

168C. MALCOLM, SIR PULTENEY, 1768-1839.
Letters, 1814-1815.
45 items.

British naval officer. Letters to Lady Malcolm and to his sisters from Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm, written mainly from the American Station where Malcolm was third in command under Sir Alexander Cochrane and Sir George Cockburn, and describing the voyage from Bordeaux, the campaign in America, including the capture and burning of Washington, the set-back at Baltimore, his feelings towards the Americans, and the unsuccessful assault on New Orleans, and giving news of the ratification of the peace and of his impending return to England.

Described in the catalogue of Sotheby and co., Nov. 2, 1964, item 277.

Purchased by the Clements Library Associates in 1964 from the Mrs. L. T. Miller Fund.

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Barrie, Cockburn, and Malcolm Letters

Like Madison's and Jefferson's "botanical" excursion up the Hudson in 1791, the Director's "research" foray up the Thames this fall accrued benefits to the Library which were not entirely foreseen. One really unexpected find was the sale at Sotheby's of nearly one hundred British naval letters concerning the Chesapeake operations in the War of 1812.

Perhaps one of the most determined and destructive efforts made by the British in the war was their marauding activities in the Chesapeake Bay in 1814. Designed to chastize the Americans for burning Canadian towns along the Niagara frontier and also as a stroke at the nerve center of the nation's administration, the Chesapeake operations resulted in the destruction of the city of Washington and the attempt to seize Baltimore. In addition to these famous actions, there were many lesser known, but no less rapacious attacks on other coastal settlements and roadsteads.

These significant letters of Captain Robert Barrie, Admiral Cockburn, and Admiral Malcolm provide insight to both the planning and the execution of the raids. Other letters concern the capture of St. Marys in Florida, the peace negotiations, the exchange of prisoners and runaway slaves, and the Battle of New Orleans. The Associates made the purchase of these items by means of the Mrs. Louise T. Miller Fund.