same be disposed of under the direction of the Committee of Safety. And that the brig *Industry* and her cargo shall not be water-borne below Cumberland town, where the same now is.

1. *Virginia Convention*; 89.

2. The brig *Fanny*, 90 tons, John Cunningham, master, cleared the Port of Roanoke (Edenton) for Antigua on December 30, 1774, with a cargo of 20,000 shingles and 70,000 staves and headings, Port of Roanoke Records, Appendix B, Volume 2.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

January 1776

Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Monday 8

A M Received water by the long boat cleared hawse
at 10 P M perceived the Mills to be on fire. Fired several six
Pounders & dispersed the Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety

[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 8th, 1776.

Read a letter from the Committee at George-Town, dated 6th January 1776

The chairman of the committee of observation reported that the result of an inquiry, in consequence of an information laid before this board last Saturday, and referred to them, was, That one of the schooners informed against had passed through Wappoo last Tuesday, after having taken in some beef, butter, and other provisions here, and about fifty barrels of flour at Mr. Wm. Glen's landing at Wappoo, delivered by Mr. Glen's cooper there, to William Gickie, who went in the vessel. That this schooner is the same which, having gone to sea through Stono inlet, appeared on Friday morning among the ships-of-war in Rebellion-Road; and which, after delivering her cargo to them, had been dismissed, and stopt at Fort Johnson. And that the other schooner now lies at Mr. Champney's wharf, is bound to Georgia, to carry some furniture and flour, together with the owner, Mr. Wm. Wayne, who is also owner of the former schooner.

Upon an application by the Hon. Capt. W. H. Drayton,

Ordered, That eighteen cutlasses be delivered, for the use of the ship *Prosper*, out of the armory by Mr. Calvert.

Read a letter from Capt. Edward Blake, for permission to load a vessel for Bermuda, and another on the public account for the foreign islands.

Ordered, That Capt Blake have permission to load both vessels accordingly.

Ordered, That Mr. William Glen be summoned to attend this Council immediately

Mr. William Wayne made application for permission to send a schooner to Georgia, with some household goods and flour. Which was refused.

Ordered, That the flour laden on board said schooner be relanded. Mr. Wayne being questioned relative to the schooner wherein William Gickie had conveyed provisions to the men-of-war, he acknowledged that he owned the vessel, and that he had hired her to Mr. Gickie, at ten pounds a day, to go to Georgia; but declared that he was not only entirely ignorant of, but did not even suspect his intentions; and that he had received no part of the hire.

He also declared, that till this day he was ignorant of the necessity of applying for a permit to go to Georgia, whither he intended going for the recovery of a debt due him.

Mr. Glen attended, according to order, and being questioned if he had sold flour and butter, and delivered it at his landing in Wappoo creek, on board a schooner of Mr. Wayne's, to William Gickie, he declared that he had sold him sixteen kegs of butter and forty-seven barrels of flour, and that the latter were delivered from his plantation, whither he had removed many articles for safety; but that he did not imagine Gickie was going to the men-of-war, but to Georgia, and accordingly delivered to him a letter for his son at Savannah.

Whereas, the Continental Congress did, on the 1st day of November last, resolve, "That no produce of the United Colonies should be exported, except from colony to colony, under the direction of the committees of inspection and observation, and except from one part of the same colony." The more effectually to prevent any violation of the said resolve,

Ordered, That no committee do suffer the loading of any vessel in any creek, river, bay or harbour in this colony, for any other colony, without a permit first obtained from this Council.

Ordered, That the secretary do forthwith cause the above order to be printed and published in hand bills.

Mr. [John] Rutledge, from the committee to inquire and report what further measures are necessary to be pursued for the better securing and defending this port and harbour, reported that the said committee having viewed the battery erecting to the westward of Fort Johnson, they found that work went on very slowly, and that, having also viewed Sullivan's Island, they were of opinion that possession thereof ought to be taken, and a strong fort and battery erected thereon, — and recommended that Col. [Owen] Roberts might be consulted on this occasion.

Ordered, That Col. Roberts be desired to attend this board to-morrow morning.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah], Monday, Jan. 8th, 1776.

Stephen Drayton and William Ewen, Esquires, deputies appointed by this Board to make a representation of the state of this Province to the Council of Safety in South Carolina, and to confer with them on the subject of exportation, having returned, attended and made their report.

Resolved, that no rice shall be exported from this Province after this day, until the first day of March next, except such as was shipped previous to the arrival of the prohibition by the Continental Congress, and not then, without permission by this Board.

Resolved, That the President do write to the Council of Safety in Carolina and represent the particular circumstances of the vessel and cargo lately taken and carried to Beaufort by their order; and that he request that the same may be returned to this Province; and that he pledges the faith of the Province that she shall not sail with her cargo contrary to the Laws of Congress.

Resolved, That the President do write to the committee for the Parish of Saint John, requiring that they use the utmost vigilance in watching the motions of the pilots for the harbour of Sunbury; and that, in particular they send for Captain William Lyford, and question him as to his piloting into any port in this Province any ship or vessel of war of our enemies, and that they take such steps with him, if he appears inimical to the common interest, as will be a sufficient security against his aiding our enemies.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 89-91.

ORDNANCE STORES FROM ST. AUGUSTINE FOR H.M. SLOOP *Tamar* AND H.M.
ARMED SHIP *Cherokee*¹

Office of Ordnance
East Florida 8th January 1776

We do hereby Certify the Undermentioned Stores have been delivered to Captain [John] Graves of His Majestys Schooner *St Laurence*, for use of His Majesty's Ships the *Tamer* and *Cherokee*, Pursuant to His Excellency Governor [Patrick] Tonyn's Order of this date.

	Vizt	
Corn'd Powder	W.B.	Thirteen
Copper Hoops on do		Fifty two.
Cartridges Paper	6 prs.	Three hundred
Match	Slow	lbs
Musquet Cartridge Paper	Quirs	Two hundred.
		Two.

Humbly Certified

Jn^o Kenward

Thomas W B Hall

Ordnance Storekeeper

Clerk of Survey and Cheque.

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonyn's (No 37) of 14th Jany 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 211.

9 Jan.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir

Roebuck at Halifax 9th Jan'y 1776

I beg leave to acquaint you, that the Boatswain of His Majestys Ship under my command has been confined and Suspended from duty ever since the 1st of December last, being charged by Lieutt [John] Orde with disobedience of orders, contempt to his Superior officer, and using mutinous expressions

I therefore beg the favour you will please to Order a Courtmartial to be held upon him when opportunity offers. I have the honor [&c.]

A S Hamond

1. Hamond Letter Book, 1771-1777, UVL.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, January 9, 1776.

The Committee on the Petition of Capt. John Bunker, read Jan. 5th, reported. Read and accepted.

Whereas, Mr. John Bunker and others, did on the 24th Day of Nov. last, at Mount-Desert, take a Schooner called the *Falmouth-Packett*, Isaac Danks, Master, laden with live Stock, Butter, Cheese, Sauce &c. and in our Enemies Service bound to Boston; and said Bunker, not knowing any Provision made in such Cases, delivered said Schooner and Cargo in the Hands of the Committee of Goldsborough, till he should have the Order of this Court thereon:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the Committee of Goldsborough be, and they hereby are directed to deliver said Schooner with her Cargo, or the proceeds thereof, if the same or any Part thereof hath been disposed of by said Committee, as also the Papers and Appurt[e]nances to her belonging, unto the said John Bunker, that said Vessel may be brought to Trial at some Court of (A) Admiralty, erected by the General Court of this Colony, B.

Afternoon.

Jedediah Foster, Esq; brought down the Resolve of this House on the Petition of Capt. John Bunker, with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, January 9, 1776.

Read and concurr'd, with the Amendments at A and B, viz. At A dele *Admiralty*, and insert *Justice*, and at B insert, *to try the Capture of Vessels*.

Read and concurred.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SCHOONER *Halifax*¹

January 1776

Remarks &c in Boston Harbour

Monday 8

[A.M.]Empd getting ready for Sea The *Mercury* Anchord Here Returnd Her Stream Anchor to Her

The 1st and Middle parts Light Airs and fair W Latter fresh Breezes & Hazey w Rain at times at 3 P M weighd and Came

to sail at 5 Came too wt the Sml Br off the N W pt of Long Island the Eastmost head bearing E S E about $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile. Veerd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable at $\frac{1}{2}$ past saw a large fire and heard the report of Cannon and Musquetry which we took to be an Attack at Bunkers Hill at 11 weighd and Came to sail to wards Boston at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Came too off Bird Island Veerd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable. sent the Boat on bd the *Preston*

Tuesday 9 at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 the firing Ceased and the boat returnd, brought an Acct that the Rebels had Sett fire to some Mills near Charlestown

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Bolton*, LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES¹

January 1776 At Anchor abreast of Cannanicut Island

Tuesday 9 at 8 AM unmoored - $\frac{1}{2}$ past Weigh'd Small Br & came to sail in Compy the Tenders of the *Rose* and *Nautilus*. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 came too under Cannanicut Island.

First part mode & hazy Wr middle little winds & thick foggy Wr latter hard gales & Squally with Do

at $\frac{1}{2}$ P M weighd & came to sail, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 abreast the upper end of Cannanicutt sent the *Roses* Tender, to cut a Sloop out from under the Main. - at 2 came too abreast of Hope Island in 6 fm water. Do sent our Boats on Shore to get some hay. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 weigh'd & came to sail at 5 came too off the North side of Patience Island. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past the *Swan* and Tenders join'd us, with the prize, a number of Rebels firing on us, out of the Houses in Warwick Neck, hove several Shot among them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Jany 9 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment.

Voted. - That Mr John Smith procure all the ship carpen[ters] ship Timber and Plank he possibly can, and the [*sic* that] he employ a proper person to go to Marshfield &c. to engage what carpenters are out of employ there.

Voted. That Capt Christopher Sheldon and Par[d]on Sheldon be appointed Clerks to take an Account of all the Timb[er,] plank, Iron &c that shall be brought into the ship yard and that Nicholas Brown, Joseph Nightingale & Jabez Bowen be a Committee to agree with them for their wages and also that they agree with Christr Sheldon, Thurbers & Cahoon, Capt Jos. Tillinghast, John Aplins Guard-e[c]ns Mr Ebenezer Thompson for the lands that may be wanted to Build the ships on and lay the Timber. -

Voted. That Joseph Brown and John J. Clarke be appointed a committee to agree with Messrs Joseph & Daniel Bucklin on the Terms that they will undertake the Blockmakers Bills for the Ships. -

Voted. That John Brown & Joseph Nightingale be a committee to enquire on what terms the Blacksmiths work could be done for the ships.

Voted. That Jabez Bowen & John I. Clarke be a committee to agree with the Boat Builders for the Boats that may be wanted for the Ships.

Voted. That eighteen shillings P Ton be given for all ship Timber that will measure 12 Inches square at the top end and to be 40 feet in length and 20/P Ton if 46 feet long & 12 Inches at Top, and 15/- for all timber that shall be 12 Inches square and 25 feet long, and 16/ for 30 feet long and 17/ for 35 feet Long. —

Memorandum. Messrs Brown & Power agree to furnish the riging for one of the Ships certain, and as much more as they can make for the other @ 54/pr Hundred. —

Voted. That Messrs Clarke & Nightingale send for Ten Tons of Sterling Barr Iron to New York for the Use of the ships at the risque of the Continent. —

Reckoning 12/ LMy paid by John Brown. —

Meeting adjourned to morrow evening 6 o'clock. —

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety,

[Lebanon] Tuesday 9th January, 1776.

The subject of building or purchasing [a vessel] to be arm'd for defence &c. according to the resolve of the Assembly, in addition to the one lately purchased by order of said Assembly of Cap. Gregg [*sic* John Griggs], was considered &c., and on the question, voted, that the vessel to be built or purchased for said purpose be of not less than 200 tons burden.

And then voted, That Benja. Huntington, Esqr, and Cap. Seth Harding be a committee to repair forthwith to Middletown and other towns on the river, and such other places as they shall find necessary, and make dilligent enquiries, whether and where such warlike vessel fit and suitable for the service designed can be purchased and obtained, and how and on what terms and conditions, and also where such vessel can best and most advantageously be built for that purpose, and by whom and on what terms, and to make report of whatever they may find and judge to be advantageous for promoting said service to the Governor and this Committee as soon as possible. *And copy given.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 223-24.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M. Jany. 9th, 1776.

Whereas full information has been given to this committee by Capt. Nat. Tyler of this city, and sundry other witnesses that Lieut. Edward Tyler² an officer of the Continental army now a prisoner on board the ship *Asia*, had planned a method to escape from thence, and for the purpose of effecting his escape delivered a letter to Lawrence Hartwick directed to James Tyler of New York, and that the said Lawrence Hartwick betraying the trust reposed in him, had delivered the said

letter to Capt. George Vandeput, whereby the said prisoner was prevented from making his escape: And Whereas this Committee has also been informed by the same witnesses that the said Lawrence Hartwick affirms that he will continue to go on board the King's ships of war without leave of any chairman, contrary to the order of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, and made many other declarations highly inimical to the measures pursued by the inhabitants of the American Colonies for the defence of their liberties; thereupon a draft of a warrant to Capt. Nat. Tyler was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, for the Colony of New-York, During the recess of the Provincial Congress, Januy. 9th, 1776.

Whereas full information has been given to this Committee, that Lawrence Hartwick betrayed a trust reposed in him by Lieut. Edward Tyler, an officer of the Continental army, now a prisoner on board the ship *Asia*; And Whereas further information has been given to this Committee that of other particular conduct and declarations of the said Lawrence Hartwick, highly inimical to the present measures pursued by the inhabitants of the American Colonies for the defence of their liberties: Therefore,

Ordered, That the said Lawrence Hartwick be apprehended by Capt. Natl. Tyler or by any other militia officer of this city, with a sufficient guard for that purpose, and carried to the guard house at the upper barracks in this city, and there confined until the further orders of this committee.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed and signed by the Chairman, and delivered to Captain Tyler.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 241.

2. Ensign Edward Tilley (not Tyler) was being held as a prisoner on board H.M.S. *Asia*, on the charge that he had been active in the removal of the cannon from the Battery in New York, August 5, 1775. He was seized September 17, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 9, 1776

A letter from Mr. M[atthew] Tilghman, dated Annapolis, 5 January, with sundry enclosures, . . . were laid before Congress, and read.

Resolved, That a letter be written to Mr. Tilghman, informing him, that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* are under orders to sail to the capes of Delaware, and that such vessels, as are ready to sail, may take the benefit of that convoy.

Resolved, That the Committee for fitting out armed vessels, be directed to give orders to the captains of the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, to take under their convoy, such vessels as are ready to sail.

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Schuyler by the president, informing him, that it is the opinion of Congress, he should proceed to have the conduct of Lieutenant [Jeremiah] Halsey enquired into, by a court martial, giving him previous notice to appear in his own defence, and that such sentence should be passed on him, as such court martial shall think just, and if the said Lieutenant Halsey shall decline to submit his conduct to such examination and sentence, that then all arrears of pay due to him be stopped; to enable him to give discharges to such officers as have quitted the service; to assure him, that we have great confidence

in his attention to the public interest, and rely, that he will give to the proper officers in his department, such orders, as will procure indemnification to the public, for any embezzlement or waste of its stores, or monies; to empower him to remit to such of the troops, raised in the province of New York, as may re-inlist, any right we may have to stop wages for under cloths delivered to them; to desire he will communicate to Mr. Price² the sense this Congress have of his friendly offices to General Montgomery, in favour of the American cause; to return him our thanks for the same, and assure him, immediate measures shall be taken for replacing the monies he has advanced; to notify to Colonel [James] Easton our approbation of his late services, and that we shall retain in our minds a just sense of them.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of the province of New York, to appoint proper persons to enquire into the propriety and practicability of obstructing or lessening the depth of water in the narrows, or in any other place at the entrance of New York, or of any way of fortifying that pass, so as to prevent the entrance of the enemy; and also to enquire whether the depth of water in Hudson's river, below the battery, may not easily be lessened, so as to prevent large ships passing up, and to make an estimate of the expence, and report their proceedings in the premises immediately to Congress.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 41-45.

2. James Price, a Montreal merchant.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday Jan. 9. the Votes read & some Letters, one of them from Matthew Tilghman Esqr President of the Convention in Maryland desiring our Two small armed Vessels the *Hornet* and *Viper*² at Baltimore may convoy to the Capes of Virginia some Vessels going with Provisions on Accot of the Congress, to get Necessaries for our Fleet and Army, this was agreed to & Directions are to be given to Admiral [Esek] Hopkins to meet them - Several Members said that if a Foreign Force shall be sent here, they are willing to declare the Colonies in a State of Independent Sovereignty - M. Pliant [Pliarne] one of the Two Frenchmen in Treaty with our Secret Comee offers to supply the Continent from France with all Sorts of Goods & Military Stores at the price common in France & hints that our Ships may trade to that Kingdom by Connivance & that they are willing to send their Bottoms here, he treats apparently in Behalf of a Company at Paris & he stays here till his Partner returns from thence - the President desired to write to Gen. Schuyler *inter alia* requiring Him to try Lieut. [Jeremiah] Halsey at a Court Martial -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*; not *Viper*.

COMMISSIONERS FOR BUILDING THE PHILADELPHIA FRIGATES TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF NAVAL STORES¹

Messrs James Craig, James Wharton }
Nathaniel Falkner & William Davis } Philadelphia 9 Janury 1776

Gentlemen The Honourable Continental Congress have thought proper to Order Four Frigates to be built in this Port, and Authorized us to Act as Com-

missioners for executing this Business with powers to do every thing necessary for Compleating it – We find this will be a work of such Magnitude & Importance, that to have it well, and Expeditiously done it will be necessary to divide it into different departments, One of which you have been good enough to undertake, And we hereby Authorize and impower you to make Estimates of the Quantities of Cordage, Ship Chandlery and other Stores and necessaries that will be required to fit compleatly Two Ships 700 Tons Burthen as Frigates mounting 32 Guns, 26 of 12 Pounders and Six of Six pounders –

One Ship of 650 Tons as a Frigate of 28 Guns whereof 26 of 12 pounders and 2 of 6 pounders, and one Ship of Tons as a Frigate mounting 24 Guns 9 pounders, you are to Estimate and fix the proper Sizes and dimensions of all Cables, Blocks, Gun Carriages, Rammers, Spunges, Ladles, Cartridge and Cartridge Boxes, Scales, Weights, Scale Beams, Harness Tubs Mess Tubs, and other needfull for said Ships Outfits, with full power and Authority to purchase the same – You are Authorized to make such reasonable Contracts as you shall Judge proper with any person or persons for supplying any of the Articles wanted; you will be carefull that every thing procured is of the best of its Kind – and the prices reasonable as can be obtain'd for ready Money –

You will hire a proper Store or Stores wherein to deposit the sundry goods and Articles you buy, also such proper Clerk, as you can safely trust with the care thereof – You will cause a regular Account to be kept of every thing you buy, or Cause to be bought, for which you and your Clerks are accountable, and you are to deliver the Articles procured, in such proper quantities and proportions as may be required for each Ship, to such persons or Officers as we may hereafter direct, keeping an Account for each Ship, and charging them Respectively with the Quantities, Qualities and at the proper prices of every Article so delivered for their use –

You are to collect all Bills of Parcels, Accounts and Contracts by you made, and send them as often as Necessary to Messrs Benjn Fuller, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Isaac Hazlehurst & Clement Biddle, who are a Committee for examining and passing all Accounts relative to these Ships, with power to Correct Errors, point out Charges, remark on high prices &c. – The Accounts & Contracts will be return'd to us with the Committees remarks, and we shall immediately Issue drft [on] the Treasurer for Payment of all just and reasonable demands

All reasonable expences will be allowed your Board and such other reasonable Compensation for your time and trouble as may hereafter be agreed on. –

You can at all times and in all Cases when necessary have our advice, and We shall from time to time give such fu[rt]her instruction[s, as] to us may appear Necessary. –

We on our part accepted the trust reposed in us with the sole view of serving our distressed Country and promoting its true Interest, an Ardent desire to answer these Ends prompts us to recommend your utmost exertions in the execution of your department, so that Pensylvania may produce four Ships, superior in Quality

IN CONGRESS.

The DELEGATES of the UNITED COLONIES of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New-Castle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to

John Hazard Esquire

WE reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be *Commander* of the Armed *Ship* called the *Providence* in the service of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, fitted out for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Commander* by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *Commander*. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United Colonies, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United Colonies, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, the Usage of the Sea, and the Instructions herewith given you, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force untill revoked by this or a future Congress.

Philadelphia 9th January 1776.

Attest. Chas. Thomson Secy

By Order of the Congress

John Hancock

PRESIDENT.

of less cost & with more expedition than the Neighbour Colonies engaged in the same Business. — We are Gentlemen [&c.]

Sign'd by

Rob^t Morris

J.M.Nisbett

John Nixon

John Wharton

[Endorsed] Rob^t Morris Esqr & Others Instructions

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XXIV, 331, 332, NA.

CAPTAIN JOHN HAZARD'S CONTINENTAL NAVY COMMISSION¹

IN CONGRESS.

The Delegates of the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New-Castle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to

John Hazard Esquire

WE reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, Do by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be *Commander* of the Armed *sloop* called the *Providence* in the service of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, fitted out for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Commander* by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *Commander*. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United Colonies, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United Colonies, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, the Usage of the Sea, and the Instructions herewith given you, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force untill revoked by this or a future Congress.

Philadelphia 9th January 1776.

By Order of the Congress

John Hancock President.

Attest. *Cha^s Thomson Secy*

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 723, HCL. This is a printed form with ink insertions shown in italics.

COMMISSIONERS FOR BUILDING THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN PHILADELPHIA
TO WHARTON & HUMPHREYS¹

Gentlemen

Philada Jany 9th 1776

As you have most Cheerfully undertaken the Building of a Frigate of War for the Service of the United Colonies we cannot too much commend your Zeal nor be too warm in our Exhortations for the Continuance of it — The Dimensions of the ship you are to Build are fixed, and a draft made, we doubt not you

will conform as Strictly as Possible to both, and produce as Compleat and good a Ship as those Dimentions & that Draft will admit of – You Know there are four to be Built in this Port. One in New Hamshire Two in Rhode Island; Two in Massachusets Bay, one in Connecticut, Two in New York, and one in Mary Land. This Port has Double the Number of any other Colony, which was Claim'd as due to our Ship Carpenters, who are more Numerous and we hope will prove on this Occasion, to have greater Abilities in their profession than their Neighbours –

Gentlemen your Honor and the honor of this Province is at stake, but we doubt not you will compleat your Business so well, and so Soon, that the publick Voice will declare in your favour – As we are appointed Commissioners under Authority of Congress for having these Ships Built and fitted, we have Empowered Messrs William Pollard, Francis Grice, Samuel Penrose, & David Thomson to act as Timber Commissioners, with powers to buy and take charge of all Timber, plank &c. necessary for compleating these Ships, they will keep an exact account of all that is bought, and an Account of what is apply'd to the use of each ship; therefore you must apply to them for all Timber, Plank and Trenals wanted for your Ship and they will supply the Same as fast as wanted – We have appointed Messrs James Craige James Wharton Nathaniel Falkner [Falconer] and William Davis Commissioners for providing Rigging, ship Chandlery and other stores, and when any thing is wanted by you that falls within their department, they will supply it on application –

Messrs Benjamin Fuller, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Isaac Hazelhurst and Clement Biddle are appointed commissioners of accounts, and the whole accounts that relate to those ships are to undergoe their Inspection and Correction –

Mr Woolman Sutton is appointed superintendant and Mr John Ashmead Clerk of your Ship Yard – They will form a Muster Roll of all Persons employd to work on or about your ship and Keep a regular account of the time they do work, they will procure Labourers when needfull, they will procure work for Smiths and other Tradesmen as wanted, and in short do every service, and tender you every Assistance in their Power. –

As Harmony amongst all Persons employed in the same Business will greatly promote the work we earnestly recommend it to you and all others to keep up good humour and good Understanding with all these boards of Commissioners, with the Superintendants, Clerks, and with the other ship Carpenters, and all Other Tradesmen, it will Serve your country to do so, and we Know your Patriotism too well to think you want any other Spur – In all things that we can promote this Business we shall do it by day or by Night, and we hope in due time to hold up your Conduct to all the united Colonies as deserving their Intire approbation – We are Sirs [&c.]

1. Joshua Humphreys Correspondence, 1776–1780, vol. 2, HSP. This is the contract for Frigate No. 2, subsequently to be named the *Randolph*. The contract for Frigate No. 1, later named the *Washington*, was with Gehu and Benjamin Eyres, of Kensington, and is held by the United States Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis. It differs only in the names of the superintendent, Peter Younge, and the clerk, James Dundass. Contracts for the other two Philadelphia built frigates, the *Delaware* and the *Effingham*, have not been located.

FRANCIS WADE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.¹

Gentn

Philada 9th Jan'y 1776 -

When I gave in my application to your body for the Contract to supply the Arm'd boats for the defence of this province, I had in View that of serving them on the lowest terms, for the benefit of the province, & a small profit for myself, at least as much as would pay me, & my people for my trouble & loss of time, attendg that [business] which on Examination I find will only barely do it, as that is really the Case, at this time, & a greater scarcity of the Articles I furnish them with to be Apprehended, lays me under the necessity of soliciting the gentn of the Committee of safety for a supply of Cash, so as I may not be a sufferer by the Contract, which I must Undoubtedly be, unless Enable'd to lay the Articles in on the best terms, which Cannot be done without Cash - I am now in advance for one months rations, which with the disadvantages I labour under on Account of the present & aproaching season I hope the gentlemen of the Committee will, take under their Consideration & grant me such a supply of Cash, as they may think sufficient to go through with the Contract, to the satisfaction of the Committee & the Concern'd, I am Verry respectfully Gentn [&c.]

Fran^s WadeN B the amount deliverd Exceeds £ 460²

1. André de Coppet Collection, PUL.

2. The Committee of Safety did not act upon Wade's request until January 26, when it ordered the committee on accounts to draw in his favor for £350.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL¹

[Philadelphia, January] 9th 1776

... at Breakfast I was visited by Paul Folkss housekeeper, who inform[ed] that their boy Neal had heard his Sister Rosanah Thompson who liv[es] At [Richard] Bache's how that James Brattle Servant man to James Duean one of [the New] york Delegates, was imployed by Govr [William] Tryon to Collect & Send him all the news he Could find on board the *Asia*, for which he Should be well rewarded & also be preferd to Some Post, in Consequence of which he had wrote to him & in particular the day our fleet Saild with their Number &c one this enformation I called upon Some of our Committee [of Inspection and Observation] at Coffe house. Joseph Dean Went with me but could gain nothing we returnd. then John Bayard went with me to Joseph Reeds he not at home thence to See for him at Committee of Safty; not there thence to Court house found him after taking his advice went to Halls printing office took Bache home with us calld his maid examind her She Seemed Confounded but on the whole denied it. from thence to Coffe house Room Where consulting Major [John] Cox Joined us two we went to State house calld out Mr Duane informd him he Seem Confounded requested us to attend him to his house we did. he calld his man examind him took him up stairs & made Search all to no purpose. we then went took him with us to Paul Folkss examind the Boy who persisted we brought the boy back to the Duanes Lodgin Sent for the young woman who upon Seeing her brother Conf[essed] that what he had Said was true. James was call & interrogated, but all to no purpose. then Major Cox mr Duan took him up Staires to

Search again & while they were imployd in that business he Slipt down Staires out throe the yard & have Seen no more off him Major Bayard & my Self [waited] for them in the parlour thus he Escaped.²

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. Another account of this incident was given in a memorandum signed by Joseph Reed, John Bayard and John Cox, appearing in *The Freeman's Journal: or, the North-American Intelligencer*, Philadelphia, Pa., August 15, 1781. It was prepared in defense of James Duane, whose loyalty was under partisan attack in the newspapers that summer. They call the traitor "Rattle", instead of "Brattle"; and place the date as January 7, 1776 instead of January 9; understandable lapses of memory after five years. The memorandum reads as follows:

On Monday about noon, the 7th of January last, 1776, major Cox, major, Bayard, and Mr. Marshall, senior, three of the committee of observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, called on Mr. Duane in congress, and acquainted him that a discovery had been made, that his servant, James Rattle, was concerned in carrying on a correspondence with governor Tryon: and after mentioning the circumstances, added, that in delicacy to him, as a member of congress, the committee did not chuse to interfere, but left the further detection and punishment of the offence to himself. He thanked them for their politeness, but assured them, *that they would encrease the obligation by assisting him in bringing the matter to light, and the offender to justice:* They asked him then, whether it would be convenient for him to attend that evening, promising all the aid in their power; *he observed, that if it was so long delayed, a suspicion of the discovery might reach Rattle, and he make his escape, and that it was therefore best to seize him and search his papers immediately.* This plan was accordingly executed, and his pocket-book, cloaths, bedding, &c. the places where it was suspected he might have concealed any thing examined, but nothing could be discovered. We then proceeded with him to the house of Mr. — [Paul Fooks], whose apprentice lad first gave the information, he repeated the circumstances with all the appearance of truth and sincerity, and in the manner they were told to him, as he alledged, by his sister Rose, who was courted by Rattle. The lad was then confronted with his sister, and repeating the same story, she with much reluctance and entreaty, and evident marks of concern, lest Rattle's life might be brought into danger, confirmed the truth of the information, which was to the following effect: That Rattle had frequently told her, that *his master and all the congress would be hanged:* That last new-year's day he told her, that some person came to Philadelphia and engaged him to give intelligence to governor Tryon of what passed in this city, and in reward he was promised a place as a merchant in a vessel trading between New-York and Boston. That he accordingly gave governor Tryon intelligence of the vessels of war which were fitting out at this port, and of the time of their sailing. That this last advice he had communicated in a letter which had been sent with his master's dispatches by colonel [Abraham] Brashier. The letter Mr. Duane well remembered, it was directed to Leslie a barber in New-York and when Rattle requested it might be sent by colonel Brashier, he told him, it enclosed or gave an account of money which he had received from Mr. [Thomas] Cushing, then a delegate for Massachusetts, for Leslie: She added further, that Rattle told her, he was one day writing intelligence for governor Tryon, and *his master came upon him unexpectedly, that he was so much frightened lest he might make a discovery; that it threw him into a fit of sickness.* Rattle and Rose were then confronted, and he denied every word of the charge: but the proof being positive, the committee *as well as Mr. Duane*, concluded that he was guilty, and it was agreed, that a constable should be sent for and he be committed to goal. Mr. Duane then recollected, that he had a suit of blue cloaths, which on the search we had not seen, and that as he had no chest or trunk, it was probable that he might have secured his papers in them. Doctor Cox and Mr. Duane took him up stairs, to examine those cloaths, but making no further discovery, his master told Rattle, that he believed he was a rascal, and that he would never have any further concern with him; that he should give him an account of

the money he received and expended for him, which a few days before he had ordered him to draw out, and take away his cloaths. He desired leave to change his breeches, and for that purpose, and to get the account, went into the next room. In the meantime *Doctor Cox* discovered a basket with papers standing in the passage, between the two rooms, on the top of a cloaths press. *Mr. Cox* and *Mr. Duane* returned to the light to examine the papers, which took three or four minutes, and making no discovery from them, went down to join the other gentlemen of the committee, who had remained in the parlour below, and where it was expected to find *Rattle*; but missing him, searched the house, yard and stables, to no purpose. At length one of the children of the family told us, he had gone out of the yard door. *Mr. Marshall* then proposed, that *Mr. Duane* should apply to a magistrate for a warrant to apprehend him, but as the nature of the complaint did not regularly fall under such a mode of proceeding, *it was concluded by us all, it would be best for the committee to have him procured and brought before them, which they undertook to do, and gave directions accordingly. He, however, made his escape.*

We do certify the foregoing to be a true and faithful narrative of the detection and escape of *Mr. Duane's* servant, *James Rattle* [*Brattle*].

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia], 9th January, 1776.

Conformable to a Resolution of Congress That Nathaniel Shaw should have permission to load Flour in this port, to the amount of two thousand pounds, this board requested the Committee of inspection and observation to permit Thomas & Isaac Wharton, to export in Flour to the said amount.

Resolved, That Capt. Procter. [Thomas Proctor] immediately go to Fort Island, and take under his Command the Artillery Company station'd there.

Order'd, that Robert Towers, Commiss'y, immediately apply to Colo. [John] Cadwalader for all the Muskets he has to spare, and deliver them to Capt. [Samuel] Nicholas, taking his receipt for the same.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 451, 452.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*¹

TWO DOLLARS REWARD.

Deserted the third inst. from Captain John Welsh's company of marines,² PETER M'TEGART, born in Ireland, about thirty years of age, five feet seven inches high, smooth faced, brownish complexion, short dark brown hair. Had on a light brown coat, white cloth jacket and breeches, blue stockings and new shoes. Whoever delivers said deserter to James Guthrie, at the corner of South and Water streets, shall have the above reward.

Philadelphia, January 9, 1776.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, January 9, 1776; repeated January 13, January 18, and January 20, 1776.

2. Welsh commanded the Marines on board *Cabot*.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN'S ACCOUNT FOR THE BRIG *Hannah*¹

1776 Dr. Brigg <i>Hannah</i> in Accot with Archd Buchanan	Currency
864 Barrells of Flour 1,732.2.6 a 12/6	£ 10[22].17. –
Barrells a 1/9	75.12. –
107 Barrells of Bread 13,390 a 12s/	[8]0. 6.10
Barrells 2 2/1	11. 2.11
6 m' Red & White Oak Staves	32.
To Bill of disbursemts. for Cooperage, Nails Linning,)
Casks, Scow hire Dray hire Rum for Waggoners &ca) 13 3 3½
[Baltimore] January 9th Errors Excepted	
	£1295.12. –½
	Arch ^d Buchanan

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch. *Hannah* was making a West Indian cruise.

MICHAEL EARLE TO THOMAS RINGGOLD¹

[Extract]

Chester Town 9th Janry 1776 –

Norfolk is reduc'd to Ashes at last it seems – I fear we are laying plans for more of this kind of Work – Dunmore has a most malignant Hea[rt] of his own, & I wish some Patriot Bullett wou'd give him a Safe Conduct to the other World – In this, he is a pest – The further I extend my View, the greater to me appears our Danger & I wish those Gent among us, who conduct our Politics to deliberate well on the deep Stake we are playing & consider if it may not on the whole be best to make one further Essay for Accomodation – A thousand reasons may be urg'd in its favor, not a single one agst it occurs to me – It surely is not impossible, but that the Spirit of an old Roman might be accompany'd by the Humility of a good Christian, & this be our Conduct – I would hold the Olive Branch in one hand & the Sword in the other, & I woud convince the whole World, that this was not by way of threat, but purely to secure my Liberty – I woud wipe away the Aspersion that Independance was our View, by drawing the Line as nearly as I cou'd in Terms not the least ambiguous, & if they refus'd, the Blood that must be Spilt, woud fall on their heads – If this be done, there woud be but few Tories in America & of those few, none dare shew them selves – We shoud unite as one Man & no power coud destroy us – If we do not, what may be the fatal Consequences of Disunion – If no Accomodation takes place & they resolve to risque their all upon the Cast, for so I think they will, must they not accept of the foreign Troops offer'd them – If the Russians come over, will it not necessarily introduce the French, it must. That Power will find means to persuade us into an Acceptance of their Men. We shall have the sevrall Powers of Europe; fighting their Battles in America, & in this View of things, the fate of Poland ought to make us tremble – I pretend not to say that all this will happen – That it may serve my Purpose, or suppose it any way less injurious, yet a spe[e]dy Settlemt by Negotiation must be preferable. That it must come to at last, perhaps after the loss of 50,000 Lives, & shoud the bale [balance] be agst us, we may want Spirit to exert our Abilities to advantage. It's observable that those who are most elated with Success, and proportionably depress'd by a Reverse of Fortune, & if so, we coud not go into a Negotiation at a more proper Season – I

would send Home dispatch Boats, I would draw the Letter in [illegible] plain & express Terms, that he who run[s] might read, so, as that it could not possibly be misunderstood – I would let them know that while I had Life I would have Liberty, & that the better to secure it, I would not relax in a single Instance – My Operations should all be continued without abatement, & if they refus'd, what all Mankind must agree was right & reasonable, the Blood as I said before should be on their own heads – By this Conduct we should stand perfectly fair with the whole World, with our selves, & I should suppose with Heaven, whose Interposition I am not Infidel eno' to think, ought not to be taken into the Account – I could say much more, but I should not take up too much of your Time – You have these thoughts as they occur in confidence, & you'll let me hear what may be the prevailing Opinion of our Acquaintance & friends on this most interesting Subject – If something in this way be not done, I see a Spirit rising, that may be injurious to our Cause – More minds will grow more agitated, & a difference of Sentiment may throw us into Altercations & heart burnings which may be prejudicial – Policy should dictate to our Leaders to adopt such Measures as may be as universally approv'd as possible. – Should a Jealousy take place among ourselves as well as in England, that Independance is the real View of almost a Majority, what Distractions may we not fall into, & to insure our Success, it ought to be prevented least here & every where our Enemies take advantage of it – Tho the present gloomy prospect almost precludes happiness, I can't help wishing you a large proportion of it – & with my Respects to my old friends, I am Dr Tom Yr affect Uncle

M^c Earle

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

ROBERT T. HOOE TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER¹

Honble Sir

Alexa Jany 9th 1776

Capt Conway has never been able to get his vessel ready to take in till this day tho' he has used great industry, the weather, the Hollydays &c has been against him – She is still a very fine vessell, now in the most complete order and it gives me concern to inform you that, the Capt, one of the most active fellows in the world, is about leaving her – of this Capt Conway never gave me the most distant hint, till within these few days, as soon as he made known his intentions, I expostulated with and endeavor'd to convince him of the impropriety of leaving the service without giving the Council of Safety due notice to provide another master, but all in vain, – He has had a little vessel built some where in the lower parts of Virginia, she is finished and come up and he is going out in her – However he promises to stay by the vessel and see things carried on, till another master comes on board You'll therefore be pleased to appoint one and send him to take charge as soon as possible. He says he intended to give you notice at Annapolis, but the Council Room was always full & he never could find an opportunity. if you have not a proper person to spare, there is a Brother of Conways, who I believe to be an able seaman, & a very industrious spirited

man that has offerd himself; He being well acquainted, could pick up men in a short time of wch the vessel is bare, having but 3 on board. I am Sir [&c.]

R.Hooe

If you incline to accept of his brother it will be well to give me orders by next post or he will be engaged.

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

[On board the Ship *Dunmore*, off Norfolk]

[No. 34]

[January 9, 1776]

Since writing the above² William Goodrich is arrived. He informs me the two thousand Pounds worth of Powder, that was sent for to France, is not yet arrived, and that all the Bills were Sold except the inclosed two of £ 400. — that I now send your Lordship (No 11) that you may make such use of as you think proper against the parties concerned in them, I have kept the seconds and thirds of each for fear of accidents, and shall send your Lordship the Seconds with Duplicate of this, I here also send your Lordship a Copy of all that passed between William Goodrich and Mr Van Dam (No 12) at St Eustatia, when last there; And with this I send your Lordship (No 13) a Letter I intercepted a few days ago of Mr. John Norton's to His Son John Hatley Norton in Virginia, who is Married to a Daughter of Mr Robert Carter Nicholas, Treasurer of this Colony, Your Lordship will see by the Contents of this letter that the writer must be well acquainted with the use the Money was to be put to, for which Mr. Robert Carter Nicholas draws on him, from his earnestness, when he Speaks of honoring the Bills, that "He hopes he shall be able to bring it about some way or other, and will make a point of it, if he is obliged to pawn his Coat."

In your Lordships dispatch No 22, you are pleased to inform me of the Situation of North Carolina, and from every thing I can learn, I believe it to be a very exact account of it; Your Lordship at the same time desires that I will supply Governor [Josiah] Martin with such a Number of the Arms &c sent me, as he may want, or I can Spare; Since the Arrival of the *Liverpool*, a Tender arrived here from Governor Martin, requesting me to supply him with three thousand Stand of Arms and Ammunition in proportion, this Your Lordship knows was impossible for me to do, as I had only received three thousand in all, but I have sent him one third, which I do assure your Lordship goes to my very heart, for was I even now to receive any reinforcement I am sure I could get men enough for double the Number of Arms now left me.

I am happy to have it in my power to inform your Lordship, that by depriving the Rebels from every supply of Salt, Rum, or Sugar, in my power, the first as I observed to your Lordship before, is raised from one Shilling per Bushel to fifteen, Rum from two Shillings and Six Pence per Gallon to twelve and fourteen Shillings, and Muscovado Sugar (for they have no White at all) which used to Sell from five to Six pence per pound, now Sells at four and five Shillings

per pound, the want of the first of these Articles must distress them beyond Measure, as they cannot without it either preserve the Cattle in the upper part of the Country that are alive, nor can they, in the lower part of the Country cure the Meat they live upon during the whole of the Summer. I think the want of Rum will damp their Courage more ways than one, and I know they will feel the want of the last Article tho' only a luxury of life.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353. Date is approximated.
2. His letter of January 4, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S
SHIP *Otter*, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN SQUIRES"¹

Jan. 9. 1776.

The detested town of Norfolk is no more! Its destruction happened on New Year's Day! About four o'clock in the afternoon the signal was given from the *Liverpool*, when a dreadful cannonading began from the three ships, which lasted till it was too hot for the Rebels to stand on their Wharfs. Our boats now landed and set fire to the town in several places. It burnt fiercely all night, and the next day; nor are the flames yet extinguished; but no more of Norfolk remains than about twelve houses, which have escaped the flames!

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, March 4 to March 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Wilmington] Tuesday Januy 9th 1776.

Resolved, that Jacob Phelps, one of the Pilots in this River, be employed with his Boat, to carry Freight and Passengers, between Wilmington & Brunswick and no further without Permission; And that the said J. Phelps do not presume to take any Passengers or freight without the leave of one of the two Committees of the said Towns, or the Commanding Officers of the forces at Brunswick or Wilmington; And it is recommended to the People in general that they employ the said Jacob Phelps's Boat only as a passage Boat; And it is further Resolved, That no other person, but such as the said J. Phelps may employ, shall have Liberty to carry any Freight or Passengers to Brunswick without the leave of this Committee, or the Commanding officer at Wilmington, to the End that such person as may have inimical Designs against the Country, may be prevented from carrying Intelligence to the Governor or Ships of War.

Resolved, That Jonathan Swain, another of the Pilots, have Liberty to remove with his Family from his usual place of Residence about two or three Miles back; That Benjamin Bill may be employed, if he thinks [proper], on board the Provincial Ship, but that he shall not have Liberty to go to his usual place of Residence; And that Thomas Gallaway continue at some convenient place near the new Inlet, in order to be ready to pilot in any Vessels which may be allowed to Trade in this province, and that it be recommended to the Provincial Council & Committee of Safety for Wilmington district to make an adequate Allowance to the said Thomas Gallaway towards the Maintenance of his Family.

Ordered, That Mr John Forster receive all the Salt petre, Lead & Brimstone in Wilmington & that he give Receipts for the same. And that 4. p lb be allowed for all Salt petre –

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety

[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 1776.

Col. [Owen] Roberts attended, according to the order of yesterday; and after conferring with that gentleman upon the subject of the report made by Mr. [John] Rutledge yesterday, the Council

Resolved, That possession be forthwith taken of Sullivan's Island, and a strong fort and battery erected thereon, for defending the channel and harbour of Charles-Town; and that a temporary battery be erected there in order to defend the work, under the immediate direction of Col. Roberts.

Mr. Cornelius Dewees was then ordered to be called, and attending, the following contract was entered into with him:

Memorandum – Mr. Dewees is to deliver Palmetto logs, until further orders, not less than ten inches diameter in the middle, one-third to be eighteen feet long, the other two-thirds twenty feet long, at such part of Sullivan's Island as he shall be directed; and to be allowed one shilling per foot for all such logs so delivered – in which delivery the utmost expedition must be used.

In the Council of Safety, Jan. 9, 1776.

Henry Laurens, President.

Resolved, That the ordnance store-keeper do deliver to the order of Col. Roberts all such cannon and ordnance stores as he, from time to time, shall require for the works to be erected upon Sullivan's Island.

Resolved, That the colony powder-receiver do deliver to Col. Roberts' order any quantity of gunpowder not exceeding eight hundred pounds weight in the whole.

Read a letter from Col. Stephen Bull, dated Sheldon, 7th Jan., 1776.

Read another letter from Col. Bull, 8th Jan., 1776.

Read a letter from the Committee at Beaufort, 6th Jan., 1776, inclosing an inventory of the cargo of the brig. *William*, John Mercier, master, from Georgia for London, secured in Beaufort harbour, to prevent a violation of the Continental Association's resolutions. Also an account of expences for bringing said brigantine from Georgia, amounting to £275 2s. 6d.

Read a letter from Col. Elias Horry, Santee, 7th Jan., 1776.

Read a proposal of Mr. Peter Le Poole, for the importation of certain necessary articles.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 157–59.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah], Jan. 9th, 1776.

The President having informed the Board that, from the accounts received, informing that ships of war were destined to this coast, he had issued orders to remove the cannon from the Island of Cockspur.

Resolved, That this Board do approve of the said orders, and that the President do issue further orders for collecting and cleaning the cannon in and about the Town of Savannah, and that the commanding officer be appointed to do the same.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 92-95.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Portland, in English Harbour Antigua

Sir.

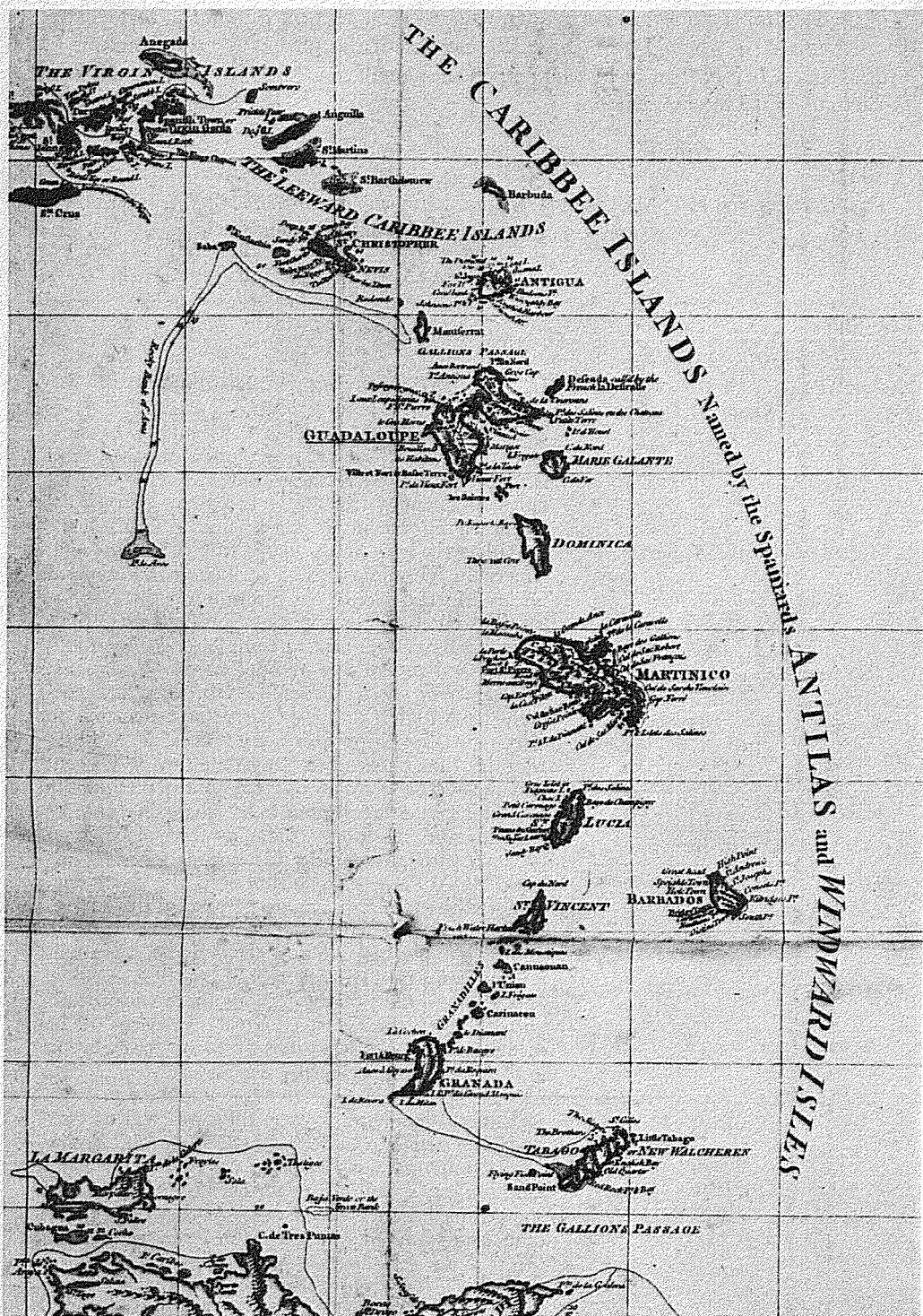
9th. January 1776.

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I received their Order to send one of the Ships under my Command to St Vincent, to take on board three Companys of the 60 Regiment, and proceed with them to St Augustine in East Florida, and the *Hind* being the fittest Ship for that purpose, sent for her in from a Cruize, and as soon as She is Victualed for that purpose, she will proceed and put those Orders in Execution, and also must acquaint their Lordships, that the several Victualers and Transport in the inclosed List, having by stress of Weather on the Coast of North America being forced to bear up for this Island, I have thought it fit for their security, and the good of the Service, to Order the *Hind* on her return from St Vincent, after taking on board the Troops, to call in at St John's in this Island, and take under her care and protection the said Victualers and empty Transport, as far at St Augustine, and after Captain [Henry] Bryne has there landed the Troops, to proceed on with them to the Coast of North America 'till he meets some of His Majesty's Ships on that Station, and deliver them up to them to proceed to Boston, but in case he meet's none, to see them safe there himself, or any other Port the Fleet may Rendezvous at, and then to make the best of his way back to this Port, which I hope their Lordships will approve of.— I have not yet been Able to Visit the rest of the Islands, as being at Barbadoes intending to do it; was there informed of Ships being drove into this Island, therefore thought best to return here to forward them away again as soon as possible, as they all want some refitting. doing which, shall give them all the assistance I can and will not leave this place till they are gone.

I have likewise inclosed the State and Condition and Disposition of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

P S. Since writing the above, I find the Commanding Officer of the 60 Regiment, Captain Garnadier, who is here has no Orders for Embarking three Companys of that Regiment to go to St Augustine, nor that Orders are at St Vincent for that purpose, as the Packet that brought mine to Barbadoes is now arrived here, and has been at St Vincent; therefore shall detain the *Hind* till the Arrival



of the December Packet at Barbadoes, where I have sent the *Sandwich* Tender for my Letters, by which I gain three Weeks; and if the Orders for the Company's dont arrive before then or by that conveyance, shall send the *Hind* to Convoy the Victuallers as I intended before.

J. Y.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS UNDER VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG
AT BARBADOS AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS ¹

[Antigua] the 9th January 1776.

Ships	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
<i>Portland.</i>	Vice Adml Young Capt. T. Dumaresq }	In English Harbour Antigua, Refitting.
<i>Argo.</i>	Wm Garnier.	24th Novemr 1775. Ordered to Dominica to complete her Wood and Water, then proceed and Cruize between St Eustatia, St Croix, and the Islands adjacent:— frequently to call in at the different Islands for intelligence.— and to Cruize near the places where most likely to meet with such American Vessels as are described in his general Order Marked No 10, to continue on this Service till the 1st Feby. next; then proceed to Prince Rupert's Bay Dominica, to complete his Wood and Water, and return to English Harbour Antigua.— 28th Decemr 1775. Ordered to proceed immediately to Antigua, and use the utmost dispatch to Complete the Ships Stores and Provisions to six Months, then proceed to Kingstone Bay St Vincent and receive on board three Companys of the 60th Regiment, and carry them to St Augustine, in East Florida, and disembark them at that place, then proceed with all possible dispatch to join the Admiral at Antigua.— In addition to the foregoing, Ordered the <i>Hind</i> after taking on board the Troops at St Vincent, to call in at St John's Road Antigua, and take under his care and protection the Victualers and Transport lying there, as far as St Augustine, and after landing of the Troops there, to proceed with them to the Coast of North America 'till he meets some of His Majesty's Ships on that Station. and deliver them up to them &c.—
<i>Hind</i>	Heny. Bryne.	22d Novemr 1775 Ordered to Dominica to complete her Wood and Water, then proceed to Grenada and deliver a Letter to the Honble Wm Young Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majesty's Southern Caribee Islands &c. and should he require the assistance of the <i>Lynx</i> , to remain and give him all the assistance she can, so long as the same shall be necessary, afterwards proceed and Cruize between St Eustatia and St Croix, &c. to remain on this Service as long as the Provisions
<i>Lynx.</i>	Alexr Scott.	

Ships	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
<i>Pomona.</i>	Wm Young.	will last, then return to English Harbour Antigua. 28 Decmr 1775. Ordered to proceed to Roseau in the Island of Dominica, in search of the <i>Hind</i> , and deliver to her Captain a Letter, should She not meet with Her there, She is then to Cruize in Search of her on the Station assigned to her, which is between the Islands Dominica and St Vincent, and the French Islands Guadaloupe, Martinique & St Lucia, when this Service is performed the <i>Pomona</i> is to Complete her Wood and Water at Dominica, then proceed and Cruize between that Island and St. Vincent, and the French Islands Guadaloupe Martinique, and St Lucia, and use his utmost endeavours to execute his General Order Marked No 10, &c.&c.&c.

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

10 Jan.

PHILLIP CALLBECK TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sir,

Halifax 10th January 1776.—

I beg Leave to acquaint you, that on the Seventeenth November last, two Privateers belonging to Beverly, one of them Armed with Six Six Pounders, the other four Six Pounders, and each of them with a number of Swivels, and Seventy five Men, Arrived at Charlotte Town, the Capital of His Majesty's Island of St John (where I reside as Commander in Chief, the Governor being absent on Leave:) and immediately made Preparations to fire on the Town, at the same time their Commanders with armed Partys landed.— Not having heard that the Colonys had fitted out Privateers, I judged them to be Pirates, and by their Conduct they were Actually such. Therefore in order to preserve the Town from being burnt, I determined Singly to face them, not having force of any kind to make resistance. Upon their landing they made me Prisoner, and instantly conveyed me on board one of the Privateers; after which they proceeded to commit the most wanton and flagrant Outrages on Governor [William] Paterson's and my House, possessed themselves of the whole of my Property, after which made a Prisoner of a Mr [Thomas] Wright one of the Council, and then Sailed for New England. We landed at Winter Harbour, and proceeded to Cambridge, where, upon relating our distresses to Mr Washington, our being torn from our Families in the most cruel manner, and I being robbed of all I had, he thought proper to release us, and I am thus far in my way back to re-assume the Government. The reason, they assigned for their Conduct, was, that I had recruited for the King's Army, and sent the People, I got, to the assistance of Quebec.

Prior to their attacking the Island they had remained in the Gut of Canso sometime, during which they took five Vessels laden with Fish, and in their return they took three more, without meeting with the least opposition.

I have taken the Liberty, Sir, to trouble you with this detail, in order to excuse my observing that if there had been last Summer, a Frigate cruising as usual in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, our Persons and Property, and the unfortunate Owners of the Vessels before mentioned, would have been secured against the hostile Depredations, we have had the misfortune to experience; at the same time to make my most earnest request, that you will be pleased to order a Frigate to be as early as possible in the Spring at the Island, and to remain there as long as the Season will permit; Otherwise the Gentlemen belonging to His Majesty's Government and Myself will be under the disagreeable necessity of departing from our duty, and abandoning our Fortunes, most of which have been expended on the Island in Improvements. To take this Step, Sir, will naturally occur to you to be very disagreeable to us; Yet our Preservation so much depends upon being secured in the manner I have made free to point out, that unless you are pleased to give me hopes that our Request for Protection will be granted, we certainly shall, as I have said before, be obliged early in the Spring, to take the sad alternative of seeking an Assylum else where.

I am to observe, Sir, that if you should be pleased to grant my request, it will not only be a means of making us happy in being secured, but it will also prevent the Rebels from making an Acquisition of Sixteen Nine Pounders, one eight Inch Mortar, some Cannon ball, and Grape Shot, which are now at Fort-Amherst, at the entrance of Port la Joye – If there were no other Temptations for making a second Visit, the object of gaining this Artillery, would to them be a sufficient Inducement, not to Add the Gratification of their avowed revengefull Disposition (on those who in a manner assist the Crown:) by ruining several Gentlemen's Settlements, their Tenantry and others on the Island. These Gentlemen were Inhabitants, but stimulated by Loyalty to His Majesty, immediately enter'd his Service, and have taken off Recruits, all of whom are now on Duty in different parts of America.

There was a Circumstance took place while I was Prisoner, which I think my Duty to communicate to you. A Transport from London called the *Jenny*, Captain William Foster, was taken by a Privateer, who decoyed her by an Imitation of one of the King's Armed Schooners. The Master after he found his mistake, threw overboard his Pocket book in which he had the Signals. This he did five Leagues from the Coast. In two days afterwards, I saw the Pocket book, which was found a Shore. Of course the Rebels are in Possession of the Signals.

I am sensible, Sir, that your Vigilance in your important Station, inclines you to procure every necessary Information, and that you will not think I too far encroach on your time while (as a faithfull servant of the Crown) I endeavor as briefly as possible, to communicate to you a few Observations I made, while I was in New-England: The trade they carried on, surprised me exceedingly. At most of the Ports east of Boston, while I passed, and repassed, there were daily Arrivals from the West-Indies, but most from Saint Eustatia; every one brings more or less Gun-Powder. Some Vessels had Sailed, Numbers were fitting out, loaded with Fish, Lumber, and some with Specie, all I believe bound for the West Indies, and Saint Eustatia. At Portsmouth there were four ready to Sail.

at Sacho two Brigs. I suppose they will be on their return in March, and most of them will bring Gun-Powder. At Cape Ann, Marblehead and Beverly, they have Forts, and now some Powder; the second is a st[r]ong one. Salem and Newberry have Vessels sunk, so, as to confine the Channel to a narrow Pass. Portsmouth has the same, besides a boom and three strong Forts. From Portsmouth to Casco every harbour and Creek has some insignificant Redoubt, Log-wall, or other defence, and upon the least alarm, the Country People come in, but from their appearance and Preparation, I should imagine their stand would be of short duration.

I have nothing further to add, but my Request that you will be pleased to favour me with an Answer directed to this place, where I shall wait for it, and that I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir, &ca

Phill: Callbeck.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir,

Portsmouth, Jany 10t[h,] 1776

Yesterday came to Town, from London last from Pool in England, (via Casco Bay) four masters of Vessels belongg to this Port,² from whom I have collected all the News Papers I Possibly cou'd, with Sundry packages & Letters, and as I have it in Direction from your Excellency to forward any letters that arrive here I take the readiest method of the[s]e reaching your Excellency, by dispatching my Young man –

The news papers are much defaced previous to there coming to my hand, the anxiety of Americans, occasion'd a frequent Perusal, which I hope may appologize for there present state

The Captains Intend setg out for Head Quarters in a day or two, who have Verbal Informations to your Excellency from some Gentlemen of Note in London –

In the Interim I have to inform your Excellency that a number of Transports sail'd on or about the time these Gentlemen left England, (say the 6t[h] Novr) with Stores for Boston, without Convoy, Three of which were large Ships formerly in The service of the [East] India Compy [&] are defenceless – I sincerely wish some of the American Arm'd vessels may conduct them safe to other Ports than there first destination – I am with much respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

Josh^a Wentworth

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. See *Essex Journal*, January 12, 1776.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO STEPHEN MOYLAN¹

Sir,

Portsmouth Jany 10th 1776

I have dispatch'd my young man with sundry packages, Letters & News Papers to His Excellency General Washington, that came to hand by some Masters of Vessels lately arrivd at Casco Bay from England – These Captains will set off for Head Quarters in a day or two to wait on the General, & deliver verbal messages they have from some Gentlemen of Note in London I hope it will be usefull

I have discharged the potatoe Vessel² by Storing about 550 bushels in a cellar, soon as disposed off I shall transmit you Sales &c. remaining with much Esteem Sir, [&c.]

Joshua Wentworth

P.S. Mr King sends by this oppty Invoice of the Flour.³

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Schooner *Rainbow*, John McMonagle, master, taken November 25, 1775, by Washington's schooner *Warren*.

3. The flour inventory covered the cargo of the ship *Prince George*, from Bristol, which blundered into the Piscataqua river in October, 1775, and was seized by the Portsmouth Committee of Safety. See Volume 2.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO LORD STIRLING¹

My Lord

Cambridge Jan'y 10. 1776

Having received undoubted Intelligence of the fitting out of a Fleet from Boston, & of the embarkation of Troops from thence, which from the season of the year & other circumstances, must be destined for some expedition South of this; And having such Informn as I can rely on, that the Inhabitants of Long Island or a great part of them are inimical to the rights & liberties of America, & by their conduct & professions have discovered an Apparent inclination to Assist in Subjugating their Countrymen & fellow Citizens to the System of tyranny, Administration are attempting to establish, there is the greatest reason to apprehend, that this Armament, If not immediately designed against the City of New York, is nevertheless Intended for Long Island.

Knowing it to be of the last importance to the Interest of America, to prevent the Enemy from getting possession of these places, & the North river, which would give them the Command of the Country & a free communication with Canada, I have dispatched Major Genl. [Charles] Lee with orders to repair to New York with such Volunteers as he can raise on his way (having no Troops to spare from hence) to put the City & the Fortifications up the river in the best posture of defence; the season & situation of Affairs will admit of & for taking proper steps agt such persons on Long Island & elsewhere whose conduct hath rendered them suspected of designs unfriendly to the views of Congress -² I have directed him to apply to you for the Troops of New Jersey under your Command in the Contin[en]tal pay or such of them as he may think necessary for effecting the purposes of his going - I beg and am assured that you will afford him every assistance in your power, for facilitating this business, as far as may be consistent or not repugnant to the Orders you shall [have] received from Congress, and with all possible expedition. I am, My Lord [&c.]

To The Right Honbl The Earl of Stirling

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The instructions to General Lee and a letter of warning to the New York Committee of Safety were written by Washington on January 8.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT¹

[Cambridge] 10th Jan'y 1776

by Col. [John] Glovers acct I find that Capt. Manly & Capt [William] Burke have engaged, what in my opinion will with the Officers be a sufficient number for these Small vessells – if the Guns belonging to Capt. [John] Darby Cannot be purchasd – they must be replaced out of the two vessells that are not in Such forwardness – we shall afterwards think of Suplying them, there are two ps at Cape Ann out of the Ordnance Store ship & two at Beverly out of the *Concord*² – these are good Guns & will help, indeed I think be as good as six for the purpose these vessells are fitted out the Treasury is at present very Low, you must therefore wait for money until a remittance Comes from Phila we are every day expecting it Col Glover tells me that both Manly & Burke engaged to advance a months pay, it was wrong except the people engaged for twelve months – if they do not I dont think them entitled to it – however if you find it will retard the sailing of these vessells – I wish you woud raise money & advance it to them yourSelfe as the General will not chuse to have their accounts blended with the accounts of the Army Which must be the Case, if Colonel Glover advances the money to them – it will Save much trouble and at Same time be your own interest to Keep all the accounts of these vessells in your own hands –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The ordnance brig *Nancy*, and the ship *Concord*, taken by John Manley in Washington's schooner *Lee* in November and December, 1775.

LIEUTENANT JOHN KNIGHT, R.N., TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Northampton Jan'y 10th 1776

Many reasons as well as the unexpected lengthening time of my Captivity induces me to take the liberty of addressing you on a Subject the propriety of which I must leave to your Judgement. Freedom from being a Prisoner, is the ultimate of my request, and as this great indulgence I conceive lyes entirely with yr Excellency. I must beg your attention one moment – to my reasons – for this presumption. – I have been employed in America since the year 1763 on the Survey of the Sea Coasts, and since 1770 until the hour of my Captivity commanded a Kings Vessel on that Service only, during all which time I can declare I never did a single injury to an American, or ever detain'd one of their Vessels (even in an Illicit Trade) tho' often in my power; on the contrary I dare believe there are several will do me the Justice to acknowledge having received assistance from me when in distress. The Work I was then engaged on, was of a publick Nature, and intended for the Advantage of all, but as this unhappy dispute must necessar[i]ly put a Stop to that Service, there is not the least probability of my being employed (Should your goodness indulge me with my Liberty) there being so many Young Gentlemen with the Adml waiting for promotion, and many more seeking Employment, which to a Man in my Situation, having a familly in America, would admit of no invitation. – I should trespass on your patience to relate the particulars of my being made Prisoner at Machias, which I am confident,

would appear most favourable for me, and no doubt influence you sir in a great measure to acquiesce with my entreaty. — If Captain Stephen Smith the principal person of that place was near your Excellency, he [*sic* you] would Gain positive inform, that the proceedings with me there & the Surgeon Mr McFadjen belonging to the *Diligent*,² was altogether contrary to every practice in War.

I beg leave to Submit these facts to your Excellency's consideration and am with respect. Your Excellency's [&c.]

John Knight

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. H.M. Schooner *Diligent*, on surveying service out of Windsor, Nova Scotia, had put into Machias, apparently unaware of the seriousness of the rebellion in July 1775, and was seized.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, January 10, 1776.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House a Letter from his Excellency General Washington, inclosing a Copy of Peleg Wadsworth's Account of Cape-Cod Harbour.

Read, and Sent up.

Afternoon.

The House proceeded according to the Order of the Day to the Choice of a Committee on the Part of the House, for the Purposes expressed in a Resolve brought in by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry. And Col. [Elisha] Porter and Mr. [John] Brown of Boston being nominated, were appointed.

The Resolve, being amended, passed the House, and is as follows, *viz.*

Resolved, That Col. Porter, and Mr. Brown of Boston, with such as the Hon. Board shall join, be, and they hereby are appointed a Committee to settle the Accounts remaining unsettled on the Books of the late Committee of Supplies, and to collect or pay the Balances that may be due to or from the Colony on said Accounts; also to take the care of the Brigantines *Rockingham* and *Unity's* Cargoes, and such a Part of the Schooner *Macaroni*, as belongs to the Colony; also to see that the Order of this Court be complied with by Capt. William Johnson, late Commander of the Schooner *Brittania*, relative to his delivering to the Commissary of said Colony, the neat Proceeds of the Cargo of said Schooner, consigned him by the said late Committee of Supplies, exclusive of what he shall produce Receipts of having delivered agreeable to any Order of said Court: And they are further directed to receive from the Files of said Committee of Supplies, all the Papers relative to said Vessel, or any of the Persons having Accounts unsettled as aforesaid, and upon the Arrival of any of them, to cause the Proceeds of their Cargoes (if vested in Military Stores) to be delivered to the Colonial Commissary, and take his Receipts therefor, and to certify to the standing Committee of Accounts, the Sums which they shall find necessary to discharge the Portage Bills, Hire, and other necessary Charges attending the said Voyages, that shall be due from the Colony aforesaid. And the standing Committee on Accounts are hereby empowered to pay and discharge the Portage Bills, Hire of Vessels, and other Charges

that shall be examined and certified by the Committee now chosen as aforesaid, they to be accountable to the General Court for their Doings.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, H.M.S.
*Mercury*¹

You are hereby required and directed to receive on board his Majesty's Ship under your Command (for Security) such Ordnance Stores as Lieutt Col. [Samuel] Cleaveland of Artillery shall desire to be sent from the *Kitty* Transport, and you are to direct your Gunner to receive them into his Charge and sign Receipts for the said Stores, which he is to require upon their being delivered to any other Ordnance Officer by your Order and that of the Commanding Officer of the *Mercury* for the time being.

Given under my Hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston 10 Janry 1776
Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 115-16, BM.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JABEZ HUNTINGTON¹

[Extract]

Camp at Roxbury 10 Janry 1776

a Deseter came to our Guards last Night, a Corporal, and a sensible Fellow – says 200 Marines & two light Companies are embarked on Board some Transports & orders were expected to have all the Grenadiers join them supposed to be destined to Virginia – that there has been no Arrivals since the *Chatham* which brought Admiral Shuldham – says General Howe was very angry at the Conduct of his Troops at Charlestown when the Houses were burnt by our People – that 18 Regiments of Foot & 2 Battalions of Marines make the whole of their Force – that they have 3 lb Pork p Man p Week 5 oz Butter & 1 Gill Oil – &c. – that they expect more Troops but not till Spring –

1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES
IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Janry 10. 1776

Meeting in Being according to Adjournment.

Voted. That Mr Moses Tyler be desired to go to Cambridge and the Neighbouring Towns and engage all the good Ship Carpenters he can to come here to work on the ships the [sic that] he offer 4/6 pr day, they boarding themselves and that he be allowed a reasonable sum for his time and Expences for doing the said Business for Masterworkmen a higher price will be given

Voted. That Mr Sylvester Bowers make a Draught of the Large ship as soon as may be.

Reckoning 22/ LMy paid By Joseph Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Fryday evening 6 o'clock

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MEREDITH STEWART TO JOSHUA HEMPSTEAD¹

Sir

New London, January 10th. 1776

You having command of my Sloop *Lizard* and consignments of my part of Cargo – woud have you (after delivering the Soldiers at Reedy Island) proceed to Newbern North Carolina there dispose of your Cargo to the Best advantage – and if can sell the Sloop for Two Hundred & twenty Pounds Lawful Money or more woud have you do it as it will be as Safe and safer for you to risque the Money for the obligation of your half in Charter party – then risque the Vessell back, and if shoud sell the Vessell woud have you bring home the Money for her and Cargo in the way you think Safest – If you cou'd not sell the Vessell for money and had an offer from a good man there on a credit not exceeding six Months with Interest afterwards woud Sell her so rather than not Sell at all if agreable to you – or if cou'd Charter her in the Colony Service (and no Opportunity to sell) woud get her Valued at a good Price and let her go so provided they'll give Six Shillgs Lawl Money pr ton pr month and risque her – or if Capt Saltonstall shoud want her in the Continental Service either to buy or hire woud sell the Cargo to him at a reasonable rate and let him improve her – but as you are equally concern'd in Vessell you'll do everything as you'll think most advantageous for both – I shou'd much rather for my part dispose of the Vessell out & out & you'll oblige me to endeavour to do it in the best Manner you can if they make you anything of a generous offer – If you are Offer'd less than £220 or even only £200 the Comsns for selling Vessell and your part of Charter reckon'd will amount to more than the odd £20 besides what you'll make by your part of carrying the Soldiers however if you are offer'd pretty near I had rather ease of a little myself than not sell her – But if can't sell nor Charter to advantage woud have you lay out my part of effects in Rice or Indico and return as Soon as possible endeavouring to get freight for what my effects falls short of loading my half I wish you a safe prosperous Voyage & speedy return & am yr friend & Hble Sert.

M Stewart

I've 73 bbls. Cyder in all on board 2 of which let Saml Watkins have and 2 Danl Talbot which leaves 69 of mine in bbl. which charg'd in Invoice

1. HH.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

Copy

Albany January 10th 1776.

Sir I take the Liberty to enclose You an Extract of a Letter from General [Richard] Montgomery to me of the 18 Ult; I fear his next will announce the disagreeable Account of his having been obliged to raise the Siege, as soon after the Date of his Letter the Weather became most intensely cold in Canada. Congress will perceive by the first Part of the second Paragraph of his Letter that he expected Troops from this Quarter, I had mentioned to him that I had taken the Liberty to recommend to Congress to send a Body of Troops into Canada this Winter. I am so well convinced of the Practicability as well as the Necessity of It, that altho' I am much indisposed I would willingly undertake to conduct them to the

South End of the Bay of Missisque to which Place I can get with the Necessary Provisions in sleds, from whence the Traverse across that Bay (which is by this Time passable on the Ice) to Windmill Point is easy & thence on the Narrow Part of Lake Champlain no Obstacles will intervene & the Distance only about twenty four Miles to St Johns

Two of the heaviest Cannon broke the Ice in Crossing Hudsons River, the one is got out & the Other will be so in a Day or two, the Others are all gone on & I hope will reach Cambridge by the Sixteenth. —

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 388–90, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO.A.M.

January the 10th, 1776.

Mr. Nichols. Low, attending at the door, was admitted; he informed the Committee that he had received information that Lord Sterling had a design to use the vessel of Mr. Isaac Gouverneur, now at Elizabeth Town Point, to seize despatches from on board of the ship bound for London, and under the command of Capt. Cooper.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to Lord Sterling was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,

During the recess of Provincial Congress,

New York, 10th Jany. 1776.

My Lord — While we entertain the highest sense of your zeal in the public service, permit us to inform you, that we have this moment received advice of your design to employ a sloop now loading at Elizabeth Town Point, under the protection of this Committee and the direction of Mr. Nich. Low, of this city, to seize the despatches now on board Capt. Cooper; though we do not altogether rely on this advice, yet, lest it should be well founded, we beg leave to inform you, that such an expedient will, in our opinion, be prejudicial to the common cause. You doubtless know, my lord, upon what errand she came to this Continent. Should any steps be taken on our part that may embarrass those of our friends abroad, who are running risks to serve us, we must necessarily lose their assistance in an article of the utmost importance to us. We can divine no reason why that sloop should be preferred to many others in New-Jersey equally fit for the service, unless it is that the few swivels she has mounted may denominate her an armed vessel; should this be the reason for preferring her to any other, the purpose may be effectually answered by borrowing those swivels and mounting them in some other vessel. If your design should be such as we have mentioned, we beg that the expedient proposed by us may be adopted in preference to the one which will naturally discourage our friends abroad from continuing their friendship towards us.²

We are, with great respect, my lord [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Safety.



Captain William Stone, Continental sloop Hornet in background

P.S. We beg leave to inform your lordship, that we have understood the ship will be convoyed to sea by a company of marines in a pilot boat.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and delivered to Mr. Low.

N.B. Mr. Low having discovered that the information he had received was without any foundation, and this letter unnecessary, returned it to the Committee of Safety on the 11th, and it was ordered to be destroyed.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 242.

2. See Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety, January 8, 1776.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN¹

[Extract] Philadelphia, January 10, 1776

My Dear Sir, — I wrote to you the 7th Instant by Mr. Anthony by the way of Providence, and should not so soon have troubled you with another Letter but to inform you, that upon looking over the Journals of Congress I find that the Recommendation of the 26th of October, to export Produce for a certain Purpose, is confind to the foreign West Indies; and the Resolution to stop all Trade till the first of March is subsequent to it. This last Resolution prevents your exporting your Merchantable Fish to Spain for the purpose mentiond, which I am satisfied was not intended, because I am very certain the Congress means to encourage the Importation of those necessary Articles under the Direction of proper Persons, from every Part of the World.

I design to propose to my Colleagues to joyn with me in a Motion to extend the Recommendation so as to admit of exporting Fish to any place besides the foreign West Indies.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 203-04.

ROBERT MORRIS TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE¹

[Extract] Pha. Jany. 10th. 1776

we had some Success against Dunmore but he is now reenforced with Naval Strength & we dare not look at him by Sea no more than he dare set his foot on Shoar, our Fleet however will pass over the Cheavaux de Frize Channell this day I hope but their Destination is not yet known to any but our Naval Committee. I have undertaken to build four Frigates here & expect to produce four fine Ships by the Month of May next.

1. Robert Morris Mss., Bank of North America Papers, HSP. Morris was a Pennsylvania delegate in the Continental Congress.

NAVAL COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM STONE¹

Sir Philadelphia 10th January 1776

We are ordered by Congress to signify to you, that you are with the *Hornet* & *Wasp* under your Command to take under your Convoy such Vessels as are ready for the Sea as shall be committed to your Care by the Comee of Safety at Maryland, & see them safe through the Capes of Virginia & without a Moments Loss

of Time after this Service is done you are to go to the Capes of Delaware, & proceed upwards till you join the Fleet, or in Case of its having Sailed receive such Orders as may be left for you by Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies – wch you are to Obey –

Stephen Hopkins Silas Deane
Christr Gadsden Joseph Hewes –

To Willm Stone Esqr Commander of the Sloop *Hornet* In the Service of the United Colonies

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

Dr sir

Philada 10th Janry 1776

Inclosed is Copy of an Order from the Committee to Capt [William] Stone sent by Directions of Congress on an Application from Maryland wch it is necessary you shou'd have –

I also take the Liberty to send you a List of the Field Officers & Captains of two Regiments of Foot & three Companies of Artillery all Provincials station'd at Charles Town So. Carolina, shou'd you go there, upon your Arrival off the Bar the Pilot will informe you what Officer is at Fort Johnson or any of the nearest Batteries to you, from whom you may depend on all the Assistance they can give, they are most of them Gentlemen of considerable Fortunes with us who have enter'd into the service merely from Principle & to promote & give Credit to the Cause, they take it by Turns to be at the Fort, & the Zeal & Activity of all of them are such that you can't happen amiss let who will be there –

In Charles Town my particular Friends Mr [Rawlins] Lowndes, Mr [Thomas] Ferguson, Coll [George Gabriel] Powell, Mr Benja Elliott, Coll [Charles] Pinckney, Mr [William Henry] Drayton, Mr [Peter] Timothy & the Revd Mr [William] Tennant a Countryman of yours will introduce you to many others, who will all be glad to have an Opportunity of obliging you & promoting the Service – I wrote yesterday to Mr Ferguson one of the Gentn just mention'd by Way of Georgia, by a Gentleman I can depend on who will destroy my Letter shou'd he be taken, in this Letter I have hinted to look out for you, & be ready to assist you at a Moment's Warning – The two large Ships seen off of Virginia the 29th of last Month we are told were not bound there, however you will know more certainly by the Time you get out of the Capes I make no doubt – I hope you will be able to effect that Service, but whether you may or not, sooner or later I flatter myself we shall have your Assistance at Carolina, where you may depend on an easy Conquest, or at least be able to know without Loss of Time when off our Bar the Strength of the Enemy, & shou'd it be too much for you prudently to encounter wch I hardly think probable if soon attempted wth the Assistance to be depended on from us you may in such Case Retreat with great Ease, Safety & Expedition –

Wishing you every Success you can possibly wish yourself – I am Dr sir [&c.]

Christ Gadsden

P.S. Pray make my Complimts to Capt [Dudley] Saltenstall & the Rest of your Captains, & shall be obliged to you if you go to Carolina to introduce them to any

or all the Gentlemen I have mention'd who I am sure will be glad to shew them every Civility in their Power – I hope Capt [Abraham] Whipple is better –

One of the Maryland Gentn Mr [Robert] Alexander a Delegate of that Colony tells me their is a very good Ship of about 20 Guns there ² easily fitted out wch he is in hopes will join you with the *Hornet & Wasp*, & that he shou'd press it to be done this I mention by the by, –

[Enclosure]

Field Officers & Captains of the 1st & 2d Regiment of foot in the Provincial Service of South Carolina –

First Regiment

Collonel Chrstr Gadsden

Lieut Coll Isaac Huger

Major Chas C. Pinckney

Captains, Wm Cattel

Adam McDonald

Thos Lynch Junr

Wm Scott

John Barnwell

Thos Pinckney

Edmund Hyrne

Roger Saunders

Benjn Cattel

Second Regiment

Collonel Wm Moultrie

Lieut. Coll. Isaac Motte

Major Alexr McIntosh

Captains, Francis Marrion

Peter Horry

Daniel Horry

Nicholas Eveleigh

James McDonald

Isaac Harleston

Wm Mason

Francis Huger

Chas Motte

Officers of Artillery

Lieut. Coll. Owen Roberts Esqr Honle Barnard Elliott Esqr Major – Barnard Beekman, Charles Drayton & Syms White, Captains.

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. Gadsden was a South Carolina delegate in the Continental Congress.
2. The Maryland ship *Defence*.

GILBERT BARKLY TO SIR GRAY COOPER ¹

per Express to New York

[Philadelphia] 10th January 1776

Sir The two ships and tuo briganteens I mentioned in my last fell down the river the 4th Curr^t.² the ships has 250 men including marine's each of them, and the Briganteens 100 men each, they are Joined by a sloop of 12 guns from New England, there is also a Briganteen, and a Sloop fitted out at Baltimore in Marry land which Joins them before they leave this river:³ the reason (no doubt) for their shiping such a great number of men, is that they intend to board their antagonists sword in hand: they have hoisted what they call the Ammerican Flag viz the British Union, with thirteen stripes red and white, for its field, Representing the thirteen United Collonies:⁴ there is a Ship on the Stocks and nigh finished to mount 20 heavey Cannon, to support the fort on the Island,⁵ a floating battery is also a building to mount 25 heavey Cannon, and a Strong Iron Chain, is a making to be put across the Chas'm betwixt the Island batt'r'y and the Cheaux de Frise,

there is also above thirty five floats preparing to be made use of as occasion require. Three Frigates to mount 36 guns each are preparing to put on the Stock's, and are expected to be ready for launching in April or May, and it is said, the other Colonies are to Build twelve more ⁶ . . . a Ship arrived two days ago from France, with sixty tons of salt Petre, and another is hourly expected with arms and military Stores, and above Fifty tons of gunpowder has arrived since my last; it is very extraordinary that this river, (the most Consequential in America) has been so much neglected by the Kings ships: . . . Two French gentlemen ⁷ (but are called Noble men) arrived about eight days ago in this City, they made their first appearance in general Washingtons Camp, and he recommended them to the Congress, with whom they have been frequently and it is said they are authorized to offer the assistance and protection of that Crown with Supply's of Arms Ammunition etc etc provided they (the Congress) agree to grant them a free trade: one of them (Im told) is to return directly to France, and the other is to Continue at this place, to negotiate the affairs of that Perfidious Kingdom, who great Britain may be assured, watches every opportunity to involve and distress, though at the same time they are Sensible, they are plunging thousands into death and destruction, but this they matter not Provided they carry their diabolical ends. . .

This is forwarded by Express to New York, to be forwarded to you by the governor. . . .

1. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, LXXXV, 28-30, from the collection (Sir Henry Barkly Papers) of Mrs. Mona MacMillan of Long Whittenham, Berkshire, England.
2. The Continental fleet dropped down only to the fort below the city.
3. The sloop *Providence*, originally the *Katy*, from Rhode Island, and the sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*, from Baltimore.
4. The Grand Union flag.
5. The Pennsylvania ship *Montgomery*.
6. Barkly was in error regarding the number of frigates to be built; four rather than three in Philadelphia, and nine elsewhere.
7. Penet and Pliarne.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, January 10, 1776.

A petition of John Goodrich was presented to the Convention, and read praying, among other things, that the Committee of Safety might be directed to pay him the balance of his account against the public.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to the committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the said John Goodrich, relative to the importation of gunpowder, and other articles for the use of the colony.

Resolved, That the cargo of the brig *Fanny*, lately taken by captain [Richard] Barron, and carried to Cumberland, be disposed of, as the Committee of Safety shall direct, for the use of this colony; the said committee being directed to pay captain Barron one tenth of the value of the said cargo, another tenth to the mate and sailors, allowing three shares to the mate.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 91.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1776

Williamsburg [January 10].

Mr. Pinkney,

You, or your correspondent, made a great mistake in your paper of the 30th of December, in your account of lord Dunmore's cruelty to the poor Highlanders, in saying that they arrived after the battle of the Great Bridge, for they really were brought to Norfolk, pressed into Dunmore's service, promised land and every necessary, were armed against us, and a report industriously propagated, which had reached our camp, that they were a reinforcement of 500 Highland soldiers, and this report was in a great measure the means of saving the remains of the regulars at the bridge. But when his lordship found that this report, and these poor people, could do him no farther service, he turned them adrift to perish, for what he cared. The slaves may judge from this what they might have expected from his lordship's promises, if he pays so little regard to those made to his own countrymen.

Gosport, since our last, is burnt by our people, on which account old [Andrew] Sprowle has lost considerable property. No material news has been received from that quarter this week.

CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Please to acquaint their Lordships of my arrival at Cape Fear, in His Majesty's Ship *Syren* under my Command on the 3d Inst after a very disagreeable passage of seven Weeks and four days from Plymouth sound, and that Evening sent the Dispatches to Governor [Josiah] Martin by the hands of Captain Perry [Francis Parry] of His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer*, the Governor being on board the *Scorpion*, and as it would be a few days, before I should be able to procure the Pilots, thought it most prudent to run the Ship in over the Barr for her more security, as the road is very dangerous Lying in Winter season it being quite open to the Southward and Easterly winds which thro' in such a swell as would render it impossible for Anchors to hold, having had several heavy Gales from that Quarter since we have been on this Coast. — We had not less than 16 feet of Water on the Barr and then not high Water. — On my Waiting on the Governor I received a Letter from him desiring a small supply of Powder and Musquet Ball, which request I have Comply'd with, taking care to keep a sufficient Quantity for the Use of His Majesty's Ship *Syren*; — And in Consequence of a Letter from Captain Parry wherein he acquaints me he had no Boat on board that was fit for service, have supplied him with the Extra I reced at Chatham, which I hope will meet with their Lordships aprobatation, since which I have been detained by contrary Winds, but now am under sail for South Carolina. — I am Sir [&c.]

Syren Cape Fear Jany 10th 1776:

Tob^s Furneaux

[Endorsed] 29 Mar [1776] own rect & approve

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1790.

PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN¹

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas a most daring, horrid, and unnatural Rebellion has been exerted in the Province against His Majesty's Government, by the base and insidious artifices of certain, traitorous, wicked, and designing men, and the same is now openly avowed and declared, and actually threatens the sole subversion of the laws and Constitution of the said Province, and the liberties and privileges of His Majesty's subjects, inhabitants thereof, I have thought fit to issue this Proclamation, hereby to signify to all His Majesty's liege subjects within this Province, that I find it necessary, for the safety and preservation of the rights, civil and religious, and for the maintenance of His Majesty's government against the said desperate, unnatural Rebellion, to erect His Majesty's Royal standard, and to collect and unite the forces of His Majesty's people under the same, for the purpose of resisting and subduing, with the assistance of the Almighty, the said impious and unnatural Rebellion, and to restore the just rights of His Majesty's Crown and Government, and the liberties of his people; and I do, hereby, exhort, require, and command, in the King's name, all His Majesty's faithful subjects, on their duty and allegiance, forthwith to repair to the Royal standard, hereby promising and assuring every aid, encouragement, and support to all such as shall come to vindicate and support the violated laws and Constitution of their country; at the same time pronouncing all such Rebels as will not join the Royal banner, Rebels and Traitors; their lives and properties to be forfeited. All such as will join shall be forgiven any past offences, even admitting they had taken up arms, not doubting that every man who knows the value of freedom and the blessings of a British subject, will join his heart and hand to restore to his country that most glorious, free, and happy Constitution and form of Government, which the most desperate and abandoned Traitors only can wish to disturb or alter; or, in times of danger, like the present, forbear to hazard every thing that is dear to support it.

Given under my hand and seal-at-arms, on board His Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion*, in Cape-Fear River, this 10th day of January 1776, and in the sixteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

Josiah Martin

God save the King.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 980-81.

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO JAMES POYAS, LONDON¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] January 10th 1776 -

Per Capt Smith in a Jamaica Snow & per Mrs Wells from Georgia
Dear Sir My last to you was by the *Portland* Capt Wilson, dated 21st September since which I have been favoured with yours of 14 August, and was hopeful of hearing from you by the Packett Boat² also, who arriv'd in our Road on Christmas day, but the Mail was not brought up to town till the 3d Instant, being detain'd by our hopeful Governour. Mr Wm Hayward the only Passenger onboard, was also detain'd some days, and the letters he had in Charge taken from him before he was suffer'd to quit the Ship, since that day 6th Instant, said Packett with the *Tamar* &

Cherokee Men of Warr hath quitted us, with Lord William [Campbell] & his Family onboard, the former having a Mail onboard for New York,³ 'tis thought the Lady & Children with some Torys driven from Georgia, and one or two Slipped away from hence, are gone Passengers in her for England. — but where the Governour intends for we know not, however, his Room will prove much more agreeable than his Company as his actions have continued to be very mean toward us, for a number of Valuable Slaves have been Induced 'tis thought, to quit their owners here through encouragement from him & the Commanders of the Men Warr, and protected by them on Sullivants Island, to which place 50 or 60 of our People three weeks since paid a visit at Night, and early in the Morning sett Fire to the Pest house, took some Negros & Sailors Prisoners, killed 5 of the former that woud not be taken, and unfortunat[ely] lost near 20 that were unseen by them till taken off the Beach by the Men Warrs Boats some of whose People Fired on ours without effect, but were suffer'd to return without any other Injury than much frighted by the whooping & appearance of a party from our Indian Company, who had they been permitted to Fire (being all Rifle Men) must have killed every Sailor that appear'd in the Boats. — the day before this Action the *Scorpion* Man Warr with Governor [Josiah] Martin of North Carolina on board, and a large Transport (who had a number of Cannon taken from Forts there & at Bermuda) and with Forty of our Negros with them, Sailed hence 'tis thought for Boston, as they carried with them one of our Winyaw Coasting Schooners, and two Bermuda Built Sloops seiz'd by them, altho the two latter legally clear'd from the West Indies, one from Jamaica with Rum & the other from St Kitts in Ballast, and about 300 half Jo[s] in Cash, this Money Lord William took into his own Custody, and tho demanded [by] a Notary, woud not deliver it to the Owners, the which Scandalous action occurr [torn]riv'd, who Immediately Seizd upon the Carriage & Horses, sold the latter for good Prizes, and will do the same with his furniture & ca if not redeem'd by his friends. — this repeated Insolence of his Majesty's Servants, at last determind our Council of Safety to refuse tham a further supply of any kind of Provisions, the want of which I fancy has occasion'd them to Shift their Quarters for the Present, but suppose we shall be again visited by them after they have collected a Force Sufficient to make head against us. — but by that time hope we shall be better prepared to oppose them as our disturbances in the Back Country are now happily at an end, the Insurgents being in General Subdued & disarmed . . . the Publick News receiv'd by the Packett affords nothing Pleasing for America, and as the last Petition from the General Congress to the King, tho' couch'd in very tender Terms, is like to receive the Same Fate of their former applications, there is little Room for America to hope for any thing less than Bloody Work the coming Spring, which may God in his great Mercy Prevent. — but if our Oppressors are resolv'd to go on in their cruel designs, our Cause being Just, will naturally inspire us with Courage to oppose them, for better had we die in the defence of our Just Rights, than cowardly submit ourselves, our Offspring, and all that is dear to us, to the Will & controul of a haughty and abandoned Sett of Rulers. — the Success of our Troops in the reduction of Canady to our Alliancé (a Province which the Ministry seem'd so Sure of as to expect the raising of some Thousand Men there to annoy New England) I hope will weigh not a little with the Cabinet in our favour, and so disappoint their

former hopes, as to Soften their hearts, and induce them to listen to a Just & equitable accomodation, and of which I shall rejoice to hear from you. — for 'tis very Melancholy to see Trade once so very flourishing here now quite at a Stand, our Bay & Wharves always at this Season of the Year filled w[ith] Commodities for Exportation, now quite bare and deserted, not a Vessell to be seen at any [?] Wharf, the Merchants Stores Shut up, Scarce One family in Ten now appearing in Town, excepting the Males capable of Bearing Arms, and who by Turns are continually upon Guard both Day and Night, In short business of no kind in a Publick way to be done, but that of Fortifying the Harbour & fitting out of Vessells for Defence. of which we now have [here] a Ship of 24 Guns from 4 to 12 Pounders, a Briggt of 16, and a Schooner of 14, 4, 6, & 9 Pound[ers] besides Swivels, and for whom we hope to have Sailors Soon from the Northward compleatly to Man them, the Ports of George Town & Beaufort are also Fortifying with Cannon, and our Friend D.D. for whom you so tenderly express your fears, is not a little active in the present Crisis, tho' [yet] not a Principal in the [sphere] you mentioned. — Our Continental Congress have prohibited the export[ation] of Rice, and every other commodity till the first of March, and if then there shoud appear no prospect of an accomodation, imagine the Stoppage will continue 'till there is. — this Obliges me to draw upon you (tho later than I expected when I last wrote you) Two Bills, one in favour of Alexander Taylor for £150, and the other in favour of Mary Cooper for £350, say Five hundred Pounds Sterling, payable Thirty days after Sight, the appearance of these Bills may not be Pleasing to you, but as I have so long Forbore from drawing them, hope the payment of them will not bring upon you unspeakable Difficulties. I can Assure you that I have not wantonly done this, but being under Promise to Mr Taylor & Mrs Cooper to make each of them a Remittance at the Close of the Year, necessity has obliged me to draw on you, as I cannot get Bills elsewhere, and no prospect of Shipping Produce for accot of the latter, the which I shoud have Done had there been a free exportation of Rice only — and if this obstruction shoud continue, I may be under the necessity of drawing again upon you in the Spring, but Sparing I will be long as I conveniently can, hoping by May next you will be able to close the Sale of our Indico, and thereby give me good right to trouble you with more Bills . . . nothing more of your debts hath been paid in to me since my last, and perhaps may not receive any while things remain in the present confused State, as no Person can be compelled by Law. — . . . there being no further Conveyance to you by Packett Boats, nor Vessells to load here for any Port of England, 'tis uncertain which way I shall get this letter to you, in the which I have been very lengthy, as desirèous of informing you how matters in the present Contest are going on in this Quarter, and to which I will add, that by advices Just receiv'd from Rhode Island, Vessells of Force have been fitted & are now fitting out in almost every Sea Port of this Continent, some of whom have taken a number of Vessells bound to Boston & Quebeck, and among them a Store Ship valued at £30,000 Sterling, having onboard Cloathing, Blanketts, Arms, Powder, Lead & three large

Brass Mortars &c.⁴ I say no more, but wish you every needful Blessing, & am
Dear Sir Yours &ca

1. Josiah Smith, Jr.'s Lettercopy Book, 1771-1784, UNCL.

2. The *Sandwich Packet*.

3. The *Tamar*, *Cherokee*, *Sandwich Packet* and two prizes, sailed from Charleston harbor at 7 A.M. January 6, and crossed the bar two hours later. See *Tamar's* journal January 6.

4. An exaggerated account of the cargo of the captured brig *Nancy*.

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO ALEXANDER TAYLOR¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] January 10th 1776

Mr Alexander Taylor/Calton Hill near Edinburgh/

Per Capt Smith in a Jamaica Snow to London & p Mrs Wells from Georgia

. . . Your House is again empty, Mr Miller having quitted it, with the Province the 11th November, and I fear t'will so remain both without a Tennant & a Purchaser, until the dispute between Great Brittain & America is finally Settled, and which I fear must end in much Bloodshed, for as the last Petition from the Continental Congress to the King (tho very Condecending) has been refused an ans[er] and Warlike preparations on the Side of Government still going on. — America thinks it necessary to follow their example, in preparing for the most Vigorous defence, having alr[eady] Secured the whole of Canada in their Interest, and possessed themselves of vast Military St[ores] and Ammunition by Importation, Manufacture, & Conquest. many Armed Vessells being now Cruising; to take every Transport & Storeship they can meet with, and in which they have already been very Successful. — this Province hath not been idle, having Three Armed Vessells near Ready, Two Reigments of Soldiers, and One of Artillery to Man the [illegible] Batterys [are] finishing at Gadsdens, Prideaus, and Beales Wharves, besides the Three Forts at Ropers and White Point, now in excellent Order, Fort Johnson is also very Strong, another Battery of heavy Cannon near finished, between that and Mr Lambolls Place, a small Battery is also fixed on Hadderrals or Barskdales [Barksdales] Point, and a large One just begining on Sullivants Island, and all this to prevent Ships of Warr or Troops from coming up to Charlestown, where if they do get footing, we expect they'll immediately destroy it by Fire, and the fear of which hath already occasion'd a General Remove of Wives Children and other Valuables into the Country — so that Charles Town always heretofore lively & busy at this Season of the Year, is now Melancholy to behold, houses Shut up, Wharves & Stores all empty, Trade not carried on, Places of Worship almost deserted, Scarce a Woman to be seen in the Streets, Men continually on Military Duty, and no other Musick but Drum & Fife daily Sounding. — our trust I hope is ultimately on the Great Ruler of the Universe, whose Just Providence hath hitherto been favourable to our cause, & through his Strength hope we shall yet come off conquerors. — . . .

1. Josiah Smith, Jr.'s Lettercopy Book, 1771-1784, UNCL.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 10th, 1776.

Ordered, That Col. [William] Moultrie be desired forthwith to detach one hundred men, with proper officers, from the colony regiments under his command, to take post upon Sullivan's Island, and there remain to cover the men who shall be employed on the works resolved to be erected upon the said Island.

Ordered, That Capt. [Simon] Tufts, in the colony schooner *Defence*, do forthwith proceed to Fort Johnson, and there take on board and thence convey to Sullivan's Island, such detachment from the colony regiments as the commanding officer shall order to embark; and there remain for the protection of the said troops, until further orders.

Ordered, That the commanding officer of the Charles-Town Company of Artillery do hold a detachment of that company, consisting of an officer and twenty-four men, with two field pieces and the necessary stores, in constant readiness to embark and proceed for Sullivan's Island, upon such signal to be given from the colony schooner *Defence* as shall be agreed upon between the commanding officer of the said schooner and Fort Johnson.

Read a letter from the Provincial Congress at Wilmington, North-Carolina, 2d Jan., 1776.

Also read a letter from our delegates to the Continental Congress, dated Philadelphia, 1st Dec., 1775.

Read a letter from Arch'd Bulloch, esq., dated Savannah, 9th January, 1776.

The following letters, written by direction of the Council, were laid before the board.

Charles-Town, Jan. 9th, 1776

Gentlemen – your dispatches by [John] Halsal, under date of 6th instant, reached us but this morning.

It is our advice and desire that the cargo of the brig. *William* may be immediately landed and put into safe stores, under your inspection, and that the vessel may be secured under the command of Fort Lyttleton; and if Mr. Groves, who we apprehend is chief owner of the brigantine, and projector of the intended illicit trade, is in any degree troublesome, you will do well to send him to Charles-Town, under a proper guard, in order that he may be deprived of power to go about and do more mischief against the public. For all these acts you shall be indemnified under the resolutions of the Continental Congress, and the resolutions of the Congress of this colony.

All reasonable allowances ought to be made to the master of the *William*, for his wages and expences, until he is finally discharged – and as for the schooner [*sic* seamen], if they will come to Charles-Town, and apply to us with authenticated accounts of their demands, they shall be paid all that is justly due to them. We desire you will keep the letters

which were taken in the vessel unopened till we shall further consider this matter.

We shall pay into the hands of your messenger, according to your desire, the several sums of £275 2s. 6d., for charges of removing the brig. *William* from Cockspur to Beaufort; £15 for an express, with our orders prohibiting exportation; and £20 for an express on the present service. We find no fault with the pay which you have stipulated for the light infantry, – but the £30 for four seamen, for four days, may want explanation in your next letter.

If you will be at the trouble of engaging Capt. [Richard] Ham and his boat, in the particular service which you have mentioned, and of making an agreement with him, upon reasonable terms, such agreement will be confirmed by this board, and the vessel will be put under your direction.

If the vessel loading rice at Cockspur belongs to Carolina, as the *William* does, we recommend that by all means you send for and secure her, in the same manner as you did the other; but if she is not owned here, it would be improper at this juncture, to interfere with her, because we are now waiting for an answer to a letter which we have lately sent to the Council of Safety at Savannah, by the hands of two gentlemen of their board, delegated to treat with us on the subject of exportation. That answer will probably be final on the point of union and confederacy. Besides, the article of rice to Europe will admit of some excuse, – very lame one in our opinion; but there can be no color nor pretence made in favour of indico. We shall write by this opportunity to the Committee of St. Peter's concerning exportation. We must not conclude without requesting you to return our thanks to the gentlemen who performed the service of securing the brigantine, and we are persuaded that your zeal and activity on that and other occasions will receive the approbation of Congress. In the meantime we beg you will accept our particular acknowledgements.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee for St. Helena, at Beaufort.

Charles-Town, Jan. 10th, 1776.

Sir – We have before us your several dispatches of the 3d, 7th and 8th instant; and with pleasure we say that your endeavour to promote public service appears in every instance.

The saving of the cannon and military stores which are now at Frederica, from falling into the hands of our enemies, we have much at heart, and will readily go into the expence necessary for guarding Capt. [John] Joiner against such attempts as he apprehends may be made upon his person. We think, as the business may be all performed without

the ceremony of an herald, he will be in no danger. We are at a loss for a proper boat, but hope that one may be procured in your district or Savannah. We are told, Col. Heyward's schooner, Minot, master, will very well answer the purpose. We make no doubt but that the colonel will hire her for the service, if Capt. Joiner will engage in the business, and will call upon Lochlan McIntosh, esq., at Cat-head, Altamahaw; that gentleman, we are assured, will give all the assistance in his power.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [Stephen] Bull.

Charles-Town, Jan. 10th, 1776.

Gentlemen – We have before us your favours of the 3d and 6th instant. We think you have rightly determined in the several cases of the sloop from Rhode Island and that from Barbadoes. The duties on merchandize imported by the latter ought to be paid according to law, and the vessel to go away in ballast.

Capt. Darrell's brig may be loaded, if he pleases, upon public account. This offer was made to him, but did not meet with his approbation, and we learn that he is gone to George-Town.

Foreign coffee, sugar, and other foreign commodities may undoubtedly be imported and sold in this colony. Except wine from Madeira and the Western Islands, and slaves from any place. See Art. 1 and 2, Continental Association, 24th –, 1774.

We request you will cause the gunpowder imported in the brig to be properly examined as to its quality and contents, and very safely stored. We apprehend that from the imminent danger to which Charles-Town is exposed under displeasure of our enemies, and a positive order by the Continental Congress to defend it to the last extremity, as well as from a recent demand from North Carolina for two thousand pounds weight of gunpowder, accompanied by a strong recommendation from our representatives at Philadelphia, it will be expedient and necessary to withdraw the whole two thousand and six hundred pounds from George-Town, which we shall determine upon in a few days.

The safety of the whole colony is the subject of our continued study . . . Charles-Town is in continued danger. 'Tis here a formidable attack is threatened, and may be expected to be soon made by ships of war. It is our special duty to make all possible provision for defence, and to have the proper means at hand.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Committee at George-Town.

The Council issued an order for the payment of £310 2s 6d to John Halsal, an express messenger from Beaufort, viz:

£257	2	6	thereof amount of disbursements of the Committee at Beaufort, for transporting the brig <i>William</i> from Cockspur thither.
20			Expende of an express on that occasion.
£295	2	6	to be charged to brig <i>William</i> , John Merceir, master.
15			An express for disbursing notice concerning exportation by committee for St. Helena, to General Fund.
£310	2	6	

Said Halsal promising to deliver £290 2s. 6d. to the Committee at Beaufort.

1: *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 159-64.

11 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

I take the Liberty, most heartily, to Condole with you, the Loss of great, Amiable, and brave, Genl [Richard] Montgomery, and those brave Men, who fell with him. by his Death, the Comand of the Army Devolves on me, of Course I have Carefully examined his Instructions From the Hble Continental Congress, and their resolutions Respecting this Country. I find it strongly recommended to him, to Conciliate the affections of the Canadians, and Cherish every dawning of Liberty, which Appears among them, and to assure them of the Friendship, and protection of the Congress, and to endeavour to form, on a lasting Basis, a firm Union between them, and the Collonies, by forming a Provincial Congress, & from that Body giving them, a full representation in the Grand Contl Congress, this I am Confident the Genl Laboured [for] with the greatest, Assiduity, and with as great a degree of Success, as could be expected, under the Present state of Affairs.

The Disposition of the Canadians is very favourable to your wishes, the Only Barr of Consequence is Quebec, as this is the key so in a great measure it governs the whole Country, who having been so long habituated to slavery, and having (as yet) but a faint Sense of the value of Liberty, are naturally timorous and diffident, and want every posable Encouragement to take an Active part, this Barr removed I humbly Conceive every other obsticle to a firm & lastg Union with Canada, will of Course be removed, so long as Quebec remains in the hands of the Enemy, it will not be in Our Power to Assist, and protect them, of Course We Cannot expect their hearty exertions in Our favour. Quebec appears to me an object of the highest importance to the Collonies, and if proper meth[o]ds are adopted must inevitably fall into their hands before the Garrison can be relieved. — The whole Garrison of Quebec including Men, Women, & Children, is suposed by Gentlemen who left town the begining of December, to be Four Thousand.

A Gentleman of Veracity Assures me, that Mr Alsop, the Kings Commissary, told him (in Confidence) that there was not One Thousand Barrells of Flour in

the Town, and it was Notorious among the Merchants there was not eight Thousand Bushells of Wheat and no Conveniency for flouring it, Provisions of Meat were known to be much less, than those of bread, tho they had some quantity of Fish, it is generally agreed they had, short of Four months Provision the 1 Decr this Cannot be exactly ascertained as the Govr denied the Inhabitants liberty of Viewing the Stores, or giving them Any Satisfaction in regard to the quantity. It appears a Blockade must Answer Our Purpose, it is posable it may not, will it be prudent to trust an object of Such Vast Importance to the Event, with Submission I think it will not, — what is to be done? a sufficient Force employed to reduce it by a regular Seige or Assault[?] If the first is Attempted, an Addition of three Thousand Men to Our Present Force will, I make No doubt be thought Necessary, if the Latter at least Five thousand, the Former with a vast expence and great waste of Ammunition, may prove unsuccessful, the Latter from the extensiveness of their Works, I think Cannot, and five thousand Men will hardly [be] a sufficient Garrison if the Place is taken. I beg leave, to recommend the sending a Body of at least Five Thousand Men with an experienced General Into Canada, as early as posable, and in the mean Time that every posable Preperation of Mortars, Howitzers & Some heavy Cannon, should be made, as the Season will Permit Our raising Batteries by the middle of March, which may very Posably be Attended with Success, as we can Place Our Mortars Under Cover within Two hundred yards of the Walls & within One Thousand of the Center of the Town, & if Supplied with, Shells, Carcases &c can Set fire to it whenever we please, which I make no doubt would, reduce the Garrison to Terms. I am well Assured more than One half of the Inhabitants, of Quebec would gladly Open the Gates to us, but are prevented by the Strict, Discipline, & Watch kept, Over them, the Command of the Guards being Constantly given to Officers of the Crown, known to be firm in their Interest. — The Garrison Consists of abt fifteen hundred Men, great Part of whom Govr Carleton Can place no Confidence in, or, he would, not Suffer, a Blockade, & every distress of a Siege, by Seven hundred Men, Our Force Consisting of no more at Present, Including Colo [James] Livingstons Regt of Two hundred Canadians, I have Aranged my Men In such Order as effectually to blockade the City, & to Assist each Other, as early as posable, if Attacked. The Men are obliged to lay on their Arms, constantly & to mount Guard every other night: Their Duty is exceedingly hard however the Men Appear Alert and Chearfull, tho wantg many Necessaries, which Cannot be procured here. —

I expect Genl [David] Wooster from Montreal with a Reinforcement, every minute. I have withdrawn, Our Cannon from the Battery, & Placed them round the Magazine, which Contains a Considerable Quantity, of Powder, & Ordinance Stores, which I am fearfull of removing, least it should make unfavourable Impressions, on the Canadians and Induce them to withdraw their Assistance and Govr Carleton, presuming on our Panick, to Sally out, I thought it most Prudent to Put the best face on Matters, & betray no marks of Fear. — We are in great want of Cash Our finances have never afforded any of Consequence to the Troops, who make heavy complaints, (not without reason) we have often been reduced to a few Joannes, & never able to Procure More than Ten days Sustinance before hand. — Our whole Dependence has been on Mr [James] Price,

who has done every thing in his Power and is the only resource, we have at present I have received two Petards from Monsr Pallasier at three Rivers, who, assures me he can supply Us with Shells, by the first of April,

Inclosed is a List of Officers, killed and Wounded, in the Unfortunate Attack on Quebec. — The Prisoners & missing, Amt to abt Four hundred, Govr Carleton has Permitted the Baggage of both Officers & Men to be Sent in, & (Strange to tell) Treats them with Humanity — I think myself in Justice bound to Acknowledge the good Conduct & Intrepidity of both Officers & Men, of my detachment who Undauntedly marched up in the face of the Enemys cannon, in Particular the Volunteers & Capt [Eleazer] Oswald who Signalized himself, in the Attack on their Battery, & is now a Prisoner.

I hope, Gentlemen, my being Confined to my bed with, my Wound, and a Severe fit of Gout, will, Apologize for the Incoherency, & Incorrectness of my Scrawl, & that you will believe me with the greatest Respect & Esteem, Gentlemen [&c.]

B Arnold

Camp before Quebec Janry 11th 1776

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 42-49, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Cambridge 11th Janua[ry] 1776

every Account I have out of Boston confirms the embarkation of troops mentiond in my Last, which, from the Season of the year and other Circumstances must be destined for some expedition to the Southward of this — I have therefore thought it prudent to Send Major General [Charles] Lee to New york, I have given him Letters reccomendatory to Governor [Jonathan] Trumbull, & to the Committee of Safety at New york — I have good hopes that in Connecticut, he will get many Volunteers, who I have Some reason to think will accompany him on this expedition, without more expence to the Continent, than their Maintainance, but Should it be otherwise, and that they Should expect Pay, I think it is a trifling consideration when put in Competition with the importance of the object, which is to put the City of New york Such parts of the North River, & Long Island as to him Shall Seem proper, in that State of defence which the Season of the year & Circumstances will admit of, So as; if possible to prevent the enemy from forming a Lodgment in that Government, which I am afraid Contains too many persons disaffected to the Cause of Liberty & America — I have also wrote to Lord Stirling, to give him all the Assistance, that he can, with the troops under his Com[m]and, in the Continental Service, provided it does not interfere with any orders he may receive from Congress relative to them —

I hope the Congress will approve of my Conduct in sending General Lee upon this expedition — I am Sure I mean it well, as experience teaches us that, it is much easier to prevent an enemy from posting themselves, than it is to dislodge them after they have got Possession —

the evening of the 8th instant a party of our Men under the Command of Major [Thomas] Knowlton were orderd to go and burn some houses, which lay at the foot of Bunker's hill, & at the head of Charles town, they were also orderd

to bring of the Guard which we expected Consisted of an Officer & 30 Men – They crost the Mill dam about half after eight o'clock, & gallantly executed their business, haveing burnt eight houses, & brought with them, a Serjeant and four privates of the 10th Regiment, there was but one man more there who making some resistance, they were obliged to dispatch – the gun that Killd him was the only one that was discharged by our men, tho severall hundred were fired by the enemy from within their Works, but in So Confused a manner that not one of our people was hurt.

Our Inlistments go on very heavily I am [&c.]
(Copy)

G^o Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 411, NA.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FITTING OUT MASSACHUSETTS ARMED VESSELS ¹

The Comtee of both Houses appointed to consider of a Plan for fitting out one or more Armed Vessels for the defence of American Liberty, have attended that service, & Report in the following Resolves, vizt John Adams Per order

Resolved that two Ships be built, as soon as may be, at the expence of this Colony; One Suitable to carry Thirty-Six Guns, vizt, Twenty Guns carrying twelve Pound Shot, & Sixteen Guns for Six Pound Shot; and the other Ship suitable to carry Thirty-two Guns, vizt Twenty Guns for nine Pound Shott, & Twelve for six Pound Shot; and that these Ships be built in a manner best calculated for swift sailing, & of Timber & all other Materials suitable for Ships of War of such a number of Guns & weight of Metal, & furnished with a suitable number of Officers, Seamen & Marines & that all kinds of necessary Arms, Ammunition & Provisions be furnished for such Ships.

Resolved, That [blank] with Such as the Honble House shall join, be a Comtee to carry the foregoing Resolution into execution as soon as possible, & that a Sum of Money, for that purpose, not exceeding [blank] be put into their Hands, they to be accountable to this Court for the expenditure of the same.

[Endorsed] In Council Jany 11th 1776 Read & sent down

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

[Second endorsement] In the House of Representatives Jan. 12th 1776 –

Read & order'd to be recommitted, & the Committee are directed to report an Estimate of the Expence of building & furnishing the Vessels above propos'd to be provided –

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

[Third endorsement] in Council Jany 12th 1776

Read & concurred

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 58.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN¹

Governor Martin.

Boston 11th January 1776.

I take the earliest opportunity of informing Your Excellency of my appointment to the command of His Majestys Troops destined to be employed in the Southern Colonies of North America, and that I shall embark from hence in a few days for Cape Fear within Your Excellencys Government in the Province of North Carolina, but as I mean to touch in my way at New York & Virginia it will probably be the latter end of the Month before I shall reach that Place —

My instructions inform me that five Regiments were ordered to embark from Ireland on the 1st of December, and that the Transports were directed to proceed with the Troops to Cape Fear River, And as they may possibly make the Coast before My Arrival, I am to request you will be pleased to communicate with the Bearer Capt [William Glanville] Evelyn of the 4th Regt (whom I beg leave to introduce to Your acquaintance as an Officer of great merit) and to consult upon such measures as may best afford assistance to the Transports on that Dangerous Coast at this inclement Season of the Year.

I shall be glad to receive any private information you may think necessary to give me by Letter, which Capt Eveyln will deliver to me on my arrival on the Coast. I am with great Regard & Esteem &ca

H. Clinton

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers (Miscellaneous Letter Books), CL.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN PAUL ALLEN¹Capt Allen
Sr

Providence Jany 11: 1776

I am not Certain whither I sufficiently urged the Advantages of Geting Powder & Guns with Bu[e]yonets especially the latter if to be got, tho' very high & more Especially if they Should be to be had On My Credit as Ordd As Also to Balist with Brimstone if to be got, & salt Peter is worth half a Dolr p lb here or More — You Will remember by a Resolve of Congress the Value of the Powder & Arms with Brimst & Salt Peter, May be Exported in any of our Country Produce Any where we please, this is now known to be the sense of the Congress, There will doubtless be very Considerable Advantages to be Made in a Voyage to bring what we please — All parts of a Gun as the Barrel Alone to one Compleet with Buyonets & gun Rammers will be Worth bringing & All the Old & New, or parts of Old or New Locks is worth bringing as Guns will be Much wanting as well as Cutlasses pistles &c If you Could get a pr or two or more Brass two to six pounders at Abot 2/ Likely wod be worth buyg Any Qty of Paper & [besides] All Course Linens Ducks Ozenbrigs Henderch[ie]fs Some Course Check & striped Hds &c &c wch you May thing [*sic* think] May Ansr to be got on My Credit & wi[th] Powder &c to lode the Vessel before Sailing But dont meand by this but that you may bring of all or Anythings else Mention'd or Not In y[ou]r ordr Nevertheless as you thing will Ansr best

I am perswarded I need Not again Caution you to keep a Constant Good
look Out till you get Home — I am &c

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL. Allen was factor on board the sloop *Unity*. The first orders for a voyage to any of the foreign West India Islands were issued by Brown on December 31, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 11, 1776

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to endeavour to obtain a release of Lieutenant — Tyley,² of Brigadier [David] Wooster's regiment, now confined on board the *Asia* man of war, by exchanging for him an officer of the same rank of the British troops in our custody.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 49–50.
2. Ensign Edward Tyley was taken prisoner by Captain George Vandeput, of H.M.S. *Asia*. Vice Admiral Samuel Graves referred to him as "an Ensign in the Connecticut Militia, I have directed to be detained and carried to England, considering him as an Officer although of low rank, in Arms against his Sovereign." Graves's *Conduct*, I, 156, BM.

— CRAFTON TO ROBERT CRAFTON, MERCHANT, LONDON¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 11th Jany 1776.

Dear Father, What is England grown so weak, that she cant govern her own Subjects without foreign Aid! Surely she must be despised by her Neighbours. You depend much on their countenance in subjecting us, but be assured you are deceived. Governmentally they probably won't interfere, but every supply which we stand in need of, they will cheerfully furnish underhand. Our Coast is so extensive, you cant totally guard it. This Week we got into our River, Fifty Tons of Salt Petre, which will make about 60 Ton of Powder. Parcells from 3 to 10 Ton are continually coming into the different Ports, The Price we have published is so extremely high, that it will force its way here from all parts of Europe. . . .

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

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*¹

[Baltimore]

Recd 11th Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson on Accot of Ship *Defence* Six pounds for work done on board the *Defence* by two hands Twenty two days (Negro Tom/sd James Ridley)

£ 6.—

James Ridley —

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, January 11, 1776.

An Ordinance for raising an additional number of forces for the defence and protection of this colony, and for amending an Ordinance entitled an Ordi-

nance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, which had been fairly transcribed, was read a third time.

Resolved, That the said ordinance do pass; and that the title be, an Ordinance for raising an additional number of forces for the defence of this colony and for other purposes therein mentioned.²

1. *Virginia Convention*, 92.

2. *Ibid.*, 108, that part of the ordinance relating to naval matters, reads:

And for the greater security of the inhabitants of this colony from depredations of the enemy by water, *Be it ordained*, That the Committee of Safety shall, and they are hereby empowered and required to provide, from time to time, such and so many armed vessels as they may judge necessary for the protection of the several rivers in this colony, in the best manner the circumstances of the country will admit; and, to that end, to raise and take into pay a sufficient number of officers and man, as well sailors as marines, whose pay shall be settled by the Committee of Safety; not exceeding the following rates, to wit: to a chief commander of the whole, as Commodore, fifteen shillings, to a master ten shillings, a first mate seven shillings and sixpence, a second mate five shillings, a boatswain three shillings, a common sailor, two shillings, per day; a captain of marines six shillings, a lieutenant four shillings, a midshipman three shillings, a marine one shilling and six pence.

Provided always, and be it further ordained, That, where the land service will admit of it, and the officers and soldiers of the regular forces shall be willing to enter upon any temporary expedition in such armed vessels, they may be allowed so to do, and shall receive pay according to the rates aforementioned; which officers, sailors and marines, may be removed or disbanded by the said Committee of Safety, as they shall judge expedient.

CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir,

Liverpool off Norfolk in Virginia 11th Janry 1776

Not having an Opportunity to convey to Admiral Graves at Boston my Arrival here, nor any probability of one, I think it my Duty to beg you will be pleas'd to acquaint the Right Honble the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, after a Passage of fourteen Weeks from Spithead I brought hither the Brig, *Maria*, Ordnance Vessel, the 18th December, a most dull and heavy Sailor, and but for the indefatigable attention of Lieut Hemmings, my first Officer, in Distilling fresh Water, I should have been under the necessity of bearing away for the West Indies, having no more than one Cask of Water, excepting what was under the Cables and that only five Ton and impossible to be come at but in the fairest Weather.

I found here His Majesty's Ships *Otter* and *Kingsfisher*, whom, with the few Kings Troops, were debar'd from all Supplies of Provisions by the strength of an Army of Rebels, to the Amount of about fourteen Hundred Men; my People from the length of the Passage falling down fast in the Scurvy, obliged me to condescend to send a Flag of Truce on the 24th of December to the Commander of these Men representing the terrible consequences which might ensue by a perseverance in such a Resolution; this answered no good purpose; humanity obliged me to send another the 30th. of December, their Centinels frequently firing into the Kings Ships and Guard Boats by night, and hourly insulting us by relieving their Guards within a Cables length of us, a Cop[y] of which I do myself the Honor of sending you, this was to as little purpose as the former, for on the 1st of Janry at 3 o'Clock

in the Afternoon, in particular, their Centinels came to the Wharf very near me, from their Guard House, which was close to it, and used every mark of insult; I then ordered three Guns to be fired into the House,² it had its effect by setting them running; my Lord Dunmore sent, (under those Guns) his Boats Arm'd to fetch off a Long boat they had taken from him, whose People set fire to some Store houses, which burnt a good number of Houses, the Rebels have since destroyed the greatest part of the Town.

His Excellency my Lord Dunmore, not being able entirely to unload the Brig *Maria*, of the Ordnance Stores, and being directed by their Lordships Orders not to open the Seal'd Pacquet till she was unladen and discharg'd from His Majesty's Service; I am constrain'd to remain here tho' perhaps design'd for other Service, and to act by Admiral Graves's Orders to Captain Squire of the *Otter* and Lord Dartmouths Instructions to Lord Dunmore, with whom I shall co-operate with in every thing for His Majesty's Service.

Lieutenant Governor [Robert] Eden of His Majesty's Province of Maryland has transmitted to my Lord Dunmore, information of three small Vessels well Arm'd being fitting out from that Province,³ I shall use every possible step to intercept them and to keep those small ones, which His Excellency has already taken up, employed in the best manner for the Protection of His Majesty's faithful Subjects and for the Annoyance of those who are not so.

Inclos'd is the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships at this place. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Henry Bellew

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1497.

2. See journals of the *Liverpool*, *Otter* and *Kingsfisher* of January 1, 1776, for the number of guns fired.

3. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*, and the Maryland ship *Defence*.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,

[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 11th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. Edward Blake of this date.

Ordered, That the commander of the colony ship *Prosper*, do order two good and proper men to go on board the pilot boat under the command of Capt. Smith, for the purpose of bringing into Charles-Town harbour such ships as now appear off the bar.

Ordered, That Wm. Alex. Elsinore be permitted and required to go on board the pilot-boat under the command of Capt. Smith, and use his utmost endeavour to pilot in such vessels as are now on the coast, provided Capt. Smith shall judge it safe and proper to board them.

The following order was issued to Capt. Blake:

In the Council of Safety,

Jan. 11th, 1776.

Sir - We have ordered payment of your amount, as you will find by an order thereon now returned to you.

By all means order a sufficient quantity of good flour to be baked into bread for public service, and lay in such quantity of provisions for the men expected from Bermuda, and in due time, as you shall judge will be necessary.

Orders for the schooner will be prepared and delivered to-morrow.

Capt. [Thomas] Smith, in the armed pilot-boat, is ordered to cruize as constantly as the weather will admit, off Charles-Town bar, for the benefit of friendly vessels inward bound, and to use great precautions against boarding or falling within the power of an enemy; and we desire you will give such orders to Capt. Smith.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Consideration of the article of rum postponed.

Capt. Edward Blake.

Capt. [Simon] Tufts having informed the board, of a fit boat for the use of the schooner *Defence*, the following order was made:

In the Council of Safety,

Jan. 11th, 1776.

Sir – Capt. Tufts informs us, that you have a boat which is much wanted for public service, and that you are willing to sell her. Please to deliver the said boat and furniture, and we will order payment of such sum as Capt. Tufts may agree for, or the value according to a fair appraisement, in case you and Capt. Tufts shall not agree in the first instance.

By order of the Council of Safety,

Henry Laurens, President.

Mr. Thomas Rose.

The following permit was given to Mr. John Scott, to load a schooner at Santee, in the public account:

In the Council of Safety,

Jan. 11th, 1776.

The schooner *Polly*, belonging to Mr. John (son of Jonathan) Scott, is permitted to be loaded with a cargo of rice, by the said Wm. [sic] Scott or his agent, but with no other commodity or produce; but not to depart until the cargo is reported, and a further order by this board.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The committee of St. James, Santee.

The committee for George-Town.

The Council issued orders on the Treasury for payment of the following sums:
To Edward Blake, balance of his account for use of the several armed vessels

£2144 2 8

In the Council of Safety.

Jan. 11th, 1776.

Sir – You are directed to order six good carpenters from the troops, who shall receive extra pay, with the detachment to Sullivan's Island; and that the commanding officers of the party give Doct. [David] Oliphant all necessary aid and assistance in erecting a temporary battery there.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [William] Moultrie.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 164-67.

MAJOR CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY TO HENRY LAURENS ¹

Fort Johnston [Johnson], ² Jan. 11, 1776.

8 o'clock in the ev'g.

To the Honble Henry Laurens, Esq., President of the Council of Safety.

Dr. Sir, This morning between nine and ten o'clock we discovered from Fort Johnston Two ships & a sloop to the Northward of the Bar. The misty weather prevented us from distinguishing whether they were Ships of War or Merchantmen. The Fog not clearing up, about one o'clock I dispatched a boat to reconnoitre them and see what they were; from that boat I have this moment learnt, that there is a large ship, a smaller one, & a sloop off the Bar, that neither of them had Pendants, but one of them had a Whisp, in her ensign. It is not in my power to inform you whether they are Ships of Force or not, as the mist prevented the men from seeing whether they had guns or not, though our boat was near the Bar. This afternoon I stopped a Pilot Boat with a long Pendant as she attempted to pass the Fort, 'till I could be informed where she was going and her authority for passing. The Master of her behaved very insolently & told me I behaved exceedingly wrong in stopping him & that he would complain to your Board. I am not only warranted in what I did (according to my apprehension) by the order Congress of the 10th of Novr last, but the order of the late Council of Safety of the 17th of Sept. 1775 expressly directs the Commander of Fort Johnston to do all in his power to prevent people from going anywhere below Fort Johnston without a Permit from the Council of Safety giving him a good account of their intended business. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

1: *The Historical Magazine* (Morrisania, N.Y., 1868), 2nd series, III, 232.

2. The two forts, Johnston at the mouth of the Cape Fear river, and Johnson in Charleston harbor, are frequently confused.

PROVISIONS FROM ST. AUGUSTINE FOR H.M. SLOOP *Tamar* AND
H.M. ARMED SHIP *Cherokee* ¹

His Excellency Governor [Patrick] Tonyn For the Use of His Majestys Ships
Tamar & Cherokee lying at Charlestown

Dr To William Alexander

1776								
Jany 11th	For 9 Barls Pork abt 210 lb each	a 70/p Barl	31	10	—			
	4 Trces Beef abt 300 lb each	a 80/p Trce	16	—	—			
	7 Barls Peas contg 24½ Bushl	a 6/p Bushl	7	7	—			
	6 Firkins Butter 360 lb	a 9/p lb	13	10	—			
	115 Gallons Rum	a 3/6 p Galn	20	2	6			
	223 Ditto	a 4/9 p do	52	19	3			
	4696 lb Flour	a 22/ p 100w	51	13	2			
	Baking into 3815 lb Buscuit	a 8/ p 100	15	5	3			
	paid for Casks to pack the							
	Biscuits	a 1 each	1	16	—			
		Sterling £	210	3	2			

[1st endorsement] Received St Augustine 13th January 1776 of His Excellency Governor Tonyn Two Hundred & Ten Pounds three Shillings & two pence Sterling in full for the above Accot by a Sett of Bills on the Honble the Commissioners for victualling His Majestys Navy
William Alexander

[2d endorsement] We the Underwriters being Merchants and Inhabitants of St Augustine, Do Certify, That, The above Provisions were purchased & bought at the lowest Market price of this place, as expressed against each Specie of said Provisions —

Given under our Hands the 13th day of January 1776

R Payne Will^m M^cLeod

1: PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 215.

12 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Gentlemen Since writing the Enclosed,² Genl Wooster has acquainted me he Cannot leave Montreal, but has sent Down Colo Clinton, to whom, I shall resign the Command, untill my wound, will Permit my Doing Duty, which my Surgeon thinks will be four or Six Weeks — Colo. Clinton, acquaints me, we Cannot expect more than, two hundred Men from Montreal. I have put on foot the raising a Regt of three or four hundred Canadians, which I make no Doubt of Effecting. They are to have the Same Pay, & to be Under the Same regulation, as the Continental Forces. I make no Doubt the exigency of our Affairs will Justify the Step I have taken, (tho without Authority For so Doing), & that it will be Approved of by the Hble Continental Congress —

I am most respectfull Gentlemen, [&c.]

B Arnold

Camp before Quebec 12 Jany 1776

PS The Forts of Niagara and Detroit, are an Object which I make No Doubt the Hble Congress have in View, Mr [Edward] Antill, now on his way Down, can Inform in regard to their Strength, Stores, &c &c B A

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 50-51, NA.
2. Letter of January 11, 1776.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE MILITIA IN
VARIOUS COUNTIES

Circular

Halifax 12th Jany 1776,

Sir. As by Advice of Council it had been judg'd necessary to form a body of Troops for the defence of this Province, and particularly His Majesty's Naval Yard, & the Town of Halifax, which was threatned, and a number of Vessels fitted out by the Americans (now in Arms against his Majesty & Government) for its Destruction, The small number of Troops at that time in Garrison here, seem'd to require such a measure as necessary for its defence, but since so large an addition of his Majesty's Troops and Ships of War have arriv'd here, as to put this place in safety, and it having been represented to me, that many untrue Suggestions have been entertain'd; That the Militia was design'd to be called together, In order to make Soldiers of them, & send them on Commands out of the Country. You may assure all the Officers & Soldiers under your Command, that no such measure was ever propos'd, or intended, or that the Militia should ever be put on any other duty, than merely for the defence of the Province, under their own proper Officers, in such parts of the Province, where necessity should require their attendance for the defence of themselves in Case of an Invasion.

And having confidence in the Loyalty to his Majesty & Government, & their Readiness to take up Arms in defence thereof and of themselves, and their property, you may inform them, that in no other Case, they woud be call'd upon; but that I shall be ready at all times to contribute all in my power for their defence and Security.

That being sufficiently appriz'd of their inability to defend themselves, or to contribute to the expences of maintaining a body of Troops (both which I fail'd not timely to represent to his Majesty). You may inform them that his Majesty has been pleas'd to empower me to raise a Regiment, purely for the defence of this Province, and to support and Maintain them on British pay, which I hope will enable me as soon as Completed to afford Protection to them and their Families, from any Annoyance or evil designs of their Enemies.

That I have a Sollicitous Care to procure them Peace and Safety, and every Temporal Blessing – all which I desire you will faithfully represent to them. I am Sir [&c.]

(Sign'd) Fran^s Legge.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/217.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH

No 59

Halifax January 12th 1776.

My Lord I am just inform'd that the *Somerset* Capt: L Crass is under Sailing Orders for England, a Ship of Force which has been of Service in the preserva-

tion of this Place, That the *Roebuck* also is just ready to Sail for Virginia, and that there will remain only one Frigate the *Cerberus* for our Defence who is now on the Careen.

I cannot but suggest to your Lordship, that the preservation of the Navy Yard, & the Navigation of this Port, will greatly depend on a sufficient number of Ships posted here.

The Rebels have fitted out several Cruising Vessels and are continually on our Coast, intercepting the Transports bound from this Province with Refreshments for the Navy and Army, I am inform'd, that no less than three thousand Quarters of Beef, besides other Refreshments have been Shipped, and are Shipping within this month past, some of which have fallen into the hands of the Enemy, and it is past all doubt, that when they can have Intelligence of the Absence of the Ships of War, they design an Attempt on this place.

I beg leave also to remark that the principal Intention of the Rebels, from their whole procedure, seems to be to cut off all Resource of supplies from his Majesty's Forces in America, for which reason they invested Canada, and will without all doubt Attempt this Province, the preservation of which will depend on the Force which may be sent here for its Defence, all which Circumstances I have thought an Essential part of my duty to represent. I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect. My Lord. [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, Nova Scotia Papers, DAC Photocopy.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN EPES GREENOUGH FOR A POWDER VOYAGE ¹

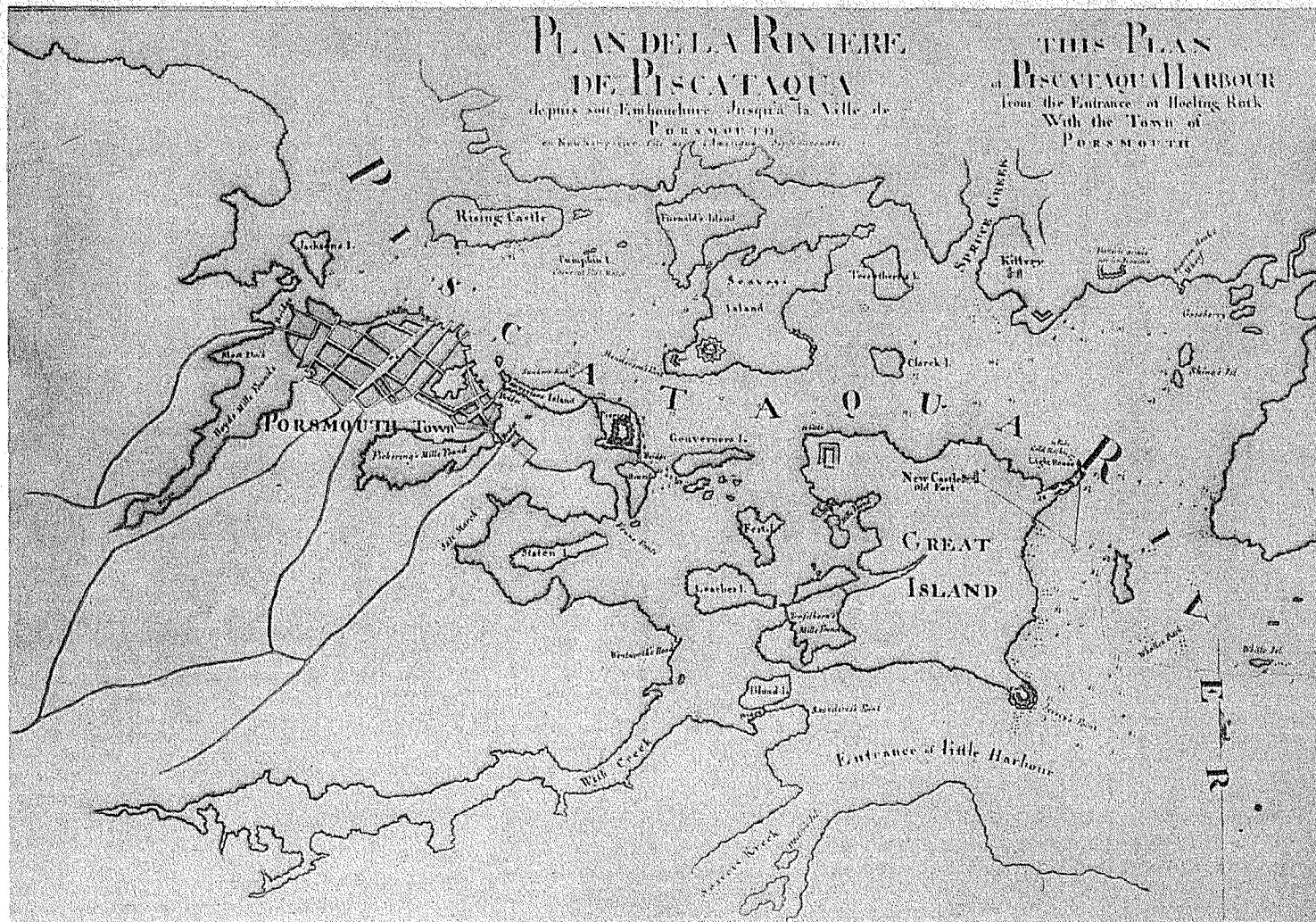
Portsmouth January 12th 1776

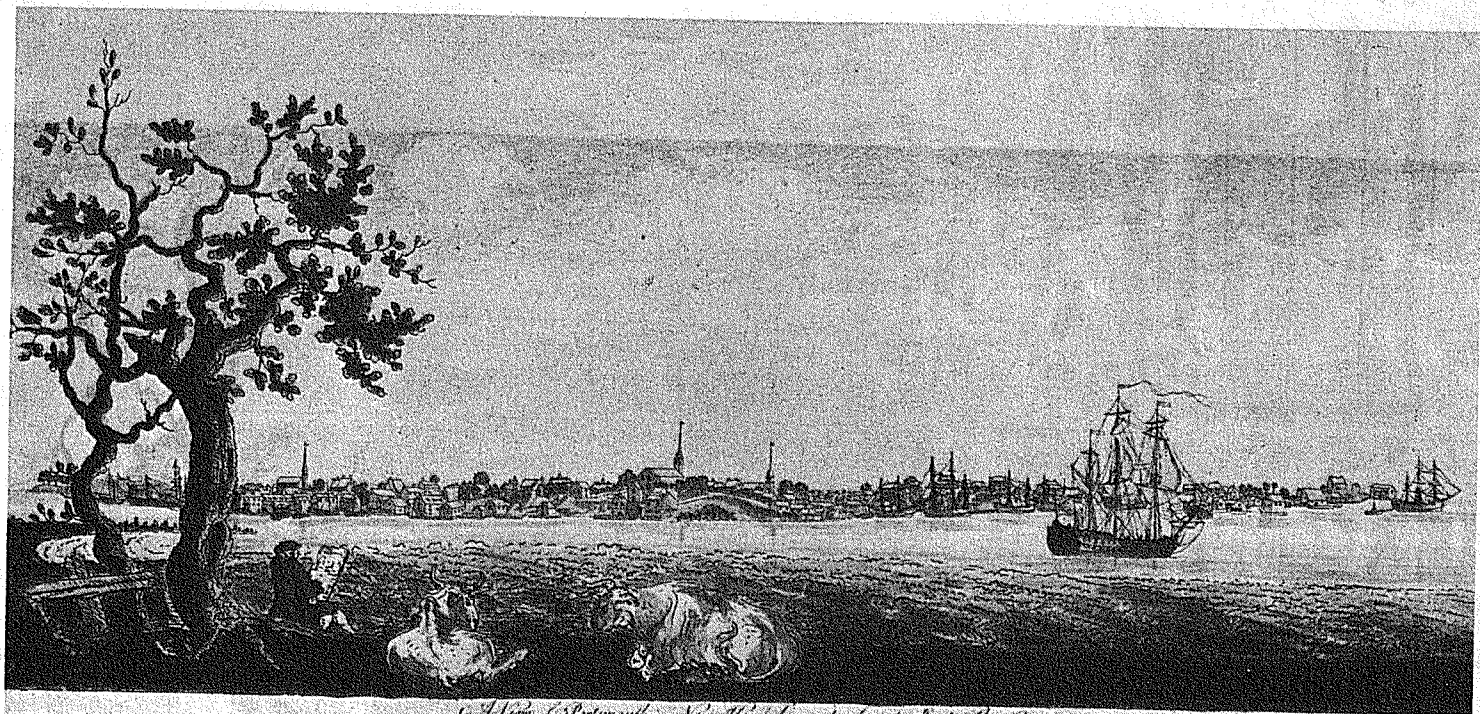
You are by us the Subscribers on Acct of John Langdon Esqr appointed to Command the Schooner *Eagle*, now Loaded, Victual'd and man'd fit for the Sea, you are to embrace the first good Opportunity and proceed to the Island of St Lucia, in Order that you may know the full intent and meaning of the Voyage, and the trust reposed in you. We acquaint you that your Cargo on board is to be Appropriated solely to purchase Powder for the use of the United Colonies, and therefore we Command your Observance of what follows. – When you arrive at St Lucia, you must enquire if Gun Powder is to be had in Exchange for your Cargo, at that place, if not, you must then procure the best Intelligence you can where it is likely for you to meet with the Article abovementioned, which you must always make the Object of your Attention. You'll observe Vessells loaded with Fish cannot at all times go to the French Islands, without being made French bottoms, which you may do at a small Expence if you find it Necessary – and think by that means you can Obtain the Article wanted, it is probable some Merchants in St Lucia will take your Cargo & agree to furnish the Powder at some other Island of that you will Judge and act according to the Information you get – If you find nothing can be done at St Lucia, you will proceed to Martinico, Guadaloup, to any or all the French Spanish or Dutch Islands, and leave no possible means untried to fulfil the intent and meaning of the Voyage. We would advise you not to part with your Cargo without having Gun Powder in Return, the reason of this Injunction is. We think your present Cargo more likely to

PLAN DE LA RINTERE DE PISCATAVOU

depuis son Embarcadere. Jusqu'à la Ville de
Poussy
 en Normandie. *Sur les côtes de la Manche.*

THIS PLAN
of PISCATAQUA HARBOUR
from the Entrance, or Hoelling Rock
With the Town of
PORTSMOUTH.





A View of Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, taken from the East Shore.

command the Article wanted then the same amount in Money, but yet if you are Offer'd a high price in ready money to be dispatch'd immediately we would have you accept the first good Offer and then proceed with the Money on board in search of the Article wanted – ² We do not restrict you to any prices either for the disposal of your Cargo, or the purchase of Powder &c, but if to be had it must be bought, Let the price be what it may. –

If after Cruizing over all the Foreign West Indies, and no Gunpowder to be had (which you must be well Assured of) you must then endeavour to purchase what Salt petre and Sulphur you possibly can, in the following proportion, for every Hundred pounds of Salt petre, twenty five pounds of refin'd Sulphur, or those two Articles in the rough but if neither powder, Salt petre, nor Sulphur, is to be had, you must then sell your Cargo, for the most you can for Gold and Silver Money – and make the best of your Way back to us in New England – We strictly forbid your taking on board any Goods Or Merchandise of what kind soever, either on Freight or otherwise –

If you procure Powder and should put into any safe Harbour in the United Colonies, on your way home you must immediately dispatch an Express to us and detain your Vessel untill you receive our or Mr Langdon's instructions how to proceed – Excepting the Powder should be demanded of you by proper Authority for Continental use, in that case it must be landed and not risked any further, this is to be Observ'd if you put into any Harbour to the Eastward of Boston, but if you put into any Southern Harbour your Powder &c – must be landed at all Events, – and not risked any further, and you must proceed immediately with your Vessel to Newberyport acquainting us of your proceedings. If you should land your Powder it must be put into the Hands of the Commissary or agents &c for Continental use, you taking their receipts and forward it to us – We beg your most Strenuous Exertions for Obtaining the needful and making the greatest Dispatch home again –

You are to be allow'd for Wages during the Voyage, Three pounds L money p month, Five p Cent Commission on the Sale of your Cargo, and Two and a half p Cent on the returns and One shilling L money primage on every barrell of Powder, and so in proportion for Salt petre &c – and nothing else. –

We wish you a safe Voyage and Quick return and are your Friends. &c N.B. If you should put into any Harbour to the Eastward of Boston and receive Information of any Men of Warr, or Tenders being near, or any other Danger, you must then land your Powder and se[c]ure it – without waiting our Answer. – [Endorsed]

The preceding is Copy of my Instructions which I Engage to follow

Epes Greenough

Signal; White pendant at the foretopmast head,

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.

2. These instructions are similar to those given by the same subscribers to Captain Thomas Peverly on December 28, 1775.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1776

Newbury-Port, January 12.

On Wednesday the 3d of January, arrived in Pemaquid harbour, the brig *Squirrel*, Richard Willis, master, from Poole, in England, which place he left the 6th of November, in whom came passengers the Captains [Thomas] Palmer, [Josiah] Shackford, [Stephen] Meeds and [John] Hart, of Portsmouth, and Capt. Gideon Crawford, of Providence; who on their Passage the 2d of December, in lat. 44, long. 38, spoke with the *Orpheus* Frigate of 32 Guns, from England, bound to America, but had met with a very hard gale of wind the 30th of November, by which she lost her Main and Fore-mast, and was then bound back to refit, she had been out 5 weeks when the gale took her.

Capt. Meeds informs us that Administration were determined to pursue vigorous measures against the Americans, but that the majority were daily leaving them; that the Noble Duke of Grafton, and Lord Littelton,¹ had already left them, and were determined to oppose all their measures against the brave Americans, even if they were reduced to Beggary by their opposition. He likewise informs, that a number of Transports had sailed, laden with stores for Boston, that one lay in the river, near him, with a number of hogs on board, out of which he saw 28 hove overboard which had died in one night, on account of their being crowded too close in the vessel; that immediately after the transports had sailed, there was as hard a gale of wind as was almost ever known, which dismasted some, but what other damage they sustained we have not yet learnt, tho soon after vast numbers of hogs were seen floating in the river.

Capt. Meeds was likewise at the meeting of Merchants at the Kings Arms Tavern, in London, where the meeting consisted of between seven and eight hundred, unanimous to a man in favour of the Americans: They petitioned his Majesty to have matters settled with America, and set forth in their Petition that destruction must be brought on the Land if the War was carried on; it was signed 1102 Gentlemen, and his Majesty was pleased to receive it very Graciously. Capt. Meeds also informs that our Friends increase daily, that we shall be no longer termed rebels, and that 'twas dangerous to speak a word in the Coffee Houses against the Americans.

1. Augustus Henry Fitzroy, 3d Duke of Grafton, and William Henry Lyttelton.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Friday, January 12, 1776.

Afternoon.

The House considered the Report of the Committee appointed to consider a Plan for fitting out armed Vessels &c.

Whereupon, *Ordered*, That the Report be recommitted, and the Committee are directed to report an Estimate of the expences of building and furnishing the Vessels therein proposed to be provided.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

STURGIS GORHAM & OTHERS TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.¹

Colony of the
Massachusetts-Bay } To the Hon: the Council of said Colony –

The Subscribers humbly shew –

That they have a Sloop, named the *Lizard*, of about 32 Tons, which they intend at their own Expence, to fix out and equip for the defence of America, agreeable to a late Act of the General Assembly – We take leave therefore to recommend to your Honors, Mr Benjamin Gorham – (who is part owner of said Vessell) as a proper & suitable Person to command the said Sloop – and request your Honors to commission him for that purpose –

And as in Duty bound shall ever pray –

Sturgis Gorham John Bores
Isaiah Doane Micah Nichols

Cohasset Jan'y 12th 1776.

In Council Jan'y 18th 1776. Read & orderd that the Above-named Benja Gorham be commissioned for the purposes abovementioned; on his given Bond with sufficient Surety to the Colony Treasurer for the Faithful performance of his Duty therein agreeable to the Act prescribing the same –

John Lowell Dpy Secy P. T. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 239.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, R.N.¹

You are hereby required and directed to proceed, with the *Kitty* Transport, in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command to Cape Fear in North Carolina, And upon your arrival to facilitate an Interview as soon as possible between Captain [William Glanville] Evelyn and Governor [Josiah] Martin, Captain Evelyn being directed to gain all possible Intelligence of the Situation of the Kings Affairs in that Province. This done, Capt. Evelyn returned, and you having also obtained from Governor Martin every necessary information relative to the Entrance of Ships into Cape Fear River, you are to cruize off Cape Fear in the most likely Tract to fall in with a Fleet of Transports (containing 5 Regiments) expected from England; and you are to remain cruizing and anchoring occasionally on the Coast, by which ever means you can best preserve your Station until the Arrival of the said Transports or until you are relieved, keeping the *Kitty* Transport with you if it shall be found unsafe or inexpedient to leave her at Cape Fear.

And whereas Major General [Henry] Clinton is appointed to command his Majesty's Forces to the Southward, you are upon the Arrival of the Transports with the Troops aforementioned to direct them into Cape Fear River, or go with them to Virginia, which shall be found most expedient upon your consulting with Governor Martin, in case you shall not have received particular Instructions on that head from Major General Clinton, whom you are most heartily to co-operate with and assist to the utmost of your power in all things for the Kings Service.

You are also to give every possible Assistance to the Army in general in their Operations against the Rebels.

And whereas there is great want of skilful Pilots in the Fleet, you are to retain as many for any part of the Coast of North America from Halifax to the Southward as far as Cape Florida as you can procure, bearing them on a List for Victuals only.

And as a small good going Sloop or Schooner may be extremely useful to cruize for the Transports, to put Pilots on board them, you are to seize the first suitable one you can and employ her on that Service.

For all other Orders I refer you to my general and additional Orders and Instructions which are herewith delivered.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at
Boston the 12th January 1776.

Sam^l Graves

To Capt: Linzee
of his Majs Sloop *Falcon*

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 116-17, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, R.N.¹

As soon as Major General Clinton is embarked and ready to depart; You are hereby required and directed to repair with him in his Majesty's Ship under your command to New York where having remained such time as the General thinks necessary for the service he is upon, you are to proceed with him to Virginia, or to any port or place along the continent that Major General Clinton shall find expedient for his Majesty's Service to touch at; And as the Success of the expedition will in a great measure depend upon the punctual and ready assistance of his Majesty's Ships; You are therefore hereby required and directed most heartily to grant every aid in your power of Men, Boats, and Stores, (without regard to any distinction of duties) to Major General Clinton and to all other his Majestys Land officers in their intended operations against the Rebels: You are to continue upon this service with Major General Clinton untill you receive contrary directions from myself or any other your Superior officer For all other orders I refer you to my General and additional Orders and Instructions.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the *Preston* at
Boston the 12th January 1776

Sam^l Graves

To Captain Graeme commander of his Majestys Ship
Mercury, or to the commander of the Said Ship for the time being

By command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

[Endorsed] Copy 19th Feby 1776 Attd A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Orders issued 1776-1777, UVL. Another copy in Graves's Conduct, II, 28, BM.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston, January] 12 [1776].

The *Falcon* having been cleaned and refitted, and now in all respects ready for Sea, Captain Linzees Orders were this day made out, and, being somewhat special, delivered him in a sealed Pacquet, accompanied with an Order to receive

and victual Captain [William Glanville] Evelyn of the Kings own Regiment, and likewise to take the *Kitty* Transport under his Convoy, proceed without Loss of time to Sea, and when to the Eastward of Cape Cod to open the said sealed Pacquet and pursue its Contents. The Admiral gave Captain Linzee private Signals besides, and a sealed Rendezvous for the Transport, cautioning him if possible not to part Company.

Captain Graeme also of the *Mercury* received Directions to receive Major General [Henry] Clinton, Lord [Francis] Rawdon, Mr [Richard] Reeves, Mr Roberts, Mr Martin, and Captain [Duncan] Drummond ² with five Servants and five Soldiers, on board the *Mercury*, and to victual them as the Ships Company during their Continuance on board.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 361, BM.

2. Reeves was Clinton's private secretary; Captain Drummond, an aide; the other two not identified.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE AND INSPECTION,
SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS ¹

At a meeting of a Number of the members of the Committee of Correspondence, & Inspection, of the Town of Sandwich, on January the 12th 1776. Mr Stephen Nye was chosen Chairman, and Benja Fessenden Clerk, Present Mess Stephen Nye, Eliakim Tobey, Lieut. John Dillingham, Capn Simeon Fish, Elisha Pope, Nathl Fish, Seth Freeman, Esq., Lot Nye, & B. Fessenden.

Whereas these Committees, or at least a Number of each; were sometime past informed that a certain Sloop reputed to be owned by Soln Nye of Falmouth, Levi Barlow, Jesse Barlow, & Obed Barlow of this Town, was preparing to go on a Voyage to the West Indies contrary to the recommendations of the Continental Congress, & Provincial Assembly. And in Consequence thereof chose one of their Number to make enquiry into the affair; and in case it was found necessary to make application to the Commanding officer of the Troops stationed in this County for orders for them to Stop Said Vessel, Or something Similar to it, the proceedings at which meeting the Committee cannot now come at. In consequence of which Sd Member went & recd Assurances from the above Solomon Nye, & Jesse Barlow, that Said Vessel s[hould no]t proceed on Sd Voyage without Liberty from the General C[ourt:] Notwithstanding which we Last Week recd Information that s[aid sloop] had Loaded & Sailed on Said Voyage but meeting with contrary W[inds] was returned & then at Anchor. On which a Number of [said Committee] past the following Vote, Viz. That Capn Ward Swift [blotted] to repair on Board Said Vessel with Such Aid as he [blotted] necessary and Strip her of her Sails or take som[e good] Effectual method to put it out of their Power to Prosecute [s]d Voyage until they shall obtain Liberty. In Consequence of which Capn Swift hath attempted with a File of men to Stop Sd Vessel but before he could get on Board she came to Sail and is gone off.

Therefore Voted That Benja Fessenden be desired to write to the Speaker of the Honble House of Representatives & enclose to him a Copy this Vote.

Unanimously agreed to a true Copy from the minutes

att. B. Fessenden

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 190.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND ASSEMBLY ¹

Providence [January 12], 1776.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Page, captain of one of the row-gallies, be immediately sent for, to appear before this Assembly, to answer for his conduct; and that David Arnold, Matthew Allen and Samuel Bosworth; be also cited to appear before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the town council of the town of Newport, be allowed to supply Captain Wallace; so long as he shall remain peaceably within the colony, without committing any depredations upon the islands, or upon any of the lands in the colony, weekly with two thousand pounds weight of beef; and with beer as usual, under the direction of the commanding officer of the forces stationed on Rhode Island; that he appoint the person to provide and deliver said provisions; and that no member of either House of Assembly be appointed to deliver the same, or to go on board of either of the ships of war, under said Wallace's command, on any occasion whatsoever.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 438, 439.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Jan'y 12. 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment. —

Voted. That John Brown John Smith and William Russell be a Committee to agree with the Ship Carpenters for the Wages they shall receive for working on the Ships. that they send them out to the different Farms to Cut timber immediately, and that they provide places for th[em] to Bord in when they shall arrive in Town.

Meeting adjourned to Saturday evening at 6 o'clock

Reckoning 12/ LMY paid by Joseph Nightingale

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SHIPS' CARPENTERS AND LUMBER FOR THE RHODE ISLAND FRIGATES ¹

Wanted immediately.

A Number of good Ship-Carpenters; also a large Quantity of Ship-Timber and Plank, for which Cash will be given on Delivery. For Terms apply to Messieurs John Brown, John Smith, Joseph and William Russell, or Clark and Nightingale.

Providence, Jan. 12, 1776.

1. *Providence Gazette*, January 20, 1776. Advertisement placed by the building committee for two Continental frigates in Rhode Island.

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP BOUND FROM RHODE ISLAND TO MARYLAND¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we Richard Fry and Silas Casey both of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held & firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony: to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents Sealed with our Seals Dated the Twelfth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas George Harrison Master of the Sloop [blank] burthen about Thirty Six Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage from East Greenwich to the Province of Maryland with Forty barrels of Cyder, Two Hogsheads of Apples one Hogshead Pottatoes Three Hundred Pounds weight of Cheese and twenty Bushels of Salt: Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such – That if the said George Harrison shall proceed with his said Sloop to the Province of Maryland and there discharge his said Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop, and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full Force.

Richard Fry Silas Casey

Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of }

James Arnold Jur William Mumford²

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels; R.I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, two similar bonds, were executed the same day and witnessed by William Mumford. One was that of Silas Casey and William Sweet, owners of the sloop *Greenwich*, of which Sweet was master. She was bound from East Greenwich for Connecticut and New York; in ballast, and bonded for three hundred pounds. The other was, Nicholas Brown of Providence, owner, and Christopher Gardner of Nantucket, master of the schooner *Sherburne*, bound from East Greenwich for Nantucket with a cargo of apples and cider, and bonded for five hundred pounds.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Bolton*, LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES.¹

January 1776

Hope Island S B W 1 Mile

Thursday 11

at 7 AM weighed & came to sail.

First part fresh breezes and hazy Wr middle Do with snow and sleet. latter Do breezes and fair Wr.

turning down to Newport. at 3 PM joining us the *Swans* Tender. fired to bring too a small Boat, 2. 3 pounders. at 6 Anchd in Newport Harbour, in 7½ fm water veer'd away ½ a Cable. found here the *Glasgow* Tender from Boston.

Friday 12 at ½ past 8 AM the *Rose* made the signal to unmoor at ½ past 10 weigh'd p Signal in Compy the *Rose Glasgow, Swan, Tenders, Transports &c* at 10 came onbd Lieut [Edward] Sneyd, read his Commission and took Charge of the Brigg² Tho^s Graves.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.

2. The *Bolton* journal ends at this point. The subsequent journal was likely destroyed by Lieutenant Sneyd when the brig was captured by Esek Hopkins' fleet, April 5, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 3 ho. P.M., Jany. 12th, 1776.

Mr.[Comfort] Sands, who had informed the Committee that he had been disappointed as to the vessel he was about to charter to proceed to the West Indies, in pursuance to the order of the Provincial Congress, and was then endeavouring to procure another suitable vessel, reports, that he has engaged a sloop, belonging to Stephen Thorne, to go to the Island of St. Eustatia, at 70s. per ton, merchants' tonnage, the Congress to take the risk of seizures. Vessel valued at £500. That he could also engage Abm. P. Lott's schooner to go to Martinico, Guadalupe or St. Eustatia, at 70s. The Congress to take the risk of seizures. Vessel valued at £500.

The Committee approve of Mr. Sand's agreement for the first above mentioned vessel, made in pursuance of the directions of this Provincial Congress, and submit it to the care and prudence of Mr. Sands, (with such advice as he may from time to time request of this Committee,) to make the most advantageous agreement for the public benefit as to the other vessel.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 248.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Princeton] Friday, January 12, 1776.

Whereas, a certain Richard Symonds, a midshipman, belonging to one of the King's ships of War, was in September last, taken on board a small tender at Barnagat, since which he hath remained a prisoner in the County of Monmouth.²

Ordered, That Richard Symonds be removed to Trenton, and there be admitted to remain a prisoner of war on his parole of honour, on the same terms granted to those officers who are already prisoners at that place.

1. *Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton, 1879), 333. Hereafter cited as *New Jersey Provincial Congress*.

2. See minutes of Monmouth County Committee of Observation, January 2, 1776.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadephia] Friday 12 [January] In Grand Comee Govr [Samuel] Ward in the Chair, the point was Whether to open Trade to Foreign Countries on the First of March next, wherein much Ability was displayed for several Hours and at last it was postponed for a Week –

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON'S COMMISSION TO MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*¹

In Convention

The Delegates of the Province of Maryland to James Nicholson Esquire

We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism Valour Conduct and Fidelity Do by these Presents constitute and appoint You to be Captain of the Ship called the *Defence* in the Service of this Province fitted out for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof and for the Defence of our Liberties, You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Captain by doing and performing all Manner of things thereunto belonging according to the rules and Discipline of War the Usage of the Sea And the Instructions which may from time to time be given you -

And We do strictly charge and require all Officers Seamen Marines & others Under your Command to be obedient to your Orders as Captain

And You are to observe and follow all such Orders and Directions which You shall receive from the Convention of Maryland or Council of Safety thereof in pursuance of the Trust reposed in You -

This Commission to continue of Force until revoked by the Convention or Council of Safety of this Province

Given this [12] Day of [January] By Order of the Convention²

Attest. 1776

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

2. The Convention adjourned January 18, 1776, and did not meet again until May 8, 1776.

The actual date of Nicholson's commission is very much in doubt. That he was engaged to superintend the outfitting of the Maryland ship *Defence* as early as December 30, 1775, is evident by payments made by him for work done on that vessel. While his commission is blank as to date or month, the most logical date would be that upon which so much naval business was considered by the Convention.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN'S ACCOUNTS FOR LOADING BRIGS *Rachel* AND *Sam*¹

1776 Dr Brigg *Rachel* in Accot with Archd Buchanan Cr

		Currency	
To 1064 Barrells Flour wt 2156 3 18 lb a 12/6		£1348	1 7½
Barrells	a 1/9	97	5 4
100 Ditto Ship Bread 12,630	a 12s/	75	15 7½
do	a 2/1	10	8 4
3 M Staves	a £4.10 p Thousd	13	10 -
Bill of disbursements for Cooperage, Nails, Linning, Casks, Scow } and dray Hire, Rum for Waggoners & Waggoning Flour }		38	13 -½
Errors Excepted		£1583	13 11½
		Archd Buchanan	

1776 Dr Brigg *Sam* in Account with Archd Buchanan

			Currency
To 1258	Barrells of Fine Flour wt [2510 2]	11 a 12/6	£1574. 2. 7½
	Barrells for ditto	a 1/9	110 16 -
128	ditto Superfine Flour	[128] a 15/6	165. 17 -
	do for do	a 1/9	11 4 -
91	do of Bread	10,699 a 12/	64. 3. 10
	do for do	a 2/1	9 9. 7
2000	Staves	a 100/	10. - -
	do do	a 90/	4 10. -
To Bill of disbursements for Cooperage, Nails, Linning Casks, Scow & Dray hire, Rum for Waggoners, Warehouse Rent &c			10 15. 7

[Baltimore] January 12th Errors Excepted

£1960. 18. 7½
Archd Buchanan

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch. Brigs were preparing for voyage to West Indies.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN'S POWDER ACCOUNT WITH MARYLAND ¹

Dr The Province of Maryland in Accot wth Archibald Buchanan Cr

1776

		Currency
Januy 2	To Amount of Brigg <i>Hannahs</i> Accot	1295. 12. - ½
4	To ditto of Brig <i>Rachels</i>	1583. 13. 11½
11	To ditto of Brigg <i>Sam</i>	1960. 18. 7½
	To ditto of Schooner <i>Dolphin</i>	596. 6. 2½

5436. 10. 10

Commission 5 P Ctt 271. 16. 6

£ 5708. 7. 4

1775

		Currency
Decemr 18.	By Cash	5000. - -
	Balance due A. Buchanan	708. 7. 4

5,708. 7. 4

January 12, 1776

Errors Excepted

Arch^d Buchanan

1. Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch.

SAMUEL CHASE TO JOHN ADAMS ¹Annapolis. Jan'y. 12th 1775 [*sic* 1776].

My Dear Sir The Business of our provincial Convention draws to a Conclusion, and the Session will end in a few days. I have Leave to visit my Family before I sett off for the [Continental] Congress, and I expect to take You by the Hand before 1st of Febry. - I cannot omit in the mean Time to express to You my opinion on the present State of our public Affairs, and the Measures I would wish to be adopted.

The early Attention and great Depend[^e]nce of the Ministry on Canada evince the infinite Importance of that Country in the present Dispute, to obtain the Possession of that province is an object of the first Consequence. We mustn't at all Events procure and keep Possession of that province – Quebec must at every Hazard be ours, as Succours can arrive there before 1st May I would have a chosen Committee go to Canada as soon as the Lakes are frozen hard enough, let them call a Convention, explain the Views & Designs of Congress, and persuade them to send Delegates there. let a Body of 6,000 Canadians and 2000 Colonists be embodied for the Defence of that province. I think the Success of the War will, in great Measure, depend on securing Canada to our Confederation. I would earnestly recommend Charles Carroll Esqr of Carrollton of this province to be one of your Deputies to Canada. his Attachment and zeal to the Cause, his abilities, his Acquaintance with the Language, Manners & Customs of France and his Religion, with the Circumstances of a very great Estate, all point him out to that all important Service. My Inclination to serve my Country would induce Me to offer my Services, if I did not esteem Myself unable to discharge the Trust.

I would have our Army in the Massachusetts encreased to 30,000, I would [have] 10,000 stationed in New York. and every proper place on Hudsons River strongly secured by Batteries of heavy Cannon and obstructions in the River, A Body of 3000 should be stationed in the middle Colonies. I would want every [Province?] to fitt out a Number of Vessells from 10 to 30 guns. I would cruise for the India & Jamaica Men, I would make prizes of every British Vessell where-ever found. I would if possible destroy the army at Boston, tho the Consequence should be certain Destruction to the Town. The Colonies should either bear the Loss, or [illegible] the Damages in the Bill of Costs. – I would from Canada, if practicable destroy the Fur trade on Hudson's Bay. In short I would adopt every Scheme to reduce G.B. to our Terms. – Whether to open or to continue our Ports shut, I am undetermined. to starve the West Indies, and to ruin the Sugar trade ought not to be easily given up.

I have this moment seen the Kings Speech I am not disappointed. just as I expected.

I shall always be glad to hear from You, direct to Me in Fredk Coty. – make Me remembered to your worthy Colleagues. Yours [&c.]

Sam^l Chase.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 12.

By advices from the army, we learn that all the mills at Tucker's point, with the Scotch distillery, and mr.[Andrew] Sprowle's houses at Gosport, are totally demolished; as is likewise the chief part of Norfolk, a few houses only remaining above the church, which are occupied by our troops.

Two deserters from the *Liverpool* frigate inform, that a tender is fitting out for James river, on a pirating voyage; and that all the vessels of war, but one, are shortly to come round to York town.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE¹

January 1776. Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Friday 12 A M hawld the *Sandwich* Schooner² alongside put two four Pounds on board her. At noon she hawld off again.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. Renamed the *Samuel*, tender.GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO LORD DARTMOUTH.¹

[Extract]

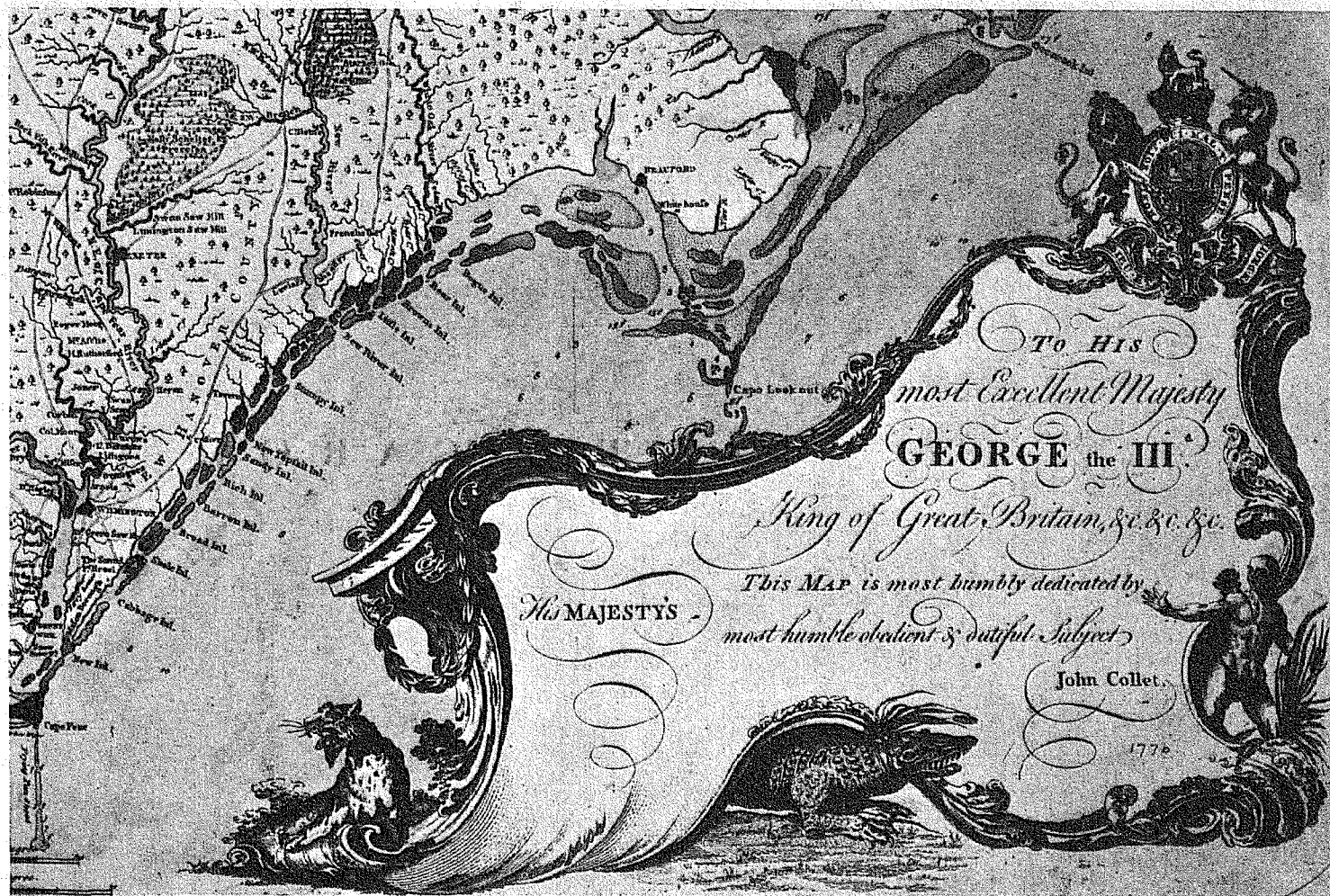
No 43.

No. Carolina *Scorpion* Sloop of War
in Cape Fear River Jan'y 12th 1775 [*sic* 1776]

My Lord, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordships Dispatches numbered 20, 21, & 22 together with a Copy of Your Lordship's letter to Major General [William] Howe of the 22d of October, delivered to me by Captain [Tobias] Furneaux of His Majesty's Ship *Syren* who arrived here on the 3d instant, and proceeded on the Tenth to the Southward, in execution of his orders; having been delayed here 'til then; by contrary winds. Capt Furneaux took charge of Your Lordship's Dispatches to His Majesty's Governors of the Southern Provinces, that came enclosed to me; and those for Lord Dunmore, Governor [Robert] Eden and Governor [John] Penn, I had an opportunity of sending to Lord Dunmore, by a Tender which sailed on Saturday last.

The measure of sending a body of His Majesty's Forces to the Succour of the friends of Government here; and in the other Southern Provinces, I trust, will be attended with all the Success, and good consequences that His Majesty has been taught to expect from it and I can only lament, that it has not been tried earlier, before The King's loyal Subjects had received the checks and discouragements they have met with, and the Power of Rebellion had become so established, and formidable.

My Latest informations from the interior Parts of the Province, whence I have always represented to Your Lordship, that I expected to draw my principal support, correspond with my warmest wishes. The People called Regulators (for whom I hoped before this time to have received His Majesty's Pardon) to the number of between two and three thousand men have given me the strongest assurances of their joining The King's Standard whenever they shall be called upon, although not half of them are provided with arms, and I have no doubt that much greater numbers will be found to resort to it, besides the Scotch Emigrants. The progress of Rebellion here; the concurring good dispositions of a body of the People of the County of Brunswick in this neighbourhood, with the friends of Government in the back Country, and the notable exertions of The King's loyal Subjects at the same time in the upper Parts of South Carolina, had determined me before the receipt of Your Lordships late Dispatches to avail myself immediately of the strength of His Majesty's faithfull Subjects in this Province such as it might be, rather than hazard their total Subjection to the Power of Rebellion by waiting for Succour, of which I saw no prospect; and I had taken measures accordingly: but since I am informed by Your Lordship of His Majesty's design to Send a



Cape Fear River and portion of North Carolina coast.

General Officer here with a body of regular Troops, and that they may be expected in a short time, I shall confine my views to the making every possible preparation in my power to favour and forward The Generals Plan of Operations, seeing it highly improper for me to hazard any check or *contretems* by drawing together The King's loyal Subjects prematurely and taking the field with them unprovided of almost every necessary for carrying on War, while I have assurance, and so near a prospect of Support, that will certainly render their exertions effectual.

The *Scorpion* Sloop of War on board which I had taken up my residence on her arrival here to relieve the *Cruizer*, being ordered by Captain Thornborough Commr of His Majesty's Ships in South Carolina to join him immediately under apprehensions of being attacked by Vessels the Rebels were fitting out at Charles Town against him, I found it expedient while I could effect nothing here to go there in her not only that Captain Thornbrough should have the Succour of The Ship in his emergency but that I might remonstrate against her detention from her Station here beyond absolute necessity while there was so great occasion for her in this Province, and have opportunity at the same time to inform myself of the measures for his Majesty's Service that Lord William Campbell had most pressingly invited me to consult with him upon by a letter I had received from him some time before. On my arrival at Charles Town I found Capt Thornbrough had ordered The *Scorpion* there at the instance of Lord William Campbell more than from any apprehensions he himself entertained of the Naval force of The Rebels: and on my representations he ordered her back to her Station here: but contrary winds detained us there so long, and our voyage from thence was so tedious, that at my return to this place I had been a whole month absent; during which I suffered a degree of anxiety and sollicitude, that it is impossible for me to describe to Your Lordship. happily however nothing had occurred here during my absence of the least consequence. I had the satisfaction to learn from Lord William Campbell, who had no particular object to propose to me that a most commendable Spirit of loyalty prevailed among The People in the interior parts of His Government, that they had actually defeated, and reduced a large body of The Rebels to treat, and were in expectation of further advantages, if the Rebels from this Country did not interpose which was then dreaded, and I have since had the mortification to hear that they marched a body of 600 men under Alexander Martin and Thomas Polk from the Counties of Mecklenburg, and Rowan, who put the Rebels of that Country in Sufficient force to disarm the loyal People who had made so noble a stand, and who were collecting strength so fast, that they must have carried every thing before them, if it had been possible to afford them the least Support. This check of the friends of Government in that Province is greatly to be lamented, but I am hopeful nevertheless that they will again put themselves in motion as soon as I erect The King's Standard here which I intend to do in time to hold The King's loyal Subjects of this Province in a state of readiness to join His Majesty's forces now in expectation immediately on their arrival as nearly as that event may be computed. . . .

This Harbour of Cape Fear River I understand from the Officers of His Majesty's Ships now here will receive Frigates, drawing not more than sixteen feet Water, which would at any time be sufficient to cover the landing of any body

of Troops: but as no opposition is to be expected on their landing at present it is very immaterial whether Men of War come into this River or not.

Your Lordship may depend I shall not fail to pay every attention to Your Dispatches No 15 and 19, which last has not yet reached my hands, and I shall use my best endeavours to forward the Success of Col. [Allan] McLeans Plan of recruiting out of the Scotch Emigrants here or to obtain them for the American Army in general.

Having no Amanuensis, it is out of my Power to transmit to Your Lordship Duplicates of my two last dispatches, which I fear are Still waiting at Charles Town for a Packet: a violent disorder in my eyes, with which I have been afflicted for some days, hardly permitting me to write with my own hand this letter.

I have the honor to be [&c.]

Jo: Martin

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

MAJOR CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY TO HENRY LAURENS¹

Sr Fort Johnston [Johnson] Jan: 12 - 1776 - one OClock -

Since my last of 12 OClock the Boat I sent out this morning to reconnoitre the Men of War has come back. After I fired at the Man of War's Boat she rowed away as fast as she could, & meeting with our Boat went along side of her. Our People passed as Fishermen & were taken by the Men of War's People to be so. From them we learn that there is a 50 Gun ship & a 28 Gun ship in the Offing, & a Sloop to lighten the 50 & that they are in no want of Pilots. I send this by Serjeant Redman who was on board of our Boat & will answer such Questions as you may please to put to him - The Pilot Boat is safe & coming up very fast, but it is impossible to overtake the Man of War Boat. I have the honour to be Sr [&c.]

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney

Major of the 5th Regt

1. BPL.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety

[Charleston] Monday [*sic* Friday], Jan. 12th, 1776.

Read a letter from Major [Charles] Pinckney, dated Fort Johnson, 11th January, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. Daniel Cannon do forthwith provide all the materials, workmen and labourers, that shall be necessary for erecting and completing the intended works upon Sullivan's Island, under the direction of Col [Owen] Roberts, with the utmost expedition: That, if the said works should unavoidably be discontinued, the public will indemnify Mr. Cannon, for all the materials that shall have been purchased at the time of such discontinuance; and that the public will make good any loss that may be sustained in boats, or by negroes killed, maimed, or lost in this service, by means of the enemy.

Resolved, That the sum of four thousand pounds be advanced out of the colony treasury to Mr. Cannon, for the more expeditious carrying on the works intended upon Sullivan's Island – to be accounted for by him.

An order for that sum was accordingly issued.

Upon an application by the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, the following letter was written:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776.

Sir – As several of the men which come into this colony on board your vessel have entered into the service of the United colonies of America, on-board the ship *Prosper*, commanded by the Hon. Mr. Drayton, who have wages due to them: 'tis our order that you do immediately adjust and pay such wages; and also, that you will not attempt to controul or hinder such other men from entering into the same service, who are willing to do so of their own voluntary disposition – as you will answer the contrary at your peril.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. [Thomas] Smith of the snow [*sic* schooner] in Stono river.

The following orders were then issued:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776.

Sir – We desire you will order the commanding officer of the detachment on Sullivan's Island, as soon as the temporary battery is in readiness, to fire upon any ships of war, boats, or other vessels belonging to the enemy, attempting to approach, pass, or land upon that island; and in the mean time to use all the force in his power to prevent the enemy's landing or passing by.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [William] Moultrie, or the commanding officer of the colony troops.

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776.

Sir – You are to receive on board the sloop *Defence* a detachment from the troops under Col. Moultrie's command; and to conduct and land them on Sullivan's Island. You are to remain at anchor near the island, and to do every thing in your power to cover and protect the works intended to be carried on there, and to hinder and obstruct the approach, landing or passing by, any ships, boats, or other vessels belonging to the enemy.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President

Capt [Simon] Tufts.

Read a second letter from Major Pinckney, sent express from Fort Johnson, with a further account of the vessels in the offing, and of a barge having come into the Road this morning.

Mr. John Coram, jun., attended the Council, and confirmed the account given in the above letter.

Capt. Thomas Smith, of the armed pilot-boat, attended, and reported, that having reconnoitred the vessels in the offing, he judged one to be a frigate of 36 guns, another a smaller ship, or bark, which he imagined might be a transport, and the third was a large sloop, which he imagined might be a tender; that he was very near them, but the weather too foggy, to distinguish clearly what they were: and that he fell in with and engaged the barge of one of them, at eleven o'clock this forenoon, and had received several shot in his sails.

Read a third letter from Major Pinckney at Fort Johnson, sent by Sergeant Redman, to whom the Council was referred for more particular information.

Sergeant Redman being called in, and also a Mr. Ellis – and examined – they respectively declared, that having been ordered out by Major Pinckney, to reconnoitre the vessels in the Offing, in a fishing-boat, they fell in the man-of-war's barge, which had been on board the Spaniard in the road, returning to her ship – that she lay along-side the fishing-boat near fifteen minutes, during which time some conversation passed between them (as fishermen) and the lieutenant, who asked several questions, concerning the fort – why it had fired at the barge? – threatening vengeance the first fair wind and tide – where were the *Tamar* and *Cherokee*? &c. and told them, that there was a 50-gun ship in the offing, and a frigate of 28 guns; to the former of which the barge belonged, together with a sloop to lighten the large ship, that she might come in over the bar – and that they had a black and six white pilots on board.

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 12th, 1776, 5 o'clock, P.M.

Sir – We have before us your several dispatches, one of last night, and two by W. Belin and Sergeant Redman – your vigilance merits applause.

We desire you will as speedily as possible make a general return to this board, of your garison and camp – the number of effectives, officers and men, stores of every kind, including provisions; with such further intelligence, of the ships in the offing as you may have learned; together with any hints or information, which you may judge will be necessary or serviceable in the present conjuncture.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Major Pinckney.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Smith is sensible of his mistake and will act with propriety upon that occasion.

Ordered, That the detachment of one hundred men, ordered the 10th instant for Sullivan's Island, be ready to embark on board sloop *Défence*, by dawn of day to-morrow morning – to march to Champney's wharf.

In the Council of Safety, 12th Jan., 1776.

By order.

Henry Laurens, President.

Col. [William] Moultrie, or the commanding officer of the colony troops.

South Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 TO
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1776

Charlestown, January 12.

Last Saturday sailed *Tamar* and *Cherokee* Men of War, the *Sandwich* Packet, the armed Schooner *Polly*, and the Prize Brigantine mentioned in our last.¹ It is pretty certain that the Packet is bound to New York; but the Destination of the others has given Rise to a Variety of Conjectures, the most probable seems to be, that after convoying the Packet to [some] Distance at Sea, they have steered for Georgia; in order to procure a fresh supply of Provisions Water and Fuel.

Yesterday Forenoon a large Ship, a Bark, and a Sloop, appeared off our Bar, where the Ship fired several Guns.² Early this Morning a Pilot went out to discover who they were, and met with a barge belonging to the Ship, which had been at the Spanish Snow lying in Rebellion Road.³ A smart Discharge of Musketry ensued between the Barge and Pilotboat; without any Loss on board the latter. The Ship is thought to be a Frigate of about 28 guns. We have just heard that two more Ships are in the Offing.⁴

1. The *George Town* packet, Alexander Wyley, master, taken November 8, 1775.

2. H.M.S. *Syren*.

3. The *St. Michael*, Don Joachim de Laraquebel, commander.

4. H.M. Sloop *Raven* and her prize, the ship *Rittenhouse*, Ambrose Bartlett, master, taken December 28, 1775.

PROVISIONS FROM ST. AUGUSTINE FOR H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*'s MEN SHIPPED ON
BOARD THE PILOT BOAT *Tryal*¹

His Excellency Govr Tonyn for Provisions supplied 7 Men belonging to His
Majestys Ship *Tamar* on board the *Tryal* Pilot Boat

Dr To William Alexander

1776				
Jan'y 12th For 32 Galls Rum	a 4/9 p Gal	7	12	—
526 lbs Flour	a 22/ p 100	5	15	8
Baking 91 lb Biscuit	a 8/ p 100		7	3
504 lb Fresh Beef	a 25/p 100	6	6	—
Sterling		£ 20	—	11

[1st endorsement] Received St Augustine 12th January 1776 of His Excellency Govr Tonyn Twenty Pounds and eleven pence Sterling in full for the Above Accot in a Sett of Bills on the Honble the Commissioners for Victualling His Majestys Navy

William Alexander

[2d endorsement] Received the above mention'd Provisions for the use of myself & the other Men belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Tamar*; Witness my Hand St Augustine 12th January 1776.

Geo Walker Commr

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 219.

13 Jan.

JOHN KINNON TO GEORGE PHIPPS, CORK¹

[Extract]

Halifax 13. January 1776.

Publick not private Business brought me here, but is of a nature, not to be disclosed at present, suffice it to say, if I am successfull it will be both honourable and advantageous to me. We were far from inactive at Boston, a secret Expedition sailed the Day I did under Major [James] Grant,² & Genl [Henry] Clinton was preparing to go with some Light Infantry, it was said to meet the Troops from the Mediterranean, to assist Lord Dunmore who makes some stand in Virginia, many other things were talked of, and People in high Spirits. Several of the Porter Ships arrived, and but two taken - several coming in daily, & the Coasts closely watched since Shuldham's Arrival.

John Kinnon.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

2. Grant sailed in the *Scarborough* for Georgia to procure rice.COLONY BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS ARMED BRIG *Yankee Hero*¹

1776 *Yankee Hero*, Armed Vessel. Tons; 120. Guns and Men, not
Jan. 13 stated

Commander: Thomas Thomas.

Bond: Colony, £1,000.

Bonders: Tho[ma]s Thomas, Mariner; Jona[than] Jackson, Nat[haniel] Tracy, and John Tracy, Merchants of Newburyport.

Owners: Not stated.

Witnesses: Robert Tracy, Edw[ar]d Jackson.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 7,339. This is an abstract taken from the bond.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, H.M. SLOOP
*Falcon*¹

When the *Kitty* transport is ready to sail, you are hereby desired and directed to take her under your Convoy and proceed without Loss of time in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command to Sea, and when you are to the Eastward of Cape Cod open the sealed Pacquet herewith inclosed and follow the Orders therein contained for your further Proceedings.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston*

at Boston 13 January 1776

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 117, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO LORD SANDWICH¹

[Extract]

Boston, 13th January 1776.

Your Lordship will be surprised and concerned to hear how fast the armed vessels of the rebels have multiplied lately; how many of our storeships and victuallers they have taken; and how successfully they have defeated all our force,

vigilance, and attention, by their artifice, but more by their being too early in possession of all the harbours, creeks, and rivers, on this coast, most of which they have already fortified. But if any are accessible to our ships, they shall be attempted, and every practicable measure taken that can contribute to our success.

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 104-05.

MASTER'S BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS WHALING BRIG *Fox*¹

Know all men by these Presents that we Peter Folger & Gilbert Folger both of Sherburn in the County of Nantucket are holden and stand firmly bound & obliged to Henry Gardner Esqr of Stow in the County of middelsex Treasurer of the Colony of the Massa Bay or his Successors in Sd office in the full & Just Sum of Two Thousands Pounds, to the which Payment well and Truly, to be made, we bind ourselves our Heirs, Executors administrators & Assigns Jointly & Severally firmly by these Presents, Sealed with our Seals Dated this Thirteenth day of January in the sixteenth year of his Majestys Reign, Annoque Domminy, 1776. —

The Conditions of the above obligations are that whereas the Above named Peter Folger and Gilbert Folger is about to Adventure to Sea on a whaleing Voyage the Brig *Fox* Gilbert Folger Master if then the Sd Gilbert Folger or any other Person who may have the Command of the Sd Brig during the Sd Voyage Shall Carry out no more Provisions than are Nessasary for the Sd Voyage in the Judgment of the Select men of the Town of Sherburn and shall Also well and Truly Bring or Cause to be brought into Some Port or Harbour of this Colony other than the port of Boston or Nantucket, All the oil & whalbone that Shall be Taken by the Said Vessels Crew in the Course of their Voyage and shall within Eighteen months from the date hereof Produce a Certificate from the Select men of the Town Adjoining Such Port or harbour that he there Landed the Same, then the Above obligation is to be Void, and of no Effect, otherwise to abide and Remain in Full force and Virtue.

Peter Folger Gilbert Folger

Signd Sealed & Delivered in Presents of us —

Reuben Folger the 2d Nathan Folger

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 287.

BENJAMIN FESSENDEN TO JAMES WARREN¹

Hond Sir

Sandwich, January. 13th 1776

In compliance with the desire of a Number of members of the Committees of Correspondence, and Inspection for this Town, I enclose you a Copy of the Vote Passed by them yesterday.² The Committee have done all in their Power to stop Said Vessel, referred to in the Vote, & have had repeated assurances that she should not Sail without Liberty. But as she has Sailed; Thought it a Duty incumbent on them to Give information of it to the Honble House, That if any thing further was necessary; They might give Such Order thereon as to them should in their Wisdom seem best. Mr [Stephen] Nye is a Member of our Commtee & to him I beg leave to refer you for a more particular account of

the Conduct of the owners relative to their Sending away the Vessell. I am
Hond Sir [&c.]

Benjamin Fessenden.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 191.

2. See Minutes of these Committees, January 12, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES
IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Jan'y 13 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted. That Jonathan Jenckes Esqr send Plank Loggs to Kents and Athertons sawmills and that he have them sawed into 4 Inch plank and as long as the Mills will admitt and that he provide two sawpitts and set proper men to work in them constantly in sawing 4 Inch plank at Pautucket landing and that he agree with Mill & pitt sawyers for the price of sawing that the same persons that bring the Loggs to the Mill are to engage to bring the plank to Town.

Reckoning 11/ L My paid By Coll Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Monday evening 6 o'clock.

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

JOHN JENCKES' ACCOUNT FOR THREE SLOOPS OUTFITTED FOR RHODE ISLAND.¹

Dr John Jenckes Esqr his Accot Curr't wt the Colony of Rhode Island Cr
1776

Jan'y 13	To Cash you recd of the General Treas- urer p his Certificate	3811. 13. 6
	To Amot 100 bbls Flour engagd by Jno Smith	186. 4. 6
	Ballance due to John Jenckes	462. 11. 5¼

4460. 9. 5¼

[Endorsed] Providence Feb 13. 1776 Then settled & Adjusted
the above Accot by Order of the Honble General Assembly

A true Copy

Nath^l Mumford

Nath^l Mumford

Tho^s Greene

1776

Jan'y 13	By Amot of Cargo & Outfitt Sloop <i>Liberty</i> Christo Lippitt Master	1011. 5. 6
	By Amot the Acct Cargo & Outfitt of Sloop <i>Diamond</i> - Soule Mr	2568. 16. 10
	By Amot of your Accot of Cargo & Outfitt of Sloop <i>Sally</i> N. Packard Mr.	880. 7. 1¼

£4460. 9. 5¼

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1776

Providence, Jan. 13.

Saturday last a Boat belonging to one of the King's Tenders at Newport, having on board a Midshipman and two Seamen, was taken at Brenton's Neck, by a Party from Head-Quarters on Rhode-Island — They were decoyed by a Negro, who hailed the Tender, and informed them he was disposed to go on board to serve King George. — The Prisoners have since arrived here.

Yesterday Afternoon Capt. [James] Wallace, with all the Vessels under his Command, arrived at the South End of Prudence and landed 250 Men. — The Minute-Men that were on the Island (about 47 in Number) marched and engaged the Enemy, who endeavoured to surround them. — After giving three Fires, our People retreated, finding themselves overpowered by Numbers, and were taken off by two Boats from Warwick Neck. — One Minute-Man was killed, and two wounded, and the Enemy it is said lost several of their Men. — They afterwards burnt eight Houses on the Island, with a Number of Barns and Cribs; and this Morning it is said they are arrived at Bristol Harbour.

On Monday last [January 8] the Bomb Brig, a ship (supposed to be the *Swan*) and four Tenders, left the Harbour of Newport, and came up the Bay: They fired a Number of shot at a House on the Narraganset Side, after which the Brig and Tenders came up as far as Warwick Neck, where it is supposed they intended to land some Men, for the Purpose of collecting live Stock, &c. — Advice being received here of this Movement about eleven o'Clock at Night, the Artillery Company immediately marched off with some Field Pieces, and arrived at Warwick early the next Morning, where they were joined by a Number of the Inhabitants, and a Company from East-Greenwich, with two Field Pieces. — Several Shot were fired at the Brig and Tenders, and a few were returned on the Part of the Enemy, who finding they could not accomplish their Purpose, returned to Newport on Wednesday, having in this Expedition lost two of their Boats, which were driven ashore near Warren. In coming up the Bay they took a small Sloop, with some Passengers on board.

Three Men of War and eight Transports, we hear, sailed from Boston on Sunday last [January 7].

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE¹

January 1776

A Brest of Cananicut ferry

Friday 12

Fresh breezes & fair at 7 AM unmoor'd at 10 weigh'd & Came to Sail in Compy the *Rose*, *Swan*, *Bolton* & Tenders —

Do Wr with a hard frost

at 3 PM Came too in 16 fm off the So end of Prudence sent the boats arm'd & all the Marines on Shore at 8 the boats returned after burning the houses Barns &c & brot off some hay

Saturday 13

at 7 AM weigh'd & anchor'd 2 Miles farther to the No ward & sent the boats & marines on Shore again

Modt & fair Observ'd an irregular fire between the Rebels & our people we had 2 wounded one of which was taken prisoner

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Copy

Albany January 13th 1776 – 6 o'Clock P.M.

Sir. Within this half Hour Mr [Edward] Antill arrived with the unfortunate Account contained in the enclosed; My amiable and gallant Friend General Montgomery is no more, he fell in an unsuccessfull Attack on Quebec on the 30th Ult – My Feelings on this unhappy Occasion are too poignant to admit of Expression. – May Heaven avert any further Evils.

In the present critical Situation of Affairs, it is evident to me, that Nothing but the immediate March of a Body of Troops into Canada, can secure that province for the Canadians as I have heretofore observed, are not to be depended upon, only one hundred and sixty were at Quebec with Colonel [James] Livingston and those behaved ill as Mr Antill will inform you.

The very great Distance of Congress from here will apologize for a Request I shall immediately make to General Washington to send three thousand Men into Canada to march by the Way of Number four to Onion River from whence Lake Champlain is passable to Canada.

Congress undoubtedly conceives it to be advantageous to the Course of America to sit at Philadelphia; but they will be good enough to permit me to suggest the Necessity of a full empowered Committee immediately to repair to this place.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 396–98, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Albany January 13th 1776

I wish I had no occasion to send my Dear General this Mellancolly Account, My Amiable Friend the Gallant [Richard] Montgomery, is no more, The Brave [Benedict] Arnold is wounded, and we have met with a severe Check, in an unsuccessful Attempt on Québec; May Heaven be graciously pleas'd that the Misfortune may terminate here; I tremble for our People in Canada, and nothing my Dear Sir seems left to prevent the most fatal consequences, but an immediate Reinforcement, that is nowhere to [be] had but from You, & the only Rout that which I have pointed out in my Letter to Congress, Copy of which you have inclos'd, Nor do I think that a less number than which I have mentiond will suffice, Should your Excellency think proper to send the Troops, you will please to let me know It by Express, that I may send Provisions to Onion River.

Congress has wrote to me on the subject of my request to retire, our Affairs are much Worse than when I made the request, this is Motive sufficient for me to continue to serve my Country in any Way I can be thought most serviceable; But my utmost can be but little, Weak and Indisposed as I am

The Clothing is gone to Cambridge I am [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, Jany. 13th, 1776.

Lawrence Hartwick, brought before the Committee.

Capt. John Buchanan says, that he has heard that Lawrence Hartwick is very unfriendly to the liberties of America, and that he frequently went on board of the man of war; and it is reported that he carried the names of persons in this city on board who are active for their country. Capt. Buchanan says that he has heard Lawrence Hartwick declare that he had been on board of the man of war, would go on board again when he pleased, and would see who would hinder him.

Lawrence Hartwick says he wanted a musket, and went on board to buy a musket, and bought one of the armourer and paid the money for it; that the gun was to be sent to him by the pilot, but was not sent, and he went on board afterwards at different times for his money; that when he was on board the ship *Asia*, Mr. Tylee was there,² who asked him if he knew Capt. Tylee at the shipyards, and answered yes; and told him that he wanted to speak to him; that he told him he was not yet going on shore, and he might have an opportunity to speak to him; that after he came on shore he found a letter in his pocket directed to Capt. Tylee, which he delivered two days afterwards, but does not know how he received it; that he never showed the letter to Capt. Vandeput, or any of his officers.

Capt. Nat. Tylee says, he received a letter from the prisoner on a Sunday morning in November last; that Hartwick told him Lieut. Tylee had put it in his pocket in the gun room; that the letter had been sealed with a wafer and broken open, and resealed with a very large seal of wax; that on that evening the ship's decks were cleared and some person informed him they expected a party and were in readiness; the letter was read; it has evident marks of being opened and resealed; that he charged Hartwick with breaking open the letter, and Hartwick denied it.

Capt. Tylee gave the same information that was given to the Committee a few days ago, to wit: that Capt. Vandeput told Tylee, the prisoner, in the ship *Asia*, that he had seen his letter, and his friend had betrayed him; that he would not use him ill, but that he set another sentry over him.

John Rutter says, that about the same time, McDonnald and Hampton got on board the man of war, Hartwick came several times from on board of the man of war; that one evening when Hartwick and Leonard came from on board, they were told it was very wrong, and they said they would go on board when they pleased, and they would see who would hinder them; that Hartwick in particular said so; that he has understood in general that Hartwick is very much opposed to the measures of the Congress. Hartwick denies that he told Tylee that the letter was put in his pocket in the gun room.

John Hunter says, that Hartwick's wife declared that when he found the letter in his coat pocket, he said he would send it back on board of the man of war.

John Kell says, that one day last fall Lawrence Hartwick told him there was a fine wind, and troops expected; that they would give the whigs a drubbing

presently; that he had advised Hartwick not to go on board of the man of war, but he persisted that he would go.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 248, 249.

2. Ensign Edward Tilley was taken prisoner September 17, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

[Philadelphia] Saturday, January 13, 1776

a letter from the committee of safety of New York, dated January 3d, 1776, being received,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the letter from the committee of safety of New York, and to confer with Mr. [Bernard] Romans,² and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. W[illiam] Livingston.

The Secret Committee having made report respecting the purchase of the salt petre lately imported,

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to purchase the salt petre on the best terms they can, and have it manufactured into gun powder as soon as possible.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 53.

2. Engineer for fortifications at Martaler's Rock. He had been engaged in a dispute with the Commissioners in charge of those fortifications.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH

[Philadelphia] Saturday 13 Jany. Debates Whether Bernard Romans shall be called in and examined about his Fortifications on Hudsons River were terminated in a Reference to 5 Members -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON¹

[Extract] Philadelphia, Jany 13th 1776.

Last evening the draughts of the several ships of war were laid before the Marine Committee and approved of; and they have ordered one for each of the Contractors to be forthwith made out. But it is so large I know not how to send it to you, it cannot be sent in a letter and what other way to contrive I know not, but will do the best I can as soon as I can procure it.

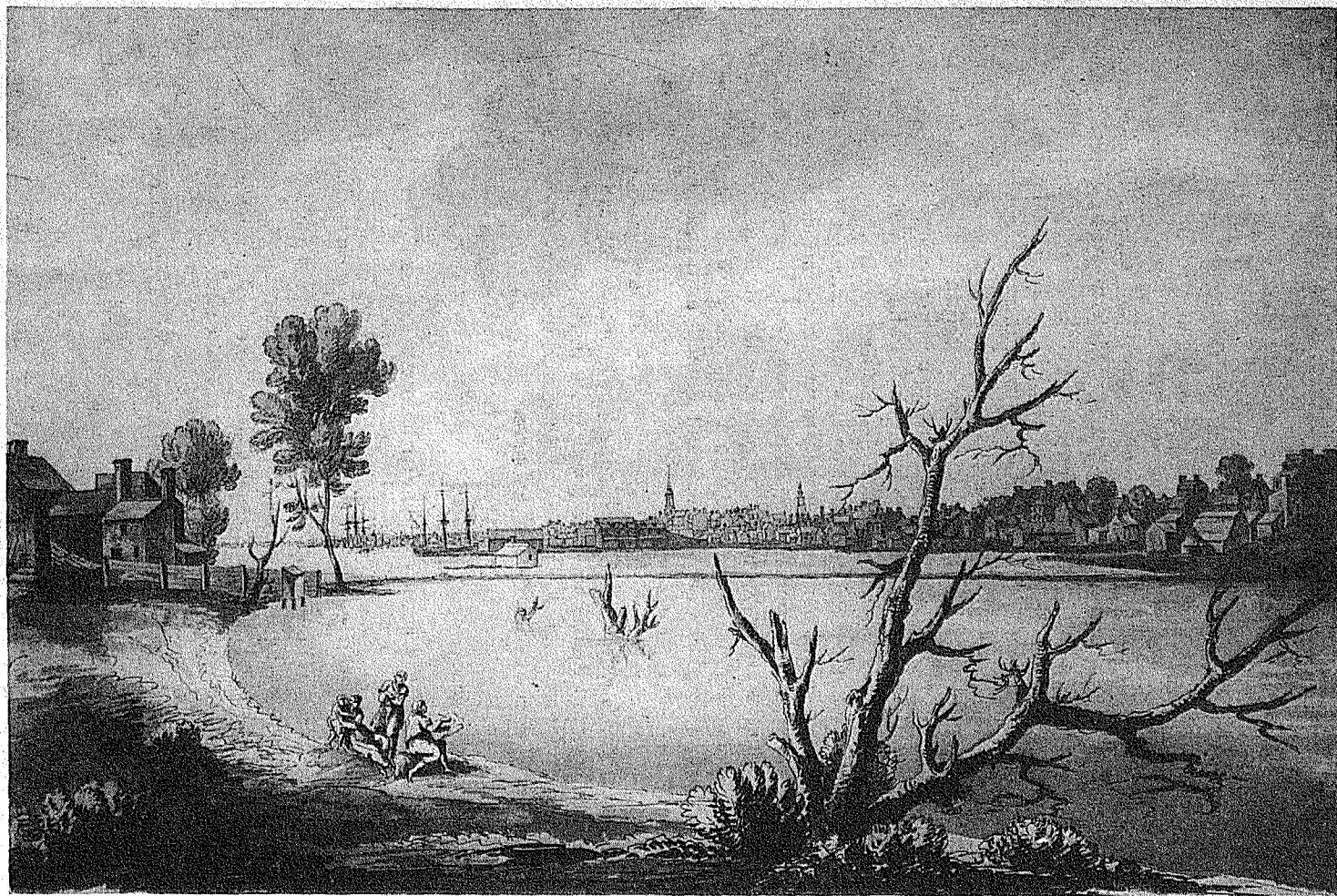
1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

BAYARD, JACKSON & COMPANY TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM MESTON.¹

Sir,

Philadelphia, Jan. 13, 1776

Our snow *Dickenson* being now loaded and ready for Sea, we hereby direct you to proceed in her with all possible Dispatch from this Port to the Port of Nantz, in France: On your Passage you are to improve Wind and Weather to the best



A view of Philadelphia, 1777.

Advantage, constantly endeavouring to make your Passage in as short a Time as possible, and carefully avoiding to speaking to any Vessel. On your Arrival at Nantz, you are to apply to Messrs. Montandouin and Frere, Merchants there, and to whom you are consigned; they will receive your Cargo, which you are to lose no Time in delivering, and there take on board such Goods as they have Orders to ship in Return, with which you are to proceed immediately for this Port, observing the Directions given you as above. On your Arrival off our Capes, you are to stand off, and on making a Signal, by hoisting your Jack to your Fore-top-mast head, when you will be answered, either from the Light-house, or Cape May, by a Sheet hung out; upon seeing this, you are to conclude there is no Danger in your Way, and immediately proceed up the Bay; but if, after making your Signal for six or eight hours, you should see no Signal, from either the Light-house or Cape May, you are then to proceed along the Coast, towards the Capes of Virginia, and endeavour to land your Cargo in the best Manner you can, putting it in the Care of the Committee of the Place where it is Landed, or some Persons of Property, for the Use of the Congress, and immediately Dispatch an Express with an Account of your proceedings to us. We have the greatest Dependence in your Vigilance and Activity in prosecuting this Voyage: should you succeed, as we pray God you may, you will not only recommend yourself strongly to our further Notice, but you will be considered as rendering an essential Service to your Country. You must be sensible the Success of this Voyage, in a great Measure, depends upon your Conduct; we doubt not you will endeavour to acquit yourself in a suitable Manner. Wishing you a safe and pleasant Voyage, and a quick and prosperous Return, we are, Sir [&c.]

Bayard, Jackson, and Co.

P.S. Besides the Goods that may be shipped on board you by Mess. Mo[nt]andouin and Frere in Return for Cargo, you are to receive on board any quantity of Arms and Ammunition you may have Room for, that may be offered for Account of the Congress by any Person whatsoever.

Bayard, Jackson, and Co.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, April 11, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philada, 13th January, 1776.

Capt. Andrew Caldwell having been applied to take the Command of the Fleet in the Service of this Province, and consenting thereto, it is.

Resolved, That he, the said Andrew Caldwell, be and he is hereby appointed Commander-in-Chief, or Commander of all the Armed Vessels in the Service of this Province.

Resolved, That a Person be appointed Second in Command of the Armed Vessels in the Service of this Province.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 456.

PENNSYLVANIA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ANDREW CALDWELL ¹In Committee of Safety [January 13].²

To Andrew Caldwell, Gentleman:

We, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct, and Fidelity, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be Commodore and Commander-in-chief of all Ships, Vessels, Boats, floating Batteries, Firerafts, and other Naval Armaments and Equipments now fitted, and that shall or may be fitted out, by this Province, for the Protection thereof, and of the Commerce of the River Delaware, against all hostile Enterprises and for the defence of American Liberty. You are, therefore, to take into your charge the whole Fleet of Ships, Vessels, Boats, floating Batteries, Fire Rafts, and other Naval Armaments and equipments made, and that shall be made, and fitted out by this Province, and carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Commodore and Commander-in-Chief by doing, &c.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 380.

2. "Capt Andrew Caldwell having been applied to take the Command of the Fleet in the Service of this Province, and consenting thereto, it is *Resolved*, That he, the said Andrew Caldwell, be and he is hereby appointed Commander-in-Chief, or Commander of all the Armed Vessels in the Service of this Province," Minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, January 13, 1776, *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 456.

WILLIAM WALL TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Dear sir

Baltimore Jan'y 13th 1776 -

This will be handed You by Capt [William] Stone of the *Horenet* Sloop of War at my Arrival here I found my Vessel Agreeable to my Expectations which gave me great Satisfaction and After that I waited on Capt Stone and Gave your compliments to him And Deliverd Your Message which I hope may prove Satisfactory My Byseniss is so at Present that I Cant Come to you by the Oppertunity of Capt Stone or otherwise would with all my heart But after this Byseniss is Done will gladly Emb[ark] with You with all the Chearfullness in the World and therefore Beg if any Vacansy Should Offer you would be kind Enough to keep it for me Consisting with your honor and Cons[cie]nces so Wishing you all the Success Amaginable I am [&c.]

W^m Wall

NB As for News I Refer You to Capt Stone — My Best Complymts to Brother John & Abraham Whipple

W.W.

To Admiral Hopkins On Board the Ship *Alfred* pr favour Capt Stone

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO THE NAVAL COMMITTEE ¹

[Baltimore] 1776 Jan. 13

Since writing the annex'd, I have Just now recd by Express from Annapolis a Line from Mr [William] Paca inclosing your Orders to Capt'n [William] Stone which I expect to deliver him in a few Minutes. — My Bror is Just now returnd from

the Harbour after geting the Sloop & Schooner ² under Way, having ordd them to drop dow[n] 3 or 4 Miles this evening to be clear of Ice, & ready to sail tomorrow. – I have had a Person all day at the Furnace, who assures me the Remdr of the Shot & Hand Granades are finishd & will be sent in very early in the morning, so that I know of nothing to prevent the Vessels from Sailing. I am with great Respect Gentlemen [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Jun^r

To Stephen Hopkins, Chrisr Gadsden, Silas Deane & Joseph Hewes Esqrs In Philadelphia

[Endorsed] Samuel Purviance junr Esqr Lettr Jany 13th 1776

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and the Continental schooner *Wasp*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ELIJAH LUCE¹

Sr

Annapolis in Maryland 13th Jany 1776.

Your are to proceed in the Brigantine *Hannah* of which you are Master with all Expedition to the Island of St Eustatia in the West Indies and there deliver your Cargoe to Mr Abraham Vanbebber to whom you go consigned & proceed further and act as he shall there direct you – If Mr Vanbebber should not have arrived by the Time you get there you are to wait for him but if he should not arrive within six Days after your getting there then dispatch an Express to St Pierre in Martinico with the Letters for Mr Richard Harrison & Mr William McCreary and wait the Answer of one of them either of whose Orders you are to follow – yet if Mr Vanbebber should arrive before you are taken up by one or other of those Gent. you are to be subject to him – if you should send Express to Martinico advise Messrs Harrison & McCreary of the price of the Commodities you carry at Statia & whether any Quantity of Powder or other Warlike Stores may be had there & the price. – You must on your Arrival at Statia call at the House of Richd D. Jennings and in Case of his Death or Absence at the House of Chalott & Bease where you may expect to meet with Mr Vanbebber or his Orders.

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 13.

The brig from Corke, taken by Capt. [Richard] Barron last week, was bound for Boston, loaded with pork, potatoes, eggs, wine, porter, cheese, and dried beef and is supposed to be worth 5000Lsterling.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday, January 13, 1776.

Mr. [James] Mercer, from the committee to whom the representation of the committee of the county of Isle of Wight was referred, reported, that they had inquired into the conduct of the said John Goodrich therein named; and that

it appeared to them, that the said John Goodrich had drawn on him, and two of his sons, the resentment of Lord Dunmore, by assisting the country in the importation of gunpowder, who caused them to be seized and confined, but upon their engaging to be no farther concerned in that business, the said John Goodrich, and his son John, on the parole of the former to appear on board Lord Dunmore's ship every tenth day, or oftener, if required, that the said John Goodrich has since resided at his plantation in Nansemond, and has been on board his lordship's ship four times, agreeably to his engagement, passing in his vessel unmolested by any of the navy; that the said John Goodrich acknowledged he intended to move some corn from his plantation in the county of Isle of Wight, to his plantation in Nansemond, but says the quantity was but a few barrels which his family was in want of, and that he had no conveniency of carrying it but by water; and that they had come to the following resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read and agreed to.

Resolved; That the said Joseph [*sic* John] Goodrich hath been active in favour of this colony, and hath suffered considerably on that account; that nothing in his conduct appears to be inimical to the common cause; but that no grain, or other article of provision, should be water borne in the neighbourhood of the enemy.

Mr. Mercer from the Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of John Goodrich, William Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Junr. relating to the importation of powder, and other articles for the use of this colony, reported, that the Committee had, accordingly inquired into the same, and that it appeared to them, that the linens imported into this colony on board the schooner *Fanny* were on the joint account of the said John Goodrich, John Goodrich, Junr. and Bartlet Goodrich; that it farther appeared, from the information of the said John Goodrich, Junr. and an invoice of the said cargo produced by him, that the said Bartlett, when at Antigua, about the first of October last, purchased British goods, consisting of checks, cottons, gingham, striped holland, jeans, Scotch thread, printed linens, Irish linens, white lead, and linseed oil, to the amount of £.291 16s 10 sterling, imported there from Liverpool by a return ship from Guinea, of which the said Bartlet was fully apprized; that the said Bartlet carried them to St. Eustatia, had them reviewed and packed in rum puncheons, and sent into Potowmac river in this colony, addressed to John Goodrich and company, where the said John Goodrich, Junr. took them into his possession, and offered them for sale, knowing them to be of British manufacture; that there farther appeared to be several erasures in the invoice of the said goods, intended to conceal the place from whence they were originally imported, particularly the words Liverpool and Antigua, which are yet legible, the latter having been altered and St. Eustatia inserted, the words Scotch and Irish erased, and the word Dutch inserted; that the said John Goodrich alledged, to justify this importation, that his brother Bartlet, being anxious to supply his brother William Goodrich with powder for the use of this colony, and meeting with about fifteen hundred weight on board the Liverpool ship, offered to purchase it, but the captain refused to sell it, unless he would take the aforesaid British goods, which the said Bartlet thought it better to purchase than to lose so much powder for the use

of this colony, that from the testimony of Connaway, master of the said vessel, it appears he received the goods aforesaid, together with the powder, on board his vessel, when at St. Eustatia, and delivered the powder to William Goodrich, and was then informed by the said Bartlet Goodrich, that he was obliged to purchase the said goods, or go without the powder which cost three shillings, and two shillings and nine pence per pound, at Antigua; that it farther appeared, that the afore-named John Goodrich was employed, in the month of July last, to purchase and import powder for the use of this colony, and for that purpose was introduced [*sic* entrusted] with bills of exchange to the amount of £.5000 sterling; that he sent his son William to the West Indies for the same, and imported into North-Carolina, some time in the month of October last, about four thousand weight, which being discovered by Lord Dunmore, he caused the said William to be seized and detained in custody till some time in December last, when it appeared, that being greatly intimidated, he was prevailed on by Lord Dunmore to make a discovery of the whole transaction, and the agent who assisted him in the West Indies in this business, whereupon Lord Dunmore sent an armed vessel, with the said William Goodrich as a witness, to demand the value of the powder imported, and the money remaining in the said agent's hands; that it farther appeared, the said William Goodrich is lately returned to Norfolk, and was discharged by Lord Dunmore; but, upon his hearing that the said William intended to Williamsburg, he was again seized; and is still detained in custody; that they cannot obtain any certain information of what passed between him and the agents in the West Indies, but are informed by the said John Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Junr. that the said William had brought neither powder nor money; that the said William Goodrich, by an account lodged in the treasury office, upon oath, hath charged four shillings and sixpence West India currency for the powder purchased at St. Eustatia; that the said John Goodrich, Junr. accounted for this by saying, that Bartlet Goodrich purchased the said powder for his own use, and afterwards sold it to William Goodrich at four shillings and six pence per pound; and had come to the following resolution thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the said Bartlet Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Junr. have manifestly violated the first article of the continental association, in the importation of the said British goods, and that the same ought to be forfeited to the use of this colony.

Ordered, That the foregoing report, and resolution, be published in the *Virginia Gazette*, and that all persons be warned to have no farther dealings with the said Bartlet and John Goodrich, Junr.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 95-96.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, 13th Jan., 1776.

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake use his utmost endeavours immediately to get afloat a large flat now lying aground at Col. Gadsden's wharf, laden with

military stores and that Capt. Blake do procure labouring men for this purpose, and if needful apply to Col. [Owen] Roberts who will order some of the men of his regiment to give assistance – for which Capt. Blake will reward the men as he shall think reasonable.

Ordered, That Capt. Blake do also forward the said stores in the flat, or other boats, to Sullivan's Island immediately.

Resolved, That all the seamen belonging to the brigantine *Comet*, be forthwith, for present service, put on board the ship *Prosper*; and that the said brigantine be immediately removed up Ashley river, there to remain till further orders.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 174–76.

"A RETURN OF THE STORES AT FORT JOHNSON AND THE ADJACENT BATTERY –
13TH JANY 1776 [CHARLESTON]"¹

Lower Battery

64 – 26 Pound-Cartridges – 75 – 18. Pound Cartridges – 17 Powder Horns & Prickers – 15 Lint Stocks – 22 Spunge Staffs & Ramrs – 5 Ladles – 4 Worms – 62 – Handspikes – 1 – Searcher. 161 – 26 – Pound Shot 108 – 18. Pound Barr Shot – 356 Round Ditto – 4 – 9 Pound Barr Shot 400 – 12 – Pound Shot – 5 – Boxes Grape Shott

Hyrnes Battery –

10 – 26 – Pound Cartridges – 10 – 18 – Pound Ditto – 6 – 9 Pound Ditto – 51 – 9 – Pound Shot – 22 – 18. Pound barr Shott – Magazine –

Match about 10 lb – Em[p]ty Cartridges – 191 – for 24 Pounders 1 – 18 Pound – 23 – 12 Pound – 43 – 9 Pound – 43 – 6 Pound – Small Cartridges. 183 Dozen – 3 Powder horn's – 2. Boxes of Grape Shot – 4 Horn Lanthorns. – 2. Glass Ditto Powder – 2 – Casks 100 lb Each 50 lb – About 70 lb in 3 Other Casks – 1 – Buge Barrell With Cartridge Powder – 2 – Measures – 1 Small Box of small Balls

R' Bks Roberts Lt Artill. Regt

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 9.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX¹

January 1776 [Cape Fear Harbor]

Wednesday 10 A M at 5 got lower Yards & Top Gallt Masts & Yards up, at 7 Weighed and made Sail, but falling Calm Anchd again, at 8 Weighed and made Sail, Sounded 19 & 19½ ft Water on the Bar. Light breezes – P M at 7 saw a light on the Stbd Quar Various Soundings,

Thursday 11 Cape Fear No 51° Et 36 Leagues

A M at 9 saw 3 sail in the N W gave Chase; Punished Michl Ramsey for Quarreling, Wm Glinn & Edwd Conroy for Drunkenness (with 12 lashes each) regular Soundgs from 10 to 5 Faths Sandy Bottom

Light Breezes & thick Hazey Wear – P: M: at 1 fired 2 Shot at a Sloop in Shore & spoke a Ship from Whitehaven, at ½ past bro't to the Sloop from St Augustine bound to Cape Fear at 3 Anchor'd with the Best Bowr in 5½ Fathom Water, sandy Bottom, fired 2 Guns as Sigls which were not Answer'd.

Friday 12 Sullivan's Island NW½ Wt Charles Town Light House
Wt: Diste: off Shore 5 or 6 Miles

A M at 7 sent the 1st Lieut: in the Pinnacle Man'd and Armed into the Harbor, who (not finding the *Tamer* there) on their return were Attacked by a Pilot boat, which got under way, stood after, & fired at the Pinnacle which was returned and after about 10t Engagemt she bore away for the Harbor, the Pinnacle chased, but could not come up with her, they had on board the Pilot-Boat about 30 Men & mounted 6 Swivels and several Musketoons. The Fort fired 2 Shot at the Pinnacle, which we (imagining were Guns fired on board the *Tamer*) fired one Gun in Answer to, the Wear being very thick & hazy could not see the Harbor — Exercised Great Guns & Small Arms —

Do Wear.

at 2 P: M: the Pinnacle ret'd having learnt from a Spanish Ship that the *Tamer* & *Cherokee* had sailed from thence with Ld Wm Campbell 7 or 8 days before: Saw 3. Sail in the Offing hove short on the Bt. Bowr broke the Messenger twice, fired 2 Guns as Sigls (Imagining the Ships in sight to be the *Tamer* & others) which was Answd —

Saturday 13 A M at 7 Join'd Co His Majesty's Sloop *Raven* from Boston bound to Savannah Georgia, they had not seen the *Tamer* —

Thick hazy Wr —

P: M: at 2 purchas'd our Anchor & bro't up again with the small Bower. Cut 13 Faths from the Best Bowr Cable, being very much rubbed.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah],
Jan. 13th, 1776.

The President sent a letter to the Council of Safety for South Carolina, informing them of the arrival of the *Tamar* off Tybee Light house and that the other vessels were in the Offing, and had fired several guns, but whether from the haziness of the weather, or their being in distress, we could not be certain.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 97-98.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG¹

January 1776 The body of Desiada NWBW dist 4 Leagues

Friday 12 at 8 A M the extremes of Mari Gallante from SWBW to NBS 3 or 4 Leagues

Modt and fair

at 1 P M Saw a sail to the No ward and gave chase at 4 do fired two Swivells & one Gun to bring too the Chace. Hove too Main Topsail to the Mast and sent an Officer on board the chase which

proved to be the *Polly and Betsey* Sloop from Connecticut, Seiz'd Do as a Prize and made Sail for Antigua.

Saturday 13 At 11 A M came on board the Pilot and took charge accordingly at half past came to Anchor in the Entrance of English Harbour in 4 fathm with the best Bower in Company with the Prize took her Men on board.

Moderate and Cloudy

P. M employed in Warping into Freemans Bay and mooring - Found here the *Portland Hind* and *Lynx* sent three Men to the Hospital.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

"A LETTER FROM ON BOARD THE *Anna Teresa* AT BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS" ¹

[Extract]

Jan: 13

... The Islands begin greatly to feel the Effects of the unhappy Disturbances between England and America, and the King's Ships keep a good Lookout after the American Vessels; several of which have been taken and condemned. Captain Garneir [William Garnier] of the *Argo*, sailed from hence this Morning. He has taken five or six Sail. One of his Prizes, a Sloop, was condemned, and sold here Yesterday.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, March 1, 1776.

14 Jan. (Sunday)

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Copy

Montreal Jan: 14th 1776

Sir Your Letter of the 31st Ultio I received per post, also a Number of Letters for General [Richard] Montgomery all which I opened, not knowing but they might contain something of a public Nature - The Private Letters I shall enclose with this; You will doubtless send them to his Friends.

I am glad to hear that we may soon expect a pay-Master, we have drained our Friends here of most of their Cash and it is next to impossible to do any Thing without it.

Some of the persons that you sent back, have really behaved very illy, one Sears, especially whom I have now in Confinement, immediately upon coming into the Country circulated a Report that the Colonies had given over the Thoughts of keeping this Province - That there were no Soldiers at Ticonderoga nor Fort George nor any expected, and so few at St. John's that it would be an easy Matter to take it and indeed all the rest - A Story very illy calculated for us, in our present delicate Situation - some others of the prisoners which were sent back, I hear have made themselves very busy in reporting Stories to our prejudice. I shall therefore be obliged to return to you some of them and perhaps some others Ringleaders of the Tories in this Country with the prisoners who were left here in a few Days.