

ADM 1/506/1187-1189
Cochrane - Monroe
August 18, 1814

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The Honorable James Monroe
Secretary of State
etc etc etc
Washington

His Britannic Majesty's Ship
the Tonnant in the
Petit Port River
18th August 1814

Sir,

Having been called upon by the Governor General of the Canadas to aid him in carrying into effect measures of retaliation against the Inhabitants of the United States for the wanton destruction committed by their Army in upper Canada; it has become imperiously my duty, conformably with the nature of the Governor's General's application, to issue to the Naval Force under my command an order to destroy and lay waste such Towns and districts ~~in~~ upon the Coast as may be found assailable.

I had hoped that this contest would have terminated without my ~~being~~ being obliged to resort to Severities that are contrary to the usage of civilized Warfare, and as it has been with extreme reluctance and concern that I have found myself compelled to adopt this system of devastation, I shall be equally gratified if the conduct of the Executive of the United States will authorize my staying such proceedings, by making reparation to the suffering Inhabitants of Upper Canada:

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