

*Copy of a letter from John Robinson, Esq. late Secretary to the Treasury, to Sir
H. Clinton, late Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Army in North America,
dated Treasury Chambers, 19th December, 1780.*

“ The Lords of his Majesty's Treasury having received information of the
“ steps which were taken by your Excellency to appoint Commissaries of
“ Captures, upon your expedition to South Carolina, for the purpose of pre-
“ serving the property of his Majesty's loyal subjects in that country, and
“ making them some recompense for their losses and damages sustained ; and
“ for the purpose of converting to the good of his Majesty's service, and to
“ the use, convenience, and benefit of the army, all the cattle and moveable
“ property which might be captured from his Majesty's enemies ; and finding
“ that Major Hay, one of the gentlemen appointed by your Excellency in
“ February, 1780, one of the Commissioners was in England, on account of
“ his health, their Lordships desired the favour of his attendance on their
“ Board, to explain to them all the circumstances of that commission, and
“ the nature of the proceedings thereon : and Major Hay having given their
“ Lordships every satisfactory information thereon, it appears to their Lord-
“ ships, that this measure has been not only of great utility and convenience
“ to the army and navy, and his Majesty's loyal subjects, but is an act of
“ justice and humanity, and may be hereafter of the greatest consequence to
“ prevent many abuses, and save considerable expences ; I am, therefore,
“ commanded by their Lordships to acquaint your Excellency, that they
“ approve entirely not only of your continuing such Commissioners in Caro-
“ lina, but also of your establishing others of the like nature ; and their Lord-
“ ships request that you will acquaint me, for their information, whether any
“ such plan was adopted in the expeditions in Jersey, and from head of
“ Elk to Philadelphia, in 1776 and 1777, or in any other ; and whether the
“ cattle and moveables taken in such expeditions were brought to any account