

to 7 April
P. Ding
Bad quality
by Col.

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United States Frigate Constellation
Off. Norfolk. April 7. 1813

Since my last there has been no alteration in the enemy's Squadron of one seventy four gun ship and two frigates. It was supposed the other part of the Squadron had got to sea, but it has been since stated that they went up the bay, perhaps, to procure supplies at the Tangier islands.

Some difficulty has arisen with respect to the seniority of Lieutenant Benjamin B. Dale between him and the other Lieutenants of this ship; it appears that the commission issued to him in 1811, has erased, "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate," but states, that he is to take rank from the 10th day of June 1810. The erasure leads the other lieutenants to suppose his commission not to be valid, which may have arisen from the neglect of the Department in not giving him a regular one after the appointment had passed the Senate. As it can only be put to right by the Department to the satisfaction of all the Officers under him, I beg you will be pleased to send me for him a regular commission to that effect. Most of the lieutenants appointed at the same time are in a similar situation and the younger lieutenants effect their object in this case they will