

United States Frigate Constellation

Off. Norfolk April 13. 1813

Sir

Mr. Nelson the British Midshipman appears to be an intelligent young man and tolerably communicative; questioning him last evening relative to their force, probable intentions of the Squadron &c. &c. He said that the coast Squadron under Admiral Warren would consist of fifteen ships of the line, about twenty frigates, with some floops of war, and gun brigs, that six mortar ships were expected out shortly; that Admiral Beaulieu would command an additional Flying Squadron, now in the West Indies and expected on the coast of five ships of the line and five frigates. He observed we would have something to do this summer, that Admiral Warren would not be idle, that Lord Wellington was coming out with one half of the Army of Portugal which had volunteered for America and the German Legion; he says he believes the intention is to occupy Long Island and to bombard New York. He states that the Captain of the Victorious had received information that the Essex Frigate had captured the Surprise frigate. He says that a Schooner they had captured from North Carolina had been released on the promise of