

To the Honorable the Council of the State
of Massachusetts Bay

202

May it please your Honors

Agreeable to your Instructions Delivered me in Council
Dated 27th July 1776 To proceed to y^e Residence of the Penobscot
Indians to Endeavour to Enlist as many of them as I
could to serve in the War under his Excellency General
Washington. Agreeable to my Instructions. Immediately
on my Arrival at Penobscot, I proceeded up the River,
Accompanied with Colonel Loudon to Mr. Jere^s Colburns
near Penobscot Village where I met with some Indians &
sent to the Tribe to Acquaint them of my Business and
in Answer to it they Appointed Tuesday 13th August to
meet me at Capt. Loudons at y^e Falls. Accordingly they
met me with Eighteen Canoes amounting to about
Shuty besides Women & Children. I then Read to them
my Instructions & also his Excellency Gen^l Washington's
request to Enlist Indians, & the Establishment for the
Pay of the Army, their Answer is as follows, that they
dont think that any of their Young men can be
spared, for that they dont know how soon they may
be wanted to defend themselves against the English
Army. They hear by the Eastern Indians that there
is a great many English Ships gone up Canada
River with Troops, and that there is a large Fort Built
on Point Levy Opposite Quebec & by whom they dont
know and there is now a strong Guard of English
kept at Soseconick a French Settlement on Shodier River,
which is the Reason that their Young men dont Choose
to Engage at Present for fear that the English Party may
Induce French & bad Indians to come amongst them
& Destroy them and us. Otherwise they would
Immediately join General Washington in his Army,
at the Southward. They say they shall keep men
to make Discoveries & from time to time will Inform
us of their proceedings, for their Safety and ours, as
We are all of One Family. They were Askea of the

Letter from Thomas
Fletcher, Relative
to Enlisting Indians

Colony should raise a Number of Men as Rangers to Reconnoitre the Country, to watch the Motion of the Enemy whether any of their young Men would join the Party, they Reply'd they would Willingly

They desired me to Inform you that all the Settlers on their Lands, were present at this Interview, and that they agreed the English shall remain as far up the River as the Tide flows & no farther, & those that were ^{Settled} above should be removed, and the Boundary Line should be at the head of the Tide & gave the Settlers leave to tarry on their lands until they got in their Harvest

There was a Number of their young Men that was Desirous to go up to the Coast I told them unless they Intended for one or two years that it would not answer the Intention of the Colony and therefore I would not consent to their going

I beg leave to subscribe
My self your Honors most Obedt. Servt.

Pembroke River Aug. 16. 1776 Thomas Fletcher

To the Hon. the Council of Massachusetts Bay

In Marine Committee Philadelphia Sep. 21 1776

Letter from the Marine Committee, Relative to fitting out two Continental Frigates for a Cruise.

Sir In consequence of a Letter from the President of Massachusetts Bay dated the 13th Inst. to the President of the Congress which was by Congress Referred to this Committee, we have determined to comply with the Wishes of your Assembly by Ordering the Frigate Commanded by Capt. M^r Sill, and that by Capt. Thompson of New Hampshire to be fitted immediately and proceed on a Cruise on your Coast in hopes of taking the Milford Frigate or of driving her or any other Enemy away from those Seas

We therefore authorize you to accept the proffered Assistance of the said Assembly or any Committee they appoint to assist in fitting out Equipping, Arming & Manning that Frigate