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COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, September 27, 1814.

CAPTAIN SMITH, Assistant Adjutant-General to the Troops under the command of Major-General Ross, arrived this morning with a dispatch from that Officer, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following is a copy.

*Tonnant, in the Patuxent,
30th August, 1814.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Lordship, that on the night of the 24th instant, after defeating the army of the United States on that day, the troops under my command entered and took possession of the city of Washington.

It was determined between Sir A. Cochrane and myself, to disembark the army at the village of Benedict, on the right bank of the Patuxent, with the intention of co-operating with Rear-Admiral Cockburn, in an attack upon a flotilla of the enemy's gun-boats, under the command of Commodore Barney. On the 20th instant, the army commenced its march, having landed the previous day without opposition: on the 21st it reached Nottingham, and on the 22d moved on to Upper Marlborough, a few miles distant from Pig Point, on the Patuxent, where Admiral Cockburn fell in with and defeated the flotilla, taking and destroying the whole. Having advanced to within sixteen miles of Washington, and ascertaining the force of the enemy to be such as might authorise an attempt at carrying his capital, I determined to make it, and accordingly put the troops in movement on the evening of the 23d. A corps of about 1200 men appeared to oppose us, but retired after firing a few shots. On the 24th, the troops resumed their march, and

reached Bladensburg, a village situated on the left bank of the eastern branch of the Potowmack, about five miles from Washington.

On the opposite side of that river the enemy was discovered strongly posted on very commanding heights, formed in two lines, his advance occupying a fortified house, which, with artillery, covered the bridge over the eastern branch, across which the British troops had to pass. A broad and straight road leading from the bridge to Washington, ran through the enemy's position, which was carefully defended by artillery and riflemen.

The disposition for the attack being made, it was commenced with so much impetuosity by the light brigade, consisting of the 85th light infantry and the light infantry companies of the army, under the command of Colonel Thornton, that the fortified house was shortly carried, the enemy retiring to the higher grounds.

In support of the light brigade I ordered up a brigade under the command of Colonel Brooke, who, with the 44th regiment, attacked the enemy's left, the 4th regiment pressing his right with such effect as to cause him to abandon his guns. His first line giving way, was driven on the second, which, yielding to the irresistible attack of the bayonet, and the well directed discharge of rockets, got into confusion and fled, leaving the British masters of the field. The rapid flight of the enemy, and his knowledge of the country, precluded the possibility of many prisoners being taken, more particularly as the troops had, during the day, undergone considerable fatigue.

The enemy's army, amounting to eight or nine thousand men, with three or four hundred cavalry, was under the command of General Winder, being formed of troops drawn from Baltimore and Pennsylvania. His artillery, ten pieces of which fell into our hands, was commanded by Commodore

Barney, who was wounded and taken prisoner. The artillery I directed to be destroyed.

Having halted the army for a short time, I determined to march upon Washington, and reached that city at eight o'clock that night. Judging it of consequence to complete the destruction of the public buildings with the least possible delay, so that the army might retire without loss of time, the following buildings were set fire to and consumed—the Capitol, including the Senate-house and House of Representation, the arsenal, the dock-yard, treasury, war-office, President's palace, rope-walk, and the great bridge across the Potowmack: in the dock-yard a frigate nearly ready to be launched, and a sloop of war, were consumed. The two bridges leading to Washington over the eastern branch had been destroyed by the enemy, who apprehended an attack from that quarter. The object of the expedition being accomplished, I determined, before any greater force of the enemy could be assembled, to withdraw the troops, and accordingly commenced retiring on the night of the 25th. On the evening of the 29th we reached Benedict, and re-embarked the following day. In the performance of the operation I have detailed, it is with the utmost satisfaction I observe to your Lordship, that cheerfulness in undergoing fatigue and anxiety for the accomplishment of the object were conspicuous in all ranks.

To Sir Alexander Cochrane my thanks are due, for his ready compliance with every wish connected with the welfare of the troops, and the success of the expedition.

To Rear Admiral Cockburn, who suggested the attack upon Washington, and who accompanied the army, I confess the greatest obligation for his cordial co-operation and advice.

Colonel Thornton, who led the attack, is entitled to every praise for the noble example he set, which was so well followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Wood and the 85th Light Infantry, and by Major Jones, of the 4th Foot, with the light companies attached to the light brigade. I have to express my approbation of the spirited conduct of Colonel Brooke, and of his brigade, the 44th regiment, which he led, distinguished itself under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Mullens; the gallantry of the 4th Foot, under the command of Major Faunce, being equally conspicuous.

The exertions of Captain Mitchell, of the royal artillery, in bringing the guns into action, were unremitting; to him, and to the detachment under his command, including Captain Deacon's rocket brigade, and the marine rocket corps, I feel every obligation. Captain Lempriere, of the royal artillery, mounted a small detachment of the artillery drivers, which proved of great utility.

The assistance afforded by Captain Blanchard, of the royal engineers, in the duties of his department, was of great advantage. To the zealous exertions of Captains Wainwright, Palmer, and Money, of the Royal Navy, and to those of the officers and seamen who landed with them, the service is highly indebted; the latter, Captain Money, had charge of the seamen attached to the marine artillery. To Captain M'Dougall, of the 85th foot, who acted as my Aide-de-Camp, in consequence of the indisposition of my Aide-de-Camp,

Captain Falls, and to the officers of my staff, I feel much indebted.

I must beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the zeal and indefatigable exertions of Lieutenant Evans, Acting-Deputy-Quarter-Master-General. The intelligence displayed by that officer in circumstances of considerable difficulty, induces me to hope he will meet with some distinguished mark of approbation. I have reason to be satisfied with the arrangements of Assistant-Commissary-General Lawrence.

An attack upon an enemy so strongly posted, could not be effected without loss. I have to lament that the wounds received by Colonel Thornton, and the other officers and soldiers left at Bladensburg, were such as prevented their removal. As many of the wounded as could be brought off were removed, the others being left with medical care and attendants. The arrangements made by Staff Surgeon Baxter for their accommodation have been as satisfactory as circumstances would admit of. The agent for British prisoners of war, very fortunately residing at Bladensburg, I have recommended the wounded officers and men to his particular attention, and trust to his being able to effect their exchange when sufficiently recovered.

Captain Smith, Assistant Adjutant-General to the troops, who will have the honour to deliver this dispatch, I beg leave to recommend to your Lordship's protection, as an officer of much merit and great promise, and capable of affording any further information that may be requisite.

Sanguine in hoping for the approbation of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and of his Majesty's Government, as to the conduct of the troops under my command,

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROB. ROSS, Major-Gen.

I beg leave to inclose herewith a return of the killed, wounded, and missing in the action of the 24th inst. together, with a statement of the ordnance, ammunition, and ordnance stores taken from the enemy between the 19th and 25th August, and likewise sketches of the scene of action and of the line of march.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Troops under the Command of Major-General Ross, in Action with the Enemy, on the 24th August 1814, on the Heights above Bladensburg.

Washington, August 25, 1814.

- General Staff—4 horses killed.
- Royal Artillery—4 horses killed; 6 rank and file, 8 horses, wounded.
- Royal Marine Artillery—1 rank and file killed; 1 serjeant wounded.
- Royal Sappers and Miners—1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, killed.
- 4th Regiment—1 lieutenant, 2 serjeants, 21 rank and file, 1 horse, killed; 5 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 6 serjeants, 50 rank and file, wounded.
- 21st Regiment—2 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 11 rank and file, wounded.
- 44th Regiment—1 serjeant, 13 rank and file, killed; 35 rank and file wounded.
- 2d Batt. Royal Marines—5 rank and file killed.

85th Light Infantry—1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 serjeant, 12 rank and file, 1 horse, killed; 2 lieutenant-colonels, 1 major, 8 lieutenants, 2 serjeants, 51 rank and file, wounded.

Colonial Company—1 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded.

6th West India Regiment—1 serjeant wounded.

Total—1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 5 serjeants, 56 rank and file, 10 horses, killed; 2 lieutenant-colonels, 1 major, 1 captain, 14 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 10 serjeants, 155 rank and file, 8 horses, wounded.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

Killed.

85th Light Infantry—Captain D. S. Hamilton, Lieutenant G. P. R. Codd.

4th or King's Own—Lieutenant Thomas Woodward.

Wounded.

85th Light Infantry—Colonel William Thornton, severely (left at Bladensburg); Lieutenant-Colonel William Wood, severely (left at Bladensburg); Major George Brown, severely (left at Bladensburg).

21st Fusiliers—Captain Robert Rennie, severely (not dangerously).

4th Regiment—Lieutenant E. P. Hopkins, severely; Lieutenant J. K. Mackenzie, slightly; Lieutenant John Stavey, severely (left at Bladensburg); Lieutenant Peter Bouiby, Lieutenant Frederick Field, slightly.

21st Fusiliers—Lieutenant James Grace, slightly.

85th Regiment—Lieutenant William Williams, Lieutenant John Burrell, severely; Lieutenant F. Maunsell, slightly; Lieutenant G. F. G. O'Connor, Lieutenant Frederick Gascoyne, severely; Lieutenant William Hickson, Lieutenant G. R. Gleig, slightly; Lieut. ——— Crouch y, severely.

4th Regiment—Ensign James Buchanan, severely (left at Bladensburg); Ensign William Reddock, severely.

(Signed) H. G. SMITH, D. A. A. G.

Return of Ordnance, Ammunition, and Ordnance Stores taken from the Enemy by the Army under the Command of Major-General Robert Ross, between the 19th and 25th August 1814.

August 19.

1 twenty-four-pounder carronade.

August 22.

1 six-pounder field-gun, with carriage complete. 156 stand of arms, with cartouches, &c. &c.

August 24, at Bladensburg.

2 eighteen-pounders, 5 twelve-pounders, 3 six-pounders, with field-carriages.

A quantity of ammunition for the above.

220 stand of arms.

August 25, at Washington.

Brass.

6 eighteen-pounders, mounted on traversing platforms; 5 twelve-pounders, 4 four-pounders, 1 five and half-inch howitzer, 1 five and half-inch mortar.

Iron.

26 thirty-two-pounders, 36 twenty-four-pounders, 34 eighteen-pounders, 27 twelve-pounders, 2 eighteen-pounders, mounted on traversing platform; 19 twelve-pounders, on ship carriages; 3 thirteen-inch mortars, 2 eight-inch howitzers, 1 forty-two-pounder gun, 5 thirty-two-pounder carronades, 5 eighteen-pounder carronades, 13 twelve-pounder guns, 2 nine-pounder guns, 2 six-pounder guns.

Total amount of cannon taken—206.

500 barrels of powder.

100,000 rounds of musket-ball cartridge.

40 barrels of fine grained powder.

A large quantity of ammunition of different natures made up.

The navy-yard and arsenal having been set on fire by the enemy before they retired, an immense quantity of stores of every description was destroyed, of which no account could be taken; seven or eight very heavy explosions during the night denoted that there had been large magazines of powder.

(Signed) F. G. J. WILLIAMS, Lieutenant Royal Artillery, A. Q. M.

J. MICHELL, Captain commanding Artillery.

N. B. The remains of near 20,000 stand of arms were discovered, which had been destroyed by the enemy.

Admiralty-Office, September 27, 1814.

CAPTAIN Wainwright, of His Majesty's ship *Tonnant*, arrived this morning at this Office with dispatches from Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. to John Wilson Croker, Esq. of which the following are copies.

Tonnant, in the Patuxent, Sept. 2, 1814.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of the proceedings of His Majesty's combined sea and land forces since my arrival with the fleet within the capes of Virginia; and I beg leave to offer my congratulations to their Lordships upon the successful termination of an expedition, in which the whole of the enemy's flotilla under Commodore Barney has been captured or destroyed; his army, though greatly superior in number, and strongly posted with cannon, defeated at Bladensburg—the city of Washington taken, the capital, with all the public buildings, military arsenals, dock-yard, and the rest of their naval establishment, together with a vast quantity of naval and military stores, a frigate of the largest class ready to launch, and a sloop of war afloat, either blown up or reduced to ashes.

Such a series of successes in the centre of an enemy's country, surrounded by a numerous population, could not be acquired without loss, and we have to lament the fall of some valuable officers and men; but considering the difficulties the forces had to contend with, the extreme heat of the climate, and their coming into action at the end of a long march, our casualties are astonishingly few.

My letter of the 11th of August, will have acquainted their Lordships of my waiting in the Chesapeake, for the arrival of Rear-Admiral Malcolm, with the expedition from Bermuda.

The Rear-Admiral joined me on the 17th, and as I had gained information from Rear-Admiral Cockburn, whom I found in the Potowmack, that Commodore Barney, with the Baltimore 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 Pig Point, 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 idea of the place of attack, I send a sketch of the country upon which the movements of the army and navy are pourtrayed; by it their Lordships will observe, that the best approach to Washington is by Port Tobacco, upon the Potowmack 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 eastward, is fordable, and the distance is 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 Potowmack, 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 that fort, and opening a free communication above, as well as to cover the retreat of the army, should its return by the Bladensburg road be found too hazardous from the accession of strength the enemy might obtain from Baltimore; it was also reasonable to expect, that the militia from the country to the northward and westward would flock in, so soon as it should be known that their capital was threatened.

Captain Sir Peter Parker, in the Menelaus, with some small vessels, was sent up the Chesapeake, above Baltimore, to divert the attention of the enemy in that quarter, and I proceeded with the remainder of the naval force and the troops, up this river, and landed the army, upon the 19th and 20th, at Benedict.

So soon as the necessary provisions and stores could be assembled and arranged, Major-General Ross, with his army, moved towards Nottingham, while our flotilla, consisting of the armed launches, pinnaces, barges, and other boats of the fleet, under the command of Rear-Admiral Cockburn, passed up the river, being instructed to keep upon the right flank of the army, for the double purpose of

* Euryalus, Devastation, Ætna, Meteor, Manly, and Erebus.

supplying it with provisions, and, if necessary, to pass it over to the left bank of the river, into Calvert County, which secured a safe retreat to the ships, should it be judged necessary.

The army reached Nottingham upon the 21st, and on the following day arrived at Marlborough: the flotilla continued advancing towards the station of Commodore Barney, about three miles above Pig Point, who, although much superior in force to that sent against him, did not wait an attack, but, at the appearance of our boats, set fire to his flotilla, and the whole of his vessels, excepting one, were blown up.

For the particulars of this well-executed service, I must refer their Lordships to Rear-Admiral Cockburn's report, No. 1, who, on the same evening, conveyed to me an account of his success, and intimation from Major-General Ross, of his intention to proceed to the city of Washington, considering, from the information he had received, that it might be assailed, if done with alacrity; and in consequence had determined to march that evening upon Bladensburg. The remaining boats of the fleet were immediately employed in conveying up the river supplies of provisions, for the forces upon their return to Nottingham, agreeably to an arrangement made by the Rear-Admiral, who proceeded on in company with the army.

The report No. 2, of Rear-Admiral Cockburn's, will inform their Lordships of the brilliant successes of the forces, after their departure from Marlborough, where they returned upon the 26th, and having reached Benedict upon the 29th, the expedition was embarked in good order.

On combined services, such as we have been engaged in, it gives me the greatest pleasure to find myself united with so able and experienced an officer as Major-general Ross, in whom are blended those qualities so essential to promote success, where co-operation between the two services becomes necessary; and I have much satisfaction in noticing the unanimity that prevailed between the army and navy, as I have also in stating to their Lordships that Major-General Ross has expressed his full approbation of the conduct of the officers, seamen, and marines acting with the army.

I have before had occasion to speak of the unremitting zeal and exertion of Rear-admiral Cockburn during the time he commanded in the Chesapeake under my orders:—the interest and ability which he has manifested throughout this late arduous service justly entitle him to my best thanks, and to the acknowledgements of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Rear-Admiral Malcolm, upon every occasion, and particularly in his arrangement for the speedy re-embarkation of the troops, rendered me essential assistance, and to him, as well as to Rear-Admiral Codrington, Captain of the Fleet, I am indebted for the alacrity and order with which the laborious duties in the conveying of supplies to the army were conducted.

For the conduct of the Captains and Officers of the squadron employed in the flotilla, and with the army, I must beg leave to refer their Lordships to the reports of Rear-Admiral Cockburn, and to call their favourable consideration to those whom the Rear-Admiral has had occasion to particularly no-

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tice. While employed immediately under my eye, I had every reason to be perfectly satisfied with their zealous emulation, as well as that of every seaman and marine, to promote the service in which they were engaged.

Captain Wainwright, of his Majesty's ship *Tonnant*, will have the honour to deliver this dispatch to you, and as he was actually employed both with the flotilla and with the army in the whole of their proceedings, I beg leave to refer their Lordships to him for any farther particulars.

I have not yet received any returns from the ships employed in the *Potowmack*, the winds having been unfavourable to their coming down; but by the information I gain from the country people, they have completely succeeded in the capture and destruction of *Port Washington*, which has been blown up.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEXANDER COCHRANE.

Vice-Admiral and Commander in Chief.

John Wilson Croker, Esq.

*On board the Resolution Tender, off Mount Calvert,
Monday night, 22d Aug. 1814.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that after parting from you at *Benedict* on the evening of the 20th instant, I proceeded up the *Potowmack* with the boats and tenders, the marines of the ships being embarked in them, under the command of Captain Robyns (the senior officer of that corps in the fleet) and the marine artillery, under Captain Harrison, in their two tenders; the *Severn* and *Hebrus* frigates, and the *Manly* sloop, being directed to follow us up the river, as far as might prove practicable.

The boats and tenders I placed in three divisions: the first under the immediate command of Captains Sullivan (the senior commander employed on the occasion) and Badcock; the second, under Captains Money and Somerville; the third, under Captain Ramsay;—the whole under the superintendance and immediate management of Captain Wainwright of the *Tonnant*, Lieutenant James Scott (1st of the *Albion*) attending as my aid-de-camp.

I endeavoured to keep with the boats and tenders as nearly as possible abreast of the army under Major-general Ross, that I might communicate with him as occasion offered, according to the plan previously arranged; and about mid-day yesterday I accordingly anchored at the ferry-house opposite Lower *Marlborough*, where I met the General, and where the army halted for some hours, after which he marched for *Nottingham*, and I proceeded on for the same place with the boats. On our approaching that town a few shot were exchanged between the leading boats and some of the enemy's cavalry; but the appearance of our army advancing caused them to retire with precipitation. Captains Nourse and Palmer, of the *Severn* and *Hebrus*, joined me this day with their boats, having found it impracticable to get their ships higher than *Benedict*.

The Major-General remained with the army at *Nottingham*, and the boats and tenders continued anchored off it during the night; and soon after

day light this morning, the whole moved again forward, but the wind blowing during the morning down the river, and the channel being excessively narrow, and the advance of our tenders consequently slow, I judged it advisable to push on with the boats, only leaving the tenders to follow as they could.

On approaching *Pig Point* (where the enemy's flotilla was said to be), I landed the marines under Captain Robyns on the left bank of the river, and directed him to march round and attack, on the land side, the town situated on the point, to draw from us the attention of such troops as might be there for its defence, and the defence of the flotilla: I then proceeded on with the boats, and, as we opened the reach above *Pig Point*, I plainly discovered Commodore Barney's broad pendant in the headmost vessel, a large sloop, and the remainder of the flotilla extending in a long line astern of her. Our boats now advanced towards them as rapidly as possible; but, on nearing them, we observed the sloop bearing the broad pendant to be on fire, and she very soon afterwards blew up. I now saw clearly that they were all abandoned, and on fire, with trains to their magazines; and out of the 17 vessels which composed this formidable, and so much vaunted flotilla, 16 were in quick succession blown to atoms, and the seventeenth (in which the fire had not taken) we captured. The commodore's sloop was a large armed vessel; the others were gun-boats, all having a long gun in the bow, and a carronade in the stern; the calibre of the guns and number of the crew of each differed in proportion to the size of the boat, varying from 32-pounders and 60 men to 18-pounders and 40 men. I found here lying above the flotilla, under its protection, 13 merchant schooners, some of which not being worth bringing away I caused to be burnt; such as were in good condition I directed to be moved to *Pig Point*. Whilst employed taking these vessels a few shot were fired at us by some of the men of the flotilla from the bushes on the shore near us; but Lieutenant Scott, whom I had handed for that purpose, soon got hold of them, and made them prisoners. Some horsemen likewise showed themselves on the neighbouring heights, but a rocket or two dispersed them; and Captain Robyns, who had got possession of *Pig Point* without resistance, now spreading his men through the country, the enemy retreated to a distance, and left us in quiet possession of the town, the neighbourhood, and our prizes.

A large quantity of tobacco having been found in the town at *Pig Point*, I have left Captain Robyns, with the marines, and Captain Nourse, with two divisions of the boats, to hold the place, and ship the tobacco into the prizes, and I have moved back with the third division to this point, to enable me to confer on our future operations, with the Major-General, who has been good enough to send his Aide-de-camp to inform me of his safe arrival, with the army under his command, at *Upper Marlborough*.

In congratulating you, Sir, which I do most sincerely, on the complete destruction of this flotilla of the enemy, which has lately occupied so much of our attention, I must beg to be permitted to assure you, that the cheerful and indefatigable exertions,

on this occasion, of Captains Wainwright, Nourse, and Palmer, and of Captain Sullivan, the other Commanders, officers and men, in the boats you have placed under my orders, most justly entitle them to my warmest acknowledgments and my earnest recommendation to your favourable notice.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. COCKBURN, Rear-Admiral.

*Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander
Cochrane, K. B. &c. &c. &c.*

His Majesty's sloop Manly, off Nottingham, Patuxent, 27th Aug. 1814.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, agreeably to the intentions I notified to you in my letter of the 22d instant, I proceeded by land on the morning of the 23d to Upper Marlborough, to meet and confer with Major-General Ross as to our further operations against the enemy, and we were not long in agreeing on the propriety of making an immediate attempt on the city of Washington.

In conformity therefore with the wishes of the General, I instantly sent orders for our marine and naval forces at Pig Point, to be forthwith moved over to Mount Calvert, and for the marines, marine artillery, and a proportion of the seamen to be there landed, and with the utmost possible expedition to join the army, which I also most readily agreed to accompany.

The Major-General then made his dispositions, and arranged that Captain Robyns, with the marines of the ships, should retain possession of Upper Marlborough, and that the marine artillery and seamen should follow the army to the ground it was to occupy for the night. The army then moved on, and bivouaked before dark, about five miles nearer Washington.

In the night Captain Palmer of the Hebrus, and Captain Money of the Trave, joined us with the seamen and with the marine artillery, under Captain Harrison. Captain Wainwright of the Tonnant, had accompanied me the day before, as had also Lieutenant James Scott (Acting 1st Lieutenant) of the Albion.

At daylight the morning of the 24th, the Major-General again put the army in motion, directing his march upon Bladensburg; on reaching which place, with the advanced brigade, the enemy was discovered drawn up in force on a rising ground beyond the town; and by the fire he soon opened on us as we entered the place, gave us to understand he was well protected with artillery. General Ross, however, did not hesitate in immediately advancing to attack him, although our troops were almost exhausted with the fatigue of the march they had just made, and but a small proportion of our little army had yet got up; this dashing measure was, however, I am happy to add, crowned with the success it merited; for, in spite of the galling fire of the enemy, our troops advanced steadily on both his flanks, and in his front; and as soon as they arrived on even ground with him he fled in every direction, leaving behind him ten pieces of cannon, and a considerable number of killed and wounded, amongst the latter Commodore Barney and several other officers; some other

prisoners were also taken, though not many, owing to the swiftness with which the enemy went off, and the fatigues our army had previously undergone.

It would, Sir, be deemed presumption in me to attempt to give you particular details respecting the nature of this battle, I shall, therefore, only remark generally, that the enemy, eight thousand strong, on ground he had chosen as best adapted for him to defend, where he had had time to erect his batteries, and concert all his measures, was dislodged as soon as reached, and a victory gained over him, by a division of the British army, not amounting to more than fifteen hundred men, headed by our gallant General, whose brilliant achievement of this day it is beyond my power to do justice to, and indeed no possible comment could enhance.

The seamen, with the guns, were, to their great mortification, with the rear-division during this short but decisive action; those, however, attached to the rocket brigade were in the battle, and I remarked with much pleasure the precision with which the rockets were thrown by them, under the direction of First Lieutenant Lawrence of the marine artillery; Mr. Jeremiah M'Daniel, master's mate of the Tonnant, a very fine young man, who was attached to this party, being severely wounded, I beg permission to recommend him to your favourable consideration. The company of marines I have on so many occasions had cause to mention to you, commanded by First Lieutenant Stephens, was also in the action, as were the colonial marines, under the temporary command of Captain Reed, of the 6th West India regiment (these companies being attached to the light brigade), and they respectively behaved with their accustomed zeal and bravery. None other of the naval department were fortunate enough to arrive up in time to take their share in this battle, excepting Captain Palmer, of the Hebrus, with his Aid-de-Camp, Mr. Arthur Wakefield, Midshipman of that ship, and Lieutenant James Scott, First of the Albion, who acted as my Aid-de-Camp, and remained with me during the whole time.

The contest being completely ended, and the enemy having retired from the field, the General gave the army about two hours rest, when he again moved forward on Washington; it was however dark before we reached that city, and on the General, myself, and some officers advancing a short way past the first houses of the town, without being accompanied by the troops, the enemy opened upon us a heavy fire of musquetry, from the capitol and two other houses; these were therefore almost immediately stormed by our people, taken possession of, and set on fire, after which the town submitted without further resistance.

The enemy himself on our entering the town, set fire to the navy yard (filled with naval stores), a frigate of the largest class, almost ready for launching, and a sloop of war laying off it, as he also did to the fort which protected the sea approach to Washington.

On taking possession of the city we also set fire to the President's palace, the treasury, and the war-office; and in the morning Captain Wainwright went with a party to see that the destruction in the navy yard was complete, when he destroyed what-

ever stores and buildings had escaped the flames of the preceding night; a large quantity of ammunition and ordnance stores were likewise destroyed by us in the arsenal, as were about 200 pieces of artillery of different calibres, as well as a vast quantity of small arms. Two rope walks of a very extensive nature, full of tar-rope, &c. situated at a considerable distance from the yard, were likewise set fire to and consumed; in short, Sir, I do not believe a vestige of public property, or a store of any kind, which could be converted to the use of the Government, escaped destruction; the bridges across the Eastern Branch and the Potowmack were likewise destroyed.

This general devastation being completed during the day of the 25th, we marched again at nine that night on our return, by Bladensberg, to Upper Marlborough.

We arrived yesterday evening at the latter without molestation of any sort, indeed without a single musket having been fired, and this morning we moved on to this place, where I have found His Majesty's sloop Manly, the tenders, and the boats, and I have hoisted my flag, *pro tempore*, in the former. The troops will probably march to-morrow, or the next day at farthest, to Benedict for re-embarkation, and this flotilla will of course join you at the same time.

In closing, Sir, my statement to you, of the arduous and highly important operations of this last week, I have a most pleasing duty to perform, in assuring you of the good conduct of the officers and men who have been serving under me. I have been particularly indebted, whilst on this service, to Captain Wainwright, of the Tonnant, for the assistance he has invariably afforded me; and to Captains Palmer and Money, for their exertions during the march to and from Washington. To Captain Nourse, who has commanded the flotilla during my absence, my acknowledgments are also most justly due, as well as to Captains Sullivan, Badcock, So-

merville, Ramsay, and Bruce, who have acted in it under him.

Lieutenant James Scott, now First Lieutenant of the Albion, has, on this occasion, rendered me essential services, and as I have had reason so often of late to mention to you the gallant and meritorious conduct of this officer, I trust you will permit me to seize this opportunity of recommending him particularly to your favourable notice and consideration.

Captain Robyus (the Senior Officer of Marines with the fleet) who has had, during these operations, the marines of the ships united under his orders, has executed ably and zealously the several services with which he has been entrusted, and is entitled to my best acknowledgments accordingly, as is also Captain Harrison of the marine artillery, who, with the officers and men attached to him, accompanied the army to and from Washington.

Mr. Dobie, Surgeon of the Melpomene, volunteered his professional services on this occasion, and rendered much assistance to the wounded on the field of battle, as well as to many of the men taken ill on the line of march.

One colonial marine killed, one master's mate, two serjeants, and three colonial marines wounded, are the casualties sustained by the naval department; a general list of the killed and wounded of the whole army will, of course, accompany the report of the Major-General.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

G. COCKBURN,
Rear-Admiral.

*Vice-Admiral the Honourable
Sir Alexander Cochrane, K.B.
&c. &c. &c.*

P. S. Two long six-pounder guns, intended for a battery at Nottingham, were taken off and put on board the Brune, and one taken at Upper Marlborough, was destroyed.

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