

THE WAR.

"LET THE RALLYING WORD, THROUGH ALL THE DAY, BE "LIBERTY OR DEATH."

VOL. II.—No. 31.

NEW-YORK.....TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1814.

Whole No. 93

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the Report of the Secretary of War, (inclosed in a message from the president to the house of representatives, in obedience to a resolution of the 31st Dec. 1813) explaining the causes of the Failure of our Arms on the Northern Frontier.

(Continued.)

Correspondence with Governor Shelby, in relation to the North-Western Campaign.

Frankfort, Aug. 1, 1813.

Sir—A few days ago I was honored with a letter from gen. Harrison, under date of the 20th ult. by his aide camp, major Trimble. In it he says "he had just received a letter from the secretary at war, authorising him to call from the neighboring states such numbers of militia as he might deem requisite for the ensuing operations against Upper Canada." In pursuance of that power he has made a requisition on the government of Kentucky for reinforcements, and has referred me to major Trimble for information, &c. and has in warm terms solicited my taking the field in person. Much delay would have been the inevitable consequence of ordering out the militia as infantry in the ordinary mode, by draft. As mounted volunteers, a competent force can, I feel confident, be easily raised. I have therefore appointed the 31st of this month, at Newport, in this state, for a general rendezvous of mounted volunteers.

I have the honor of inclosing, for the information of the president, a copy of my address to the militia of this state, on the occasion.

The prospect of acting efficiently against Upper Canada will, I have no doubt, call forth a large force to our standard, and they will be immediately marched to the headquarters of the north western army, in such bodies as will best facilitate their movements; when there, they can act as foot or mounted, as circumstances may require.

I shall take great pleasure to hear from the president on this subject previous to my departure from this place, and I request in the favor of you to lay this letter immediately before him for his consideration, and that you will be pleased to apprise me of the result by the earliest conveyance.

I have the honor to be, &c. ISAAC SHELBY.
The hon. Secretary at War.

Red-Bank, North River, Aug 21, 1813.

Sir—I had the honor of receiving your excellency's letter of the 1st of August, by the southern mail of yesterday, and of learning from the war office that a copy of it had been forwarded to the president, for his consideration and orders. These will be communicated to your excellency as promptly as possible. I have the honor to be, &c. JOHN ARMSTRONG.

His Excellency the governor of Kentucky.

As it is understood that it was not till the receipt of the above at the war office, for transmission to Kentucky, that gov. Shelby's letter was sent to the president.

War Office, Sept. 27, 1813.

Sir—In the absence of the secretary of war, I have the honor to inform your excellency that the president has been pleased to approve your arrangements, in substituting volunteers for the detached militia required by gen. Harrison.

The term of service for the detachment under your excellency must depend on the arrangements of the commanding general, to whom you are referred for the necessary information relative to their duty, and the points where your troops will be expected to operate.

It will be proper for your excellency to keep a correspondence with gen. Harrison. This is rendered the more necessary, as the several requisitions which have been made by him for volunteers and militia, have not been accurately reported to the war office; and it is possible he may find it advisable to discharge a part of your force before they reach the frontier.

In the present critical period of the campaign it seems advisable to submit all further arrangements to gen. Harrison, under the instructions he has received

from the president through the secretary of war. With perfect respect, I have the honor to be, &c.

DANIEL PARKER, C. C. War Department.
His Excellency Isaac Shelby, Gov. Kentucky.

Correspondence between the Secretary at War and Maj. Gen. Hampton.

September 1, 1813.

Dear Sir—Prevost has gone up to the head of the lake—Yeo has followed him. The object is either to attack Boyd or draw Wilkinson to the west, and spin out the campaign, without either giving or receiving blows of decided character. In either case his (Prevost's) rear is manifestly neglected, and we must not lose the advantage he presents for attacking it. Wilkinson has gone on to Fort George to baffie Prevost, (if the former be his object) and to bring off the army, should the other be manifestly his intention. If Chancery beats Yeo, sir George's case will be desperate. This is the pivot on which the issue of the campaign turns. I am, dear sir, yours, &c.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Camp near Bowling on, Sept. 7, 1813.

Sir—Your letter of the first inst. came to hand by express the last evening. My dispositions for a movement had been shaped to meet the arrangement communicated in my letter of the 31st ultimo; but I called together the heads of departments this morning, to know how far it would be practicable to articulate that which you had indicated in your dispatch of the 29th, and it was found impracticable.

Leonard's regiment has not arrived. The ordnance and fixed ammunition belonging to the heavy artillery, were only to leave Albany on the 5th, and the latter for the infantry is not yet on its way, notwithstanding my order to maj. Bumford, as early as the 12th or 13th of August; and without it I shall be 50 rounds a man short, having now less than 50, including those in the cartridge boxes. But what is worse than all, the quarter-master-general's arrangements, for the land transportation, is soaped to the 20th, and cannot be met at an earlier day.

A descent by water, and direct attack on the Isle-aux-Noix, is out of the question. It is a place of immense strength, and cannot be approached but by a decided superiority of naval strength. This our com.

McDonough, does not pretend to assume in the narrow waters. He has this morning been explicitly consulted upon that point. Our approach must be by the Plains of Arcadia. I have directed a monthly return to be enclosed. Our strength will be less than 4000 effective—Lane and Leonard's regts. have come on, with mumps and measles upon them, and totally destitute of the least instruction. Too much must not be expected from us. All accounts concur in representing the force of the enemy at more than 5000, exclusive of three battalions of incorporated militia, twelve months' men) stationed at the Cedars and Cascades, some distance up the St. Lawrence. If any have gone to Kingston they have been detached from these points. These battalions consist of 400 men each.

I shall expect information from you respecting the state of things above, but shall not wait a moment for it, after I am ready. I have the honor to be, &c.

W HAMPTON.

Hon. Gen. John Armstrong, Secretary at War.

Sacket's Harbor, Sept. 13, 1813.

Sir—Your letter of the 7th inst. has been received. Chancery probably fought a battle on the 11th inst. A heavy cannonade was distinctly heard at this place for several hours, and a boat from Great Sodus states that an engagement between the fleets took place off Presque Isle on the northern shore of the lake (Presque Isle is nearly opposite to Great Sodus). We are anxiously looking for the result. Had Chancery been beaten, or so crippled as to make it necessary for him to go into port, we should have seen him here before to-day. His absence and his silence gives us therefore an assurance, that whatever may have been the issue of the battle, he is unable to prevent him from covering the intended movement of the troops.

Our information differs widely from yours as to the strength of the enemy at Montreal and its dependencies. A deserter from a British detachment of 300 men, moving from Montreal to Kingston, and who I met them near the head of the rapids—came to this post the day before yesterday. He states that the whole regular force near Montreal does not exceed 1000 effectives, and that but 300 invalids have been left at Quebec. This agrees with information received through other channels less direct, and perhaps less correct than yours.

From gen. Wilkinson, I have not heard a syllable since his arrival at Fort George, which was on the 4th inst. He must now be on the point of moving.

The 10th and 32d regiments are in march for Plattsburgh. The latter was destined for this place, but learning that it could not leave Philadelphia before the 12th, I have given to it the shorter march and nearer scene of action.

It is much to be regretted that our naval means on Lake Champlain should have fallen so far short of their object. To our operations an ascendency in the narrow parts of the Lake is of infinite moment. A well-chosen position on the plains is the alternative of most promise. It may keep the different corps of the enemy in a state of separation. With great respect I am, sir, &c.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Maj. Gen. Hampton.

H Q Cumberland Head, Sept. 15, 1813.

Sir—I have got my forces nearly concentrated at this point; and, with McDonough's aid, have put a stopper on the lake which ensures tranquility while my preparations are going on. All now depends on the quarter-master-general, and I believe he will surmount every obstacle. I shall soon be ready. I am, &c.

WADE HAMPTON.

Hon. John Armstrong, Secretary at War.

Sacket's Harbor, Sept 19, 1813.

Dear general—Chancery has chased Yeo round the lake and obliged him to take shelter in Kingston. The commodore has now gone up to Fort George to bring down the troops. We are ready at this point to embark. It may, perhaps, be the 30th before our force will be assembled and in motion. Your movements may of course be somewhat delayed—say to the 25th or 26th.

It is believed in Kingston that sir George Prevost is about going to Quebec. Will he not stop at Montreal? Yours faithfully, JOHN ARMSTRONG.

H Q at Little Chazy, Sept. 22, 1813.

Sir—At six o'clock P. M. on the 19th, I dropped down with the army from Cumberland Head to the shore near this place, and landed at 12 o'clock at night, and in an hour after had the light corps of the army in motion against the advanced posts of the enemy. Snelling's command against a post a little over the line on the Lake shore, and Hamilton's against Oaktown. The blow was to have been struck at the dawn, and the corps were to unite at the latter place, 12 miles distant. Both corps were misled by their guides. Snelling finding himself out of his way for the first point, pushed for the second, and as Hamilton had taken a circuit to get below it, Snelling arrived first and killed the picket in a house, which he killed or took except two or three, and the main body escaped.

Hamilton arrived soon after; the army joined them a little distance. A few desperate Indians continued to lurk about the distant bushes, and frequently crawled up and fired upon our sentries during the day and the succeeding night.

One was killed upon his post in the dark, and two or three others wounded. They were frequently drove off and the track is scoured, but they continued to hover round as long as we stood. The army had on their backs five days provisions, and the main body was to push through the wood, remove all obstructions, and repair the roads for our supplies, quillars, baggage, &c. which was not done; but an unfortunate accident occurred, which at once defeated the purpose. The drought had been uncommon, and I had some doubts of the practicability of recurring

water for the troops, horses and teams; but the points of Oletown, La Cole, and the river La Cadia, were represented to me as a sure resource.

The troops, however, soon dried up the wells and springs of Oletown, and the beds of La Cole and La Cadia are represented, from authority not to be questioned, to be dry. The troops began to suffer extremely, and the few cavalry and artillery horses that arrived were obliged to be sent back to Champlain, a distance of 4 miles, for water. The difficulty began to produce effects the most to be dreaded.

It was not a time to hesitate, the general staff and commanding officers of corps were called together, and there was but one voice.

The *Chataugy* route was adopted. It was circuitous, but afforded water, and was practicable in less time, all obstructions in the others considered.

The army fell back in the afternoon of the 21st and encamped at Champlain. The *Chataugy* road takes off near this place, and the army will advance on it 7 miles this afternoon. The baggage is now advancing on it. I hope to arrive at *Chataugy* on the evening of the 24th. I can from thence join you at any point you may advise on the St. Lawrence. My object is *Cognawauaga*, opposite La Caine, about 40 miles from *Chataugy* and 10 from *Montreal*. I have my guides and information I can rely upon. This position will present three points. If I do not hear from you, I can take either or hold fast, as circumstances shall indicate.

My first movement was unexpected to the enemy: must draw him into some confusion, and will pass as a feat so soon as he hears of my route to *Chataugy*. My force is less numerous than I expected. It is raw and of a description that will be forever failing off. All I can say is, it shall have all the capacity I can give it. I have the honor to be, &c.

WADE HAMPTON.

P. S. Since writing I find all the corps cannot leave this ground before the morning, and that it will be the 25th before we reach *Chataugy*. W. H.

The Hon. John Armstrong, secretary at war.

Bucket's Harbor, September 25, 1813.

Sir—Your letter of the 22d instant, was delivered to me last night. Commodore Chauncey left this place on the 18th, in the intention of running up to Fort George, and covering the transportation of the troops from that point to this. On the 21st he had not arrived there, the effect, as I suppose, of adverse winds. This circumstance will necessarily bring after it a delay in the execution of our joint operations, and will indicate the propriety of your not advancing beyond *Malone* or the *Four Corners*, until you have advice of our movement. The distance from this place to *Malone* is about 130 miles. An express can reach you in 30 hours, and will, of course, enable you to gain the village of *Cognawauaga* as early as may be proper. You will give such direction to the militia corps assembling or assembled at *Plattsburgh*, as you may think most advisable. I am, sir, &c.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Major-General Hampton.

H. Q. Pomeroy's, 13 miles from Chataugy, Sept. 25, 1813.

Sir—I had this morning at 3 o'clock the honor to receive your letter of the 19th, and finding so much time on my hands, the idea has occurred, that a great advantage may arise from a closer view of our means, and the clearest possible concert and understanding in their application. Of every matter and thing relating to mine, col. Atkinson will give you as full an idea, as if you had been with me for the last 5 days. When you shall have reflected fully upon them, my arrangements and ideas, your indications can be made with more precision and effect.

The perfect *rawness* of the troops, with the exception of not a single platoon, has been a source of much solicitude to the best informed among us—this solicitude has not been removed by the first experiment. Every thing was done, to be sure, that ought to have been done; but not in that style which the example of a Snelling, a Hamilton, &c. ought to have inspired in the movements of the light corps. We want a little more mercury, in the ranks at least. Can you not let me have the 1st dragoons, and one more veteran battalion? At all events let me have Hane and Haig, that I may have their local as well as their constitutional ardor.

But the great object of this letter is, a full and distinct view and understanding on both sides. All I need say is, that whatever part shall be assigned me in the general plan, shall be executed to the utmost

extent of my ability and power. I have the honor to be, &c.

W. HAMPTON.

Hon. Gen. Armstrong, Sec. of War.

Extract of a letter from the Secretary of War to Major-General Hampton, dated

War Department, Sept 28, 1813.

"The position you have taken is better calculated to keep up the enemy's doubts, with regard to your real point of attack, than any other. Hold it fast till we approach you. In the present state of the campaign we ought to run no risks by separate attacks when combined ones are practicable and sure. Had you been able to have broken down the head of their defences and seized the bank of the St John's at the rapids, you would have bothered his knightship considerably; but, on the whole, the western movement is to be preferred; because in it there is safety and concert, and, in the mean time, enough to render his attention to different points necessary, and of course to keep his force in a state of division.

"The moment the enemy left the upper parts of the Chesapeake, I ordered Pickens with his battalion of the 10th to join you. A battalion of the 32d had similar orders."

(Documents to be Continued.)

GRAND NAVAL CHALLENGE.

The following copies of the correspondence between Commodores Decatur and Hardy, and Capt. Stackpole, in relation to the proposed meeting of the United States and Macedonian, with the *Endymion* and *Statira*, were some time since obtained by an American prisoner lately on board the British squadron off New-London.

(Copy.)

U. S. ship United States, New-London, 17th Jan 1813.

Sir—Having been informed by Nicholas Moran, the master of a sloop recently captured by his Britannic majesty's ship *Endymion*, now lying before this port, that whilst he was on board the *Endymion*, and in your hearing, capt. Hope of the *Endymion* did ask me whether the frigate *United States* would not avoid an action, he further states that he heard you declare it to be your wish that the *United States* ship *Macedonian* should have a meeting with his Britannic majesty's ship *Statira*; that you would furnish men and give room for such meeting, but that you would not permit the challenge to come from your side.

The *Endymion*, I am informed, carries 24 pounders, and mounts 50 guns in all; this ship also carries 24 pounders, and mounts 48 guns, besides a 12 pound carronade, a boat gun.

The *Statira* mounts 50, the *Macedonian* 47, metal the same, so that the force on both sides is as nearly equal as we could expect to find.

If Mr. Moran's statement be correct, it is evident capt. Hope and Stackpole have the laudable desire of engaging with their ships, the *United States* and *Macedonian*. We, sir, are ready and equally desirous for such a meeting, forthwith.

The only difficulty that appears to be in the way, is from whom the formal invitation is to come. If, sir, you admit Moran's statement to be correct, the difficulty will be removed, and you will be pleased to consider this as an invitation; at the same time we beg you will assure capt. Hope and Stackpole, that no personal feeling towards them induces me to make this communication; they are solicitous to add to the renown of their country—we honor their motives.

Captain Biddle, who will have the honor to deliver you this, is authorised, on our part, to make any arrangements which may be thought necessary. I have the honor to be, &c. (Signed) S. DECATUR.

To Com. Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, Bt. &c.

(Copy.)

His Majesty's ship Statira, off New-London, 17th January, 1814.

Sir—Capt. sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, baronet, and commodore off New-London, has this afternoon handed me a letter from you, expressing a desire that the *United States* ship *Macedonian*, commanded by capt. Jacob Jones, should meet his majesty's ship *Statira* under my command; and that the *United States* ship *United States*, bearing your broad pendant, would embrace the same opportunity of meeting the *Endymion* commanded by capt. Hope. In the event of sir Thomas Hardy's permitting our joint acceptance of this rendezvous, I of course must be the senior officer; but in the interim I shall confine my reply to the future acts of his majesty's ship I have the honor to command.

It will afford her captain, officers and crew, the greatest pleasure to meet capt. Jones in the *Macedonian* to-morrow, next day, or whenever such a meeting may better suit his purpose; let him only be pleased to appoint the day, and place; six or ten leagues south of *Montaug Point*, or further, if he pleases. My only object for selecting this distance from the shore, is to avoid any interruption; little, I think, can be apprehended, as all the captains commanding frigates, excepting one, in these seas, are junior to me, and in the event of chance, or accident, meeting him, I will hoist a flag of truce, pledging the word and honor of a British officer (further I cannot offer) to keep the truce flying until the *Macedonian* is out of sight; and in the event of a junior officer's appearing, the same guarantee of safety shall be kept flying until I can detach him.

In accepting this invitation, sir, it is not to vaunt, or, in the most trifling degree, to enhance my own professional character, or take from what is so justly due to capt. Jones; although I have been twice mortified in being obliged to retreat on the 26th and 30th of August 1813, by six American men of war, and for 12 weeks together cruising alone, it has never fallen to the *Statira's* lot to meet one singly.

The honor of my king, the defence of my country, engaged in a just and unprovoked war, added to the glory of the British flag, is all I have in view.

I perceive a statement in our letter of the comparative force of the two ships, and as I fear you have been led into an error, I shall take this opportunity to say, the *Statira* carries only forty-six guns, instead of fifty, with two little boat guns, of more utility in exercising the men, than any effect they might have in the hour of battle, without any external fiery to recommend her; she is simply a British man of war, equal to any other class; nevertheless, a more fair and equal match in ship and guns may not soon occur, in numbers of men I am aware of having a superiority to oppose; all I request is, that both ships may quickly meet.

Having received your communication by the hand of sir Thomas M. Hardy, I shall convey my reply thro' the same channel, requesting you will be so good as to hand it to the captain of the *Macedonian*. I remain, sir, &c. (Signed) H. S.

To Com. Decatur, &c. &c. &c. New-London.

(Copy.)

Rumies, off New-London, 18th Jan. 1814.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date by capt. Biddle, signifying a desire on your part, and that of capt. Jones, as commanders of the U. S. ships *United States* and *Macedonian*, to meet his Britannic Majesty's ships *Endymion* and *Statira*, in consequence of a conversation reported to you by Mr. Moran, master of a sloop recently captured; and in reply I beg to inform you I have no hesitation whatever in permitting capt. Stackpole, in the *Statira*, to meet the *Macedonian*, as they are sister ships, carrying the same number of guns and weight of metal. But as it is my opinion the *Endymion* is not equal to the *United States*, being 200 tons less, and carrying 26 guns on her main-deck, and only 32lb. carronades on her quarter-deck and fore-castle—when I am informed the *United States* has 30 guns on her main deck, and 42lb. carronades on her quarter-deck and fore-castle, I must consider it my duty (though very contrary to the wishes of capt. Hope) to decline the invitation on his part.

The captains of his Britannic majesty's ships under my orders, as well as myself, cannot too highly appreciate the gallant spirit that has led to the communication from you, sir, and are equally convinced that no personal feeling towards each other can ever influence a laudable ambition to add to the naval renown of our respective countries.

I have the honor to inclose a letter from captain Stackpole bearing your address, and I pledge my honor to facilitate by every means in my power the meeting on the rendezvous pointed out by him, and that none of the captains of his majesty's ships junior to me shall interfere: capt. Stackpole's proposal amply provides against that of a senior officer.

Should success attend the *Macedonian*, I guarantee her proceeding unmolested to any port to the eastward of this anchorage, and I propose the same to you, sir, for the *Statira* to proceed to Bermuda.

Capt. Coote will have the honor to deliver this letter, and to make any further arrangements that may be necessary. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) THOS MASTERMAN HARDY.

To Com. Stephen Decatur, New-London.

(Copy.)

U. S. ship United States, New London, Jan. 19, 1814.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of yesterday, with the inclosure from capt. Stackpole, by the hands of capt. Coote.

The proposition for a contest between his Britannic Majesty's frigates *Endymion* and *Statira* and this ship and the *Macedonian*, was made by me in the full belief that their force was equal; but it has been declined in consequence of your entertaining a different opinion on this subject from my own.

I do not think myself authorised to comply with the wishes of capt. Jones and Stackpole, for a meeting in the ships *Statira* and *Macedonian*.

This squadron is now under sailing orders from government, and I feel myself bound to put to sea, the first favourable opportunity that may occur.

In my proposal for a meeting of the four ships, I consented, and I fear incautiously, that you should make up the complements of the *Endymion* and *Statira* from the crews of the *Ramilies* and *Borer*.

I was induced to accord this indulgence from a supposition that their crews might have been reduced by planning prizes, and a hope that the selected men, being divided between the two ships, the advantage would not be overwhelming.

But, sir, if the *Statira* is to avail herself alone of this concession, it must be obvious to you and every one, that I should be yielding to you an advantage I could not excuse to my government; and in making the crew of the *Macedonian* in any degree equal to such a conflict, I should be compelled to break up the crews of this ship and the *Hornet*: and, thus render a compliance with my orders to proceed to sea, utterly impracticable.

I beg leave also to state, that the guarantee against recapture in case the *Macedonian* should prove successful, is very far from satisfactory.

You will have the goodness, sir, to inform captain Stackpole that his letter was shown to captain Jones, according to his request; that Capt. Jones is extremely desirous that a meeting should take place between the *Statira* and the *Macedonian*, but is controlled by me for the reasons I have stated.

Whether the war we are engaged in be just or unprovoked on the part of Great Britain, as capt. Stackpole has been pleased to suggest, is considered by us as a question exclusively with the civilians, and I am perfectly ready to admit both my incompetence and unwillingness to confront capt. Stackpole in its discussion. I am, sir, with the highest consideration and respect,
(Signed) STEPHEN DECATUR.

To Com. Sir Thomas Masteron Hardy, *Bt. &c.*

(Copy.)

Ramilies, off N. London, 29th Jan. 1814.

Sir—I have the honor to acquaint you, that I will communicate to capt. Stackpole your letter of the 19th inst. This morning had the honor of receiving by capt. Biddle, and I have nothing further to offer in addition to my former letter on the subject of the meeting between the ships of the United States and those of his Britannic Majesty, but that I will give every guarantee in my power, in case of the *Macedonian's* success, should the meeting ever take place.

I beg to assure you, sir, I shall hail with pleasure the return of an amicable adjustment of the differences between the two nations, and have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) THOS MASTERMAN HARDY.

To Com. Stephen Decatur, *&c &c &c. N. London.*

From the New-London Gazette, March 22.

In presenting to our readers the highly interesting correspondence between com. Decatur and sir T. M. Hardy, we feel it our duty to state, as it does not appear in the letters of either of them, that the *Endymion* throws as great a weight of shot, within 42lbs, as the *United States*, and that com. Decatur proposed to capt. Coote, who was authorised by the British commander to make the arrangements for meeting, that he would disarm until the ships were rendered precisely equal. These facts we have from unquestionable authority.

RATTLESNAKE AND ENTERPRIZE.

Copy of a letter from lieut. Creighton, commanding the U. S. brig *Rattlesnake*, to the secretary of the navy, dated

Wilmington, N. C. March 9, 1814.

Sir—I have the honor to announce to you the arrival of the U. S. brigs *Rattlesnake* and *Enterprize*, under my command, after a cruise of 8 weeks. The

Enterprize joined me yesterday, having separated on the 25th ult. to avoid capture, both vessels being closely pursued by a frigate or razer.

By the enclosed report from lieut. Renshaw, you will perceive the chase continued 70 hours, during which time he was under the necessity of lightening his vessel by throwing overboard his guns, cutting away his anchors, and starting his water. This is the third time we have been chased by superior force, and in every instance the good fortune of the *Enterprize* has been wonderfully manifest.

In obedience to your instructions of the 2d January, after leaving the United States, I passed to the eastward of Bermuda, and having reached the latitude of 18 degrees 56 minutes N. and longitude 62 degrees 28 minutes W, I bore up, and on the 29th January made the island of Anegada and Virgin Gorda, hence by St. Thomas down the north sides of Porto Rico and St. Domingo, through the windward passage, along the north side of Jamaica, round the west end of Cuba, through the Florida passage, and so to this place.

In the windward passage we were chased by a frigate, and narrowly escaped capture. For the preservation of one and perhaps both vessels, I was under the necessity of separating, but was joined again by the *Enterprize* off Cape Antonia on the 14th of February, conformable to previous arrangements.

On the 10th of February we were again chased by a line of battle ship, but outsailed her with great ease. The same vessel, which we learnt to be the *Bedford*, 74, pursued the *Enterprize*, when on her way to join me off Cape Antonia, for nine hours; the latter escaped by a manoeuvre at night.

I should have continued to cruise on the ground you recommended, but was continually taken from the station by vessels it became my duty to pursue, as well as the prospect of falling in with a convoy that had passed the Havana about 8 or 10 days previous to my appearing off that place.

I have the honor to enclose you a list of vessels captured and spoken during the cruise; among the former you will perceive the private armed schooner *Mars*, of 14 guns and 75 men. This capture affords me the more satisfaction, as she belonged to that nest of pirates commonly called Providence privateers. She is a fine vessel, built in Baltimore, and well calculated for public service, should government require a vessel of her class. Another privateer was in company with her, but night had so far advanced it was impossible for me to prevent her escape. The *Mars* having taken us at first for English brigs, between 20 and 30 of her men took to her boats and landed on the Florida shore to avoid impressment; notwithstanding this, she ranged up alongside of the *Enterprize* with tompons out and training her guns. Lieut. Renshaw, ignorant of the circumstance of any of her men having left her, gave her a broadside, which killed two and wounded two others of her crew. Lieut. Renshaw's conduct was perfectly correct; it was the indelible and ridiculous parade of the commander of the privateer that caused this unnecessary bloodshed. At the same time the *Mars* struck, we took possession of the schr. *Eliza*, from Nassau, N. P. bound to Pensacola, laden with salt. In passing the prize I hailed lieut. Gamble, who had her in charge, and directed him to scuttle the vessel and cut away her masts, take to the boat he had alongside, and join the *Enterprize*, then in pistol shot of him. The wind and current having set us close in with the Florida shore, I was under the necessity of working to windward, and directed the *Enterprize* to do the same as soon as possible. A light was shown from the *Rattlesnake*—rockets thrown and false fires occasionally burnt during the night to point out our situation to the other vessels. At two P. M. the *Enterprize* joined me, and at day-light the *Mars*, but from the extreme darkness of the night the *Eliza* was lost sight of about 8 in the evening and has not been seen since: all the following day was spent in search of her, but without success. At noon, by observation, I found that we had drifted a degree and a half to the northward of the place where we made the capture. From the state of the weather immediately after I spoke the *Eliza*, it became necessary for all the other vessels to work off shore, and lieut. Gamble must have been sensible of the necessity of doing the same with the vessel under his charge; and as he had six men, and plenty of water and provisions, I naturally look for him at this place, or expect to hear of his arrival at Savannah. After removing the prisoners from the *Mars*, I intended to have turned to windward again and remain a few days off the Cat Keys; but at 4 P. M. discovered a ship which we gave chase to, and

which ultimately led us through the passage. It being now out of my power to get to windward, I shaped a course to the northward and eastward with a strong gale from the southward and westward, in hopes of meeting with some straggling vessels of the convoy, and having proceeded as far in this direction as I thought my instructions would authorise, without seeing a single sail, I altered my course to the westward.

The *Rattlesnake* has been under her topsails the greater part of the cruise, except when in chase, or avoiding superior force.

Lieut. Renshaw has rendered me every assistance, and has discharged his duty with zeal and ability. The *Enterprize* is as gallant a little vessel as ever sailed—at the same time one of the dullest in point of sailing; she has escaped capture, to be sure, but altogether by good fortune and the great exertions of her officers and men. I assure you, sir, she has caused me much anxiety and uneasiness from that particular alone. On board both brigs are about 70 prisoners, among them a midshipman and nine men belonging to the frigate *Belvidera*. The *Rattlesnake* will require some repairs; her mizenmast head is badly sprung, and will have to be fished, and the upper part of her stem has worked loose in consequence of the shortness of the scarf, and the very careless manner in which it was bolted, but rest assured, sir, she shall be ready for sea with all possible dispatch.

I am happy to add, the officers and men of both brigs have enjoyed the highest health; not a single death having taken place on board either vessel. I regret being obliged to return so soon, but as it became necessary, I trust it will meet your approbation. I have the honor to be, &c. JN. O. CREIGHTON.

Hon. Wm. Jones, secretary of the navy.

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Renshaw, commanding the U. S. brig Enterprize, to Lieut. Creighton, dated River, N. C., 7th March, 1814.

Sir—I have the honor to acquaint you with the arrival at this anchorage of the United States brig *Enterprize* under my command. The enemy's frigate that caused the separation of the two brigs *Rattlesnake* and *Enterprize*, on the morning of the 25th ultimo, continued in chase of the latter vessel for upwards of 70 hours; during which time she was repeatedly within 2 1/2 miles; and on the morning of the 27th, in a calm, observed the enemy making preparations for the hoisting out of her boats. To a light breeze springing up at that time from the S. W. which brought the *Enterprize* to windward, alone is to be attributed our escape of this day: the frigate being within gun-shot at the time. In the early part of the chase, by the advice and wishes of all my officers, as the only alternatives left us, the sheet anchor and 15 of our guns were thrown overboard to lighten the brig. Be assured sir, that this painful measure was not resorted to, until almost every prospect of escape had left us, and the evident benefits arising from what little we had alighted her by the pumping out of the salt water. In the chase I made the private signal of the day, and also No. 838 from signal book, to the stranger, which were not answered. I have the honor to be, &c. JAMES RENSRAW.

Lieut. John O. Creighton,

Commanding U. S. Brig Rattlesnake.

List of vessels captured by the brigs Rattlesnake and Enterprize, under the command of Capt. Creighton.

January 18th, 1814—Lat. 27, 4 N long. 57, 54 W. captured the Spanish brig Tabella, sent in and arrived, being in possession of the enemy.

January 20th—Lat. 27, 55 N. long. 56, 34 W. captured the Swedish ship Sincerity of Stockholm, bound to Am lis, sent in, having English merchandise: arrived.

February 7th—Lat. 21, 44 N long. 84, 44 W. captured the English brig Rambler, from Cape Francois, bound to St. Thomas, with coffee; burnt her.

February 23d—Lat. 27, 5 N 81, 12 W. Cape Florida bearing W by S. distant 5 leagues, captured the English schooners Mars and Eliza, the former from New-Providence on a cruise, the latter from Nassau to Pensacola with salt.

(Signed) JOHN O. CREIGHTON, Commander.

Extract of a letter from Major Gen. Harrison to the Secretary of War, dated

“Cincinnati, March 5, 1814.

“Col. Baby, and a militia captain, taken from the township of Delaware, upon the Thames, and two other individuals who were supposed to be particularly mischievous, have arrived

here, under an escort from Detroit. The militia captain denies his being in service, but was found with his uniform on, and acknowledges to have frequently served at the head of a militia company under Proctor, since the commencement of the war. He is a native of Albany, state of New-York, and emigrated to Canada in the year 1798.

"This man, whose name is Springer, is also a magistrate, and of course must have been naturalized by the British government."

THE WAR.

NEW-YORK:

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 29

SUMMARY.

From the frontiers, we have no intelligence of importance. Great preparations are making on our part on the lakes Champlain and Ontario, to obtain a naval ascendancy in the ensuing campaign. The enemy are equally active and sanguine in their expectations. Com. Chauncey, it is believed, will be ready for a cruise about the middle of April, or before, if the lake will admit of it.

The officers and crew of the U. S. frigate President, and the officers and crews of the new U. S. sloops of war Eric and Ontario, (lying at Baltimore) are ordered to Lake Ontario.

On Wednesday arrived in Philadelphia, under a military escort, and were committed to the custody of the marshal of that district, 23 British prisoners, confined as hostages for a similar number in captivity with the enemy. They are said to be comfortably accommodated in the new penitentiary in Arch-street.

The president of the U. S. has appointed sailing-master Bassett a licut. of the navy, for his gallant conduct in repelling the attack made by six of the enemy's boats on the U. S. sch. Alligator under his command, in Stono river, on the night of the 29th of January last.

NOW FOR THE TUG OF WAR!

London, Jan. 31.

Preparations have been made on a large scale to enable sir Alexander Cochrane to take with him a very large force, both naval and military. He takes with him about 4000 marines, under the immediate command of maj. Nichols, of that corps, the same meritorious officer who so gallantly conducted himself at the island of Anholt, and who was afterwards selected for a particular and important duty in Stralsund, under the crown prince of Sweden.

Sir Alexander will also take with him a strong body of riflemen, battering artillery, Congreve rockets, Shrapnell shells, with all the ammunition, &c. necessary to give effect to those engines of destruction.

FROM BERMUDA.

Our advices from Bermuda are to the 13th inst. Admiral sir Alexander Cochrane, in the Asia 74, accompanied by the Superb 74, arrived at Bermuda on the 6th inst. From 10 to 14 sail of the line were looked for daily to join admiral Cochrane, with 6000 troops on board. Some of the American ports, it was said, was the object of the expedition.

The San Domingo was daily expected to convoy admiral Warren to England.

There are 500 American prisoners at Bermuda, in a distressed situation. It was expected they were to be sent to England.

GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

At a general court-martial, of which col. Dana was president, hokien at Plattsburgh on the 26th of Dec. and continued by adjournment until the 20th of Jan. the following proceedings were had on officers of gen. Hampton's army, and published in general orders on the 31st January.

Licut. Benjamin P. Barret, of the 29th regt. infantry, charged with cowardice, and unofficerlike and ungentlemanlike conduct—sentenced to be cashiered, have his sword broken over his head, and his name published as a coward in the newspapers. The general, while he laments the fate of this unfortunate young man, is bound by his duty to confirm the sentence. But, in making this decision, he will offer a few appropriate remarks to the gentlemen of the army. It is evident, from the testimony recorded, that licut. Barret's falling is of nature; and as no man can anticipate what may be his conduct in times of peril, before he has been tested, if the licut., after the scene at Ormstown, (it being his first trial in battle, where he found his physical force fail'd him, and that his pride could not remedy the defect of natural timidity) had acknowledged his infirmity and retired from the army before his arrest, or if he had made the same concession to the general court-martial, and thrown himself on its mercy, he would have merited commiseration for his weakness, and approbation for his candor; and would have been permitted to withdraw in silence to the bosom of society: but, by braving this court with a defence of his conduct, he has merited the extreme severity of the sentence passed on him, which will be carried into execution under the orders of the commanding officer of the post.

Licut. Frederick G. Gates, charged with cowardice and unofficerlike conduct—sentenced to be dismissed from the service.

Capt. Amasa Brown, of the 30th regt. infantry, charged with unofficerlike conduct and disobedience of orders—sentenced to be dismissed.

Licut. Conant, of the 29th regt. infantry, charged with cowardice and breach of arrest, found guilty only in part—sentenced to be suspended from command for three months.

Capt. Waterman, of the 29th regt., charged with unofficerlike conduct, &c.—honorably acquitted.

Capt. Bailey, of the 24th regt., charged with cowardly and unofficerlike conduct—sentenced to be dismissed—but, in consequence of his previous good conduct, recommended to the mercy of the commander in chief. The gen. approves the sentence, and deeply regrets it is not consistent with the principles and obligations by which he is bound, to indulge the recommendation of the court; cowardice being the most unpardonable offence in the catalogue of military crimes, treason only excepted.

Licut. Presbury West, charged with unofficerlike conduct, neglect of duty, and fraud—sentenced to be dismissed, and to refund to government the money which he had fraudulently received.

LATE FROM FRANCE.

The letter-of-marque brig Rambler, capt. Snow, arrived at Boston on the 22d inst. from Bordeaux, from which place she brought papers to the 10th February, which furnish the following intelligence:

The allies were rapidly marching towards Paris. Their light troops, principally Cosacks, had penetrated to within 15 or 20 leagues

of that city. The allied head-quarters were not far behind.

Bonaparte joined his army near Brienne the 26th January. Some sharp fighting ensued; the French official accounts of which claim a great victory. On the 3d February Bonaparte was at Troyes, many miles nearer Paris than Brienne. A letter from Bordeaux says, "the emperor did not gain the victory as reported, in the battle of the 29th."

Soult has evacuated his encampment in Bayonne, after leaving a strong garrison in the citadel and town. Many of his troops had arrived at Paris, on their way to join the emperor's army.

The city of Paris has been put in a proper state of defence.

It is reported that Murat, king of Naples, had made peace with all the allies, on condition to be allowed to remain king for life, and after his death that the crown should revert to the house of Sicily.

Denmark has joined the allies.

The city of Antwerp and Lyons and the fleets in the Scheldt and Texel, remain in the hands of the French.

The most extraordinary fact is, that a congress of the belligerent ministers, including lord Castlereagh from England, had convened in Châtillon, in France, about 100 miles east of Paris; and diplomatic ceremonies had passed, and some sort of negotiations said to be on the carpet. Verbal advices say, that Russia and Prussia will not consent to a pacification until it is negotiated in Paris.

The Rambler brought in 17 prisoners. She captured on the 9th March, British ship Union, of Glasgow, from Jamaica for Liverpool, laden with 1200 bales of cotton, and 138,000 pounds of coffee.

MARINE MEMORANDA.

The British ship Victory, of 400 tons, 12 guns, laden with 464 bales cotton, 210,000 lbs. coffee, 90 tons Nicaragua wood, 50 tons logwood, 16 croons indigo, some sweet oil, &c. bound from Jamaica to London, has arrived at Camden, prize to the Viper, of this port.

The British sch. Trifalgar Nelson, with a cargo of rum, and the Spanish sch. Roza, with sugar and molasses, arrived at Newport on the 18th inst. prize to the Viper, of this port.

The British sch. Susan and Eliza, with a cargo of 120,000 lbs. coffee and some corn, prize to the late privateer Mars, of this port, arrived at Wilmington, N. C. on the 15th inst.


The British sch. William, with sugar, coffee, and molasses, prize to the Diomedé of this port, arrived at Savannah on the 10th inst.

The British brig Falcon, of 10 guns, from London for Cape of Good Hope, with a cargo of dry goods invoiced at 60,000 pounds sterling, arrived at Bath (Maine) on the 17th inst. prize to the America, of S. Lem.

The British King's sch. Pietou was captured by the American frigate Constitution, and burnt. The officers and crew of the Pietou were put on board the British sch. Lovely Ann, previously captured, which was made a cartel of, and sent into Barbadoes, where they arrived the 19th February.

The Terpsichore, French frigate, arrived at Bermuda on the 13th inst. prize to the British razee Majestic, captured after a chase of a few hours. The Terpsichore had 2 killed, and 2 wounded, since dead.

The report of the capture of the privateer Comet, capt. Boyle, of Baltimore, is unfounded.



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