

His Majesty's Ship *Madison*
at Anchor off New London
30th May 1814

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that on the Morning of the 25th Inst, Eleven armed vessels apparently as I could make them out that the hark, were discovered at anchor off Saybrook Bar, at Forty five Minutes past Four P.M. it was reported to me that thirty nine Sail were standing down to us along Shore, I soon observed it was the Enemy's *Florella* from New York, with a Convoy of *Coasters* under their protection, and I determined upon attacking them, if I saw they would afford me any prospect of Success, by standing out from Bartlett's Reef or the ledge which lay a little to the Westward of New London. For this purpose I weighed, and made the Sylphs Signal to do the same, and we stood in Shore as near as I judged a prudent tack, and endeavoured to draw them out, but finding the Wind very light and a strong Ebb tide running I ordered the helm to be put up, run in, and anchored as near as I could without