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Heavy and gusty 24th March 1813

Heaving a number of heavy guns this morning I went over to enquire the cause which I hasten to inform you. Four small schooners coming out of James River for Norfolk were pursued by the enemy's barges & kept up a constant fire. They succeeded in taking two, one here on shore which they burnt and is now in sight from the Constellation. Dasher the fourth made her escape & got up to town. The boats attempted running over the flats but the enemy overtook them below Craney Spence.

A Frigate & six tenders have gone up James River this morning. They have been within four miles of Smithfield & shot several cattle & taken the

off. There is now laying below fort Norfolk the admiral's barge & a flag boat which has just come up nothing has transpired from yet.

The Dispatch boat left here this morning with Mr. Sweetthoff on board was boarded by the flag boat going down.

I have the honor to be
Sir your O^b Servant

John Caffery

Wm Jones