

Cap. John O. Breightons
Comm'g Naval Officer
Newport R.I.

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Navy Department
Dec. 23. 1814

Sir,

You are hereby authorized to convene a Naval Court martial for the trial of Jeremy A. Dickenson first Lieutenant, John S. Sandborne Boatswain, James Brewer Gunners mate, John H. Connod, John Tilley, John Hill, John Kelly, John Perry, Lemuel Wetherly, William Jones, George Lawrence, Seamen, and Seth Mayo Quarters master all of the Private Armed Brig Scourge, upon the several charges and specifications of charges exhibited against them by Cap. Samuel James Commander of the said Private Armed Brig Scourge. Should there not be a sufficient number of officers to form a court within your commands you will inform the Department.

I am respectfully
Benjamin Thomas
A.S.N.

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Joshua Parney Esq.
Cap. Comm'g U.S. Flotilla
Baltimore

Navy Department
Dec. 23. 1814

Sir,

I have been favored with your letter of the 17th inst. but in consequence of the appointment of a Secretary of the Navy I have deferred an answer, to submit the decision to him, presuming that no inconvenience would attend a short delay.

As the act of dismissing officers from the service who were so recently appointed under Mr. Jones' administration is an unpleasant duty, and may perhaps be considered an act of supererogation. I should wish to avoid the least cause of censure, while nothing should deter me from the performance of necessary duty. The subject shall be attended to in a short time, and the warrants be made out for those you may recommend to supply their places.

I am very respectfully
Benjamin Thomas
A.S.N.

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