

intelligence of the enemy's situation, if possible to obtain it.

The evening came, and I waited with much anxiety the return of Capt: C-; having almost ^{constant} information that, the enemy were in the neighbourhood of the Marine barracks - at the Capitol hill - and ^{that} their advance was near George town. I therefore determined to wait only until $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 o'clock, to commence the execution of my orders - becoming apprehensive that Capt: C- had, from his long stay, fallen into the hands of the enemy.

During this delay, I ordered a few Marines, and other persons who were then near me, to go off in one of the small galleys, which was done and she is saved.

Col: Wharton had been furnished with a light boat, with which he left the yard, probably between 7 & 8 o'clock.

At 20 minutes past 8 Capt: Brighton returned, he was still extremely averse to the destruction of the property, but having informed him that your orders to me were imperative; the proper disposition of the boats being made, the matches were applied, and in a few moments the whole was in a state of inextinguishable conflagration.

When about leaving the wharf, I observed the fire had also commenced at the works at Greenleafs point, and in the way out of the branch, we observed the Capitol on fire.