

for demonstration, I again embarked in the gig, proceeding with due caution to the yard - where I learned with chagrin the devastation and pillage before mentioned - and found also to my surprise that the old Gunboat, which had been loaded with provisions, and had grounded in endeavoring to get out of the Branch, on the evening of the 24th was nearly discharged of her cargo, by a number of people, without connexion with each other.

Having landed in the yard, I soon ascertained that the Enemy had left the city - excepting only a sycant guard, for the security of the sick and wounded. Finding it impracticable to stop the scene of plunder that had commenced, I determined instantly on repossessing the yard, with all the force at my command - repairing therefore immediately to Alexandria; Lieut^{nt} Haraden, the ordnance men and the few marines there, were ordered directly up; followed myself, and got full possession again at evening.

I am now collecting the scattered purloined provisions ready for your orders, presuming they will now become very scarce indeed - the quantity saved you shall be informed when known to me.

The Lynx is safe, except her foremast being carried away in the storm of the 25th about 4 PM. We have also another of the Gunboats with about 100 barrels of powder; and one of the large yard-cutters, nearly full with the filled cylinders, for our different guns ^{previously} ^{the powder of} ~~already~~ mounted. These however ~~are~~ ^{are} probably much wetted by the storm. I would most willingly have an interview with you, but ~~should not~~ ^{deem it improper to} leave my station without some justifiable cause or in pursuance of your instructions - under which I am ready to