

2 September 1814

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To James Wilson Croker Esq^r

No. 98

Tonnant in the Potomac

2nd September 1814

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the proceedings of His Majesty's embarked Sea and land forces since my arrival with the Fleet within the Capes of Virginia; and I beg leave to offer my congratulations to their Lordships upon the successful termination of an expedition in which the whole of the Enemy's Flotilla, under Commodore Barney, has been captured or destroyed - his army, tho' greatly superior in number and strongly posted with cannon, defeated at Bladensburg - the City of Washington taken - the Capitol with all the Public Buildings, Military Arsenals, Dock Yard and the rest of their Naval Establishment, together with a vast quantity of Naval and Military Stores, a Frigate of the largest class ready to launch, and a sloop of war afloat, either blown up or reduced to ashes - Such a series of successes in the centre of an Enemy's Country, surrounded by a numerous Population, could not be achieved without loss, and we have to lament the fate of some valuable Officers and Men; but considering the difficulties the Forces had to contend with, the extreme heat of the climate and their coming into action at the end of a long march, our casualties are astonishingly few. - My Letter No. 77 of the 11th August will have acquainted the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of my waiting in the Chesapeake for the arrival of Rear Admiral Malcolm with the expedition from Bermuda - The Rear Admiral joined me on the 17th and as I had gained information from Rear Admiral Cockburn, who I found in the Potomac, that Commodore Barney with the Baltimore Flotilla had taken station at the head of the Potomac, this afforded a pretext for

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