

Copy

U.S. Cutter Scorpion

15 June 1813

Sir

I am as much surprised, as you are astonished, at my not being able to obtain provisions 15. or 20 miles, below Blackstones Isl and:—as to what you call, being occupied, I cannot find out; If cruising below the above Island, examining every thing which comes up is not.

You say, you have not been able to see any thing of my vessels, for the last week; I am sorry for that, I myself, have seen you, three times, within that period, & heard of you, every day: Had you been chased, into the River, you must necessarily have come as high, as the above Island: My reason for not having a vessel kept, to communicate between us is, my having but one vessel (the Scorpion) that can sail, & she cannot at all times, be kept perfectly handy for you, without being detached from the flotilla.

As to being on the Alert, I flatter myself I have never been otherwise; & I should suppose, it time enough, to receive such a letter from you, when my services were really wanted