Cochrane to Cooke
2 September 1814

that the Militia pour the country to the northward and westward would flock in so soon as it should be known that their Capital was threatened. Captain Sir Peter Parker in the Menelaus with some small Vessels was sent up the Chesapeake above Baltimore to divert the attention of the Enemy in that quarter and I proceeded with the remainder of the Naval Force and the Troops up this River PAX and landed the Army upon the 19th and 20th at Benedict. ~~So~~ So soon as the necessary Provisions and Stores could be assembled and arranged Major General Ross with his Army moved on towards Nottingham while our Flotilla consisting of the armed Launches, Pinnaces, Barges and other Boats of the Fleet, under the Command of Rear Admiral Cockburn, passed up the River, being instructed to keep upon the right flank of the Army, for the double purpose of supplying it with Provisions and if necessary to pass it over to the left bank of the River into Calvert County, which, secured a safe retreat to the Ships should it be judged necessary. The Army reached Nottingham upon the 21st, and on the following day arrived at Marlborough, the Flotilla continued advancing towards the Station of Commodore Barney, about three Miles above Pig Point, who although much superior in force to that set against him did not wait an attack, but at the appearance of our Boats set fire to his Flotilla and the whole of his Vessels, excepting one, were blown up. For the particulars of this well executed Service I must refer their Lordships to Rear Admiral Cockburn's Report marked No 1, who the same evening conveyed to me an account of his success and intimation from Major General Ross of his intention to proceed to the City of Washington: considering from the information he had received that it might be effected if done with alacrity, and in consequence he had determined to march that evening upon Bladensburg.