

In Council Annapolis 7<sup>th</sup> March 1778.

111. Sir The scarcity of Leather for the Soldiers, makes it desirable to get (Cloth dressed or undressed: if undressed the Price ought to be in Proportion and we can, if necessary get it finished or at least scawered, so as to make it more useful. We shall be obliged to you to transmit us an Account of the Blankets furnished (Col: Richardson), with his Receipt, that they may be charged to the Continent. Any Leather you have collected or may be fortunate enough to obtain, be pleased to send us: and an Invoice with those which have been collected in Somerset & Worcester Counties which are in Mr. Steven's Hands and which we now write to him to send. We have no Idea that the Com<sup>rs</sup> allowed is a Motive with you or any other Gent: to do this Business for the Public and wish it was in our Power and the Incl<sup>n</sup>: of Gent: in General to make the Bur then more equal by a fair Division of it, but you may be assured we are too often unsuccessful in our Appointments.

We are &c

Col: Jof. Inalls Junr.

In Council Annapolis 9<sup>th</sup> March 1778.

112. Sir We just now are informed that a Ship a Brig and seven Sloops and Schooners were yesterday beating up the Bay and, in the evening, were as high as Patuxent: there may be therefore be Occasion here, for your Galley, by the Time you can get down. We have long expected you now can account for your Delay, and require you to push to this Place instantly on your Receipt of this. No Excuse will be admitted.

We are &c

Capt: Bennett Matthews or the  
Command: Officer of the Independence Galley }

In Council Annapolis 12<sup>th</sup> March 1778.

113. Sir Mr. Steamaker, on his Return, has called on us and gives us such Information of the Number & Situation of the Ships that we imagine there will be no immediate Attempt to run the Virginia: indeed we think the Chance of getting through so small, that we wish you not to make a Push, if your Orders give you any Latitude. Our Sentim<sup>ts</sup> on the Subject have already been mentioned to some of the Gent<sup>l</sup> of the Congress. The Defence's Tender & the Plater have been constantly employed in the Service of the Congress and are like to be so: we also want the Dolphin, chiefly for the same Purpose & request you'll send her down to us.

We are &c

P. M. James Nicholson