

the Direction I broke the seal. A number of Gentlemen were present. However I discovered the mistake without knowing the contents and enclosed it Immeaditly. I hope you will pardon this blunder.

I am Gent Your very Hbble Serv^t
Tho^s Price.

[Barnes to Council.]

Original.

St. George's Neck 23rd July 1776.

Gent. Inclosed you will receive the papers relative to our permitting M^r Wolstenholme to go on board the Fleet here. The first application received from M^r Wolstenholme was by myself directed to the Commanding Officer of the Station where I was. On perusing it I sent a message by the Gentleman that brought it, to inform M^r Wolstenholme that as I understood Gen^l Dent was at the Station at the narrows, I should consult him about it and send him an answer, which answer was that it was not thought proper for him to depart (as you will see by a paragraph in one of M^r Wolstenholme's letters) on receiving of which he sent me his passport from the Committee of the County, a copy of which you have inclosed. Upon demanding of him that he would say nothing to the prejudice of the Province, he answered, that he defied his worst enemy to say that he had ever done or said any thing inimical or that had a tendency that way, but that he would not be bound to any thing, but that the same principle which had ever been the rule of his actions, would govern his future conduct. Well knowing from the knowledge I have of M^r Wolstenholmes being a man of honour, and his word not to be doubted, and that as he for several years has been very anxious to go to England, and an opportunity now offered, which in all probability would not again for some time, and his passport from the Committee being unanimous, which without very particular reasons in my opinion ought to be adhered to, particularly by the military, were the reasons for me to agree with Gen^l Dent that M^r Wolstenholme should depart. By one of the letters wrote by M^r Wolstenholme to Gov Eden with my surtificate to it which as sent with a Flag on board one of the men of war, it was understood by all the gentlemen here and must be by the Fleet, that M^r Wolstenholme was to depart, if they thought proper to send for him. Whether it is consistent with the honor of the province to detain M^r Wolstenholme, after what has passed, I leave you to determine, but I must confess to you that I think the honour of the Province together with Gen^l Dent's and mine are concerned in it. I am really astonished at the slight rec'd from