

Sec Nav to Barney - Confidential
July 26th, 1814

Joshua Barney Esq^r
Commanding the U.S. Flotilla
Potomac 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 (sic) 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 Rattle Bottoms, and one frigate is reported to have passed these 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 on the Potomac, 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 Sailor's Battery of 6 or 8 heavy ~~guns~~ 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 light 18 pounders to be made for the use of your flotilla.

If you come, come quickly

I am respectfully
Your obed^t Serv^t

W. Jones