

In Council, 12th March, 1781.

N^o 252. Sir, We have your Favor of the 9th by Captain Conway and agreeably to your Request the Commissions desired by him have been granted. Enclosed are the Bonds which you will be pleased to have properly executed and returned here.

Col Hood.

In Council, 13 March, 1781.

253. Sir, We thank you for the Intelligence you have communicated, if any other Disposition of the Ships in the Harbour are necessary, we request you to make such without consulting us on the Occasion, and should you want any of the Boats in the Harbour for Express or Look out Boats, you will immediately order those that you may think proper on that Service; we shall give every Aid in our Power to cooperate for the Protection of the Troops and transports, the Cannon shall be ordered to the places you mention but without your Assistance and that of the commanding Officer of the Detachment we shall not be able to transport and mount them.

Commodore Nicholson.

In Council, 14 March, 1781.

254. Sir, We this Moment received Information from Mr. McHenry that two British Sloops of War lie within five or six Miles of the Transports. The Commodore does not apprehend any Danger from those Ships, but as they may be supported by others of superior Force. It is deemed advisable that every Precaution should be immediately taken that is necessary for the Security of the Troops and Ships. It has been suggested that great Support may be derived from the Windmill Fort if put in repair. This or any other Measure that may be concerted by you in Conjunction with the Commodore we shall acquiesce in and render most cheerfully every Assistance in our Power to give Efficacy to it. The Marquis was of Opinion if any Attempt should be made by the Enemy against our Ships, two small Batteries of two sixteen Pounders erected on each Side of the Mouth of Roberts Creek would effectually cover and protect. We have dispatched a Fast Sailing Boat to the Commodore for the purpose of reconnoitering and gaining Intelligence.