

1776. *prudence of the Governor, who sent 150 barrels of it away in a small vessel, the night before they landed. They brought off the Governor, and some other public officers, as prisoners; and after taking several prizes in their return, fell in at length with the Glasgow frigate of war, accompanied with a tender, the latter of which they took, and the former escaped with difficulty after a very sharp engagement.*

Lord
Dunmore
abandons
the coasts
of Vir-
ginia.

Lord Dunmore, with his fleet of fugitives, continued on the coasts and in the rivers of Virginia for a great part of the year; as every place was now strictly guarded, those unhappy people, who had put themselves under his protection, underwent great distresses. The heat of the weather, the badness of provisions, with the closeness and filth of the small vessels, in which they were crowded, by degrees produced that malignant and infectious distemper, which is known by the name of the Jail or Pestilential Fever. This dreadful disorder made great havock among them, but particularly affected the negroes, most of whom it swept away. After various

again pursuing the calls of honour, returned to the navy, and was master of several ships till the peace of 1763.

It had been regulated at that peace, that all commission and warrant officers should be employed for the space of three years in rotation. Mr. Hopkins waited with patience the first three years, and came to London in 1776, expecting to be employed in his turn, but being disappointed, and perceiving others of inferior abilities preferred, Hopkins could not condescend to solicit, and returned to America, throwing up his half-pay, and resolving to attach himself to his native country for the rest of his days.

When the American troubles made it necessary for the Congress to form a Marine, Mr. Hopkins, from his experience, courage, and abilities, was thought a proper person to be at the head of it. He accepted the commission with cheerfulness and how he has acted since, may be seen in the progress of this history.