as may, in your view, be best calculated to bring the enemy to action, and capture or destroy his fleet; or to blockade his force, and cut off his entire communication by water, with the head of the Lake; to annoy him, by all the means in your power, and to cooperate with the Army, in the most effectual manner, by a liberal and harmonious concert with the Military Chief, and in such way as you may deem most efficient and practicable, with the force under your Command.—

I have expressed the solicitude, which has prompted this letter, but my Confidence in your Patriotism, Judgement, Skill, and Energy, is entire.—

I am very respectfully
Sir your Obedient Servant
W. Jones.

170. 176.

Joshua Barney Esq.
Commanding the U.S. Flotilla
Patuxent River

Navy Department
July 26th 1814.—

Sir

I have received your letter of the 24th and am myself of opinion, that the principal object of the enemy at present is plunder. Admiral Cochrane I presume has arrived, and has brought reinforcements with him, but not to the extent that has been reported. He will in all probability endeavour to give more importance and activity to his command.

They are now very busy upon the Potomac, have it is said buoyed out the Channel through the Kettle bottoms, and one frigate is reported to have passed those shoals.— If the fact is so, they may probably go up to Maryland point.—

In this state of things, I wish you to reflect and determine, whether you can place your flotilla in a position, secure against the force of the enemy in the Patuxent, and leaving it in charge of your next in command, come yourself with two hundred of your Officers and Crews to this place, and with the new Schooner, three new Barges and such other force as we have, proceed down to Maryland Point, and look at the enemy. I would also embrace the occasion to erect a sailors Battery of 6 or 8 heavy Guns on Maryland Point, which with a furnace and a sufficient military force to protect the Battery, would effectually defend that point.

I have ordered two travelling Carriages, for long Eight 18 pounders to be made for the use of your flotilla.

If you come, come quickly.

I am respectfully
Your Obt Servt W. Jones

Cochran R.N.

160. 173.

Joshua Barney Esq.
Commanding the U.S. Flotilla
Nottingham Md.

Navy Department
July 27th – 1814.

Sir

Accounts have been received here this morning, that the whole of the enemy's forces on the Potomac have gone down below Blackistons Islands, and probably up the Bay again. You will therefore consider my letter of yesterday, by express as countermanded, and continue with your present command.—

As the temptation for plunder is nearly exhausted on the Patuxent, it is to be presumed that the enemy may be content, to blockade you in that River, and employ his disposable force elsewhere.— Should this be the case, it will be advisable to proceed with the flotilla to Queen Anns, from whence to South river, I believe is but 8 or 9 Miles over a good level road.—

The Scorpion when dismasted of all her heavy stores, can I believe ascend nearly to Queen Anns.—

If arrangements can be made with due privacy, until the moment of operation, the Barges may be transported to South river,— but if this project shall fail, I still think that Queen Anns will be the place of greatest safety, from whence the Crews can be transferred to Baltimore, Annapolis, or to this place, as occasion may require, with more facility, and the position is, I believe the most salubrious, of any on the upper part of the Patuxent.—

I shall be glad of your opinion on this subject.— A Waggon will start this afternoon with a very light fast Gig, Oars &c. for Nottingham to your order.—

I am respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W. Jones.

173. 181.

Commodore Stephen Decatur
Commanding the U.S. Ship President
New York

Navy Department
July 28th 1814.

Sir

The silence of Comd Chauncey, ever since the 8th Inst, relative to the sailing of the Squadron under his command— the previous and positive assurance of his departure, after the final arrangements, which would