

[Delegates in Congress to Gov. Johnson.]

Original

Sir

Philadelphia June 29<sup>th</sup> 1779

Your Excellencys Letters of the 18<sup>th</sup> and one from Cap<sup>t</sup> Nicholson we have had the Honor of receiving. The Circumstances of Cap<sup>t</sup> Nicholsons Captivity was not new to us, but the answer from the Marine Com<sup>tee</sup> as represented by Cap<sup>t</sup> Nicholson is altogether so. As the members of this Com<sup>tee</sup> and every other indeed, are frequently changing, it is impossible to know with certainty what verbal answer was given to Cap<sup>t</sup> Nicholson, by the Marine Com<sup>tee</sup> on the report of the Navy Board; but from the minutes of the Com<sup>tee</sup> we are inclined to think he is mistaken in the representations he has made to you. What an individual of the Com<sup>tee</sup> uninformed upon the subject might have said to the Captain is impossible to ascertain; but the Com<sup>tee</sup> as a Com<sup>tee</sup> could not give him the answer which he says they did; for no third witness is requisite by the established mode of trial on a Court of inquiry, and therefore it is unreasonable to suppose the Com<sup>tee</sup> could inform the Cap<sup>t</sup> that it was requisite. There must therefore be some mistake in this matter which you will readily perceive by reading the enclosed resolves of the Com<sup>tee</sup> in which they approve of the report of the Navy Board and speake of him as a spirited and good officer. We are not unacquainted with the Merit of this officer, and as soon as a Ship offers we shall use our endeavours to provide for him, but at present we have a greater number of Cap<sup>ts</sup> than Ships, and of Course it is out of the power of Congress or the Marine Com<sup>tee</sup> to employ the whole of them.

Your Letter respecting the powder and Canon we have laid before the Board of War. They had a few Days before the receipt of it sent a person for both these Articles. He must have been with you before this Time. If he has not, we request you would not dispose of the powder as it is much wanted by the Continent

Congress has had no Confirmation of the various reports respecting our Southern Success. In a letter from Charles Town from a Gentleman of rank and abilities, as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, no mention is made of any action. The Enemy did no more than appear before the Town and return again. They are at present in the Neighbourhood of Charles Town & the New York paper says in possession of John & James Islands.

We are Sir with the highest respect  
and Esteem your Excellencys  
ob<sup>dt</sup> & h<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>

J. Henry  
Dan of S<sup>t</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Ienifer