His Majestys Schooner
Decouverte 6th October 1813

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you in reply to your Memo of this days date that I did not understand the evening I had the honor parting on you that it was your desire to see me next day and the Signal having been made from the Sceptre during my absence from the Decouverte it was answered by the Master without my being made acquainted with it I cannot acknowledge Sir I was not on board His Majestys Schooner under my Command when the Foremast was cut away nor had I permission to Slip out of her, but I was induced so to do from the apparent fairness of the night and not from the smallest wish to neglect any part of my duty I also beg leave to say I quitted her at 2 PM of Yesterday and left the Shore at eight this morning as soon as it was possible for a Boat to get out of the Harbour. Previous to the Gale coming on the lower yards and J.G. Masts were struck and the only reason for her not bringing up after starting the Anchors can only be attributed to the shortness of the Cables that are allowed being only two and those only Eighty fathoms each in length. By the great exertions of the