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 Majestp'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 Bladensberg; 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 amouting 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-