

Assurances. to the Ministry that he believes they contain the real Sentiments of the People of this Province. The Governor has taken this measure in Consequence of a free Conversation with Mess<sup>rs</sup> Matthew Tilghman, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Stone and James Hollyday and ourselves on the Subject. The Step cannot be productive of an ill effect; it may be of the greatest Service; it may possibly bring about some Overture to a general Reconciliation. He has promised you shall have the Perusal of what he has wrote, when you come to Maryland. We intimate this to you to prevent the Letter being stopt on Suspicion of its containing any information or intelligence unfriendly to America. We do not doubt but you will think with us that the sooner it reaches England the better in the present critical Situation of our Affairs, and that you will give Maynard the proper passports to New York.

P. S. There are some few other Letters, which from the Governor's Information we believe are from Col<sup>o</sup> Sim & others to Tho<sup>s</sup> Eden & Co on private Business

[Murdock to Council.]

Original.

January 23<sup>d</sup> 1776.

Gentlemen.

I have been honoured by the Convention, with the enclos'd Commission which I now return to you, with a Prayer to be excused from accepting of it. The precarious and declining state of my Health renders me incapable of executing the office, either with Benefit to my country, or reputation to myself, and therefore, I think it my duty to refuse it.

I am Gentlemen with the greatest Respect.

Y<sup>r</sup> most ob<sup>t</sup> Hble Servant,  
Addison Murdock.

[Robson to Council.]

Original.

Cambridge January 26<sup>th</sup> 1776

Gentlemen.

I observe by a Resolve of the late Convention, that the minute company of Dorchester County, which I have the Honour to command, is ordered to march down into Virginia. And as the Gentlemen who was my First Lieutenant has thought proper to resign his Commission, I have herewith inclosed it to you. Least you should be unacquainted with a Person suitable to fill that Station, have in some measure thought it my duty to inform, that with your approbation could