

Council Chamber, December the 26th 1793

Sir,

On the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, I rec^d that information relative to the Privateer Schooner Republic had been transmitted to me by the British Vice Consul at Baltimore in a letter of the 3rd of October last, enclosing an extract from M^r Hamilton's letter to him; copies of which I forwarded to the President of the United States when at Mount Vernon, from which I presume your copies of the same letter and enclosure have been taken.

Upon the general ground of M^r Thornton's communication, I wrote immediately to the Collector of the Customs for the Port of Baltimore, calling his attention to this Privateer: but as from some accident my letter was not received by him until very lately, his answer (a copy of which is annexed) did not reach me till yesterday. — M^r Delozier informs me that the Republic sailed from Baltimore some time ago, and that she received no illegal equipments during her stay in that Port.

I have the Honour to be Sir

The Hon^{ble} Henry Knox Esq^r
Secretary of War

The S^r L^{re}

Council Chamber, Annapolis, December 31st 1793

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 24th instant I have only to remark that in the business you allude to, I have acted under the direction of the Executive of the United States, and that the discussion to which you invite me is not within my province.

I am informed that your Protest has been forwarded to the Secretary of State; and as your objections will thus receive the consideration of the President, to whom alone it belongs to decide on them. It is of course unnecessary for me to trouble you with my reflections on the subject.

Jacques Meissonnier
Vice Consul of the
French Republic

I have the Honour to be Sir

The S^r L^{re}