

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-