

you have Reason to think you can overtake them in standing further down the Bay, in that case you'll proceed as far as Prudence will direct you. You must be particularly careful in your watch while off Annapolis, take care to consult Capt. Smyth in all cases. Given from under my hand this 14<sup>th</sup> April 1776 at Fells Point Baltimore.

James Nicholson.

To M<sup>r</sup> John Nicholson Lieut<sup>n</sup> of the ship Defence.

N. B. If you find M<sup>r</sup> Ross, You'll likewise make him Prisoner

A true copy from the original. Geo. Trumbull clk.

True Copy G. DuVall clk Co. of S.

[Stone to Jenifer.]

Original.

M<sup>r</sup> Dear Sir. M<sup>r</sup> Johnson wrote to you yesterday by Post and I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Hall, nothing is done since in consequence of your letter and resolution to the Presd<sup>t</sup> We have been very much engaged for some days in attending to the affairs of Canada, having rec<sup>d</sup> late Intelligence from that quarter. I presume the Canada department its connections and Dependencies will ingross our attention for a few days, and then some ans<sup>r</sup> will probably be given to your Letter, what it will be I can't guess, with any degree of certainty but I am inclined to think every thing will be left to the Convention: we shall attend the meeting of that assembly. Gov<sup>r</sup> Eden's letter is published in one of the papers here and various are the Comments on it. Independant of every thing else it is very suspicious, but taking M<sup>r</sup> Eden's conduct, the letters from his Brother, who must know his sentiments, into consideration, I think lessens greatly the charge which the intercepted letter would of itself import. If the Commissioners do not arrive shortly and conduct themselves with great candor and uprightness to effect a reconciliation, a seperation will most undoubtedly take place and then all Governors & officers must quit their posts and new men must be placed in the saddle of power. I wish to conduct affairs so that a just & honorable reconciliation should take place, or that we should be pretty unanimous in a resolution to fight it out for Independance, the proper way to effect this is not to move too quick, but then we must take care to do every thing which is necessary for our Security and Defence, not suffer ourselves to be lulled or wheedled by any deceitious declarations or givings out. You know my hearty wishes for Peace upon terms of Security and Justice to America. But war, any thing is preferable to a