

S I R,

February 8th 1770.

“ I N the Name of the Gentlemen concerned I deliver you this Letter, and I make no Doubt you will answer their Expectations, by attending to what they require with that Deliberation which the great Importance of your Determination requires.

I am, Gentlemen, your most humble Servant,

To John Stevenson, Esquire,
Chairman of the Committee.

JAMES DICK.”

GENTLEMEN,

ANNAPOLIS, February 8, 1770.

“ O N a most careful and attentive Perusal of your Opinion on the Importation of Goods by the Brigantine *Good Intent*, Captain *William Errington*, and your Determination thereon, delivered to us this Afternoon, *we must own ourselves at a Loss to conceive on what Principles such a general Determination is founded*; and, *though we had declared to abide by your Determination on the Matter, yet we did not doubt but that your Reasons would have been given for such your Opinion*: We expected, nor did any of us desire any Thing else, but a *strict and free Enquiry* into this Importation, agreeable to the *Letter and Spirit* of the Association entered into the 22d *June* last; and *had your Determination been such, there is none of us but would have abided thereby*; but you will excuse us, Gentlemen, from observing to you, that we *cannot conceive it in that Light*; and, as not only the Disposal of a considerable Part of O U R Property, but even our Character, in some Measure depends on your Determination, we hope you will *furnish us with your Reasons for what you have done*: You say that the Goods consigned to us are shipped contrary to the General Association of this Province, and that it is your Opinion, that said Goods ought not to be landed. We shall not *at present* enter into any Discussion about the Goods on board, prohibited by the Association, but from the Papers laid before you, you must be sensible that by far the greatest Part of those Goods are expressly within, not only the Letter, but the *truest Spirit* of that Agreement. How you reconcile that Part of your Determination, that these Goods *should not be landed*, we must own we are at a Loss to conceive; we may be mistaken as to your Meaning in that Point, and we should be glad to have it cleared up. Though conscious to ourselves, that all the Goods on board belonging to us, were ordered *within the Letter of the Association*, yet we should have most cheerfully acquiesced in *storing those Articles that are prohibited*, and we would have entered into Engagements, to *bind ourselves from disposing of them*, until a determined Time after the Association is dissolved, and we are even ready to comply with your present Determination, on your giving us *Answers to this, and the enclosed Queries*, with Respect to the putting your Desire in Execution. We therefore hope you will re-consider the Matter, and are respectfully,

GENTLEMEN, *your most obedient humble Servants,*

JAMES DICK & STEWART,
WILLIAM LYON,
JUDSON COOLIDGE,
ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN,
for Self and COWEN,
WILLIAM M'GACHIN,
MAGRUDER & HEPBURN.”