Boston July 8th, 1782

Captain George Little

Sir,

Having appointed Command to you 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 I proceed to Sea with the Sloop under your Com-
mand upon a Cruize 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 for
bound
to the eastward, particularly the Schooner bound to Marschis with Provisions for the Garrison, also the Sloop Roxbury Capt. Bosworths with Provisions for Kennebec River. If a Nessel 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 Kennebec you need only see a small way up the River, as I do not conceive any hazard after she enters the River the 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 cruise along the eastern shore, and such other parts as you shall judge most conducive to answer the principal object of your cruise, the Protection of the Sea Coast. You will be attentive to the Coastal Vessels from the eastward of whenever a Number of them are loaded or ready to sail for Boston, if application is made to you, you are hereby directed to take them under your convoy or proceed with them to Boston, and bring your Vessel to Anchor in the road below, if come up to Town in your Bruce that I may have notice of your arrival and be made acquainted
s 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.

If you will embrace every opportunity to give me

information of your proceedings & of every material Occur-

rence that takes place.

I recommend the
greatest Prudence 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, so that good Order & proper

Discipline be preserved on board the Vessels.

I wish you an Agreeable and Success-

ful Cruise, Sir,

Your Friend & Humble Serv.

John Hancock