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[FROM TRYON'S LETTER BOOK.]

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Letter from Governor Tryon to Right Honble Hy. Seymore Conway  
BRUNSWICK, 26<sup>th</sup> December 1765

In obedience to his Majesty's commands communicated to me by the honour of your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> of July last, It is with concern I acquaint you that the obstruction to the Stamp Act passed last Session of Parliament has been as general in this province as in any colony on the continent, tho' their irregular proceedings have been attended with no mischief or are by any means formidable. I am much of opinion that whatever measures are prescribed and enforced by his Majesty's authority to the more formidable colonies to the northward will meet with a ready acquiescence in the southern provinces without the necessity of any military force. The first intelligence of the general alarm which was spread against the Stamp Act in this Colony was in October last, at a time I lay extremely ill of the fevers of this country which with repeated relapses I have experienced these five months past, I was very impatient to seize the first opportunity to communicate my sentiments to the merchants and gentlemen of New Hanover, and Brunswick counties, who are the persons that carry on the Commerce of Cape Fear River (and where I imagine the Stamps would arrive) on the then situation of public affairs. On the 18<sup>th</sup> November near fifty of the above gentlemen waited on me to dinner, when I urged to them the expediency of permitting the circulation of the Stamps, but as my health at that time would not allow me to write down any speech, I must beg leave to refer you, Sir, to the inclosed Carolina Gazette of the 27<sup>th</sup> November in which you will find nearly the substance of what I declared and proposed to the above gentlemen. Their answer and my reply are inclosed. Two days before the above meeting Mr Houston the distributor of the Stamps was compelled in the Court House at Wilmington, and in presence of the Mayor and some Aldermen to resign his office. The Stamps arrived the 28<sup>th</sup> of November last in his Majesty's Sloop, the *Diligence*, Captain Phipps, Commander, but as there was no Distributor, or other officer of the Stamps in this Country after Mr Houston's resignation, the Stamps still remain on board the said ship. No vessels have been cleared out since the

first of November from this river, or from any other in this province that I have received intelligence of. Some merchants from Wilmington applied to me for certificates for their ships, specifying that no Stamps were to be had, which I declined granting, referring them to the officers of his Majesty's customs; They have been as assiduous in obstructing the reception of the Stamps as any of the inhabitants. No business is transacted in the Courts of Judicature, tho' the Courts have been regularly opened, and all Civil Government is now at a stand, This stagnation of all public business and commerce, under the low circumstances of the inhabitants, must be attended with fatal consequences to this colony, if it subsists but for a few months longer. There is little or no specie circulating in the maritime counties of this province, and what is in circulation in the back counties is so very inconsiderable that the Attorney General assured me, that the Stamp duties on the instruments used in the five Superior Courts of this province would in one year require all the specie in the country; the business which is likewise transacted in the 29 Inferior or County Courts the many instruments which pass through the Sheriff's hands and other Civil Officers these the Land office and many other instruments used in transaction of public business were the reasons which induced me to believe the operation in all its parts impracticable and which likewise prompted me to make my proposals for the ease and conveniency of the people, and to endeavour to reconcile them to this Act of Parliament.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of last month I opened and proclaimed my commission at Wilmington where I consulted his Majesty's Councils if any measures could be proposed to induce the people to receive the Stamps. They were unanimously of opinion that nothing further could be done than what I had already offered. I have issued his Majesty's writs for a new election of Assembly, but shall not meet them till next April at Newbern.

As the arrival of Dispatches from the public Boards is extremely uncertain here at all times, but more particularly precarious in the present time, I should wish, Sir, that any commands you honour me with might be inclosed to the Governor of South Carolina or to Mr Barron the Post Master General, residing in Charles Town with orders to forward them to me by express.

I am, Sir &c<sup>a</sup>

able the death of his father may determine him not to return here; this will make another vacancy in the Council

The Act of Parliament laying Stamp duties on the Colonies, has been as generally rejected in this province as in any colony on the Continent: The particular conduct of the inhabitants; I have transmitted to Mr Conway one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State therefore I shall not trouble your Lordships on this subject. The Stamp papers arrived the 28<sup>th</sup> of November last in his Majesty's sloop the *Diligence*, Capt Phipps, Commander, from Virginia, where they still continue: I have issued a proclamation signifying their arrival, and that they would be delivered from on board the *Diligence* to any person who was properly qualified to receive them.

As the arrival of dispatches from the public boards is extremely uncertain here at all times, but more particularly precarious in the present times; I should wish that any commands your Lordships honored me with, might be inclosed to the Governor of South Carolina or to the Post Master General residing in Charles Town with orders to forward them to me by express

I am &c

[N. C. LETTER BOOK S. P. G.]

Letter from Mr Barnett to Mr Waring

CASTLE TRYON near Brunswick North Carolina

1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup>. 1766 10 o'clock at night

REV<sup>d</sup> SIR

Since my arrival in Carolina I have heard from no one friend, nor any of my friends (but once) from me our ports as well as Courts of Justice are shut up & all business at a stand & this ever since the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> & God knows how long it may continue.

Two vessels are about to sail one tomorrow for Portsmouth with dispatches for the government & the other for London with Naval Stores on Thursday next. This comes by the former by the latter I write Dr Burton

My situation at present is no further agreeable than as his Excellency our worthy Governor & the most amiable of women his Lady endeavor to render it so

At present I have no other *certain* income than what I receive from the society our public disturbances are risen to such an height

& the consequences of them are such as you can form but little conception of

The vestry have voted me £133: 6: 3 per annum currency (a guinea is £4 21) but I have no other security for the payment of that salary than *their honor* as no agreement enter'd into can now be legal without *stamp'd papers* & the honor of this Country is but a poor basis to build any great hopes on.

I cannot have the cure of Wilmington tho' join'd in the mission as that town is the Capitol of another County and pluralities are not known in these parts.

Our Gov<sup>r</sup> writes by this opportunity to the Society & incloses an handsome sum in a Bill on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Drummonds at Charing Cross & desires to be admitted a Member of the Society, he is one of the worthiest of men & has the interest of religion much at heart. He has lately procured an Act of Assembly for the better encouragement of the Clergy he has rais'd their salaries to the sum within nam'd & has happily got the right of Induction *vested in the Crown*

I have genteel apartments assigned me in the Governor's house & I thank God live extremely happy in the family

I judge it proper to acquaint you that one Stevens a Scotch Presbyterian teacher, comes in this vessel to get orders. I did propose to give you some very particular account of him but the Captain waits for the Letter & will not give me time to say more than that this Stevens has ill used the Governor affronted all the King's Council (but one *Scotch* gentleman) most villainously abused me & now comes to apply to the Bishop of London for orders without any recommendation to his Lordship you'll be able to form some judgment of the man when I tell you he has several times preach'd here in a Lawyers old gown given him at Wilmington to make some waistcoats of he has I assure you Sir baptized several children in the character of a Clergyman of the Church of England which before I came he had the impudence to assume & upon my detecting him he said in public Company he would go home to London, would make a genteel present to the Bishop & knew he could get an order from his Lordship to supersede me in my mission this he afterwards told me himself & he told some of the King's Council here anyone might get orders on making a Bishop a present of the price of a good Beaver Hat — which he intended doing, he came here a distress'd stranger the Gov<sup>r</sup> took pity on him & promised to recommend

him to the Society if he behaved well for some time & also give him 50 guineas to bear his expences but his Excellency soon saw into the man forbid him his presence & will never suffer him to take a living here if he should get ordained.

The times are so distracted that I cannot possibly propose a negro school. I beg my best respects may be given to good M<sup>r</sup> Skinner and family and my good friend M<sup>r</sup> Hopkins & his very amiable family

With the most extraordinary haste &c  
JOHN BARNETT Missionary

[N. C. LETTER BOOK S. P. G.]

Mr. Barnett to the Secretary.

BRUNSWICK Cape Fear Feby 3rd 1766

REVEREND SIR,

The unhappy disturbances in America has prevented any opportunity of my writing the venerable society till now.

The Governor has wrote you and desires to be admitted a member of the Society; he has enclosed a bill of Exchange on Messrs Drummond Charing Cross.

He is a gentleman of great goodness of heart, and a most sincere well wisher of the Society. His Excellency has lately effected what the late very worthy Governor often attempted.

An act of Assembly is at length obtained for vesting the right of Induction in the Crown, and the salaries are augmented to £133 per annum currency about £70 sterling.—

The Society were pleased to appoint me their Missionary to Brunswick and Wilmington, but these Towns being Capitals of two several Counties I can be minister to only one of them so have chosen Brunswick which is the residence of the Governor however I occasionally officiate in several other places one was upwards of one hundred miles distant from Brunswick.—

The extent of this Parish is I believe about sixty miles by thirty I have visited several times those parts in it appointed by the Vestry and have baptized from the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Nov<sup>r</sup> to last of January Sixty White Children One Negro Child and one adult Negro—and three times administered the sacrament to about 25 communicants —

[FROM MS. RECORDS IN OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.]

COUNCIL JOURNALS.

At a Council held at Brunswick 6<sup>th</sup> January 1766

Present

His Excellency the Governor

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> { James Hasell      Lewis H D<sup>o</sup>Rosset & } Esquires  
                   { John Rutherford      William Dry }

Thomas Rutherford Deputy Clerk of the Council took the oaths of Secrecy appointed for the Council

His Excellency communicated to this Board that the Stamp papers were arrived in Cape Fear river in His Majestys Sloop of War *Diligence* Constantine Phipps Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander

Ordered that the following proclamation be forthwith issued Viz<sup>t</sup>

NORTH CAROLINA

By His Excellency William Tryon Esquire &c

A Proclamation.

Whereas the Stamp papers for the use of this Province agreeable to Act of Parliament are now in Cape Fear river. I therefore thought fit By and with the advice and consent of His Majestys Council to issue this proclamation that no person may plead ignorance thereof and that any person properly authorized to be a distributor of the said Stamp papers may receive them by applying to the Commander of His Majestys Sloop of War the *Diligence* now riding at the port of Brunswick and giving his receipt for the same.

Given under my hand the Great Seal of &c. at Brunswick 6<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1766 &c.

His Excellency was pleased to mention to this Board that the late Chief Justice Charles Berry Esquire was deceased, and that he approved of James Hasell Esq<sup>r</sup> as a proper person to succeed said late Charles Berry Esq<sup>r</sup> as Chief Justice of this Province — To which this Board unanimously agree

[REPRINTED FROM NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE, 12 FEBRUARY, 1766.]

(February 12. 1766.)

THE

Numb. 70.)

*NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.*

Wilmington; Printed by Andrew Steuart.

WILMINGTON February 12.

The Printer hereof cannot help observing to the Publick, that he is at present in a very disagreeable situation. At the earnest desire, or rather stern command of the people, he has endeavored with great difficulty, to carry on a News-Paper, well knowing, that that Province that is deprived of the liberty of the Press, is deprived of one of the darling Privileges, which they, as Englishmen, boast of. The Consequence has been, that, for publishing a letter from a gentleman at Tarborough, (who no doubt tho't that he was as much entitled to the liberty of the Press, and making his sentiments thereby known to the Public, as any other man) he has been threatened with a Horse whipping;—and doubtless he would have run some such hazard, had he refused inserting that very letter—What part is he now to act?—Continue to keep his Press open and free, and be in danger of corporal punishment, or bloque it up and run the risk of having his brains knocked out? Sad alternative.—One thing he has long ago resolved on, viz: That as he looks upon himself to be a free-born subject, no man shall ever horse whip him, if it is in his power to prevent it; and whenever any such threats are made towards him, he'll take care to be on his guard.

CROSS CREEK, January 30<sup>th</sup> 1766.

M<sup>r</sup> Printer,

I am a Trader and Settler here, and have now by me several commodities, some of which I want to ship and some to dispose of. I sent some things lately down to Wilmington for both purposes, but could neither ship, or sell for money; and indeed I find Cape Fear the only Port in all America shut up; for I am informed, all the other Ports in this very Province are open, and Trade and Commerce carried on as usual; and what very greatly surprizes me is,

that three Vessels are now seized on by the Men of War, and many others coming in have gone off again, for fear of sharing the same fate; the Courts of Justice shut up, and a total stagnation of business; and all this without the least notice being taken thereof, which surprizes me beyond measure.—Where now is your late boasted Courage and resolution? Have the Wilmingtonians, Brunswickers and New-Hanoverians lost their senses and their souls, and are they determined tamely to submit to slavery?—O! horrid dreadful thought!—But say some among you, we are waiting for the K\_\_g's At\_\_y's Fiat, whether we are to be free men or slaves; and whether the Port and Courts shall be open. Rouze for shame, act the man, open your Port and Courts, arrest the men who have made illegal seizures, and been the means of detaining those Vessels, and put them under pain of military discipline, if they dare to seize any more. Delays are dangerous; there is no time to lose; perhaps in a short time it will be too late, for your tamely submitting to what has past, appears to be a tacit submission in part, to the Act: Be not deceived with the laconic advice of some, who perhaps want popularity, Commissions, Custom, or have some other sinister views; tis Liberty calls you, dear Liberty! Be therefore unanimous and put on a firm resolution without loss of time, to protect and defend to the utmost of your power, your Liberties and Properties from all Invaders and Opposers; and at the same time preserve inviolably your Faith and Allegiance to the best of Kings.

PHILANTHROPOS.

Yesterday (the 11<sup>th</sup> of February) being the day appointed by His Majesty's Writs for the electing of Representatives to sit in the ensuing Assembly, John Ashe and James Moore, Esquires, were chosen unanimously for the County of New-Hanover, and Cornelius Harnett Esquire for the Borough of Wilmington. A list of the New Assembly shall be published as soon as the Writs are returned.

No Vessels have come into our River for these two weeks past, nor do we expect that any will venture in, except European Vessels, and those from such Islands as have taken the Stamps.

The Ports of Ocracock, Beaufort, Cape Look Out, &c are the only Asylum that the Vessels bound to this Port have.



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[FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE, 26 FEBRUARY, 1766.]

(February 26, 1766.)

THE

(Numb. 72.)

*NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE.*

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Wilmington; Printed by Andrew Steuart.

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WILMINGTON February 26<sup>th</sup>

Notwithstanding what passed, relative to the Attorney General's opinion on the seizure of the Sloops, by Captain Lobb, for want of stamped Clearances, as mentioned in our last; the inhabitants remain greatly dissatisfied, more particularly at M<sup>r</sup> Attorney's answer to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quere, where he says, "If Prosecutions are intended against these Vessells, they must be sent to Halifax, &c." And concluding in these words viz<sup>t</sup> "Upon the whole, it is my opinion, that it is the duty of the Collector to prosecute on the information he has received."

In consequence of which opinion, the People from several of the Counties round, assembled at Wilmington, on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of this instant, appointed Officers to take the Command, compelled them to act, and entered into the following Association, which was signed by all the principal Gentlemen, Freeholders and other inhabitants of several Counties; viz.

NORTH CAROLINA

We the subscribers, free and natural born subjects of George the third, true and lawful King of Great Britain and all its Dependencies (whom God preserve) whose sacred person, crown and dignity, we are ready and willing, at the expense of our lives and fortunes to defend, being fully convinced of the oppressive and arbitrary tendency of a late Act of Parliament, imposing Stamp duties on the inhabitants of this Province, and fundamentally subversive of the liberties and Charters of North America; truly sensible of the inestimable blessings of a free Constitution, gloriously handed down to us by our brave Forefathers, detesting Rebellion, yet preferring death to slavery, Do, with all loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign, with all deference to the just Laws of our Country, and with a

proper and necessary regard to ourselves and Posterity, hereby mutually and solemnly plight our faith and honour, that we will at any risque whatever, and whenever called upon, unite, and truly and faithfully assist each other, to the best of our Power, in preventing entirely the operation of the Stamp Act.

Witness our hands this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 1766.

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> they proceeded to Brunswick where their numbers were soon increased to upwards of a thousand, and had intelligence of several hundreds more on their march to join them. On their arrival at Brunswick in order to remove all apprehensions on the part of His Excell<sup>ty</sup> the Governor, the following letter was delivered him, by two Gentlemen sent for that purpose, viz.

SIR,

The inhabitants dissatisfied with the particular restrictions laid on the Trade of this River, only, have determined to march to Brunswick, in hopes of obtaining in a peaceable manner, a redress of their grievances from the commanding Officer of His Majesty's ships, and have compelled us to conduct them. We therefore think it our duty to acquaint your Excellency, that we are fully determined to protect from insult your person and property; and that if it will be agreeable to your Excellency, a guard of gentlemen shall be immediately detached for that purpose.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient humble servants

February 19<sup>th</sup> 1766.

To his Excellency Col: William Tryon, Governor and Commander in Chief of North Carolina.

On Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> a Conference was held with the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ships, and the Collector, and in the afternoon matters were happily accommodated, and a promise obtained, that the Port should for the future be freed from the particular restrictions heretofore laid on it, at least until the arrival of the Surveyor General of the Customs, and that Vessels should be entered and cleared as usual.

On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>, a Party of men was sent for the Collector, Naval Officer, and Comptroller of the Customs; the Collector and

Naval Officer were brought, and information was received that the Comptroller was at the Governor's; upon which a Gentleman was dispatched to demand his attendance, which he refused to comply with; and the People being informed that he was detained by the Governor, a letter was then sent to request that his Excellency would be pleased to let him attend: They received for answer, that the Comptroller was employed by his Excellency on dispatches for His Majesty's service, and that any gentleman who had business with him, might see him at the Governor's house.

A Party was then immediately dispatched to fetch him, and marched directly to the Governor's; They halted near the house, by order, and a gentleman was once more sent to the Comptroller, to desire he would not put the People to the disagreeable necessity of entering his Excellency's House, with a promise, that if he would come out, no injury should be offered his person, which he at last complied with. The Party then joined the main Body, and marched immediately into the Town, drew up in a large circle, placing the Custom-House Officers in the Center, where they all made oath, that they would not, directly or indirectly, by themselves, or any other person employed under them, sign or execute in their several and respective Offices, any stamped Papers, until the Stamp Act should be accepted by the Province. All the Clerks of the Courts, Lawyers &c present, were sworne to the same effect. The People then immediately dispersed in order to repair to their several places of abode.

It is well worthy of observation that few instances can be produced, of such a number of men being together so long and behaving so well; not the least noise or disturbance, nor any person seen disguised with liquor, during the whole time of their stay at Brunswick, neither was there an injury offered to any person, but the whole affair conducted with decency and spirit, worthy the imitation of all the sons of Liberty throughout the Continent.

In consequence of matters being accommodated, with regard to opening the Port, the Sloops, *Dobbs*, *Ruby* and *Patience*, under seizure for want of stamped Papers, were delivered up to the Masters, and Owners and arrived at this Town on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> instant.

By a Vessel commanded by Captain Luin, arriving at Point Look-Out, in this Province, in nine days from New York, we have the following agreeable account, which we hope will soon be confirmed;

(that is to say) Captain Luin says, That before he left New York a Vessel was arrived here from Falmouth in England, who had sailed in company with the packet, bound for New York, but had out-sail'd her; the Captain of which Vessel did assert, that that very packet had orders on board to the different Governors on the Continent to permit Trade, &c. to be carried on in the usual manner.—N. B. As Capt. Luin came down New York Bay, he met the above-mentioned packet going up.

The following paragraph is from a Newbern Paper of the 14<sup>th</sup> of January.

“Several gentlemen have arrived in Town this week from the northward, but bring no material advices: Nothing transpired from home with regard to the Stamp Act: Business goes on with them as usual; and their fear of seizures by men of war is so small, that they under write the risque at Philadelphia for two and a half per cent. on any voyage, except to Cape Fear, that being the only spot on the Continent where seizures of that sort happen.”

The Wilmington Express sets off Thursday morning early; and will continue to set off every other Thursday, for Charlestown in South-Carolina—Letters, Messages &c. must be left at the printing Office before 8 o'clock Wednesday evening.

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[FROM TRYON'S LETTER BOOK.]

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ARMED RESISTANCE TO THE STAMP ACT.

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Letter from Governor Tryon with enclosures

25<sup>th</sup> February 1766

SIR [SECRETARY CONWAY]

As I wish to give you as particular a relation for his Majesty's information as I possibly can of an illegal Assembly of men in arms, assembled at Brunswick on the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst. I have collected all the letters and correspondence that has come to my knowledge previous to the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst. during the time the men remained in arms, as well as after they dispersed.

In this letter I shall chiefly confine myself to the narration of the actions and conduct of the body assembled, desiring leave to refer you to the letters as they occur in point of order, and time.

The seizures Cap<sup>t</sup> Lobb made of the *Dobbs* and *Patience* sloops, (as by his letter to the Collector for taking the papers and the Attorney Generals opinion taken thereon) was an affair I did not interfere with; In the first instance I never was applied to, and in the second, I thought it rested with Capt Lobb

On the 16<sup>th</sup> in the evening Mr Dry, the Collector, waited on me with a letter he received dated from Wilmington the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1766, and at the same time informed me he had sent the subscribers word he should wait on them the next day. I strongly recommended to him to put the papers belonging to the *Patience* sloop on board the *Viper* (those of the *Dobbs* had some time before been given up to the owner on his delivering security for them) as I apprehended, I said, those very subscribers would compell him to give them up; His answer was "They might take them from him but he would never give them up without Capt Lobbs order." The weather on the 17<sup>th</sup> prevented Mr Dry from going to Wilmington till the next day.

The next intelligence I received was in the dusk of the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> soon after 6 o'clock by letter delivered me by Mr George Moore and Mr Cornelius Harnet bearing date the 19<sup>th</sup> and signed "John Ashe, Thomas Lloyd, Alexander Lillington." My letter of the same night directed to the Commanding Officer either of the

*Viper* or *Diligence* Sloops of War will explain the opinion I entertained of the offer made of a guard of gentlemen, and my declaration to the detachment I found surrounding my house. This letter my servant about three in the morning put on board the *Diligence* who lay moored opposite to my house at the distance of four or five hundred yards, and returned to me again in a short space of time with Capt Phipps letter in answer. Soon after I had put up the lights required Capt Phipps came himself on shore to me, the guards having quitted the posts they had taken round the house and on the beach; With a most generous warmth and zeal Capt Phipps offered me every service his ship or himself could afford. I assured him the services I wished to receive from his Majesty's sloops consisted wholly in the protection of the Fort, That as Capt Dalrymple had but five men in garrison to defend eight eighteen pounders, eight nine pounders, and twenty three swivel guns all mounted and fit for service together with a considerable quantity of ammunition. I wrote an order to Capt Dalrymple "to obey all orders he might receive from the Commanding Officers either of the *Viper* or *Diligence* sloops of war," and desired Capt Phipps would send it to the Fort. I made it so general because Capt. Phipps told me neither of the Sloops had a pilot there on board, and it was uncertain which ship could first get down to the Fort distant four leagues from where the ship then lay off Brunswick; Capt Phipps after a stay on shore of about ten minutes returned on board the *Diligence*.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> about 12 o'clock at noon Captain Lobb sent to desire I would meet him on board the *Diligence*, which request I immediately complied with, and at the same time the Collector Mr Dry came on board. There were then present, the Captains Lobb and Phipps. Mr M<sup>c</sup>Gwire Vice Judge of the Admiralty, the Collector and myself, Capt Lobb told me he had had a committee from the inhabitants in arms on board his ship, that they demanded possession of the sloops he had seized and that he was to give them his answer in the afternoon. Mr Dry the Collector informed me that his desk was broke open on the 19<sup>th</sup> in the evening and the unstamped papers belonging to the *Patience* and *Ruby* sloops forcibly taken from him. He said he knew most of the persons that came into his house at that time but he did not see who broke open the desk and took out the papers. Capt Lobb seemed not satisfied with the legality of his seizure of the *Ruby* sloop (seized subsequent to the papers that were sent to the Attorney General for his opinion, on the *Dobbs* and *Patience*) and

declared he would return her to the master or owner; but that he would insist on the papers belonging to the *Patience* being returned, which were taken from the Collectors desk, and that he would not give up the Sloop *Patience*, I approved of these resolutions, and desired that he would not in the conduct of this affair consider my family, myself, or my property, that I was greatly solicitous for the honor of government and his Majesty's interest in the present exigency, and particularly recommended to him the protection of Fort Johnston. I then returned on Shore. In the evening Capt Phipps waited on me from on board the *Viper*, and acquainted me that all was settled; that Capt Lobb had given his consent for the owners to take possession of the Sloops *Ruby* and *Patience*, as the copy of Capt Lobbs orders for that purpose will declare.

The report was not consistent with the determination I concluded Capt Lobb left the *Diligence* in, when I met him according to his appointment but a few hours before.

To be regular in point of time, I must now speak of some further conduct of the inhabitants in arms, who were continually coming into Brunswick from different counties. This same evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst Mr Pennington, his Majesty's Comptroller came to let me know there had been a search after him, and as he guessed they wanted him to do some act that would be inconsistent with the duty of his office, he came to acquaint me with this enquiry and search. I told him I had a bed at his service, and desired he would remain with me. The next morning the 21<sup>st</sup> about eight o'clock I saw Mr Pennington going from my house with Col<sup>o</sup> James Moore, I called him back, and as Col<sup>o</sup> Moore returned with him, I desired to know if he had any business with Mr Pennington. He said the gentlemen assembled wanted to speak with him, I desired Col<sup>o</sup> Moore would inform the gentlemen Mr Pennington, his Majesty's Comptroller, I had occasion to employ on dispatches for his Majesty's service, therefore could not part with him. Col<sup>o</sup> Moore then went away and in five minutes afterwards I found the avenues to my house again shut up by different parties of armed men. Soon after the following note was sent and the answer annexed returned

“SIR,

The Gentlemen assembled for the redress of grievances desirous of seeing Mr Pennington to speak with him sent Col<sup>o</sup> Moore to desire his attendance, and understand that he was stayed by your Excel-

lency, they therefore request that your Excellency will be pleased to let him attend, otherwise it will not be in the power of the Directors appointed, to prevent the ill consequences that may attend a refusal. They don't intend the least injury to Mr. Pennington."

Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1766

To His Excellency

The Answer

"Mr Pennington being employed by his Excellency on dispatches for his Majesty's service, any gentleman that has business with him may see him at the Governors house."

21<sup>st</sup> February 1766.

It was about 10 o'clock when I observed a body of men in arms from four to five hundred move towards the house, A detachment of sixty men came down the avenue, and the main body drew up in front in sight and within three hundred yards of the house. Mr Harnett a representative in the Assembly for Wilmington, came at the head of the detachment and sent a message to speak with Mr Pennington. When he came into the house he told Mr Pennington the gentlemen wanted him. I answered, "Mr Pennington came into my house for refuge, he was a Crown Officer, and as such I would give him all the protection, my roof, and the dignity of the character I held in this Province, could afford him." Mr Harnett hoped I would let him go, as the people were determined to take him out of the house if he should be longer detained; an insult he said they wished to avoid offering to me: An insult I replied that would not tend to any great consequence, after they had already offered every insult they could offer, by investing my house, and making me in effect a prisoner before any grievance, or oppression had been first represented to me. Mr Pennington grew very uneasy, said he would choose to go to the gentlemen; I again repeated my offers of protection, if he chose to stay. He declared, and desired I would remember that whatever oaths might be imposed on him, he should consider them as acts of compulsion and not of free will; and further added, that he would rather resign his office, than do any act contrary to his duty. If that was his determination, I told him he had better resign before he left me: Mr Harnett interposed, with saying he hoped he would not do that: I enforced the recommendation for resignation. He consented, paper was brought and his resignation executed and received. I then said, Mr Pennington, now Sir, you may



go; Mr Harnett went out with him; the detachment retired to the town. Mr Pennington afterwards informed me, they got him in the midst of them when Mr Ward, master of the *Patience* asked him to enter his sloop. Mr Pennington assured him he could not, as he had resigned his office. He was afterwards obliged to take an oath that he would never issue any stamped paper in this province. The above oath the Collector informed me he was obliged to take, as were all the clerks of the County Courts, and other public officers;

The inhabitants having redressed after the manner described their grievances complained of, left the town of Brunswick about 1 o'clock on the 21<sup>st</sup>. In the evening I went on board the *Viper* and acquainted Cap<sup>t</sup> Lobb I apprehended the conditions he had determined to abide by when I left the *Diligence*, were different to the concessions he had made to the committee appointed for the redress of grievances: That I left the *Diligence* in the full persuasion he was to demand a restitution of the papers or clearances of the *Patience* sloop, and not to give up the possession of that vessel; That I found he had given up the sloop *Patience*, and himself not in possession of the papers, He answered, "As to the papers, he had attested copies of them, and as to the sloop, he had done no more than what he had offered before this disturbance happened at Brunswick." I could not help owning I thought the detaining the *Patience* became a point that concerned the honor of government and that I found my situation very unpleasant, as most of the people by going up to Wilmington in the sloops would remain satisfied and report thro' the province, they had obtained every point they came to redress, while at the same time I had the mortification to be informed his Majesty's ordnance at Fort Johnston was spiked: This is the substance of what passed on board the *Viper*. On the 22<sup>d</sup> Capt Phipps accompanied me to Fort Johnston, where I found Capt Dalrymple sick in bed, two men only in garrison, and all the cannon that were mounted, spiked with nails I gave orders for the nails to be immediately drilled out which will be executed without prejudice to the pieces. I returned to Brunswick in the evening and the next morning sent my letter bearing date 23<sup>d</sup> to Capt Lobb to desire his reasons for spiking the cannon &c. He returned me his motives for this conduct by letter the 24<sup>th</sup> inst.

Capt Lobbs complaint relative to the provisions for his Majesty's sloops being stopt at Wilmington with the contractor's certificate of the manner of this restraint and my letter to the Mayor of Wil-

Wilmington to require his assistance in furnishing the provision demanded, will be fully I hope understood by that correspondence

By the best accounts I have received the number of this insurrection amounted to 580 men in arms, and upwards of 100 unarmed. The Mayor and Corporation of Wilmington and most all of the gentlemen and planters of the counties of Brunswick, Newhanover, Duplin, and Bladen with some masters of vessels composed this corps. I am informed and believe the majority of this association were either compelled into this service, or were ignorant what their grievances were. I except the principals. I have inclosed a copy of the association formed to oppose the Stamp-Act

Thus, Sir, I have endeavoured to lay before you the first springs of this disturbance as well as the particular conduct of the parties concerned in it and I have done this as much as I possibly could, without prejudice or passion, favor or affection

I should be extremely glad if you, Sir, could honor me with his Majesty's commands in the present exigency of affairs in this colony and in the meantime will study to conduct myself with the assistance of his Majesty's Council in such manner as will best secure the safety and honor of government and the peace of the inhabitants of this province.

I am, Sir, with all possible respect and esteem.

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Copies of Letters and papers referred to in the preceding letter

[Copy.]

*Viper*, Cape Fear, 14<sup>th</sup> January 1766

SIR,

As the Sloops *Dobbs* and *Patience* not having their clearances on stamp paper according to Act of Parliament I have detained them and herewith you will receive the papers in order to their being prosecuted in the Court of Admiralty as I am directed by the Commissioners of the Customs,

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant

JACOB LOBB.

William Dry Esq.