

corresponding increase of officers. The recruits, as fast as they are enlisted, may be concentrated under the eye of the major, where they may be exercised and drilled, so that when he joins the regiment, they will be qualified to enter the ranks and face the enemy.

He expected to hear it objected, that these additional officers are unnecessary, seeing the regiments were not full. He apprehended this objection was more specious than solid. Considering all the circumstances, in relation to the army, the period when raised, and how officered, he believed, supposing the regiments only half filled, it was indispensably necessary the officers should be constantly with them. He was much mistaken if the officers were not as raw as the private soldiers—it was as important they should be familiar with the duties as they whom they are to command. It would be nothing short of butchery to send brave men into the field under such circumstances, when in our power to avoid them. All the dollars and cents you will save by refusing these few additional officers, would not be worth the life of a single man, to say nothing of the possible slaughter of thousands without them. Of necessity our officers need instruction—they should be devoted to it during the winter—they can be no where so beneficially employed as with their regiments, on duty. It is the quality, not the number, of troops, that secures and improves victory.

One other objection he could anticipate—perhaps those who can sneer at the disasters and misfortunes of the late campaign may object, that there is no encouragement to vote additional forces, seeing those which have been already raised have been so illy employed. It becomes us all to be equally faithful to our country, whether her arms are victorious or not; it is in times of discomfiture that the patriot's resolution and virtues are most needed. It is no matter by what party names we are distinguished, this is our country—we are children of the same family, and ought to be brothers in a common cause. The misfortune which befalls one portion, should sink deep into the hearts of the others also. What misfortune so great as the loss of character? If we shall forget our impatience under disgrace, and look back on the events that have passed, with only as much candor as becomes us, this objection must vanish. Under the circumstances in which it found itself, without experience either in itself or others to guide it, administration ought not to be censured for the bad military appointments it may have made, however much it may deserve, if it shall retain men in employ, when found incapable to discharge the duties entrusted to them. He was fearless of contradiction in declaring all our disasters sprung from a cause which no man in the nation could have anticipated—it was next to impossible any human being could have foreseen, much less provided against it. It was with pain and reluctance he felt it his duty, to speak of an officer fallen and disgraced—he wished he could discover any cause for the surrender of Detroit, less heinous than treachery or cowardice—between them he saw nothing to choose. Justice will hereafter, if party heat denies it now, pronounce the plan of the campaign, as intrusted to Gen. Hull, easy to be accomplished, and judicious in its objects. The commandant was furnished with every means necessary for success—with money, men, provisions and munitions of war in abundance. What better mode could have been adopted, to prevent Indian hostility, and intercept British supplies of the massacre? That your army had not been protruded beyond the point with which communications could have been maintained, is evident from the events which followed. What was there to mar success? Nothing! The commandant at Malden needed only an apology to surrender! What if the other Hull had commanded? Every thing would have fallen before him—great science was not necessary; courage and faithfulness would have accomplished every thing.

A train of heavy artillery was not required to batter a breach for the assault; it was not necessary to fire a single gun—not a cartridge need have been expended—the battery alone was adequate to have taken Malden at any hour from the moment the American army crossed into Canada, till its most shameful retreat. The fort was not enclosed! one entire side was open to assault! Yes, sir, had the brave Hull, who bore your "thunder on the mountain wave," directed the valor of that army, he would have poured the storm of victory resistless on the foe. This black deed, without a battle, was consummated in the solicitous surrender of the brave corps which were hastening to his relief; these, too, were arrested and thrown back on the community, leaving the whole

western frontier exposed to savage inroad. Hence all our misfortunes! After this, will it be contended that the accidental appointment of an improper agent shall cause a refusal of the force necessary to drag our drowned honor up from the ocean of infamy into which it has been plunged? Impossible! Economy of life and treasure call for a vigorous campaign—away with lifeless expedients; miserable inertness must be banished—zeal and energy must be infused every where. One protracted campaign will cost twenty fold more than the expenditures now asked for. Let this be the signal for resolution—the first evidence of energetic policy. Let us suppose ourselves leading the forlorn hope, and assume the spirit and vigor characteristic of such an enterprise; the army will feel it, the people will feel it, disaster and disgrace will then disappear.

From the Essex Register.

### IMPRESSMENT.

The following deposition of Mr. Isaac Clark, of this town, who has been torn from his family and country, and for three years compelled to serve on board his Britannic majesty's ships of war, is entitled to an attentive perusal. Those Americans who can read this narrative without the strongest emotions of indignation and wrath towards the insolent and haughty oppressors of our brave and honest mariners, and commiseration for their sufferings, or who can attempt to justify and palliate the atrocious conduct of our man-stealing enemies, can be fit only for slaves to the corrupt court of St. James, and had better take refuge with their favorite "*bulwark*;" they are unworthy to breathe the pure air of Liberty.

The narrative affords a most striking and affecting view of the sufferings which not only our townsman, Mr. Clark, but thousands of American seamen have endured, and which all have been liable to endure, by this infernal practice of Impressment on the high seas from our vessels. But the day of retribution will come, and it ought to be the determination of every patriotic American, to compel the enemy to abandon this most insufferable and degrading practice; or, in the language of the Hon. Mr. Mason, "to nail our colors to the mast, and sink in the effort."

I, Isaac Clark, of Salem, in the county of Essex, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, on solemn oath declare, that I was born in the town of Randolph, in the county of Norfolk; have sailed out of Salem aforesaid about seven years; that on the fourteenth day of June, 1809, I was impressed, and forcibly taken from the ship Jane, of Norfolk, by the sailing master (his name was Carr) of his majesty's ship Porcupine, Robert Elliot commander. I had a protection from the custom house in Salem, which I shewed to capt. Elliot; he swore I was an Englishman, tore my protection to pieces before my eyes, and ordered me to go to work—I told him I did not belong to his flag, and I would do no work under it. He then ordered my legs put in irons, and the next morning ordered the master at arms to take me on deck, and give me two dozen lashes; after receiving them, he ordered him to keep me in irons, and give me one biscuit and a pint of water for twenty-four hours. After keeping me in this situation one week, I was brought on deck,

and asked by captain Elliot if I would go to my duty—on my refusing, he ordered me to strip, tied me up a second time, and gave me two dozen more, and kept me on the same allowance another week—then ordered me on deck again, and asked if I would go to work; I still persisted that I was an American, and that he had no right to command my services, and I would do no work on board his ship. He told me he would punish me until I was willing to work, and then gave me the third two dozen lashes, ordered a very heavy chain put round my neck, (such as they had used to sling the lower yard) fastened to a ringbolt in the deck, and that no person, except the master at arms, should speak to me, or give me any thing to eat or drink, but my one biscuit and pint of water for twenty four hours, until I would go to work. I was kept in this situation NINE WEEKS, when being exhausted by hunger and thirst, I was obliged to yield. After being on board the ship more than two years and a half, and being wounded in an action with a French frigate, I was sent to the hospital—when partially recovered, I was sent on board the Impregnable, a 98 gun ship. My wound growing worse, I was returned to the hospital, when the American consul received a copy of my protection from Salem, and procured my discharge on the 29th day of April last. There were seven impressed Americans on board the Porcupine, three of whom had entered.

ISAAC CLARK.

Essex, ss.—December 23, 1812.—Then Isaac Clark personally appeared, and made solemn oath that the facts in the foregoing declaration, by him made and subscribed, were true in all their parts—Before

JOHN PUNCHARD,  
M. TOWNSEND.

Justices of the Peace, and of the Quorum.

*Relief to the distressed.* The parents of Thomas Lynch, living near Federal Hill, Baltimore, an old couple 70 or 80 years of age, whose only hope and dependance was on his assistance, after supposing him to be dead for a long time, have received a letter from him stating his impressment and dated "On board his majesty's ship Poictiers off Cape Henry;" where he could look on his native land, and hope to reach it; and from whence his parents may, if they live to the end of the wars, and he escapes, hope to see him before they die. *Balt. Sun.*

From the Florida Frontier.

A letter from a Georgia volunteer, dated Camp, Newhope, St. Johns, Dec. 1, says—"The army is now about 500 strong, and is to be joined in a few days by about 400 more, now garrisoned at Point Petre; when we shall march to Col. Smith's camp, before St. Augustine. The gun-boats on the river opposite to our camp have received orders to repair to that place, where they will be joined by other naval force, and besiege the fortress of St. Augustine."

Another letter, from an officer, dated at Point Petre, Dec. 5, after enumerating five companies that had sailed for East Florida, says—"The five companies at this place, re-