

N<sup>o</sup> 18. Extract of a Letter from Captain Rupert George, Com-  
 mander of His Majesty's Ship Hussar, to Mr. Stephens;  
 dated Halifax Harbour, 27th August 1793.

IN my Letter of the 21st of June, I had the Honour to inform you of the Arrival of The Aligator from Saint Pierré's the Day preceding; and in that of July 1st, that the Two Regiments were embarked, and that I proposed accompanying The Aligator and her Convoy clear of the Coast of America. I have now the Honour to request that you will inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that we sailed hence the 3d July, and on the 16th, being in the Latitude  $32^{\circ} 20'$ , and the Longitude  $54^{\circ} 00'$ , I parted Company with Captain Affleck and the Convoy: It was my Intention, in my Way back, to have ranged along the Coast of America, but was prevented by light and contrary Winds, not being able to get nearer the Coast than Eighty Leagues, in the Latitude  $37^{\circ} 00'$ , when I was informed by an American Vessel, that Two French Ships of 74 Guns, and Five Frigates, had arrived from Cape François with a large Convoy in the Chesapeak. I thought it my Duty to return here direct with that Intelligence, and I arriv-  
 ed the 5th of August. We have since heard that the French Squadron arrived at New York the 2d of August, and His Majesty's Consul General at Philadelphia informed me that an Attack might possibly be made upon Halifax or Newfoundland. We are here perfectly at Ease respecting an Attack upon us, having between 40 and 50 heavy Canon (32 and 24 Pounders) mounted on the different Batteries, One 13 Inch Mortar and Two 8 Inch Howitzers, with Furnaces for heating Shot. *The Regular Troops, including Artillery, and the Governor's Corps, do not exceed 600.* But we have Two Battalions of Militia, Officers, and Artificers of the Yard, Civil Branch of the Ordnance, Seamen in Merchant Vessels, and the Crew of His Majesty's Ship under my Command; the latter I propose to place in some of the Batteries, in case of an Attack from Line of Battle Ships.

Philip Stephens, Esquire.