

before us. We have called on you for this Service, under a confidence that you will use Mr Brown & Mr Anderson gently, but will not be diverted from a proper Enquiry. You may, if you think proper take an Officer with you. We are &c

Maj<sup>r</sup> Bulford. 3

In Council Annapolis 29<sup>th</sup> May 1777.

Sir.

We are obliged by the Trouble you have taken to furnish us with the Size of the Barracks, and the Account for printing the Continental Money but you have not been quite so particular in the Description of the Barracks as we wished, how many Men to a Room, and how are their Beds contrived some Account of the Officers Barracks. We inclose you a Copy of the Letter we received from the Marine Committee and Copy of Resolutions inclosed by the President; we were not furnished with the Resolutions of Congress for the Discharge of the Men; if any such passed it was omitted to be sent by the President and Marine Committee. Mr Lewis has very much mistaken the Council. They and I were sensible of the Indignity offered by Capt. Nicholson in his first Letter inclosed to Congress; after the Proceedings of Congress, we received Capt. Nicholson's Letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, which we inclosed to the Marine Committee. Mr Lewis was in Town and was several Times in the Council Room; that Letter, he must know, was not satisfactory: He was desirous, indeed, that it should be accepted as such, and represented Nicholson as not being so blamable as he seemed to be. Mr Lewis may recollect that he told the Governor, Nicholson had told the Marine Committee that it was impossible for him to man the Frigate without impressing Men and that instead of discouraging it, they seemed rather to approve, and this agrees with Nicholson's first Letter where he says "I do not pretend to plead the Orders of Congress for" "what I have done but will say if I had not Reason to think Congress" "would not disapprove of it I should not have done it". After all the Conversation that passed between Mr Lewis and the Governor & Council, our Letter to Nicholson of the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, was shown to Mr Lewis, he waited some Time for it and carried it himself intending, we have no Doubt, to influence Capt. Nicholson as far as he could, to comply with the moderate Terms we required. We have not <sup>since</sup> received any Letter from Capt. Nicholson, except his of the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst. which we inclosed to the Marine Committee. How was it possible for Mr Lewis to imagine the Council were satisfied with Capt. Nicholson's Letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> after reading ours of the 5<sup>th</sup> nor have the Council or I had any Intercourse with Mr Lewis or Capt. Nicholson, since Nicholson's Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> which you may see, by our Letter to the Marine Committee, we do not esteem a very gentle one. The Discharge of the Men is the Business we set out on and will not be diverted from it: Nicholson may perhaps have discharged them, but we do not know that he has, he

Not sent  
in the  
original