

12th Sept^r 1779.

14

Jonathan Allen & Matthew Mayhew Esq^{rs} appeared in behalf of the Inhabitants of Chilmark & declared That they could not possibly comply with ~~my~~ my requisition for cattle without including all their working-oxen & milch cows & thereby most materially distressing themselves & effectually impeding the collecting of fuel.

They affirmed that the number of oxen now fattening for provision did not exceed in Chilmark more than twenty-five, they also assure us of their readiness to assist in cutting & carting wood - & doing every other service within the limits of their ability.

In consideration of which I repeated our resolution to avoid injuring them in any degree & related to them the particular information which I had received - That they were possessed of such stock - that they fear the rebels would take it from them -

and that they would be glad of an apology for selling them to us.

We at last concluded that they should ~~be~~ immediately employ all their teams & laborers in the wood service, & that they should sell us as many of their cattle & sheep as they can spare without distressing their families.

12th

M^r Smith who carried the letter respecting Mr. Welsh, returned with a letter from Major Dimmock, Verbatim at liberation thus. Address.

" To the Commanding-Officer of the Fleet now in the Vineyard Sound. Balmouth Sep: 12 1779.
S^r I rec^d yours by Esq: Smith. M^r Welsh your purser who you mention in your letter to the Commanding officer at Balmouth was taken by a party under my command, I think the party did their duty & acted nothing inconsistent with the honour of war, he has been treated with honour & since made a prisoner by us. I have sent him to the Commanding officer of the regiment who was not present. I am not surprised at your threatening devastation we had nothing to expect but devastation was your intent considering your conduct last April.

Major Commanding Off^r now on the spot. Joseph Dimmock.