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Sunday August 19th June 1812

Yesterday afternoon I received a note from Gen^l Taylor apprizing me of the enemy getting underway & standing in for the Heads there being several craft coming out of James River at about 4 pm. Three frigates two tenders & several barges came in one frigate proceeded as high as Sewells Coveing the barges which were in pursuit of the craft which consisted of one schooner loaded with flour 500 barrels & two schooners one with bacon & beans the other with Naval stores. The gun boat immediately shifted and proceeded down having a leading vessel the light Lieutenant Gardner on approach- ing & to prevent the enemy from capturing the opened his fire upon the barges when the frigate backed & stood down into the Heads making signals for the boats to return one ship lay this morning at sunrise the other two near old point one of them appear to be a barge on a ship cut down the gun boat have returned to their anchorage we are preparing to give them a shot or two when they lay which I hope will be this evening or tomorrow evening as I mean to