

Norfolk 12th March 1813

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I have just time to drop you a line to say how we are situated at this moment. The Enemy ship - have kept us for several days in constant motion night & day there is now in the Roads two line of battle ships & one Frigate well up with Swallow point last evening I took seven boats from the Flotilla in order to strengthen the other twelve & they are but in differently Arr'd. The General sent his Aid & Capt. Meyer over for me last evening to know what order I had for recruiting and what bounty I was authorized to give - finding I had no Authority for bounty - they concluded that the recruiting hand bills are stuck up at the Cannons by Captain Fawcett offering a Bounty of twenty dollars for one month to serve on board the Frigate or Gun Boats. I have been there four nights in my boat getting space & for stationing round the Gun boats on the tenth three Boats were within signal distance of our boat with muffled oars but upon the signal being made they started it being very dark the Frigate