

Original.

[Capt. Cook to Council.]

December 8th 1776.

Honor'd Gent.

Our people's time will expire some time this month, and the beginning of next, and as their wages given as far as Eleven Pounds per month in the merc^t service, its very possible that many of them will leave the service of this State, without due encouragement. I'm informed that there is a resolve made by the Hon^{ble} Convention of this State giving twenty dollars bounty for able seamen and ten Pounds for ordinary seamen. I'm in hopes this bounty will engage the whole of them or the greatest part to the service, provided its advertised. I hope for your instructions in this case and should take it as a singular favour you would provide for me the resolves of this State, or Congress, that is relative to the Navell Department, that I may act accordingly. I'm doing all I can to get the Ship away before Christmas and make no doubt of its being so provided we can keep our people together.

Since I wrote the above I rec^d your favour of the 6th Inst. and it gives me pleasure I can be supply'd with canvas. M^r Hollingsworth bid for the Snow fourteen hundred Pounds and upwards, I believe he went as far as he thought the value of her, but was over bid. The Schooner Nancy one of our Prizes I make no doubt will answer your purpose, if large enough. the Capt. of her informs me she is a good vessell and well found. As I expect to see you in a few days I shall have an opportunity of taking farther with you, therefore shall trouble you no further at present, but am,

Hon^d Gent.Your very Hble Serv^t

Geo: Cook.

C. S. J.

Monday December 9, 1776.

Council met. Present the same members as on Saturday. M^r Plater attended.

Captain Thomas Watkins resigned his Commission, which was accepted by the Council.

Ordered That the Western Shore Treasurer pay to Joseph Selby and John Howard two hundred Pounds on Contract.

That the said Treasurer pay to Doct^r Richard Tootell fifteen Pounds.

Adjourned till next Day 10 O'Clock.