115

Gent.n Camp at Cherry Fields 26th July 1776

I am informed Col.o Hunt that was approved by the Convention to Command the Defence, declines the acceptance of the Command. I shall therefore take the liberty to recommend Cap.n George Cooke as a proper Person to command the Defence, knowing that Cap.n Nichol-sons opinion was that neither of the Gent.n on Board the Defence was sufficiently qualified to take the command, Cap.n George Cooke has served on board the English Navy for Seven Years and has been in several engagements, and I think well qualified for the Business. I have had an opportunity of finding him to be a Man of Undau-nted courage since I have been in these parts. As Lieu.t Slater is well acquainted with Cap.n Geo. Cooke and I suppose some others of the Council, I shall say no more about him, further than I thought it my duty to prevent his passing unnoticed if ~~it is~~ in my power

I remain

Gent.n

Your H.ble Serv.t

Rich.d Barnes

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115