

ADM 1/506/1191-1198
Cochrane - Croker
September 2, 1814

(1)

No. 98

To John Wilson Croker Esq.^{re}
etc etc etc.

Transmit in the Postscript
2nd September 1814

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of the proceedings of His Majesty's combined Sea and Land forces since my arrival with the Fleet within the Capes of Virginia, and I beg leave to offer my congratulations to their Lordships upon the successful termination of an Expedition in which the whole of the Enemy's Flotilla under Commodore Barney has been captured or destroyed - his Army tho' greatly superior in number and strongly posted with Cannon defeated at Bladensburg - the City of Washington taken - the Capitol with all the public buildings, Military Arsenals, Dock Yard and the rest of their Naval Establishment, together with a vast quantity of Naval and Military Stores, a Frigate of the largest class, ready to launch, and a Sloop of War afloat, either blown up or reduced to Ashes.

Such a series of successes in the centre of an Enemy's Country, surrounded by a numerous population, could not be acquired without loss and we have to lament the fall of some valuable Officers and Men; but considering the difficulties the Forces had to contend with, the extreme heat of the Climate and their coming into action at the end of a long march, our Casualties are astonishingly few.

(cont.)