Halifax May 17th 1814 14

Lt Gr. Hope
17 May 1814

My dear Sir

The Merchants here are so much alarmed at yr Proclamation for the blockade of the hitherto unblockaded Ports of America, that they have hired a Vessel to send to you for information as to the effect it is to have on their licensed Trade with the States. —

I hope you will pardon me for delaying obedience to your Order for trying the Gunner of the Centurion. The Offences he was charged with, having been committed under my own flag, & the man having been kept unavoidably many months under a Arrest, I did venture to release him on condition of his Exchanging into a Sea going Ship, for his Offences were the consequence of the irresistible temptation to inebriety, at this place, and the Gunner &

The Honble
Sir Alex.r Cochrane K.B.

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