

The Admiral was by that time, or would very speedily, be informed of my being in the yard, he having expressed an anxious desire to make me captive. but had said that the Officers dwelling in the yard, should not be destroyed. I therefore again embarked in the gig - taking along out of the Branch, one of the new launches, which lay safe, although along side of a floating stage enveloped in flames - I had no sooner gone, than such a scene of devastation and plunder took place in the houses (by the people of the neighbourhood) as is disgraceful to relate - not a movable article from the cellars to the garrets has been left us - and even some of the pictures, and the locks off the doors, have been shamefully pillaged; some of the perpetrators however have been made known to me.

From the number and movements of the enemy, it would have appeared with temerity, to have attempted returning again that day - though my inclination strongly urged it, therefore reconnoitring their motions, as well as could be effected at a convenient distance in the gig until evening, I again proceeded to Alexandria for the night.

Yesterday morn the 26th it was impossible to form (from the various and contradictory reports at Alexandria) any sort of probable conjecture, either of the proceedings & situation of our Army - or that of the Enemy. Determining therefore to have a positive knowledge of some part thereof, from one