

c. s. c. with a very valuable Cargoe. I hope she has sailed, or about sailing at this time. We have just made a large purchase here of some Woolens, Musketts, and Gun flints which we shall ship in the first of the Councils Vessells, that may arrive here. We cautioned you and the Council some time past ag^t sending your vessells to this Island, thinking it the most dangerous and difficult to get into, which we are since sorry for, as it has proved less here than to any other Island and for the future Advise you to send all your vessells here for sundry reasons, viz. This is always the best Markett for your Produce, particularly tobacco which is now rising fast, all our purchases are made here, and Freight paid to Martiniço for all the goods shipped from there, and most of the Cargoes is sent from Martinique here to be sold and very high freight paid on them that on the whole this is the best place by farr and grows less difficult to Transact here, as the Dutch have discover'd that their laws when put in force must ruin their Merchants. I am on the best terms with his Excellency the Governor and have his word and Promise relative to some particular that gives me great Satisfaction and puts much in our powers.

I was not so happy some time agoe and every bad consequence to apprehend on our new Governor's taking the Command, but we are as well fixed with him now as we were with the former. We are very largely indebted here on acc^t of the State, many sums now due and many lately contracted that will of course be due shortly. We are doing all in our power to serve our Country, and hope they will not let our credit suffer.

We are, Gentlemen

Your most obd^t & very hum^l Serv^t
Van Bibber & Harrison.

To Mess^{rs} Robert Townshend, Hooe & C^o

[J. Hollingsworth to Council.]

Baltimore November 5th 1776

Sirs.

The Barer John Gibbons has been in Baltimore this 2 years, and has behaved himself sober and well as far as I have heard, and is a Industrious yongue man, is willing to take charge of the Skooner Frenship and I beleve him fit for the Task, he waits on you to No if it is agreeable and for your further orders.

Pleas let me No by his Return how many Bll^s of Beef I must have salted for you and the Peticulers of the Cargo you would have Put on Bord the frenship. The Resolution has her flour on Bord and her Bred is Redy I shall Put 20 hh^{ds} of