

Sir

Fort M^c Henry 24th September 1814

A severe indisposition, the effect of great fatigue and exposure, has prevented me heretofore from presenting you with an account of the attack on this Post — On the night of Saturday the 10th inst. the British Fleet consisting of Ships of the line, heavy Frigates, and Bomb vessels amounting in the whole to 30 Sail, appeared at the mouth of the River Patuxent, with every indication of an attempt on the City of Baltimore, my own Force consisted of one Company of U. S. Artillery under Cap^t. Evans, and two Companies of Sea Pencibles under Captains Bunbury and Addison, of these three Companies 35 Men were unfortunately on the Sick list and unfit for duty. I had been furnished with two Companies of Volunteer Artillery from the City of Baltimore under Cap^t. Berry and Lieut Command^r. Pennington, to these I must add another very fine Company of Volunteer Artillerists under Judge Nicholson, who had proffered their services to aid in the defence of this Post whenever an attack might be apprehended, and also a Detachment from Commodore Barney's ^{under Lt Rodman} flotilla. Brigadier Gen^l. Weir had also furnished me with about Six hundred Infantry under the Command of Lt Col. Stuart & Major Lane, consisting of detachments from the 12th, 14th, 36th & 38th Reg^ts of U. S. troops, the total amounting to about one thousand effective Men — On Monday Morning very early,