

Sec Nav to Barney - Confidential
June 21, 1814

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

Navy Department
June 21st 1814

Sir,

I herewith enclose a Copy of the order of the Secretary of War to Col^d Wadsworth, by which you will observe that a Battalion with some heavy pieces has been ordered from Baltimore, and that Col^d Wadsworth is directed to examine Point Patience, and if found a commanding position to erect a Rampart thereon, with which and the field Artillery on both sides of the river, it is hoped to annoy effectually if not prevent the return of the Ships now above that Point.

If this plan, or any other which may promise a successful result, shall be adopted you will suspend the execution of my order of yesterday until an experiment shall be made, or the project is abandoned.

Col. Wadsworth will see and confer with you on the subject, and it certainly would be satisfactory if any decisive course could be adapted to terminate the Blockade and spare the destruction of the flotilla, but the continuance of the present state of things is altogether inadmissible, and unless some alternative shall speedily occur, you will carry into execution my orders of yesterday.

I am respectfully
Your Obed^t Serv^t
W. Jones.

P. S.

I have this moment, 3 pm, received yours of the 20th, the person who brought it, having been injured in a fall, cannot immediately return. If the enemy could be driven below the mouth of the Creek, so that the flotilla could pass up the river, the Vessels could be placed in safety and the Crews transferred to other Berges. This however can only be done from shore.