

Boston July 8<sup>th</sup> 1782

Captain George Suttle

Sir

Having appointed & commissioned you to the Command of the Armed Sloop Winthrop belonging to this Commonwealth and you having reported to me that the Sloop is in every respect ready for the Sea; you are hereby ordered to embrace the first favourable weather & proceed to Sea with the Sloop under your Command upon a Cruise for the protection of the Sea Coast against the Enemies of these United States, whose Vessels if not Superior to you in Force you will use your best Endeavours to take Sink or destroy, and should you be so fortunate as to take any Prizes you will send them into the Port of Boston, unless Circumstances should occur to you to make it more safe to send them into any other Port. - You will be particularly careful not to fall in the way of a Superior Force but avoid as much as possible even the Hazard of being captured, and should you find that there are Vessels of Superior Force to you in the Bay, if your Sloop will be in danger of being taken, you are directed immediately to return into the Port of Boston. You will take under your Convoy any Vessels that are ready & bound

To

to the eastward, particularly the Schooner bound to Ma-  
chias with Provisions for the Garrison, also the Sloop Prof-  
bury Capt. Bosworths with Provisions for Kennebeck  
River, & a Vessel bound to Frenchmans Bay, these  
Vessels you are hereby ordered to take under your  
Convoy and see them safe to the several destined  
ports, the Sloop for Kennebeck you need only see  
a small way up the River, as I do not conceive any  
risque after she enters the River tho' I leave it  
with you to determine your conduct in this instance  
from the Circumstances that you meet with. \* As  
soon as you have complied with your Orders as to your  
Convoy and have discharged yourself from them; You  
will proceed to cruize along the Eastern Shore, and  
such other parts as you shall judge most conducive to  
answer the principal Object of your Cruize, the Protection  
of the Sea Coast. You will be attentive to the Cruizing  
Vessels from the Eastward, & whenever a Number of them  
are Loaded & ready to Sail for Boston, & application  
is made to you, you are hereby directed to take  
them under your Convoy & proceed with them to  
Boston, and bring your Vessel to anchor in the Road  
below, & come up to Town in your Boat, that I  
may have notice of your Arrival and be made  
acquainted

acquainted with the Occurrences of your Cruise.  
If Circumstances admit you may continue your  
Cruise Four Weeks, at the expiration of which time  
you will return to Boston, if you are not sooner called  
upon by the Eastern Trade to convoy them up.

You will embrace every opportunity to give me  
information of your proceedings of every material Occur-  
rence that takes place.

I recommend the  
greatest Frugality and attention that the provisions  
and Stores be not unnecessarily expended or Lost.

You will be careful that the Regulations of the  
Commonwealth with respect to Armed Vessels be  
strictly adhered to, & that good Order & proper  
Discipline be preserved on board the Warrant.

I wish you an Agreeable and Success-  
ful Cruise. I am

Your Friend & humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
John Hancock

Public Service

Capt. George Little  
Commander of the Armed Schooner