

Wilmington Jan. 27. 1790. 643

Sir.

I have been applied to for Commis-
sion by the Owners of some small Board Vessels, now sitting out within
this State on a design of trading within the River and Bay of
Delaware to the Mouth of the River; Vessels as many as 10
within these Bounds; therefore I must request the favour
of you to issue one by the Council, Capt. Isaac Davis, Twenty
Blank Commissions for private Vessels of War, and as many blank
Bonds to be countersigned by the parties sitting out such Vessels, -
agreeable to the resolution of Congress of the 3^d of April 1778.
We much think we have been sent hither to this State to my
knowledge, but if so, they were taken with our President by the
Enemy.

The present Action is very favourable to
the Scheme of sitting out these small Vessels, the former stops
of War having returned to distant Harbour and their trading
Vessels are dropping in these ways and become very extensive, &
few instances of this sort have already happened, and I have
this in the expectation, that by this Means we shall be enabled more
effectually to prevent the Enemy from receiving Supplies along the
Shore of the Delaware, which is our intention, but more than
one hundred and twenty Miles including our Sea Coast, that
it is almost impracticable to guard the whole by Land Forces.

I shall esteem it as a favour in you to dispatch the
Messengers in this business with all the Expedition in your power
as there is certain intelligence that a number of small Vessels
are coming bound from New York with Merchandise and
Provisions and I have the honour to be

your most Obedt. Servt.

~~Wm. M. Dickinson~~ *Wm. M. Dickinson* President
of the Delaware State

