

Gentlemen, We enclose you cases stated by Messrs Melme and Jenkins who were taken by the ships defence on their Passage to Britain and beg you to take the opinion of Congress upon the same, whether they should be prisoners of war. You will be pleased to get the opinion as soon as it is convenient for you and transmit it to us.

To Delegates in Congress.

We are, Sir,

with respect &c

December 24th 1776

Sir, Your by Mr Barry we have received and are glad to hear you have launched one of the Row Gallies and that you are pushing the other as fast as possible. As to necessity we must refer you to Mr. Stephen Stewart who is now in your town. Inclosed is an order on the Commissary for sheet Lead for the purposes you mention; Mr Barry brings the amount of the accounts for the Repairs of the old Vessel but we cannot be justified in advancing the seven Hundred pounds on account of the Row Gallies without an account of the Expenditures of that money before advanced for that Business which you will please forward to us and the further advance shall be immediately made.

We are, Sir

With respect yours &c

To George Melles Esquire

In Council of Safety Dec 26th 1776.

Sir, We send you by the messenger Commissions in Col. James Johnson's and Col. Bruce's Battalions according to your request - we have also sent commissions for Col. Shonedings and others in his Battalion made out in the best manner we could there are no commissions for some of the Captains Lieutenants and Ensigns, because we did not know them, but you may assure any of the Gentlemen who may march that we will send them forward as soon as possible when you will be pleased to forward us with a list of names. We are very desirous of sending the Service all we can, and should cheerfully have sent the flour and Blankets and stockings but we have them not, now can we get enough Blankets for the Hospitals; we will send up five hundred or a thousand pair of shoes by the first waggon we can get to be left at Fredericks town and delivered to you or in your absence to your order; unless you should write they had better be sent to the Christian Bridge or the head of Elk where we are of opinion the Troops might more readily obtain them.

We expect to hear from you on that head as soon as possible: in the mean time we will order them to be packed up ready.

As to the command we would by no means be instrumental