remain ~~and I shall be very sorry~~ to loose them. I have only five that have warrants, Viz^t. Worthington Warner, Huffington, Breese & Nicholson; the nature of the service and sickness among these officers during the fall obliged me to employ the others, (and hastily to get them) & more particularly so, as you expressed a wish that the commanders of the Baltimore Barges should be continued, which induced me to give acting appointments, to Messrs Bejie, Martin, Kiddall, and ~~to continue~~ Mr Geoghagen in the command of Gunboat 138 – Mr Ormsby our purser seems to think he is not obligated to recognise, or pay such as are acting, nor, I believe, even, those who are commissioned such is the perverseness of man to throw obstacles in the way of others that it is hard to get forward with any degree of satisfaction.

I have at the Lazaretto 11 Barges & one Galley, (and one Barge sent to the Lazaretto alone) and upwards of 200 men, and do hope the time is come for to obtain them with more ease