

Papers of Alexander Cochrane MS-2329
Parker to Cochrane
30 August 1814

To The Honble

Sir Alexander Cochrane KB
Vice Admiral of the Red

His Majesty's Ship Menelaos of
Poole Island in the Chesapeake
30 August 1814

Sir

Since my last report by the Prize Schooner which I dispatched to you on the 18th inst^t I have been continuously employed in reconnoitering the Harbours & Creeks and Soundings the Bay and acting for the annoyance of the Enemy. From the observations I have been able to make I may with safety give it as my opinion that Annapolis would fall a very easy conquest (Two of my officers walked around Fort Madison in the Night without being discovered). The Enemy have several Gunboats at Baltimore which have been twice driven in by His Majesty's Ship, and on the 24th inst Lieut. Warre with two boats burnt a Schooner in Narrows creek close to Bodkin point in the face of these Gun Vessels - On the 24th we experienced a Violent Squall in which I regret to add the Mary Tender upset and was totally lost. We were however fortunate in saving M^r Martin (Master Mate) and the Crew (with the exception of two notwithstanding they had been upward of an hour in the water. On the 27th in the morning I proceeded into the Patuxent river in the same tender close to the Forts of Baltimore and completely rounded the Passage and reconnoitred the Port where there is a large frigate with topmasts rigged, two Sloops of War and several Schooners and Gun Vessels also a Brig which has the appearance of an Armed Vessel. I captured a Boat laden with Fruit close to the Fort, and a boat which came out to us from the Harbour with an Officer in her mistaking us for a friend only escaped by a Momentary calm between the Lands. For my farther operations I beg to refer you to the accompanying letters - Not a vessel of any description is to be seen and not even a boat has escaped us having captured eight from the very beach one from under the Guns at Annapolis.

I transmit herewith in Cypher intelligence I have ^{received}
Please the honor to be Sir your most obed^t humble
Servant Peter Parker Captain.