





# THE WAR.

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

Vol. I.

NEW-YORK... SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1812.

No. 7.

**THE WAR,**  
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## Address of the MINORITY IN CONGRESS.

[In a few days after the Declaration of War, the following was published as the sentiments of the members in the minority, on the close of the recent session of Congress, and addressed to their Constituents:]

*The undersigned Members of the House of Representatives, to their respective Constituents.*

A Republic has for its basis the capacity and right of the people to govern themselves. A main principle of a representative republic is the responsibility of the representatives to their constituents. Freedom and publicity of debate are essential to the preservation of such forms of government. Every arbitrary abridgment of the right of speech in representatives, is a direct infringement of the liberty of the people. Every unnecessary concealment of their proceedings is an approximation towards tyranny. When, by systematic rules, a majority takes to itself the right, at its pleasure, of limiting speech, or denying it, altogether;

the importance of questions, is the saddest circumstance of an assembly of debate, a people may be assured, that such practices continuing, their freedom is but short-lived.

Reflections, such as these, have been forced upon the attention of the undersigned, Members of the House of Representatives of the United States, by the events of the present session of Congress. They have witnessed a principle, adopted as the law of the House, by which, under a novel application of the previous question, a power is assumed by the majority to deny the privilege of speech, at any stage, and under any circumstances of debate. And recently, by an unprecedented assumption, the right to give reasons for an original motion, has been made to depend upon the will of the majority.

Principles more hostile than these to the existence of representative liberty, cannot easily be conceived. It is not, however, on these accounts, weighty as they are, that the undersigned have undertaken this address. A subject of higher and more immediate importance impels them to the present duty.

The momentous question of war with G. Britain is decided. On this topic, so vital to your interests, the right of public debate, in the face of the world and especially of their constituents, has been denied to your representatives. They have been called into secret sessions, on this most interesting of all your public relations, although the circumstances of the time and of the nation, afforded no one reason for secrecy, unless it be found in the apprehension of the effect of public debate on public opinion; or of public opinion on the result of the vote.

Except the message of the President of the United States, which is now before the public, nothing confidential was communicated. That message contained no fact not previously known. No one reason for war was intimated, but such as was of a nature public and notorious. The intention to wage war and invade Canada, had been long since openly avowed. The object of hostile menace had been ostentatiously announced. The inadequacy of both our army and navy for successful invasion, and the insufficiency of the fortifications for the security of our seaboard, were

everywhere known. Yet the doors of Congress were shut upon the people. They have been carefully kept in ignorance of the progress of measures, until the purposes of administration were consummated, and the fate of the country sealed. In a situation so extraordinary, the undersigned have deemed it their duty by no act of theirs to sanction a proceeding so novel and arbitrary. On the contrary, they made every attempt in their power to attain publicity for their proceedings. All such attempts were vain. When this momentous subject was stated, as for debate, they demanded that the doors should be opened.

This being refused, they declined discussion; being perfectly convinced, from indications too plain to be misunderstood, that, in the house, all argument with closed doors was hopeless; and that any act, giving implied validity to so flagrant an abuse of power, would be little less than treachery to the essential rights of a free people. In the situation, to which the undersigned have thus been reduced they are compelled, reluctantly, to resort to this public declaration of such views of the state and relations of the country, as determined their judgment and vote upon the question of war. A measure of this kind has appeared to the undersigned to be more imperiously demanded, by the circumstance of a message and manifesto being prepared, and circulated at public expense, in which the causes for war were enumerated and the motives for it concentrated, in a manner suited to agitate and influence the public mind. In executing this task, it will be the study of the undersigned to reconcile the great duty they owe to the people, with that constitutional respect, which is due to the administrators of public concerns.

In commencing this view of our affairs, the undersigned would fail in duty to themselves, did they refrain from recurring to the course, in relation to public measures, which they adopted and have undeviatingly pursued from the commencement of this long and eventful session; in which they deliberately sacrificed every claim to satisfaction, to the best interests of the country.

For a succession of years the undersigned have from principle disapproved a series of restrictions upon commerce, according to their estimation, inefficient as respected foreign nations, and injurious chiefly to ourselves. Success in the system had become identified with the pride, the character, and the hope of our cabinet. As is natural with men, who have a great stake on the success of a favourite theory, pertinacity seemed to increase as its hopelessness became apparent. As the inefficiency of this system could not be admitted by its advocates, without ensuring its abandonment, ill success was carefully attributed to the influence of opposition.

To this cause the people were taught to charge its successive failures, and not to its intrinsic imbecility. In this state of things the undersigned deemed it proper to take away all apology for adherence to this oppressive system. They were desirous, at a period so critical in public affairs, as far as was consistent with the independence of opinion, to contribute to the restoration of harmony in the public councils, and concord among the people. And if any advantage could be thus obtained in our foreign relations, the undersigned being engaged in no purpose of personal or party advancement, would rejoice in such an occurrence.

The course of public measures, also, at the opening of the session, gave hope that an enlarged and enlightened system of defence, with provision for security of our maritime rights, was about to be commenced; a purpose which, wherever found, they deemed it their duty to foster, by giving, to any system of measures, thus comprehensive, as unobstructed a course as was consistent with their general sense of public duty. After a course of policy thus liberal and conciliatory, it was cause of regret that a communication should have been purchased by an unprecedented expenditure of secret service money; and used by the chief magistrate, to disseminate suspicion and jealousy; and excite resentment among the citizens, by suggesting imputations against a portion of them, as un-

merited by their patriotism, as unwarranted by evidence.

It has always been the opinion of the undersigned, that a system of peace was the policy which most comported with the character, condition, and interest of the United States; that their remoteness from the theatre of contest, in Europe, was their peculiar felicity, and that nothing but a necessity absolutely imperious should induce them to enter as parties into wars, in which every consideration of virtue and policy seems to be forgotten, under the overbearing sway of rapacity and ambition. There is a new era in human affairs. The European world is convulsed. The advantages of our situation are peculiar. "Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humour, or caprice?"

In addition to the many moral and prudential considerations which should deter thoughtful men from hastening to the perils of such a war, there were some peculiar to the United States, resulting from the texture of the government, in no small degree experimental, composed of powerful and independent sovereignties, associated in relations some of which are critical as to us as novel, should not be hastily precipitated into situations calculated to put to trial the strength of our moral bond, by which they are united. Of all states that of war is most likely to call into activity the passions, which are hostile and dangerous to such a form of government. Time is yet important to our country to settle and mature its recent institutions. Above all, it appeared to the undersigned from signs not to be mistaken, that if we entered upon this war, we should be as a divided people; not only from a sense of the inadequacy of our means to success, but from moral and political objections of great weight and general influence.

It appeared to the undersigned, that the wrongs, of which our States have to complain, although

in many instances, imputable to our pride, were yet of a nature which, in the present state of the world, either would not justify war, or which war would not remedy. Thus, for instance, the hovering of British vessels on our coasts, and the occasional insults to our ports, imperiously demanded such a systematic application of harbour and sea-coast defence, as would repel such aggressions, but in no light can they be considered as making a resort to war, at the present time, on the part of the United States, either necessary or expedient. So also, with respect to the Indian war, of the origin of which but very imperfect information has as yet been given to the public. Without any express act of Congress, an expedition was, last year, set on foot, and prosecuted into the Indian territory, which had been relinquished by treaty, on the part of the United States. And now we are told about the agency of British traders, as to Indian hostilities. It deserves consideration, whether there has been such provident attention, as would have been proper to remove any cause of complaint, either real or imaginary, which the Indians might alledge, and to secure their friendship. With all the sympathy and anxiety excited by the state of that frontier; important as it may be, to apply adequate means of protection against the Indians, how is its safety ensured by a declaration of war, which adds the British to the number of enemies.

As "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind" has not induced the two houses of Congress to concur in declaring the reasons, or motives, for their enacting a declaration of war, the undersigned and the public are left to search, elsewhere, for causes either real or ostensible. If we are to consider the President of the United States, and the committee of the house of Representatives on foreign relations, as speaking on this solemn occasion, for Congress, the United States have three principal topics of complaint against Great Britain. Impressments; blockades; and Orders in Council

(To be Continued.)

\* Washington.

## OFFICIAL.

BY WILLIAM HULL,

*Brigadier General and Commander of the North Western army of the United States :*

## A PROCLAMATION.

## INHABITANTS OF CANADA !

After thirty years of peace and prosperity, the United States have been driven to arms. The injuries and aggressions, the insults and indignities of Great Britain have once more left them no alternative but manly resistance or unconditional submission. The army under my command has invaded your country ; the standard of the Union now waves over the territory of Canada. To the peaceable unoffending inhabitant, it brings neither danger nor difficulty. I come to find enemies, not to make them. I come to protect, not to injure you.

Separated by an immense ocean and an extensive wilderness from Great Britain, you have no participation in her councils, no interest in her conduct. You have felt her tyranny, you have seen her injustice. But I do not ask you to avenge the one, or to redress the other. The United States are sufficiently powerful to afford every security, consistent with their rights and your expectations. I tender you the invaluable blessing of civil, political and religious liberty, and their necessary result, individual and general prosperity ; that liberty which gave decision to our councils, and energy to our conduct in a struggle for independence, which conducted us safely and triumphantly through the stormy period of the revolution—the liberty which has raised us to an elevated rank among the nations of the world ; and which afforded us a greater improvement, than ever fell to the lot of any people. In the name of my country, and the authority of government, I promise you protection to your persons, property and rights ; remain at your homes ; pursue your peaceful and customary avocations ; raise not your hands against your brethren. Many of your fathers fought for the freedom and independence we now enjoy. Being children therefore of the same family with us, and heirs to the same heritage, the arrival of an army of friends must be hailed by you with a cordial welcome.—You will be emancipated from tyranny and oppression, and restored to the dignified station of freedom.—Had I any doubt of eventual success, I might ask your assistance, but I do not. I come prepared for every contingency—I have a force which will break down all opposition, and that force is but the vanguard of a much greater—If, contrary to your own interest and the just expectations of my country, you should take part in the approaching contest, you will be considered and treated as enemies, and the horrors and calamities of war will stalk before you. If the barbarous and savage policy of Great Britain be pursued, and the savages are let loose to murder our citizens and butcher our women and children, THIS WAR WILL BE A WAR OF EXTERMINATION. The first stroke of the tomahawk—the first attempt with the scalping knife, will be the signal of one indiscriminate scene of desolation. No white man found fighting by the side of an Indian will be taken prisoner—instant death will be his lot. If the dictates of reason, duty, justice and hu-

manity cannot prevent the employment of a force which respects no rights, and knows no wrong, it will be prevented by a severe and relentless system of retaliation. I doubt not your courage and firmness—I will not doubt your attachment to liberty. If you tender your services voluntarily, they will be accepted readily. The U. States offer you peace, liberty and security. Your choice lies between these and war, slavery and destruction.—Choose then ; but choose wisely ; and may he who knows the justice of our cause, and who holds in his hand the fate of nations, guide you to a result the most compatible with your rights and interests, your peace and happiness.

By the General,

A. P. HULL,

*Captain of the 13th United States regiment of Infantry and Aid-de-camp. Head quarters, Sandwich, July 12, 1812.*

WILLIAM HULL.

The following copy of a letter received at the Navy Department will serve to relieve the anxiety which has generally been felt for the fate of the United States' frigate CONSTITUTION, Capt. Hull, since the report of her having been chased by a British fleet, on her passage from Lynnhaven Bay to an Eastern Port :—*Nat. Int.*

*Constitution, at Sea, off Nantucket, July 20, 1812.*

SIR,

The Constitution is on her way to Boston for your orders, having been chased by a British squadron off New-York and very near been taken. The chase continued three days and nights, by a line of battle ship, four frigates, a brig and a schooner.

I shall call off Boston and write from there, and continue cruising in the bay until I hear from you.

Respectfully,

ISAAC HULL.

Hon. PAUL HAMILTON,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

## GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD-QUARTERS, Boston, }  
July 21, 1812. }

Having been authorised by the President of the United States to accept the offer of any Company or Companies of Volunteers, either of Infantry, Cavalry or Artillery, who may organize themselves for the service of the U. States, in conformity with the act of Congress of February 6th, 1812, and the supplementary act of July 6th. inst.—

I hereby give notice, to all such Americans as possess a sufficient degree of patriotism and military ardor, at this interesting crisis, to volunteer their services in the defence of their country—that as soon as a sufficient number of able bodied citizens shall associate and subscribe their names to an enrolment in conformity to the beforementioned acts, with suitable characters as officers, and shall transmit to me, at Albany, State of New-York, a copy of their enlistment, with the names of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, their services will be accepted ; and the officers will be commissioned by the President of the United States, and the non-commissioned officers and privates, when called into service, will be armed and equipped at the expense of the U-

nited States ; and will retain their arms when discharged from service. A company must consist of one Captain, one first Lieutenant, one second Lieutenant, one Ensign, four Sergeants, four Corporals, two Musicians, and not less than sixty-six privates. When a sufficient number of such companies are formed, they will be organized into Battalions, Regiments, Brigades and Divisions.

II. DEARBORN.

*Major-General U. S. Army.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

JULY 16, 1812.

Subjects of his Britannic majesty, at present within the United States or their territories, desirous of proceeding thence to any part of the dominions of his said majesty, and wishing to procure passports at the Department of State for their greater security, are hereby notified, that before obtaining the same, they must furnish to said department a description of their persons, to wit :—Their age, their stature in feet and inches, their complexion, the colour of their hair, and of their eyes ; all which particulars will be inserted in their passports respectively, for their better protection.

## THE WAR.

NEW-YORK :

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 8, 1812.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Montgomery is in type.

Our Ontario correspondent will find his object anticipated.

Other favors on hand, will be attended to.

D. B. is referred to our prospectus for the cause of the Union.

A Yankee, just come to hand, remains for consideration.

Alonzo's original Song, is no original. We do not wish to be imposed on. We have given him credit for other pieces as original : if he has deceived us, he will be treated according to his deserts.

## SUMMARY.

On the night of the 11th July, General Hull crossed the river Detroit, at the head of two thousand men, and proceeded about two miles to the town of Sandwich, from which the British retreated on his approach : here General Hull fixed the standard of the United States, and published the Proclamation copied in a preceding column. 600 of the Michigan militia have joined the General. A disposition prevailed among the Canadian militia to return to their homes, and several had already done so. The Indians waited but to see the strong side, when they will conduct themselves according to circumstances ; much seemed to depend on the intended attack of Fort Malden. Our troops were in high spirits and eager to be led to the attack.

*Flints.* From a report lately made to General Bloor held by the Hon. Samuel L. Mitchell and Doctors Fendegast and Ross of the U. States army, it appears that plentiful "magazines of Shes, suitable for the manufacture of flints," have been discovered on Musconucuck, near Schooley's mountain, in New-Jersey. We will give the official report as soon as room will permit.

The governor of Nova-Scotia has by proclamation ordered all subjects liable to military duty, viz. those between the ages of eighteen and fifty, to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice.

*New London, July 22.* Captain Wood, of the engineer corps, (we learn with pleasure) has arrived here for the purpose of superintending and directing repairs on the old fortifications at Groton, and if thought proper, to add new works for the defence of the harbor.

Brigadier-general Armstrong has arrived in this city, and on Monday took command of this post and its dependencies. General Bloomfield has returned to his station at Trenton.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY PROMOTIONS.

Captain Bainbridge has been appointed to the command of the frigate Constellation.

Captain Christopher R. Berry, appointed to superintend the navy-yard at Charleston, in place of Captain Bainbridge.

General Dearborn, appointed to command the army at Greenbush.

Col. Boyd, the brave commander of the 4th regiment of infantry at the battle of Tippacanoe, is to command the eastern district, in place of General Dearborn.

General Armstrong to command in New York, in place of General Bloomfield, who is to command at Trenton.

## NAVAL AND MARINE MEMORANDA.

## ARRIVED.

The privateer schooner Governor M'Kean, from Philadelphia, has captured an English brig from London for La Vera Cruz, with a cargo invoiced at SEVENTY THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING, upwards of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. The prize has arrived at Philadelphia.

At Baltimore, the British brig Lamprey, (midshipman Hadaway prize master) from Jamaica for Halifax, with rum, prize to the United States frigate Essex. She was captured 12th inst. off Bermuda. The day before the Essex saw a fleet of British transports under a convoy of a frigate and two bomb ketches, from Jamaica for Halifax with troops. The Essex dogged them until night, when she cut off a brig with one hundred and fifty soldiers, ransomed the brig for a bill of Exchange of fourteen thousand dollars on London, disarmed the men, took an exchange receipt and oaths from them not to serve until the provisions were complied with.

At Marblehead, the privateer schr. Snow Bird, captain Stacy, from a cruise; brought in with her two English schooners from St. Johns, N. B. for Halifax, with full cargoes, supposed to be of provisions—taken July 22. A schooner which she had taken previously, was off Owl's Head on Friday last.

At Wiscasset, a British schooner with provisions, prize to the Fair Trader.

At St. Marys, the British schooner Wade-Johnson, from Nassau, with pine apples, turtles, and twenty-four thousand dollars specie, and the British schooner ———, Pinder, from same port, with ten thousand dollars, prizes to the gun-boats under Com. Campbell.

At Boston, English ship Anne Green, 460 tons burthen, with rum, coals, &c. carries eight twelve pound carronades and two long 6's, prize to the brig Gossamer.

At Salem, the privateer Buckskin, from a cruise, has captured four British schooners, and retook an American brig, (the Hesper, Isley, from Liverpool for Kennebunk.) One of the British schooners was the Mary-Ann, from Halifax for Quebeck, with military and naval stores, and Col. Pearson and lady, (said to be the daughter of Admiral Coffin) and servants: they remain on board the prize.

At Norfolk, a British brig from the West-Indies, prize to the Paul Jones, of New-York.

At Marblehead, a British schooner with Lumber and naval stores, prize to the Lion privateer.

At New-London, the American brig Nerina from Newry (Ireland) with passengers, she was captured by a British cruiser and recaptured by the passengers.

At Gloucester, the American fishing schr. Four Sisters, taken by the British frigate Maidstone, and retaken by a privateer.

At Salem, privateer schooner Dolphin, capt. Jacob Endicott, from a cruise. The Dolphin has taken seven British vessels, four of which have arrived, viz. a ship, two brigs and a schr. A large barque, with a cargo of flour and naval stores, which she had taken, is supposed to be recaptured, as a British vessel of war was seen in chase of her. A schooner which she took, was released, after taking from her one thousand dollars, and a quantity of furs; the prize, which has not yet arrived, is a schr. from the West-Indies, for Halifax, with a cargo of rum and molasses.

Privateer Buckskin, Bray, from a cruise, having taken four British prizes, and recaptured an American brig. July 17, in sight of Liverpool, captured the schooner Eliza, from Halifax, bound to Liverpool, with a quantity of bottled porter, stores, &c. The crew and passengers were released and sent ashore in her boat. Same day, captured British schr. Union Lass, in ballast, from Newfoundland, for Cape Sable. 15th, captured British schr. Lord Nelson, from Gaspe Bay, for Halifax, laden with dry and pickled fish and furs; took a fishing schooner same day, and gave her up to the officers and crews of the two last mentioned prizes who were released.

At Boston, a British schooner of about thirty tons, with dry goods, sugar and rum, prize to a privateer.

Also, the hermaphrodite brig Nymph, of Newburyport, arrived at quarantine on Monday evening, sent in by a Baltimore privateer, for coming (as is reported) from Martinique, an English island, and having on board English produce.

A great number of other captures are announced, and many of them have we presume arrived. It would be very desirable, as well to avoid errors as to gratify those interested, if the prizes would, on their arrival, be reported by name, &c. This we find in many instances neglected.

## CLEARED.

Baltimore—Privateer schooner Sarah Anne.

Charleston—Privateer schr. Mary Anne.

New-Haven—A small privateer name not mentioned.

New-York—Privateer schooners Marengo, and Eagle.

Salem—Privateer ship John, sixteen guns and one hundred and five men.

## FLAGS OF TRUCE.

The English Ketch, Gleaner, has arrived at this port as a flag of truce, with dispatches, from Halifax and England. Mr. Barclay, the bearer of dispatches, which are said to be of the utmost importance, has proceeded on to Washington.

## LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

SALEM, July 31.

Last evening arrived here a cartel, 7 days from Halifax, with fourteen or fifteen American prisoners, among whom were Mr. John Gardner, late supercargo, and captain Thomas Moriarty, late master of the ship Marquis Someruelos, of this port; captain Norton, late of the ship Maria, of New-York, and captain Young, of brig Enterprize, of Newburyport. The Marquis was from Civita Vecchia, (27th May) with a most valuable cargo, worth to

the owners (Messrs. John and Richard Gardner) at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. But on the 10th of July, in lat. 42 30, long. 65, in a thick fog, fell in with the British sloop of war Atalanta, which captured and carried her into Halifax.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Upwards of sixty privateers have already sailed from the different ports in the United States, and some, after taking as many prizes as they could man, have returned, recruited, and gone out on a second cruise. Sailors repair to the recruiting rendezvous in such crowds that the commanders have, in many instances, been obliged to draw lots who should go on board. The Atlas, Matilda, Governor M'Kean, and Swallow, have sailed from Philadelphia.

The marshal for the district of Massachusetts has published a notice for the trial of fourteen British prizes captured and sent into port by the privateers Jefferson, Dolphin, Fame, and Polly, of Salem—Madison, of Gloucester—and the Snow Bird, and Lyon, of Marblehead. The prizes have been regularly libelled and the trials are to take place on Wednesday the 12th day of August next.

Several valuable vessels have arrived safe in the United States with the proceeds of their cargoes; some of course have been taken, and many of the returning vessels will, we fear, fall into the enemy's hands; but our privateers will probably soon be so numerous as to turn the balance of this trade in our favour. We relate, with pleasure, that but few privateers have yet been captured, and that, when chased, they have generally outsailed the enemy. Among the American vessels captured by the British we notice the following.

Ships Marquis de Someruelos, of Salem, from Civita Vecchia; Oronoko, New York, Lisbon; George, do. Rochelle; Maria, do. Cadiz; Margaret, Plymouth, Belfast; Fortune, Newburyport, Lisbon; brigs Minerva, of Plymouth, from Liverpool; Illuminator, Belfast, Havana; Mary, Boston, Gibraltar; Columbia, do. Lisbon; Enterprize, Newburyport, St. Ubes; Malcolm, Portland, Lisbon; Hesper, from Liverpool; Start, from St. Ubes; schrs. Plymouth, St. Barts; Bellisle, Salem, Havana; Hiram, do. Lisbon; Traveller, of Buckstown:

The schr. Fame, Hunt, from Savannah, for New York, has been captured and burnt, by the British squadron.

## Humanity on both sides.

PORTLAND, July 27, 1812.

We, the undersigned, prisoners on board the U. S. private armed schooner Teazer, commanded by captain E. W. Wooster, do ever consider ourselves as greatly indebted to him for his very kind treatment to us since we have been taken; and should he ever fall into the hands of any of his Britannic majesty's cruisers, we sincerely hope that both him and the officers of the said schooner may receive the same kind treatment.

John M'Killop, H. B. M. brig Plumper.  
John Colston, ship Fanny,  
Win. Taylor, do.  
John Rankin, do.  
John M'Donald, brig Ann.

The privateer schr. Active, Patterson, of 2 guns and 22 men, from Salem, has been taken and burnt by the British frigate Spartan.

With pleasure, we announce that the accounts received of Baltimore riots, and which we gave in our last as we received them, have been greatly exaggerated. The following notice, from the Baltimore Sun, leaves reason to hope that we shall soon be able to lay before the public a correct statement of the affair.—We decline at present inserting any of the additional unofficial and contradictory accounts, which have reached us, respecting this unfortunate occurrence.

“BALTIMORE, August 1.

“The public generally are requested to suspend their opinions on the late occurrences in this city, and not to receive any proper impressions from the erroneous statements which have already gone abroad, as a correct statement of all the circumstances, together with the causes, which produced them, will be laid before the public by proper authority as speedy as possible.”

The Whig of Saturday says: “the tranquillity of this city was never greater than at this moment; and every man determined to support the laws.”

#### FIRST BATTLE WITH THE BRITISH.

The following account was taken from the mouth of a respectable gentleman of Herkimer, who was engaged in the action, and may be relied on, as perfectly accurate. [The account furnished Mr. Cook of Albany by Judge Atwater, is no less so, but does not go into the details.] Our correspondent remarks, in addition to the narrative, that

“Many other particulars are given, such as, that our people on the point opposite the battery saw the splinters fly from the Royal George, near the breeching of the men on board, &c. Capt. Woolsey says, the shot must have perforated her magazine, and if hot, must have blown her up. Alarms were given of the landing of British troops below the harbour, which were unfounded. The inhabitants removed many of their valuable effects, but every one was emulous to excel in serving his country. The British did not know that we had a single gun mounted, till the 32 pounder gave them the information. It appears, they calculated to divert themselves a little on the Sabbath, in a defenceless port—but their anticipated joy vanished in the smoke of our ordnance. The vessels in our harbour were scuttled and sunk, to prevent their being taken; but will be raised without much trouble. From this specimen of Yankee prowess, I imagine a lesson will be taught the royal tygers that they will not soon forget.”

#### ACTION AT SACKET'S HARBOR.

On Sunday morning, the 19th instant, capt. M. T. Woolsey, of the Oneida, lying in Sacket's harbor, discovered from the mast-head of his brig five sail, all British, viz. the Royal George of 24 guns; the Prince Regent, a new ship, supposed of 22; the Elmira of 20; the Seneca, of 18; the name of the other not known; about 5 leagues distant, beating up for the harbor, with the wind dead ahead. The troops were immediately called to arms, and expresses sent to call in the neighboring detachments and volunteers, who arrived in the course of the day to the amount of nearly 3,000. Soon after sun-rise, the Prince Regent brought to and captured the custom-house boat, about 7 miles from the harbor, on her return from Gravelly Point. The boat's crew were liberated and set on shore, with a message to colonel Bellingher, the commandant at the Harbor, demanding the surrender of the Oneida, and the late British schooner

Nelson, seized for a breach of the revenue laws, and fitting for a privateer; and declaring that in case of a refusal to surrender the vessels, the squadron would burn the village, or lay the inhabitants under contribution.—Soon after this, capt. Woolsey left the harbor in the Oneida, and ran down within a league of the squadron; when he returned and moored his vessel on a line with a battery erected last week, with springs on his cables. Capt. W. being the most experienced engineer present, left the Oneida under the command of a lieutenant, and went on shore and took the command of a 32 pounder mounted the day before on the battery, the other guns of which consisted of nine-pounders.

By this time the enemy had arrived within gun-shot, the Royal George, as flag-ship, ahead, and firing was commenced from the 32 pounder. This was returned by the squadron, which stood off and on—and a brisk cannonading was reciprocally continued for more than two hours, all our guns being well manned and served—and it was plainly discovered that the Royal George and Prince Regent were much injured. At this time, as the flag-ship was wearing, to give another broadside, a ball from the 32 pounder was seen to strike her and rake her completely, after which the squadron fired but a few guns, and bore away for Kingston—our brave citizens giving three hearty cheers, and greeting the ears of his majesty's faithful subjects with the well remembered tune of *Yankee Doodle*, from all the music at the post—not a man being hurt on our side.

The officers, detached troops, volunteers, and citizens universally, displayed a degree of firmness, intrepidity and patriotism on the occasion worthy the sons of freemen and defenders of republican government.

The action was maintained within point blank shot. Most of the enemy's balls struck the rocks below the battery, and one 32 pound shot was picked up by our citizens, it having lodged near the breast-work.

\* Judge Atwater informs us, that Mr. Woolsey, brother to capt. W. who was in the action, says, the shot was from one of the two long brass nines belonging to this state, under the care of captain Camp, of Sacket's harbor.

The shot from these pieces hulled the Royal George, and one carried away the fore-top-gallant-mast of the Prince Regent. Judge A. also met, on Tuesday morning, at Turin, forty-five miles this side of Sacket's Harbor, two long twelves, on travelling carriages, which would probably reach the harbor on Wednesday evening.

#### ENGLISH OPINIONS OF THE WAR.

From the London Statesman of June 10.

It has been stated that in a war with this country, America has nothing to gain. In opposition to this assertion it may be said, with equal truth, that in a war with America, this country has nothing to gain, but much to lose. Let us examine the relative situations of the two countries. America certainly cannot pretend to wage a maritime war with us; she has no navy to do it with. But America has nearly one hundred thousand as good seamen as any in the world, all of whom would be actively employed against our trade in every part of the ocean in their fast sailing ships of war,


many of which will be able to cope with our small cruisers; and they will be found to be sweeping the West-India seas, and even carrying desolation into the chops of the channel. Every one must recollect what they did in the latter part of the American war. The books at Lloyd will recount it; and the rate of assurance at that time will clearly prove what their diminutive strength was able to effect in the face of our navy, and that when nearly one hundred pendants were flying on their coast. Were we then able to prevent their going in and out, or stop them from taking our trade and our storeships, even in sight of our garrisons? Besides, were they not in the English and Irish channel picking up our homeward bound trade; sending their prizes into French and Spanish ports to the great terror and annoyance of our merchants and ship owners?

These are facts which can be traced to a period when America was in her infancy; without ships—without seamen—without money—and at a time when our navy was not much less in strength than at present. THE AMERICANS WILL BE FOUND TO BE A DIFFERENT SORT OF ENEMY BY SEA THAN THE FRENCH.

They possess nautical knowledge with equal enterprize to ourselves; they will be found attempting deeds which a Frenchman would never think of; and they will have all the ports of our enemy open, in which they can make good their retreat with their booty. In a predatory war on commerce, Great Britain would have more to lose than to gain, because the Americans would retire within themselves, having every thing they want for supplies, and what foreign commerce they might have, would be carried on in fast sailing armed

ships, which, as heretofore, would be able to fight or run away, as best suited their force or inclination. Much is also to be apprehended from the desertion of our seamen, who will meet with every encouragement in the United States, by protecting laws made in their favor, perhaps large douceurs offered for their disaffection; and it is well known the predilection which our sailors have for the American shores. These are considerations which by far outweigh any advantage that ought partially to arise to individuals from a few scattered prizes that might be taken by our cruisers. Their harvest seems much more abundant under those wretched and impolitic regulations, called the *Orders in Council*, the existence of which gives rise to the present differences between the two countries; has drained our treasury, and is starving thousands of our manufacturing brethren. America could sustain no possible injury, but internal taxation, from a war with this country, which would bear any proportion to what we might feel from the circumstances already mentioned, and which we would most seriously have to apprehend; for our ships, without a large military force, durst not enter the ports of the United States, and that military force in our present situation is no where to be found. The probable consequence would be the starvation of our West-India Colonies, and the loss of Upper, if not of Lower Canada; while the total want of specie (which latterly has been wholly drawn from the United States) to pay our troops at Halifax and Quebec, could not fail to accelerate the mischief.

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