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Title: Letter from James Wilson to Francis Hopkinson

Date: February 18, 1781

Location: I-SpahrB-undated-14

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To the Honorable Francis Hopkinson Esquire Judge of the Court of Admiralty of
the State of Pennsylvania. -

The Bill of Matthew Sawler Commander of the Privateer
Brigantine called the Ariel, who as well for himself as for the Officers
Mariners Seamen and Owners belonging to or concerned in the said
Brigantine doth prosecute in all humble Manner Sheweth,

That the said Brigantine called the Ariel was e-
quipped and fitted out at the Expence of Sundry Persons Subjects of these United
States and the said Matthew Sawler duly commission'd by Congress to command
the same and set her forth as a Vessel of War to cruise against the Enemies
of the States aforesaid. - And the said Matthew Sawler being so duly com-
mission'd and appointed with his Officers Mariners and Seamen Sailing
on board the said Brigantine upon the high Seas between the first day of
January and the day of exhibiting this Bill upon the said high Seas
and within the Jurisdiction of this Court did discover pursue apprehend
and take the Brigantine or Vessel called the Chance Burthen about One
hundred Tons with her ^{Goods} Tackle Apparel Furniture and Cargo comman-
ded by ~~Thomas~~ ^{Thomas} Wiley then and there being the Property of the King of
Great Britain or some Subject or Subjects of the said King not residing in the
Island of Bermudas. And the said Libel further chargeth, that the said
Brigantine called the ~~Coral~~ ^{Chance} at the time of her Capture aforesaid was employ'd
in carrying Supplies to the Enemies of the United States, within some of the
said States. -

Wherefore the said Matthew Sawler prays your Honor, that
the said Brigantine called the Chance with her Tackle Apparel Fur-
niture and Cargo may by Decree of this honorable Court be adjudged and con-
demned as lawful Prize and that Process may issue for making Sale and
Distribution thereof agreeable to the Resolves of Congress and the Laws of
this State in such Case and for such Purposes made and provided. -

James Wilson *Att. Gen.*

18th July 1781

John Hancock
Boston

1780

1780

John Hancock

To the Honorable Francis Hopkinson Esquire Judge of the Court of Admiralty of the State of Pennsylvania.--

The Bill of Matthew Lawler Commander of the Privateer Brigantine called the Ariel, who as well for himself as for the Officers Mariners Seamen and Owners belonging to or concerned in the said Brigantine doth prosecute in all humble manner sheweth.

That the said Brigantine called the Ariel was equipped and fitted out at the Expencc of Sundry Persons Subjects of these United States and the Said Matthew Lawler duly commission'd by Congress to command the Same and Set her forth as a Vessel of War to cruise against the Enemies of the States aforesaid. - And the said Matthew Lawler being so duly commission'd and appointed with his Officers Mariners and Seamen Sailing on board the Said Brigantine upon the high Seas between the first day of January and the day of exhibiting this Bill upon the said high Seas and within the Jurisdiction of this Court did discover pursue apprehend and take the Brigantine or Vessel called the Chance Burthen about One hundred Tons with her guns (?) tackle Apparel Furniture and Cargo commanded by Alexander Wiley then and there being the Property of the King of Great Britain or Some Subject or Subjects of the Said King and residing in the Island of Bermudas. And the said Libel further chargeth, that the said Brigantine called the Chance at the time of her Capture aforesaid was employed in carrying Supplies to the Enemies of the United States, within Some of the Said States. -

Wherefore the said Matthew Lawler prays your Honor, that the said Brigantine called the Chance with her Tackle Apparel Furniture and Cargo may by Decree of this honorable Court be adjudged and condemned as lawful Prize and that Process may issue for making Sale and Distribution thereof agreeable to the Resolves of Congress and the Laws of this State in Such Case and for such Purposes made and provided ----

James Wilson Phila

18th Feby 1781

(On verso) Lawler Libel Feb. 18th 1781.