

Sept. with the Ships that should be then ready & had signified to both your
Fauquier & myself that he could not on any Consideration postpone his De-
parture yet by reason of contrary winds it was impossible for him to go to Sea till
about the 20 of Oct. by which means all the Ships which were then bound to
Europe from Virginia & this Province got down to Hampton time enough to take
the Benefit of his Convoy & as there are now but a very few Vessels loading here
for Great Britain & we have received Information that One of His Majesty's
Ships is ordered from England to convoy the Trade from the Bay of Ches-
apeake to Europe in the Spring I have intimated to Capt Adams that the Vessels
which were loading here when I applied to your Ldp for Convoy are already
sailed whereupon he will I presume agreeable to your Ldp's conditional Instruc-
tion return again to Halifax — with the greatest Respect I am

To Captain Adams. Commander of His Majesty's Ship Diana. Am. 23rd Dec.

Sir
In answer to the Letter you were pleased to send me the 4th of Dec. last but
which I did not receive till this Moment, I must inform you that at the time I
took the Liberty to transmit to Lord Colville the Petition which you speak of it
was expected that Capt Norton would certainly have sailed from Virginia the 20th
of Sept. last he having by Letter signified to me that no Consideration should
detain him beyond that time & in such Case very few of the Maryland Ships
would have got down to the Place of Rendezvous time enough to take the
Benefit of his Convoy, but as contrary winds rendered it impossible for
him to put to Sea till about a Month after the time he had fixed for his
Departure our Ships has time to load & fall down to Hampton before he
sailed so that there are not more than two or three London Ships at present in
the Province & these not yet loaded. I will not therefore I presume on that
Account defer your Return to Halifax. I will Sir I hope excuse me
for the Trouble you have had in consequence of my Letter to Lord Colville
& believe that I am with great Regard &c