

second line of defence, to which the floating force should repair, when it was fully evident they could not maintain their present position by the appearance, or proximity of a very superior force. The stations were assigned to them, that having a general outline of the whole plan a reference might always be had to it, in making the detached preparations.

I would certainly recommend all the preparatory steps to be taken for should they pass this place a few hours will carry them to the City -

A Cannorading was heard in the direction of Port Tobacco this morning about 3 o'clock by our boats coming from the city - I think it most probable, they were in chase of the Scorpion who was in Maryland's reach when I last heard from her - I trust however Lt. Read will not expose himself improperly -

I fear the account from the Aspens but too true - and lament the loss of Mr. Seymour who was a most promising Officer.