My Lord

Since I had the honour of waiting of Your Excellency upon Frida
the 17th Curt I had the Opportunity to get the following Intelligence from a person
who had just come from Hemps Landing and had heard what I now write
from the Mouths of some of their principall in that department That besides
haveing a large Number of Boats which they Term Row Galleys they have also
Constructed and Compleatly finished a proper Fire Ship to all Intents and purpo
-ses, That every Boat has two large Canon with Other destroying Materialls
and Crowded with Men and only wait a favourable Season to Attack the
Fleet I could never Learn the Number of those Boats nor of the Men to be Cont
-ained in each nor dare I be too inquisitive for fear of the bad Consequence
and when such Conversation is upon the Carpet I appear as if I took not
the least Notice of it however, whatever may be the Number of Men, Boats,
Guns the projectors of this Ammanent are highly Sanguine of Success and
Their Speeches (no doubt Often in Liquor) imagine that they have Your
Excellency in their possession either dead or Alive (for I am certain that they
would prosecute your hurt with more Zeal then their own Salvation) and
that they have destroyed the whole Fleet with its miserable Inhabitants
without the least Respect to Age Sex, or Condition, And that this Invincable
Fleet lyes at present in James River waiting only for Sailing Orders, ——
I understand Also by the Above Information that the Shirt Commanders
Expected some time ago the Arrivall of a large Fleet of Warlike Ships
which had they come would have Effectually ~~[illegible]~~ answered all the
preedding purposes and has perhaps hitherto prevented them from putting
the plan in Execution as they intended some of the Glory and honour of
such a Heroick Action for their Northern Heroes It is however to be hope
-ed that those Gentlemen by Meeting with British Ships will be prevent-
-ed from the Diabolical Scheme and be by them Conducted to their more
proper and deserved punishment This Fleet they call the Philadelphia
Fleet and Commanded by a Gallant Buck Skin Admiral —— They are
still daily Expected by their Adherents at Hemps Landing ——
Ever since last Wedensday the 15th Curt there have been a great Number of Shi-
-ps lying Scattered in the Woods along the Shore, ~~[illegible]~~ from Norfolk
as far as Lamberts point in order to fire upon any Boats going to or
comeing from the Fleet and to prevent them from water or provisions,
Amongst their Experienced Commanders in the Art Mititaire were
Capt Davies Wilson, Fleming, and I believe Mathews and Others unde
the Command of General I dont know how but the head Quarters was
at Mr Bushes and the detatchment reckoned to be 400 Men I am al
this present time not Certain if any part of the above are gone back but a

Subsistance and in Consequence proceed to Sea and leave
this province to your most Inveterate Enemies and that one
Rogers formerly Master of some pumping Vessell is to have
the Command of some of the Duty Craft to Annoy your Excell
-ency if you should Remain here Your Lordship will judge
of such Reports According to their Merit; When I presume to
Adress your Excellency upon my Own Account it is with
all the greatest Submission and as it is strongly reported tha
your Excellency with the whole Fleet are going to a distant
port my Anxiety for my small Effects must be great as I shall
have Nothing to Support me on Shore in Consequence of said
Departure I wood your Lordship Allot me some Habitation
on Board some Vessell I wood in time of Need be the first to
Support your just cause and the Last to flinch if I am
left behind I shall be destroyd by Remorseless Foes ——