

3^d Oct^r - Portsmouth 3.6.1844

My last letter was the 18th Inst giving an account of our failure at Baltimore. I believe the Commission make the most of it and have published lies without end. I wish we had not gone against it. The Admiral was overpowered - but as we were so close, I think we should have risked an attack - I now think we should have been successful but with considerable loss. It was a letter from the Admiral to ~~the~~ Col^l Brooke that prevented the attack. ~~I~~ I tell you this as the point has been much deepened since, and with warmth by individuals, but I know that the order respecting this force was positive not to undertake any enterprise that should risk a considerable loss -