

United States Frigate Constitution

February 5. 1815

Sir

I received your letter of 25th ult. by Lieut. Biggs directing a further proof to be made of the quality of the Constitution's powder. I endeavored to accomplish the object of your instructions at Annapolis, and sent to the Navy Agent at Baltimore for a cask of Dupont's powder that had been ascertained to be of good proof, intending by comparison (with the small means in my power) to ascertain their relative strength, but after waiting four days I was disappointed as the powder was not sent. It is probable it was at Annapolis, but the severe weather that set in prevented my having any communication with the shore afterwards, and the ice making so fast obliged me to get under way on the morning of the 1st inst. and proceed down to Barnegat Roads. The ship has sustained some slight injury from the ice, a few sheets of copper being cut off the bows.

Yesterday morning we discovered two sail of the Line, three Frigates, a Brig and Schooner of the Enemy working up between the Middle ground and Horse shoe for the Roads. It being calm we hove up and lugged the