

United States Frigate Constellation

Off. Norfolk April 12. 1813

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your letters of 6th. and 8th inst. We have certain information that the rest of the Enemy's Squadron have gone up the bay, no doubt to attack the privateers and letters of marque in the Potomac and Patuxent rivers.

Yesterday a pretty severe gale blew from East. The Baltimore Schooner Flight capt. Kelley 35 days from Bordeaux with a valuable cargo passed the Squadron about four o'clock yesterday morning; the Victorias immediately dispatched four boats after her, three with a Lieutenant and thirty men each, one with a Midshipman and fourteen men; the pilot ran her on the horse shoe when she went to pieces; they got out the crew and passengers consisting of thirty-five persons; the gale had increased so much that they could not get back to the ship and were obliged to put before the wind. The Midshipman came up to this ship with his boat and crew almost perished; they stated that immediately after bearing up, the launch broke up after them but was soon lost sight of, they supposed she had swamped. At daylight this morning I dispatched the two tenders down