

Batts Aug 27. 1814

Sir

Enclosed is a copy of my Letter of the 23rd Inst. which, if you did not receive, will surprise you when I left New Castle; and I now have to inform you that, altho' by ^{FORCED} marches Night & Day, I was only able to reach this place at 9 O'clock of the evening of the 26th Inst. - at a time, when the account had already reached here, that the Enemy was in possession of Bladensburg and the Capitol; - ~~which~~ disaster made it necessary to halt at least until I could give information of Genl. Winder's position, to enable me to make the necessary arrangements to unite my Force with his in the least possible time -

Yesterday morning I gained the intelligence that the Genl. with the remnant of his Forces, was at Montgomery Court House, and immediately sent an express to inform him where I was, to ascertain his dispositions, and to acquaint him that I was in readiness to march to his assistance in whatever direction he might advise. In advance of the Army, Genl. Winder and staff, arrived here, early this morning, and already an understanding, relative to a cooperation of the Naval Forces under my command, with those of