

as the water and of course make them more safe, I am obliged
to do this as the men are very unwilling to remain in their
in their present state, ~~Could~~ I have a vessel to carry pro-
visions, to receive the sick, and to put the Doctor and his
medicines aboard, it would be a great relief, as I found great
inconvenience respecting the sick when down, as there is
no place aboard the Barge for them, and the exposed situ-
ation of the men, causes sickness, more or less daily, indeed we
must expect 20 or 30 always on the list, out of six hundred
men, in such a service, if this you can judge as well as
myself.

The Enemy left the Potomac on the
30th ulto, the last vessel being a large schooner, and carried off
upwards of 100 negroes, aboard the Dragon 74; they now lay
at, and about Water Island in the Tangier sound, and in
the Bay below Smith's Point. I suppose they got information
of the flotilla from the Russian Secretary, as we lay in
the mouth of Patuxent when the flag went down and she
was shelled by my look out boats, (Galley & pilot boat).