The mere declaration of Mr. Parrow that he was taken together with his brother by the enemy, and that he had promised the Commodore to return on board after delivering the unlawful Message to the inhabitants, does not justify him. –

It is not stated that he considered himself as a Prisoner on Parole, and if he did, still some written evidence is requisite to substantiate the fact, otherwise any unfaithful Citizen may become the insidious and active Agent of the enemy with impunity, under the guise of being a Prisoner at large. –

All Prisoners of War on parole have or ought to have written evidence of that parole – the Commissary General of Prisoners has the proper Cognizance and Controul of all Prisoners. It is believed that Mr Parrow being taken (if taken) from his house in the ordinary pursuit of his private Affairs, and not in any military or public capacity, cannot be considered as a prisoner of War, and consequently a parole given to him could not be binding. –

Under the circumstances of the case however it is not deemed expedient to continue him under military arrest, because when brought before the civil authority, it is doubtful whether the law will reach the case to any effectual purpose. – I consider however, upon the facts stated by you, and upon lawful military principles, that his arrest in the first instance was strictly justifiable and proper, as his own declaration & conduct had rendered him justly suspected.

When you discharge him, you will however strictly forewarn him, not to attempt going on board the enemy's ship and if found in the attempt, you will again arrest and deliver him over to the Civil authority, upon the evidence you shall adduce of his traitorous and unlawful Conduct. –

I am respectfully &c.
DUPE of previous pg. W Jones. –

Comm: Barney
Sir,

Navy Department.
June 14th 1814 – 1 PM.

DUPE of previous page.

Having this instant answered that part of your letter of yesterday, touching the case of Mr Parrow, I have now to notice the remainder. I am gratified with the result of your contest with the enemy, on the 10th. He has doubtless suffered no less in men than in his Vessels, and I trust before he leaves the Patuxent, we shall have cause to thank him for his civ[illegible]

The Marines set out on Sunday morning, and from erroneous information, as to the means of passing the river at Nottingham, they were round[illegible]

by green Ames, which has protracted their journey 25 miles, they are started, with you by this time. There is a good Scow at Nottingham for passing Artillery. –

The two 18 Pounders did not start as I had supposed, but will with a detachment from this place this afternoon. – You Powder and Cylinders are on the way; Should they continue the blockade of the Potilla, without any any further attempt with their present force, it will be with a design to await the arrival of an additional force from the coast, with which they may attack some other point, while you are locked up. – In this view I have been reflecting what is best to be done, and can give you the result. – I am satisfied that the whole of the Barges may be transported from the head of St Leonards Creek to the Bay, with great facility. –

I believe the distance is not more than four miles, and I am told the road is tolerably good and free from any serious impediment. – One of the large Barges stripped of every moveable article will not weigh more than six tons – about the weight of a Cable for a 44. – Two pair of dray Wheels with a stout Bolster and a Chock to fit the bottom and raise it clear of the Wheels would carry a Barge. There are plenty of Oxen I am told, and in different places, you have manual force to assist. – Your information on the spot will enable you to test my information and judge of the practicability. –

If it is practicable it will be highly gratifying, and produce an excellent effect, for if you can transport them four miles you may twenty, and thus the enemy will see the futility of any attempt to Blockade you in any of the numerous inlets into which circumstances may force you. *

Many of our heavy built decked Gun Boats were built in the district of Maine four or five miles from navigation and hauled down by Oxen. –

A recent instance has occurred of a Vessel of 100 Tons being hauled several miles. –

The Wheels and whatever else may be necessary for the purpose may be ordered from Baltimore, under the pretext of being intended for Cannon, and it will be well to keep all snug until you are ready for a rapid movement.

The Artillery and infantry, will be able to protect you on either side, until the Barges are ready for action on the Bay side.

I am respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
W Jones.

* upon the effect of which, I believe they calculate with great Confidence

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