Reference:-
ADM 1/506 34689
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Country upon which the movements of the Army and Navy are to be conveyed. 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 bounds Washington to the East and 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.

Previously to my entering the Patuxent I detached Captain Gordon of His Majesty's Ship Seahorse, with that Ship and the Ships and Bombs named in the Margin, up the Potomac, to bombard Fort Washington which is situated on the left bank of that River about ten or twelve miles below the City, with a view of destroying

Euryalus
Devastation
Etna
Meteor
Cygnet
Erebus

that