

c. c. the Letter we received from the Marine Committee and Copy of Resolutions inclosed by the President; we were not furnished with the Resolution of Congress for the Discharge of the Men; if any such passed it was omitted to be sent by the President and Marine Committee. M^r Lewis has very much mistaken the Council. They and I were sensible of the Indignity offered by Cap^t Nicholson in his first Letter inclosed to Congress; after the Proceedings of Congress, we received Cap^t Nicholson's Letter of the 5th of May, which we inclosed to the Marine Committee. M^r Lewis was in Town and was several Times in the Council Room; that Letter, he must know was not satisfactory; he was desirous, indeed, that it should be accepted as such, and represented Nicholson as not being so blameable as he seemed to be. M^r Lewis may recollect that he told the Governor, Nicholson had told the Marine Committee that it was impossible for him to man the Frigate without impressing Men, and that instead of discouraging it, they seemed rather to approve, and this agrees with Nicholson's first Letter where he says "I do not pretend to plead the Orders of Congress for what I have done but will say if I had not Reason to think Congress would not disapprove of it I should not have done it." After all the Conversation that passed between M^r Lewis and the Governor & Council, our Letter to Nicholson of the 8th of May, was shewn to M^r Lewis, he waited some Time for it and carried it himself intending, we have no Doubt, to influence Cap^t Nicholson as far as he could, to comply with the moderate Terms we required. We have not since received any Letter from Cap^t Nicholson, except his of the 12th Ins^t which we inclosed to the Marine Committee. How was it possible for M^r Lewis to imagine the Council were satisfied with Cap^t Nicholson's Letter of the 5th after reading ours of the 8th nor have the Council or I had any Intercourse with M^r Lewis or Cap^t Nicholson, since Nicholson's Letter of the 12th which you may see, by our Letter to the Marine Committee, we do not esteem a very genteel one. The Discharge of the Men is the Point we set out on and will not be diverted from it. Nicholson may perhaps have discharged them, but we do not know that he has he has never told us that he had or would; two Men we know were discharged, but as they and their Securities represented, on the Terms of giving Security in 40 Dollars each to return again in a short Time or find a Man each, and this two or three Days after the Service of the Order. We have waved the Point of Satisfaction to us, in our Letter to the Committee, not that we thought Nicholson had complied, but we are unwilling to be the Occasion of dismissing an Officer, from whom many have great Expectations.

We are Sir &^{ca}

William Paca Esq^r