

of this Ship, but at present commanding one of the Flotilla, is very solicitous to obtain a Midshipman's warrant, and I know of no person more deserving to fill the first vacancy which may offer -

M^r Hunter has shown me a letter from you granting him leave of absence until his health shall be restored - As his health has been uniformly good, I am induced to believe some misrepresentation must have been made to obtain this indulgence - I send him up with L^t Read with orders to report himself to the Department -

I am sorry to report that the additional ballast taken in, making altogether 110 Tons and 40 Tons Shingle, does not appear to have any good effect on the Ship. She is still crank and her greatest sailing as yet has been eight knots with these defects. I do not conceive it proper to proceed further at present, as there are no obstructions in the navigation below the Kettle Bottoms, and the ship would be unable