

Sec Nav to Barney - Confidential

Joshua Barney, Esq.
Captain Commanding
the U. S. Flotilla
St. Leonard's Creek

Navy Department
June 12, 1814 Noon

Sir

I have this received yours of yesterday, and mark with pleasure the result of the renewed attack made by the enemy on your flotilla on the 9th and 10th.

It is evident you must have done them great damage, particularly the Schooner.

They will no doubt collect all the disposable force within the Chesapeake, but as our force will doubtless collect at least as fast as that of the enemy, and as no force that he can bring against you in Boats can endanger the flotilla, so long as the Banks of the Creek are protected by our Militia, the position appears to be as favorable as any in which we may expect to attack him. I shall be mistaken if ultimately he is not made to ~~suffer~~ suffer extremely for his temerity.

Lieutenant Miller with a detachment of 110 Marines, with three light 12 pounders in complete order, set out this morning at day dawn to join you. They will go by way of Queen Anne's, as there are no means of passing the Artillery over the river lower down. He will send an officer already in order to consult you on the best position for his cooperation. All that may be expected from excellent Officers & men you will derive from their services.

I have not seen the Secretary of War since Friday, but it is said that two 18 pounders were dispatched from this place yesterday morning, and some infantry today. Should you erect a Battery at any point on the Creek or River ~~that~~ that may be heated with great facility and dispatch by making a simple excavation in the earth and a good large fire. I omitted to mention this to Lieutenant Miller, but 12 pound ball may be thus heated in a few minutes, and in loading the piece,