

Capt Joshua Barney
Comd'g US Flotilla
Patuxent

333
Navy Department
June 6. 1814

Sir,

I have this instant received your letter of the 3^d & 4th detailing your rencounter with the Enemy's force off the Patuxent.

It is very much to be regretted that the weather proved so boisterous and unfavourable for the Flotilla.

The Gun Boats are really an encumbrance to you as they cannot move with the rest of the Flotilla.

You had better therefore when you have a convenient opportunity send them to Baltimore, there to remain.

You are at liberty to hire the Schooner you mention as a Store Ship on the most reasonable terms you can agree upon with the Captain as one of the owners.

We have a surplus of excellent powder & provisions on this station which I could place at Annapolis, or any other convenient depot that you may point out for the use of your Flotilla.

I have caused an experiment to be tried on the sheet iron furnace, which I mentioned to you but it will not answer your purpose, for in heating the shot the furnace itself becomes intolerably & dangerously hot, - when you return to Baltimore you may have a brick furnace constructed on board the Asp or either of the other vessels or in a good stout launch, which might be kept for that special purpose. - Such a Boat would now as well as the Barge and might have a 12th & 8th carronade in her Bow.

The inclosed documents are copied from originals which are considered by the Government to be entitled to entire credit. - Capt Herbert is a very respectable man and would willingly accompany an expedition of the kind he suggests.

Should an opportunity occur when the calm season commences, and you deem the object practicable, its accomplishment would be very important & exceedingly popular.

I am respectfully
W^m Jones.

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Com. En. Rodgers
Philadelphia

Navy Department
June 6. 1814

Sir,

Ensign 4th ultimo Lieutenant Peter Gamble late of the