ADM1/4360/133-134
Cochrane-Croker
July 23, 1814

(1)

on date file

Nº 70

Bermuda 23rd July 1814

John W. Croker Esq.
etc etc etc

Sir,

Taking into consideration the advanced State of the Season and the sickness that prevailed in the Chesapeake last year, in the month of August, where out of two thousand men, by the beginning of September five or six hundred men were laid up with fever and ague, which in a ~~Seamen~~ manner rendered that Corps inefficient for the rest of the Season -

I am of opinion that until the month of October our efforts might be confined to the Northern States and if it should appear that the ~~Service~~ Line of Battle Ships building at Portsmouth is not in so forward a State as to make Her destruction an immediate object, Rhode Island presents itself as the next in consequence - either to destroy or keep possession of, until the extreme heats are over to the Southward, by which the Troops will be kept in health and fit to form attacks upon the Enemy from the Delaware Southward as the Season advances.

I do not think that any attempt should be made in force South of the Delaware before the month of October; partial attacks may take place to keep the Enemy upon the alert, but in my opinion the great object will be to preserve the Health of the Soldiers until they can act with effect.

I have the Honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble Servant
Alex^r Cochrane.
Vice Admiral and
Commander in Chief.