

been literally roasted alive, by these miscreants.

My report has been with greater length than I intended, but I cannot exclude it without paying the tribute of my praise to every man on the expedition. The troops could have behaved with more zeal, or more implicit obedience to orders.

To Col. Hollingsworth and Major Barnes, their officers and men, I beg you to make known our thanks for their aid, and my high respects for their soldier like conduct.

With great respect

Yours humble servant  
G. M. Thurston

P.S. Number of Guns & Pistols destroyed about 120.

6th

Annapolis Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1839

Sir,

Your letter with the report enclosed of Col. Thurston's movements against the Canal Pirates has been received -

With respect to the destruction of Shapter's and other property I express no opinion because I am ignorant of the circumstances which made it necessary, but it gives me pleasure to acknowledge the important services performed by Col. Thurston and the officers & men under his command and to reassure him through you of the high sense I entertain of the firmness & energy which directed his operations. It was at first reported that several men had been killed by the Militia and I was very much gratified to learn, that with the exception of the unfortunate occurrence in Virginia every object of the expedition was accomplished without bloodshed.

Yours very Respectfully  
G. M. Mason

P.S.

You will oblige me by directing your communications hereafter to the executive instead of the Adjutant General, as the latter is not always in Town.

To

Brig. Gen. J. Williams  
Comd'g