

March 21 your Post. You will leave, under a Careful Serjeant, such of the  
 Liber No. 78 Men, to guard the Ship, as you do not take with you.—Upon Con-  
 p. 432 sideration, we shall send the Instructions mentioned, by the Barges.

Ibid. [W<sup>m</sup> Paca in Council to Capt<sup>n</sup> John Lynn]

You are no Stranger to the Depredations daily committed by the Enemy's Barges in our Bay. I understand the Devil's Island, one of the upper Tangier Islands, is the Place of their Rendezvous, where they have collected their Plunder, and there is every Reason to believe that they have become so confident by Success, that they think any Precaution for their Security, unnecessary. Added to this, the Number of Prizes they have taken and sent to New York, must have weakened their Force very considerably. Under these Circumstances, I think it very practicable to surprize them on the Island, and have therefore formed a little Expedition for that Purpose, of which I request you will take the Command. A small Schooner of three three POUNDERS, and two Barges, will leave this Place tomorrow Evening, so as to get down to Herring Bay by 10 O'Clock at Night, and I have directed them to rendezvous near John Deal's, where they will wait your Orders. There are about 60 Sailors and 15 or 20 Soldiers distributed among the three Vessels, and you may put as many more Soldiers in them, as you think Proper. The Schooner is owned and commanded by a French Gentleman, Capt<sup>n</sup> Delisle, a Man of great Bravery. I would recommend it to you, to take your Passage in this Vessel, for the Sake of being better accommodated; but when you come near the Scene of Action, I would advise you to go on Board Capt<sup>n</sup> Frazier's Barge, as he is a Man of Sense and Bravery, on whom I think you may rely for such Advice as, from your Inexperience in Naval Matters, it will be necessary for you to receive. Capt<sup>n</sup> Frazier is the first of the Naval Officers in Command, and is well acquainted with the Situation of the Island, Capt<sup>n</sup> Bryan is next, and the French Capt<sup>n</sup> whom we have a high Opinion of, the last. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Murdock, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Fickle, and a M<sup>r</sup> Spencer have entered as Volunteers, you will station the two former, to command the Soldiers only, as you think proper, they are promised such Command.

When you arrive at the Island, I leave it to your Judgment and Discretion, to secure the Enemy's Vessels, and to retreat with them to the Main, or to land on the Island, or to do both according to Circumstances. Should you find it proper only to take the Vessels, which I hope can be easily done, you can determine, after retreating with them to the Main, upon the Propriety of calling on the Militia to man the captured Vessels, and to return with them to the Island, to secure the Enemy, or to proceed with the Vessels up the Bay. As soon as your Object is effected, Viz<sup>t</sup> the Capture of the Enemy's Vessels at the Devil's Island, and the Enemy also, if that should be found practicable, you will return to this Place with the Vessels &<sup>ca</sup>