

ing a Body with the members of whom I have the honor of claiming little or no acquaintance.

I am here during the war, and my connection with M<sup>r</sup> Penet (for whose character I refer you gentlemen, to the secret Committee of Congress) influences me to request that preference in your business which we have already been honored with from the Secret Committee of Congress.

Much pains have been taken to obtain a possibility of doing the American business from hence, which I have the satisfaction of informing you have met with such success as renders it in our power to supply the Continent with any articles they please.

The articles w<sup>ch</sup> may be imported to advantage from hence are Vitrey Linnens fit for coarse shirting or sails; coarse cloths for soldiers or negroes cloathing and blankets with all kind of military articles.

Letters directed to Penet and Rumsey to the care of M<sup>r</sup> John Gruel of this city: Messrs. Reculess D<sup>e</sup> Basmarein & Raimbaux Merchants in Bourdeaux or Mons Stephan Cathalon of Marseilles will be carefully forwarded.

With the utmost respect

I am Gent yr. mo. obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Nantes October 20<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Nathan Rumsey

[Van Bibber and Harrison to Council.]

Original.

St. Pierre Martinique Oct<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Gent. Our last respects to you were by Capt. Martin, who sailed from this place the 11<sup>th</sup> current with a valuable cargoe. Since then your favours of the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. have come safe to hand p<sup>r</sup> the Molly Capt. Conway. His cargoe, tho' a very proper one, we are sorry to acquaint, has come to a most wretched market, 57/ p<sup>r</sup> barrel for his flour and 36/ for his bread is the most we have been able to obtain and his tobacco is yet unsold. Since disposing of this Flour, a cargoe of Philadelphia Superfine has been sold for 53/. This fall has been occasioned by the immense quantities that have arrived and continue to arrive from France on a supposition that it would be a scarce article here. We fear there will be no change for the better till towards the middle of Winter and spring when we imagine it will begin to advance again as in all probability the exportations from France will cease when it is known how badly their speculations must turn out. and plenty as flour is, we know of nothing that can be sent from Maryland that will turn to a better account so surprisingly are we glutted with Tobacco and all kinds of provisions.