

Dr. May,

Hampton 5th April 1776

I wrote you some time ago of Capt. Fitzgerald who promised me he would convey my letter to you since which nothing of consequence with us hath happen'd, I presume you have long ere now heard of the Elopement of his Lordship and his private flat, and their stand at Quinn's Island, I am told there is not perhaps a more proper place for his purpose in Virginia than this I^d Island, as it is a well water'd and fertile and of course capable of holding a considerable number of Hacks, so that he has nothing to do but send his Cruisers along the different Rivers collecting and himself as master Grazier overseeing at home where I doubt not but in a short time he will improve the Breed of ~~the~~ Black Cattle in these lower parts where it is much wanted, he likewise gets many recruits for his Black Regiment which ~~was~~ was ere he left Norfolk much reduced by a Malignant Feaver which carried off numbers of them, we have daily Carcases driving up by the Surf I believe since the flat left us not less than fifteen or twenty, — our Road has been clear since the departure of the flat untill yesterday when the Order of two Sunders came to opposite the mouth of our Creek dress'd in as sumptuous a manner as possible to Comemorate the Birth day of the Royal Birth of Great Britain (as Common Sense calls him) they gave us twenty one Guns but they were but badly Charged as we could scarcely hear their Reports — Capt. ----- is
the

The same Captain you left him, his case only serves to confirm
me in an old observation I've made that nature will have her
way, and it only serves to bring us into ridicule to attempt
to force her, and upon the whole we can clearly see that the
Omnipotence of Committee's is not such as by barely saying
this man shall be a Captain is sufficient to qualify him
for it when surely Nature says nay, however by this by I'm
told there are many fishy fellows amongst the late appointments
you see my friend for want of news I write nonsense, how
good or that spirit of swelling is all quiet, we have a
confounded set of Economists in our present Convention you
will rid of Continental pay it gives much uneasiness and
I'm really afraid if it is not augmented many resignations
will be the consequence in the fall tho' I suppose the
Convention makes light of the matter as they think the Vacancy's
can easily be fill'd up, 'tis true tho' can but query whether
an officer who hath been a season in Service is fitter to profit
his Country or any trading, stalling, fished animal (to use
a Phrase of an acquaintance) who may be pick'd up by
every County Committee, — our accounts from the Carolina's
is vague & uncertain tho' most however to be credited is
that Clinton is landed near Wilmington and Gen^l Morn
is watching his motions — your friends here are well
except Letch who is laid up with the Gout, my best
wishes attend you & believe me to be your sincere
P. J. W. J. J.
don't forget writing, James Mendenhall



Wm. Hendricks
Apr 1776

St
Messrs
Linn Powell
London County