

ADM 1/506/1191-1198
Cochrane - Croker
September 9, 1814 (cont.)

(2)

My letter N^o 77 of the 11th August will have acquainted their Lordships of my waiting in the Chesapeake for the arrival of Rear Admiral Malcolm with the Expedition from Bermuda. ^{as} The Rear Admiral joined me on the 17th and I had gained information from Rear Admiral Cockburn whom I found on the Potomac, that Commodore Barney with the Patuxent Flotilla had taken shelter at the head of the Patuxent, this afforded a pretext for ascending that River to attack him near its source, above Pigpoint, while the ultimate destination of the combined force was Washington, should it be found that the attempt might be made with any prospect of success. To give their Lordships a more correct view of the plan of attack, I send a Sketch of the Country upon which the movements of the Army and Navy are portrayed. ^(see) By it their Lordships will observe that the best approach to Washington is by Port Tobacco upon the Potomac and Benedict upon the Patuxent, from both of which are direct and good Roads to that City, and their distances nearly alike: the Roads from Benedict divide about five miles inland - the one by Piscataway and Bladensburg, the other following the course of the River although at some distance from it, owing to the Creeks that run up the Country: this last passes through the Towns of Nottingham and Marlborough to Bladensburg, at which Town the River called the Eastern Branch that forms ~~the~~ Washington to the eastward is fordable and the distance about five miles. There are two Bridges over this River at the City, but it was not to be expected that the Enemy would leave them accessible to an invading Army,

(cont.)