

Communication by Water will be too uncertain to rely on and, c. c. in all Probability, when the Enemy discover that the Army draws its Supplies through this Bay, the Number of Men of War will be still increased. It appears to us, that the keeping this Bay clear or obliging the Ships of War to keep together, is an Object worthy the Attention, not only of these States, but of Congress, and that, if the Virginia Frigate was laid up and her Crew employed in Gallies for that Purpose, they would be much more usefully employed than they are at present. We have five Gallies now fitted, the Hull of a sixth & seventh almost finished, all very stout but we cannot compleatly mann two. The Assembly, seeing no Likelihood of manning the Whole, directed the two unfinished Gallies to be sold and, if your State or the Congress incline to purchase, we had much rather dispose of them for the Public, than for private use. The Enemy took a fine Tobacco Ship belonging to this State, in Patowmack the other Day, they grow more venturesome than heretofore, and we are apprehensive if not checked, will put an End to the little Trade we have

Governor Henry.

We are Sir &^{ca}

[J. Henry, Jr. to Gov. Johnson.]

Original.

York Town Feb^{ry} 14th 1778

Sir.

Congress a Day or two ago, took up the appointment of commercial Agents, and concluded to refer the same to the commissioners in France Mr Ross and your Brother were in nomination. If you have an opportunity it would be well to write to Mr Johnson. I do not at present know in what part of France he resides, possibly upon inquiry, I may be informed. At this time I do not know of an opportunity but as soon as there is one I shall write to him myself.

Besides our Accounts lately from the W. Indies, we are informed by a Letter from Rich^d H. Lee to his Brother, that there is a large Snow arrived at York Town 42 Days from Bourdeaux loaded with salt and dry Goods. The Cap^t and Supercargo say the number of Troops sent to the W. Indies, is certainly very considerable. Among them are a very powerful body of Artillery and two thousand dismounted Cavalry. What the latter can be for puzzles me. These Gentlemen say that altho the utmost care is taken to quiet the minds and Suspicions of G. B. that a war will most certainly take place in the Spring. They further say the Spanish Ambassador, the Duke de Choiseul and D^r Franklin have had frequent and long conferences.