

[Hair to Neill.]

Original.

St. Eustatia 28<sup>th</sup> Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1775.

Dear Sir.

After a passage of 15 days, from Cape Henry we arrived here on the 10<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> the day following (in the morning) a ship of war appeared in the Offing of this Road, which made Cap<sup>t</sup> Dickin-son & I anctious to have the Cargoe landed from on Board the Schooner to effect, which we were both on shore endeavouring to make sales, or find a convenient place in which to store it. In the mean time to our great surprise we perceived the Schooner under way at the appearance of which I applied to some boat men to row me off, but before I could reach her, she was under the guns of the above mentioned ship of war who positively denyed to admit me on board of her, at my return on shore; I found three of the people who gave Cap<sup>t</sup> Dickenson & I the following relation; that the mate & one man had cut the cables and delivered themselves with both vessel and cargoe up to the above ship that they were obliged to make their escape in the boat after many imprecations & threats from the Two villans who were each armed with a Broad ax. I consulted M<sup>r</sup> Jennings what to do who advised me to apply to the Governor of this Island to demand her again as Dutch property being anchored under the guns of the Fort & regularly reported. This I did and obtained a flag of Truce pass with letters to Adm<sup>l</sup> Young, giving a detail of the matters and demanding the vessell and cargo to be returned. I went to Antigua where the adm<sup>l</sup> was supposed to be and delivered the governors letters when I received for answer that he could not comply with his request his orders being such it was out of his power; all I could obtain from him was an order for my cloths and that with difficulty whatever money I had in my chest was taken and confiscated along with the cargo. The schooner & Cargoe is now at Navis where they will be tryed & sold. I shall attend the tryall and if it is possible you may depend upon it to take any further step for your advantage I shall not fail to do it. There was neither letters nor papers of any kind left on Board that could argue any thing against us but that of not having a regular clearance what ever expence I have been at I was obliged to borrow here, being left without the means of procuring a dinner or a shift of cloths. I shall write you again after the trial of the vessel in the mean time I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir Your very humb<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. Hair

Inclosed I Returned the Bills of exchange.  
To M<sup>r</sup> William Neill Merch<sup>t</sup> Balt<sup>o</sup>