Cochrane Papers MS 2326
Cochrane to Melville
29 Dec. 1815 (cont.)

No. 4. Your Lordship's letter (Duplicate) of 24 July 1814 also directing me, if I thought it necessary, to proceed upon this service.

When I received my orders and instructions for the Expedition against New Orleans and had made my arrangements for transporting the Army from the Chesapeake to Jamaica, it became essential to provide for its reception there, and indeed for the general purposes of the service of the expedition; I therefore, in pursuance of my authority, sent Rear Admiral Brown an order to consider himself under my command and instructions for the preparations that I required, and I communicated to your Lordship (in my letter of 17th September) that I should proceed to Jamaica and take command of the station during the currency of this Service.

When I left Halifax to proceed upon this Expedition I considered it to be of advantage to the service to call at Guadeloupe to hurry on the embarkation of the West India Regiments ordered from thence, but on my arrival there no transports were prepared to receive on board the 1st West India Regt and the greater part of it was in Garrison at Point à Pitre, a harbour it is impossible to get out of when the wind blows from the northward.

I immediately collected all the small ships of war in the vicinity to bring round that regiment to Basseterre, from whence it could be received on board two ships that, I was informed, were preparing at Barbadoes. I sailed from Guadeloupe on the 10th, at which time none of the hired vessels had made their appearance, although the