

Frid^d Linn^e Nov^r 5th 1776.

Gent^l

Capt James Mackall requested of me to inform you, the Gent^l who was commissioned as 1st Lieut. in his company is dead. That his 2nd Lieut. has resigned being a Noassociator, and the men disapproving him, He therefore prays you will issue a commission to Tom Macke as 1st Lieut., Joseph Hill 2nd Lieut, and John Thomas Ensign. and transmit them to me by some safe hands.

To The Hon^{ble} Council of Safety of Md
Annapolis

I am Gent^l your
Obedt Serv^t.

B. Johnson.

St. Eustatius 5th November 1776.

Gentlemen,

I enclose you have Invoice and Bill of Lading for one thousand and sixty half Barrels Gun Powder. Quantity lbs 5.300 in the proper acct and risque of the State of Maryland, Our Mr Harrison is dispatching Capt Conway from Martinique with a very valuable Cargo - I hope she has sailed, or about sailing at this time. We have just made a large purchase here of some Mous, Muskets, and Gun flints which we shall ship in the first of the Councils Vessels, that may arrive here. We cautioned you and the Council some time past ag^t sending your vessels to this Island, thinking it the most dangerous and difficult to get into, which we are since sorry for, as it has proved less here than to any other Islands, and for the future advise you to send all your vessels here for sundry reasons. viz. This is always the best Market for our Produce, particularly tobacco which is now rising fast, all our purchases are made here, and freight paid to Martinique for all the goods shipped from there, and most of the Cargo is sent from Martinique here to be sold and very high freight paid on them, that on the whole this is the best place by far and grows less difficult to transact here, as the Dutch have discover'd that their laws when put in force must ruin their Merchants - I am on the best terms with his Excellency the Governour and have his word and Promise relative to some particulars that gives me great Satisfaction and puts much in our power.

I was not so happy some time ago and every bad consequence to apprehend on our new Governour's taking the Command, but we are as well fix'd with him now as we were with the former. - We are very largely indebted here most of the State, many sums now due and many lately contracted that will of course be due shortly. We are doing all in our power to serve our Country, and hope they will not let our credit suffer.

We are, Gentlemen
Your most Obedt & very humble
Van Dillen & Harrison.

To Mess^{rs} Robert Townsend, (Hors & Co)
(copy)