

Baltimore 20th March
1813

Dear Sir

You no doubt expected to hear from me by this day's mail, which most certainly would have been the case had not the Post office been guilty of gross neglect - Y^{rs} of the 18th which should have received yesterday, was this day sent me with an apology from the office for mislaying it the evening before.

As respects Captⁿ Lincolns report of a private sloop having fallen at the Bay, I think from the reports we have here which are almost entirely false must have been in error unless she has gone up the Potomac; For a gentleman has this moment arrived in a bay craft that left Sweden the day before yesterday, fallen at the mouth of the Potomac in broad daylight & saw nothing. He with others who arrived today also state that 4 Baltimore Vessels have made their escape & gone to sea; And that a schooner from France has arrived at the Bay unobserved by the Enemy. They also report that part of the Fleet appears to have dispersed, destined as we suppose for the Delaware - Those that remain are some in Hampton roads & the rest about the