

of the ordnance taken at the foundery. To Captains Wybourn and Carter, who commanded the marines and shewed much skill in the management of them, every praise is likewise due, as are my acknowledgments to Lieutenant Lewis, of the Highflyer, who, not being able to bring his vessel near enough to render assistance, came himself with his usual active zeal to offer his personal services. And it is my pleasing duty to have to report to you in addition, that all the other officers and men seemed to vie with each other in the cheerful and zealous discharge of their duty; and I have therefore the satisfaction of recommending their general good conduct on this occasion to your notice accordingly.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. COCKBURN,
Rear-Admiral.

To the Right Honourable Admiral Sir J. B.
Warren, Bart. and K. B. &c. &c. &c.

SIR,
His Majesty's Ship *Maidstone*, off the
*Sasafra*s River, May 6, 1813.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that, understanding Georgetown and Frederickstown, situated up the *Sasafra*s River, were places of some trade and importance, and the *Sasafra*s being the only river or place of shelter for vessels at this upper extremity of the Chesapeake, which I had not examined and cleared, I directed last night the assembling of the boats alongside the *Mohawk*, from whence with the marines, as before, under Captains Wybourn and Carter, with my friend Lieutenant Robertson, of the artillery, and his small party, they proceeded up this river, being placed by me for this operation, under the immediate directions of Captain Byng, of the *Mohawk*.

I intended that they should arrive before the above-mentioned towns by dawn of day, but in this I was frustrated by the intricacy of the river, our total want of local knowledge in it, the darkness of the night, and the great distance the towns lay up it; it therefore unavoidably became late in the morning before we approached them, when, having intercepted a small boat with two of the inhabitants, I directed Captain Byng to halt our boats about two miles below the town, and I sent forward the two Americans in their boat to warn their countrymen against acting in the same rash manner the people of *Havre de Grace* had done, assuring them if they did, that their towns would inevitably meet with a similar fate, but on the contrary, if they did not attempt resistance, no injury should be done to them or their towns, that vessels and public property only, would be seized, that the strictest discipline would be maintained, and that whatever provisions or other property of individuals I might require for the use of the squadron, should be instantly paid for in its fullest value; after having allowed sufficient time for this message to be digested, and their resolution taken thereon, I directed the boats to advance, and I am sorry to say I soon found the more unwise alternative was adopted, for on our reaching within about a mile of the town, between two projecting elevated points of the river, a most heavy fire of musketry was opened on us from about four hun-

dred men, divided and entrenched on the two opposite banks, aided by one long gun: the launches and rocket-boat smartly returned this fire with good effect, and with the other boats and the marines I pushed ashore immediately above the enemy's position, thereby ensuring the capture of his towns or the bringing him to a decided action; he determined, however, not to risk the latter, for the moment he discerned we had gained the shore, and that the marines had fixed their bayonets, he fled with his whole force to the woods, and was neither seen or heard of afterwards, though several parties were sent out to ascertain whether he had taken up any new position, or what had become of him; I gave him, however, the mortification of seeing, from wherever he had hid himself, that I was keeping my word, with respect to the towns, which (excepting the houses of those who had continued peaceably in them, and had taken no part in the attack made on us) were forthwith destroyed, as were four vessels laying in the river, and some stores of sugar, of lumber, of leather, and other merchandise; I then directed the re-embarkation of our small force, and we proceeded down the river again to a town I had observed, situated in a branch of it, about half way up, and here I had the satisfaction to find that what had passed at *Havre*, Georgetown, and Frederickstown, had its effect, and led these people to understand that they have more to hope for from our generosity than from erecting batteries and opposing us by means within their power; the inhabitants of this place having met me at landing, to say they had not permitted either guns or militia to be stationed there, and that whilst there I should not meet with any opposition whatever; I therefore landed with the officers and a small guard only, and having ascertained that there was no public property of any kind or warlike stores, and having allowed of such articles as we stood in need of being embarked in the boats, on payment to the owners of their full value, I again re-embarked, leaving the people of this place well pleased with the wisdom of their determination on their mode of receiving us; I also had a deputation from Charlestown, in the North-east River, to assure me that that place is considered by them at your mercy, and that neither guns or militia-men shall be suffered there, and as I am assured that all the places in the upper part of the Chesapeake have adopted similar resolutions, and as there is now neither public property, vessels, nor warlike stores remaining in this neighbourhood, I purpose returning to you with the light squadron to-morrow morning.

I am sorry to say, the hot fire we were under this morning, cost us five men wounded, one only, however, severely; and I have much satisfaction in being able again to bear testimony to you, of the zeal, gallantry, and good conduct of the different officers and men serving in this division. To Captain Byng, of the *Mohawk*, who conducted the various arrangements on this occasion, with equal skill and bravery, every possible praise is most justly due; as well as to Captains Wybourn and Carter, Lieutenant Robertson, of the artillery, and Lieutenant Lewis, of the Highflyer; Lieutenant Alexander, of the *Dragon*, the senior officer under Captain Byng, in command of the boats, deserves