Commodore Isaac Chauncey
Com.r Naval Officer,
On the Lakes.

Navy Department
July 17th 1813

Sir,

I have received a letter from Capt J. T. Leonard, of the 9th Inst, complaining, (and with apparent cause) of unreasonable delay in bringing him to trial.

I had hoped, that during the detention of the squadron at Sackett's Harbour, a court could have been convened with great convenience. As he has been now, near three months under arrest, nothing but the strongest necessity, and the absolute interest of the service, must be suffered to protract the decision of his case.

I am, very respectfully,
Your Obedient Servt.
W. Jones

51.

Captain Charles Morris
U. S. Frigate Adams

Navy Department
July 18th 1813

Sir,

Mr Morris has delivered to me, your letters of the day, with the several enclosures therein referred to, which will receive deliberate attention. Mr Morris will hand to you the Night Signals, for the purpose of the alterations you suggest, which you will please transmit, as soon as your preparing duties will admit of the necessary attention. From the last article, in the

enclosed hand bill, I fear the Asp has been captured, and poor Sigourney killed. I confide much in the vigilance of Lieutenant Read, and trust he will avoid approaching too near the enemy, lest, by a calm, or other casualty, their Barges should get hold of him. Your plan of defence, with very little exception, meets my full approbation, but only as a dernier resort.

To retire from your present position with the Naval force, before the enemy had approached its vicinity, with a decidedly superior force, would have the worst possible effect, in destroying the confidence, and depressing the spirits of the people. Those of Alexandria would consider their defence as abandoned, and though the enemy may not now seriously meditate the attempt, (and I firmly believe he does not,) yet, invited by the absence of the squadron, and the consequent panic, he would, in all probability, make the attempt, were it only to destroy Alexandria, and reconnoitre and menace this place.

If the maintenance of your position is at all doubtful, with the Fort and Squadron combined, its fall will be the necessary consequence of withdrawing the squadron.

My opinion is, therefore, that it will be better to remain until the enemy shall approach, in such force as to leave no doubt of the propriety of retiring, and in the interim to prepare all the means of defence, you have pointed out at the ultimate stand. This I shall take immediate measures to do, as far as attaches to my Department.

The platform, for the Battery, shall be immediately commenced, if hands can be had, and the people of the Yard