

ADM 1/1553/150

(2)

Brooke - Croker

July 30, 1812

trade, for the protection of our own, and I determined accordingly to proceed in quest of the American Squadron instead of waiting for their return; on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> we had <sup>an</sup> anxious - ~~winning~~ chase? after an American Frigate supposed to be the Constitution; but she escaped by very superior sailing, tho' the Frigates under my Orders are remarkably fast ships -

Yesterday I had the satisfaction of joining the West Indies Convoy of 60 sail under Capt<sup>n</sup> Byam - in the Thetis, this Fleet was talked of confidentially in America as the chief object of Commodore Rogers' hazardous enterprise; - we shall at least ensure their safety, and I hope our escorting them may lead to a meeting of the Squadrons; we have lost sight of Africa by carrying sail ahead to overtake the Convoy; but I expect she will rejoin tomorrow; - I propose to guard the Convoy past the Banks, and shall then proceed according to such further information as we may obtain, returning probably off New York with the Frigates, and detaching Africa to Halifax, but I shall leave this letter on board the Thetis in readiness, as we may very possibly be separated soon from her in chase, and have no other opportunity of writing; - The undermentioned was the disposition of the remainder of the force under the Vice Admiral's orders at the time we sailed - at Halifax - Julia (to sail for England that Night) & Chubb Sch<sup>r</sup> expected directly from Quebec the Spartan, ditto from Bermuda - Citadelle and Emulous & Morgiana gone to Quebec - Tartarus

at Bay of Fundy, Juniper, Plumper, and Indienne, and Pay d<sup>o</sup> to Bermuda Pattle - there - Recruit Cuttle & Sylph, in West Indies for Speise - Goree, at New York with flag of truce Alpha and Colibri (the latter sailed on the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Inst from New York with the British Minister on board for Halifax; - Sailed for England - Mackerel; - I state these particulars as the American frigates on the banks might have fallen in with

\* see below  
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