

United States Frigate Constellation

Norfolk Harbour March 2. 1813

Sir/

I have received your letter of 22nd ult. and observe
the desire you have of giving our ships of war, singly, the most
extensive range for the annoyance of the Enemy's Commerce,
which fully accords with my ideas of the Subject since the
commencement of the war. Our Naval means are truly
limited, but no doubt much may be effected, small as they are,
by the exertions and enterprise of the Officers when judiciously
scattered over an extensive field of operations; and each ship,
separately, will be more on their guard and better enabled
to take care of themselves should they be endangered by too
great a Superiority of Force. The difficulty of remaining out a
sufficient length of time, owing to the small quantity of pro-
visions and stores they can carry, will be a great objection
to their proceeding into distant seas, and the difficulty of
returning to the ports of the United States will increase daily,
as the enemy are now making arrangements to block up
our waters. How far we can rely on supplies from other
places I do not know, but most of the ports we dare go into
among the allies of England are incompetent to furnish them.