Papers of Alexander Cochrane MS 23[illegible]9 (1)
~~Balhatchet~~ Cochrane - Cockburn?
13 September 1814

My dear Admiral

It is impossible for the Ships to ~~assist~~ render you any assistance - The Town is so far retired within the Forts, It is for Colonel Brook to consider under such circumstance whether he has Force sufficient to defeat so large a number as is said the Enemy has collected, say 20,000 Strong or even a less Number to take the Town; without this can be done it will be only throwing the Men's lives away and prevent us from going upon other Services - At any rate a very considerable loss must ensue and as the Enemy is daily gaining Strength his loss let it ever be so great cannot be equally felt.

The Enemy has a Battery on the opposite point to the Fort point which he last night fired upon the Guard Boats and is now firing at the Bombs our Shells seem to go into the Fort - That Battery on the Eastern point does not appear to be a regular Fort but it is commanded by the other

— yours sincerely

Alex Cochrane (autograph)

W. Balhatchet Esq^r (endorsed?)
HMS Tonnant (clerk)

off Baltimore
½ past 9 AM
13 Sept 1814

Nymph