

Sir

Baltimore 5th May 1814.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
Your Excellency's letter of the 16th inst., transmitting to me
a copy of a Petition which, had been submitted to your Excel-
lency by the Merchants of Halifax, stating the great apprehensions
they entertain of their Interests being very materially affected
by the Proclamations I issued on the 25th ult. declaring all the
Ports of the United States to be in a state of rigorous blockade.
and in compliance with Your Excellency's request, that I
will inform you as speedily as possible whether ^{licensed} vessels
by Your Excellency to ^{carry} ^{enumerated} articles enumerated in the House
Representative's Orders in Council, and in the manner therein specified
will, under the existing circumstances be permitted to ^{enter} ports
any, and if so which of the Ports of the United States, I have no
doubt in communicating to your Excellency that it will at
all times give me pain when obliged by my Official situation
to act in any way contrary to the wishes of the Merchants of Amer-
ica, whose prosperity I have most sincerely at heart, and I trust
that the course I found myself obliged to pursue, by extending the
Blockade over the northern Ports of the United States, however much
it may affect the Interests of a few, must ultimately tend to the
future safety and advantage of British America at large.

When the resolution of Council was framed bearing date 28th
of October 1812, there was not that extension of Commerce, what
now happily prevails with the Ports of Europe, every means was
resorted to, for the purpose of forcing, the introduction of
British manufactures into the foreign markets, The Government
of the United States being over-confident in their own internal
resources imposed a general Embargo, with other restrictions
on Commerce: after a short time finding ^{themselves} deceived
their expectations, and ^{failing} in their hopes to enable them to
procure the loan here thought proper to repeal those laws, and
to grant a full greater extension to trade than what was
permitted previous to their restrictive system. Your Excellency
will perceive that they do not disguise their reasons for so
doing, they publicly ^{now} avow that it is to collect a ^{revenue} revenue, and
have been led into this measure by their own misapprehensions.