

The two tenders Franklin and Despatch are moored at the wharf for
armed from this ship with forty men each.

Yesterday Lieut. Ridgely went down to Hampton Roads
Lockburn in the Franklin tender as a flag of truce, to see
on board the Secretary to the Russian Ambassador. He
treated with great civility, and learned that the night
they had despatched their launches and cutters with
hundred men above Grand Island for the purpose of
sweeping this division of Gun Boats. The Guard boat from
this ship lay near them for two hours unperceived and heard
most of their conversation; they retired however before
light finding the division of Gun Boats withdrawn.

There are still in Hampton Roads three
the Line and two frigates. Their ships do not separate
their frigates and tenders when we make a movement
the flotilla retire under the protection of the ships of the line.
Their excursions have been confined to the shores of Pamlico
river, occasionally landing in strong parties to procure
They have destroyed a number of the oyster boats, and taken
possession of the licensed vessels that had retired up the river.

It is much to be regretted that a strong work
has not been erected on Grand Island, I mean a gun