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In C O N G R E S S.

THE DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina and Georgia, TO ALL unto whom these Presents shall come, SEND KNOW YE,

THAT We have granted, and by these Presents do grant Licence and Authority to *Silas Talbot* Mariner, Commander of the *Sloop* — called the *Argo* — of the Burthen of Tons, or thereabouts, belonging to *the Thirteen United States of America* mounting *Twelve* Carriage Guns, and navigated by *Fifty* — Men, to fit out and *Sloop* in a warlike Manner, and by and with the said *Sloop* and the Crew thereof, by to attack, subdue and take all Ships and other Vessels whatsoever carrying Soldiers, Arms, Gunpowder, Ammunition, or any other contraband Goods to any of the British Armies or Ships of War employed against the United States. And also to attack, seize and take all Ships or other Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of Great-Britain, or Subjects thereof, with their Tackle, Apparel, Furniture and Ladings, on the High Seas, or between water Marks, (the Ships or Vessels, together with their Cargoes, belonging to any Inhabitant or Inhabitants of Providence and the Bahama Islands, and such other Ships and Vessels bringing Persons with Intent to settle in any of the United States, or bringing Arms, Ammunition, or Warlike Stores to the said States for the Use of said Ships or Vessels you shall suffer to pass unmolested, the Commanders thereof permitting a peaceable Search for satisfactory Information of the Contents of the Ladings and Destination of the Voyages, only excepted.) Any Ship or Vessels so apprehended as aforesaid, and as Prize taken, to carry into any Port or Harbour within the Dominion of a neutral State willing to admit the same, or into any Port within the said United States, in Order that the Court of Admiralty may hear and determine Causes Civil and Maritime, may proceed in due Form to condemn the said Ship or Vessel adjudged lawful Prize, or otherwise, according to the Usage in such Cases at the Port or in the State where the same may be carried. The said *Silas Talbot* — having given Bond, with sufficient Sureties, that he will observe by the said *Silas Talbot* — or any of his Officers, Marines or Company thereof, contrary to the Usage and Customs of Nations, and that he shall not exceed or transgress the Powers and Authority granted in this Commission. And we will and require all our Officers whatsoever in the Service of the United States to give Aid and Assistance to the said *Silas Talbot* — in the Premises. This Commission shall continue in Force until the Congress shall issue Orders to the contrary. DATED at *Providence* the *27<sup>th</sup>* Day of *June* and in the *Fourth* Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

ATTEST.

*Cha<sup>s</sup> Thompson*

By Congress,

*John Jay* — P

*Given under my hand and the seal of the said State the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of this Commission mentioning by his Excellency's command Henry Hancock W. Thompson Secy.*