

Gordon to Cochrane

9 September 1814 (cont.)

The whole of these Guns were already spiked by the Enemy and their complete destruction with their carriages also was effected by the Seamen and Marines sent on that Service in less than two hours. — The populous City of Alexandria thus lost its only defence. — And having buoyed the Channel I deemed it better to postpone giving any answer to a proposal made to me for its capitulation until the following Morning when I was enabled to place the Shipping in such a position as would ensure assent to the terms I had decided to enforce. —

To this measure I attribute their ready acquiescence as it removed that doubt of my determination to proceed, which had been raised in the minds of the Inhabitants by our Army having retired from Washington. — This part of our proceedings will be further explained by the accompanying documents. —

^{A dawn, violent}
^{tempest} The Honorable Lieut. Gordon of this Ship was sent on the evening of the 28th to prevent the escape of any of the Vessels comprised in the Capitulation and the whole of those which were seaworthy amounting to twenty one in Number were fitted and loaded by the 30th. —

Captain Baker of the Fairy bringing your orders of the 27th having fought his way up the River past a battery of five Guns and a large Military force dispelled the rumors that had already reached me of strong Measures having been taken to oppose our return. — And I therefore quitted Alexandria without waiting to destroy those remaining Stores which we had not the means of bringing away. —

Contrary winds again occasioned us the laborious task of warping the Ships down the River in which a days delay nearly took place owing to the Derivation grounding. The Enemy to advantage of this Circumstance to attempt her destruction by three fire vessels attended by five row Boats — But their object was defeated by the promptitude and gallantry of Captain Alexander who pushing off with his own boats and being followed by those of the other