

Sir

The Governor received your letter of yesterday last night and

No. 66. that of to Day this Moment. Capt Belt has been consulted and he thinks the Rebee had best be rigged in the Manner of a Ship, that too is Lieut Gordon's Opinion, and we are desirous of gratifying them, as they will risk their own Persons in her. Belt says he thinks the Boom and Sail in the Brig (Fashion) will be too Heavy. We do not know how we shall get Men for the State Vessels already built, they are all now useless for want of Men, therefore we cannot think of making a new Call for them, before this old is gratified.

We are every now and then called on for old Sails, for use we know very little of, and therefore are unwilling to part from the Dolphins.
W. Stephen Steward. } (We are &c.)

Gent

In Council Annapolis 15th May 1777.

No. 67. We inclose you Copies of two Letters from Capt. Nicholson, and of one from us to him. It would have given us Pleasure, more on the Captains Account than our own, if we could have wrote you long ago, that he had frankly made us the Satisfaction we had a Right to expect; but we cannot but see from his Letters, that he has no very good Will to make Concessions and that though his Friends as well as the Congress, think his first Letter justly reprehensible, he shews little Sign of a real Concern for having written it. Whether Capt. Nicholson apologizes for the Affront given or not, is of but little Consequence to us, and as we believe the Congress have Expectations from him as an Officer, we waive this Point of Satisfaction to us; but as to the Discharge of the People, on which he has avoided to give us the least Satisfaction, not having said one Word on it in his Letters, we hope and expect a peremptory Order for the Discharge of such as have been impressed and that it may be done in such Manner as will give full Assurance to us that the Thing is done.

We are Gent. with great Respect &c.

Hon^{ble} Marine Committee }
Philad.

Sir

In Council Annapolis 16th May 1777.

No. 68. We have taken your Plank, Scantling and Shingles for the Public, and as from the Memorandum to your Skipper, you seem to have desired the Money to be paid to him, we have so ordered it. The Inch Plank we are told, is good, the Scantling and Shingles very indifferent and too high priced; therefore, unless you will moderate the Price and improve in the Quality, we shall not incline to take any more of those Articles; if you'll send us more Inch Plank good, we will take it.

We are &c.

W. John Smoot. }