

Captain's Letters
Charles Gordon to William Jones
June 12, 1814

(7)

Sir,

Hornet Crane Island
12th June 1814

Finding that the Baltimore Flotilla is certainly blockaded in the Patuxent ~~Bay~~ I have determined on attempting a diversion with the Hornet & Tenders to raise his blockade if possible - As they have not more than 4 or [5?] Ships now in the Bay, a very trifling movement on our part will induce them to change their position; And I cannot but believe that they are weak upon Tangier Island; and of course apprehensive of being dislodged - I am not sufficiently strong to attempt a landing, and I find it impossible to obtain a single man from the Army, notwithstanding they have so many sailors at this Port; and absolutely we shall be overrun with Militia, for they are coming in by hundreds every day -

As I do not contemplate taking any of the Gun Boats with me and intend keeping on the western shore I could? in the event of being cut off from Norfolk run my Schooners up one of the rivers & rejoin the Flotilla by land at my pleasure. This however I do not apprehend as their force in the Bay is so small - But one ship (the Acacia) is kept at the Capes, which is mortifying to me while my ship is laying unmanned and unprepared - And should anything occur up the Bay or off the Capes I should expect to see her [depart?] also, while I should require some days to victual & prepare for sea -

I have mentioned this to prepare you for any report which may circulate on the subject, as it is now very evident they do not intend keeping more than one Frigate for the summer Blockade; and I am short of complement even when all are on board, I feel desirous to be informed if it is your intention