

Sec Nav to Joshua Barney
September 15, 1813

Joshua Barney Esq^r
Comd^g U.S. Flotilla
Baltimore

Navy Department
Sept^r 15th 1813

Sir,

W. F. Parker
commanding Scorpion

In reply to your letters of the 9th and 13th current, I inform you that the Navy Agent is directed to purchase the Galley on the lowest practicable terms, in which you will afford him your assistance, and as soon as the commander's name is forwarded to the Department, a warrant for him will be returned.

Lieutenant Parker's report of the barge does not correspond with the experiments made on her here, it is probable he expected too much of her. Experience however will determine, and if a fib is required, it can soon be added, though it will be better to avoid it if possible.

The cause is easily perceived to be her long shallow body and trimming on an even keel & the resistance of the water on the Lee bow pressing her to windward, having so little hold of the water abaft to resist her flying too, but this cannot be remedied without a ~~Lee~~ Roebard on her Quarter, or adding a skag to her keel slip? which would greatly injure her other qualities. It is in vain to expect to continue excellence in every quality in a vessel of this kind. I am well persuaded they will combine as much as is practicable. Another Barge will be ready to send round from this place in a day or two, fitted with stanchions of wood, and cedar cover for an awning; which is a great improvement; and I wish those in Baltimore to be fitted in the same manner, for which purpose she will be sent round as soon as the Scorpion returns. (nearest ltr)

The Purser of the Station is the Purser of the Flotilla, as is the case at New York, and Rhode Island, as well as in the Delaware and elsewhere.

Signed W. Jones.