

Navy Yard Sep. 5th 1814

19.

Sir,

Tuesday

The reduced state of the flotilla obliged me to find down every description of men that I could procure, Volunteers I find are not to be depended upon, they are active, & willing for a short period, but soon get disgusted & come home; among the number put down, are about twenty recruits for Lake Ontario, & the Recruiting Officer informs me that in a few days, he expects to make up a detachment of thirty, by drawing off these men we weaken ourselves considerably, & shall delay sending them until further orders, our whole complement does not at this time exceed 280, consequently the flotilla is but half manned; if the services of Volunteers should really be required, & the Enemy in our waters, no doubt but a spirit of enthusiasm would prevail, & I have most of the S. boats in ordinary ready for such Volunteers, but they will not