

Council Chamber, Annapolis December 21st 1793

Sir

In consequence of the request contained in your letter of the 10th I immediately took measures for instituting an enquiry upon oath into the facts objected against the legality of the capture of the Brig Cunningham by the Sans Culotte Marcellin, which has not yet been closed. It occurred to me to be also proper that a similar enquiry should be made relative to the augmentation of force alledged to have been received by the Privateer Schooner Industry previous to her late cruise, from which she has not yet returned. I have directed a full and of course a definitive examination on this Subject as well as on the former. The whole of the depositions will be taken before the Chief Justice of this State, under the superintendance of the Attorney of the United States for this District, with reasonable notice to the Vice Consuls of France and Great Britain, and transmitted to you for the information of the President, as soon as they shall be obtained.

I have no knowledge of the Privateer Schooner Republic, mentioned in your letter of the 23rd of last month, having received no communication from you or from any other quarter concerning a vessel by that name. In yours of the 12th to which I am referred by that of the 23rd the Privateer Republic is not mentioned.

I have the honour to be Sir

Yours &c

Geo^l Henry Knox Esq^r
Secretary of War

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Sir

A late letter from the Secretary of War, I am informed that it has been suggested by the French Minister, that a vessel of Battiments belonging to Le Coqman's is about sailing for Jamaica or Cape St. Nicholas with a considerable number of french Refugees. This letter calls my attention to the above circumstance and requires that if the persons alluded to, or any other should appear to be forming an insurrection or enterprise within this State, I should cause them to be stopped and prevented.

Yours