

To Rt Honble
 L^d Viscount Melville

Upper Harley Street
 29th Dec^r 1815

My Lord

Being informed from various quarters that the reason which I assigned to the Board of Admiralty for my having assumed the temporary command of the West Indian Stations, while I remained within their limits, have not been judged satisfactory, & as your Lordship was absent from Town at the time my Letter was sent in, & the instructions upon which I acted therein were conveyed to me principally in Secret Letters from your Lordship and letters from Mr. Croker (who was absent from "Town") written in his own hand; I ~~do~~ judge it necessary for my own justification and to prevent any litigious questions upon the subject of captures made during the time I assumed that command, to lay before your Lordship the documents by which I was authorized —

which are —

N^o 1. An extract from Mr. Croker's letter to Sir J. B. Warren N^o 4 and dated 4 November 1813, respecting the separation of the three stations; directing him in certain events to proceed into the West Indian Stations and to take the Admirals thereof under his temporary command; which was enclosed in a Letter N^o 12 of the 20th January 1814 with other letters, as part of my instructions.

N^o 2. Copy of a letter from Mr. Croker to myself written in his own hand, N^o 116 of the 1st August 1814, directing me to attend to the requisition of the officer commanding the military forces for the disposal of the same and ~~referring~~ referring me to the above-mentioned instructions.

N^o 3. Duplicates of Mr. Croker's letter dated 10th August 1814 instructing me respecting the Expedition against New Orleans and directing me, if I thought proper to proceed upon it myself.