

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

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BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1813.

[WHOLE NO. 99.]

Hec olim meminisse juvabit.—VIRGIL.

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Letter of Dr. Benjamin Rush.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

SIR—Convinced of the importance of the enclosed letter on the conduct and prospects of a beloved son, I thought the best deposit I could make of so rich a legacy for him, was to obtain a place for it in your *truly American* paper. To attempt to eulogize the character of its illustrious author, would be an undertaking far beyond my capacity. The simple story of gratitude may be told in a few plain words. To the friendship and skill of the immortal Doctor Rush, my little family owe the lives and health of both parents. An impulse of a mother's heart prompted me to name a very promising child after the idolized friend of my husband.—Hearing of this circumstance, that truly benevolent and great man addressed the subjoined letter to my son. "He thus, though dead, does still befriend."

With much esteem I am, sir, your constant reader,
LETITIA FLOYD.
Christiansburg, Va. July 7th, 1813.

PHILADELPHIA, April 21, 1812.

My dear name-sake!—Your father has conferred a name upon you which one of the dictionaries says is "proverbially worthless." But is possible for you to remove the ideas that are naturally associated with it, by your good conduct, in which respect I hope you will be more successful than I have been. May you be kept by a kind Providence from all the errors and follies that characterized my youth, and from the controversies and bitter persecutions that attended my middle life, and may your old age be blessed, as mine has hitherto been, with good health, a faithful wife, dutiful children, and a competency of the good things of this world. For the attainment of these blessings, permit me to advise you to begin in childhood, to honor and obey your parents, to learn your catechism, and to commit passages in the Bible to memory. As you advance in life, go constantly to a place of worship; avoid bad company, and be very attentive to your studies.

The less time you spend in fishing and hunting and other youthful amusements, the better. In reviewing my life, I have often felt pain in recollecting the many innocent birds I killed for mere sport, for I had flesh enough and of a better kind than theirs to eat at any time I pleased, both at home and the country school at which I passed my youth. I have been ashamed likewise, in recollecting how much time I wasted when a boy in playing cat and fives and steal-clothes, &c. &c. all of which consumed so many precious hours that might have been more profitably employed in getting my lessons, or reading instructing books.—In middle life avoid propagating new and unpopular opinions; but if you are impelled by a sense of duty to do so, never reply to any thing that may be said to your disadvantage upon the account of them, for scandal will die much sooner of itself than you can kill it. Live temperately, that is, eat sparingly of simple food, and avoid tasting spirituous liquors in every part of your life. To a con-

formity to this advice, I owe much of my present health, and pleasure in business and study, and probably the prolongation of my life. Adieu! my dear boy. May God bless you, and make you a comfort to your parents, and a blessing and ornament to society!

From your friend and name-sake,

BENJAMIN RUSH.

Master Benjamin Rush Floyd.

Documents

ACCOMPANYING THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE RESPECTING OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

(A.)

Extract of a letter from Mr. Barlow to Mr. Monroe, dated Paris, May 12, 1812.

"After the date of my letter, of which I have the honor to enclose you a copy, I found, from a pretty sharp conversation with the Duke of Bassano, that there was a singular reluctance to answering my note of the 1st of May. Some traces of that reluctance you will perceive in the answer, which finally came, of which a copy is here enclosed. This, though dated the 16th, did not come to me till last evening. I consider the communication to be so important in the present crisis of our affairs with England, that I despatched the Wasp immediately to carry it to Mr. Bussano, with orders to return with his answer as soon as possible.

"I am confident that the President will approve the motive of my solicitude in this affair, and the earnest manner in which I pressed the minister with it as soon as my knowledge of the declaration of the Prince Regent enabled me to use the argument that belonged to the subject. When, in the conversation above alluded to, the Duke first produced to me the decree of the 25th of April, 1811, I made no comment on the strange manner in which it had been so long concealed from me, and probably from you. I only asked him if that decree had been published: he said no; but declared it had been communicated to my predecessor here, and likewise sent to Mr. Serurier, with orders to communicate it to you. I assured him it was not among the archives of this legation that I never before had heard of it, and since he had consented to answer my note, I desired him to send me in that official manner, a copy of that decree, and of any other documents that might prove to the independence of my country (not to me) that the decrees of Berlin and Milan were in good faith and unconditionally repeated with regard to the United States. He then promised me he would do it, and he has performed his promise.

"I send you a copy of the April decree, as likewise of the letter of the grand judge and that of the minister of finances, though the two latter pieces have been before communicated to our government and published."

(B.)

THE DUKE OF BASSANO TO MR. RUSSELL.

[Translation.]

Paris, May 16th, 1812.

"SIR—In conversing with you about the note which you did me the honor to address to me on the 1st of May, I could not conceal from you my surprise at the doubt which you had expressed in that note, respecting the recognition of the decrees of Berlin and Milan. That recognition was proven by many official acts, and by correspondence with your predecessors and with you, by the decisions in favor of American vessels. You have done me honor to ask a copy of the letters which the grand judge and minister of finances wrote on the 25th December, 1810, to secure the first effects of that measure, and you have said, sir, that the decree of the 25th April, 1811, which proved definitively the recognition of the Berlin and Milan decrees in regard to the Americans, was not known to you.

"I have the honor to send you, as you have desired, a copy of these three acts; you will consider them, without doubt, as the plainest answer which I could give to this part of your note. As to the two other questions to which that note relates, I will take care to lay them before the emperor. You know already, sir, the sentiments which his majesty has expressed in favor of American commerce, and the good dispositions which have induced him to appoint a plenipotentiary to treat with you on that important interest.

Accept, sir, &c. &c.

(Signed)

THE DUKE OF BASSANO."

Copy of a letter from the Minister of Finance to the Count of Evreux, councillor of state, director general of the customs, dated December 25, 1810.

On the 5th of last August, the minister of foreign relations wrote to Mr. Armstrong, minister plenipotentiary of the United

States of America, that the Berlin and Milan decrees were revoked, and that after the 1st of November, they would cease to have effect, it being well understood, that, in consequence of this declaration, the English would revoke their orders in council, and renounce the new principles of blockade which they wished to establish, or that the U. States, in conformity to the act communicated, should cause their rights to be respected by the English.

On the communication of this note, the President of the United States issued, on the second of November, a proclamation, which announced the revocation of the Berlin and Milan decrees, after the first of November; and which declared, that, in consequence thereof, all the restrictions imposed by the act of the first of May, 1809, should cease with respect to France and her dependencies.

The same day, the treasury department, addressed to the collectors of the customs a circular, which directs them to admit into the ports and waters of the United States, armed French vessels, and enjoins on them to apply, after the 2d of February next, the law of the 1st of May, 1809, prohibiting all commercial relations, to English vessels of every description, as well as to productions of the soil, industry or commerce of England and her dependencies.

His majesty having seen in these two papers, the annunciation of the measures which the Americans propose taking on the 2nd of February next, to cause their rights to be respected, has ordered me to inform you, that the Berlin and Milan decrees must not be applied to any American vessels that have entered our ports, since the 1st of November, or may enter in future, and that those which have been sequestered, as being in contravention of these decrees, must be the object of a special report.

On the 2d of February I shall acquaint you with the intentions of the emperor with regard to the definitive measures to be taken for distinguishing and favoring the American navigation, and I have the honor to salute you. The minister of finance.

(Signed) THE DUKE OF GAETE.

[Translation.]
FRENCH EMPIRE.

Paris, December 26th, 1810.

Copy of a letter from his excellency the Grand Judge Minister of Justice, to the Counselor of State, President of the Council of France.

HIS PRESIDENT.—The minister of foreign relations, by order of his majesty, the emperor and king, addressed on the 24th of August last, to the plenipotentiary of the United States of America, a note containing the following words:

"We authorized to declare to you, that the decrees of Berlin and Milan are revoked, and that after the 1st of November they will cease to have effect; it being well understood, that, in consequence of this declaration, the English will revoke their orders in council, and renounce the new principles of blockade which they wished to establish, or that the United States, in conformity to the act you have just communicated, will cause their rights to be respected by the English."

In consequence of the communication of this note, the President of the United States, issued on the 2d of November, a proclamation to announce the revocation of the decrees of Berlin and Milan, and declared that, in consequence thereof, all the restrictions imposed by the act of the first of May, must cease with respect to France and her dependencies; on the same day the treasury department addressed a circular to all the collectors of the customs of the United States, which enjoins them to admit into the ports and waters of the U. States, armed French vessels; prescribes them to apply, after the 2d of February next, to English vessels of every description, and to productions arising from the soil and industry, or the commerce of England and her dependencies, the law which prohibits all commercial relations, if at that period the revocation of the English orders in council, and of all the acts violating the neutrality of the U. States should not be announced to the treasury department.

In consequence of this arrangement entered into by the government of the United States, to cause their rights to be respected, his majesty orders, that all the vessels that may be passing in the course of prizes of captures of American vessels, made after the 1st of Nov. and those that may in future be brought before us, shall be judged according to the principles of the decrees of Berlin and Milan, but that they shall remain at large; the vessels captured or seized, to remain only in a state of sequestration, and the rights of the proprietors being reserved for them until the 2nd of February, the period at which the United States, having fulfilled the engagements to cause their rights to be respected, the said captures shall be declared null by the council, and the American vessels released, to return with their cargoes, to their proprietors.

Receive, Mr. President, the new assurances of my most distinguished consideration,

(Signed) THE DUKE OF MESSA.

[Translation.]

Palace of St. Cloud, April 22, 1811.

Napoleon, Emperor of the French, &c. &c.

On the report of our minister of foreign relations:

Seeing by a law passed on the 2d of March, 1811, the congress of the United States, ordered the execution of the provisions of the act of November, which prohibits the vessels and merchandise of Great Britain, her colonies and dependencies, from entering into the ports of the United States.

Considering that said law was an act of resistance to the arbitrary pretensions of the British orders in council, and, that a formal refusal to adhere to a system involving the independence of neutral powers, and of their flag, we have decreed and do decree as follows:

The decrees of Berlin and Milan are declared, and to date from

the first of November last, considered as not having existed (note annexed) in regard to American vessels.

(Signed)

By the Emperor.

(Signed)

The Minister of State.

NAPOLEON.

THE COUNT DARA.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Barlow to Mr. Russell, dated Paris, May 17th, 1812.

"I have concluded to dispatch the Wasp to England, expressly to carry to you the documents herewith enclosed."
"I was not a little surprised to learn, by the declaration of the Prince Regent in council of the 21st of April, that it was still believed by the British government that the French decrees of Berlin and Milan yet remained in force as applicable to the U. States. On reading that declaration, I therefore addressed to the Duke of Bassano, a note bearing date the 1st of May, of which I enclose you a copy."

"His drew from him the answer, of which I likewise had a copy, with the three documents last mentioned. The most remarkable of these is the decree of the 21st of April, 1811. This piece I had never before seen; it appears that it had not been published at the time of its date, and, not finding it among the archives of this legation, I suspect, that by some omission or neglect, it was not communicated to you as it ought to have been. The duke, however, assures me that it was so communicated. He did as it may, I am convinced it has not been made known to the British government."

(D.)

Extract of a letter from Mr. Russell to Mr. Barlow, dated London, May 20, 1812.

"Your letter of the 17th of this month, with its enclosure, was handed me on the 20th, and I immediately communicated copies of the letters from the French ministers of the 21st of December, 1810, and also of the decree of the 24th of April, 1811, to this government. The letters were already known, but the decree, from a cause undoubtedly which you so justly assign, namely, an omission or neglect in not having communicated it to me, was entirely new."

The Duke of Bassano has unquestionably full faith in what he assures you, but the date of the decree is so very remote, that it is not surprising that our memories should not accord on the subject."

(E.)

Extract of a letter from Mr. Russell to Mr. Monroe.

"London, 30th May, 1812."
"With regard to the French decree of the 24th of April, 1811, Mr. Barlow, in a letter to me, makes the following statement: 'this piece I had never before seen—it seems that it had not been published at the time of its date; and, not finding it among the archives of the legation, I suspect, that, by some omission or neglect, it was not communicated to you, as it ought to have been.' The duke assures me that it was so communicated. Be this as it may, I am convinced it has not been made known to the British government. I ought myself with saying, that useful communication to me by Mr. Barlow, I had never heard of such a thing. I persuade myself that there is no necessity of my adding any further explanation or comment on this strange business."

With great respect, I am, sir, &c. &c.

(Signed)

JONA. RUSSELL.

(F.)

MR. RUSSELL TO MR. MONROE.

London, 25th May, 1812.

SIR—I have the honor to hand you herewith a copy of my note of the 25th of this month, communicating to Lord Castlereagh a copy of a decree, purporting to be passed by the emperor of the French on the 24th of April, 1811, and two letters of the French ministers of the 21st of December, 1810. I also send you copies of that decree and of a note from his lordship acknowledging the receipt of my communication, and engaging to submit the documents above-mentioned to his royal highness the Prince Regent."

I have the honor to be, with profound respect, sir, your faithful servant,

(Signed)

The Hon. James Monroe, &c. &c. &c.

JONA. RUSSELL.

MR. RUSSELL TO LORD CASTLEREAGH.

13, Bentinck-street, 20th May, 1812.

The undersigned, chargé d'affaires of the United States of America, has the honor to transmit to Lord Castlereagh, authentic copies of a decree, purporting to be passed by the emperor of the French on the 24th of April, 1811, of a letter addressed by the French minister of finances to the director general of the customs on the 24th day of December, 1810, and of another letter of the same date, from the French minister of justice to the President of the council of prizes.

As these acts explicitly recognize the revocation of the Berlin and Milan decrees, in relation to the United States, and distinctly notice this revocation to take effect from the first day of November, the undersigned cannot but persuade himself that they will, in the official and authentic form in which they are now presented to his Britannic majesty's government, remove all doubt with respect to the revocation in question, and, joined with all the powerful considerations of justice and expediency so often suggested, lead to a like repeal of the British orders in council, thereby effecting a renewal of that perfect amity and unobstructed intercourse between this country and the United States, which the obvious interests of both nations require.

"The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to assure his friendship of his highest consideration.

(Signed)
The Right Honorable

Lord Viscount Castlereagh, Sec. Res.

Note.—For the enclosure, see correspondence between Mr. Barker and the Duke of Exeter, communicated herewith.

LORD CASTLEREAGH TO MR. RUSSELL.

Foreign Office, May 25, 1812.

—Lord Castlereagh presents his compliments to Mr. Russell, and has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of his official note of the 21st inst. transmitting copies of two official letters of the French ministers, dated December 25th, 1810, and of a decree of the French government, bearing date 30th of April, 1811.

Lord Castlereagh will immediately lay these documents before his royal highness the Prince Regent, and avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Mr. Russell the assurances of high consideration.

Jonathan Russell, esq. &c. &c. &c.

(G)

MR. RUSSELL TO MR. MONROE.

London, May 26, 1812.

SIR.—The assassination of Mr. Perceval has led to a dissolution of his ministry, and I hope may lead to an abandonment of his system, as far as we are concerned.

The vote on motion of Mr. Stewart Wortley, on the 21st, for an address to the Prince Regent, to form a more efficient administration, has driven the old ministers to offer their resignation. The new arrangements are entrusted to Lord Wellesley, but nothing is yet effected.

Mr. Canning appears to be associated with his lordship in this business, which I cannot consider as a circumstance very auspicious to us.

There will undoubtedly be much difficulty in forming the new cabinet: none of the old ministers will act under Lord Wellesley, he having so recently refused to act under them. Besides there is considerable difference on essential points of policy. The members of the opposition have a repugnance to act under any leader not taken from their own ranks, and they certainly will not constitute a part of any administration that does not adopt their system.

The probability therefore is, that either Lord Wellesley and Mr. Canning will not succeed in performing the task imposed upon them, or that they will perform it so imperfectly as to expose their work to early destruction.

Whatever may be the ingredients of which the new cabinet may be composed, I am not altogether without hope that the orders in council will be modified if not removed. The effects of our embargo, the evidence before Parliament of the distress occasioned by these orders, and the behavior of the ministers itself, afford both cause and color for this proceeding.

I say nothing of the French decree, of which I this day send you a copy, as, without the circumstances just mentioned, it would, I am persuaded, have been disregarded.

I shall dismiss the Wasp as soon as the new ministry is formed, or before, unless that event happens in a few days. She will return to Chelmsbury. With great respect, I am, &c.

(Signed)

JONA. RUSSELL.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Russell to Mr. Monroe.

London, June 14, 1812.

"The difficulty which has been encountered in forming the new cabinet, has appeared to render it necessary to support the old one; and upon this ground the House of Commons appear to have acted last evening, in giving to ministers on the second motion of Mr. Wortley, a majority of 125.

"Notwithstanding these unpropitious circumstances and all the prejudice of the men now in place, respecting the U. States, yet I know not how the orders in council can be maintained without the most serious consequences both to this government and country. It is impossible, in the face of the evidence now before Parliament, to deny the vital importance of our intercourse to this nation, and obnoxious as the ministry is, I do not entirely despair that it will be forced from its system or from power. I have some slender hope that this evidence may, even on the motion of Mr. Brougham on Tuesday next, produce some change, although it hardly seems probable that the ministers will allow the question to come on without the certainty of a triumph."

MR. RUSSELL TO MR. MONROE.

London, June 18th, 1812.

SIR.—I had you herein the Times of yesterday, containing the debate in the House of Commons on the preceding evening, relative to the orders in council. From this debate it appears that these measures are to be abandoned, but as yet no efficient extinction has been announced. The time almost elapsed since the declaration of Lord Castlereagh, excites a suspicion that either the proposed revocation will not take place, or what is more probable, some other measure, equally unjust, is now under consideration, to replace those which are to be revoked.

I hope, until the things here are ascertained with certainty and precision, there will be no relaxation on our part.

With great respect, your very obedient servant.

(Signed)

JONA. RUSSELL.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Russell to Mr. Monroe.

London, June 30, 1812.

"I have, at length, had the satisfaction to announce to you, in my letter of the 26th inst. the revocation of the orders in council.

"You will, without doubt, be somewhat surprised that this revocation is founded on the French decree of the 23rd of April, 1811.

"The real cause of the revocation is the measures of our government. These measures have produced a degree of distress among the manufacturers of this country that was becoming intolerable; and an apprehension of still greater misery, from the calamities of war, drove them to speak a language which could not be misunderstood or disregarded.

"Many members of the House of Commons, who had been the advocates of the orders in council, particularly Mr. Willerforce, and others from the northern counties, were forced now to take a stand against them, or to meet the imputation of their constancy at the approaching election. It is, therefore, the country, and not the opposition, which has driven the ministry to yield on this occasion, and the eloquence of Mr. Brougham would have been in vain had it been destitute of this support.

"What has now been done, has been most reluctantly done, and yielded to coercion, instead of being dictated by a spirit of justice and reconciliation. The ministers were resolved to concede nothing until the last extremity. Lord Castlereagh undoubtedly went down to the House of Commons, on the 16th inst. determined to preserve the orders in council in their full force, and, when he perceived that he should be in the minority, he endeavored to compromise by giving up as little as possible.

"It was decided by the cabinet, in consequence of the vague declarations of his lordship on that night, to suspend the orders in council, and to make this suspension to depend upon conditions to be previously proposed to the United States. Driven from this ground by the motion of Mr. Brougham, the call of the House on Thursday the 25th of this month, the ministers at length yielded the order of the 23d, and even this order was retained in the cabinet by a small majority only; five members voting against it: with these facts before me, I feel myself constrained to censure any exultation on what has taken place, with some fear of a return of the old injustice in a new form."

(H)

MR. GRAHAM TO MR. RUSSELL.

Department of State, August 9, 1812.

SIR.—The secretary left this city about ten days ago, on a short visit to Virginia. Since that period Mr. Baker has, in consequence of some despatches from his government, addressed to Mr. Foster, made to me a communication respecting the instructions of his government as regards the orders in council. It was of a character however so confidential and confidential that Mr. Baker did not feel himself at liberty to make it in the form of a note verbal or per memorandum, or permit me to take a memorandum of it at the time: he only said that it authorized an expectation that something more precise and definite, in an official form, may soon be received by this government, and it is in the necessary that I should give you an explanation of the views of the President in relation to it, more particularly as the secretary of state is daily expected, and will be able to do it in a more satisfactory manner.

I refer you to the enclosed papers for information as to the maritime and military movements incident to the war, and will add that the President is anxious to know as soon as possible, the result of the proposals you were authorized to make to the British government respecting an armistice. It concerns them so far and reasonable, that he cannot but hope that they will be accepted; and thus be the means of hastening an honorable and permanent peace.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed)

Jonathan Russell, esq. &c. &c. &c.

JOHN GRAHAM.

MR. GRAHAM TO MR. RUSSELL.

Department of State, August 10, 1812.

SIR.—Thinking that it may be possibly useful to you, I enclose myself the honor to enclose a memorandum of the conversation between Mr. Baker and myself alluded to in my letter of this date. From a conversation with Mr. Baker since this memorandum was made, I find that I was correct in regarding the President that the information from Mr. Foster and the British minister, that the fix was to be understood as connected with a suspension of hostilities on the frontiers of Canada.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed)

Jonathan Russell, esq. &c. &c. &c.

JOHN GRAHAM.

[Memorandum referred to in the above letters.]

Mr. Baker verbally communicated to me for the information of the President, that he had received despatches from his government, addressed to Mr. Foster (dated I believe about the 17th June) from which he was authorized to say that an official declaration would be sent to this country, that the orders in council as far as they affected the United States, would be repealed on the 1st August, to be revised on the 1st May, 1813, unless the conduct of the French government and the result with the American government should be such, as in the opinion of his majesty, to render a revocation unnecessary. Mr. Baker moreover stated, that the orders would be revised, provided the American government did not within 24 days after they received the official declaration of their repeal, admit British armed vessels into their ports, and put an end to the restrictive measures which had grown out of the orders in council.

The despatches authorizing the communication to the American government, expressly directed that it should be made verbally, and Mr. Baker did not consider himself at liberty to reduce it to writing, even in the form of a note verbal or per memorandum, or to suffer me to take a memorandum of his communication at the same time he made it. I understood from him that the despatches had been opened by Mr. Foster at Halifax, who, in consequence of a conversation he had with the official lawyer and Sir John Stue-

Mr. Baker had authorized Mr. Baker to say that these gentlemen would agree, as a measure leading to a suspension of hostilities, that all captives made after a day to be fixed, should not be proceeded against immediately, but be detained to await the future decision of the two governments. Mr. Foster had not seen Sir George Prevost, but had written to him by express, and did not doubt but that he would agree to an arrangement for the temporary suspension of hostilities.

Mr. Baker also stated that he had received an authority from Mr. Foster to act as charge d'affaires, provided the American government would receive him in that character, for the purpose of conducting himself officially to secure the cessation of hostilities which was to be expected from the British government, his fitness to be understood of course as depending on the revocation of hostilities. I replied, that although to so general and informal a communication, no answer might be necessary, and certainly no particular answer necessary, yet I was desirous to say that the communication was received with sincere satisfaction, as it is hoped that the spirit in which it was authorized by his government may lead to such further communications as will open the way not only for an early and satisfactory termination of the existing hostilities, but to an entire adjustment of all the differences which produced them, and to that permanent peace and solid friendship which ought so to be mutually desired by both countries, and which is sincerely desired by this.

With this desire an authority was given to Mr. Russell on the subject of an armistice, introductory to a final pacification, as far as he may be known to Mr. Foster; and the same desire will be felt on the receipt of the further and more particular communications which are shortly to be expected.

With respect to the joint intimation from Mr. Foster and the British authorities at Halifax, on the subject of suspending judicial proceedings in the case of maritime captives, to be accompanied by a suspension of military operations, the authority given to Mr. Russell, just alluded to, and of which Mr. Foster was the bearer, is full proof of the solicitude of the government of the United States to bring about a general suspension of hostilities on admissible terms, with as little delay as possible. It was not to be doubted, therefore, that any other practicable expedient for attaining a similar result would readily be concurred in. Upon the most favorable considerations, however, which could be given to the expedition suggested through him, it did not appear to be advisable to any practical degree to which the executive would be authorized to give the necessary sanction. Nor indeed, is it probable that if it was less liable to insuperable difficulties, that it could have any material effect previous to the result of the pacific advance made by this government, and which must, if favorably received, become operative as soon as any other arrangement that could now be made. It was stated to Mr. Baker that the President did not, under existing circumstances, consider Mr. Foster as vested with the power of appointing a charge d'affaires; but that no difficulty, in point of form, would be made, as any authentic communication, through him or any other channel, would be received with attention and respect.

(1)
MR. MONROE TO MR. BARLOW.

Department of State, June 16, 1812.

SIR—An act declaring war against Great Britain will probably pass before your congress on this day or to-morrow. It has already passed the house of representatives, and from what is known of the disposition of the senate, its assent is expected without delay.

This result has grown out of the continued aggressions of that power on our commerce, and upon the rights of the United States, of course to ourselves. France in the same declaration, and in the senate the vote was 15 for it and 7 against it. In the other house the majority against it was much greater.

Its effect in both houses has been disastrous in a recent measure owing to a passage in your last letter, which intimated that the intention of the French government to make some proposition in favor of indemnities, to be comprised in the treaty you were negotiating, whereby an expectation was excited that that interest would be provided for, and satisfaction given on the other grounds of complaint against France. The sentiment in both houses, as it is with the nation generally, produced by so many acts of injustice, for which reparation has not been made, is strong against France. The arrival of the *Wasp*, which you promised to despatch in two or three weeks from the date of your last letter, with the result of your labors, and which may be, as daily expected, was another motive for delaying ulterior measures with respect to her. In advising the war against England, as was distinctly implied by the late message, which brought that subject under consideration, the President stated to congress his strong dissatisfaction with the conduct of the French government on every former ground of complaint, and to which others of more recent date have been added, with the single exception of the repeal of the decrees. He promised also to bring our affairs with that power fully before congress, as soon as he should receive the communications which you had promised to forward by the *Wasp*. I consequently stated facts, which are of a character to require no further comment, that you may be enabled to turn them to the best account, in promoting an amicable accommodation with the French government of every wrong received from it, which is sincerely desired.

You were informed by my letter of the 6th May, of such success communicated by a vessel, which was reported to have sailed from Nantes in January last, as were at that time known here. It appears that several vessels sailing from American ports to Lisbon and Cadiz, laden with the productions of the U. States, were seized and burnt at sea. The crews of those vessels were taken on board one of the French vessels, and afterwards transferred to another of our vessels engaged in the same trade, which was also seized, in which they made their way home. These men forwarded here the evidence of these facts, copies of which have already been

transmitted to you. I forward to you by this conveyance, the evidence of other aggressions, which will claim in like manner your particular attention. Most of these documents have been laid before congress, and referred by it to this department.

You will analyse all these cases of recent spoliation, and place them in the class of aggressions, to which they severally belong, on principle. In demanding of Great Britain the repeal of her orders in council, on the ground of the repeal of the French decrees, this government has, from a regard to justice, given to France all the credit to which she had any claim, in having that the notification alone of the French minister of foreign affairs to the minister plenipotentiary of the U. States at Paris, of their repeal, was sufficient to justify the demand of the repeal of the orders in council of Great Britain on her own principles. But it never was the intention of this government to concede to France any thing on the subject to which she was not fairly entitled. On the contrary, it has been its intention, as is sufficiently evident by your first instructions, to exact from her a most strict and rigorous compliance with her pledge, in regard to the repeal.

If any act in violation of that pledge has been committed, you will not fail to point it out, in the most distinct manner, to the French government, and to communicate to this department, without delay, any answer which you may receive from it. I have to add, admitting that the repeal of the decrees is observed with perfect good faith, that if the French government had given the notification, or permits acts of another character, which violate our rights, the wrong will not be less sensibly felt, or less resented by this government.

Your despatches by the *Hornet* were received on the 22d May. They are the last which have come to hand.

Have the honor, &c.

JAMES MONROE.

(Signed)
Jed Barlow, esq. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. BARLOW.

Department of State, July 14, 1812.

SIR—Your letter by the *Wasp* was received on the 22d inst. I make this acknowledgment, in the hope that it may reach Mr. Monroe at Baltimore, and be conveyed with the letters and documents with which he is already charged for you.

The President has seen, with great surprise and concern, that the government of France had made no accommodation to the U. States on any point, and that the important and just grounds of complaint to which you had called its attention according to your instructions, dated at the time of your departure, and repeated in several communications since. It appears, that the same oppressive restraints on our commerce were still in force; that the system of license was done, or permits acts of another character, which violate our rights, the wrong will not be less sensibly felt, or less resented by this government. More recent wrongs, on the contrary, and of a very outrageous character, have been added to these with which you were acquainted when you left the U. States. By documents forwarded to you in my message of the 21st March, you were informed of the waste of our commerce, made by a squadron from Nantes in January last, which burnt many of our vessels trading to the Peninsula. For these you were also instructed to demand redress.

It is hoped that the government of France, regarding with a prudent foresight the probable course of events, will have some sensibility to its interest, if it has none to the claims of justice, on the part of this country.

On the French decree of the 28th of April, 1811, I shall feel sure to make any observations which have already occurred, until all the circumstances connected with it are better understood. The President approves your effort to obtain a copy of that decree, as he does the communication of it afterwards to Mr. Russell.

Have the honor, &c. &c.

JAMES MONROE.

(Signed)
Jed Barlow, esq. &c.

The monsters at Hampton.

With feelings that cannot be uttered, we devote a considerable portion of the present number of the *Register* to publish and preserve a body of facts and evidence regarding the proceedings of the enemy at Hampton, that will forever disgrace the *British* name. Shuddering humanity outlaws the finished villains.

If it were possible that these outrages could be aggravated, that aggravation might be found in the conduct of certain *Americans*, so lost to honor and honesty, so destitute of the feelings of men or patriots, and so much debased by a vile party spirit of engulphed in a *foreign influence*, as to palliate, justify or impudently deny, the verity of those facts occurring in the *Cheapeake*, that have stamped the *British* with an excess of the barbarisms of the dark ages, without that chastening spirit of chivalry that protected *woman*, lovely woman, from the brutalities of the times.

Take the following as *specimens*—the first is extracted from a paper well celebrated as having published the "*analysts*," alluded to by *John Henry* in

his letter to sir James Craig, dated at Boston, April 13, 1806 (see *WEEKLY REGISTER*, vol. 2, page 24.) The other, commencing with "*calumny refuted*," is from a gazette, that, through party in opposing one man, seems as much lost as the other.

"A second fault, which is more criminal and quite as foolish, is the attempt made by men of all ranks in the pay or employment of government, to throw an imputation of unusual and unexampled cruelty on the officers and nation of the enemy. This may suit the wicked and corrupt views of those men who wish to alienate the minds of the people from a nation with which we are more naturally connected by the ties of common origin, religion, freedom, community of laws, similitude of manners, and conformity of interests, than with any other nation on the globe!

"We pronounce this attempt *foolish and wicked*—and indeed more *false* than either.

"It is *foolish*, because that nation has a character established of several centuries duration. It is not in the compass of the *paltry and mean and base and false* reports of unofficial letters, or in the still more wicked, undefined insinuations of messages and public reports, to undermine or destroy that *brightest trait in the character of Britons*, (we say it though they are our enemies) of *habitual generosity and humanity*. If the American officers have imbibed this spirit—THEY EXHIBITED IT FROM THE ILLUSTRIOUS EXAMPLES OF THE WARRIORS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

"The moral and religious character—the temper and tone of that whole nation, has rendered it impossible that their military or naval men, should be other than *magnanimous and humane*."

"*Calumny refuted*—We are happy to have it in our power to state, on UNQUESTIONABLE AUTHORITY, that the reports of the brutal conduct of the British at Hampton, the abuse of females, &c. are unfounded."

I cannot condescend to offer any other comment on these extracts than by referring the reader to the documents and statements that follow; and to declare this fact—that the officers, aye, the British officers, on several occasions where they have landed on the shores of the Chesapeake, have descended to the *swarest pilferings*, and have really been "SPOTT STEALERS." The fact is stated to me on what I am assured is "unquestionable authority." I have no more doubt of its truth, than that I myself "live, move and have being," for its character is sustained at all places.

They have wantonly and without military object, burned *Havre-de-Grace, Frenchtown, Georgetown and Fredericktown*;—they have conflagrated many separate dwellings, in the prodigality of cruelty;—they have plundered and destroyed every species of property within their reach; the officers giving the lead, superadding to common robbery the fury that belongs to a *banditti*—but the outrages at Hampton were wanting to give a finishing stroke of distinction on infamy, to these candidates for d—n—n, and consummate their guilt.

The enormities at Hampton will never be fully known. Their features are of that horrible description that those who suffered will forever conceal them, if concealment be possible: and this will also be the common object of their relatives and friends. There is something in "HAVISHMENT" so opposite to all that is honorable (though it ought not to depreciate the good name of the violently polluted) that no husband, father or brother is willing to have it embodied in history that his wife, daughter or sister was so served. There is a terror in the very term at which sensibility shrinks back aghast; and an uncharitable and uncandid world flies from the sufferer, instead of pouring consolation into the heart of

the innocent victim, or condoling with her friends. She is avoided, as though it were infamous to associate with her—and the gentleness of pity is lost in horror. Hence, as before observed, the extent of the abomination will never be known to the public at large.

There is no doubt, but it was so designed to have treated *Norfolk*—the deserters agree, (so says several accounts from that place) in stating that *Cochran* addressed his men to the following purport—"My brave fellows! We will storm Fort Nelson by dinner, and be into Norfolk to supper. There you will find two banks with a great quantity of dollars, and for your exertions and bravery, you shall have three days plunder, and the free use of a number of fine women, besides a handsome bounty. The inhabitants are very rich."

We cannot trust ourselves to proceed in our remarks at this time. And shall only add a hope, that some secret but terrible revenge, is in store for the accursed barbarians—some signal deed that shall make their punishment as famous as their crime.

From the Norfolk Herald.

We have conversed with several gentlemen of respectability and intelligence, from Hampton, upon the subject of the enemy's conduct after getting possession of that town; we felt great solicitude for the result of our enquiries, for we were unwilling to admit that even an enemy whose conduct in war is characterised by inhumanity, could have committed acts, at the bare mention of which, the blood runs cold, and the heart sickens. But our informants confirm the sad story of the worse than savage brutality of the British soldiery. They affirm that what has been circulated upon the occasion, and what every man of feeling would fain have persuaded himself was but rumor, is substantially correct.

The unfortunate females who had not the means of effecting their escape from the town were literally hunted down by these fiends in human shape, and made the victims of indignity and brutal outrage. These monsters, who are defending "the religion we profess," broke into the church and plundered it of whatever was valuable, even ripping off the velvet which covered the pulpit! And yet we have men amongst us; native Americans, who cannot hear these things alleged against the barbarian foe, without attempting to palliate them! Is it necessary for us to stop to enquire whether his blood hounds are of the English, the French, the Scotch or the Irish breed? Is it a justification of the crime if one man hires the brand with which he brings destruction on another? Or is it the instrument that is accountable for its deeds, and not the hand that uses it?—We shall say no more upon the subject at present. The executive has appointed a committee to investigate it thoroughly. This committee have been to Hampton for the purpose, and we may shortly expect their report.

From the Norfolk Ledger—(a "federal" paper.)

The departure of the enemy from the Roads, as noticed in the preceding article, has restored our intercourse with Hampton, and several citizens of that place have come over to this. These concur in stating that the enormities committed by the British at their landing were nearly to the full extent already stated. A committee has been appointed under the authority of the government, as we understand, in order to ascertain the facts—that this committee had examined a number of persons, and have transmitted their examinations to the Governor. No doubt remains but the public will shortly see a correct statement of these black deeds, which will ever remain an indelible stain on the character of the British nation.

Extract of a letter from Capt. Cooper, of the Cavalry, to Charles K. Mallory, Esq. Lieutenant-Governor, dated Armistead's Hill, near Hampton, July 10, 1813.

DEAR FRIEND—"Your favor of the 7th has just been received through the politeness of maj. Crutchfield who had it forwarded to me at this place. I am surprised to hear that you have among you a man who would endeavor to apologise for the unprecedented villainy and brutal conduct of the enemy in Hampton. He assured of one fact, that which I informed you of in my last was strictly true. [See page 310.]

"You request me to make known to you a few of the distressing particulars in a way which will force conviction upon the minds of the incredulous. I will attend to it, my friend, that you may be enabled to confound such with positive proofs. At present you must content yourself with the following, and believe it as religiously as any fact beyond denial.

"Mrs. Turnbull was pursued up to her waist in the water and dragged on shore by 10 or 12 of these ruffians, who satiated their brutal desires upon her after pulling off her clothes, stockings, shoes, &c. This was seen by your nephew Keith and many others. Another case, a married woman, her name unknown to me, with her infant child in her arms (the child forcibly dragged from her) shared the same fate. Two young women well known to many, whose names will not be revealed at this time, suffered in like manner. Doctor Colton, Parson Halson and Mrs. Hopkins have informed me of these particulars. Another, in the presence of old Mr. Hope, had her gown, &c. &c. cut off with a sword and violence offered in his presence, which he endeavored to prevent, but had to quit the room leaving the unfortunate victim in their possession, who no doubt was abused in the same way. Old Mr. Hope himself was stripped naked, pricked with a bayonet in the arm and slapped in the face; and were I to mention a hundred cases in addition to the above, I do not know that I should exaggerate.

"The loss of the British as acknowledged by an officer to lieut. Parish, was 120 killed and 90 or 95 wounded, among which was one colonel and captain of marines killed and 3 lieutenants wounded. They have since leaving Hampton taken possession of Old Point Comfort, pitched their tents and sunk wells, for the purpose of watering their shipping. I was at Fort Fields (capt. Cooper's seat) on Wednesday last, and every thing is taken away or destroyed—to give you an idea of their littleness, they actually made a fire under my plough and burnt the stock up. My dear friend, I am sorry to say that this county is nearly ruined. You among others will feel the loss materially, five of your negroes have joined them; and I have no doubted but nine-tenths of them will abscond unless the enemy can be driven from the Point. Mr. Cary has lost 11—Mr. Booker 2; Edw. Rudd 1 and several more from Mill creek. Powell at Newport News has lost 8—old Ma. Skinner every one he owned and many others in like manner—they are going off every day; this is too bad—

"The former of these gentlemen acted as surgeon to the detachment lately stationed at Hampton, and is a young gentleman of the first respectability; the latter is president of the academy at that place, and stands deservedly high in public estimation—Mrs. Hopkins also, is a lady of very high respectability, and of the most unquestionable veracity.

"This worthy old gentleman is bowing beneath the pressure of age, being near 70 or older; has a numerous family, most of them sons now in the service of their country.

There is a company of them formed, uniformed and trained to arms regularly—they however as well as their employers are not to be dreaded. Three deserters state that they are about to sail for New London with a view of attacking that place, and that they can muster 4000 men in this fleet. Excuse this scrawl; it is now near twelve o'clock and all around me sleeping—Capt. Servant's riflemen and 17 of my troop forming a small detachment under my command, are stationed at capt. Armistead's house, where I have to keep a vigilant look out to prevent their catching me, as they say they want to lay their hands on Cooper of the cavalry."

Extract of a letter from a Lady in Norfolk to her friend in New-York, dated 1st July, 1813.

"I have this moment heard, from authority which cannot be doubted, that admirals Warren, sir James Beckwith, and the vile monster, Cockburn, told their men, that if they would take Norfolk, and burn it, they should have twenty-five pounds a piece, three days' plunder! and all the pretty women as long as they wanted!!!—that upon their taking Hampton, the British forced all the women to their purposes, and then attempted to stab them; and did stab one, but did not kill her—they were prevented from doing the unfortunate maiden this favor. One of the young women that was served in this horrid manner is now dangerously ill. Married men were forced from their wives,

The admirals then permitted their men to strip these unhappy women naked, and with drawn bayonets, drive them through the streets before them. Most of these unfortunate females (now rendered wretched for life, by the *Bulwark of our Religion*) are well known, and are beautiful beyond description. Women were flying in all directions, with children in their arms, pursued by these savages. It is an eternal stigma on the British character. My heart bleeds for these unfortunate females. Will not the thunderbolts of heaven strike these wretches, and clear the earth of such monsters. The companies at Hampton could not protect themselves. The Hamp-tonians opposed the enemy with only five hundred men to four or five thousand—of the British force seventy were killed and one hundred wounded. The British and French landed together. They made an attempt on Norfolk, but we sunk five of their barges, and killed great numbers on their landing."

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in Charleston, dated Gosport, June 30th, 1813.

"It would shock you to hear of the outrages committed on the poor defenceless women. Miss ——— was seen in the hands of 28 soldiers, and forced by the whole of them!!! She is now at the point of death, and attended by Dr. McIntire, who has no hopes of her recovery."

YORK, 4th July, 1813.

SIR—Anxious to effect, as early as possible, the objects of the flag entrusted to us by you, on the 1st inst. we proceeded immediately after receiving your despatches, for admiral Warren and general Taylor, to Hampton. On our arrival at the latter place, some difficulty arose in procuring a vessel to convey us to the British fleet; and after some delay, we were compelled to embark in a small, open, four-oared boat, the only one it seemed, which the fury of the enemy had left capable of floating. We proceeded to the fleet of the enemy with the utmost dispatch which our little skiff, and the excessive heat of the day would permit; and when distant from the admiral's ship about a half mile, were met and hailed by a barge of the enemy, the officer of which was informed we had despatches for admiral Warren. We were invited into the barge, which invited

tion we accepted, as well to relieve ourselves from the confinement on board our little vessel, as to lighten, as much as possible, the burthen of our oarsmen; and to proceed with as much expedition as was practicable to obtain the objects of our mission.

On our arrival at the admiral's ship (the *St. Domingo*) we were directed to proceed to the "Sceptre," a line of battle ship, on which we were informed, admiral Cockburn had recently hoisted his flag. Arriving along side of this ship we were desired by the officer of the barge to ascend the ship. Upon our reaching the deck, we found a large assemblage of officers—certainly a greater number than could be necessarily attached to a single ship. In the space of ten minutes, the two admirals, Warren and Cockburn, approached—to the former we delivered your despatches, who upon perusal, evinced embarrassment, and after a short pause said, that the principal object of the flag appeared to be, to procure supplies for your hospital—he was answered in the affirmative. Could not these supplies have been as easily and early procured from Richmond as from Norfolk? We thought not. The admiral then said he would reflect upon the subject, and return us an answer soon, and retired with admiral Cockburn to the cabin of the ship. A period of about 15 minutes then elapsed, when admiral Cockburn advanced and addressing major Griffin informed him, the admiral would see him in the cabin, the two admirals only with him. Admiral Warren again repeated the opinion that the hospital supplies could be as expeditiously procured from Richmond as from Norfolk—saying it was contrary to their regulations to permit even a flag to go to Norfolk—that it was their intention to land Mr. King, who went with the flag, at Sewell's point, and jointly with admiral Cockburn, expressed an unwillingness to let the flag proceed. They were answered, that if the flag was permitted to proceed, the supplies could be procured sooner than if the flag was compelled to return—certainly in the course of the following day—that if compelled to resort to Richmond, three days, probably more, would pass before the stores could reach Hampton—that our wounded and sick were suffering for medicine and necessaries—that all the medicine, private as well as public property had been wantonly destroyed by the troops who lately captured Hampton, and that the supplies absolutely required for the use of the hospital could not be procured in Hampton. The admiral said he had heard that the hospitals had received some supplies—he was asked from whence, and assured it was not the case—finding the admiral still hesitating, major Griffin said, "that the reputed humanity of admiral Warren forbade major Crutchfield to doubt, that the application for the passage of a flag to Norfolk would be refused"—after a short pause, major Griffin was informed that the flag might proceed upon condition of returning along side the ship, in the same vessel, with the same persons, and with no increase of persons—the restriction to the same vessel was combated on the ground that in the event of much wind, the boat was too small to navigate the Roads, and thus the object of the flag would be defeated—but finding no relaxation in the condition probable, it was determined, upon consultation with Lieut. Lively, to proceed.—Upon the subject of prisoners, admiral Warren acknowledged one only to be in the fleet, taken at Hampton—he declined all arrangement, and avoided all discussion on this topic, saying he had opened correspondence with gen. Taylor, but nothing was decided.

Relative to the officers' baggage captured in Hampton, the admiral said, that such articles as had been found had been restored, and mentioned the papers of capt. Pryor, which had been placed in the care

of capt. Myers, of Norfolk, and assured major Griffin that he would direct Sir Sydney Beckwith to enquire further, and if any should be discovered, it would be made known to us on our return. We were then informed we might proceed, which we immediately did, and reaching Norfolk after 3 p.m. repaired to gen. Taylor's quarters, who directed the supplies written for by the surgeons. Returning on the 2nd, we were, as is customary, again met by a barge of the enemy, and desired to call on board the admiral's ship; we entered the ship with the officer of the barge, and were received by the captain, who enquired if we had despatches for the admiral—being informed we were the returning flag, that had proceeded to Norfolk the day before, the captain retired to the cabin, and shortly returned with information that we might proceed, when we pleased—this we did, and deposited with Dr. Colton, the medical and hospital supplies sent from Norfolk.

Upon reaching Hampton, a scene of desolation and destruction presented itself—the few inhabitants we found in town, seemed not yet to have recovered from their alarm—dismay and consternation sat on every countenance—reports had reached us of the violence and uncontrolled fury of the enemy, after they obtained possession of the places—their conduct in some cases being represented such as would have disgraced the days of Vandalism—our feelings were much excited, and we deemed it our duty to pursue the inquiry as far as practicable, and are sorry to say, that from all information we could procure, from sources too respectable to permit us to doubt, we are compelled to believe that acts of violence have been perpetrated which have disgraced the age in which we live. The sex hitherto guarded by the soldiers' honor escaped not the rude assaults of superior force, nor could disease disarm the foe of his ferocity. The apology that these atrocities were committed by the French soldiers attached to the British forces, now in our waters, appeared to us no justification of those who employed them, believing, as we do, that an officer, is, or should be, ever responsible for the conduct of the troops under his command.

We have the honor to be, sir,

Your humble servant,

THOMAS GRIFFIN,
ROBERT LIVELY.

(Signed)

Major, Sta. Crutchfield,
Commandant, York.

[It may be well to add (for the use of those who require it) that Messrs. Griffin and Lively are gentlemen of the first respectability. The former was late a "federal" member in Congress.—Rzo.]

To the editor of the Richmond Enquirer,

Sir—Having just returned from Hampton, where I made myself acquainted with all the particulars of British outrage, whilst that place was in their possession, I am requested by many persons to communicate through you, to the public, the information I have given them. I do this with no hope or expectation of satisfying those who required other testimony than major Crutchfield's or captain Cooper's—I too well know that there are those among us, who will still doubt or pretend to doubt.—But as I believe this class to be few in number and insignificant in the public estimation; as I firmly believe that a large majority of all political persuasions, are open to conviction and feelingly alive to their country's wrongs; I cannot withhold from them the facts, whose simple recital will according to their different temperaments, inflame them with rage or fill them with horror.

My name you are at liberty to give to the public, or only to those who inquire for it, as you think proper. I have reason to believe that those who know me, whether federal or republican, will know and acknowledge that I am incapable of publishing a falsehood—and I aver, that every statement inconsistent with the following, no matter on whose authority it is made—is untrue—in proof of which I solemnly undertake before the world to establish every fact contained in it, provided any gentleman will sign his name to a denial of either of them.

I went to Hampton with a determination of enquiring minutely into the truth of reports, which I hoped, for the honor of a soldiers profession and of human nature, to have found exaggerated. In the investigation I resolved to depend on the second-hand relation of no one, where I could mount to the original source of evidence—but since in some cases this was impracticable, I feel it a duty carefully to distinguish the one class from the other.

That the town and county adjacent was given up to the indiscriminate plunder of a licentious soldiery, except perhaps the house where the headquarters were fixed, is an undeniable truth. Every article of valuable property was taken from it. In many houses not even a knife, a fork or a plate was left. British officers were seen by doctor Colton in the act of plundering a Mr. Jones' store. His house, although he remained in town, was rifled, and his medicine thrown into the public street just opposite where many officers took up their quarters, who must have been eye witnesses of the scene. The church was pillaged and the plate belonging to it taken away, although inscribed with the Donor's name. The wind-mills in the neighborhood were stripped of their sails. The closets, private drawers and trunks of the inhabitants were broken open and scarcely any thing seemed to be too trifling an object to excite the cupidity of these robbers. Several gentlemen informed me, that much of their plunder was brought into the back-yard of Mrs. Westwood's house where sir Sidney Beckwith and admiral Cockburn resided. But I had no opportunity of seeing this lady, who it was said would testify to the fact. In short, Hampton exhibits a dreary and desolate appearance which no American can witness unmoved. Doctor Wardlaw and Mr. John G. Smith, of this city, visited it in company with me; and their indignation was equal. They, and every one who saw and heard what I have stated, united in execrating the monsters who perpetrated these enormities; and political distinctions, if any excited, were lost in the nobler feelings of pity for the sufferers, and a generous ardor to avenge their wrongs.

Here it may be necessary to notice a publication I have this moment read in the Alexandria Gazette of the 13th, where among other things it is said on the authority of a "gentleman who was in Hampton the day after its evacuation by the enemy," that it was believed there "that nearly all the plundering was committed by the negroes;" and that he saw many "articles brought to the magistrates which had been secreted in negro-houses."—That some plundering may have been committed by the negroes who (as I was told) were embodied and paraded through the streets, is probable enough—that the expression of such an opinion may have been heard in Hampton, is likewise probable—but I utterly deny, that it is believed there, by any person worthy of credit that "nearly all the plundering was committed by them." Let the gentleman, then, who gives this account, state from whom he derived his information. Let him give the name of the magistrates who received the plunder thus found, and his own; and let him declare what were the main arti-

cles he saw brought in. I will not directly hazard the assertion, but I am very much inclined to believe, there were not magistrates in the town at the time spoken of, unless parson Holson, Doctor Colton or captain Wills are magistrates; and with all these gentlemen I conversed, and heard not a whisper countenancing the statement in the Alexandria paper. How it is known that the negroes "had the address," first to impose on the British commanders, and then the American troops, which "induced them to retreat to York," and have Hampton to be plundered by these artful rogues, that gentleman is left to say—but that the American troops did not retire to York, in consequence of such information, is undoubtedly true. Nor is it less true that capt. Cooper's troop arrived in time to prevent any plundering of the least consequence, after the evacuation—and in time too to prevent—what many gentlemen there believed to have been a plan concerted between the black and white allies—the firing of the town.

That "admiral Warren expressed his regret that the inhabitants of Hampton had not all remained, as in that case no plundering would have happened," is possible enough; since it admits the fact of the plundering, and is conformable with the answer given to captain Wills, who complained to Cockburn and Beckwith of the destruction of his private property. "Why did you quit your house?" said these honorable men. "I remained in my house," answered doctor Colton, "and have found no better treatment."

That Kirby, who for seven weeks or more had been confined to his bed and whose death the savages only a little hastened, was shot in the arms of his wife, is not denied. Those who wish for further confirmation may go and take him from his grave, and weep, if they can feel for an American citizen, over his mangled body. They must go to his wounded wife, and hear her heart-rending tale, and then they may turn to the account of the gentleman and derive consolation from the excuse (*which I never heard*) "that it was done in revenge for the refusal of the militia to give quarters to some Frenchmen who were on board a barge that was sunk by our troops who continued to fire on the almost drowning men when making for the shore." This vile slander on our troops will I have no doubt be met in the proper manner by the gallant officer who commands them at Norfolk—but the worst is to come.

I conversed, with a lady whose name is mentioned in captain Cooper's letter, in company with parson Holson, doctor Colton and captain Wills. Her story was too shocking in its details to meet the public eye. When I had convinced her of the object I had in visiting her—that it was dictated by no impertinent curiosity, but a desire to know the whole truth—to enable me, on one hand, to do justice even to an enemy, or on the other, to electrify my countrymen with the recital of her sufferings—she discovered every thing which her convulsive struggle, between shame and a desire to expose her brutal assailants, would permit. This woman was seized by five or six ruffians—some of them dressed in red and speaking correctly the English language—and stripped naked. Her cries and her prayers were disregarded, and her body became the subject of the most abominable indecencies. She at one time made her escape and run into a creek hard by, followed by a young daughter; whence she was dragged by the monsters in human shape to experience new and aggravated sufferings. In this situation she was kept all night whilst her screams were heard at intervals by some of the Americans in town, who could only clasp their hands in hopeless agony.

Virginian! American! friend or enemy of the administration or of the war! go as I have done to this woman's house and hear and see her. See too her young daughter on the bed of sickness in consequence of the abuses of that night! and your heart, if it be made of "penetrable stuff," will throb with indignation and a thirst for revenge, and your hand instinctively grasp the weapon for inflicting it.

A Mrs. Briggs related to us, that a woman who had come to Hampton to visit her husband who was in the militia, was taken forcibly from her side by four soldiers in green, and with her young child, which one of them snatched from her arms, borne to the hospital in spite of her screams.—They had previously robbed them of their rings and attempted to tear open their bosoms. A Mrs. Hopkins, who was not in town when I was there, obtained the assistance of an officer and rescued the woman from her ravishers; but not until one of them had gratified his abominable desires.

I was told by the gentleman who accompanied me that Mrs. Hopkins confirmed this statement, and would swear to at least two other cases of a similar kind, without however giving up the names of the young and respectable women who suffered.

Doctor Colton and captain Wills, assisted by an officer, rescued another lady from the greatest of all calamities.

Old Mr. Hope, aged as he told major Crutchfield (in my presence) 64 or 5 years, was seized by those wretches and stripped of all his clothing, even of his shoes and his shirt. A bayonet was run a little way into his arm behind, as if in cruel sport; while several were held to his breast. In this situation he was kept for a considerable time, and would probably have been another victim of their rage, if their attention had not been diverted to a woman, who had sought refuge in his house. They followed her into the kitchen, whither she had run for safety. Mr. Hope made off amidst her agonizing screams, and when he returned to his house he was told by his domestics that their horrid purposes were accomplished.—This I had from him.

How far this violation extended, will never be known. Women will not publish what they consider their own shame; and the men in town were carefully watched and guarded. But enough is known to induce the belief of the existence of many other cases, and enough to fire every manly bosom with the irrepressible desire of revenge.

I am not disposed to tire the public patience or I could tell of enormities little inferior to the above. But the enemy are convicted of robbery, rape and murder—and it is unnecessary to add to the catalogue of their crimes.

Men of Virginia! will you permit all this?—Fathers and brothers, and husbands, will you fold your arms in apathy and only curse your despoilers? No you will fly with generous emulation to the unfurled standard of your country.—You will imitate the example of those generous spirits, who are even now aroused tendering their services to the commander in chief: who are pouring from their native mountains and soliciting to be led against the enemy wherever he dares to show his face.—You will prove yourselves worthy of the impartial honor, that the enemy has conferred upon you, in selecting you as the object of his vengeance. You will practice for a time yourselves to the art, a knowledge of which the enemy has made necessary.—You will learn to command; to obey; and with "Hampton" as your watch word—to conquer.

We expected to add to the preceding the official enquiry and report made to the governor of Virginia, we have it confirms all we have heard—but a copy has not yet reached us.

Events of the War.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is positively stated, that the senate has refused to ratify the nomination of Mr. Gallatin as one of the ambassadors of the United States to negotiate with Great Britain; but they have confirmed the appointment of Messrs. Adams and Bagard. The ground of objection is said to be, that no man ought to hold two such offices as Mr. Gallatin possesses.—The principle is a good one; but on a former important and similar occasion, Mr. Jay, while chief justice of the United States, was, in like manner, appointed an envoy to Great Britain, by President Washington. The acts of Mr. Gallatin will be valid until he is notified of the rejection of the senate.

Defence of New York. A line of torpedoes are prepared to be stretched across the Narrows, at a very short notice, so as "to blow up the most if not all the vessels passing by forts Richmond and Hudson." The forts on the Narrows are also much strengthened—they will shortly mount upwards of 100 of the heaviest cannon.

The Packet communication between New-Haven and New-York has not been interrupted. New-Haven is not included in the British blockade.

The Connecticut militia, lately at New London, were discharged, because, though they were expected to be paid by the United States, it was refused that they should be considered as drafted under the authority of the United States. The council of state was to have met at Hartford on the 20th inst. with a supposed object of considering a new requisition made by gen. Burbeck.

After the cartel ship Robert Burns had cleared out for Liverpool, under charge of the marshal of New York, a number of letters were smuggled on board, which were seized by that officer, and sent on to Washington city.

It is undoubted that an active correspondence exists between the British on the sea coast and their friends on the shore.

The brig lately arrived at Portland, direct from Liverpool, had 800 packages of British goods; all which were permitted to be bonded!

Invention.—Some folks—at Boston—lately made a very straight story about an insurrection of the blacks in South Carolina, who had killed 3 or 400 of the whites; but the latter collected and defeated them in a great battle, not far from Charleston, where 1200 negroes were killed and taken!—"In enemy has done this!"

"We would respectfully solicit the *pious* men to explain to us the difference between waging war with sub-marine machines, and with aerial destructive weapons—fighting under water or fighting in the air? The British, too cowardly to meet us on shore (except where they are certain of finding little or no opposition) like men and soldiers, send us *Congreve rockets* to burn our towns and habitations—we, in return, dispatch some of our *Torpedoes*—to rub the copper off their bottoms."—[Aurora.

Portsmouth, July 15.—The surgeon of the privateer Sword Fish, (which was captured and carried into England) who arrived at Boston, in a cartel from England informs us, that while he was at Portsmouth, the Cornwall, 74, arrived there from a foreign station—that at the time of her arrival she had on board 30 impressed American seamen—that a part

of them requested to be considered as prisoners of war, and refused to do duty; that in consequence, they were put in *irons*, and ordered to be fed on bread and water. The British officer suspecting that they had been advised to this step by the surgeon of the *Sword Fish*, ordered him between decks, nor was he again permitted his usual liberty till he embarked in the cartel. We are also furnished with the names of one hundred and thirteen Americans, who had been impressed, who have been sent on board the *St. Antonio*, prison ship,—two of them had been enslaved eighteen years in the British service, and the others from a half to fifteen years. There was about 800 prisoners on board the ship. It had been considerably sickly; about thirty had died; provisions were bad in quality, and scant—half pound of beef and 1½ pound bread per day; two days in the week they had one pound pickled herring or other fish, and one pound potatoes, was their allowance. From 5 o'clock p. m. to 6 o'clock a. m. the prisoners were confined under hatches. Mr. Beasley the American agent for prisoners, paid little or no attention to the situation or wants of the prisoners; was but once on board the *St. Antonio* during 7 months, and then made no enquiries respecting them.

MILITARY.

Attack on Black Rock. On the morning of the 11th inst., "a British force of about 330 regulars, crossed the Niagara river, and landed below Black Rock, and moved up towards that place, when they were discovered by our men (about 200 militia) who at once fled in different directions. The enemy set fire to the barracks, block-house, &c. spiked several pieces of cannon, and took a quantity of flour, salt &c. (said to be 400 barrels) and four field pieces, 6 pounds. While engaged in getting off the property, they were attacked by a force consisting of regulars, militia and Indians, who had come down from Buffalo, and who poured in a successful fire upon the foe, killing a considerable number—nine were left dead on the shore, besides a captain mortally wounded. Our loss, one killed, and three wounded, two of whom are since dead. Although the retreat of the enemy was precipitate, they succeeded in taking away the above property, which was doubtless their object in crossing over."

Our force that drove off the enemy, appears to have been about 100 regulars, 150 drafted militia and volunteers and 20 or 30 Indians. We took 15 prisoners. Captain *Sanders*, of the 49th reg. (who was mortally wounded, but conveyed with great tenderness to gen. *Porter's* house) says that colonel *Bishop* was badly wounded, and that several killed and wounded were carried into the boats. The Indians behaved exceedingly well; were quite tractable, and committed none of their usual barbarities—they did not scalp the dead. Maj. *King* was at Black Rock, and assisted in the affair. Our regulars were raw recruits, and few of those engaged had ever seen an action before.

The day after the affair at *Black Rock*, 200 regulars arrived there from *Erie*.

Gen. *Dearborn* has nearly regained his health and the troops at *Fort George* are well reported of.—The *Baltimore* volunteers are stationed as a guard at *Fort Schlosser*.

The army at *Fort George* remained inactive, a war on the outposts excepted, of various success, but of great use to our raw troops in accustoming them to the business of battle. It appears that the British re-occupy the *Niagara* frontier.—It is probable no attempt will be made against them until after the long-looked for contest on the lake, between *Chauncy* and *Yeo*, on which the present success of either

party depends. It is stated that the British have lately launched three vessels at *Kingston*; and we are not without our fears that they are considerably the strongest—but their precise force is not known to us.

"Col. *DUANE* has not been nominated a brigadier-general; and his appointment of adjutant-general for the Pennsylvania district is confirmed by the senate.

"JACOB BROWN, of New-York, and ROBERT TAYLOR, of (Norfolk) Virginia, are appointed and confirmed by the senate, brigadier-generals in the service of the United States." *N. F. paper.*

The following extract of a letter from an officer at Sackett's Harbor to his friend in this town, relative to the attack on that place, will be read with pleasure, at least by those acquainted with the persons alluded to.

Plattsburg Rep.
"Major Aspinwall had arrived the preceding night with a handful of Yankees—he met the enemy advancing from Horse-Island. (the dismounted dragoons under major Leval assisting); and fought a gallant battle; but retired gradually from an immense superiority of numbers. Two of the gunboats ranged up the shore and covered the field with showers of grape. Maj. Aspinwall forced back and directed his men to occupy the intervals between the barracks. Gen. Gray advanced to the barracks, calling to his men, "come on my boys—remember York—cut the dam'd rascals' throats." &c. A drummer of Aspinwall's, 16 years old, advanced up to him and shot him dead. At that moment the brave lieutenant Fanning, [of the artillery, who was severely wounded at York] crawling along and leaning on his piece, came up and discharged 3 rounds of grape into their faces, coolly telling his men that as he could not run it would be as well to fight. At this time Aspinwall, (the hero of the day) got three cheers from his men, and the enemy's bugles sounded a retreat. They were not pursued, gen. Brown thinking they were manœuvring to flank him. All were astonished to find they had re-embarked."

Gen. Wilkinson arrived at Milledgeville, (G.) on the evening of the 6th, on his way to the headquarters of the N. army. He passed through the Creek nation without interruption.

From the Ogdensburg Palladium of July 7.

A flag from Ogdensburg crossed to Prescott on Saturday last. The commanding officer (col. *Piereson*) politely gave the following general order to one of the gentlemen of the flag, who handed it to us for publication.

Head-Quarters, Kingston, June 28.

GENERAL ORDERS.—The commander of the forces has great satisfaction in announcing to the army, that a report has just been received from brig. gen. Vincent, of a most judicious and spirited exploit achieved by a small detachment of the 49th regt. amounting to 46 rank and file under lieutenant Fitz Gibbon and a band of Indian warriors, which terminated in the defeat and entire capture of a considerable detachment of the American regular army, under the command of lieutenant col. *Bearster* of the 14th United States regt. after sustaining considerable loss.

Lieut. Fitz Gibbon on reconnoitering the enemy's position, and finding him too numerous to oppose with his small force, with great presence of mind kept him in check, while he sent and summoned him to surrender in the name of major *Le Baren*, and which he was fortunately enabled to enforce by the prompt and timely advance of the light division of that officer, by whose vigorous co-operation, the capture of the enemy's force consisting of 1 lieutenant, 1 major, 6 captains, 15 inferior officers, 25 sergeants,

2 drummers, 462 rank and file, one 12 pounder, one 6 pounder, field piece, and a stand of colors, was effected on the field.

Not a single British soldier is reported to have fallen on this occasion. The Indian warriors behaved with great steadiness and courage, and his excellency has great satisfaction in learning that they conducted themselves with the greatest humanity and forbearance towards the prisoners after the action.

By his excellency's command,

E. BAYNES, Adj. Gen.

NAVAL.

Capt. Capel, of La Hogue, has destroyed several licensed vessels—we wish him every success in catching them. Congress have a bill before them to outlaw such ships, and Capt. C. may do US great service in carrying it into effect.

Two vessels have arrived—one at *Boston* and the other at *New Bedford*, by which we have a concurring account of a severe cannonade being heard at sea, on the 28th of June, in lat. 41, 52, long. 53, 50, western edge of the Grand Bank. One of these vessels was boarded from the *Bellerophon*, of 74 guns, on the 27th of June, in company with a frigate. It is positively stated that it was the 74 that was engaged, (for the frigate was seen standing towards her after the action,) but the distance was so great that nothing further could be known. The firing commenced at 40 minutes past 10 o'clock and lasted till nearly 1 o'clock, with an interval of about 20 minutes only. [The *Bellerophon* has since boarded another vessel that has arrived; but the officer said nothing of the supposed engagement.]

Naval notice.—By the capture of the United States frigate *Chesapeake* and the sudden prostration of captain Lawrence and all his officers, the private signals of the navy of the United States have fallen into the hands of the enemy, and, in order to multiply the chances of intelligence to the absent ships of the navy, through the circulation of the public prints, this notice is given. The public agents of the United States in foreign countries, and citizens traversing the ocean, are respectfully requested to communicate this information.

Navy Department, July 14.

Norfolk, July 17.

"The enemy in North Carolina.—Several letters from Elizabeth City and verbal information, assure us that on Monday last 2 brigs and 2 schooners, with 30 barges of the enemy came into Ocracoke, (several ships which could not pass the bar lay out side) when they captured the brig *Anconada* privateer of New York, and schr. *Atlas*, of Philad.; from the latter there had been landed about 100 pipes of brandy and all the silks. The enemy are said to have landed troops at Shell-Castle, and at Portsmouth opposite, to the amount of 2000, which must be much exaggerated.

"The inhabitants of Elizabeth City were making preparations for resisting an attack."

The Erie Flotilla. The [Philadelphia] Democratic Press, of Wednesday last, says—"We understand that the anchors of the two 20 gun brigs which were launched about a month ago at Erie, left this city on Monday."—[Is this possible?]

A letter to the editor, dated the 14th inst. says, "A privateer of 2 guns and 50 men sailed from *Sackett's Harbor* last night on a cruise."

The following statement of the naval forces on lake Ontario, is from the *America*—for other particulars, see the present vol. of the *REGISTER*, pages 133 and 220—

"As the public appear to look forward with much solicitude to the issue of the contest which, it is believed, is about to take place, between the adverse

fleets on lake Ontario, a statement of the forces on each may not be unacceptable.

AMERICAN.	Guns.	BRITISH.	Guns.
Frigate Gen. Pike	32	Frigate Gen. Wolf	36
Ship Madison	24	Ship Royal George	22
Brig Oneida	18	Prince Regent	16
10 sch'rs. carrying	long	Brig Earl Moira	12
32's and 24's, &c.		7 schooners of 6 or 8 guns each.	

"The forces being so nearly balanced, we can look for victory only to the superiority of our seamen, and the talents of their highly distinguished commander."

BLOCKADE OF NEW-LONDON.

The British, with five barges, made an attack upon *Sag Harbor*, near the east end of Long Island, on Sunday morning the 11th inst. but were gallantly beaten off by the inhabitants.

Things at *New-London* remain nearly as they were. The militia of the neighborhood have frequent skirmishes with the enemy's barges, and generally defeat their purposes.

New-York, July 18. Yesterday afternoon the smack *Resolution* arrived at this port from Stonington. The captain of the smack informs, that on Thursday last he saw several ships of war going out towards Montauk Point, and heard they were bound to Halifax. They had taken several horses from the Islands on board their ships. A ship of the line and frigate off Faulkner's Island at anchor on Thursday evening, and no other enemy's ships in the Sound.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman on board the Ramilies 74, dated July 9th, enclosed to a gentleman in this city.

"You will come down Long-Island about 80 miles, and then get on board a fishing smack, which will put you on board the *Ramilies*. Our barges go on shore at Providence almost every night unmolested." [The letter contains other matter, which it would at present be improper to publish.]

BLOCKADE OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

☞ See "Monsters at Hampton" page 332.

The enemy had been in the practice for some time past of coming on shore frequently, near the light house, on Cape Henry, where they had sunk wells and obtained a partial supply of water, and also plundered the inhabitants. About 50 of the Princess Ann county militia, commanded by captain Robert Lawson determined to "correct the procedure," and fixed themselves in ambuscade behind some sand hills, within about forty yards of the wells. A barge with 26 men came on shore early in the morning of the 14th, and all hands proceeded to the watering-place. When they arrived, capt. Lawson perceiving the disparity of their force, called out to them to surrender; for which one of the lieutenants levelled a carbine at his head, and fired; it missed. The militia then gave them a full round—three marines were killed, one lieutenant, two seamen and two marines wounded. They were panic struck and fled to the boat without further resistance; were pursued and made prisoners, sustaining no other hurt. The boat was destroyed; a brass cannon and every thing on board that could be removed, were taken away. The prisoners, 2 lieutenants, 16 seamen and 5 marines, have arrived at Norfolk. The wounded have been taken care of. None of our people were injured.

A small vessel has been seized and sent to *Baltimore* under the suspicion of having traded with the enemy; and a man has been put into our jail charged with having been a pilot on board the *St. Domingo*, Warren's ship. FIAT JUSTITIA.

The enemy in the Potomac.—The whole force of the enemy that entered the *Potomac*, appears to

have been 6 ships of 74 guns, 1 of 64, 7 frigates, 3 brigs, and 8 smaller vessels; in all *twenty-five* sail. A part of the force was within 70 miles of *Washington*; they ascended very carefully, taking soundings and fixing buoys to mark the channel. They made very few landings, but were repulsed by the militia on all occasions. The whole shores of the river were lined with brave spirits, and such preparations made at *Washington* as would, in all human probability, have secured the destruction of the foe, if fairly in contact. The patriotism of the people was equal to the emergency. We have the rumor of several skirmishes on shore, and one with the gun-boat squadron, of which we are not sufficiently informed at present to give the detail; but they are of no general importance except to exhibit the spirit of all classes of citizens. On *Wednesday* last, the enemy were retiring down the river; for what cause or with what views cannot be conjectured.

The works of *Fort Washington*, late called *Fort Warburton*, a few miles below *Washington* City, on the *Potomac*, are in the best possible situation; it has about 20 guns, 18 and 32 pounders, that bear immediately upon the channel the whole range of the shot; there is also a water battery of eight 32 pounders, advantageously placed, and other works constructed or constructing. *The British will not burn the Capitol*, at present.

An official report of the killed and wounded in *Hampston* has just been received and are as follows:—

James Madison, John Adams, James Brunham, Armager Parsons, Carter Longeat, Tyler Crockett and John Power, killed. Fountain Dickerson, Thomas Garter, John D. Barr (slightly,) Nathan Campbell, Joseph Biggens, Robert Halbert, John Parrot, Landa Lindsey (since dead,) Aaron Tennis (since dead,) Karter Hunt (slightly,) Thomas Parsons (slightly,) John Charles (slightly,) Thomas Watkins (slightly,) Richard Waugh and James Holloway, wounded. Henry Robinson, prisoner.

American Prizes.

WEEKLY LIST—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 311.

"The winds and seas are Britain's wide domain,
And not a sail, but by permission spreads!"

British Naval Register.

489. Brig *Union*, from Ireland, laden with provisions, sent into *Abravrehe* (France) by the *True Blooded Yankee*.

490. Ship *Aurora*, from Belfast for London, sent into *Roscoff* (France) by the same.

491. Ship of 20 guns, chased on shore on the coast of Africa, by the *Rambler*, of Bristol.

492. Ship *Integrity*, from Waterford to Lisbon, captured between Waterford and Cork, by the *True Blooded Yankee*, and carried into Norway.

493. Brig *Avery*, from Mogadore, 12 guns, laden with gums, almonds, beeswax, skins, &c. sent into New Bedford, by the *York Town*; valued at 200,000 dollars.

494. Ship *Susan*, from Liverpool for Gibraltar, captured by an American privateer, and sent into *Murcenos*, France.

Proceedings of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, July 16.—Mr. Nelson reported a bill, "supplementary to the act to encourage the destruction of the armed vessels of war of the enemy" [appropriating \$3000 to carry it into effect]—which was twice read and committed.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill

to lay a duty on imported salt. Which after some amendments was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. It lays a duty of 20 cents per bushel on salt imported, but grants the usual bounties and allowances in favor of the fisheries, &c.

The engrossed bill laying duties on licenses to retailers of wines, spirituous liquors and foreign merchandize, was read a third time, and passed by the following vote:

For the bill

84

Against it

46

The engrossed bill laying duties on notes of banks, bankers and certain companies; on notes, bonds and obligations discounted by banks, bankers and certain companies; on bills of exchange of certain descriptions; was read a third time; and

On motion of Mr. Bibb, the bill was ordered to lie on the table.

The house then went into secret session, and so remained until they adjourned.

SECRET PROCEEDINGS.—The house having yesterday, previous to adjournment, removed the injunction of secrecy as to their proceedings the two past days, it appears they were as follows:

Thursday, July 15.—Mr. Stuart submitted the following preamble and resolution for consideration:

"Whereas the seat of the general government, from the unprepared and defenceless state of the district of Columbia, is in imminent danger, if an attack should be made thereon; and whereas the fleet of the enemy is understood to be within a few hours sail of the capital; and whereas the immense value of public property exposed to destruction, the great value of the public records and other deeply interesting considerations render it peculiarly important that any invasion of the metropolis should be met with vigor and successfully repelled; whereupon

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this house, a distribution of such arms as are in the possession of the government within the district should be immediately made, to be placed in the hands of all able bodied men within the district willing to be embodied, liable to perform military duty, and also in the hands of such members of this house as may be willing to receive them, to act against the enemy in any manner not incompatible with their public duties."

And a question being taken whether the subject matter of the said proposition requires secrecy, it was determined in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Mr. Rhea that the said proposition do lie on the table.

For the motion

64

Against it

74

A motion was made by Mr. Gholson, to strike out the preamble, and carried in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Mr. Burwell, to refer the motion to the military committee.

For the motion

74

Against it

44

And the doors were then opened.

Friday, July 16.—Mr. Tronp, from the military committee, made the following report:

The committee on military affairs, to whom was referred a resolution of yesterday, having relation to the present movements of the enemy, report,

That they have examined into the state of preparation, naval and military, made to receive the enemy, and are satisfied that the preparation is in every respect adequate to the emergency, and that no measures are necessary on the part of the House to make it more complete.

On motion of Mr. Grosvenor, the report was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Bibb, the injunction of secrecy

was removed from the proceedings of yesterday and to day.

Monday, July 19.—Mr. Nelson offered certain resolutions having for their object the encouragement of private armed vessels in cruising against the enemy, which were referred to the naval committee.

The following tax bills were received from the senate with amendments to each, to wit:

Laying duties on sales at auction,
Do. licenses to distillers,
Do. sugar refined in the United States,
Do. carriages.

The bill laying a duty on imported salt, was read a third time, and being on its passage, an indefinite postponement was moved for—lost, ayes 65, nays 37—the bill was then passed, ayes 90, nays 55.

Monday, July 19.—The amendments of the senate to the tax bills were concurred in.

The engrossed bill laying duties on notes of banks, companies, bankers, &c. was read the third time and passed by ayes and noes.

For the passage of the bill	81
Against it	46

Tuesday, July 20.—After a variety of other business, the house went into a committee of the whole on the invalid pension bill, and made some progress therein. It was finally ordering to a third reading.

A bill fixing the next meeting of congress to the first Monday of December, was ordered to the third reading—which was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Calhoun moved for the consideration of the report of the committee of Foreign Relations on the President's message, transmitting a report from the secretary of state on Mr. Webster's resolutions. This motion was lost.

Ayes	62
Noes	74

Wednesday, July 21.—The house of representatives were engaged nearly the whole of the day on business of a confidential nature. Before the doors were shut, Mr. Nelson from the naval committee, reported a bill allowing a bounty to privateers, which was twice read and committed.—The galleries were then cleared, on motion of Mr. Calhoun, and the doors remained closed until a late hour, when the house adjourned.

[For Thursday's proceedings see last page.]

Annoyance of the Enemy.

[Omitted last week.]

It is established, that we have the ablest seamen, and the fastest sailing vessels in the world. There is nothing equal to the pilot-boat-build schooners of the *Cheapeake*. Their plan approaches so nearly perfection, that many of the best experienced declare it attained. Fitted out as *privateers*, they have "bearded" the most excellent ships of the enemy, without loss. Not one of them has been taken in a fair chase, though frequently chased. Some of them have been at sea for four months, during which they ascertained the character of every vessel they saw; overhauling or escaping from them at pleasure. Yet those schooners, converted into merchantmen, and lumbered with goods, have been captured; as well because the best trim of the vessel was lost by the "dead weight" of the cargo, as because they were destined to certain points known to the enemy, and watched. This wonderful perfection has been obtained by many years progressive improvement and experience, and should be exerted to the utmost for "free trade and sailors' rights." The British do not know how to manage our sharp built

vessels; and the greater part of those they have taken are new rigged as brigs, or laid aside like useless lumber. A late London paper says, that government has ordered a survey of those lying at *Plimouth*, "with a view to ascertain their capabilities." But they are a kind of *edge-tools* that none but old workmen may handle; and will become the *coffins* of many British seamen, if they put them into commission, and attempt to do with them the same feats that our seamen perform; as experience has wofully proved.

It is an universally accepted principle of national law, that a belligerent may do all possible things to injure the commerce of its enemy. Great Britain has always acted on this principle, even to the destruction of the *ogier boats* and *wood flats* in our bays and rivers. However meanly we may think of the "noble Briton" that descends to such exploits, when we compare his conduct with that of our privateersmen, we do not complain of them; for they are acts of legalized war. And, as the commerce of Great Britain is the life-blood of her resources, let us assail it in every way that may lead to its diminution; and at *Lloyd's Coffee-House* attack her most vulnerable point.

Many things have conspired to check the spirit of privateering. It is sufficient merely to state the fact. But the effect may be easily continued and widely extended. Let 50 or 60 of the fastest sailing vessels we have, or that can be built, be in the employ of the government; armed with 10 or 12 heavy guns, and from 100 to 120 men. Give them "roving commissions," with orders to remain 12 months at sea, unless driven into port by stress of weather, to "sink, burn and destroy" all that they can. Never to attempt the sending in of prizes, but under some peculiarly favorable circumstances, but to "down" with every enemy vessel they meet, with all possible dispatch; taking out only the gold and silver, if any they have, with the men, and provisions and water as they have room for them. Let the prisoners be landed, or otherwise got rid of, the first opportunity, that they may not encumber the vessel, taking the proper receipts and vouchers for them. To compensate for the loss of prize money, the officers and crews might be allowed a bounty proportioned to the property destroyed, to be regulated on some established principle, by law; and being liberally supplied with spare canvass, spars and rigging, they might, by "quartering on the enemy," generally remain at sea 10 or 12 months, and so avoid the risk of coming on a coast where the enemy is expected. The cost and maintenance of five or six of these vessels would not exceed that of one frigate; and, as we have no idea of beating the British navy, or driving it from the sea, either of them would be nearly as efficient to harass the foe. If one of them were taken, the national honor would not be wounded; but they would be more apt to escape than a frigate, not only on account of the celerity of their movement, but because they would attract less attention. By not maiming prizes they would retain their physical force, the ordinary chances of war and the voyage excepted; and one of them might amuse a gun brig, with a convoy, while another sent the ships "down cellar." Such a force would do more harm to England than 10 sail of the line—it could not be guarded against—it could not be blockaded—it could not be checked. It would also be the nursery of heroes; and afford a body of men capable of any thing that men can do; and the vessels might be sent to sea in a few weeks.

Such are the opinions of many of our ablest seamen—and we hope that congress may take the matter into consideration and adopt the general plan,

with such regulations as superior wisdom may direct. We are at war, and would pursue every lawful means to end it honorably.

Mediation of Russia.

[Omitted last week.]

It is not a little remarkable that the *British* papers that spoke of our frigates as being manned by "outlaws and bastards," and predicted the disappearance of the American flag from the sea, in 6 months, with the destruction of all our principal cities, &c. and those who make the greatest clamor about "peace" in the United States—the war party in England, and the "peace party" in America, unite in wishing that the mediation of *Russia* may fail of its object, in producing a good understanding between the two countries. This is strange, but it is true; and the people will think of it.

It is perfectly understood, that the instructions to our envoys are so liberal and just, that *Great Britain* must accede to them: if she has a thousandth part of that regard for "liberty and law" her friends attribute to her. It was the decided opinion of Messrs. Gallatin and BAYARD, that their mission would terminate favorably; either in producing an honest peace—or in uniting the people of the United States in the war.

The late *London* papers afford nothing whereon to form a conclusion as to the policy the *British* government means to pursue, in this matter. The reports (and we have nothing but reports) are contradictory—but we have no hesitation in believing that, if the mediation of *Russia* was not actually requested by *Great Britain*, it will be promptly accepted, and immediately acted upon.

It is really disgraceful to observe the conduct of many in the United States who cry "peace, peace," and yet "labor in their vocation" to depreciate the measures pursued to obtain it. If the government had not accepted the proposition of *Russia*, what a clamor would those folks have raised, against the "blood hounds at Washington" for neglecting so great an opportunity to have existing differences adjusted by a common friend! But the readiness of the executive in acceding to the proposal, having stifled that cause for outcry in its birth, these men wheeled about and ridiculed the prospect and procedure. One would have thought, that the junction of Mr. Bayard to this mission might have assured all honest men that no party business entered the consideration—and his acceptance should have taught moderation to those who consider themselves his political friends.

Whatever may be the fate of the embassy, we shall rejoice that our government appointed it. It shews their desire for peace, on honorable terms; and laughs to scorn *Benedict Arnold's* old charge of "French influence." Besides, it has tested the sincerity of those who call themselves the "friends of peace," and will finally tell us "who is who," and divide the people into two parties only—at present, we have three: "republican," "federal" and *British*.

These observations were made as preparatory to a record of the following paragraph, from a leading gazette of the *United States*; which nineteen

"The following famous toast was drunk not among a parcel of 'beer-drinkers' in a kitchen at *St. James'* but a public festival in the United States, sometime before the declaration of war—

"The blood hounds at Washington—they open loudly on the British lion, but they dare not bite him."

out of twenty would have supposed extracted from the *London Courier*:

"The report that the British government have refused to send commissioners to *Russia* to meet Mr. Gallatin, [and why not Messrs. Gallatin and BAYARD?] is by no means improbable. We do not believe that they will ever consent to submit to arbitration, the only question [impressment—according to this writer] upon which we are at present at issue. The desire of our friendship, or the dread of our enmity cannot induce them to renounce a principle essential to their political existence. Any modification in the exercise of an acknowledged right, [of searching for men, and taking them at discretion. It is false that this 'right' was ever 'acknowledged'—IT NEVER WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED. There is no American villain enough to put his name to a paper that shall acknowledge it. It would place us below the level of African slaves; a state which, thank Heaven, we are not yet prepared for,] which is, however, liable to abuse, that might secure our interests, without detriment to theirs, could be easily arranged without recourse to a mediation. The right [Britain may claim the 'right' as much as she pleases—we only care that she shall not exercise it. Old George called himself (until his ministers purchased the Irish parliament) the 'king of France'—and the French laughed at it. So he may wage his 'right'—we shall not 'acknowledge' it; and if he does not steal men, we are content. Thus he may compromise with his intolérable pride, itself will never be made a subject of discussion."

Interesting Correspondence.

Public Spirit of North Carolina.

Letter from Calvin Jones, Major-General in the state of North Carolina, to the Governor of Virginia.

Raleigh, July 9, 1813.

SIR—By an address in the enclosed paper, your excellency will perceive that I am about to raise a corps to aid in the defence of the coast of Virginia. I take the liberty of addressing you thus to enquire whether the aid of this corps is desirable to Virginia, and whether the species of force proposed to be raised is such as in your opinion is best calculated for the contemplated service. Cavalry would have been preferred here, could suitable arms have been obtained, but broad swords are not to be had in the state. Will you also inform me whether this corps could obtain sabres on loan from the state of Virginia, on ample security being given that they shall be returned when the term of service expires? I am not now sure they will be wanted. That will depend much on the opinion which may be entertained by the members of the corps, and by military men acquainted with the force already assembled, and the nature of the service. There may exist objections to a corps raised for so short a term of service. With men who are to become soldiers me-

"The following is from a *London* paper of May 25—its concord with the preceding, shews a prevalence of the same spirit on both sides of the water.—"Some American papers to the 18th ult have been received; they are not of great importance. Mr. Gallatin and Bayard are certainly gone to *Russia*, to open a negociation for peace, under the mediation of *Russia*. It is strange that they should set out before they have ascertained whether the mediation will be accepted by us or not. On that point there cannot, we apprehend, be any doubt—commit our naval rights to the mediation of a foreign power? We hope and believe no British minister would entertain such an intention for a moment."

chanically, this opinion would have great force; but, in a corps, where it is hoped every individual will do his duty from a sense of honor, its force would be greatly lessened. It was not thought politic to propose a longer term, as it might tend to lessen the number of the volunteers; yet, it is believed that when they have served the three months, the greater proportion will be willing to prolong the term.

Your excellency will have the goodness to favor me with an answer as soon as practicable, and I beg you to be assured of the great respect with which I am your obedient servant,
CALVIN JONES.
His excellency Gov. Barbour.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Richmont, July 15, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor, under date the 9th current; with your address to the citizens of North Carolina, by which I am informed of your intention to raise a corps of volunteers whose object is, to tender their services for three months to Virginia, to aid in her defence against the ruthless and barbarous foe, who has so long waged against us a species of warfare, as cowardly, as it is base and barbarous.

This tender, sir, is accepted. Riflemen (not mounted) will be the most acceptable force. If, however, rifles cannot be procured with you, for the volunteers, they shall upon their arrival at Norfolk, have good muskets, at least. Should you succeed in organizing the force contemplated, you will have the goodness to repair to Norfolk, and report yourself to Gen. Taylor. It is important that we should be immediately advised of the number you calculate upon.

I should do great injustice to our feelings were I to withhold an expression of our grateful acknowledgments for your affectionate and magnanimous conduct. Nor do the emotions it inspires, flow altogether from selfish considerations. We see in the part you are acting, that spirit which bound us together as a band of brothers, during the revolution, and carried us in triumph through that glorious conflict; and which, can it be kept alive, will give, under Providence, immortality to our confederated republic, the last hope of man.

I have said that the enemy has carried on a war base and barbarous. He has desolated private property, he has put to death the sick and the unresisting, and he has indulged in the most brutal violence on our females. Such conduct cannot but irritate the avenging hand of heaven. "The almighty has no attribute which can take side with such an enemy."

We turn with disgust and horror, from this foul blot in the character of man, and dwell with peculiar complacency, upon your generous friendship, so ennobling to our nature, enhanced by the honorable mention you make of the aid furnished you by our fathers, in the hour of your distress, and the acknowledgment that the mingled blood of the heroes of Virginia and North Carolina is the cement of our connexion.

I tender to you, and your brave and patriotic companions, my warmest wishes, for your welfare.

JAMES BARBOUR.

Gen. CALVIN JONES,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Impressed Seamen.

Every day more and more convinces us that the extent of the horrors of impressment by the British of American seamen, was not fully known. Thou-

sands have perished in the service of the vile man-stealer, and thousands yet remain in his servitude.—Some have been magnanimously discharged, but held as prisoners of war. Four hundred were thus dismissed from the *Tonkin* fleet alone, and more than double that number in all probability remain. The following from the *Essex* [Massachusetts] Register, will command attention.

"Captain JACOBUS UPTON, Jr. (late commander of the privateer brig *Hunter*) who arrived in the cartel *Admittance*, which left London on the 1st of June, informs, that on the same day they were boarded by a boat from Plymouth, and were informed that news had been received in Plymouth that day, of a second grand battle between the allied armies and the French, in which the latter were victorious. Captain U. informs that the American prisoners confined on board British prison ships in England, universally complain of bad treatment. There are many American masters and mates on board the prison ships and no distinction shewn them. The officers of private armed vessels are not allowed a parole unless their vessels actually mount fourteen carriage guns at the time of capture, and Captain Upton, who commanded a fine new brig, but threw his guns over during the chase, was confined on board the prison ships, although the captain of the frigate that captured him made every exertion to obtain his parole. The prisoners are turned below at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and confined till 8 o'clock in the morning. The people on board these ships have actually sold the greater part of their clothes to buy provisions.

Captain Upton has furnished us with a list of 128 American seamen, who had been impressed on board British ships of war, and delivered up as prisoners of war, with the places of their nativity, the ships they were discharged from, the time they have served, and the number of Americans left on board the different ships at the time of their discharge. These were on board one prison ship, the *San Antonio*. Besides these, there are on board the *Chatham* prison ships 320 men who have been delivered up on similar circumstances. Many of these poor fellows had been detained more than 15 years, and about 45 of the 128 on board the *San Antonio* belong to this state. We shall publish this list in our next for the information of their friends. The method of ascertaining these men to be Americans adopted on board the British ships was, when a seaman requested as an American to be considered a prisoner of war, rather than fight against his country, he was severely flogged for several days successively, and if he bore it manfully he was given up as an American—if not he was kept on duty."

The list alluded to has been received, and shall be inserted at length. The statement gives the names of the 128 seamen, with the places of their nativity—the ships they were discharged from, and the number of Americans that were left on board these vessels. The vessels named are 47—the Americans left 174. At *Portsmouth* and other places as well as at *Chatham*, there are great numbers of this description of prisoners, that an honorable enemy would never have retained.

THE CHRONICLE.

By an arrival at the eastward, we have Paris dates, via London, which state that on the 24th of May information was received in Paris of an ARMISTICE having been concluded between the French and allied powers, preparatory for a GENERAL PEACE. Ministers are to attend this great assembly from England, Russia, Prussia, France, America, Den-

mark, Austria, Sweden, and the Spanish Cortes. It is added, expressly, that Napoleon will treat only on the basis of the treaty of Utrecht.

The duke of Istria (Bessieres) was killed by a random shot, the day before the great battle of Lutzen. For fifteen years he had fought by the side of Napoleon, and was much beloved by him. He commanded the Imperial guard, and was reconnoitering when killed.

The empress had received advices from the army, that on the 20th of May the emperor had gained another victory over the allies at Bautzen.

On the 18th of May the French head quarters remained at Dresden. Ney had advanced to Bautzen (75 miles from Lutzen) and probably had the battle with the allies at that place on the 20th. The report of an armistice is probably true, and peace between France and Russia, at least, may be expected.

The arrival of Bernadotte in Germany is announced. Austria is said to have joined the allies—the emperor of Russia and king of Prussia had gone to Ploegne.

South America.—A Spanish frigate, having three hundred troops on board, and military stores, to aid the royalists, lately went into Santa Martha, conceiving it to be in possession of that party. Immediately on anchoring she fired a salute, which was returned by the fort, but the independents, being aware of her mission, shortly after opened the guns of the fort on the frigate, totally dismantled and obtained complete possession of her, when all the troops were landed and placed in prison.

Died lately at Champlain, Vt. Lewis Barney, aged 105 years. He had 24 children by one wife.

An ewe, at Croyden, Mass. produced ten lambs at two litters, in the springs of 1812 and 1813.

"Forward."—Daniel Debelitz, at Cincinnati, Ohio, advises tavern keepers and others, that he had received a supply of good red wine, superior to the common Bordeaux claret, which he offers at 2 dollars per gallon. He further says that he will be supplied with "white and Madeira wines." This wine is produced at New Switzerland, Indiana Territory, where the vine-yards are in the most prosperous state. The cultivation is rapidly extending on the shores of the Ohio, and has every prospect of soon reaching the demand. How delightful is it to behold the opening resources of our country; and contemplate the time when all that may satisfy our wants or gratify our appetites, shall be found in the growth and produce of the republic!

St. Francisville, June 10.—The inundation of the Mississippi continues to increase.—The flood is now about eight inches higher than in 1811, and a rise of ten inches is still apprehended. I learn that the extensive and fertile parish of Concordia, is entirely under water, and the inhabitants have retired to the high lands of the Mississippi territory for safety.

The country between this place and New-Orleans, is more generally flooded than has been known for 30 years; all the slaves are withdrawn from the fields, to watch the levees, in order to save the country from universal destruction. Serious apprehensions are entertained for the safety of New-Orleans. The loss of property cannot be estimated, but it will exceed 20,000,000 of dollars.

The Torpedo.

To the editor of "The War."

Sir—Agreeable to your request, I transmit to you a statement of facts relative to the explosion of the schooner Eagle, which I presume will forever put to silence the many misrepresentations which have been afloat respecting that affair. Having been the au-

thor of the plan, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to state to my fellow citizens the motives by which I was actuated, and the manner in which the plan was fixed and executed; and I leave it to my countrymen to approve or condemn the act.

My relatives in the state of Ohio and on the frontiers are numerous—they have suffered much by Indian hostility, excited by the British mandates, and the blowing up of the brave Pike and his band of heroes, after the enemy had actually surrendered, was to my mind, an act of such horrid cruelty, that it called loudly for retaliation. These are the principal reasons which induced me to contrive the following plan, which has succeeded in destroying upwards of one hundred of the enemy.

Ten kegs of powder were put into a strong cask, with a quantity of sulphur mixed into it. At the head of the cask was fixed two gun-locks, with cords fastened to the triggers, and to the underside of the barrels in the hatchway, so that it was impossible to hoist the barrels without springing the locks each side of the powder—and on the top was placed a quantity of turpentine and spirits of turpentine, which in all probability was sufficient to have destroyed any vessel that ever floated on the water, if she could have been got alongside, which was the object in view. The Eagle left this place for New-London on the 15th of June, and in eight or ten days after, she arrived within sight of the enemy, about 11 o'clock A. M. The enemy sent a barge with 20 oarsmen, and as many more in the bow and stern of the boat, to take possession of her. Capt. Riker, who commanded the Eagle, states that the enemy got within musket shot, and that a number of shots were exchanged before they abandoned the vessel, and when the enemy got possession, he worked for two hours to get her alongside of the Ramilies, 74; but the wind dying away, and the tide being against them, is supposed to be the reason of her not being conducted alongside; and that when the vessel blew up, four boats were seen alongside—and it is the opinion of captain Riker, and a number of others who were very near the scene, that there could not have been less than 100 men on board and alongside. Some suppose the number to have been 120. After the explosion, there was not a vestige of boats or men to be seen. A boat from the 74 was immediately dispatched, but returned without picking up any thing. The body of fire appeared to rise upwards of 900 feet into the air, with a blue streak on the outside, and then burst like a rocket.

The above, as near as I can recollect, is the substance of the Eagle's cruise, and of the plan, which you are at liberty to give to the public, in such way as you shall think fit. Your obedient servant,

JOHN SCUDDER, jun.

New York, July 9th.

POSTSCRIPT.

Major Chepin, [captured with col. Baerster,] with the company that was under his command [volunteers, we believe] has made his escape from Canada, and arrived at Niagara. They rose upon their guard and beat them. We have no particulars.

The House of Representatives sat with closed doors on Thursday—the subject before them unknown, but presumed to relate to war-measures.

There is nothing of importance from the British in the Potomac. A large party had landed on the Virginia shore opposite Blackstone's island. The reception they met with is not yet known. They appear to be going down the river. The militia are on the alert.