Philadelphia November 5, 1775

Dear Sir,

I am under such restrictions, informations, and engagements of secrecy respecting every thing which passed in Congress, that I cannot communicate my own thoughts freely to my Friends, so far as is necessary to ask their advice and opinions concerning business which many of them understand much better than I do. This however is done in conveinence which must be submitted to for the sake of Superior Advancement.

But I must take the liberty to say that I think we shall soon think of maritime affairs and naval Operations. No great things are to be expected at first, but one of a little a great deal may grow.

It is very odd that I who have spent my Days in Navigation and Employment, to very different, and who have never thought much of old drags or the Dominions of Sea should be necessitated to make such Inquiries: But it is my Fate, and my Lot, and therefore I must attempt it.

I am to Enquire what Number of Seamen may be found in our Islands, who would probably inslist in the Service either as Marines, or on Board.
of armed vessels in the Bay of the Continent or in the Bay of the Province or on board of vessels fitted out by private adventurers —

I must also intreat you to let me know the names of persons of ability and character of such persons belonging to any of the seaport towns in our Province who are qualified for officers and commanders of armed vessels.

I want to be further informed what ships, brigantines, schooners, &c. are to be found in any part of the Province which are to be sold or hired out which will be suitable for armed vessels — that their tonnage, the depth of water, their breadth, their decks, &c., and where they belong, and what is their age.

Further, what places in our Province are most seacoast and best accommodated for building armed vessels of men in such a measure of that kind should be thought of.

The Committee have returned much pleased with what they have seen and heard; which proves that their Embarkage will be productive of happy effects — they say the only disagreeable concern is that their engagements have, and constant attention to Raleigh was such as prevented them from forming such arrangements with the gentlemen from our Province as they wished, but as Congress was waiting for news their action before they could determine upon affairs of the last moment, they had not time to spare.

They are pretty well convinced I believe of several important points which they and other doubted before.

New Hampshire has been to assume a Government and is to have South Carolina, but this must not be fully talked of yet, at least from me.

New England will now be able to send her strength which a little time will show to be greater than either Great Britain or America imagined. I give you fair of the agreeable present in general. You have the honor of my respect. I am sure of the highest respect