

REVOLUTIONARY CORRESPONDENCE OF
GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE
1775-1781

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY MATT B. JONES

ON April 19, 1775, Joseph Wanton of Newport was re-elected Governor and Nicholas Cooke of Providence was elected Deputy Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

At a special session convened on April 22, 1775 the General Assembly of Rhode Island provided for an "Army of Observation" of 1500 men which was to be raised "for the preservation of the liberties of America."

Governor Wanton, whose sympathies were with the mother country in the controversy which was developing, was unable to veto this act under the provisions of the Colony charter but made it clear that he would refuse to sign the commissions for the officers.

The next regular session of the General Assembly convened at Providence on May 3, 1775, at which time the votes for Governor and Deputy Governor were canvassed and Deputy Governor Cooke was sworn into office. Governor Wanton declined to attend the session upon the ground that he was indisposed, but addressed to the Assembly a communication in which he advocated continued union with Great Britain and declared his hostility to some of the acts of the General Assembly at the previous session, especially the act above referred to. The General Assembly, in order that the Governor might not nullify this act by a refusal to sign the commissions, passed a resolution to the effect that the Deputy Governor and the Assist-

ants be forbidden to administer the oath of office as Governor to Joseph Wanton except in free and open General Assembly and that until he should so take the oath every act of his as Governor should be null and void. It would appear that Nicholas Cooke as Deputy Governor exercised the functions of Governor from that time, although the commissions of the Army of Observation were by specific act of the General Assembly signed by the Secretary of State.

This resolution was continued in force at each successive session of the General Assembly until that of October 1775 when an act was passed which declared that "said Joseph Wanton hath justly forfeited the office of Governor of this Colony and that thereby said office is become vacant." Thereupon the General Assembly filled the vacancy thus created by electing Deputy Governor Cooke to the office of Governor. He was elected Governor by the people of Rhode Island in the spring of 1776 and again at the election of 1777 but in 1778 he declined further service and retired from active participation in political affairs.

Nicholas Cooke appears to have been a man of experience in business affairs. He had followed the sea and had engaged in mercantile pursuits. He had been in a small way at least a manufacturer and is said to have been an extensive land-owner. He was appointed Trustee of Brown University in 1766 and continued as such until his death in 1782, although letters in his own hand indicate that he had not himself enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education.

It was said of him in 1826, by the Hon. John Howland of Providence, "To hold the office of governor does not necessarily imply very high honor * * * * but the time in which he was appointed and executed the duties of his high trust, his undeviating integrity the firmness and decision of his character, with the unabating energy of a sound judgment rendered his relinquishment of the station a subject of deep regret not only to the citizens and soldiers of this state but

through New England where the influence of his political as well as private character was generally known."

With Washington, Greene, Hancock, Warren, Trumbull, the delegates of Rhode Island to the Continental Congress and other leaders he had frequent correspondence which reveals his activity in the Revolutionary cause in many practical ways.

Some of this correspondence has been printed in the publications of the Rhode Island Historical Society, in Colonial Records of Rhode Island and in Force's American Archives, but recently there has come to light a considerable amount of Governor Cooke's early Revolutionary correspondence which has been hitherto unnoted, with this exception, that a portion of this correspondence with General Washington was printed in American Archives. The text of such of the letters as were there printed was evidently taken from Washington's letter book copies and there are numerous alterations and omissions from the text of the original letters which are in some cases material. For that reason the original letters, which are in the possession of the writer of this introduction, are now published.

Several of the original letters contain enclosures which are here printed and there are also included copies of letters from General Philip Schuyler dated November 7, 1775; from Benjamin Trumbull dated November 23, 1775; and from General Horatio Gates dated August 11, 1776, written originally to Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut and by him copied and forwarded to Governor Cooke, with whom he had an active correspondence. With the letter from General Gates was found a letter of transmittal from Governor Trumbull so mutilated as to preclude publication but of which sufficient remained to identify the enclosure, which included besides the letter from General Gates a hitherto unpublished journal of Major John Bigelow of the Connecticut forces written in con-

nection with a flag of truce carried by him from the Continental Congress to General Burgoyne in July 1776.

The spelling, capitalization and punctuation of the letters are unedited. In this connection it may be noted that of the Washington letters those of November 2, 1775 and December 20, 1775 are holograph. The others, while signed by Washington, are in the handwriting of various secretaries.

The other letters, except where specifically noted, are holograph. The copies of letters written by Governor Cooke show considerable variation in phraseology and spelling. The explanation lies in the fact that a part of them are in his own handwriting and a part are the work of his secretary.

JOSEPH WARREN TO GOV. COOKE

WATERTOWN

In Provincial Congress June 13th 1775

To the Hon^b the Lieut Governor & Company of the Colony of
Rhode Island

Circular

GENTLEMEN,

Considering the exposed State of the Frontiers of Some of the Colonies, the Danger that the Inhabitants of Canada may possibly have disagreeable Apprehensions from the military Preparations making in Several of the other Colonies, and the Rumours that there are Some Appearances of their getting themselves in readiness to act in a hostile Way. This Congress have made Application to the Hon^b Continental Congress desiring them to take such measures as to them shall appear proper to quiet & conciliate the Minds of the Canadians, and to prevent Such alarming Apprehensions—We also have had the most disagreeable Accounts of Methods taken to fill the Minds of the Indian Tribes adjacent to these Colonies, with senti-

ments very injurious to us, particularly we have been informed that Coll Guy Johnson has taken great Pains with the Six Nations in order to bring them into a Belief, that it is design^d by the Colonies to fall upon them and cut them off—We have therefore desired the Hon^b Continental Congress that they wou^d with all convenient Speed use their Influence in guarding against the Evil intended by this malevolent Misrepresentation. And we desire you to join with us in Such Application—

JOS WARREN President

Att

Sam Freeman Secr^y

GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE TO GOV. COOKE

ROXBURY 18 of June 1775

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR

Your favor of this day I receivd I thank your honor for the Seasonable Supply as we have but a very Small quantity for Action—I Sent an express a few hours past for Powder, Ball & flints to the Committee of Safety, youl be kind enough to let them know what you have orderd forward, and advise them to forward the Ball & flints I wrote for—With regard to the Militia we have no Occation for them, we have here as many of the Province Militia as we know what to do with—The Action began Yesterday at Bunkers Hill—about day break General Putnam had taken post there and flung up an entrenchment, with a detachment of about three hundred. The Regulars landed about two thousand and attempted three times to force their entrenchment, but was Severely repulsed, & it was thought would have gone off, but Some of the Provincials imprudently called out to their Officer that their powder was gone, The Regulars heard it turnd about charg'd their Bayonets and forced the entrenchment, A Smart action ensued, our People fought with amazing resolution but from the difference in number, and the want of Powder they were after a great Struggle forced to give way—They took a few field pieces, The Action continued all last night and to day, with Some Small intermision—General Ward wrote this afternoon that we had lost about forty men killed and a hundred wounded,

it is Supposd Doctor Warren is among the number of the slain, and he says they have killed more than three times that number of the Regulars, whether that is to be depended upon I cant Say, but from what I can learn from other hands I think it is true They Set the Town of Charles Town on fire yesterday in the Afternoon, and it continued burning all last Night to day Several houses has been burnt, They have got almost all their force over on that Side, and Strongly entrenched on Bunker hill, our people has entrencht on a Hill opposite them called prospect Hill, they are constantly firing Cannon shot at us which from the Scarcity of Powder in general our People dont think proper to Answer—But they are in high Spirits, There went a detachment from Roxbury last night of a thousand men, one hundred of which was drawn out of our Brigade. Comanded by Major Greene¹, I heard from him a little while Since, unhurt and very well—I rode all last night to get down to Camp, I found the Troops in good order they flung a few Boombs amongst them yesterday, their disagreeable fall and noise, put them into a little disorder But they express a Strong a desire to fight, had we powder in plenty they should have an opportunity to distinguish themselves tonight—The foregoing is as true a State of the Matters and things now transacting in about Boston as I am able through hurry and confusion to give you I am your honnors most Obedient humble Servant

NATHANAEL GREENE

DAVID CHEEVER TO GOV. COOKE

Chamber of Supplies WATERTOWN 18th June 1775

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR

Agreable to an Order of y^o Congress of this Colony, we Inclose to the Hon^b Assembly of Rhode Island Severall Resolves of the Hon^l Continental Congress; & Desire that what Powder Can be Spared may be sent to this Place with all Expedition.

The Demand for this Article is great & We assure Ourselves that our Sister Colony of Rhode Island will not fail to send Us

¹Major Christopher Greene.

all the Relief in their Power, Since a Failure herein may be very fatal to a Valuable Army—

We Presume that you have heard of the Devestation made by our Savage Adversaries in Consequence of the N E Army/s having on Fryday Night last taken Possesion of Bunkers Hill in Charles Town. they began a Strong Fire on Saturday Morning from the Lively & the Batteries in Boston, & at Noon brought into Charles Town River three Ships of the Line & Landed About 3000 Troops. under Cover of the Ships, In Consequence of this a Warm Engagement Ensue/d & the N. E Forces Unprovided by the Shortness of the Time for such an Attack left y^e Post & Repair/d to Cambridge the kill/d & Wounded are not yet Ascertain/d, but we have Reason to think that the Enemy/s Loss is fully Equall to that of our Forces—Charles-town was Putt in Flames by the Enemy. & of the whole Town there is Nothing to be Seen—but the Ruinous Monument of Cruelty—We are in hourly Expectation of a further Engagement & Depend on God & the Justice of our Cause for Supporting the Same—We are Sir very respectfully your most obet Serv^t

DAVID CHEEVER p order

his Hon^t Lieutenant Governor Cook

GOV. COOKE TO STEPHEN HOPKINS AND SAMUEL WARD

PROVIDENCE June 20, 1775

GENTLEMEN,

Your Letter dated at Philadelphia May 26 did not come to Hand until the Day before yesterday, when our Session of Assembly was over. We hear with great Satisfaction that the Congress seems to consider the Defence entered into to be common, and that the reasonable Expenses of any one Colony in that Matter more than its Proportion will be refunded by the others. Although I had no Opportunity of laying your Letter before the Assembly I am not inattentive to the Requisitions therein. The Assembly stands adjourned to the third Monday in August. In the Mean Time I shall endeavour to the utmost of my Power to procure and send (if it may be done) the Number of Inhabitants in this Colony an Estimate of the rateable

estates; Accounts of Imports and Exports, Accounts of the Produce and Manufacturers Exported out of the Colony and of the Imports by Land from Massachusetts and Connecticut, with any thing else necessary for a Discovery of our real Ability. I shall forward by this Conveyance the last estimate of this Colony.

Respecting the erection of a Battery opposite to Kananicut I will lay the same before the Assembly, and endeavour to take the previous Steps of Inquiry of the Ground and Channel.

If upon the whole you should judge it expedient that the Assembly should be called to sit Sooner to forward those Matters, or for other Important Business, I will issue my Warrant for so doing.

I received your Letter of the 9th of June in due season, and laid it before the Assembly—as to the Matter of granting Supplies to the Crown, if any should ever be requested, you and the whole Continent may be assured, that this Colony will never give up their own Right of judging when, upon what Occasions, and how much they will give and grant, until they make a full Surrendry of every other Right of their Persons and Things into the Hands of absolute Masters.

Your Assurance of Unanimity in the Congress in the Measures of Defence gives us great Pleasure and Firmness. By this Strong Cement we hope the Colonies will be so intimately incorporated as to become (by the the Blessing of God) impregnable.

Our Assembly have appointed thursday the 20 Day of July next to be observed as a Day of Fasting and Prayer throughout this Colony, and that a Proclamation be issued accordingly.

Our Alliance and Confederation with the united Colonies forbid a separate treating with the Administration of Great Britain; and should any Thing of that Kind be proposed, which might in the least affect the other Colonies, or weaken the Covenant Chain, we shall utterly reject it.

The companies in this Colony were nearly compleated; and Havock and Devastation attempted to be most furiously made about Boston, were such exigences, that all those who remained behind have moved forward towards the Camps.

The Secretary has engaged to send by this Conveyance all

the Acts of the last Session of a general Nature. The Accounts of the Committee of Safety are not yet in Readiness to be sent to the Congress, but will be sent as soon as from their Nature they can be got ready.

Mr. Hancock's Letter, dated June 10, with its inclosed Recommendations of the Congress, came duly to Hand. Agreeable to the Request therein I have sent away to the Army all the Powder that could be spared from this Colony being about a Ton, and am collecting the Materials mentioned in the said Recommendations (which it is feared will be very small) in order to forward them to New York.

I cannot at this Time Send an Estimate of the Powder, Arms &c in this Colony; but by a rough Calculation I judge there are about Two Tons and a Quarter of Powder.

The Men of War in Newport take every Thing they can get. An armed Sloop and Packet belonging to this Town went down the Bay and retook, after a small Engagement in sight of the Ships of War Thomas Lindsey's Packet, who had been turned into a Cruiser.

Doubtless before the Arrival of this, you will hear from Headquarters of the Engagement upon Bunkers Hill in Charlestown, and the burning of that Town, with more Precision than the Hurry and Confusion of things would permit me to give it to you.—You may depend upon the utmost firmness and Resolution of this People; and that their Courage and Animation rises in Proportion to the Insults and Abuses offered to them.

I am, Gentlemen

Your most obedient, and

Most humble Servant—

N. C.

Hon. Step. Hopkins & Sam. Ward Esq^{rs}.

GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOV. COOKE

LEBANON 20th June 1775

SIR

I have this day made an Order to the Officers & Soldiers, raised & assembled by this Colony & now Stationed in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, for the Special Defence &

Safety of these Colony's, to be Subordinate & yeild Obedience, to the General & Coṃander in Cheif of the Forces raised by the General Congress of that Colony, & Act in Conjunction with them untill they shall receive further Orders—The Reasons & Grounds of this Order, are—That it is Essential in the Institution, & necessary for the Safety & Success of an Army, that the same have one Coṃander in Cheif—& that the whole force collected from different Colonies, should be subordinate to some one, who may be first in Coṃand—and in the present Conjunction of Affairs, it seems most Reasonable, to give that Coṃand, to the Coṃander of that Colony's forces; as it is the largest & eldest Colony, & most imediately Attacked—I tho't best to give you notice thereof, that if it should be tho't proper, you would give Similar Orders to your Officers & Soldiers, & thereby establish that due Subordination, thro' the whole Forces of New England, which seems necessary should take place, & which I do not see, any other more proper way to Effect—

I am, with great Truth & Regard

Sir Your most Obedient Humble Servant

JONth TRUMBULL

Deputy Gov^r Cooke

GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE TO GOV. COOKE

Rhode Island Camp JAMACAI PLAINS June 22 1775

I received your favor the 19th of this instant rrelative to the Powder. You may depend upon my doing everything to preserve our Stock—I fully agree with you that our Stock of powder is Small, and the oeconomy is absolutely necessary, As my fate your fate and all the Continent depends upon that Article to make a proper defence—I should think my Self criminal to the last degree to neglect so cappital a matter You may depend upon my doing everything for the Service of the Government and the Good of the cause, so far as my Small abillities enables me—I lament the want of knowledge in General Ship—But as we have all been cultivateing the Arts of Peace, its no wonder that we are deficient in the Art of War—I am confident the opposition will be crown'd with Success finally, but when or how, lies in the womb of futurity—my

confidence dont arise from our deciplin and military knowledge, but from the Justice of the cause and virtue of America.

It is agreed on all hands that the Enemy lost killed and wounded, a thousand men, Major Pitkern Major Sheriff¹—and many other Officers fell in the Action We have lost about Eighty men and had about one hundred wounded. The Troops are now in good order and Seem to be Spirited, but Action alone can determin their Courage and fortitude—I hope to be preservd with a becoming fortitude and the Troops from womanish fears—in time of Action Tho our enemies has gain'd ground upon us it is at too dear a rate for them to rejoice much at their Success As Marshal Saxe Said once upon obtaining a victory being complimented on the Occasion, Said a few Such Victories would ruin him—so a few Such Victories would ruin them—An express arrivd from the Provincial Congress New york, that there had cruised a ship off about Sandy Hook to acquaint the Fleet expected in there that they must bear up for Boston, these orders were deliver'd a few day past and three thousand Troops are hourly expectd. We are fortifying at Roxbury, I am in hopes in a few Days to compleat so many posts, that we shall be able with half our men to make a better defence, than we could at my arrival with the whole—They are strongly fortifying on prospect Hill, on the other Side the Bay opposite to the Regulars who are encamped on Bunkers Hill—They turnd out of Boston a large number of Poor People yesterday and told them they were determind to travel through and Search every part of America—I immagin theyl have Liberty to do it from the prince of the power of the Air, but it must be after a seperation of their wretched Souls from their Miserable Bodies—I am with great deference your honor most Obedient humble Servant

NATHANAEL GREENE

GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOV. COOKE

LEBANON 23^d June 1775

SIR—

By Express just now arrived from Continental Congress—I have received a Resolution of that Body respecting the march-

¹Major John Pitcairn and Major William Sheriff.

ing the Troops of this Colony on our Western Borders immediately to New York—grounded on Intelligence of the Destination of a Body of English Troops to that Place—I had given Orders to Gen^l Wooster to march with his Troops to New York, before the Receipt of the above Resolve—& that on Application from the N York Provincial Convention—

I am also informed p same Conveyance that the Congress have appointed Col^o Washington of Virginia to be General of the Continental Army—He is esteemed for his Military & other Accomplishments & is thot to be a Gentleman well adapted to please a N E Army—his Appointment, it is hoped, will tend to keep up & cement the Union between the Northern & Southern Colonies—& remove any Jealosies of a N England Army (if they should prove successfull) being formidable to the other Provinces—Also 8 or 10 Companies of expert Rifle Men from the Western Parts of Pennsylvania & from Virginia are preparing to join the Army near Boston—have thot proper to give you this Intelligence, as it is fresh & dont know that you have Information of the same any other Way—

I am with Truth & Regard—

Sir

Your most Obedient

hum^{ble} Sevant

JONth TRUMBULL

Hon^o Nicholas Cook Esq

JAMES WARREN TO GOV. COOKE

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR

From advices Recieved diverse ways we have the Greatest reason to determine that all the British troops already destined or that may be yet ordered to America this season will come to Boston it being Evidently their design if Possible to rout our Army before Boston, destroy all our magazines and thereby to strike terror & faintness into the Hearts of all the Friends to right & Liberty throughout the Continent; to Rouze and Animate their scattered friends and break the union of the colonies and in that way insure final Success to their Tyranny this being undoubtedly the plan of our Enemies it is of inexpressible conse-

quence, that the Ground which we have taken should at all Events be maintained

Your Honor is no doubt fully Sensible that our Army for the present is unavoidably Checkt with regard to offensive operations for a reason, of which you are not unapprized but however we have the means of Acting on the defensive

Boston is impregnable against everything but Great Artillery very few troops are Sufficient to keep it and as there are two passes at Least very distant from Each other by which the Enemy will probably attempt to advance into the Country it is thereby rendered necessary that we should throw our Army into at Least two Grand Divisions each of which ought to be able to withstand the whole strength of the Enemy.

Your Honour is acquainted that it was First supposed to be necessary that about Thirty thousand men should be raised. and stationed to Act for this season in the Environs of Boston, thirteen thousand & Six hundred was supposed by our Congress to be this Colony's proportion of such an Army. and that number we have been endeavouring to our utmost fully to compleat but because there are (as your Honor well knows there always will be) deficiencys in Regiments in order to make that Quota Good we have been obliged to Encrease the number of our Regiments but there is still a deficiency, and because of the inexpressible importance of having our Army Effectually strong we are with unremitted Efforts. and with the stretch of Every nerve by every devise and at vast expence, Labouring to make that Number fully compleat, or rather to Exceed it

May it Please your Honour—Because we are so vastly apprehensive of the fatal consequencies of a General defeat of this Army to the whole American Cause and are so unutterably Solicitous to have it Effectually strengthned we have called in every individual of all our Levies from all our out Posts to Join the army although by that measure we Expose all our Towns on the sea Coast. to the Rage and depredations of the Enemy and run the Risk of the best of our Towns being reduced to Ashes and taking the miserable Fate of Charlestown

We beg Leave to acquaint your Honour, that it is most clearly our opinion. and that we have the best Grounds to Suppose that as soon as the Enemy have recovered a Little breath from

their amazing fatigues of Last Saturday & the surprising Losses which they then undoubtedly sustained shall be made up by arrivals of new Troops which is almost daily taking place. they will direct all their Force to some one point and make the utmost Efforts to Force our Lines destroy our magazines & thereby strike General Terror & amazement into the Hearts of the Inhabitants of the whole Continent—from this view of the case we cannot a moment Longer forbear addressing your Honour & most earnestly Suggesting to the immediate consideration of your General Assembly not only the Expediency, but indispensable necessity of an immediate augmentation of the troops from your Colony. for the most Effectual Strengthening of the army, what the number of the augmentation ought to be we most cheerfully submit to the Good Judgment of your Assembly not in the Least doubting but their wisdom and Justice will direct & dispose them to do all that is proper in so important a Crisis as we really consider the present

We need not Express to your Honor the indispensable necessity of dispatch in making reinforcements nor the propriety and advantage of marching any new Levies which your Assembly may on this occasion order. with all the Expedition possible & as Soon as they shall be Equipped without the first raised Companies waiting for the Compleating of others and perhaps even sooner than the first companies shall be fully compleat inasmuch as your Colony has here on the Spot all proper officers to make the necessary dispositions for their reception and as possibly the season of their being of any advantage for the support of our army May be irrevocably Lapsed before their arrival if the Least unnecessary delay should happen.

We are about to make Representations to Governor Trumbull & to the Congress of New Hampshire similar to the foregoing and to send the same by special Expresses—But as our worthy member Col^o Sawyer¹ is now Going to your Colony & is waiting to take & wait on your Hon^r with this address we Resolve it by no means to Lose so happy an opportunity Especially as the Colonel is well able to acquaint your Honor with many particulars which will render the propriety & necessity of a most

¹Colonel Ebenezer Sawyer.

speedy augmentation of your Colony Forces for the purpose of immediately strengthening the Combined Army most clear & indisputable—we Inclose a Copy of the advice received by General Wooster from the Congress of New York which he sent by special Express to us & which is confirmed by other Good intelligence which we Rec^d about the same time

Col^o Sawyer will acquaint your Honor with diverse circumstances tending to confirm our Estimate of the whole number of our Enemies Land forces which we suppose when Joined with the Four Regiments which were ordered to New York will amount to upwards of Ten thousand Strong and provided in the best manner for Action—He will be able also to Give your Honor a Good Account of the present state and numbers of our Army, and many other Interesting particulars which the Great despatch our affairs require will not permitt us to write—We have the fullest confidence that your Honors Zeal and Ardor for the Salvation of our Country and the preservation of our Inestimable rights will render any importunity unnecessary to Induce you to take all Requisite steps to Effect the above-said Augmentation which we are most Solicitous for, we are may it please your Honour with the Greatest Respect Your Honours Most Obed^t Humb

Serv^t

By order of Congress

JAS. WARREN President

Dated in Provincial Congress

Watertown June 24th 1775

A true Copy from the Minute

Att Saml Freeman Secr^y

To His Honor Lieuti Governor Cook

ENCLOSURE REFERRED TO IN LETTER OF JAMES WARREN,
JUNE 24, 1775

Provincial Congress NEW YORK 17th June 1775

S^t

Being well inform'd that four Regiments containing near three Thousand effective Men were sailed in Transports for this City, we took the Liberty to request the Assistance of those

brave Sons of Freedom who are under your Command. We are this Instant farther informed that the mercury Ship of War was cruising upon our Coast & is now at Sandy Hook, to order those Transports to Boston immediately & did on Tuesday last, thirty Leagues to the South East of the Hook deliver her Orders to the old Spy Man of War, now a Transport with Part of the Forty fourth Regiment on Board, which immediately altered her Course—From hence we conclude that a very capital Stroke is meditated against our Brethren of the Massachu Bay—you best can determine Sir whether it is proper on this Occasion for the Forces under your Command to march Westward; but we are led to believe that it is of more important Consequence to secure the several Passes with which Nature hath bounteously fortified the eastern Country, that if some unexpected Chance of War should prove fatal to us in the first Contest, the Enemy may by such Means receive a Check in his Career of Vengeance We beg you to transmit this Intelligence to the provincial Camp with the utmost Dispatch

We are S^r y^r most hum Serv^t

PETER B LIVINGSTON President

(By Order of the
Prov^l Congress)

To Maj^r Gen Wooster at Greenwich.

The above is a true copy of a Letter just rec^d from the Prov Congress of N York & now forwarded by Express

By Order of Gen^l Wooster

Copy

JAMES LOCKWOOD Secy^r

GOV. COOKE TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL

PROVIDENCE June 24th 1775

SIR

I return you my hearty Thanks for the Intelligence you were pleased to give me by your Letter of Yesterday.

The Appointment of General Washington gives great Satisfaction here, and will I make no Doubt to all the New England. The Rifle Men from Virginia and Pennsylvania will prove extremely useful.

*I received a Letter last Evening from the Committee at

Plymouth informing me That Two Vessels from Gen^l Gage under Convoy of an armed Cutter¹ arrived at Saco with Provisions in Order to exchange for Lumber; The Com through Necessity agreed to the Exchange, but a Misunderstanding arising the Inhabitants seized the Two Vessels² and fired upon the Cutter, who was obliged to drop down the River. In her Way she boarded a small coasting Sloop and took the Captain of her (Toby)³ for a Pilot; before they got out of the River they boarded a Schooner Capt. Avery⁴ from Norwich whom they also took on board. In the mean Time the Inhabitants fitted out Two armed Vessels and pursued the Cutter Soon after getting clear of the Land they discovered and stood for each other. The Capt. of the Cutter threatened Toby with a Pistol at his Breast that he would send a Brace of Balls through him unless he would swear to take up his Gun in Defence of the Vessel; but he nobly refused. Poor Avery threatened in the like Manner was intimidated into a Compliance. The First Volley from our People killed Avery & the Captain⁵ of the Cutter; upon which the Men ran into the Hold & Cabbin, and the Schooner was carried into Saco. The Number of Men she had is not mentioned. There were found on board 4 Three Pounders, 12 Swivels, 40 or 50 Muskets, as many Cutlasses, and a Number of Pistols.

I beg the Favour of you to give me all important Intelligence as soon as possible; and you may depend upon the earliest Communication from me.

I am with great Truth and Regard

Sir

Your Honors

Most obedient

hum^l Serv^t

NICH^s COOKE

Honble Gov Trumbull

*By a Vessel which arrived here Yesterday and left New-York on Wednesday We have Accounts that some Transports

¹The *Margaretta*.

²The *Unity* and The *Polly*, Captain Ichabod Jones.

³[Samuel] Tobey.

⁴Captain Robert Avery.

⁵Captain James Moore.

with about 500 Troops had arrived at the Hook but found Orders there from General Gage to proceed to Boston which they immediately did without going up to the City.

GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOV. COOKE

LEBANON 27th June 1775

SIR

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favour of the 24th instant Have this morning received a most pressing Instance from the Congress of Massachusetts Bay for an immediate Augmentation of Troops from our Colony, for the more effectual Strengthening the united Army near Boston. In Consequence have ordered our Assembly to meet at Hartford on Saturday next—expect you have similar Request from them.

The Gen^l Congress have appointed General Washington first in Comand—General Ward, second—& Gen^l Lee the third &c^a. the two from Philadelphia are now on their Way. I have this Day received a Speech and Belt from the Oneida Indians. inclosed you have Copy of their Speech. Col^l Hinman¹ at Tyconderoga writes June 19th instant “The Enemy are fortifying at S^t Johns and lat Night was informed that the Cognawaga Indians have had a Warr Dance, being brot to it by General Carleton²”. Eight or nine hundred Bl^s of Flour for the united Army, sent from Philadelphia by Gen^l Congress is arrived safe at Norwich & more expected. May the Supream Director of all Events give Wisdom & Union to all our Counsels—inspire the Soldiery with Courage & Fortitude—cover their Heads in the Day of Battle & grant them Success—convince our Enemies of their mistaken Measures—& that all Attempts to deprive us of our Rights are injurious & vain—I am with great Esteem & Sincerity—

Sir Your Obedient hum^{ble} Servant

JONth TRUMBULL

Hon^o Nich^o Cooke, Esq.

¹Colonel Benjamin Hinman.

²General Guy Carleton.

ENCLOSURE REFERRED TO IN LETTER OF GOV. TRUMBULL
JUNE 27, 1775

A Speech¹ of the Chiefs & Warriours of the Oneida Tribe of Indians To the four New England Provinces—directed to Governor Trumbull and by him to be comunicated—As my younger Brothers of the New England Indians (who have settled in our Vicinity) are now going down to visit their Friends & to move up Parts of their Families that were left behind—with this *Belt*, by them, I open the Rode wide, clearing it of all Obstacles—that they may visit their Friends & return to their Settlements here in Peace.

We Oneidas are induced to this Measure on Acc^o of the disagreeable Scituation of Affairs that Way—& We hope by the Help of God, they may go & return in Peace—We earnestly recomend them to your Charity thro their long Journey.

Now we more imediately address you our Brother the Governor and the Chiefs of New England—

Brothers!

We have heard of the unhappy Differences & great Contention betwixt you and Old England—We wonder greatly—& are troubled in our Minds—

Brothers!

Possess your Minds in Peace respecting us Indians—We cannot intermeddle in this Dispute between two Brothers—the Quarrel seems to be unnatural—you are *two Brothers of one Blood*—We are unwilling to join on either Side in such a Contest—for We bear an equal Affection to both of you Old & New England—Should the Great King of England apply to us for our Aid—we shall deny him—if the Colonies apply—we still Refuse—The present Scituation of you two Brothers, is new & strange to us. We Indians cannot find nor recollect in the Tradition of our Ancestors the like Case, or a Similar Instance—

Brothers!

For these Reasons possess your Minds in Peace and take no Umbrage that We Indians refuse join^g in the Contest We are for Peace—

¹This document is printed in Am. Archives, 4th Series, Vol. II, p. 1116.

Brothers—

Was it an alien, a foreign Nation, who had struck you we should look into the Matter—We hope thro the wise Government & good Providence of God, your Distress may soon be removed & the Dark Cloud be dispersed—

Brothers!

As We have declared for Peace We desire you will not apply to our Indian Brethren in New England for their Assistance—let us Indians be all of one Mind & live in Peace with one another & you white People settle your own Disputes betwixt yourselves—

Brothers!

We have now declared our Minds please write to us that We may know yours—

We the Sachems, Warriours and female Governesses of Oneida send our Love to you Brother Governor & all the other Chiefs in New England—

signed by

Shanonwarohane	WILLIAM SUNOGHSIS	} Chiefs and Warriours of Oneidas
	VIKLASHA WATSHALEAGH	
June 19 th 1775	WILLIAM KANAGHQUASSEA	
	PETER THAYEHCASE	
Interpreted & wrote	GERMINE TEGAYAVHER	
by	NICKES AHSECHOSE	
Sam ^l Kirkland	THOMAS YOGHTANAWCA	
Mis ^{ry}	ADAM OHONWANO	
A true Copy of the	QUEDELLIS AGWERONDONGWAS	
Original	HANDERCHIKO TEGAHPREAHDYEN	
directed To the	JOHNKS SKEANENDER	
Hon ^{ble} Jon ^s	THOMAS TEORDDEATHA	
Trumbull Esqr		
Governor of Connecticut Test		

GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE TO GOV. COOKE

Rhode Island Camp JAMAICA PLAINS June 28 1775

SIR

Agreeable to the request you made in your last, I have

inclosed the Strength of the Regular forces & the Provincial Army lying round Boston—it is the exactest State that I am able to collect from the irregular returns made by the Province Massachusetts & Connecticut Forces

I dont Suggest any new regulation for the army at present—should any thing occur to my mind I shall take the earliest opportunity to acquaint you with it—I observe there has been application from this Province for an Augmentation of the Troops I have only one thing to observe if you wish them to be of Service to their Country—be careful in the appointment of the Officers not only the Field Officers but the Captains & Subbalterns—for there are many inconveniencies that arise from the bad conduct of Officers that you cannot conceive off unless you had ocular demonstration of the evil—A Ship Arrivd last night with Troops—it has been observd to Day that A Ship or two are missing out of the Harbour, it is Suspected that they are coming to Rhode Island—But I dont apprehend any Attention ought to be paid to the Suggestion—I heard a letter read Dated the Sixth of May from Holland, in which it is Said the Dutch are affronted with the English and have ordered the English Frigates away from the Texel—The French refuses to prohibit the exportation of Ammunition to America in any other way than that of laying a Small fine—The Spanish Monarch refuses to lay any restraint upon his Merchants—If these accounts are true which no doubt they are we may expect Soon to have a great plenty of Powder—May God prosper so desirable event—There can no offensive Operation go forward untill we are better Supply'd with Ammunition, But should they Sally I hope they'l meet with a very warm reception by the Small Arms—The Troops Seem to be very quiet at present—And General Gage it is Said has Sent out a Flag of truce to Day to Putnams' Camp the purpose not yet known—This is a condesencion in his Excellency its manifest he dont look upon us in the light of Rebbels but as a common Enemy—I am with great deference Your most Obedient humble Servant

NATHANAEL GREENE

¹General Israel Putnam.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPT. ABRAHAM WHIPPLE

By the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esq Deputy Governor, and Lieutenant General, of and over the English Colony of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America.

Instructions and Orders to be observed by Captain Abraham Whipple¹, Commander of the Sloop *Katy*, and Commodore of the armed Vessels employed by the Government for the Protection of the Trade of this Colony, in Pursuance of the Commission herewith given him

That it Shall be lawful for the Said Abraham Whipple, and he is hereby required and enjoined in His Majesty's Name George the third King of Great Britain and So forth, for which his Commission and these Special Orders Shall be a full Warrant and Discharge to him, and all others on Board his Said Vessel and the or Vessels fitted out and employed as aforesaid under his Command, to encounter expulse expel and resist by Force of Arms, as well by Land as Sea, and also to kill, Slay and Destroy, by all fitting Ways Enterprizes and Means, whatsoever, all and every Such Person and Persons, as Shall attempt or enterpize the Destruction, Invasion Detriment or Annoyance of the Inhabitants of this Colony or Plantations: And to take and Surprize by all Ways and Means all and every Such Person and Persons, with their Ships Vessels, Armour, Ammunition, or other Goods, as Shall in hostile Manner invade or attempt the Hurt of this Plantation or the defeating thereof, or of the Inhabitants, or of any other Colony's lawfully joined and united with this Colony for mutual Defence and Safety against a common Enemy, in order to preserve the Interest of His Majesty and his Subjects in these Parts.

¹At the Session of the Rhode Island General Assembly convened on the Second Monday in June 1775 it was voted that the Committee of Safety charter two vessels for the use of the Colony "and fit out the same in the best manner, to protect the trade of this colony." The larger vessel was to have a complement of 80 men with 10 four-pounders and 14 swivel guns, the smaller vessel was to be manned with not exceeding 30 men. Abraham Whipple was appointed to command the larger vessel with the "rank and power of commodore of both vessels." The sloop commanded by Capt. Whipple under this vote was named the *Katy*. She was purchased for the Colony in Oct. 1775 and later was rechristened *Providence* and became a part of the American Navy. The foregoing document is a draft of orders and instructions issued probably in June 1775. *R. I. Colonial Records*, Vol. VII; Staples' *Rhode Island in the Continental Congress*.

2. That all Ships and Vessels carrying Soldiers, Arms, Powder, Ammunition, Horses, Provisions, Cloathing, or anything else for the Use the Armies of Enemies of the united American Colonies Shall be Seized as Prizes.

3. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall bring or Send into this Colony or Such other Ports or Places as the Exigency of Affairs Shall make convenient and Suitable all Such Ships Vessels Goods and Men as he may Seize and take, with all Such Papers Writings and Documents as he may find on Board, to the End that Such Proceedings may be had thereupon as Law and the Necessity of the Case, may require. And that Such Ship Vessel and Goods, Shall be kept and preserved, without Spoil or Diminution and the Bulk thereof not broken until legal Decision be given for the Forfeiture and Distribution thereof.

4. That no Person taken in any Ship or Vessel, tho known to be of the Enemy's Party Shall be killed in Cold Blood, wounded, hurt, or inhumanly treated, contrary to the just Permission of War, upon Pain of Severe Punishment. And that no female Prisoner Shall be in any manner abused under great and high Penalties.

5. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall not do or Attempt anyThing against the Commerce or Trade of the United Colonies, or those who have commerce and Friendship with them, unless it be directed against their common Safety, and Such as is declared contraband by the continental Congress.

6. That the Said Abraham Whipple his Officers and Company, Shall endeavour to the utmost of their Power to give Aid and Succour to all Such Ships and Vessels as they may find trading for the Benefit and Advantage of these united Colonies, and labour to free them from every Distress.

7. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall on bringing or Sending in any Prize immediately give or Cause to be given Notice to the Chief Authority of any Place where Such Prize Shall be brought in, every particular relating thereto, to the End that Justice may be done to all parties concerned.

8. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall keep a Correspondence from Time to Time, and at all Conveniences, with the Commander in Chief of this Colony or the General As-

sembly, of all Prizes which he Shall take, and of every Thing Material which may occur; and observe Such further Orders as Shall be given him by the Assembly or his Superior Officers

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Col. afs^d by and with the Consent and Approbation of the Committee of Safety the Day of _____ in the 15th Year of His Majesty's Reign A. D. 1775

By his Honor's Command

GOV. COOKE TO JOHN HANCOCK

PROVIDENCE July 4th 1775

SIR

Your Letter of the 10th of June last came duly to Hand. I wrote immediately to the Delegates from this Colony upon the Contents of it to whom I beg Leave to refer you.

I have now to acknowledge the Receipt of yours of the 20th of the same Month. Immediately after the late Battle upon Bunker's Hill the remaining Forces from this Colony joined the Army near Boston; and it appears by the Return from the Brigadier-General¹ that the Army of this Colony consist of 1390 effective Men. We are also equipping Two armed Vessels to carry 110 Men exclusive of Officers. Upon a most urgent Application from the Provincial Congress of the Massachusetts-Bay the General Assembly ordered 6 Comp^a of 60 Men each to be raised to join the Regiments in the Service of this Colony, and have ordered One Fourth Part of the Militia to be inlisted as Minute-Men. They have passed an Act putting the Troops of this Colony under the Command of the General of the combined Army

I will only add that on this most important Occasion this Colony will exert itself in unremitting Efforts for the common Defence and Safety.

I am with great Esteem and Regard

Sir

Your most obed^t

humble Serv^t

NICH^s COOKE

Honble John Hancock Esq^r

¹General Nathanael Greene.

GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE TO GOV. COOKE

RHODE ISLAND CAMP July 9 1775

HONNORED SIR

A General Council of War was held to Day at Cambridge, at the close of which his Excellency General Washington, directed me to acquaint you, that he thinks it necessary that the recruits be forwarded as Soon as possible, and What Tents are made or can be got made be forwarded as Soon as may be, The Captains or one of the Subbalterns come forward with the recruits of each Company

I am informed by his Excellency that the expense is to be a Continental expence, this you may be assured off—And as every Government will receive pay for the number of Troops they send I hope the People will enlist chearfully—

Our Troops here are in great want of cloathing I wish the Commisary might be furnisht by the Committee of Safety with a quantity of course Linnens for shirts, & Some thing for coats & Breeches—They also want Hats Shoes & Stockings—But every thing that is Sent, ought to be at a moderate price as a large Advance gives great uneasyness in the Camp Not only among the men but among the Officers for they Stand by the People belonging to their respective companies and condemn every appearance of extravagance—There is Some People is Louzy, and there is no possibility of getting them clean without a Shift of Cloaths which many want and cannot get without they are furnisht by the Committee—I am your honors most Obedient humble Servant—NATHANAEL GREENE

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

CAMBRIDGE CAMP July 18 1775

SIR

You will please to accept my sincere Acknowledgments for your favor delivered me by General Green,¹ on my Appointment to the chief Command of the American Army—The voluntary Choice of Freemen contending in the great Cause

¹General Nathanael Greene.

of civil Liberty, & the concurring Approbation of the wise and good, at the same Time that they confer the highest Honour upon the Object of that Choice, demand the utmost Energy & Exertion of my poor Abilities;—Such as they are, my Country has & shall at all Times command them. Allow me now Sir, to express my warmest Wishes for your Health & Happiness, and to assure you that I am,

with much Respect Sir

Your most Obed^t

Hbbl Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON

Gov. Cooke

GOV. COOKE TO THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATES TO THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

PROVIDENCE July ye 18 1775

GENTLEMEN

Since my last of the 10 instant I have none of yours before me I have nothing very meterial to communicate to you at present affairs in this coloney Remain much as when I Rote last we have three men of War and one packet that are constantly aRobing and plundering allmost all the Vessels that comes in Especially those that belong to providence none Escape that they can get in their power and they have So Strong a party in their favour in the town of Newport that nothing can be said or done in the coloney but they have immediate intilligence of it our Wanton² appears Very open now in oposition to the american measures and has Cpt Wallace³ often at his house to dine &c there is severall of the true friends to the cuntry amoveing out of Newport I Expect the toreys will have the Rule there Soon. I Received a letter from Generall Greene a Sabbath Day which informed me they Expected a general Battle this weeke I suppose for this Reason

¹The foregoing letter in the handwriting of Gov. Cooke is indorsed "Coppoy Letter To the delegates To the Continental Congress."—Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward.

²Governor Joseph Wanton.

³Sir James Wallace, Captain of the frigate *Rose*.

that General Gage had collected all the Strength that he Expected Soon and they were begining to grow Sickly for want of fresh provisions' and vegetables &c and our people were Strengthening them selves' Every day by fresh Recrutes' and intrenchments &c and it was Expected they would make a bold push to indeavour if possable to break through and Rout our army they are brought to great Straits within the town their Salt provisions bad and little or nothing fresh to be had that it seems as if they are brought to the nesesity to force there way through or perrish' in the attempt our people mad a bold push last week and got what cattle and sheep and hogs they had left on long Island which I believe was the last they had upon any of the Islands in the harber two or three gentlemen from putman's intrenchment last week were down Vewing the works &c who discovered two or three officers from the in campment on Bunkers hill Each party eged toward the other till they got So near as to talk togather then they laid down their swords and walked up to gather the gentlemen that were officers in the Regular army seemd to lament much the unhappy contest and asked the other if there was' no way that could be hit upon to Settle matters and asked if the congress was now Seting and if they could not find out some means for a Sesation of hostileties they made no dout if taxation was all we were contending for it would be given up these gentlemen further informed that they came from Irland this Spring got in the day before the battle on bunkers hill and went Right into that battle and seemed much to lament the unhappy division of the Nation there was a gentleman in town last Evening from Conecticut who informd that Governor trumbul had Received advice by Express from cannedy that Generall Carlton had siezed all there provisions' for the King, and that the cuntry people were so Exasperated that they had sent on Express of for asistance and were determined to joyne the americans and take possession of the cuntry if we would assist them he further informed that Governor Carlton had taken great pains to set the indians' upon us and would have 4 or 500 of them Round him at atime when they were drunck they would Sing the War Song and take up the hatchet but as soon as they got Sober again they would Run of home and did not

caire to go to war Mr. Ward¹ is gone down to the camp he Expects to be gone all this weeke.

I am Gentlemen

your most obedient and
most humble Servant

NICHOLAS COOKE

one deteachment of our new Raised }
Troops Sets of for the camp this day }

GOV. COOKE TO STEPHEN HOPKINS AND SAMUEL WARD

PROVIDENCE July 25th 1775

GENTLEMEN.

I wrote you by the last Post. Since which I have received Nothing from you. M^r Ward had a Letter by the last Post which made mention of one to me; but none is yet come to Hand. I should be glad to be informed by whom it was forwarded.

I have nothing material from the Camp since my last. We have Persons from thence almost every Day, and I learn by all of them that our Intrenchments are so strong that it seems almost impossible they should be forced. Capt. Wallace² in One of his mad Fits last Week drew up all three of the Men of War before the Town of Newport and swore with the most bitter Imprecations that he would burn it. He fired several Guns over the Town which put the People, the Tories as well as the Whigs, into the most terrible Consternation. I hear that Two Women have since lost their Lives in Consequence of the Fright.

I have often called upon the Committee of Safety to get out their Accounts to forward to you: And they as often tell me that they have employed so many People in different Branches of Business, and are making new Contracts daily for the Supply of the Army in Camp, that it is impossible to make any tolerable State of their Accounts while they are in the midst of their Work. They can send a rough Sketch of what they have paid

¹Henry Ward, Secretary of the State of Rhode Island.

²Sir James Wallace, Captain of the frigate *Rose*.

out, or they can send you a pretty exact Account of the Cost of getting away one Company; If that will be of any Service. The Two Gentlemen of the Committee in this Town are now gone to the Camp to pay off some of the Soldiers. The Secretary informs me that he hath sent you all the Papers you have written for, besides others that he thought might be serviceable. I have sent to Newport for a Copy of the Association entered into there and of the Names of the Subscribers but have not been able to obtain it. If I do shall forward it by the First Opportunity.

The General Assembly stands adjourned until the Third Monday in next Month, when you will have an Opportunity of applying for Advice and Direction; and to whom you will please to give a particular Account of every Thing material.

I am with great Regard,

Gentlemen

Your most obedient

humble Servant

NICH^s COOKE

Honble S. Hopkins & S. Ward Esqrs

GOV. COOKE TO CAPT. JOHN PAIN AND CAPT. JOHN SANDS

PROVIDENCE July 29, 1775

GENTLEMEN

We have authentick Intelligence that 2 Men of War and 11 Transports sailed from Boston the Beginning of this Week; and we have the highest Reason to think that they are intended to take Cattle Sheep &c from the several Islands and very probably from yours in Order to supply the Enemy in Boston where they already suffer greatly for Want of fresh Provisions. As it is of great Consequence to prevent their being supplied I recommend to you to procure the Town to be called together immediately to consult upon the proper Measures for Defence. I have sent you by this Opportunity 2 Quarter Casks of Powder together with some Lead and Flints to enable you to defend your own Property. And in Case you think an Aid of Men necessary let me know it forthwith & you may rely upon every Thing in my Power to afford you Assistance.

By Letters from Philadelphia we are assured that General Carleton's Endeavours to prevail upon the French and Indians to take up Arms against us have proved ineffectual; as also have the Attempts made by the Tools of the Ministry to stir up the Indians upon the Frontiers of all the Colonies. I have the Pleasure also to inform you that the Colony of Georgia hath at length heartily joined the united Colonies & have chosen 5 Delegates to sit in General Congress who are expected daily at Philadelphia. The Inhabitants of Georgia have siezed 13000 lb of Powder imported in Capt. Maitland¹ from England and supposed to be designed to supply the Indians

I am,

Gent.

Your most hble Serv^t

[NICHOLAS COOKE]

Capt. John Pain &
Capt. John Sands

GOV. COOKE TO JOHN SMITH MEMBER
RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE OF SAFETY²

PROVIDENCE July 31st 1775

SIR

Having been repeatedly called upon in the most pressing Terms by our Delegates in Philadelphia for the Accounts of the Committee of Safety that they may be laid before the Continental Congress; I must urge you to prepare your Accounts to be presented to the General Assembly at the Opening of the next Session, that after being considered by them they may be forwarded to our Delegates as soon as possible. As the Delegates represent this as a Matter of great Importance I must beg you not to fail; and am

Sir

Your most hble Serv^t

[NICHOLAS COOKE]

Mr. John Smith

¹Hon. Colonel John Maitland.

²This letter bears the indorsement that it was sent to each member of the Committee of Safety.

GOV. COOKE¹ TO GEN. WASHINGTONPROVIDENCE August 8th 1775

SIR

Last Evening Col. Porter² delivered me your Letter of the 4th instant, to which I have paid all the Attention the Importance of it deserved.

This Colony the last Fall, not confiding entirely in the precarious Supply of Powder that might be expected from the Merchants, imported a considerable Quantity, tho' not so large as was ordered. The supplying the Inhabitants, who were in a Manner utterly destitute the Army near Boston and our armed Vessels, have so exhausted this Stock that the Powder now left which is all in this Place is greatly insufficient to resist even a short Attack upon it. Our Situation is the same with Respect to Lead. So that at present none of either Article can be spared from the Colony.

By a Vessel which arrived here on the 30th ult^o from Cape Francois we are informed that the Captain of the Vessel sent from this Port to the Cape for a Quantity of warlike Stores in which the Committee of Safety for the Colony of the Massachusetts had interested themselves, had executed his Commission and was to sail with a large Quantity in a Day or Two; so that she may be hourly expected. This Colony about Four Weeks ago dispatched a suitable Vessel with Money to purchase 15 Tons of Powder and other warlike Stores; which also may be soon expected. Of these Vessels we have the highest Reason to think the Enemy have gained Intelligence; the Ships of War upon this Station having for several Days past cruised continually off Block-Island and from thence to Montauk Point and up the Sound. This hath made us think it absolutely necessary to send the smallest of our armed Sloops to cruise without the Ships of War and endeavour at all Hazards to speak with the Vessels expected with Powder and order them to another Port. She will sail this Day. The other armed Sloop by her being within the River prevents the

¹This letter is indorsed "Lre to Genl Washington."

²Colonel Elisha Porter, in command of a Hampshire County Regiment. Sparks' *Writings of Washington*, Vol. III, p. 260.

Cutter^s and Barges from committing Depredations. So that she cannot be spared; nor indeed is a Vessel of her Force required for the Enterprize you mention.—We have in this Harbour a very fine sailing Packet that would answer the Purpose extremely well; which might be equipped with Swivels, manned with about 20 Men and be ready to sail in less than Two Days. But as I do not think it prudent that her sole Dependence should be upon getting Powder at Bermuda it will be necessary to send a Sum of Money to purchase a Quantity at some other Port in Case of a Disappointment at Bermuda. In the present State of the Colony I do not think it probable that a sufficient Sum can be procured here for that Purpose before the Sitting of the General Assembly; and therefore advise that Application be made to the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay to advance Part of the Sum necessary. I believe we may be able to supply One Half the Sum here.—Col. Porter hath been at Bedford and along that Eastern Shore, but can hear nothing of Harris¹. He is now bound as far as New London to endeavour to meet with him; but is greatly apprehensive that he is fallen into the Hands of the Enemy.

We have Information that several Ships of War and Transports were the Day before Yesterday at New-London; and that the Country round were all arming and mustering. We have also heard that they have taken some Stock off the East End of Long-Island.

Sensible of the great Scarcity of Lead in the Country I some Time ago wrote to the Congress of the Massachusetts and to our Delegates at the Continental Congress recommending that a Part of the large Quantity of Lead at Ticonderoga should be immediately brought down; and still think the Measure necessary.

I shall immediately give Orders to the Committee of Safety to purchase for the Use of the Colony all the Tow-Cloth that can be had.

This Letter waits upon you by my Son whom I beg Leave to recommend to your favourable Notice.

¹Captain Benjamin Harris.

I am with very great Esteem

Sir

Your most obedient and
most humble Servant

NICH^s COOKE

If the Powder supposed to be at Bermuda be private Property it must be immediately paid for. If not I suppose it will be settled with the other Matters in Dispute. This is a Matter that ought to be known and provided for—Upon further Consideration I am very doubtful whether a Vessel can be immediately provided with Men here; and therefore am of Opinion that Twenty five or Thirty Sailors had better be draughted from the Army and held in Readiness to embark immediately upon the Arrival of Harris.

GOV. COOKE TO GEN. WASHINGTON

PROVIDENCE August 11, 1775

SIR

Since my last to you M^r Ward¹, One of the Delegates, hath returned from the Congress. He informs me that some of the Bermudians had been at Philadelphia soliciting for Liberty to import Provisions for the Use of the Island. They gave Information of the Powder mentioned in your Letter to me, and were of Opinion it might easily be obtained. They were told by the Delegates that every Vessel which they should send to the Northward with Powder should be permitted to carry Provisions to the Island.—Whether their Situation will not probably prevent them from bringing the Powder I submit to your Excellency.—M^r Porter² and M^r Harris³ are both here. To M^r Porter who can fully inform you in the Matter I refer you.

I have forwarded about 1300 lb of Lead which is all that can be procured at present; that Article being extremely scarce among us.—In my last to you I mentioned that I thought it

¹Governor Samuel Ward.

²Colonel Elisha Porter.

³Captain Benjamin Harris.

might be brought from Ticonderoga with more Ease than it can be procured in any other Way; and am still of the same Opinion.

I have given Orders to the Committee of Safety to purchase all the Tow-Cloth that is to be bought in the Government; but am afraid the Quantity will be small; the Scarcity of course Linens in the Colony having occasioned a great Use of that Article in Families.

I am with great Esteem,

Sir, Your Excellency's
 most obedient
 humble Servant
 NICH^s COOKE

His Excellency
 Gen^l Washington

GEN. WASHINGTON¹ TO GOV. COOKE

Camp at CAMBRIDGE
 August 14th 1775.

SIR

Your Favors of the 8. & 11th Instant are duly received the former I laid before the General Court of this Province, but one of the Delegates having communicated to them, what M^r Ward did to you of the Proceedings of the continental Congress touching this Powder; nothing was done towards providing Specie, that the Vessel might proceed to other Places, in Case of Disappointment at the first. I am of Opinion, that the Collection of any considerable Sum here would be difficult in the Time proposed: And I think there is the less Necessity for it, as there are few Colonies who have not some Vessels out on this Errand, and will probably bring all that is at Markett. Having conversed with Coll^o Porter² and farther considered the Matter, I am of Opinion it ought to be prosecuted on the

¹This document bears the indorsement "Copy of a Lre from Genl Washington, Augt 14th, 1775. The original being Sent to Philadelphia by the Coms. for settling the Accot of the Colony with the Congress."

²Colonel Elisha Porter.

single Footing of procuring what is in the Magazine. The Voyage is short, our Necessity is great, The Expectation of being supplied by the Inhabitants of the Island under such Hazards as they must run, is slender: so that the only Chance of Success is by a Sudden Stroke. There is a great Difference between acquiescing in the Measure, and becoming Principals, the former we have great Reason to expect, the latter is doubtful.—The Powder by all our Information is public Property, so that as you observe it may be settled with our other Accounts. The draughting Men from here would be very difficult, and endanger the Discovery of the Scheme. I am not clear that I have Power to send them off the Continent, and to engage them as Voluntiers, it would be necessary to make their Destination known. I should suppose the Captain who is to have the Direction of the Enterprize, would rather chuse to have Men whom he knew, and in whom he could confide in Preference to Strangers.—From what Collo. Porter informs me, I do not see that Harris's Presence is absolutely necessary, and as his Terms would add considerably to the Expence, after obtaining from him all the Intelligence he could give, his Attendance might be dispens'd with.—The Vessel lately sent out to cruize for the Powder, seems to me the properest for this Voyage, and as the Ten Days will soon expire if no Objection occurs to you, she might be dispatched.

I have given Directions respecting the Lead at Ticonderoga, which I am of Opinion with you is the Surest Mode of Supply in that Article.

I have sent by this Opportunity a hunting Shirt as a Pattern I should be glad you would inform me what Number you think I may expect.

I had flattered myself with the Hope, that the Vigilance of the Inhabitants on the Islands & Coasts, would have disappointed the Enemy in their late Expedition after live Stock.

I hope nothing will be omitted by the several Committees, & other Officers to guard against any future Attempts, by removing all the Stock from those Places where their Shipping will protect them in Plundering. I do assure you Sir, it would be rendering a most essential Service to the Publick Interest.—Their Distresses before were very great, and if renewed after

the present Supply is exhausted must be productive of very great Advantages.

I am Sir,

with much Esteem

Your most Obed. &
very Hbl. Servant

G^o WASHINGTON

Govr. Cooke

MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO GOV. COOKE

WATERTOWN Augth 14th 1775

SIR

This Court has received information that the Mail from Providence to Newport, which contains Letters from the post Office at Cambridge, was intercepted last week by a Man of Wars boat, in passing Conanicut ferry, and Several of the letters taken out, your Hon^r is Sensible that it may be of the most dangerous consequence, to have letters from these parts, fall into the hands of those who are Seeking our destruction. We therefore request of your Honor, that some order may be taken in your Government, that all Letters to or from the Post office at Cambridge may be Conveyed by Land thro' your Colony, as far as it is practicible, and that none be allowed to be Sent over Conanicut ferry,—

Hon^{le} Nich Cook Esq

In the House of Representatives

August 14. 1775

The within Draught is accepted—and Sent up to the Honorable Board for Concurrence—

SAM^l FREEMAN Speak^r Pr. Temp.

August 14th 1775

In Council read & concurred

PEREZ MORTON

Secry pro temp

GOV. COOKE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

PROVIDENCE August 15th 1775

SIR,

I think it my Duty inform you that on Friday Morning last as Benjamin Mumford who rides Post from Newport to New

London was crossing the Ferry to Newport he was taken by Capt. Wallace of the Ship *Rose* who broke open the Mails sent some of the Letters ashore and kept the Remainder in Order to send them to Boston—He detained Mumford until Yesterday.

As the Mails will always be in the Power of the Ships of War so long as the Post continues to cross the Ferries to Newport which will not only render all Intelligence precarious but may be the Means of giving such Informations as may be very prejudicial to the common Cause I take the Liberty of recommending that the Mails be brought through Narragansett directly to this Town instead of being carried to Newport; and that they be returned the same Way

M^r Ward informs me that he delivered to you a Copy of the Act of Assembly establishing Post-Offices and Post-Riders in this Colony. In that Act M^r Nathaniel Otis was appointed Post-Master for Newport; who hath removed to Middletown in Connecticut. The General Assembly have since appointed M^r Solomon Southwick in his Room.

I am with great Truth and Regard

Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

B. Franklin

NICH^s COOKE

COL. GURDON SALTONSTALL¹ TO COMMITTEES OF
CORRESPONDENCE AND INSPECTION IN
KINGS COUNTY, R. I.

NEW LONDON 15th Aug^t 1775

GENT^l

We take the Liberty of inclosing you the Copy of a Letter received from his Excellency General Washington which you will find was wrote in Consequence of the late unhappy

¹Col. Gurdon Saltonstall of New London, Conn. was a son of Gov. Gurdon Saltonstall. He was born in 1708, graduated from Yale in 1725, and soon became prominent in both civil and military affairs of the Colony. He saw service in the French wars 1745 and 1755; was frequently Representative and Assistant in the General Assembly, and was Judge of Probate for New London Dist. from 1751 to his death in 1785. He was in command of troops guarding New London in the fall of 1775 and was made Brigadier General of Militia in September 1776 in command of nine regiments which joined Washington at Westchester, N. Y. Dexter's *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*. Vol. I.

Plunder of Stock from Fishers Island in Addition to the Stock being taken from the above Island, you will probably have heard of a Quantity of Stock having been likewise plundered from Gardner's and Plumb Island. Committees from the Several Towns in this County are now convened with a Desire of falling on Some immediate Measures to have the Stock all removed from the different Islands in the Sound, and are like to succeed in having the Stock removed from Fishers Island without delay and shall, before we rise, endeavour to be as well agreed in some effectual Measures to remove all from Gardiners, Plumb and Shelter Islands; and We being all embarked in One grand important Controversy would earnestly recommend to the Several Committees in your County to loose no Time in endeavouring to have all the Stock removed from Block Island, and to take Such wise Precautions relative to other Stock that you may think exposed as your Wisdom and Vigilance Shall direct. We are with great Esteem

Gent^a Your most humble Servant
p^r Order

G. SALTONSTALL, Chairman

We have the Pleasure of sending this by Col Noyes¹ who has been very obliging in attending this Meeting

To the Committees of Correspondence and Inspection in the Several Towns in the County of Kings County Rhode Island

JAMES OTIS TO GOV. COOKE

WATERTOWN August 18th 1775—

SIR

Involved as we are in the Calamities of an unjust and cruel War, and Numerous the difficulties, we have to Struggle with in Consequence of it, we are yet to Acknowledge with Gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of all Events the many Signal appearances of Divine providence in our favour. In the frequent Encounters we have had with our Unnatural Enemies upon our Coasts, they have in almost every Instance been disappointed and defeated, and many of them have fallen into our

¹Colonel Joseph Noyes.

hands. Yet this very circumstance has added to the Number of our difficulties. Most of the Goals in this Colony, are already so Crowded with them, that they can hardly contain them all. We therefore request of your Honor that we may send some of our prisoners into your Colony, and that you will be pleased to inform us what places you think proper to assign for the reception of them. As the Cause we are engaged in, is the Common cause of the Colonies, we Cannot entertain a doubt of your ready compliance with our request.—

In the Name & behalf of the Major part of the Council. I have the Honor to be very respectfully—

Sir

Your Most Obed^t hum^{ble} Serv^t

JAMES OTIS President

P. S. We inclose a Resolve, lately passed by the General Court of this Colony, respecting the restraint of Vessells bound, on Whaling voyages; which, as this Court think is a matter of great importance, they recommend to the Consideration of your Assembly

JAMES OTIS

Hon^{ble} Nich^o Cook Esq

GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹ TO GOV. COOKE

LEBANON 24th Aug^t 1775

SIR

M^r William Warner, the bearer hereof, hath undertaken to go mate on board The Brigantine Minerva, burthen 113 Tons, an Armed Vessel ordered to be fitted out for Defence of our Coasts Cap^t Giles Hall, to be comānder.—This young Gentlemen, son to Cap^t Oliver Ring Warner of Newport, now residing at Middletown, coming on business to Providence and Newport is instructed to procure a good Gunner for the Brig—. As he is acquainted with the Seamen in your Colony, thinks he can inlist some number of Sutable men for the service among his Acquaintance there,—applied to me to know whether they may be accepted if he should;—have given him for Answer—that I am not sollicitous from whence the men are inlisted—

¹This letter is addressed "To The Honble Nico Cooke Esq."

and shall accept them provided it be not disagreeable to you, or the Gentlemen of your Government

Please therefore to be so kind as to promote him in obtaining a suitable person to be Gunner, and let him know your pleasure about inlisting Sea Men within your Colony for this Service—It is hoped this Measure of fitting an Armed Vessels for Defence may be a com̄on Benefit—We are fitting out another of about 42 Tons—Shall be glad to know what your Government hath done in fitting out Armed Vessels.—

As you are so much nearer Head Quarters, suppose I can give account of nothing New.—From Tyconderoga the Accounts at present appear very favourable—The Canadians & Indians wish to be Neuters—Many of the Canadians promise to afford our men every Assistance in their power—There hath been an Insurrection among them to prevent their being forced to Act against us—The Ministerial Troops at S^t John's are fortifying and building two Row-Gallies, to carry 12 Guns Each—The number of Men there about 280—at Chamblee 100—at Montreal 50—Quebec 30 or 40—The whole Number of Regulars in Canada these included, does not exceed 700—Provisions Scarce, the people look on themselves Oppressed—Col^o Guy Johnson hath carried with him about 400 men principally Tenants not skilled in Arms, and not more than 100 Indians.—

This day we received Advice that the Oneida Indians received our Speeches very kindly;—about 400 were present.—The Chiefs from the Six Nations are coming to a Conference at Albany, with Gentlemen appointed by the General Congress; some are actually come to Albany,—and the rest on their way—Our Gentlemen have set out to meet them—The Oneida's engage to give us an Answer in 10 or 12 days.”—

Have enclosed for your Acceptance Our late Answer to Ministerial Queries—And an Account sent of our Numbers—I have the Honor to be

with great Esteem and Regard

Sir

Your most Obedient

Hble Servant—

JONth TRUMBULL

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO GOV. COOKE

PHILAD^a Aug^t 27. 1775

SIR,

I received yours of the 15th Instant, acquainting me with the Loss of the Mail; and proposing a new Route for the Post, to prevent Such Accidents hereafter. In that you will take the Advice & Direction of the principal People in your Government. The Comptroller will Soon be along your Road, for the purpose of establishing all the Stages & Offices as he shall be advis'd & find best. I would request your Care of the enclos'd; and am,

Sir

Your most humble

Servant

B. FRANKLIN

M^r Cooke

GOV. COOKE TO GEN. WASHINGTON

PROVIDENCE Septem^r 15th 1775

SIR

I observe that in the Cambridge Paper of Yesterday there is an Extract of a Letter from Bermuda to New York giving an Account that upwards of 100 Barrels of Powder had been taken out of the Magazine supposed to have been done by a Vessel from Philadelphia, and another from South Carolina.— This Intelligence appears to me to be true; and I beg to know your Excellency's Opinion of it as soon as possible that if it be thought best to Relinquish the Expedition I may recall Capt. Whipple as soon as his Cruise for the Packet is out. His Station in this River is very necessary as Capt. Wallace hath equipped a Sloop with 6 Carriages and a Schooner with 4 who may be very troublesome here.

I am with great Respect

Sir

Your most humble Servant

[NICHOLAS COOKE]

General Washington

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

Camp at CAMBRIDGE

Septem^r 18 1775

SIR

Your Favours of the 9, 14 & 15th Inst. have been duly received. The Readiness of the Committee to co-operate with me in procuring the most authentick Intelligence & dispatching Capt. Whipple for this Purpose, is peculiarly satisfactory, & I flatter myself will be attended not only with Success, but the happiest Consequences to the publick Cause—I should immediately have sent you Notice of the Paragraph in the Philad^a Paper (which is all the Account I have of the taking the Powder at Bermudas) but I supposed it must have come to your Hands, before it reached ours: I am inclined to think it sufficient to suspend Capt. Whipples¹ Voyage at least till farther Intelligence is procured from Philad^a: As it is scarcely supposable those Vessels would have left any Quantity behind worth the Risque & Expence of such a Voyage.—As this Enterprize will therefore most probably be laid aside for the present it may be proper for Capt. Whipple to keep his Station a few Days longer for the Packet. It must be remembered they generally have long Passages, & we are very sure she has not yet arrived at Boston, nor do I find she is expected there—

The Voyage to Bayonne is what I should much approve & recommend. The Person sent to Gov. Trumbull has not yet called upon me; but the Scheme appears so feasible, that I should be glad to see it executed, at the same Time I must add that I am in some Doubt as to the Extent of my Powers to appropriate the publick Money here to this Purpose—I could wish you would communicate it to the Congress, for which you will have Time sufficient, & I make no Doubt of their Concurrence. In fact the State of our Treasury here at present is so low that it would be impracticable to be of any Service to the Expedition if all other Objections were obviated.

We have no News either in the Camp or from Boston except a Peice of Intelligence from the latter that the Enemy are

¹Captain Abraham Whipple.

pulling down the South End of the Town in order to continue a Work across from River to River.

Your chearful Concurrence with me in publick Measures & Zeal for the Service calls for my best Thanks: You will please to accept them & believe me with

much Truth & Esteem, Sir;
Your most Obed. & very
Hbble Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON

P. S. No Southern Mail arriving last Saturday we are apprehensive it has again fallen into the Enemies Hands. If it was not attended with too much Trouble should be glad you would cause Inquiry to be made—if by any Accident the Letters are at Providence you will please to forward them by Express.

The Hon Nicholas Cooke Esq D. Governour
Rhode Island.

GOV. COOKE TO CAPT. JOHN GRIMES

PROVIDENCE Sep^t 20. 1775

CAP JOHN GRIMES¹

Comander Sloop Washington

On recep^t of this you are to Proceede Directly out to Sea in the Night on your arivall of Block Island then and not till then Open this letter, In there, is your Order, and follow the Same, from Me

&c

NICHOL^s COOKE

ORDERS R. I. RECESS COMMITTEE TO
CAPT. JOHN GRIMES AND CAPT. ABRAHAM WHIPPLE

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND &c

At a Meeting of the Committee Appointed by the General Assembly to act During the Recess of the Assembly, held at the Council Chamber in Providence on the 20th day of Sep^{tr} AD 1775

¹Capt. John Grimes was appointed First. Lieut. of the Sloop *Katy*, under Capt. Abraham Whipple in June 1775 and soon afterwards was made captain of the smaller vessel fitted out under vote of the R. I. General Assembly in place of Christopher Whipple. *R. I. Colonial Records*, vol. VII.

The Hon^{ble} Nich^o Cook Esq^r

Present	Ambros Page Esq ^r	M ^r John Smith
	Jon ^a Randle Esq ^r	Col. John Mathewson
	M ^r John Jenckes	Daniel Mowry jun ^r
		& John Dexter Esq ^r

Whereas his hon^r the Deputy Gov^r hath Rec^d Inteligence from Gen^l Washington that The powder in the Magazine at Bermudas hath been Taken away by Some vessel from the Continent of America, By Means whereof it appears highly Necessary that this Committee Give notice thereof To Cap^t Abraham Whipple now Cruising of Sandy hook To prevent his Intended voyage to Bermudas af^d

Therefore voted that Cap^t John Grimes Commander of the Packet Washington Sail as Soon as may be (in the night To Sea, and Cruise of Sandy Hook if 'tis agreeable to his Instructions in order to Speak With Said Whipple and Deliver him Instructions from the Chairman of this Committee But Should the Said Grimes not fall in with Said whipple, by the 27th Day of this Instant Sep^t he is To Return Immediately To providence

voted that Simeon Aldrich be Cap^t Jonathan Comstock Leiut and Ebenezer Trask Ensign, of the Second Company or trainband of the Town of Smithfield in the Room of Thomas Aldrich Elijah Arnold and Peleg Arnold who hath Refused

SIR

PROVIDENCE Sept^r 20th AD 1775

As Your Orders ware to Cruse off of Sandy Hook the Space of fourteen days in order to Speak with y^e packet and then proceed for Bromoda there to proceed according to Your Orders heretofore given, but having Rec^d undoubled Intelegance That the powder &c at that Place ware already Taken away: by Order of the Comm^{te} These are therefore to Order You to Continue Your Cruse for the Space of Ten days Longer to gether with Cap^t Grimes by whom I send this Letter, in Order to Take the s^d packet and If you do not fall in with her at the End of Ten days You are To Return to providence.

NB Ten days Exclusive of the fourteen day and you are Requested to Keep your Bromoda Interprise as a Secret

CAP^t GRIMES

You Being Commander of the Packet—Washington on the Opening these Orders You are To Proceed Directly of Sandy Hook in Order to Meet Cap^t Abraham Whipple who is Crusing of and on these If you do not Meet him Directly You are To Continue Your Cruse of and on Keeping out of Sight The Hook and Strik from Sight of Long Island Southward as far as the Egg harbour & back Untill you find him. If You do not find him by the 27. of This Month, Not Meeting him you are to return Directly home but in Case You Meet Cap^t Whipple you are to abide with him and follow his order &c Delivering him This Letter Directed him Providence Sep^t 20. 1775.

PROVIDENCE Sept^r 20th 1775S^r

as your orders ware To Cruse off of Sandy Hook the Space of fourteen Days in order to Speak with the packet and Then proceed to Bromoda & there to proceed according to your Orders heretofore given; But having Rec^d undoubted Intilligence That the powder &c at that place are already Taken away by order of y^e Committee these are therefore to Order You To Continue Your Cruse for the Space Ten days Longer to gether with Capt Grimes in order to Take the Packet—and then To Reuturn To Providence: Cap^t Grimes by whom I Send This Letter is ordered To continue & Cruse with You To the End of your Cruse and Thn Return in Company with [unfinished].

GOV. COOKE TO GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE

PROVIDENCE Septem 26th 1775

SIR,

I am favoured with yours of the 23^d instant, and cannot help expressing my Surprise at your mentioning Divisions in the Assembly, and a Proposal made to recall the Troops in such a Manner as to shew that you give Credit to the Reports; which I assure you so far as I can learn are entirely void of any Foundation in Truth.—There hath not been the least Division in the General Assembly from any Motive of Departure from the common Cause. On the contrary the Firmness of the

General Assembly is perfectly to be depended upon. Nor was any Motion ever made for withdrawing our Troops.—If these Reports have been propagated in the Army I must desire you to take Pains to set the Matter in a true Light, otherwise they may prove injurious to the common Interest.—

I have recommended to General Washington the paying the earliest Attention to the reinlisting the Troops, and have assured him that this Colony will heartily concur in every prudent Measure for that Purpose.—I am greatly apprehensive that almost insuperable Difficulties will arise in accomplishing that essential Service; and earnestly desire you to use your Influence that it may be entered upon as soon as possible.

I am with great Regard,

Sir

Your most obedient and
most humble Servant

NICH^s COOKE

General Greene

GOV. COOKE TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL

PROVIDENCE Septem^r 26th 1775

SIR

Your Favour of the 18th instant hath been duly received. In Compliance with which I give you the following Extract from General Washington's Letter to me of the same Date. "The Voyage to Bayonne is what I should much approve and recommend. The Person sent to Gov. Trumbull hath not yet called upon me; but the Scheme appears so feaseable that I should be glad to see it executed. At the same Time I must add that I am in some Doubt as to the Extent of my Powers to appropriate the publick Monies here to this Purpose. I could wish you would communicate it to the Congress for which you'll have Time sufficient and I make no Doubt of their Concurrence. In Fact the State of our Treasury here is so low that it would be impracticable to be of any Service to the Expedition, if all other Objections were obviated"—I have accordingly laid the Proposal before the Congress.

Capt. Martindale¹ of our Brigade who left Cambridge Yesterday informs us that he received a Letter dated last Thursday from an Officer in the Detachment destined for Quebec informing him that they were then 14 Miles up the River Kennebeck.

I am, with Thanks for the Intelligence you favour me with from S^t Johns, and with much Truth and Esteem—

Sir

Your most obed^t and
most hble Serv^t

NICH COOKE

Gov Trumbull

JOHN HANCOCK TO GOV. COOKE

PHILAD^a Oct^r 5 1775

SIR

The Congress having received certain intelligence of the sailing of two north Country built Brigs of no force from England on the 11 of August last loaded with 6000 Stand of Arms and a large quantity of powder & other Stores for Quebec without a convoy: and it being of importance if possible to intercept them, I am directed by Congress to desire you with all possible expedition to dispatch the armed vessels of the Colony of Rhode island on this Service that the vessels you dispatch be Supplied with a Sufficient number of men, stores &c and particularly with oars: That you give the commander or commanders Such instructions as are necessary as also proper encouragement to the Marines & Seamen that shall be sent on this enterprize, which instructions &c are to be delivered to the commander or commanders Sealed up with orders not to open the same until out of sight of land on account of Secrecy

As there is also advice that a large quantity of Brass ordinance military stores & provisions are sending out to Boston, you are to give orders to seize all transports laden with ammunition cloathing or other stores for the use of the Ministerial Army or Navy in America; and that the said vessels with their

¹Captain Sion Martindale.

cargoes when taken be secured in the most convenient places for the use of the Continent.

For the encouragement of the Men employed in this service I am ordered to inform you that the Congress have resolved that the Master, Officers and Seamen shall be entitled to one half of the value of the prizes by them taken, the wages they receive from the Colony notwithstanding

The ships or vessels of War are to be on the Continental risque & pay during their being thus employed.

On this subject I have wrote to General Washington & desired him to dispatch one or More vessels from Massachusetts bay on this Service.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most Obed^t Serv^t

JOHN HANCOCK Presid^t

Hon^l Lieut Gov^r Cooke

SAMUEL WARD TO GOV. COOKE

PHILADELPHIA 5th Oct. 1775

SIR

I laid that Part of your Honors Letter relative to the proposed Voyage and your first Letter upon the same Subject before the Com^{es} of Secresy & I am instructed to acquaint you. That they approve of the Plan and in Behalf of the united Colonies agree to advance a sufficient Sum of continental Money to purchase sixty or eighty Tons of good Gun Powder as suits you best, to run the Risque of the Money & Powder the Persons intrusted behaving with Fidelity and to give the same Commissions & Freight which they give to other Persons for the like Service which you may rely upon to be a handsome Compensation for the Service: The money shall be paid to your Order on Sight, The Committee make it a Rule when they advance Money to take good Bonds for the faithful Performance of the Contract on the Part of those who receive it, your Honor will be pleased to take such Bonds if you should advance the Money for the Voyage until we can replace it with continental money; the Bonds must be made payable to Thomas Willing Benjamin

Franklin Philip Livingston John Alsop Silas Dean John Dickerson John Langdon Thomas McKean & Samuel Ward Esq^{rs} in Trust for & to the use of the thirteen united Colonies in North America; The Condition that the money shall be faithfully laid out in France for good Gunpowder upon the best Terms & delivered to the above Com^{ee} for the use of the s^d united Colonies in some Part of the Colonies of Rhode island or Connecticut the Danger of the Seas & Enemies excepted: If the whole Quantity of Gun Powder cannot be got the Com^{ee} would have as much Salt Petre with a proportionate Quantity of Sulphur to manufacture with it purchased as will make up the proposed Quantity of Powder the Bonds may specify that & also that if the Powder Salt Petre & Sulphur cannot be had as above directed that the Money shall be returned to the Com^{ee} aboves^d.

The Com^{ee} would have waited for your particular Terms upon which the Voyage should have been undertaken but thought it would occasion a Delay of several Weeks & probably frustrate the Voyage, they therefore directed Me to propose to your Honor if hard money or good Bills of Exchange can be got, immediately to procure the same & dispatch the Vessel as soon as possible

It is expected that Provisions will be allowed to be exported to foreign Countries agreeable to the non exportation Agreement, if so the Money may be laid out here in flour at a low Rate.

If the Voyage cannot be undertaken without the Moneys being first sent from hence or if any other unforeseen Event retards it let Cap^t Hopkins¹ come here immediately or acquaint us with it in any other Way & every thing reasonable on our Parts shall be done to expedite the Voyage I have the Honor to be in Behalf of the Committe of Secresy

Sir

Your most obedient

humble Servant

SAM WARD

Gov^r Cooke

¹Captain Stephen Hopkins.

P. S.

This Com^{ee} will if good fire Arms & Gunlocks are to be had at the Place proposed to go to advance the Money for two thousand stands of good Arms & five thousand good double bridled Gunlocks; Nothing of this matter ought to transpire save to the concerned if these last articles are engaged for the Bonds must contain the matter

NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL TO GOV. COOKE

At a Town Council NEWPORT October 16th 1775

Present	Ebenezer Richardson William Read Robert Taylor Thomas Freebody Daniel Holloway	}	Members of y ^e Town Council
---------	--	---	--

Whereas the Town Council have Drawn up a Remonstrance in Order to Lay before the Hon^{ble} Nicholas Cooke Esq^r and others who are a Committee constituted by the General Assembly to Transact the Business of the Colony During their Recess Respecting the Difficulty and Distress the Inhabitants of this Town Labor under, The Town Council have therefore Appointed You Samuel Dyre and John Jepson Esq^{rs}. and M^r John Malbone (son of Godfrey) to Wait on Said Committee with said Remonstrance and to Request the favor of them to Give this Town or General Hopkins Such Directions and Advice respecting said affairs as they may Judge Necessary for y^e Well being of y^e Town but if His Honor Nicholas Cooke Esq^r. should not be at Providence and you should think it Expedient to Proceed to Cambridge to wait on his Honor then you are Requested to Proceed there and Wait on him for his Advice Signed by Order and in Behalf of y^e Town Council,

Witness WM CODDINGTON Council Clerk.

GOV. COOKE TO NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL

CAMBRIDGE October 21st 1775

GENTLEMEN

Your Application to me by Mess^{rs} Dyre, Jepson, and Malbone engaged my utmost Attention; and I embraced the

Opportunity of taking the Advice of a Committee of the Honble the Continental Congress, now sitting here, upon the important subject of it. They unanimously gave their Opinion that the Inhabitants of Newport should supply the Ships of War with Beer and fresh Provisions as usual provided Wallace complies with the Terms he hath offered; and that the Troops should be removed out of the Town. They are also unanimously of Opinion that the Troops ought to remain on the Island. I have written to this Effect to General Hopkins¹; and have also submitted to him to remove the Troops at a greater Distance from the Town if he shall think the Service will not suffer by it.

I am also to inform you that an Express arrived Yesterday at Head Quarters from Portsmouth, advising that on Tuesday last a Naval Force supposed to be the Fleet from Boston consisting of one 64, One 20, Two 18 with a Bomb-Ketch or Two and a large Transport or Two full of Men appeared off Falmouth Casco-Bay and demanded of the Inhabitants that they should deliver up their Arms & give Hostages for their future good Behavior. Upon Condition of this Delivery of Part of them the same Evening he gave them to the next Day to consider of the Proposal. They accordingly delivered him 8 Muskets. He showed the Committee his Orders which were positive to destroy the Town, and also the Town of Portsmouth, in Case they should refuse to comply with the Terms offered. A very heavy Cannonading was heard the next Day at Falmouth. I give you this Information that you may consider what Probability there is of your being treated in a similar Manner.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obed^t hble Serv^t

NICH^s COOKE

Town Council of Newport.

¹General Esek Hopkins.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

Camp at CAMBRIDGE

Oct^r 24. 1775

SIR

The inclosed Information, being of the highest Importance, I thought it proper to transmit it to you with all Dispatch.

I am Sir

y^r mo. ob. Serv^tG^o WASHINGTON

ENCLOSURE WITH LETTER OF GEN. WASHINGTON OF OCT.
24, 1775

FALMOUTH Monday 16. Octo^r 1775

The Canceaux Ship of Sixteen Guns Commanded by Cap^t Mowatt,¹ A large Ship, Schooner & a Sloop Armed, Anchored below the Town the 17th—at 3 P. M. they weigh'd and came up and Anchor'd within gun Shott, and Immediately Cap^t Mowatt sent a Letter on Shore to the Town, giving them two hours to Move their families out, as he had orders to fire the Town, the Town Immediately Chose a Committee of three Gentlemen & Sent them on board to Know the reason of that Town's being Set on fire, he returned for Answer that his Orders were to Set fire on all the Sea Port Towns between Boston and Halifax and that he Expected New York was then burnt to Ashes, he farther said that when he received Orders from the Admiral he desired that might shew some favour to the Town of Falmouth, which the Admiral Granted. (I suppose, as Cap^t Mowatt was under particular Obligation to some Gentlemen at Falmouth for Civilities Shewn him when in Captivity amongst them) and which favor was, to spare the Town till 9 o Clock Wednesday Morning in Case we would send him off Eight Small Arms, which the Town immediately did—Wednesday Morning being the 18th the Committee went on board Cap^t Mowatt Again in Order to save the Town, he said he would save the Town till he heard from the Admiral, in Case we would send off Four Carriage Gunns, deliver up all

¹Captain Henry Mowatt, British officer.

our Small Arms, Ammunition &c—& send Four Gentlemen of the Town as Hostages, which the Town would not do—about half past Nine in the Morning he began to fire from the four Armed Vessels, and in five Minutes set fire to several Houses—He continued firing till After dark the same day, which Destroyed the largest part of the Town—he farther informed the Committee that he should proceed to Portsmouth, and Destroy that Place also—

The foregoing is as near the Facts as I am able to remember, as Witness my Hand—

Signed. PEARSON JONES

Cambridge Oct^o 24
1775

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

Camp at CAMBRIDGE 2^d Nov^r 1775

SIR,

I have your favour of the 28th ult^o before me—immediately upon receipt of it, I communicated the Contents to the D: Commissary—(M^r Trumbull being sick in Connecticut—) as a business appertaining to his department; but, as Deputy, he wishes for the direction of his principal, to whom I could wish you to write, as he is at Lebanon & not expected back under three weeks—his intention I know, was to make both Beef & Porke bring itself to this place; but as that cannot be in the case you mention, there is no doubt of his readiness to take the Beef if delivered here in Barr^{ls} at the price other Beef in Barrels stands him in here.—perhaps (for an encouragement) more; to get it out of the reach of the Enemy—

I thank you for your order in favour of M^r Bowen,¹ who, I am informed, after some to do, got the Cannon wanted, somewhat more convenient.—Herewith you will receive a Copy of the proceedings of the conference held at this place with the Committee of Congress.—nothing new since my last.—with much esteem & respect. I am Sir

Y^r Most Obed^t & H^{ble} Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON

The Hon^{ble} Gov^r Cooke

¹Jabez Bowen, Committee appointed by R. I. General Assembly to inquire the price of cannon. *R. I. Colonial Records*, vol. VII, p. 417.

GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE TO GOV. COOKE

PROSPECT HILL NOV 5th 1775

DEAR SIR

By an Express from General Skuyler¹ we have the agreeable Intelligence of the reduction of Fort Chamblee upon the River Sorel—There was Eighty Royal Fuziliers and about an hundred Women & Children made Prisoners of War—There was 124 Barrels Powder two Mortors a large quantity of Shot—230 stand of arms—about 100 Flour bb 60 or 80 Barrels of Beef & Pork and a quantity of Butter taken in the Fort—no Lives lost in the Reduction—St. Johns is closely Blocked up and twas expected would Capitulate in two Days after the Capitulation of Fort Chamble—There was one Major two Capt & three Subs made prisoners at this Fort which I had I like to have forgot to mention—There is a party gone on to Invest Moreal where very little Opposition was expected as the Peasantry of Canada are warm in our Cause—By Letters from Colo Arnold² this Day Dated the 13th of last Mont^h we expect he is in Possession of Quebec for he expected to be there in Ten Days from the Date of his Letter—We are informd by a Gentleman who left Canada about Six Weeks ago that there was not 20 Soldiers in Quebec and that Governor Carlton³ was at Moreal—The City of Quebeck quite defenceless, there being only two Guns mountd on Carridges in the City—Colo Arnold writes his party are in high Spirits and have gone through incredible fatigue without a murmur—in all probabillity Canada is wholly reduced by this, as Carltons party are Small, and the French Nobless^e Lukewarm, but on the other hand Our Army is large and Strongly reinforc'd by Canadians, who are raising in the Cause of Liberty—Our Sloops of War have taken a Vesel Bound for Boston with 120 Pipes of Maderia Wine, and Two other Vessels of some considerable consequence—We are Just carrying into Excution the plan You and the other Gentlemen of the Committee establish'd for the Rule of our conduct in the New Establishment of the Army—The Local prejudices common to all Independant States I apprehend

¹General Philip Schuyler.²Colonel Benedict Arnold.³Sir Guy Carleton.

will create Some difficulty, but I hope it may not be productive of any very disagreeable consequences—We are compleating the Barracks those that continues in Service will have fine Accomodations & extraordinary good liveing—high Wages & New Clothes—powerful motives for the Soldiery to engage anew Seting a Side their Zeal for the Glorious Cause of Liberty—The Rhode Island Regiments are reduced to two, agreeable to your Advice, if all three of the Regiments were to Engage they would not compleat two—But make no doubt but that Recruits can be had to compleat these two Regiments—General Lee¹ intends to set out in a Day or two for Newport if nothing happens to prevent his present Resolution—The Enemy in Boston are throwing up Some works on Mount Whoredom and on the Common they are greatly Apprehensive of an Attack—How far that might be prudent I dont pritend to Say—But the best of Veterans are requird to Storm a Town, what Success might attend an Irregular Attack without great Superiority in numbers, requires no Spirit of Phrophecy to foretell—Our Operations here may appear Something Tardy—I am but a young Officer and therefore an incompetent Judge of Military Operations—By old Experienced Officers its thought to be a great point gaind to keep the Enemy Hencoop't up with in their Lines, their Situation must be very dispiriting, to have but a Small Range, and cut off from all the refreshments of Life—And had we plenty of what we wish, they would meet with Dayly & hourly insults, which would make their Situation Still more disagreeable if not compel them to come out and Shew themselves in the Open fields—God Send us a Speedy Supply is the hearty wish of Sir your most Obedient humble Servant

NATHANAEL GREENE

GEN. PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL
(COPY SENT TO GOV. COOKE)

TICONDEROGA NOV^r 7. 1775

SIR

Your Honor will receive the Account of the Reduction of St Johns, with all that Satisfaction with which I communicate it to You, The Garison Surrendered on the 2^d Instant

¹General Charles Lee.

A few Days before the above Event, General Carlton made an Attempt on Lieu^t Col^o Warner,¹ Who was posted with his Corps, & part of the Second Battalion of the Forces raised in this Colony at Longuille & was repulsed with Loss, one of the Prisoners taken on this occassion, Gen^l Montgomery² Sent into St Johns to inform Maj Preston³ how Matters stood.

We are much indebted to Gen^l Montgomery's fortitude & Perseverance; I have not time to be more particular, as I have a variety of Dispatches to Send, I have ordered this by Express, That Your Honor may have the earliest opportunity of announcing this agreeable Intelligence

I am Sir

Your Honors

most Obed^t

Hum^l Servant

PH. SCHUYLER

Governor Trumbull

Copy

JOHN HANCOCK TO GOV. COOKE

PHILADELPHIA NOV^r 10th 1775

SIR

As the City and Colony of New York are in great Distress for want of Powder, and Information having been Receiv'd that some Powder had lately Arriv'd in your Colony, I am Directed by the Congress to Apply to you, and Request you immediately to Send to the Committee of Safety of New York One Ton of Powder for the Defence of that City and Colony.

I am so Engag'd in the Business of Congress, that I have not Time to Add, but that I am with much Esteem,

Hon Sir

Your most Obed Serv^t

JOHN HANCOCK Presid^t

Hon Gov Cooke—

¹Lieut. Col. Seth Warner.

²General Richard Montgomery.

³Major Charles Preston.

GOV. COOKE TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL

PROVIDENCE NOVEM 14. 1775

SIR

Most heartily do I thank your Honor for your Account of our Success at S^t Johns and return your Congratulations upon this happy Event; which I look upon as a sure Presage of our being Masters of the whole Province; especially as there are Letters from Col. Arnold of the 13th ult^o informing us that the Canadians had shewn the most friendly Disposition; and that he expected to arrive at Quebec in Ten Days; at which Time Governor Carleton with his whole Force was preparing to attack our Army at S^t Johns

The General Assembly which met here on the 31 ult^o passed several Acts which, although they had no Precedent for from any of the other Colonies, they looked upon as important and even necessary. The King's Proclamation of the 23^d of August is decisive with Respect to the Measures that will be taken against America. And the General Assembly passed an Act making it Death and Forfeiture of Estate for any one to correspond, with or supply the Enemy with Provisions, warlike or naval Stores or to pilot any of their Ships. They have also taken into Possession the Estates of Gov. Hutchinson, Sam^l Sewall, George Rome, Jahleel & Benj^a Burton, Thomas Moffatt, and several others whom they deemed inimical to the Country. We have also ordered a Regiment of 500 Men to be raised who for the present will be stationed upon Rhode Island to defend that Island and the Stock upon it. A Committee is also appointed to carry on the Manufacture of Saltpetre at the Expence of the Colony. Governor Wanton's¹ whole Conduct ever since the Battle of Lexington having convinced the General Assembly of his being inimical to the great Cause in which we are embarked they deprived him of his Office and declared the Chair vacant—These are the principal of the spirited Measures taken at the last Session.

Providence smiles upon us by Sea as well as by Land. Several Vessels with Supplies for the ministerial Army in Boston having been lately taken by our Cruizers; of which I

¹Governor Joseph Wanton.

make no Doubt you have been informed. By a Gentleman who left Philadelphia on the 5th instant we have Accounts that the Congress having equipped Two Frigates of Thirty six 12 & 9 Pounders each; and that Half of the Compliment of One of them had inlisted the Day before.

I think it proper to acquaint you that the General Assembly did me the Honor of appointing me Governor of the Colony; and to assure you of my utmost Exertions to cooperate with you and the other Friends to our Country in every Measure for the Defence & Safety of it.

I am,

Sir

Your most obedient & most hble Serv^t

[NICHOLAS COOKE]

Gov Trumbull

CHARLES DUDLEY¹ TO GOV. COOKE

Custom House NEWPORT 14 Nov^r. 1775

SIR

I have received Your Letter of the 11th Instant "demanding of me all the Silver and Gold and Paper Bills of Credit, and Bills of Exchange now in my possession belonging to the Crown."

It is not necessary for me to enter into a consideration of the reasons you have given for making the demand: It is enough for me to say, I shou'd be very unworthy the Trust reposed in me if I was to comply with it.

Mr. Eseck Hopkins (who I understand is a Brigadier General under appointment of the General Assembly of this Colony, and now commanding an armed Force on this Island) has also interdicted me from removing any Money or other Property which may be in my hands belonging to the Crown

¹Charles Dudley had been Collector and Surveyor of Rhode Island since May 31, 1768. On Nov. 15, 1775 he fled for refuge to the British vessel *Rose*. On Nov. 28, 1775 the Recess Committee of Rhode Island "took in charge" his personal effects. On December 28, 1775 this Committee voted that "one of the beds with the furniture taken from Charles Dudley be presented to General Lee." See letter of Gen. Lee to Gov. Cooke, post. Arnold's *History of R. I.*, vol. II.

at the Peril of my Person and private Property—My Person I trust will soon be out of his reach; and confiding in the power and Justice of that Government which I have the honor to serve; I shall submit my private Property to his Disposal.

Sir

I am Your Most hble Servant

CHAS DUDLEY
Collector.

To the Honble Nich Cooke Esqr
Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island &c.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

CAMBRIDGE NOV^r 18. 1775

SIR

Your favor of the 13 Inst by Mr. Phillips¹ I received; In answer thereto you will be pleased to order the Officers and Men that have been stationed at Block Island, to march to this Camp; Reinforcements are wanting, & probably will be, when they are here, they will be Incorporated in the Continental army, if they Choose it, The many circumstances attending the new arrangement of which, had in some measure occasioned me to forget these men before—When an account of the Wages & Subsistance due them, is transmitted, I Shall give necessary orders for their payment.

I congratulate you upon your appointment to the Government of the Colony & am much Obliged by the Assurances you give me of such Assistance as may be in your power

I am Sir

with great esteem

Yr H Servt,

G^o WASHINGTON

The Hon^{ble} Governor Cooke

¹Peter Phillips.

BENJAMIN TRUMBULL¹ TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL
(COPY IN GOV. TRUMBULL'S HAND SENT TO GOV. COOKE)

Camp North of S^t JOHNS Friday Morn^g 6 o'Clock

Nov 23^d 1775

HON^d SIR—

General Wooster with the Troops under his Com^d, after an expeditious & tedious March, arrived in the Camp on the West Side of the Lake South of S^t Johns 26th Octo—The next Day we passed the Lake & march^d down about 3 Miles on the East Side of it where we crossed it again & took our Post on the West Side about 1-1/2 Mile below the Fort—The principal Part of the Army which had encamped on the West of the Lake South of S^t Johns march^d Down & joined us the next Day & the two Generals came Down & pitched their Tents in this North Encampment—The Night follow^g the Ground was marked out for a new Breast Work & Battery, on a small but advantageous Eminence, about 80 Rods N W of the upper Fort—200 Men were employed in erecting the Battery, under the Comand of Col^o Ward² & that Night raised the Works about 5 feet high, so that by Day Light they were tolerably well covered—The Cannon, Military Stores & heavy Baggage were put on Board the Boats, & passing the Fort in the Night, fell down with the Current to our Encampment—The Time from Sunday Morn^g to Wensday was spent in cutting & clearing the Road to the Battery, in preparing the Platforms, drawing up the Cannon, making Cartridges, filling Shells & in carrying in Warlike Stores & Mortars—Gen^l Wooster employed all his Ability to have the Works compleated with the utmost Dispatch On Wensday Morn^g between the Hours of Nine & ten, the North West Battery was opened, from which Time this & the East Battery kept up a very heavy & almost incessant fire for more than Six Hours In this short Time it is supposed that we fired a thousand Cannon Balls & more than

¹Rev. Benjamin Trumbull was born in Hebron, Conn. From 1760 to 1820 he was pastor of the First Ecclesiastical Society in North Haven and was the author of a General History of the United States from 1492 to 1792. In April 1775 he was appointed Chaplain of Maj. Gen. David Wooster's First Connecticut Regiment which was in service at the reduction of St. Johns. Thorpe's *North Haven Annals*.

²Lieut-Colonel Andrew Ward.

100 Shells—the firing ceased about an Hour by Sun—& the Gen^l sent a Truce to Maj^r Preston¹ the Comānder of the Forts, with a Letter mak^g Hon^{ble} Proposals if he would Surrender the Forts, The Maj^r sent an Answer to the Letter & a treaty comēced the next Day—About Nine oClock the last Ev^g the Articles of Capitulation were signed—at Eight this Morn^g the Garrison are to march out with their Arms to the Parade & their lay them Down—our Troops are at the same Time to take Possession of the Forts—of all the Kings Stores, Arms, Ordnance & Shipping—The Regulars are to have their Baggage, & to remain Prisoners of Warr. till the present Troubles shall be settled, or they exchanged for other Prisoners—

Several Things have contributed not a little to this important Acquisition The Arrival of Gen^l Wooster, his Activity & Engagedness in the Service as well as that of his Men, animated & gave a Spring to the whole Army, & at the same Time intimidated the Enemy—the tak^g of Chamblee with so large a Quantity of Provisions & Stores on the 18th Oct^o had its Influence in this happy Event. and especially the Defeat of Gov^r Carlton att Longuille on the 30th past by Col^o Warner²—Gov^r Calton with about 800 Men attempted to cross the River & to Land at Longuille—Col^o Warner opposed his land^g with 300 brave fellows for 5 hours, till night came on & Carlton & his Party retreated—four Indians were found Dead on a small Island where some of them made a Shift to Land—two Canadians & two Indians some Arms & Indian Baggage were taken—Col^o Warner had one 4 pounder which was well managed & is supposed to have done great Execution—it is very remarkable that in a Battle of 5 Hours Col^o Warner had not one Man either killed or Wounded—The Regular Officers were allowed to examine the Frenchmen who were taken by Col^o Warner & they Swore them upon the holy Evangelists that what they related was the Truth—These Events, together with the terrible Fire we made upon them the Day before, their Want of Provision & Powder, determined them to surrender If I can obtain a Copy of the Terms of Capitulation, & an In-

¹Major Charles Preston.

²Colonel Seth Warner.

ventory of the Ordnance, Provisions, Shipping, & Military Stores found in the Forts before the Express goes off I will inclose them to your Honor

As to the State of our Army, in this Place, it is this, as nearly as I can find—the whole Number includ^d Officers, & Soldiers, does not much exceed 2000—Of this Number one half belongs to Connecticut—We have about 700 at Longuille, Chamblee & L^e Traire—a Number must be sent home with the Prisoners; another Detachment must be left at this Post, & I imagine our whole Number, when all join together that can go forward & meet at Montreal, will not exceed twenty two or three hundred Men—The Season is far advanced, & we have but few Days of fair Weather at a Time, the Men are badly cloathed, & cannot lye warm or dry in Tents at this Time of Year, & I fear it will be with great Difficulty that they will be prevailed with to go forward The Generals however I believe are determined to go forward Tomorrow for Montreal if the Weather is not too stormy.

I beg leave to congratulate you on the Success of the American Arms in this Part of the Continent & to subscribe myself with great Esteem & Cordiality

Your Honors assured Friend &
most obedient

humble Servant

BENJ^a TRUMBULL

To the Hon^e Jon^a Trumbull &c
Copy

WILLIAM CODDINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

NEWPORT Dec^r 1st 1775

SIR

M^r Francis Malbone this day going on board Cap^t Wallace by order of y^e Council, in y^e Absence of M^r Dyer,¹ He y^e Said Cap^t Wallace Immediately asked him the Opinion of y^e Town Relating the two officers taken the Night before in y^e Town & Carried to head Quarters whether it was not a Breach of y^e Truce, and was Answered by M^r Malbone that they were not taken by the Inhabitants of y^e Town therefore the Town

¹Samuel Dyer.

Could not have Violated y^e Truce on which he Cap^t Wallace said he Esteemed it as a Violation of y^e Truce, and that he then made a Demand of y^e Town that the Two Officers at Quarters Should be Returned, if they were not he would make all y^e Prisoners in his Powers which he was Sure would be many, on which he M^r Malbone Answered that M^r Dyre was Expected from Providence & Desired that he would Suffer y^e Boats to Pass until his Return which he Promised he would do, and threatened much that if those two officers were not Released that he would have Satisfaction of y^e Town for Suffering the Armed Men coming into Town with Many Threats &c After Cap^t Malbone had taken y^e Greatest Pains to Convince him that it could not be a Breach of y^e Truce, he Answered that he had Given Possitive Orders that none of his Men Should go on Shore but that those two Officers Landed in y^e way of their Duty in Pursuit of three of their Men who had Run away and their Intention was not to Disturb y^e Peace of y^e Town, when Immediately on their Landing before they Got of y^e Wharfe they were taken, and As y^e Looked on y^e Town to be in a State of Neutrality therefore the takeing of his Officers and Makeing them Prisoners was a Violation of y^e Truce and Insisted upon their being Returned and as the Town is in Great want of Wood & other Necessaries which will be Stopt unless this Affair is Setled which will put us in y^e Utmost Distress, We therefore pray Your Honor to take y^e Same under Your Serious Consideration and Do what you Shall Judge in Your Wisdom shall be Necessary to be Done for y^e Well being of this Town, Signed by order and in behalf of y^e Town Council of Newport

Sir Your most Ob^t humble Servant

W^m CODDINGTON Council Clerk

The Hon^{ble} Nicholas Cooke Esq^r
Gov^r & Commander in Cheif of y^e
Colony of Rhode Island &c

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

CAMBRIDGE December 5th 1775

SIR

I have of late, met with abundant reason to be convinced of the impracticability of Recruiting this Army to the new

establishment in any seasonable time, by voluntary Inlistment—The causes of such exceeding great lukewarmness, I shall not undertake to point out; sufficient it is to know, that the fact is so—Many reasons are assigned, one only I shall mention, and that is, that the present Soldiery are in expectation of drawing from the landed Interest & Farmers, a Bounty equal to the allowance at the commencement of this Army, and that therefore they play off—Be that as it may, I am satisfied, that this is not a time for trifling, and that the exigency of our Affairs calls aloud for vigorous exertions. By sad experience It is found, that the Connecticut Regiments have deserted and are about to desert the noble cause we are engaged in; nor have I any reason to believe, that the forces of New Hampshire, this Government or Rhode Island will give stronger proofs of their attachment to it, when the period of their dismissal, (if they claim it) arrives: For after every stimulus which I have been able to throw in their way, and near a months close endeavour, we have Inlisted but about men, 1500 of which, are to be absent at a Time on Furlough, untill all have gone home, in order that they may visit & provide for their families.

Five Thousand Militia from this Government and the Colony of New Hampshire are ordered to be at this place by the 10 Instant, to relieve the Connecticut Regiments & supply the difiency which will be occasioned by their departure & those on Furlough—These men I am told by Officers who have been Eye witnesses to their behavior, are not to be depended upon for more than a few days, as they soon get tired, grow impatient, ungovernable, and of course leave the Service—What will be the consequence then, If the greatest part of the Army is to be composed of such men?

Upon the New establishment, 26 Regiments were Ordered to be raised, besides those of the Artillery and Riflemen: of these, New Hampshire has three, Massachusetts Sixteen, Rhode Island two & Connecticut five—A mode of appointing the officers was recommended, and as strictly adhered to, as circumstances would admit of; these Officers are now Recruiting with the success I have mentioned.

Thus Sir have I given you a true & impartial state of our situation, and Submit it to you & the other three New England

Colonies wisdom, whether some vigorous measures, If the powers of Government are adequate, ought not to be adopted, to facilitate the completion of this Army, without offering a bounty from the publick, which the Congress have declared against, thinking the terms inclusive thereof, greater than ever Soldiers had—I have by this conveyance laid the matter before Congress, but the critical situation of our affairs will not awaite their deliberation & recommendation, Something must be done without further delay—

I am sir

Your Most obed^t Servt

G^o WASHINGTON

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

CAMBRIDGE December 17. 1775

SIR

By sundry persons and Accounts just from Boston I am Informed, that the Ministerial Army is in very great distress for want of fresh provision, and having received Intelligence that there are Two hundred Fat Cattle on Block Island, and some Transport Vessels cruizing that way in quest of Necessaries for the Army, I must request you to have the Cattle &c removed from thence immediatly, and from every other place where their Ships can come & take them away—It is a matter of the utmost importance to prevent them from getting a Supply; If they can be hindred now, the advanced season of the year & the inclement weather which we may expect ere long, will put it out of their power.

I yesterday received the Inclosed Information from Several persons who lately came out from Boston, which I thought it my duty to Transmit to you—It is more than probable, that the destination of the Troops may be very different from what they have given out; they may have made use of that to deceive us in another Quarter—It is certain that Several Ships left the Harbour yesterday morning

I am Sir

with great regard

Your Very Hble Servt

G^o WASHINGTON

JOB HAWKINS TO GOV. COOKE

GOVERNOUR COOK EAST GREENWICH 19th Dec^r 1775

Inclosed you will Recieve the Evidence of one Parker Relating the Transactions of Some of the People in Newport I am very much Surprised that So much pains is Taken to Secure the Town of Newport and the Towns on the Continnant Lef out I wish you and the Rest of the People Concern'd May Not make a Seperate Bargain with that Enverite Enemy Wallis without Taking in all The Town in this Colony—only Give your Self a moment Time to Think of the Condition of many Famelies in the Colony now Stript from Every Comfut of Life and Exist only by the Charity of the People where Evir they fall in, that if Wallis is at Peace with Newport he in mene Time may Ravige the other Part of the Colony Which I Humbly Conceive will Not be Borne with wth the Suffering People in the other Parts of the Colony

I am Sir your Humble Servat

JOB HAWKINS

To the The Hon^l Nicholis Cook in Providence

ENCLOSURE IN LETTER OF JOB HAWKINS TO GEN COOKE

Dec. 19, 1775.

The Deposition of James Parker of Southkingstown in the County Of Kings County, Taylor, of Lawful Age and Engaged according To Law Testifieth and Saith, That I was a Minite man Inlisted on Cap^t Sam^l Babcock^s Company upon my Passage from Stoningtown Harbour to Block Island about the Middle of September Last Past I was Pressed by Cap^t English Commander of the Tender Called the Kingfisher, and Carried into Newport Harbour and Turned over on board, the Swan, James Askough Commander, and from thence went Round to Boston in the Same Vessel and then Returned back to Newport again, and Since we Returned to Newport I Have often Seen Aran Lopas, George Gibbs & Samuel Fowler Come on board the Swan in the Evening of Dark Nights and would stay till about three or four o Clock in the Morning and then would Go on Shore Privately and when they was on board Cap^t Wallace

Yoused to be on board the Swan with them and further Say That one William Naps Corwainder yoused to Come on board the Swan in the Night Season and bring Sheep and beef on board said Ship, Sometimes Turkeys Geese Turnips Milk and Sundry other Things for a supply of the People, and have Several Times Seen John Martin Now Deceased on board both by Day and Night and further Saith Not—JAMES PARKER
Kent ss East Greenwich December the 19th A D 1775

Personally appeared the above subscriber James Parker and Made Solemn Oath To the Truth of the above Deposition Before.

H. COOKE Jus^t Peace

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

CAMBRIDGE 20th Dec^r 1775

SIR,

The Letter accompanying of this was wrote before your favour of the 19th p^r Express came to hand.—under my present Instructions, and more especially, in my present Situation, I could not justify the sending of a Regiment from these Lines to you unless there was an apparent design of Landing a body of Ministerial Troops on Rhode Island; at present, I do not think this is to be apprehended, as a Deserter out of Boston—since my last is particular in declaring, that only four Companies of the 65 Regiment (amounting to little more than 100 Men) Imbark'd, as was said, for Hallifax; agreeing with others that Invalids, & the officers of the 18th & 59 Regiments (who are going home to recruit) had Sailed for England.—

The Intention of my last, containing the Information as it was receivd, was only designed to put you upon your guard, not that I expected a visit was intended you.—If anysmall body of Troops move from hence, Southerly, I have no expectation of their stopping short of Virginia, unless it should be on a Pillaging Party.—

To conclude Sir, when I inform you that I have been obliged to call in 5000 Militia to supply the difficiency of the Connecticut Regiments & those absent upon Furrow, you will do me the Justice to believe, that not the want of Inclination, but want

of Ability prevents me from complying with your request; unless, as is before observed, I had some obvious reasons to believe, the visit (of more men than we are now well assured are Imbark'd) was intended for your Government.—I am with very great respect and esteem—Sir

Y^r Most obed^t H^{ble} Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON

GOV. COOKE TO THE GOVERNOR OF MARTINIQUE

PROVIDENCE 28 Dec^r 1775

MONS^R—

Je me fais l'honneur d'adresser cette lettre a votre Excellence par le moyen de mon Gendre le Sieur Paul Allen qui avec ma permission part incontinent pour la Martinique dans la vue de procurer de la poudre & quelques autres sortes de munition qui manquent aux Colonies—permettez moi, Monsr, de recommander ce jeune homme a votre protection, & d'assurer votre Excellence qu'elle peut reposer en lui une confiance entiere a 'legard des affaires de l'Amerique—la Conteste entre les Colonies & la grande Bretagne est enfin poussee a tel point que selon toute apparence les armes seules peuvent la decider—un detail de tous nos griefs, & des circonstances qui nous ont forcé d'en appeller a l'epee empieterait peutetre sur le tems de votre Excellence. Je dirai seulement que notre resistance est justifiée par les loix fondamentales d'Angleterre par les principes & l'esprit de la Constitution & par le pact & les usages institutes & observés des le premier etablissement des Colonies jusqu'a present . . . avons suffisamment du monde, des vivres & toute autre chose necessaire a la guerre, seulement la poudre & quelque autre munition nous manque, la vigilance & l'influence de la grande Bretagne nous ont barré les moyens jusqu'a present de nous fournir de ces articles—Or, certainement il n'est pas contraire a l'interet de la France (supposant meme qu'elle ne se mele pas de la querelle) de nous pourvoir de ces choses necessaires—a ne rien dire du commerce que ces Colonies ont fait avec les autres peuples, les entrees des marchandises Angloises chez nous ont monté jusqu'a trois millions de livres Sterling, & nos sorties a une somme encore plus grande—ce

commerce immense l'Angleterre va irrevocablement perdre—
 Nouse jettons les yeux vers la France comme la Nation la plus
 capable de faire ce commerce également avantageux a elle &
 aux Colonies—Je remet ces matieres au bon sens de votre
 Excellence & suis avec l'estime & respect les plus profonds le
 Serviteur le plus obeissant.

de votre Excellence
 NICH. COOK

A Monsr

Son Excellence le Gouverneur de Martinique¹

GOV. COOKE TO THE GOVERNOR OF GUADALOUPE

PROVIDENCE January 8. 1776

SIR,

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.

“PROVIDENCE December 28th 1775

“SIR,

“I do myself the Honor to address this Letter to your Ex-
 cellency by Mr. Paul Allen, my Son in Law, who makes a
 Voyage by my Permission to Guadeloupe, to purchase Powder
 and other Articles for the use of the Colony. I beg Leave to
 recommend him to Your Notice and entire Confidence, with
 Respect to the Affairs of America The Contest between the
 Colonies and Britain, hath at Length arisen to so great a
 Heighth, that all Hopes of Accommodation are at an End—
 It must be decided by Arms. I Shall not trouble Your Ex-
 cellency with a Detail of the Injuries, which have compelled
 us to have Recourse to the Sword. I will only Say that our
 Resistance is perfectly justified by Charters, and the funda-
 mental Laws and Principles of the British Constitution—We
 have Men, Provisions, and everyThing necessary to the War,

¹This letter is in the handwriting of General Charles Lee.

excepting Powder, and Some other warlike Stores. The Policy and Influence of Britain hath hitherto prevented our obtaining a Supply of those Articles adequate to our Wants. It certainly cannot be inconsistent with the Interest of France to furnish the Colonies for their Money, even Supposing She Should not interfere in the War—Exclusive of the Trade carried on by these Colonies to other Parts of Europe, our Imports from Britain amounted annually to about three Millions of Pounds Sterling, and our Exports to a still greater Sum—Britain hath now lost it never to be regained—We look towards France as the Nation best capable of carrying on this Commerce, which will be So beneficial to her as well as to the Colonies. I Submit these Matters to Your judicious Consideration and remain with the most perfect Esteem and Respect & Permit me to continue my Assurances, that

I am

Your Excellency's

most obedient, and most humble Servant

NICH^s COOKE

“His Excellency the Governor of Guadaloupe”

GEN. CHARLES LEE TO GOV. COOKE

CAMP January ye 9th 1776

SIR

The uncertainty of the Post's going out last week prevented me doing myself the honour of writing to you—Yesterday I receivd yours, and communicated it immediately to General Washington—I gave him at the same time my sentiments upon what I thought necessary to be done with respect to the defence and politicks of your Province—as He intends to write to you upon the subject tomorrow, I need not trouble you with my opinion—I hope you will believe that my zeal and attachment to your welfare and service are most hearty and sincere whenever you have any thing to propose which you think I can forward, or any commands which you think I can execute, I beg you will consider me as a ready and faithful servant I am now, Sir, to thank the Gentlemen of your Committee for their magnificent present it is not only of real use to me, but I shall

esteem it as extremely ornamental as it is a testimony of the regard of so respectable a body—once more I thank you and once more beg leave to assure you that I am most faithfully and respectfully yours—

CHARLES LEE

COL. CHRISTOPHER LIPPITT¹ TO GOV. COOKE

PRUDENCE ISLAND Jan^y 23 AD 1776

SIR,

I find my Self fixed upon to Strip this Island in doing which I find the Greatest Deficuly; I Ever ment to Be Zealous in what ever I undertook; But the Seeson of the year tends with So much Deficuly for me to Execute my orders that I Beleave it will Be imposible for me to Steare Cleare of Sencer; the Islanders Dayly Complaining of there Loos and Damiges Put it on me to due Everything for them, there otes Barly Ry & Corn is all to thrash out; Scrueing hay is Sloo work; and we Due But Littel Besides Giting of the Stock and Grane and hay as fast as we Screw it; I have Landed only about three tuns of Loose hay on worwick Neck for the Stock there and have Bene makeing Use of Every opertunity But the wind and tides Prevent us the Salebotes will Cum and if they Cannot have Scrued hay or Graine they will Go of; So that I am allmost Ready to Run mad to heare the Dayle Complaints of my People that are Swarming up and down this Island Sum-times it is there is No Botes Sumtimes want ores the wind is a head Cant go or oxen footsore or marster of Botes will Not take in Loose hay &c Now Sir I have one hundrd and Eighty men on here which is Less than your orders or Recommended But as they are mostly minnute men there Expences Runs Very high and I would Propose that as Soone as I Can Git of the grane housel goods and good Bent hay; (which will be Screwed By that time) that then the minnute men Be all dismissed and Leave Salt & other Course foder which I Believe the inhabitants may git of as it will Be of No Service to Wallace² and he is Now at New-

¹Christopher Lippitt, a resident of Cranston R. I., was Colonel of a Regiment raised in Rhode Island in January 1776 and served under Gen. Washington in New York and New Jersey. In 1780 he was Brigadier Gen. of Militia in R. I. Cowell's *Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island*, p. 304.

²Sir James Wallace, Captain of the frigate *Rose*.

port and Not Likely to Cum up again I think; the inhabitants talk much of these Looses which I tell them they must apply to the assembly about, and if we meane to help them on account of Government and Save Money two the Government two it must be By Leaving the Island as above But Submit to your Directions and Shall Be glad to her Soone—

From your most Obedient umble Servant

CHRIST° LIPPITT

GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOV. COOKE

LEBANON Jan^y 31st 1776

HON^d SIR

A Large Number of Cannon from 12 to 22 Pounders being wanted in this Colony has necessarily Put upon Devising Ways & Means to Obtain the Same in the Cheapest & Most Expeditious Manner have therefore Sent this by the Bearer to your Honor for Information whether Cannon Can be had in your Colony or at the furnice in Attleborough or other Where in your Vicinity, the Largest Size that has been or Can be Cast at any of those Furnices and the Price at which they May be Purchased, you will be kind Enough to Direct the Bearer to the Place where these things may be known if unable yourself to answer these Queries without too much Trouble.

I Congratulate your Honor on the Happy Reduction of the Tories at Johnstown with S^r John Johnson at their Head Gen^l Schuyler with a large Body of the Sons of Freedom having Disarmed them taken 700 Arms from them and Twelve of their Principle Men now held at Albany as Hostages for their Good Behaviour I am S^r with great Truth & Regard yours Honors

Most Obedient Humb Serv^t

JONth TRUMBULL

Hon^{ble} Nich^s Cooke

GOV. COOKE TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL

PROVIDENCE february y^e first 1776

HONR^d SIR

yours of yesterday come to hand this Evening I went immediety to the owners of the furnace here who informed me

they had ingaged Sixty Cannon for this government and Sixty more for the two men of Wars now Building hear which they Expected would be all that they could make till the last of may without they could be Better Supplied with than they Expected mr Joseph Brown informs me that they can make Cannon of any Size to thirty Six pounders provided they make the larg ones with a chamber according to the new construction of making Cannon he Says that four pounds of Powder is a Sufficient Charg for a Cannon that will carry a thirty Six pound Shot in the new method they will not carry a Shot Quite So far but will carry Smart Enough to do good Execution at the distance that people generally choose to ingag guns made in this form will answer the purpose much better than the other Sort where powder is Scarce one of 36 pound Shot of the new construction will not weigh So much as one of 24 of the old construction the price that they Sel their cannon is thirty five pounds p Ton they make none with a chamber under 24 pounders—they would be very glad to serve you if they can mr Joseph Brown is agoing tomorrow morning amongst all the furna [torn] the Eastward of us to get molders and other workmen he will be [torn] 5 or Six days I desired him to be very perticular [torn] could be made there and whether they were all in [torn] you know as Soon as he Returns I doont Expect [torn] Enough to make cannon larger than nine or 12 pounders if [torn] make a Sufficient Quantity of 12 pounders our furnace may be implyed all to gether in Casting the larger ones mr Brown will be able to give a perticulars when he Returns' I am obliged to yr honner for the intelligence from mount Johnson I think it is time that all nests of Ennemies to their Cuntry were Broken up I think it is Quite time to know who are friends and who are Ennemies to their Cuntry an Enemy in our boosom has it in his power to do us more mischief than one without we have no meterial news hear at present Some firing of cannon was heard towards Boston today we have not yet heard the ocasion

I am Sir With Great truth and Regard
yr honners most obedient & very
Humble Servant

NICH^s COOKE

P. BEGOZZAT TO GOV. COOKE

ST PIERRE Mque 22 february 1776

SIR

this is to inform you that capt Soule¹ is now loading with gun powder, he hath now two thousand, perhaps before eight days we will have ten thousand Completed, if I have not been obliged to provide four other vessels arrived before him, he should be gone with his demand. but we are obliged to Send them one after one.

many french vessels expected have gun powder on board, one Of them got fifty thousand. it is a prospect to have in the next monts about eighty thousand—i have Send away about 20 thousand this months, some other gentlemen bought for the account of merchants in S^b Eustachia about the Same quantity—I am Sir

your most obedient servant

P. BEGOZZAT²

GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOV. COOKE

LEBANON Feb^r 28th 1776

SIR

I Rec^d yours of the 23d Instant by M^r Green³ in Behalf of Messr^s Green & Company. My Council of Safety beeing Present took the Contents into Consideration and as the Object in View was of Common Utility, Voted them Liberty to Purchase three Cargoes of this Colony's Produce for the Purpose Contracted for with the Committee of Congress and Delivered to M^r Green a Copy of the Vote. We Shall not be Able to Spare any more Pork or Flower as Expect to Supply the Army with all we have of those Articles

I Beg the Favour of Some Intelligence from you Concerning the new Construction of Cannon. What is the Construction? What is the Advantage of it, and whether any Skillful Workmen

¹Captain Samuel Soule.²Pierre Begozzat, Governor of Martinique.³General Nathanael Greene. *Colonial Records of Conn.*, vol. XV, p. 246.

may be had in your Parts to Cast either in the Old or new Construction

I am with Grest Esteem

Sir your most Obed^t Hum^{bl} Serv^t
JONth TRUMBULL

Gov^r Cooke

GOV. COOKE TO STEPHEN HOPKINS AND SAMUEL WARD

PROVIDENCE March 12th 1776

GENTLEMEN,

I am informed by a Letter from General Washington of the 9th instant that he had taken Possession of Dorchester Hill & so well secured it that it is out of the Power of the Enemy to dispossess us. He adds that it now seems pretty certain that they can no longer hold the Town, and incloses me a Copy of a Message from the select Men a Copy of which I transmit you. Capt. Manly¹ hath taken another Transport Ship laden with Coals Portor &c She brings no News later than the 2^d December. An armed Transport is also stranded on the back of Cape Cod. The most of her Cargo consisting principally of a few military Stores hath been secured by the Inhabitants; the Mastor Two Midshipmen and a Number of Seamen are made Prisoners. She was bound from Boston to New-York. Last Saturday Night a Detachment went upon Dorchester Point but the Enemy beginning a very heavy Cannonade it was thought best to retreat, in doing w^{ch} we lost 4 Men. The next Day we picked up above 700 Cannon Ball. By pretty good Information I have Reason to believe the Point was again attempted last Night.

Last Friday the Swan, Capt. Ayscough², struck upon the flat Rock near the Blue-Rocks where she lay 4 or 5 Hours Col. Babcock³ got down Two 18 Pounders with which she might have been easily destroyed; but happening to have sent Two Officers with a Flag on board Capt. Wallace who lay at Hope

¹Captain John Manly. Washington appointed him Commodore Jan. 1, 1776.

²Captain John Ayscough, R. N.

³Colonel Henry Babcock. See his letter to Gov. Cooke, March 30, 1776.

Island he did not think proper to make Use of the Opportunity. There being great Uneasiness among the Officers at Rhode Island I have called the Council together to take the State of the Brigade and Col. Babcocks Conduct into Consideration.

I must strongly recommend it to you Gentlemen to use your utmost Influence to have the Brigade immediately put upon the Continental Establishment not only upon the Principle of its being right that the Defence of the Colony should be a publick Charge, but as a Measure essentially necessary for the internal Peace and Security of the Colony.

Since my last M^r Paul Allen hath arrived from Curacoa and brought with him between 30 and 40 C^t Weight of Powder 150 Muskets, some Pistols & Cutlasses. 12000 Flints, some Twine and a Quantity of Duck & Ozenbrigs.

In a violent Gale of Wind last Week several of the Tenders were cast ashore upon Hope Island, and lost their Masts. Two of them have been scuttled and sunk, and it is said they will be obliged to sink Two more for Want of Masts.

I am Gentlemen with great Esteem & Regard
Your most obed^t and
most hble Serv^t

NICH^s COOKE

Hon'ble S. Hopkins & S. Ward Esqrs

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

CAMBRIDGE March 17. 1776

SIR

I have the pleasure to Inform you that this morning the Ministerial Troops evacuated the Town of Boston without destroying It, and that we are now in the full possession, upon which events I beg leave to Congratulate you, and sincerely wish if the Ministry persevere in the same unconstitutional and despotic measures which too long have marked their conduct, that our opposition and resistance in every quarter may be crowned with the success they have been here.

Where their destination is or what plans they have in view, is altogether unknown, most probably the next attempt will be

¹See letter of Washington to Cooke March 17, 1776.

against New York or some more Southern Colony; However I shou'd think, tho I do not beleive they have any design against Rhode Island, that It will be advisable to keep a strict look out, & Submit It to you, whether It may not be proper, against the time you apprehend they might arrive, to call in a number of the Militia and have 'em posted in proper places—I do not mean to direct the measure, but only to mention It for your consideration, to me It appears worthy of attention.

I am Sir

with great esteem

Yr Most Hble Servt

G. WASHINGTON

PS

March 19

The fleet are yet in King & Nantasket Roads

G W

PS At the request of Col^o Babcock¹ I wou'd Inform you that It is not usual to fire upon an Enemy while a Flag is passing between the Armies, But as to the propriety of the Flag alluded to & respect^d Col Babcocks case, I know nothing of It—I think every kind of Intercourse with the Ships sho'd be stopped, we cannot be benefitted by It—they may and certainly will very greatly.

G. W.

H. E. STANHOPE² TO GOV. COOKE

NORTHAMPTON March 19th 1776

SIR

No Opportunity having offered, of writing to Providence; I have not had it in my Power to return You my Thanks, for the Portmanteau You sent me up, & the Bearer of y^e letter did not perform his Promise, of calling on me, before he returnd I have sent You the enclosed from General Washington, for y^r Perusal (which I will beg the Favour of you to return) it is in Consequence of my Application to go to Providence, & from

¹Colonel Henry Babcock. See previous letter March 12, 1776.

²Henry Edwin Stanhope, prisoner in Northampton Gaol. *Journal Cont. Cong.*, vol. V, p. 422, 429.

his Refusal, I am obliged to hire the Bearer to transact my Business I have taken the Liberty of enclosing some Letters to You, which I did, fearing the Jealous part of Mankind would have suspected some Plan; whereas I was sensible that your Name would be a sufficient Sanction for them.

I labour under a very disagreeable Circumstance in Respect of my boarding my Landlord being fearfull as I am sent up by you, whether he will be allowed the Dollar a Week, which is paid for the other Gentlemen; therefore, to remove his Anxiety for the present, I have been obliged to pay him a Part of my Board, till you can be so good as to satisfy me in that Particular

You are so obliging as to inform me that M^r Dyar¹ has a Trunk for me, & by my Inventory I find there is a p^r of Boots, & Shoes in it therefore, if not trespassing too much on y^r Kindness, have sent the Key, & should be glad, if you would send them p^r Bearer, & the Trunk itself as soon as Convenient I imagine I should get it the sooner, if it was sent thro' Cambridge, as M^r Moylan² no doubt will do me the Favour to forward if from thence With many Thanks for y^r Favour—I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Y^r most obedt. humble Servt.

H. E. STANHOPE

PS

The letter directed for M^r Barns Treas desired to inclose to y^u by* a fellow Prisoner who will be much obliged if you will forward it.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

CAMBRIDGE March 21. 1776

SIR

Your favours of the 18 & 19 Instant I received and am extremely sorry to hear that your Militia are so deficient in

¹Eliphalet Dyer, Committee on Conduct of Prisoners. *Journal Cont. Cong.*, vol. I, p. 42.

²Stephen Moylan, Quartermaster-General.

arms—I fear the misfortune is too common, nor do I know how It will be remedied—In this Army, altho I have pursued every mode I cou'd devise for procuring them, there is still a great deficiency & a considerable number of men without any in their hands.—The peculiar situation of Rhode Island—Its extensive Sea coast had not escaped my mind, I well know the Enemy have It in their power to do It considerable damage unless there is a Sufficient force to repel their attempts—But I do not apprehend that they have It in view—It is the opinion of the General Officers here that their destination is against New York, the importance of which, as It secures the free communication between the Northern & Southern Colonies and will prevent them from possessing Hudsons river and from having an easy pass into Canada, makes It absolutely necessary for the whole of this Army, which is but inconsiderable, except that part of It which will be left here to secure the Stores, Barracks & other public property to be marched from hence for Its defence with all possible expedition—It is an Object that commands our first attention, and If lost will be of the most fatal consequence to us in the present unhappy & Interesting struggle—But lest any Hostile attempts shou'd be intended against you, I shall Order the Officers commanding Brigades, If they have Intelligence of an Invasion upon their march, forthwith to return to your succour, and will also direct the Officer who will remain here with the Troops under his command to do the same whenever necessity shall require It.

Agreable to the request made by you & your Honourable General Assembly, I will with cheerfulness and pleasure direct some of the last divisions to goe the Route you wish, If they can be accomodated with sufficient covering & provision, and shall ever be ready & happy to render the Colony of Rhode Island or any other place, any services in my power, that may be compatible with the General good.

I am Sir

with Sentiments of the highest regard
Your & their Most Obed^t Servt

G^o WASHINGTON

STEPHEN MOYLAN,¹ AIDE OF GEN WASHINGTON TO GOV COOKECAMBRIDGE 23^d March 1776

SIR

Your request for Six Seamen taken from the enemy, to be exchanged for Six inhabitants taken & detained by Captain Wallace, is now complied with, tho really Contrary to a Resolve of Congress past the 30th Novm^r which mentions that Citizen should be exchanged for Citizen Officer for Officer, of equal rank, & Soldier for Soldier, the Seamen go under the Care of M^r Burr², I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most H. Ser^t

By His Excellencys Command

STEPHEN MOYLAN

Ade

Governor Cooke

H. WARD³ TO GOV. COOKEEAST GREENWICH March 25th 1776

SIR

Last Evening Messrs Mawdsley, Brinley, Pease, F. & J. Malbone⁴ desired me to confer with them on the unhappy Situation of Newport. I am extremely sorry to say that an unreasonable Jealousy prevails that the C^o of Providence aims at the Destruction of Newport of which you are fully sensible. They desire me to acquaint your Honor that at the same Time they are determined to exert themselves to the utmost to save the Town they sincerely wish to accomplish it by such Measures as will have a Tendency to put an End to the unhappy Jealousies of such pernicious Consequence to the Colony. For this Purpose they desire to see your Honor to propose an amicable Meeting wth you and some of your Friends to endeavour to

¹Stephen Moylan joined the American army in Boston in 1775, where he was selected by Washington to become a member of his staff. Later he was appointed to the Commissary department, and in March 1776, he was made Aid-de-camp to the Commander-in-chief. Sparks' *Writings of Washington*, vols. III, IV.

²Captain Ephraim Burr.

³Henry Ward was at this time Secretary of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

⁴John Mawdsley, Francis Brinley, Simon Pease and Francis and John Malbone.

restore Peace to the Colony. I have told them you will readily meet them upon the Occasion. I will wait upon your Honor any Time this Morning to hear them as you shall appoint.

Your Honors

Most obed^t hble Serv^t

H. WARD

WILLIAM GREENE¹ TO GOV. COOKE

WARWICK 26 March 1776

DEAR S^r

I jest now received a letter from a Near Relation of mine Informing me that she had a Son whose name is Nathan Comstock jun^r who was Taken out of a boat at fishers Island in August last supposd by Cap^t How^s, and as we are About to Exchange prisoners with Cap^t Wallice I am therefore Very Desierous that Your Honour as I suppose the Flag will go on board said ships under your Direction, will give perticular Orders to the barers of the Truce to make Deligent Inquiry whether he is on Board either of said Ships or not and if he is to bring him on shore with the rest we may receive in exchange for the prisoners we Deliver them/my Daughter Phebe who was Very Ill when you left here is Something better but Celia soon After You went Away was Taken with a Shivery fit and now lays with a high Fever and Sore Throat/After You left East Greenwich the same Gentlemen you Converst with concerning the settling the prox³ Invited me to Attend at providence at the Time You mentioned but I told them I shall be oblig^d to Attend the Court, they then Desir^d that I woud write to Your Honour my sentements of the matter, they Informd me they think the County of Newport is Intitled to another Majestrate as they have had One Taken from there, but I can say with Sincerity it is a matter of Indifference with me what Countys they reside in provided they be good juditious men

¹William Greene was a Deputy from Warwick in the Rhode Island General Assembly in May 1776, was chosen Chief Justice of Rhode Island in February 1777 and succeeded Nicholas Cooke as Governor on May 6, 1778. Arnold's *History of Rhode Island*, vol. II.

²Captain Tyringham Howe in command of the British ship *Glasgow*.

³Prox, in Rhode Island, means the ticket or list of candidates at elections presented to the people for their votes.

having the good of the Common Cause at heart and not in the least Tanted with Toriesm, shoud the Gentlemen we converst with Insist upon having the Majestrates plac^d something Different from what they now are and them that are now in will be Satisfied with the Alteration I think it will be Very well to Gratify them reather then have a Devision at this Creticle Time baring in mind what I have above related/I hope You got home safe and found Your Family well to whom please to remember me Very Kindly From Your Sincear Friend.

W^m GREENE

NATHAN MILLER¹ TO GOV. COOKE

MIDDLE TOWN March y^e 29 1776

HONrd SIR

I Now with Inexpressable Anxiety of mind Take my pen To inform you of the Manuvers of the Minnistèral pirates Now Cruising about the Entrance of Our Bays they Have Taken no Less than Five Vessels within Four Days and Now in persute of One or Two More which I Doubt Not they will Bring in there whole Force which Cruize out at this Time might Be Taken by One Brig of Twelve guns well maned which I think might Be Done in three Days there might Be men Enough Taken from the Traine and Other parts of the Armeiy if you Have No Vessel in providence there is a Brig Laying in the Gut at Howlands Ferry which would Answer the purpose Very well these Hints I Submit To your Wise Consideration and Subscribe my Self your Honnours Most Obediant And Very Humb^e Ser^t

NATHAN MILLER

UNSIGNED LETTER, IN HAND OF PETER BEGOZZAT, TO GOV. COOKE

S^t PIERRE. 30 of march 1776

SIR

This will go to you by the way of north carolina, you will be acquainted by it of capt Soule is yet in S^t Pierre expecting two or three thousand more of gun powder to go away.

¹Nathan Miller was made Commissary of the troops under command of Esek Hopkins on Rhode Island in November 1775. Arnold's *History of Rhode Island*, vol. II.

We are expecting vessels every days is long time Since we have none. ten or twelve vessels expected from europa are detained at See by bad whether.

The 13 of this month the government hath made S^t Pierre a free port for all the provisions the north america can afford us. May and June will be a very proper time to have gun powder plenty here.

The bateries of this island are all disposed like in war time, several vessels taken round this island have engaged the governement to Protect any vessel who will be wanting of the assistance of our guns. Our frigate are cruzing to remove the english frigate of our cost.

In this moment we receive to vessels from old france, i hope it will be gun powder enough to clear our Capt Soule in the first day of next week. I hope he will take six guns to fortify himself against the small tender he may fear.

I am

Sir

your most humble
Servant

GOV. COOKE TO COL. WILLIAM RICHMOND

PROVIDENCE March 30th. 1776

SIR

The extraordinary Step taken by Col. Babcock¹ in quartering Troops upon M^r Irish² contrary to an express Act of the General Assembly gives me great Concern. Most sincerely do I wish the Peace of the Brigade; and that the Inconveniences necessarily arising from an Army may not be increased to the Inhabitants by an Abuse of Power. I have thought proper to inclose you a Copy of my Letter to the Colonel upon the Occasion which I hope will operate so as to give Mr. Irish Relief though it cannot Redress. You have a Copy of the Instructions given Col. Babcock duly authenticated I must strongly recommend it to you, in Case of his—deviating from

¹Colonel Henry Babcock.

²George Irish. *R. I. Colonial Records*, vol. VII, p. 472.

them in any material Point, to give me immediate Notice of it that proper Measures may be taken for the Good of the Service.

I am

Sir

Your most obed^t hble Serv^t.

Col. Richmond

NICH.^s COOKE

GOV. COOKE TO COL. HENRY BABCOCK¹

PROVIDENCE March 30th 1776

SIR

I am informed that you have without the Advice of your Field Officers quartered Part of Two Companies—upon M^r Irish. A Conduct so directly in Defiance of the Authority of the General Assembly fills me with Surprise and Astonishment. I hear that you attempt to avail yourself by saying that the Copies of the Acts were not delivered to you through a proper Channel. You yourself were present when they passed & cannot pretend Ignorance. Besides They are at Head-Quarters properly authenticated and must be the Rule for your Conduct. However that nothing on my Part may be neglected I now inclose them to you. And I do strictly give it you in Charge to observe and follow the Instructions given you by the Assembly, and particularly that you immediately clear M^r. Irish's House of the Troops you have quartered there, as you will otherwise be called to answer the Consequences.

I am informed by General Washington by a Letter which came to Hand last Evening that the Men of War & Transports with the Ministerial Troops sailed on Wednesday Afternoon—from Nantasket Harbour, and that there was only a Man of War and Two or Three other armed Vessels remaining there

I am,

Sir

Your most obed^t hble Serv^t.

Col. Babcock

NICH.^s COOKE

¹Henry Babcock was Colonel of a regiment raised in January 1776 as a part of Gen. Wm. West's Brigade. He had a dispute with Col. Wm. Richmond concerning rank. In April 1776 he was placed under arrest and in the following month was dismissed from service. Arnold's *Hist. of R. I.*, vol. II,

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

Head Quarters CAMBRIDGE 31. March 1776

SIR

The Bearer Col^o Putnam¹ who has been employed as an Engineer in the Army under my command, is now on his way to New York; I have order'd him to wait upon your Honor to afford you such advice & assistance in the Construction of your Works as his time will permit. You will find him capable and ingenious, & I am happy in having this opportunity of sending you an officer of such experience—

I am most respectfully

Sir

humble servant

[torn]²

GOV. COOKE TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL

PROVIDENCE April y^e 2 1776

SIR I Recd yours of yesterday by Mr. arnold³ the Express and am much pleased with the Zeal and ardour yr honner has Shewn on all ocasions in this unnateral contest I am now to acquaint you that I have Some Reason to Expect the men that apprehended they had Seen the fleet in the ofing were deceived by the thickness of the weather and the fogs as the fog has cleard away yesterday in the afternoon and no fleet to be Seen in the ofing if anything farther appears Shall give you information immedietly by Express I most Sincearly Condole with you the death of governer ward⁴ a great loss to the contenant in generall and allmost irreparable one to this Coloney one that has affected me most Sensabley Sir I have Sent by the Bearer a little Billet of the Expencc I paid on your Powder and am with great Truth and Regard

your honners' most Sincear friend

and Very Humble Servant

NICH^s COOKETo the Honb^l Jonathan Trumbul Esqr¹Colonel Rufus Putnam.²The signature is mutilated but enough remains to show that the letter was signed by Washington.³Welcome Arnold. *R. I. Colonial Records*, vol. VII.⁴Governor Samuel Ward, b. Newport, R. I., 27 May, 1725; d. in Philadelphia, 26 March, 1776.

BENJAMIN STELLE¹ TO GOV. COOKE

HONOUR'D SIR.

I have it in Command from Col^o. Babcock,² this Day to send two Persons to Providence, who with Seven others lately made their Escape from the Ministerial Fleet, five of whom were our Country-Men, not long since taken, and are Discharged, One a Marine who has inlisted into our Service, The Other, being decoy'd & brought off contrary to his Inclination, is this Day to be exchanged for one of our Country-Men.

I have the Honour to be with great
Respect Your very Humb^l. Servant,
BENJ.^a STELLE

Head Qu^r. 5th April,
1776.

The Honble Nicholas Cooke Esq^r.

GEN. WASHINGTON TO GOV. COOKE

General Washington's Compliments to Governor Cooke and the Gentlemen of Providence, and acquaints them that he intended to have set out on his Journey this forenoon, had he not been prevented by their polite invitation which he will do himself the honor to accept

Saturday Morning—
6th April, [1776]

COL. HENRY BABCOCK TO GOV. COOKE

RHODE ISLAND Head Quarters 6th April 1776

Gov^r Cooke .
SIR

There are now Seven Square Rig^d Vessels Standing in for Newport must beg you would immediately order one thousand men to our assistance

Y^r most obedient
& most humble Servt

HENRY BABCOCK

¹Benjamin Stelle was adjutant of Col. William Richmond's regiment of Rhode Island troops raised in Nov. 1775; adjutant in Tallman's regiment 1776 and Assistant Paymaster, March 1778. Arnold's *History of Rhode Island*, vol. II.

²Colonel Henry Babcock.

P.S. we have a little Sport with Capⁿ
Wallace this morning & have fired thro &
thro him

COL. HENRY BABCOCK TO GOV. COOKE

RHODE ISLAND Head Quarters 13th April 1776

Gov^r Gooke

SIR

I propose sending a Flag on Board the Scarborough to settle
a Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners as we have several
hope it will meet with Your Approbation—Once more must beg
you would send down the 24 W Shot & some Cartridge Paper

I have the Honour to be

Your

most obedient

& most humble Servt

H. BABCOCK

GOV. COOKE TO COL. HENRY BABCOCK

PROVIDENCE April 16th 1776

SIR

Colonel Knox¹ the chief Engineer of the Grand American
Army goes to Newport for the express Purpose of viewing the
Ground and Harbor and advising what Fortifications are
necessary to prevent any Attempts of the Enemy to destroy
the Town. He is accompanied by Major Hendell² of the
Artillery—I recommend them to you and request that you will
give the Colonel every Assistance for that most desirable End.

I am,

Sir

Your most hble Serv^t.

[NICH^s COOKE]

Col. Babcock.

¹Colonel Henry Knox.

²Major Christopher Hendel.

COL. HENRY BABCOCK TO GOV. COOKE¹

Governor Cooke

SR

It is needless for Me to mention to y^r Honor the unparralled Abuse I have received from a Set of Ragamuffins Enemies to the Country—Is it not Surprising that the Torys of the Town of Newport should have had Influence enough, to have me Sent up to Providence; & that they should have had Intrigue enough, to prevail upon that old Woman Richmond² to have acted as he did. That I should be Sent to Goal like a Criminal, & when a bed in the Goal very Sick, faint, & chilly denyed a Physician—forced out of Bed, hurried into a dung Boat; with a Stupid Wretch to command her; run us a Ground in Warren Harbour, Surrounded with Rocks, going at that Time at 7 miles p Hour.—What has been my Crime—The retaking three valuable Prizes, the driving fourteen Armed Vessels out of the Tory Harbour of Rhode Island, & fortifying the Town of Newport.—& establishing Some Discipline in the Brigade; & obliging the Officers to do their Duty, encouraging Some, whilst I reprehended others.—These are the Crimes that I have been imprudently guilty of.—But the real & genuine Sons of Liberty, will not call them Crimes, but rather marks of Superior Skill, and Surprising Activity uncommon Zeal & Intrepidity—Now Sir, as I have made the Art of War my Study, as well as Practice, flatter myself that you have no Person in your Colony; that can supply my Place.—But have this only Proposal to make, provided its agreeable to the Hon^{ble} the General Assembly, I will agree to resign, provided they will, previous to that, elect Me a Member of the Hon^{ble} Continental Congress.—where I believe I might very possibly serve my Country in the Cabinet as well as in the Field—

I am with great Esteem & Respect
Y^r Honors most obedient
& most humble Servant

HENRY BABCOCK

¹This letter is indorsed as received in April 1776.

²Colonel William Richmond.

COL. WILLIAM RICHMOND¹ TO GOV. COOKE

NEWPORT, April ye. 17.th. 1776

HON^d. SIR

I have thought fit by the advice of my officers to make Provision for Co^l. Henry Babcock to wait on you at Providence in the Care of Cp^t David Dexter. the Peace of the Town of Newport and Regularity of the Troops here Requires it. the more Immediate Cause of this I must Beg leave to Refer you to my Letter of this date, which I Expect has Cum to hand Before this from your

Mos^t Obediant umble Servant

WILLIAM RICHMOND

To

The Hon^{ble} Nicholas Cooké Esq.

GOV. COOKE TO COL. WILLIAM RICHMOND

PROVIDENCE April 21st. 1776

SIR

Inclosed you have the Resolutions of the Committee—respecting Colonel Babcock, the removing the Buildings in the Way of the Works at the Point, and for fortifying Goat Island. I have received a List of Artillery Stores wanted at Newport, some of which I am informed can be procured there and the Quantity of the others is not expressed. I must desire you to pay a particular Attention to this Matter, and to furnish me with exact Accounts of the Articles wanted that must be had here.

I desire you to send up here by Water as the River is free from the Enemy's Ships all the Prisoners you have excepting the Man who hath a Wife who with his Wife you will keep there.

¹William Richmond was colonel of a regiment of 500 men raised in Nov. 1775; recommended to Congress as colonel of the first R. I. Regiment Aug. 9, 1776. His regiment was disbanded in Nov. 1776. He was a member of the Rhode Island Committee of Safety Oct. 1775. In August 1776 he was recommended to the Continental Congress to command the R. I. Brigade. Arnold's *History of Rhode Island*, vol. II.

As the fortifying of Newport is an Object of the utmost Importance I must urge you to exert the whole Strength of the Troops in carrying on that necessary Work.

I am,

Sir

Your most hum.^e Serv.^t

Col. Richmond

NICH.^s COOKE

GOV. NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEN. WASHINGTON

PROVIDENCE April 23^d 1776

SIR

I did myself the Honor in my Letter of Jan. 21st to inclose to your Excellency a Copy of a Memorial from the General Assembly to the Hon'ble Continental Congress to which I beg Leave to refer you and

When I had the Pleasure of seeing you here I laid before you very fully the distressed Situation of this Colony and the enormous Expences we were necessarily put to in defending such an extensive Line of Sea-Coast which I thought you very well convinced it was impossible for the Colony to support.

I prevailed upon Col. Knox,¹ who passed through this Town in his Way to Norwich, to take a View of Newport and to direct such Works to be thrown up as he should think necessary for the Defence of that Place. He is clearly of Opinion that the Town of Newport may be secured and hath left some Directions which I have ordered to be carried into Execution. They have begun the Works and I believe will this Day complete a Battery which commands the North Entrance of the Harbor. Tomorrow they begin the Fortifications upon Fort Island. And if it be in our Power to complete them I have no Doubt but it will put a total End to Toryism in this Colony. As Col. Knox's Stay was very short his Plans are not particular nor exact. If it were possible for your Excellency to spare from your Army some Person acquainted with Fortification to assist were it only for a few Days you would do us a particular Favour and a most essential Service to the common Cause.

Col. Babcock² hath given such incontestible Proofs of Insanity that his Officers were obliged to put him under an

¹Colonel Henry Knox.

²Colonel Henry Babcock.

Arrest and send him under a Guard to Providence. The General Committee have continued the Arrest and referred the Matter until next Week when the Assembly meets, who will most certainly dismiss him.

I beg the Favour of your Excellency to represent the State of the Colony to Congress, and to recommend to them the taking our Brigade (which is inlisted to serve in any of the United Colonies) into Continental Pay; and to establish a Force here for the Defence of the Colony.

I am with great Truth and Esteem,

Sir

Your Excellency's

Most obed^t & most hble Serv^t

NICH^s COOKE

His Excell^y Gen^l Washington

JOSHUA BABCOCK¹ TO GOV. COOK

WESTERLY 25th April 1776

Governor Cooke

SIR

Your obliging Favour of 21st p Mr Berry² I am honour'd with. Am confident it is needless to notice your Honor that it is no new or unusual Event for under Officers to be Studious of Reasons to justify Them in Trampling on the Heels of Such as are prior to Themselves in Command. Self-Love prompting Them hereto; and where & when they can be heard with any Attention, an eternal Larum will be rung, they will be ceaselessly ringing their Peals; in Consequence hereof You, Sir, have done Honour to your Appointment in Chiding Col^o Richmond³, as is apparent by the Paragraph alluded to. Harry's⁴ Health is bad, Drinking any Thing Strong is pernicious. Anxiety for the Success of the Service, added to a bad Habit of Body with Sleepless Nights has destroyed his Flesh, He is a

¹Joshua Babcock was Deputy from Westerly, May, 1775; appointed postmaster at Westerly, May 1775; on Committee to procure arms March 1776; appointed Maj. Gen. of Militia, May, 1776. *R. I. Colonial Records*, vol. VII.

²Peleg Berry.

³Colonel William Richmond.

⁴Colonel Henry Babcock, son of General Joshua Babcock.

mere Skeleton. I have assured Him if He will not totally abstain from every Thing Stronger than Small Beer, I Shall from my paternal Affection oppose his having any Command in the Army; as we ought to love our Country more than any Individual, the nearness of the Tye notwithstanding.

I thank your Honor for Suffering Him to come Home, I am, Sir, with Sincerest Gratitude your most obedient and most humble Servant

JOSH BABCOCK

P.S. Harry is So low, that with me its doubtful whether He'l be able to wait on the Gen^l. Assembly next Week.

COL. WILLIAM RICHMOND TO GOV. COOKE

Head Qut^s NEWPORT 30th Ap^l 1776

HON.D SIR

Since your last I have recd the 500# Powder from Bedford, I have inclosed you the whole Strength of the Brigade, the work goes on very Brisk, But would go on much Brisker were we not defficient of Tools we want 100 Shovells & 50 Spades, as, to the manner of our Fortyfying for Particulars must refer You to M^r Ward—

I am with Respects y^r Honors most ob^t & most Hum Servant

WILLIAM RICHMOND

To Honble N Cooke Esq^r

PETER BEGOZZAT TO GOV. COOKE

To the Honorable [torn]

governor of [torn]

SIR

this letter will inform you, Capt Samuel Soule is departed from hence the 14 of april. he hath done very well to wait no longer for 3000 of gun powder he wanted more, because our french vessels have been detained by the Contrary winds till the 6 of this month. Since that time we have received 14 vessels laden with provisions & dry goods. they have imported about hundred thousand pounds of gun powder & Some Casses of fire arms. the first powder hath been paid 5. .w/ the americans

have purchased about the half at that rate. the price fall now every day. I hope the next monts it will be no more than 4..

about five days a general assembly hath resolved here the americans will be received here with provisions of all Sorts. I think it will be profitable to the americans to send here the produce of their country to exchange them for goods they want. the profit of the entry, will pay the risq they will run.

I hope the next month we will receive about hundred thousand wheight of gun powder at least, you may depend upon that. & any vessel Send here to that purpose will [torn]

I wish to be informed of the Safe arrivcy of your son in law M^r Paul Allen, and of your Sloop diamond Capt Soule.

i am Sir

your most humble Servant

P. BEGOZZAT

GOV. COOKE TO STEPHEN HOPKINS

PROVIDENCE May 7th 1776

SIR

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 8th instant which I laid before the General Assembly who appointed a Committee to take it into Consideration & prepare Instructions to the Delegates. Dependency is a Word of so equivocal a Meaning and hath been used for such ill Purposes and Independency with many honest but ignorant people carrying the Idea of eternal Warfare the Committee thought it best to avoid making Use of either of them. The Instructions you will receive herewith passed both Houses Nomine contradicente. I enclose you a Copy of an Act discharging the Inhabitants of the Colony from Allegiance to the British King, and of another dismissing Col. Babcock. The First mentioned Act after being debated was carried in the Lower House almost unanimously their being upwards of Sixty Members present and but Six Votes against it. Towards the close of the Session a Vote passed the Lower House for taking the Sense of the Inhabitants at large upon the Question of Independency. The Upper House were of Opinion that although a very great Majority of the Colony were perfectly ripe for such a Question

yet upon its being canvassed several Towns would vote against it & that their Appearance of Dissension would be injurious to the common Cause represented to the Lower House that it was very probable the Subject would be discussed in Congress before it would be possible to take the Sense of the Colony in the proposed Way & transmit it to the Delegates; in which Case they would be laid under the Necessity of waiting for the Sentiments of their Constituents and of Course the Colony would lose its Voice; and that the Delegates when they should receive a Copy of the Act renouncing Allegiance and of their Instructions could not possibly entertain a Doubt of the Sense of the General Assembly. Upon which the Motion was dropped.

The Cerberus and an armed Brig. have both watered at Block Island lately, and receive all the Supplies from thence the Island can afford. One of the Inhabitants hath lately purchased at Groton a Hogshead of Jamaica Rum for which he paid in Silver and which was undoubtedly for the Ship's Use. It is true that there is but a small Stock upon the Island not more than 3 or 400 Sheep with some working Cattle and Milch Cows but these may be of great Importance to the Enemy. Besides which the Island will afford every Species of Vegetables necessary for the Health of the Seamen; and the Captain of the Cerberus hath already given Orders to sew large Quantities and promised high Prices for them as an Encouragement. The Enemy also procure all the Intelligence they want by Means of the Inhabitants. The Assembly have ordered that they shall have no Communication with any Part of the Colony but Newport under the Inspection of a Committee; that if they are detected in carrying more Necessaries upon the Island than are allowed by the Committee they shall suffer the Punishment inflicted upon those who supply the Enemy; and that every Inhabitant found in any other Part of the Colony shall be immediately imprisoned. The General Assembly thought they could go no further as the removing near 600 Souls from their whole Property would be deemed a very great Hardship without providing for their Support which in the exhausted State of the Colony would prove a Burthen too great to be born. Perhaps this Affair had better be immediately taken into Consideration by Congress.

I have the Pleasure to inform you that at a full Meeting of the Inhabitants of Newport last Week they came unanimously into a Resolution to enter into the Defence of the Town, and have accordingly begun to work with Spirit to fortify it. Col. Knox¹ is of Opinion that it can easily be defended against any Frigates, in which Case the Harbor within Goat Island will prove a safe Asylum for Vessels and from its Easiness of Access from the Sea may be attended with great Advantages. This happy Event I flatter myself will root up all the Seeds of Disaffection in the Colony.

The screening Vessels belonging to Inland and the British West Indies from Capture is a very great Discouragement to fitting out Vessels of War, as it is supposed British Property will be cloked under false Bills of Sales One Privateer is fitting from this Port, and another from Swansey.

I am with great Esteem,
Sir Your most hum^l Serv^t

Hon S. Hopkins Esq.

NICH^a COOKE

GOV. COOKE TO GEN. WASHINGTON

PROVIDENCE JUNE 20th 1776.

SIR

It is with great Pleasure that I do myself the Honor to transmit to your Excellency the inclosed Vote of the General Assembly.

The putting the Colony Brigade upon the Continental Establishment for which we esteem ourselves so much indebted to your Excellency gave the highest Satisfaction. M^r Hopkins² sent me the Commissions with Power to fill up those for the Captains and Subalterns as should be thought best here, but added that "as the Field Officers will be appointed or at least approved by Congress I could wish that you would transmit to me the Names of such Gentlemen as you may think most capable to fill those Offices." The General Assembly have not nominated any Persons to those Offices.

I most earnestly request your Excellency's Attention to the Troops in this Colony and to the Necessity of appointing an

¹Colonel Henry Knox.

²Stephen Hopkins.

Officer of Ability and Reputation to command them, which is most ardently wished by everybody.

I am with great Respect

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient and

Most Humble Servant

[NICH^s COOKE]

WILLIAM ELLERY TO GOV. COOKE

PHILADELPHIA June 21st 1776

SIR

Since our last the Time of Congress hath been principally taken up in considering the Report of the Commissioners who have returned from Canada, and in devising and determining upon Measures for securing our Posts, and supplying our Troops in that Department with Cloathing and Provision.—Our Accounts from that Quarter are so various that We do not know which to depend upon. General Sullivan's Letter of the 5th & 6th of June, an Extract of which was in last Monday's New York Paper, gives us a favorable, and Gen^l Arnold's of the same Date, an unfavorable Account of the Situation of our Affairs. Indeed Sullivan was at the Mouth of the Sorrel, and Arnold at Montreal—However We hope that Gen^l Gates¹ who is appointed to the Command of the Northern Army (Gen^l Wooster is recalled and Gen^l Thomas² dead as you have doubtless heard) will restore Order to our distracted Troops and retrieve the Reputation of our Arms.

The Grand Question of Independence was brot upon the Tapis the Eighth Instant, and after having been coolly discussed, the further Consideration thereof was on the 10th postponed for three Weeks, and in the mean Time, least any Time should be lost in Case the Congress should agree to the proposed Resolution of Independance, a Commee was appointed to prepare a Declaration to the Effect of said Resolution, another a Form of Confoederation, and a Third a Plan for foreign Alliances.

A Board of War & Ordnance is established,—Post ordered to

¹General Horatio Gates.

²General John Thomas.

be taken at Fort Stanwix; and, which ought to have been mentioned in another Place, Gen^l Washington is requested to cause an—Inquiry to be made into the Conduct of the Officers in Canada &c. Beside these a Number of Resolves have passed, some of which have been published in the News Papers and therefore it would be idle and unnecessary to repeat them, and others are at present (secret) to be kept secret, or relate to particular Persons or Things, are not of general Concern; the former we ought not and it is not worth while to mention the latter. A Resolve respecting Prisoners taken in Arms you may not have received. We therefore inclose it.—We are not a little Surprised that the Resolve of Congress for taking our Battalions into continental Pay had not reached you when M^r Ward¹ wrote Us.—M^r Hopkins² dispatched it by an Express (Anthony) the 15th of May.—John Hopkins is appointed to the Command of the largest Ship, called Warren after D^r Warren of glorious Memory, and Samuel Tompkins to the Command of the smallest called Providence.—We shall continue from Time to Time to give you an Account of such Resolves of Congress as we may be allowed, and think proper to communicate. But if We should not write so frequently as our Constituents may wish, We hope it will not be attributed to a Neglect of our Duty; but because We have nothing of Moment to communicate—Business doth not proceed so rapidly in Congress as in some other Assemblies. Matters of Importance sustain great Deliberation. We should be glad to be made acquainted with such of the Doings of the General Assembly as it concerns Us to know as soon as may be convenient, and are with great Respect.

Y^r Honours most Obedient
humble Servant

WILLIAM ELLERY

P.S. The Post being just about
to set out & M^r. Hopkins not
being at his Lodgings this
Letter therefore goes out with-
out his Signature

W E

¹Henry Ward.

²Stephen Hopkins.

GOV. COOKE TO GEN. ARTEMAS WARD

PROVIDENCE June 27. 1776

SIR

Com. Hopkins¹ together with Capt. Saltonstal² of the Alfred & Capt. Whipple³ of the Columbus being called to Philadelphia by the Congress the Command of the Fleet hath devolved upon Capt. Biddle⁴ of the Andrew Doria who I am informed sailed from Newport on Tuesday last on a Cruize; whether he hath returned or not I am uncertain. In this Circumstance I thought it prudent to open your Letter to the Commodore in order to give every Assistance in my Power in the publick Defence. I shall immediately send the Letter by Express to Newport to Capt. Biddle to meet him in Case he hath returned; which is all I can do as it is not in my Power to give any Orders to the Fleet.*

I am with great Esteem and Regard

Sir

Your most obed^t and most hble Serv^t

NICH^s COOKE

Hon'ble Artemas Ward Esq

*The Columbus is fully manned and fit for the Sea, the Alfred is also fit for the Sea but hath not above Half her Compliment of Hands. Neither of them have any Orders, and consequently cannot proceed to Sea The Sloop Providence is now in Boston-Bay and I imagine Capt. Biddle's Cruise is the same Way. The Cabot Capt Hinman⁵ got into New-London on Tuesday Evening last from a Cruize. Upon the whole I do not think it probable that any Assistance can be expected upon this Occasion from the Ships here.

¹Commodore Esek Hopkins.

²Captain Dudley Saltonstall.

³Captain Abraham Whipple.

⁴Captain Nicholas Biddle.

⁵Captain Elisha Hinman.

JOHN NICOLL¹ TO GOV. COOKEGLOUSTER July 15th 1776

SIR

I take the liberty and freedom to write to you, not as Governor of the Colony, but as a Friend—You are not unacquainted with my situation—Banish'd from my Family—after being twelve years in the Government—An Officer of the Crown, and not one thing alledg'd against me, except an ungrounded suspicion, by a Body of Men quite unacquainted with my Principles and conduct—As my absence from my Family, must bring them to great distress; I beg your influence, and shall esteem it as a favour to point out a way to effect my relief; so that I may return to my Home

Sir

your most obedient
and very humble Serv^t

JOHN NICOLL

GOV. COOKE TO STEPHEN HOPKINS AND WILLIAM ELLERY

PROVIDENCE July 16. 1776

GENTLEMEN,

I have now before me your Favours of the 21st June, and 5th inst. and am much obliged by the Communications you have made me. M^r Anthony by whom the Resolve for taking our Battalions into Pay was forwarded was taken sick upon the Road which occasioned a Delay of several Days.—

We have already Two Privateers out from this Place and One from Greenwich. Three more are now fitting from this Town and will soon sail. Capt Chace² brought with him Four 4 Pounders, Six 3 Pounders, and Eight Swivels which are greatly wanted here for Privateers. I have written to the General to permit us to take them for that Use at the full

¹John Nicoll was Comptroller and Revenue officer of the Crown at Newport R. I. and one of those who, "in fear of their lives," fled, on August 28, 1775, to the English sloop of war *Signet*, then in Newport Harbor. On August 30, 1775 he wrote to Gov. Cooke demanding protection. In June 1776 the General Assembly declared him "unfriendly" to the United Colonies because of his refusal to subscribe the test, ordered him removed to Gloucester R. I. and confined to the limits of that town. Arnold's *History of R. I.*, vol. II.

²Captain William Chace.

Value in Case they can be spared, and if any Opportunity offers I request your Assistance upon this Occasion.

You have doubtless seen the Test-Act passed by the General Assembly of this Colony. Last Friday and Saturday about 70 Persons in Newport were called upon to subscribe all of whom but Three refused; in Consequence of which Warrants were given to the Sheriff to disarm them, which I hear he is executing.

If the Enemy are not able to make an Impression at New York it is highly probable that a Part of the Army may attack Rhode Island. You Gentlemen are sensible in what a miserable Posture of Defence we are; and I must earnestly entreat you to exert your Endeavours to procure a Person of Ability to command the Forces there.

I write by this Post to the President to which Letter I refer you and am with great Esteem and Regard,

Your most obed^t & most hble Serv^t

NICH^s COOKE

Honble S. Hopkins & Gentlemen,
W. Ellery Esqrs

GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE TO GOV. COOKE

Camp on LONG ISLAND July 22 1776

DEAR SIR

I may be chargeable with want of Respect for being silent so long, but I can Assure you it is not for want of respect but time. General Hows Army is encamp't on Statton Island. Admiral How has arriv'd and has attempted to force a Letter upon General Washington without its being properly addrest. The Adjutant General of Hows Army was in town upon that business a few days past, but the General did not receive the Letters, therefore the contents remains a Secret. The forces are drawing together here on both sides. Seven Sail of large Ships got in yesterday, suppos'd to be part of Hows fleet. Our Troops comes in slowly, but I doubt not but that we shall have an Army soon sufficient to act upon the offensive, the Enemy are entrenching upon Statten Island, they are apprehensive of

some mischief. The flying Camp is expected to be altogether this week. they are to be stationed in the Jerseys.

General Lee¹ has given General Clinton a cleaver snubing it almost amounts to a total defeat, he lost only twelve men, and twenty wounded, Clinton lost near two hundred. Our people behavd with great Spirit. Every thing still goes badly in the Northern Army. The General has come to one of the most mad resolutions I ever heard off, that is to quit Crown point there never could be a worse piece of policy, we look att the advantage upon the Lake, we have now such a Superorety there that the Enemy could not injure us this Summer. We lay all the back parts of New England open. Crown point is a fine healthy spot and capable of being made exceeding strong, the post they purpose to take is strong but very unhealthy. General Sullivan has got mift at General Gates new appointment, he is coming home. General Scuyler dont act the General so much as he does the Commisary and Quarter master, or rather has not hither too what he may do in future I am not able to say. The Southern and Northern People have got into a practice of reflecting upon one another. Animosity steals in and I greatly fear the consequences if not seasonably checkt, something ought to be done to silence such foolish disputes. I have no Apprehensions upon my mind for any department but the Northern and everything there is strangely Perplext.

We are strongly fortified here everything in readiness and the troops in good Spirits. I have not the most distant apprehensions for this Army.

The troops in my Brigade have been exceeding Sickly, those that were on board the fleet brought a putrid fever into the Camp at their return from the Ships that has raged to a prodigious degree, and Swept off a large number, but its malignity begins to cease. The Officers in general are well.

Believe me to be with the greatest respect your Most obedient humble Servant

NATH GREENE

¹General Charles Lee. The reference is to General Henry Clinton's attack on Sullivan's Island. Sparks' *Correspondence of Amer. Revolution*, vol. I.

GOV. JAMES BOWDOIN TO GOV. COOKE

BOSTON July 29. 1776

SIR

I had the honour of your Letter of y^e Post, inclosing Lord Howe's circular Letter & Declaration to this Government, together with a Copy of your Answer to a like Letter from his Lordship. I shall imediately transmit them to the Council at Watertown.

Your Answer to Lord Howe expresses the mind, I believe, of every one of the United States. I am sure it does of this. If he has no further powers than appear by these Papers, he is probably before this time convinced, that his Commission is very inadequate to the effecting the Business he professes to have come upon—the Re-establishment of Peace between the United States and Great Britain.

I have the Honour to be With the most perfect Regard

Y^r Hon^{rs}

most obed^t hble Serv^t

JAMES BOWDOIN

His Honor Gov^r Cooke

GEN. HORATIO GATES TO GOV. JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

TYCONDEROGA 11th August 1776

SIR

I must entreat your Excellency to pardon my so long delaying to send you a particular State of the Army of the United States in this Department, upon my First Joining the Troops/ or rather the Hospital/ at Crown Point all was in the Utmost Disorder, the pestilence Raging not a Canon mounted, the Vessells Lumber'd with Stores, the Men Dispirited with Defeat & Fatigue & in short the whole a Scene Varigated with every Distress & Disappointment that could conspire to Ruin an

¹The foregoing letter of General Horatio Gates, which contains internal evidence that it was written to Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut, is found with the Nicholas Cooke correspondence in the form of a copy, accompanied by a much mutilated letter of transmittal from Governor Trumbull to Governor Cooke. Copies of two of the enclosures referred to in General Gates' letter, namely, the Abstract of the Journal of Major John Bigelow and General Carleton's orders issued in consequence of the dispatch conveyed by Major Bigelow's flag of truce, are enclosed with the letter and are here printed.

Army—in this miserable State the First thing to be done was, if Possible, to remove the Pestilence, Accordingly the General Officers unanimously resolved to send all the Sick, & Infected to the General Hospital at the South End of Lake George; to remove the Main Body of the Army to the important pass of Tyconderoga; to send the Vessells with the utmost Dispatch to be refitted at Skeenesborough; & to begin to Erect Strong Works upon the Ground Described in the Inclosed plan these Measures, thank the Giver of all Victory, the Enemy either have not had the means, or the Wisdom to prevent;—Our Fleet since the Arrival of the reinforcement of Carpenters grows daily more & more powerful, inclosed is a List of those Man'd, Armed, & ready for Action at Crown Point a Schooner, a Row Gally & three more Gondolas are rigging here & will this Week Join those at Crown Point when General Arnold¹ will sail with the whole down the Lake—Three fine Row Gallies will be finished in a Fortnight at Skeenesborough & directly Join the rest of the Fleet under General Arnold, this is a Naval Force, when Collected that promises to Secure the Comand Lake Champlain—I ordered Colonel Trumbull² to send your Excellency a General Return of the Army soon after Our return hither and Desired him to write your Excellency an Account of the then State of our Affairs, happy am I in saying they are so much altered for the Better. In this packet You will find a Copy of my last letter to the most Honorable the Continental Congress, also the report of Major Bigelow³ who return'd last Night with his Flagg of Truce, which he carried from hence the 23^d Ult. with the Resolves of Congress relative to the Capitulation at the Cedars & the Exchange of prisoners engaged for by General Arnold General Carletons Orders Issued in consequence of the Dispatch sent by the Flagg of Truce you will find enclosed; They astonish me for with their prosperity, the Generals of the British Army seem to have lost their good Understanding.

Inclosed is a Letter I This moment sent off Express to Major Hawley⁴ at Northampton; I must beg your Excellency Author-

¹General Benedict Arnold.

²Colonel John Trumbull.

³Major John Bigelow.

⁴Major Joseph Hawley.

ity may be exerted to bring these delinquents to Justice, if that cannot be had let them feel all the shame & disgrace they so richly Deserve from their Injured Country, a Captain & Thirty Nine Carpenters, from Rode Island, Hired by the united States, at prodigious Wages, General Waterbury¹ writes me Word, are Inoculated at Williams Town. I beg you Sir to write to Governor Cooke to Dismiss them immediately, pay they do not deserve a penny, they should on no Account be permitted to come to Skeensborough, I am confidently assured we can do without them.

The Massachusetts Militia I am told by Brigadier General Bricket,² who arrived here last Night, are all near at hand, & have all Tents & Camp Equipage with them—I am sorry to be informed that my respectable Friends from Connecticut are coming without these necessary Articles; New Hampshire have sent their Militia equally Deficient, Col^o Wingates³ and Col^o Wymans⁴ Regiments from that Colony are now in this Camp.

I am Harrassed to death with writing the Congress, Genl Washington, General Schuyler, I am Obliged constantly to Correspond with; the whole Business of this Army to Direct, with all the Variety of writing demanded thereby, & to make the Load the Heavier; my principal Copyist is Sick. Your Son, who is very industrious, does all he can to Aid me but his Own Duty is enough for any one Man—This Sir must be my Apology for all Imperfections—with the Greatest respect—

I am—Sir

Your Excellencys most

Faithful & most Obed^{nt} hum^{bl}e

Servant

HORATIO GATES

P.S.

Your Excellency will please to Communicate all, or any part of this Intelligence, to the president of the Massachusetts Bay

¹General David Waterbury.

²Brigadier General James Bricket.

³Colonel Joshua Wingate.

⁴Colonel Isaac Wyman.

ABSTRACT of the Journal of Major John Bigelow,¹ Sent by the Hon^{ble} Major General Gates, to Transmit Despatches from the Most Hon^{ble} the Continental Congress, to General Burgoyne

TYCONDEROGA July 23^d 1776

I Departed from this Post, at SunSet, arrived at Crown Point at 11 O Cl^o at Night, whence after a Short Stay, I proceeded on my Voyage, till, on the 28th I met with a Sergeants Guard of the British Troops; and having taken the Sergeant into our Batteau, we Soon reached the Isle-aux-Noix, There we were hailed by a Sentinel who ordered us to come on Shore. We Saw Nine or Ten Tents on the Island, all in a Cluster, I had no sooner landed, than I was blindfolded, and led up to the Comanding Officers Tent, About Dusk he ordered me to a Small Island, Situated to the Southward of Isle-aux Noix The

¹Captain John Bigelow was from Hartford, Conn. He was one of the party sent from Connecticut to capture Ticonderoga in May 1775. In January 1776 he recruited the first company of artillery raised in Connecticut and was immediately assigned to the Northern Department, being stationed at Ticonderoga during the summer and fall of 1776. Later in the year he was appointed Major in Col. Wyllys' Connecticut Regiment. In July 1776 Major Bigelow was sent with a special flag of truce to convey dispatches from the Continental Congress to General Burgoyne under the following circumstances:

In May 1776 Colonel Bedell's New Hampshire Regiment, temporarily under command of Major Butterfield, together with a relief party under Major Sherburn, surrendered to a force of British Regulars, Canadians and Indians under Captain Foeter (Forster) of the British forces. A cartel for the exchange of these prisoners for British prisoners held in various parts of the country was entered into and approved by General Arnold. The prisoners were delivered to General Arnold for exchange but the claim was made that before this delivery the men were plundered by the Indians in violation of the conditions of surrender and that at least one man was killed and other atrocities were committed after the surrender.

The Continental Congress, to which the matter was referred, passed a formal resolution to the effect that the terms of the capitulation had been violated, that the murder of prisoners of war was a "gross and inhuman violation of the laws of nature and nations" and that the agreement for exchange entered into by General Arnold was a mere "sponson" not binding upon Congress but that Congress would ratify the agreement upon condition that the British Commander in Canada should deliver into the hands of Congress "the authors, abettors and perpetrators of that horrid murder committed on the prisoners, to suffer such punishment as their crime deserves; and also, to make indemnification for the plunder at the Cedars, taken contrary to the faith of the capitulation." Congress also resolved that in case of further violence of this kind recourse would be had to retaliation and that "punishment of the same kinds and degree be inflicted on an equal number of the captives from them in our possession till they shall be taught to respect the violated rights of nations."

The Commander in Chief of the Continental Forces was ordered to send copies of these resolutions to General Howe and General Burgoyne. Major Bigelow was assigned to transmit these dispatches to General Burgoyne, in connection with which undertaking his journal was prepared. *Connecticut Military Record. Journals of the Continental Congress.*

Commanding Officer, who I understood, was Captain Craig,¹ questioned me concerning my Business, which I told him, was with General Burgoyne to whom I was sent with a Letter from Congress, Delivered to me at Tyconderoga, by Major General Gates, He answered he did not know, whether he could receive a Flag but Desired I would Give him the Letter, which he would forward to the General then, as he said, at S^t Johns

He told me that the Gentleman to whom the Letter was Directed was indeed a General, but not the Comanding Officer in Canada. I answered that, I Supposed the Letter was Directed to General Burgoyne, on Account of General Thompson's² having Mentioned him, as the Commanding Officer at the Three Rivers, when he, General Thompson, sent up to Sorrel for his Baggage.

Captain Craig Dispatched, about Nine at Night, an Officer with that and other Letters to St Johns, I remained in his Tent, where I was civilly Treated, Two other Officers supped with us, and whether from Politeness, or Policy, or both, Little was Said on, political Subjects, & asked Captain Craig, whether there were British Officers with those Savages, who in cool Blood Murdered our Officers, opposute to that Isle; he answered in the Affirmative I could not help replying that our Army would Scarcely Believe, that Such Barbarities Should have been Suffered to be perpetrated, where Britons had the Comand, He urged that they could not always govern the Savages who, said he, "will Fight in their own way," M^r Craig appeared Desirous to decline any further Conversation on that Subject

I believe that Captain Craig had not been long at Isle-aux-Noix, when I landed there, I lodged in his Tent; but must not omit, that the Drummer who landed with me, said he observed an Officer, whispering to a Sergeant when the Boat was near the Shore, and overheard him ask "What he thought of the Congress?" I understood there were no more than Three Batteaus on the Island, when I went on Shore, one of which formerly belonged to our army, the two others were newly Buit, and the Number (30) was marked in large Figures, upon one of them

¹Captain James Henry Craig.

²Colonel William Thompson.

On the 29th of July, Captain Craig Sent three Batteaus, and Five Canoes up the Lake, Two of the Latter were large, the three others small at Ten in the Morning, I was Blindfolded again, and ordered to the South part of the Island, where a large Tent was pitched for me, It appeared to me, that they had concerted to exhibit to me all the Show of Indians they could, They, now and then, ran down to the Point, with a Guard every Time that an Indian Canoe passed by; and pretended they were mightily affraid, that the Savages would come on Shore and murder us, to Mortify them, I took no Notice of this juggling, but Strongly recommended to my Men, that Should they look at the Indians, they would endeavour to do it with the greatest unconcern.

On the 8th of August, I was informed that the Express, who I was told, had been sent to Quebec, was came back, that Captain Craig presented his Compliments to me, and Desired I would be ready to Sail in the Evening.

I Observed during my stay there, that they paraded at Different Times their Officers, in an Ostentatious Manner, and with the manifest intent to lead me into a Belief of their being very Numerous but I do not think that I saw above Forty of them during the whole Time, and more than together

They Displayed the same Pageantry respecting five or Six Batteaux, appearing exceedingly busy in carrying some Timber to the Isle, merely to shew themselves, and give their preparations a formidable Appearance, they have been employed about Building a very large Bake House and, perhaps for the same reason, They talked much of Hessians and Hanoverians but I saw none. It would be to tedious minutely to relate all the Particulars which Discovered their intentions to make me Believe their Strength was Such as, Doubtless, they would have been as anxious to conceal had it been real I was told, that their General had ordered an Escort to conduct me to our own Guards; a Favour which I did not want but could not refuse— At Sunset Captain Craig came down with Fourteen Officers, and Dismissed me under convoy of a Birch Canoe, Com-manded by Captain Alexander Frazer, and M^r Scott,¹ the Canoe

¹Thomas Scott.

had Two Officers a Sergeant, and Corporal of the British Troops, with Nine French Men on Board—On the 9th just at Dark we came on Shore at, Gillilands and next Morning, at seven O'Clock, Captain Frazer and M^r Scott left us, and went down the Lake after having Shown us as much Civility, as could be expected from Men, whose Situation Sufficiently apologized for their Reservedness. As the Crew I had with me consisted of remarkably Decent Men, all Natives of the United States, and of the Corps of Artillery as well myself, the British Officers during my stay, carefully prevented their free Intercourse with the Soldiers, who would be glad to become again our Brethren

ORDERS OF GENERAL CARLETON

CHAMBLEE August 7th 1776

Parole S^t. Jerome—C; Sign—Paris

G;O

His Excellency General Carleton orders,¹ the Comanding Officers of Corps will take special care every one under their Comand be informed, that Letters or Messages from Rebels, Traitors in Arms against their King, Rioters Disturbers of the Public peace, Plunderers Robbers Assassins or Murderers, are on no Accasion to be Admitted, that should Emmissaries from such lawless men again presume to approach the Army, whether under the Name of Flag of Truce men, or Ambassadors except when they come to implore the Kings mercy, their persons shall be immediately seized & committed to close confinement, in order to be proceeded against as the Law Directs, their papers & Letters, for whomsoever even for the Comander in Chief, are to be Delivered to the Provost Martial that unread & unopened they may be burned by the hands of the common Hangman, at the same time the Commander in Chief expects that the Assasanators of Brigadier General Gordon, nor the late notorious Breach of Faith in resolving not to return the Troops

¹These orders were sent from Quebec on Aug. 4, 1776 in consequence of Maj. Bigelow's flag of truce and were promulgated by Gen. Burgoyne at Chamblee on Aug. 7. They are printed in substantially this form in the *Journal and Orderly Books of Lieut. James M. Hadden.*

& Canadians taken at St. Johns in exchange for those Rebels who fell into the Hands of Savages at the Ceders and Quirnchin, purchd from them at a great price & restored to their Country on those express Conditions, be imputed to the Provincials at large but to a few Wicked & Designing men, who first Deceived, then Step by Step mislead the Credulous multitude to the brink of Ruin, Afterwards usurped Authority over them established a dispotic Tyranny not to be borne, & now wantonly & Foolishly endeavour to provoke the Spilling the Blood of our unhappy Countrymen of this Continent, in hopes of Covering their own guilt or confirming their Tyranny by the General Destruction of their Country; Let their Crimes pursue these faithless bloody minded men who assert that black is White & White is black it belongs to Britons to Distinguish themselves not less by their Humanity than their Valour—it belongs to the Kings Troops to save the Blood of his Deluded Subjects whose greatest faults perhaps is having been Deceived by such Men to their own Destruction. It belongs to the Crown to rescue from Oppression & restore to liberty the once happy Free & loyal people of this Continent.

All Prisoners from the Rebellious Provinces who chuse to return home are to hold themselves in readiness to embark at a short Notice, the Comissary, M^r Murray shall Visit the Transports Destined for them, & see that wholesome Provisions necessary cloathing with possible conveniences for their Passage be prepared for these unfortunate Men, they are to look on their respective Provinces as their Prison & there to remain, till further enlarged or Summoned to appear before the Comander in Chief of this Province or any other Comander in Chief for his Majesty for the Time being which summons they shall obey.

General Howe will regulate their places of Landing.

N.B.¹

A sealed Letter, Directed to George Washington Esq. accompanied this paper, "The resolve of Congress Ordering that no Letters should be received from the Enemy unless the Rank of the Officers to whom they were Address'd were placed

¹This note by General Gates.

on the Superscription" was not received here, when Major Bigelow went from hence the 23^d ult^o, and as that was Dispen-
 penced with, last year at Cambridge he had no Orders upon
 the subject.

Tyconderoga 11th August 1776

P[IERRE] PENET¹ & Co. TO GOV. COOKE

The Right Honr^{le} Governor Cook

NANTES 19. August 1776.

HONBL^e SIR

I had the honnour to receive from your Excellency by Cap^t.
 Crawford, the copy for liberty of trade to all nations, and I had
 also the honnour of writing you by the same vessell which we
 dispatched the 2nd. Ins^t. and you may be assured that I think
 myself much honored of your great attention to that part,
 and your Excellency may also be assured that nothing shall be
 wanting by me to rendre you any services possible, but shall
 think myself much honored by executing any of your com-
 mands.

I take the liberty of begging your Excellency to tell your
 Honbl^e. Committee of Providence, that we shall always do the
 utmost of our endeavours to execute any of their orders they
 shall think proper to favour us with.—I have made my resi-
 dence in Nantes thinking it the best port in france to do the
 business for the united Colonies, and should you or they think
 proper to favour me with a letter please to direct as follows, To
 Mess^{rs} Jac Gruel & C^o. Merch^{ts}. upon Isle feydeau in Nantes.

The political dispositions concerning the Court of france, are
 all in favour of America, so that you need fear nothing from that
 quarter; I wrote General Washington the particulars of the dis-
 courses I had with the Ministers of france, who will communi-
 cate the whole to you.

¹Pliarne, Penet & Company were associated with Dr. Duborg in procuring speculative
 munitions contracts in America. They appear to have had no capital but Penet and one
 of the Pliarnes visited Providence in December, 1775, were introduced to Washington by
 Governor Cooke and were by him referred to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia,
 whither they went. They claimed to have the support of the French Ministry and this
 caused some trouble. In 1780 Penet acted as Agent of Virginia to raise funds in France
 and in 1782 Franklin reported that he was bankrupt and had absconded.

I shall finish with wishing that this may find your Excellency in good health, which would give me honour and pleasure to hear. I Remain your honours—

Most Obed^t &

(Copy)

Most devot^d. Hbl. Serv.

P. PENET & Co.

28th. September 1776

HONBL^e. SIR

The above is Copy of my last since which have had the pleasure of hearing from you—This by Cap^t. Avery for your place only serves to let you know what little news I have.

My Lord Shellburn who was in this City, about five days ago, came to pay me a visit, and as I knew him to be a friend of America, caused us to have a conferrance together, he seems to be pleased with all your success and victory, he hopes that you will be happy and that the Heavens will not permit you to loose so juste a cause, even for which he quitted his place in the Ministry. After hearing his sentiments, I told him my way of thinking, and assured him that the Americans never will be vanquished, that I knew their bravery, and their resolutions, and I myself saw the order & discipline of your Armies, he seemed to be well content with what I told him, and assured me that England was not able to uphold; and likewise said that you need fear nothing from the Russians. I at the same time spoke with a Gentleman who is My Lords friend, and who was about four or five years ago Lord Mayr of London, which gave me all the sentiments of friendship for America. I also have the honour to let you know that we are at the point of having War, at present one Arms our Marine in order to make Sail, that can turn no other way than to your advantage and satisfaction. I give you this news for certain and perhaps by the first oppertunity after this, I shall announce you that War is declared—I have the honour to be with the Sincerest Respect your Honnours

Most Obed^t &

Most dev.^d Hbl^e. Serv^t.

P. PENET & Co.

GEN. JAMES M. VARNUM¹ TO GOV. COOKE

NORTH CASTLE NOV^r 14th 1776

SIR—

I have the Honor of Sending his Excellency General Lee's² Letter, which will be delivered to you by Col^o Crary³. The Contents are important, and doubtless will claim your Serious Attention.—The Multiplicity of Regimental Concerns prevent me from coming immediately to Rhode Island, to exert my feeble Efforts, for the Security of a State, to which I am indebted for my Second Self. However; a Short space of Time will Soon free me from this part of the Service, when, the Sincerest Affection Shall bind my Duty to its proper Object.—Incidents, which I am prepared to explain, exclude me from continuing in the contental Service; I can therefore, however disagreeable, retire a private Citizon, and act for Rhode Island.

I am, Sir, your Excellency's most obed^t humble Sert.

J. M. VARNUM

Honble Nicholas Cooke Esq^r

COL. WILLIAM RICHMOND TO GOV. COOKE

NEWPORT NOVbr 17th 1776

SIR

I have the pleasure to inform you that being returned from the Expedition as Ordered, I Signified to Coll^o Cooke⁴ of the Rho Isld Militia, that I now was ready to take the Command & therefore requested him to issue his Orders Accordingly, to which Coll^o Cooke replied that he thought himself entituled to the Command of his own Regiment and would be glad of your Honours Opinion determining to be ruled by that; I have at

¹James Mitchell Varnum was a graduate of Brown University in its first class. In May 1775 he was appointed Colonel in the Rhode Island Army of observation. He was appointed Brigadier General by the Continental Congress in February 1777 but soon resigned his commission. In 1780 he was Major Gen. of Militia in Rhode Island and later became a member of the Continental Congress from that State. In 1787 he was appointed judge of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territory and removed to Marietta, Ohio where he died about 1789. Cowell's *Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island*.

²General Charles Lee.

³Colonel Archibald Crary.

⁴Colonel John Cooke.

present in my Regiment About Two Hundred Men including the Artillery, and if your Honour chuses to dismiss me & my Regiment, or Signify that I am to Command by a Line to Coll^o Cooke it will amply satisfy me and be no ways displeasing to the Coll^o who waits your Resolve with Pleasure—I have the Honour to be

Sir

Your most Hbble & Obed^t Serv^t

WILLIAM RICHMOND

P.S.: I recd no Answer to the Letter I wrote before and am Sorry that I am Obliged to mention it at present

DAVID AVERY¹ TO GOV. COOKE

MORRISTOWN Jany. 13^h 1777.

HONOURED SIR,

I have the pleasure to inform You that his Excellency Gen^l Washington has appointed our late Major Sherburne² to the command of a Regiment of foot. I rejoice greatly that his noble, military abilities, have met with Such an honourable acknowledgment. As the Colonel is now returning to New England, You will have a very particular account of the state of our army, and operations. Since my last I have been at two actions with the Enemy; and had the Pleasure of Seeing our men act their parts well. The New-England troops have lately rose high in the Esteem of Gentlemen in these parts; and it is presumed that New-England will Stand first on the list as the Saviours of America. The cheerfulness with which the Militia of Massachusetts have turned out for this winter's campaign, does them great honour. I wish I could See men in these parts as nobly Spirited. We hope Soon to have a large and good army, and do Something for our dear country before long. Please make my best Salutations to your Honoured

¹David Avery of Massachusetts was Chaplain 15th Continental Infantry, through 1776; Chaplain of Sherburne's Additional Continental Regiment, 15 Feb., 1777. Heitman's *Hist. Reg. Officers of Continental Army*.

²Henry Sherburne of Rhode Island was Major 15th Continental Infantry Jan. through Dec. 1776; taken prisoner near the Cedars, 20 May, 1776; Major 1st Rhode Island; Colonel, 16th Additional Continental Regiments, Jan. 1777. Retired, 1781. *Ibid.*

Lady and family, and pray daily for him who is with great respect,

Honoured Sir,
Your most obed^t
and most humble

Servant

His Honour

DAVID AVERY

Nicholas Cook Esq^r

WILLIAM BRADFORD¹ TO GOV. COOKE

SOUTH KINGSTOWN (Little Rest) Mayst 21 1777

SIR/.

Rec^d the inclosed about two o'clock this morning p^r Express and—thought propor to forward the Same immediately to your Honor

Yesterday morning a Fleet came out of Newport harbor consisting of Eighteen Ships, two Schooners & seven Sloops—they stood out, until towards Evening, when they were off point Judith—they have not been discovered this Morning from the Hill, so that we have no doubt, from the wind being favorable, they have gone up the Sound—

I am Sir.

Your most obedient
Humble Serv^t

WILLIAM BRADFORD

Govⁿ Cooke

STANFORD May 18th 1777

GEN^r SILLIMAN

Sir I am athentickly Inform^d this day That the Enemy this day wair Sene of Huntington & Oster Bay; with a Large Numb^r of topsale vesels & With them a Large number of flat Bottomed Boates they went into Hunting to anchor So we are well assur^d They desine an attack On the Costs of this State & that it appers will be Speedy theirfour would have you Make no delay But be prepaired accordingly &c.

Am Sir yours &c

SAM^l HUTTON Select man

¹When in June 1775 the General Assembly of Rhode Island decided on fitting out of two suitable vessels to protect the trade of the Colony William Bradford of Providence was appointed "master" of the larger vessel, the sloop *Katy*.

I therefore have to desire you to hold your Selves in Readiness as I am desir^d to be in for wheather the Enemy intend to Attack this State or go on farder to y^e Eastward it is Equally Important to be prepaired to Recve them. Let this advise be Sent amediately to N. London as it is unsertane what place they will attack from appearance it will be amediately & will not admit of any delay. I am your most Ob^{dt} & most Humble S^ev^t

G SILLECK SILLOMAN¹ B^r Dr ginneral

GUILFORD 9 OClock p. m. y^e 19th may 1777

SIR this moment Recv^d Exspres frm N. Haven, The Inteligance Requires Our attention as tis veary unsertane wheir the Enemy may Land desire you will hold your Selves in the gratest Readiness to Receive the Enemy, I without delay forward this Intelligence on the hole Sea Shoar &c to y^e Comanding off^{rs}

I am Sir your veary Hhb^l Sev^t

SAM¹ H. PERSONS B. D. Ginneral

& thus it is Continued frm place to place on Sea-Cost hope gntmen you will not only forward this But be prepard in a manner Sutttable to Receive them

Am gentlemⁿ

yours &c

NATHAN PALMER JUR

WESTERLY May 20th 10 OClock P.M. 1777

To the Hon^{ble} Govvr Cooke

I this Moment Rec^d this Express which I thought incumbint on me as my Duty to Transmit to your Hon^r by the most Speedy Conveyance, Discovered a fleet from N:port Standing to the westward, there has been three Boats off this Shore all the forenoon which I am Confident Came from the Western Fleet to make Discoveries on the Shore.

Your Hon^{rs} M. Ob^t H. Serv^t

JOSEPH NOYES² Colo

¹Gen. Gold Selleck Silliman was in command of Fairfield County, Conn. troops at White Plains and at Danbury. In June 1779 he was captured by refugees from Long Island and held a prisoner by the British until Feb. 1780 when he was exchanged for Judge Thomas Jones of Oyster Bay a justice of the New York Provincial Supreme Court.

²In May 1775 Joseph Noyes was appointed Colonel of the first Militia regiment of Kings County and in May 1776 he was a Deputy from Westerly.

JOSEPH STANTON JR.¹ TO GOV. COOKE

Head Quarters Camp at TIVERTON July 12th 1777

HONOURED S^r

I Most Sincerely Congratulate Your Honour on the Success of Colo Barton² at the same time, feel a peculiar pleasure, in Being in the Least degree Accessary in the forming the plan with the Colo to take General Prescott,³ the Officers for the Expedition were Well Chosen, and the plan of Attack well Executed, History Scarcely affords Such an Instance, And it Must be a most mortify Scene to General Prescott, When he Reflects, that he was taken of an Island. in the Midst of the British fleet & his Army, and that Without the discharge of a Single gun, may Heaven be thanked for favouring the attempt we hope Once more to hear, that the Brave General Lee heads Our Troops, nothing meterial to add

your most Obedient and Very Hum^l Serv^t

JOS: STANTON J^r

To Gov^r Cooke

GOV. COOKE TO HIS WIFE HANNAH

PROVIDENCE August y^o 4 1777

MY DEAR I got home last Evening at Nine o'Clock Hindered by the Rain at will worths 2 hours a few minnets after I got home there come in a Nother Express from boston the purport of which was that the man that first gave an account of the fleet was a man of Creadit but as they had not ben Seen Since it was Supposed he might be deceived by the Haizyness of the weather and the Breakers near the Isle of Shoals, I underStand that our people have ben on Cononnectut I have not yet heard the perticulers it is Reported that they Brought of one Hession and one torey the gards discovered them coming and they all

¹Joseph Stanton, Jr. served as Deputy from Charlestown in the General Assembly of Rhode Island; as a member of the Rhode Island Committee of Safety and as a member of various committees connected with the conduct of the war. *R. I. Colonial Records*, vol. VII.

²Colonel William Barton was voted a reward by the General Assembly of Rhode Island and a sword by Congress for capturing General Prescott. *Ibid.*, vols. VII and VIII.

³General Richard Prescott, the British Commander on Rhode Island.

got into the fort they had there Except those Two they Brought of, I have Serched the New Closet and all about the house for those Keys of that large Case and Can find nothing of them. Salle thinks it is very Likely they may be Still in the Desk as there was a number of large Keys. She Left there nothing more at present but my love to you all from yr Loving Husband

NICH^s COOKE

PS there came a man in town Last Evening from Philadelpha who informd that General Washington had halted his army at Morristown that he was in formd by General Putman that they had accounts that the fleet were alying of to the Southard of Long Island. If that be true, it is very likely they will Return and Try to push up the North River.

By Jabes Bowen last Evening from Boston we learn that it is generally beleived in Boston that Manly¹ is taken.

GOV. COOKE TO HIS WIFE HANNAH

PROVIDENCE Septembr y^e 6 1777

MY DEAR this Comes to let you Know we are as Well as common. We have Nothing Remarkable from abroad Since I Rote you last. Our People went on Prudence on Wensday Night & on Thursday morning Came on Shore from one of the Ships a boat for water with 10 mariens and Six Sailers. They took 13 of them and Kild the other three. On Thursday Night apart of the malittia from Seconet went on to Rhod island and Brought of one midShip man & 2 Sailers & a markee tent. 4 men have deserted from the Ennemy this week & come over to us So that there is in the course of this week 23 of them Killd & taken & deserted to us.

Cpt Waterman² & his wife Sets out this morning for Norwich they intend to Stay over the Sabbath, at Brother Bucklins I have got him to procure the Nailers if he can if our People can any way get the whole of that Piece that is cleard on that land I Newly Boght in to wheat and Ry. If they are obleged to hire

¹Captain John Manley was sent a prisoner to New York where he remained many months. *Allen's Naval Hist. of the Am. Rev.*, vol. I.

²Captain Andrew Waterman.

or Change works to get it done I Shall be glad we may want the grane another year if it is Somthing late before they get in the Ry it will be best to do it if they Can. Noney wants to have half a piece of that Hessian Cloath Sent down to Cover the Bottoms of Chears.

I have Just heard that there is a prize Ship got into town secred to the Eastward with 600 hhds Sugar & upwards of 200 hhds of Rhum. 3 oclock in the afternoon I have Nothing New Since I Rote the above Except I hear that there is more prizes got into the Eastward than what I had mentioned above but dont know what they are. Nothing more but my Kind love to you all from your

Loving husband

NICH^s COOKE

GOV COOKE TO HIS WIFE HANNAH

PROVIDENCE Septembr y^e 20 1777

MY DEAR Since I Rote you yesterday we have Nothing New to Relate of any Certainty. We have Various Reports of an ingagement Between Generl Washington and how on last week Thirsday Fryday and Saturday and that on Saturday General Washington Retretd 7 miles but we have no certainty about it and have no certain intilligence from the Northorn army— You mentioned to me about Sending Some Sugar from hear to Norwich for the feathers we have no Sugar hear Now but Some in a Cag and about a third of a bariel of that Best Brown Sugar & Some molases Sugar & about a Qrter of a hundred of the Powderd Sugar & 16 loves of the loaf Sugar I marked that hhd of Sugar for Mr. Bennet because he wanted a Small one and I thought that was the least but I would have the marks Rubed off and let Mr. Cooper have that take the other hhd and open it and fill a bariel as good as any of if for yr Selves then fill 3 Bariels for Mr. Bennet if he insists upon it but I have Rote to him By Nich^s that I would be glad that he would not inSist on more than one Bariel Brown & $\frac{1}{2}$ C ye white Sugar. He wanted a Small hhd if he has 3 Bariels Brown and one of white Sugar it Will be as much as in Reallty he Chose to have when hear but he did not in Reallty agree for any, and it was So long before

he Sent me word that he concluded to have it that if I had a Sold it all he could not ablated me but how Ever if the team Comes and they InSist upon it let them have 3 Bariels of the Brown & one of the white Sugar. It must be Started because we cannot tell the wt of it and what there is more than that Keep for yr Selves. I Suppose you have Now 2 Bariels Sugar in the Shop beSides the white Sugar and that Iron Bound Read Cask has Between three and four hundred weight in it and there will be what is left of this hhd you have opened and you will have 4 or 500 wt out of the hhd to open so that you will have in all I beleive 12 or 13 hundred weight of Brown Sugar besides the Powderd & lofe Sugar. Mr. Cooper offerd a good price and I thought it was best to Spare what we proposed to Sell and not Keep dribling it out as we did for about a Qrter what it Sold for By the hhd. In hast from yr Loving Husband

NICH^a COOKE

GOV. COOKE TO HIS WIFE HANNAH

PROVIDENCE december ye first 1777

MY DEAR I am glad to hear by mr Bowen¹ that you are all well our last accounts from the westward are that our people Evacuated the fort at mud island the 14 of last month. The Ennemy had Kept up an inesant fire upon it for 4 days & 4 nights without Sesation from 5 Bomb Batteries besides Several Batteries with Cannon and the Shiping which had tore the fort all to pieces & dismounted all the Cannon we had. 3 Cpts 4 lieutenants and about 40 Noncommisioned officers and privets Kiled Before they Quit the forts. Our last accounts are as late as the 20th of the month Both our army & the Ennemy were all in motion and we may Expect Hourly to hear of a Bloody Battle. God grant that we may put our trust in him and not in an arm of flesh. I think it Stands us all in hand to be much in prayer to God for assistance that he would appear for us and deliver us from the hands of our Cruel Ennemies. Munro² and the Ship Thomas and a Small Sloop from hear another

¹Jabez Bowen.

²Major Nathan Munro in command of the flotilla prepared by the state of Rhode Island, Cowell's *Spirit of '76*.

from Warren & one from PetuckSet and one from Grenwich, all went out on Saturday Night. I have not heard that any of them were Stoped By the Ennemy 2 of the Ships fired at them one of the friggets came to Saile but it was So thick she came two again. If Munro is got Clear we Expect to hear from him from New London Tomorrow Evening, Phinne Potter in the Mongommery and the Sloop Dimond Privatear and a Brigganetine went out last Night and we heard no firing, I believe they went out Clear a few more Such turns will thin our harbor Considerably. Mrs. Cushing desires that you would inform Mary that Mrs. Arnold is very Poorly and very much discouraged. She dont Expect Ever to get well her Selfe. She thinks She has got the consumption the doctors think She has the long feaver. I have forgot whether I mentioned anything to you in my last about puting Somthing in the mouth of the drian. We are all as well as common. I Expect to go to Grenwich to the assembly Tomorrow and be gone all the week. Mr. Cushing talks of coming up next day after tomorrow nothing further at present but my love To you and the Children from your Loving husband

NICH^s COOKE

LIEUT. COL. JEREMIAH OLNEY¹ TO NICHOLAS COOKE

Camp Near DOBBS FERRY 29th July 1781

DEAR PARENT.

haveing at last a Safe opp^{ty} with pleasure I imbrace it to inform you that I am happy in the Enjoyment of a Good Share of Health, wishing that all Friends at Providence &c Share that Blessing—probably you have had various Reports Respecting the movements of the army Since Takeing the Field, but as they

¹Jeremiah Olney married a daughter of Gov. Cooke. He was a captain in Hitchcock's Regt. of the Army of Observation and later in Hitchcock's Second Battalion of Rhode Island troops. In Feb. 1777 he became Lt. Colonel in Angell's 2nd Battalion Continental troops. Later he became Lt. Col. in Col. Greene's regiment which in May 1781 was surprised by British troops at Fishkill N. Y., Col. Greene being killed. Lt. Col. Olney succeeded to the command and retained it during the remainder of the war with title of Lt. Col. Commandant. In May 1783 he joined with other officers in forming the Rhode Island Cincinnati and in February 1784 he presented the Standards of the Rhode Island line to the State. Arnold's *History of R. I.*, vol. II.

are not to be Rely.d on—I will for your Satisfaction Give a Just account of our movements—the army has been Twice before Kings Bridge During the present month—The first was a very Sudden & Rappid move of the whole army on the Night of 1st Ins^t from PeeksKill—the Second Day the advance Corps of the army arrived Early in the morning before the Enemies Works about Kings Bridge—The Enemy haveing a party out an action Commenc^d when our Troops Retir^d (agreeable to orders) with Intention to Draw them out & bring on a General action if possible—but after persuing a Bout half a mile the Enemy Discovering our Disign Retird also—in this Schirmish we Suffer.d in Killed Wounded & Missing about 50, which I believe Rather Exceeded that of the Enemies—The Next morning the army Retir.d to our present Ground about 12 miles from Kings Bridge!—our Second movement was also Sudden, on the Evening of 21st Ins^t the army march.d & at Day Break the american & part the French army appeard on the Hights Near Kings bridge—where we Remain.d Two Days & one Night—then Retir.d to our Camp—during which time the Enemy Shew no disposition to Come out & Give us Battle—nothing of Consequence therefore took place, a Few Shott from Scattering men & a Tryfeling Cannonade without Effect was all that happen.d the Enemy Continuing Closely in their Works—the Commander in Chief found it would be attended with too much Rsque to attack their Works which were Render.d as Strong as art & Nature Could make them—

This movement however answer.d very Salutary purposes, The Weather being Exceeding fine both Days were Spent by the Gen^l Officers &c in Reconoitring & Takeing plans of all the Enemies Capital Works—which may be of use in our Future approaches! The French Gentlemen have had a fair oppertunity to Satisfy their Curiosity with Respect to the Scituation of York Island Kings Bridge & its Vicinity—our Line of Incampment Runs from the Hudson towards the Sound,—the Americans on the Right Near Dobbs Ferry & the French line Extending to the Left below the White Plains—the Dukes Legenary Corps on their Left & Gen^l Waterbury¹ with Two

¹General David Waterbury.

Regm^{ts} of Levies from Connecticut, on the Sound—I am Sorry to Inform you that the Several States are Exceeding Tardy in Raising & forwarding their Respective Quotas of Troops order.d for the Purposes of the Present Campaign—Scarce a State (Save Rhode Island) that has Sent on half their Number & from the Smallness of our Army I believe Some States have Scarce a third of their men in the Field—it Seems they have Given up the Idea of Recruiting the army & are Even at this late Day Sending in Six months Levies—I fear we Shall Waste the Campaign without Gaining the Object we Seam to be in persuite off—for Should even a French Squadron arrive & Give us a Decided Superiority by Sea, what Could we Expect from our present army—

I am Happy to inform you that the Greatest FriendShip & Harmony Subsists between the Officer & men of the French army & ours—We have Nothing from the Southern army But what you have probably heard—Except that part of the Marqui'.s¹ Army about 800 men under Command of Gen^l Wane,² have Lately had an action Near James River, with Earl Conwallace— in Which I believe we Came off Second best—haveing lost 130, Killed Wounded & Missing—the loss of the Enemy does not appear to be Ascertain.d—the Enimy gaining Intelligence of Gen^l Wane.s advancing—Dress.d an ambuscade for him, which he unfortunately fell intoo & Suffer.d Considerably—tis Reported here that Gen^l Greene³ is Investing Ninety Six—The British have had Several Ships & Small Vessells up the River 8 in Number—they ly Some days in Haverstraw Bay with a Design of Intercepting our Small Craft Coming down with Supply.s—they however did not Injure us much—Two Small Craft were only lost; on their Return down the River they Suffer.d Considerably from the Battery.s at the Ferry, one Shell took. Effect on Bord one the Ships & Dammag.d her Considerably—

We are very Well Supply.d with Provision, at present—& if the army does not Increase Considerably in Numbers—I

¹Marquis de Lafayette.

²General Anthony Wayne.

³General Nathanael Greene.

believe our Supply.s will be ample—please to make my Love & Compliments to mother & the Family & believe me Dear S^r
your Affectionate & Dutifull Son

JEREB^h OLNEY

31st

P.S. Since Writing the above We have acco^{ts} of Gen^l Greene.s making an assault on the Garison of Ninety Six & Was Repulsed with the loss of 90 men after which he Rais.d the Seige,; Lord Rodden¹ being on the advance from Charles Town with a Considerable Force for the Relief of that Post, probably in a Short Time you will have this matter from Authority as Congress have Rec.^d official acco^{ts}

I am

your Dutifull Son

J. O.

Honb N. Cook

¹Lord Francis Rawdon.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.