

tory as yet nor Do I think Mr. Nicollson will undertake on this Case so Pleas to Bee full on the Matter

[W. Rumsey to Council.]

C. S. C.

November 30th 1776.

May it please your Honors.

Were I to consider my business, which is difficult to transact, that I must load a Sloop for sea before the Frost, & not an article of her Cargoe purchased,—I am afraid it would be an insufficient reason for my not appearing before your Honorable Board, because private ought to give way to public concerns.

If your Honors are acquainted I have large quantities of wheat at different creeks in our Bay to be brought up, and carried across to Appo. for merchants in Phil^a that from the difficulty of procuring craft and waggons no person but myself can superintend these affairs, it will serve probably as an apology for my not attending.

The Levy court will come on the middle of December if I am absent a number of Poor must suffer, especially as Col^o Veazey & Capt. Hyland will be at Annapolis, and perhaps other Magistrates detained at home by sickness, bad weather or other accidents.

But there may be an attack on the Deleware. if I leave the county, it may be said, "he has shielded himself in the Council of Safety"

If depredations should be made by the Enemy on that neighbouring State, from the vicinity, interest and generosity of the Battalion in which I am engaged, they will certainly march to their assistance and will as assuredly expect my presence, in our present situation we want rather hearts than heads while your Honors are at the Helm.

These last reasons have more weight with me than any other. Indeed it gives me pain to decline any appointment of the Convention, or so polite an Invitation from your honors, which if it were not for the above cogent objections would be a mandate to

Your Honor's
Most obedient hum^{ble} Serv^t
W^m Rumsey.

[Chase to Council.]

Saturday morning,
Philadelphia Nov. 30th 1776.

Gentlemen.

By a resolve of Congress of the 12th of October 1775 each Captain and other commissioned officer, while in the recruit-