

Sec Nav to Barney - Confidential
June 14th, 1814

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Commodore Barney
etc etc

Navv Department
June 14th, 1814 1pm

Sir

Having this instant answered that part of your letter of yesterday touching the case of Mr. Perran, 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 Petuxent, we shall have cause to thank him for his visit.

The Marines set out on Sunday evening, and from erroneous information as to the means of passing the river at Nottingham, they went around by Queen Anne's, which has protracted their journey 25 miles, they are I trust, 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. Your powder and cylinders are on the way. Should they continue the blockade of the flotilla, without 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 now give you the result. - I am satisfied that the whole of the Barges may be transported from the head of St Leonard's 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 drag wheels with a stout Boltster? 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 a manual force to assist - Your information on the spot will enable you to test any information and judge of the practicability.