

Washington Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 1814 27  
PORTER

Sir

I agreeable to your order of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult, I proceeded with the Detachment of Sailors and Marines under my command to the white house on the west bank of the Potomac there to erect batteries and attempt the destruction of the Enemies Ships on their passage down the river. Captain Breightons Lt Black and several other Navy officers as well as Mr Augustus Monroe Mr Ferdinand Fairfax and several other Citizens and officers of the Militia and Volunteer Companies hearing of my destination volunteered their services on the occasion and ably supported me throughout the arduous and fatiguing Enterprise. By proceeding my men I arrived in company with the Honble Secretary of State and General Hungerford and Henry on the Evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant at the spot fixed on, where I found a few Militia belonging to General Hungerfords army clearing away the trees to make room for mounting our Cannon which had not yet arrived but which had been seen on their way down consisting of three long eighteens and two twelves. General