

## LETTER, &c.

Navy Department,

October 3, 1814.

SIR,

IN compliance with your request, I have now the honor, to enclose copies of all the documents received from captain Macdonough, in relation to the brilliant and extraordinary victory achieved by the United States' squadron under his command, over that of the enemy in Plattsburgh Bay, on lake Champlain.

This action, like that of its prototype on lake Erie, cannot be portrayed in language corresponding with the universal and just admiration inspired by the exalted prowess, consummate skill, and cool, persevering intrepidity, which will ever distinguish this splendid and memorable event.

This like those brilliant naval victories which preceded it, has its peculiar features, which mark it with a distinct character. It was fought at anchor. The firm, compact, and well formed line; the preparations for all the evolutions of which the situation was susceptible, and the adroitness and decisive effect with which they were performed in the heat of battle, mark no less the judgment which planned, than the valor and skill displayed in the execution.

All these are heightened by the contemplation of a vigorous and greatly superior foe, moving down upon this line, in his own time, selecting his position, and choosing his distance; animated by the proximity of a powerful army in co-operation, and stimulated by the settled confidence of victory.