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His Majesty's Bomb Vessel Devastation,
off Poplar Island in the Chesapeake.
October 31st 1814.

Sir,

In obedience to your Order of yesterday, I this Morning proceeded to Parkers Point, with the Boats and detachment of Royal Marines you did me the honor to place under my command; on finding the Houses deserted, I made dispositions for driving in Cattle. Lieut Frazer of the R. Ms. and Lieut Alexander of the R. N. in advance with the Skirmishers.

On reconnoitering, I perceiv'd the Enemy to be in considerable Force in Cavalry, therefore directed Captain Cole (Royal Marines) to bring up the Main Body, to support the advance, and the favorable position we had taken up, induced me to throw the Skirmishers forward to entice the Enemy to make a Charge, which I am happy to say had the effect, but the steady and gallant reception, which I felt confident they would meet with from the Royal Marines, who threw in a destructive Volley, put them to flight, leaving two Killed, two Prisoners, and twenty Horses with their accoutrements &c. &c. in our possession; I only regret a Body of Infantry (chiefly Militia) from eight Hundred, to one Thousand, with field Pieces, supported this Squadron, in their Attack, and have not a doubt, from the Intrepidity of the detachment, the whole destruction of this Squadron, consisting of one hundred & fourteen would have been effected.

Perceiving the Enemys intention to cut us from the Beach, his very superior Force, the difficulty I experienced in Landing, the shoal water not admitting the Boats to approach sufficiently near to cover us from their field Pieces, I judged it prudent to embark, which I am happy to say was effected without the loss of a Man, under the judicious arrangement of Lieut Fitzmaurice of the Dragon.

To Captain Cole R. M. commanding the detachment, I feel particularly indebted for his support, and I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of the gallant example shewn by Lieuts Frazer R. M. and Lieut Alexander R. N. in

Advance

Capt Barrie Esqre
Commdr of H. M. Ship
Dragon
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