H. M. Steam Vessel Lightning
at Deptford July 8th 1628

My Lord

I told your Lordship in a letter I had the honour of writing you from Southampton of my being appointed by His Royal Highness the Lord High Admiral to the command of the Lightning. She is the most splendid vessel in the service quite different from any of the other. In fact she is a Yacht and attached to the Royal Yachts and the [][]. She is the best command for a Lieutenant in the service. I should be too happy if I were ordered out to the Mediterranean and a thousand times happy if I can at any time be at all in the slightest degree useful to your Lordship or any of your family.

By one of the strange [1] coincidences. I fell on with the Mercury the other day when I was steaming up the River. I was happy to see Mercury do so well. She makes lots of Steam, plenty of it was flying away, but the Engines do not yet come up to what was expected, but they are the heatest thing I ever saw and appear very strong. I have two Capital Engines of Manderlay, wear nominally 100 horses and the fastest Vessel the Government have but we consume a great quantity of Cools 8 chaldrons in 24 hours.

I am to have new boiles in a couple of months when I hope we shall not consume so much fuel. Satton will tell you what sort of a Craft mine is.

I had the honour today of seeing Lady Cochrane who was kind enough to lay the [2] would take care of this epistle. I wish it was on my powers to sum her Ladyship over to Calais on the Lightning. But I am under orders to start on Thursday next with the Royal Yacht.

I hope the time is not far distant when may again have the pleasure of seeing your Lordship. I had fully intended doing myself the pleasure of waiting on you my thoughts in Paris had I not received this appointment.

A propos, when you write to these People in the Levant St George requests me to beg your Lordship to do him the favour to forward his views as to claims for Suelda y dinero de presa both of which would be at present acceptable.

I wish your Lordship health and prosperity and believe me to remain never sincerely and pitifully yours.

J Hutchings