

but the two I have built my self which are built agreeable to the  
Draft I draw and laid before the Convention, which the Convention approved  
of and desired me to give the other builders copies of which I did  
I suppose the other builders have consulted you before they built on a dif-  
ferent plan. Intend to Battemore this week to try if I can persuade  
Messrs Lax and Bowley to make me another cable. If I had a cable  
that I could vented this Gully in the Bay, with I would not delay to  
now long ago. I think Capt. Mathews will tell you she is complete  
for the use she was intended for which is directly to the plan I laid  
before the Convention. I shall call on you as I go up to your  
Commodore and shall strictly observe them as far as in my power. I  
have riged and fitted out two vessels to your command which has  
taken a great deal of Cordage & Canvas, Ship Chandley &c.

For the Honourable Council } I am Gentlemen your most Obedt Servt.  
of Saptcy } Stephen Steward

Sir,

Bladenburg Navy 27<sup>th</sup> 1777.

Since my last to you, I have received a letter from the back  
parts relating to hemp, it is dated the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst. and runs as  
under. There is no hemp in this neighborhood ready for market.  
what was made last summer now lies under the snow, and if  
it was up the farmers tell me, they should not be able to get  
labourers to break it, until our militia returns. I can form no  
idea of what the price may be tho' I find their expectations are  
very high. they talk of 60<sup>l</sup>/w<sup>l</sup> b<sup>l</sup>.

If you have any remarks or observations to make on these  
particulars, be pleased to let me know them. if your orders must  
be had, pray let me know what you wish I should do as to hemp  
and what you think cordage is worth, or what other Repemakers may  
ask for Cordage. when hemp is as above, for I have no great inclina-  
tion to meddle with any quantity of hemp, when at such a high  
price. I shall be glad of an answer to this, as soon as it is convenient.  
Doubtless of St Thomas, I remain Sir your most Obedt Servt.  
James Esq. at Annapolis } George Lovells.

Mr Malachi Keener and Mr Christian Keener his son, understand-  
ing it is the design of the Council of safety to erect magazines or ware-  
houses for purpose of storing Flour, Beef, &c. for the Province are willing  
to be employed as a purchaser. They will perform the business as  
cheap as any can or will. They have two warehouses of their own, which  
if the Council think proper, they will hire them for the above pur-  
pose, provided they are so employed.

To Thomas Cockey, Deye Esq.

27<sup>th</sup> January 1777