

Baltimore 17th Aug 1842

I have the honor to inform you
that our Guard Boat, for the evening of the 14th
was the same as last night. I fell in with
a flock of porpoises of a Boat & the Directors
from the British Frigate St. Raphael, all of
which I have now under guard at the
Washington. I first examined them & then
permitted Gen. Smith & the City Council
to interrogate them. I have the information of a
few extra men, I have confidence in their
report. They state that the whole fleet
have completed their watering at Herd
Island by digging wells & sinking casks -
All the troops & great part of the Marines
from the fleet have encamped on the Island
And on questioning each man separately, they
all agree that the whole number on the
Island consists of about 22 to 25 hundred men
There were more on the Island yesterday
morning, & while there were told by a
Lieutenant that he believed the troops were to
be embarked for Annapolis on Friday next
They also confirm the report that one of their