

In Council Annapolis 22^d May 1778.

We have had many Applications from People of this State for leave to go into Philadelphia; some of them want to return again. We have not given leave to any Body to go in, without Permission from the Officer commanding the Continental Troops at some Post on the Way, nor have we recommended any except Mr Stewart, Mr Caldwell and Mr McCall. We were not satisfied of the Propriety of suffering People to be frequently going in, especially to return again and are unwilling to put the Rejection of their Importunities on you, but the Earnestness with which some solicit and its being said that such Favours are frequently granted at Head Quarters, make us desirous of knowing whether you think proper that such Applications, where we have no particular Suspensions, should be promoted by us, and to whom we shall refer them ultimately. It is with Reluctance we request the Favor of a Line on this Subject. and are with every Sentiment of Respect &c.

Genl Washington.

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Genl

231. The Recruits mentioned in the Extract of Parker's letter inclosed in yours of the sixteenth are, we believe, those carried off by one Sterling a Deserter from one of our old Independent Companies, though the Number exceeds that of which we before had Information a considerable Part of the Recruits were from Sussex and crossed over to Annimessy. Before the Recruits had left the Islands we received Information of what was going forward and immediately gave Orders to our Militia below and Notice by Letter to Col^o Simpson that every Effort might be made to stop them, but their Flight on Board was too quick, nor indeed was it well in the Power of the Militia, for Want of armed Vessels, to have prevented their going off, if our Information had been earlier. There is a perfect Coincidence of Governor Henry's Sentiments and ours, as to the Utility and Necessity of manning our Gallies; our Endeavours have been without any great Effect and, we believe, his have not been very successful. We have hoped for Assistance from the Resolves of Congress, but not a Man has come that we know of: if we could Man our Gallies, they would cut off, or at greatly obstruct the Intercourse between the Enemies Ships