

Enc  
closure

1929

Copy of a Letter from the Collector and Comptroller of  
Rhode Island to the Comrs of His Majys Customs  
at Boston, No 148.

We have rec<sup>d</sup> your general Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst.  
No 2. We have given particular directions to the  
out door Officers of this port, touching the substance  
of your said Letter, and we shall do whatever is  
in our power to prevent the Introduction of  
military Stores, agreeable to His Majys order in  
Council and your Instructions.

But circumstanced as things are in this  
Colony, we cannot flatter ourselves of the power  
of doing much, the spirit of Opposition which so  
generally prevails against the Officers of the  
Customs, and the peculiar Situation we are in  
by reason of this popular Government, must of  
consequence diminish our power if not totally  
destroy it, and perhaps we cannot acquit  
ourselves so well by any means as by  
communicating the present state of things  
here

We therefore desire leave to inform you  
that the general Assembly of this Colony, have  
very lately passed an Act for purchasing 300  
Barrels of Gunpowder, 3 Tons of Lead, 40,000  
Flints, and 4 brass field pieces to be  
deposited in the Town of Providence and  
they have caused the Guns from the Fort  
at Newport to be removed there also

Your Honors here see a determination  
in this Colony to be provided with Military  
Stores. We believe there are none at all

in



in the Colony at present for sale, thence  
it follows they must be imported and we  
have little doubt our clock but Holland  
Def<sup>t</sup> Eustatia must be the Market on  
this supposition a question, <sup>naturally</sup> arises as to  
the means of ~~preventing~~ preventing such  
illicit commerce for should such an  
Attempt be made it will not be in our  
power to prevent it as it cannot be  
conceived that any Vessel will come into  
this Harbour with prohibited Goods  
while other avenues are open into  
the Bay leading to Providence the  
Place at which it seems a Magazine  
is to be formed.

With all due deference we  
therefore offer an opinion for your  
consideration that no check can  
possibly be put on this design but  
by an armed Vessel being placed in  
each of the channels leading to  
Providence namely in the  
Narragansett & you council passages  
and in the Harbour of Newport which  
we apprehend being under the  
command of active Officers would  
put a stop to Importation of  
Military stores into this Colony

The Acts and Orders of the  
General Assembly to which we  
allude in the former part of this  
Letter

1929(2)

Letter not being yet published at  
large we cannot furnish you  
Honors with better Authority than  
a newspaper on which so far as  
relates to the points now under  
consideration we believe you may  
fully rely.

We are &c  
signed { Chas. Dudley Coll<sup>r</sup> & Sec<sup>r</sup>  
John Nicoll — Compt<sup>r</sup>

Custom House  
Rhode Island

J.M.



Copy of a letter from  
the Father & Company  
of Rhode Island

In Mr. Beecher's of 20<sup>th</sup>  
December 1774

Copy

28