

of April last, Mr. David Reid, Inspector General of the Customs, did also receive an anonymous Threatening Letter, under his Address, by the Post, signed "Nine" dated the 12th Day of April 1775; of which Letters the following are Copies, viz.

Sir

The receiving this Letter from an unknown hand, and unsubscribed, may no doubt be matter of Wonder and Surprise to you, but as I always have a pleasure of being Serviceable to mankind, and of preventing Mischief when impending to any Person (altho' never so worthless) as much as lyes in my power, is the reason for my making free to acquaint you of the following particulars, the knowledge of which, I only got not many hours ago, if its well taken as a Caution shall be infinitely glad, which will best Appear by your after Conduct, if otherwise, I shall only think my trouble lost, and whatever may be the Consequence afterwards I shall be very indifferent.

Having occasion yesterday to be a few Miles from home on Business, I happened to fall in with a small but Sensible Company, after talking over a great many Things, the Conversation turned at last upon a Subject altogether foreign to me, namely several Prosecutions which have of late been commenced against different Persons in and about the neighbourhood of the Place you live in, particularly to the Northward, and was entirely confounded to hear, that you are the principal Instigator, and actor of such hellish Schemes, as commencing these Prosecutions to prove those persons to be Smugglers, or Importers of prohibited Goods, in order to which you with some others, your accomplices, have suborned a set of the most worthless Perjured, Infamous lowliv'd Rogues, that perhaps Scotland, nay, the whole world cannot produce such like perfidious wretches, Consummate Knaves, and the very dregs of mankind, yea, more Generosity is to be had from the most savage Tyger, that roams in the wild of Nubia, If this is the case (which god, you, and your accomplices only know) I think you must undoubtedly be the most unhappy of all men — I naturally enquired, what motive, one in your office and Rank could have in such wickedness, it was answered, your motives were thought to be partly Envy and Revenge, but mostly mercenary, and that for a very inconsiderable trifle to yourself (after paying your Banditti) you pay no Regard to the ruining Individuals, or whole Families The men who you have injured so much, now after coming to the perfect knowledge, that you are the main Spring of action, are, and justly raised to a Degree of rage next to Madness, and are determind, that if you do not immediately stop procedure in these matters, that you will be treated as a Common Enemy, and were their case mine, I would look upon you worse than a Highwayman, and treat you as such first opportunity, which I understand you have reason to expect, and if that should happen (as god forbid) I am absolutely convinced, the world would justify the Action, and pray, what fine Reflection must your Family and Friends have, when they think of the great honours, you have brought on yourself and them. But allowing you still go on in your ordinary Career, and meet with no disaster or Obstacle, and that you get your wicked designs accomplished, that you cause a few people leave their Country, that you get them ruined to all Intents, that you get their families made destitute, and that by their destruction you get a number of those detestable Knaves you employ, into low dirty Offices, to be always plot-

ting, swearing and perjuring themselves, as tools to your inflexible barbarity and voracious Appetite, pray what mighty Conquest do you make? — Yes, you make a few men that might live peaceable in their Families, Miserable Vagabonds, and send those ignorant fellows, who are subservient to you, directly to the Devil, and yourself at their head — It might be thought that one of your sense could never have thought of degrading yourself so much, by being engaged in so horrid actions, and with such low pauntry Company, which must render you infamous to the last degree, and without a speedy amendment of your manners you must leave the world with a most abominable Character; and how hideous must your Reflections be, to think that you cannot survive long, I may say, looking into the grave and such a load of Iniquity on your back — pardon me for being so tedious, only let me add that if your years shall be lengthened yet sometime, It will be your wisdom to change your method to a better way of thinking, which if done must soon appear, otherwise blame yourself, if the Consequences are fatal. I am.

Sir

Your Crimes are now at a height. your Oppression and Influence in the exercise of your Office, are become so glaring that they call aloud for Vengeance, You trust to your Friends, but there are some who pretend to be so who would be happy to see you sacrificed to the Manes of injured Innocence — Know then proud villain, that as your Life is now become odious in the sight of God and all good People, we are determined to put a period to it as soon as a proper Opportunity offers. We shall lye in wait for you, and take you off in an unguarded Hour, and send you to your infernal Adviser with all your Imperfections on your head. It will be in vain for you to make any enquiry about the intended Perpetrators of that glorious deed as we have sworn inviolable Secrecy: We hope soon to meet with you and clear Accounts. Nine.

Edinburgh 12th April 1775.

N. B. By God you may be saying your Prayers.

His Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Person or Persons concerned in writing or sending the said Letters, is hereby pleased to promise His most gracious Pardon to any of them, (except the Person or Persons who actually wrote the said Letters, or either of them) who shall discover his or her Accomplice or Accomplice therein, so that he, she, or they, may be apprehended and convicted thereof.

S U F F O L K.

Admiralty-Office, May 23, 1775.

Notice is hereby given, That a Session of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, for the Trial of Offences committed on the High Seas, within the Jurisdiction of the Admiralty of England, will be held on Thursday the 29th Day of June next, at Justice-Hall in the Old Bailey, at Eight o'Clock in the Morning.

Ph. Stephens.

London, June 1, 1775.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a General Court of the Governor and Company for working of Mines, Minerals, and Metals, in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland, will be held at the Sun Fire Office in Bank Street, Cornhill, on Thursday the 13th of July next, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, to consider of a Dividend; and that the Transfer Books will be shut on Thursday the 29th Instant.