

ship that came yesterday is a very fine one for the old France Trade. Capt. Martin will sail to morrow without fail hands is so scarce it is almost impossible to get them. I have Beef and salted, I suppose for some time. I am picking up all the Pork I can for the Defence. Butter and cheese is very high. I think Capt. Martin and hand will expend in wages and repairs 200 Pounds. Please send me 1500 or 2000 Pounds. Money is paid away surprisingly but I cannot do with less.

from your Humble Serv^t
Jesse Hollingsworth.

P. S. Mr Speer, Mr Smith, Mr Turnbull or Capt Cook will be good hands to send money by, Send it soon as I am out.

Original.

[Chase to Capt. Nicholson.]

Wednesday morning
Philadelphia Dec. 11th 1776.

Sir.

It has been reported that you was coming up to this city with a Body of seamen and marines, one of the frigates is ready for the sea. the other three may be soon ready for a short voyage, if men could be procured, you would render essential service, if you could immediately come up with a body of seamen, and an attempt might be made to bring round all the frigates here to Baltimore Town. It cannot be doubted the Council of Safety would lend the Hands belonging to the Defence for this very important service. You will send an Express to the Council of Safety not one moment is to be lost. I write this by the order of congress.

We were informed yesterday morning that the Enemy were at Burlington Monday evening. We have certain intelligence just now, that the Enemy were not there last night. It is reported and believed, that some of their light Horse were seven miles above that place on Monday, not one of the Enemy are on the West side of the Delaware. It is believed the main Body of General Howe's army is at Maidenhead, about six miles above to the East of Trenton, General Lee with between 5 & 6000 men was at Morris Town last Sunday Evening, he will join General Washington who is with his army opposite Trenton. The congress will not quit this city but in the last extremity. to prevent false reports, publish the above.

Inform Mr Purviance, that Mr Hancock will set off this day.

Let it be known, that arms are furnished to our Militia. Let the want of them be no excuse.

Your obed^t Servant.

Capt. James Nicholson }
Baltimore Town }
Maryland }

Sam^l Chase