

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

No. 13 of VOL. IV.]

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1813.

[WEEK NO. 91.]

Hec olim meminisse juvabit.—VIRGIL.

Printed and published by H. NILES, South-st. next door to the Merchants' Coffee House, at 5 per annum.

President's Message.

WASHINGTON, May 25th.

At twelve o'clock this day, the President of the United States transmitted to both houses of congress the following Message.

*Fellow-citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives,*

At an early day after the close of the late session of congress, an offer was formally communicated from his imperial majesty the emperor of Russia, of his mediation, as the common friend of the United States and Great Britain, for the purpose of facilitating a peace between them. The high character of the Emperor Alexander being a satisfactory pledge for the sincerity and impartiality of his offer, was immediately accepted; and as a further proof of the disposition on the part of the United States to meet their adversary in honorable experiments for terminating the war, it was determined to avoid the intermediate delay incident to the distance of the parties, by a definite provision for the contemplated negotiation. Three of our eminent citizens were accordingly commissioned with the requisite powers to conclude a treaty of peace with persons clothed with like powers on the part of Great Britain. They are authorised also to enter into such conventional regulations of the commerce between the two countries, as may be mutually advantageous. The two envoys who were in the United States at the time of the appointment have proceeded to join their colleagues already at St. Petersburg.

The envoys have received another commission authorising them to conclude with Russia, a treaty of commerce, with a view to strengthen the amicable relations and improve the beneficial intercourse between the two countries.

The issue of this friendly interposition of the Russian emperor, and this pacific manifestation on the part of the United States, time only can decide. That the sentiments of Great Britain towards that sovereign will produce an acceptance of his offered mediation must be presumed. That no adequate motives exist to prefer a continuance of war with the United States, to the terms on which they are willing to close is certain. The British cabinet also, must be sensible, that with respect to the important question of impressment, on which the war so essentially turns, a search for, or seizure of, British persons or property on board neutral vessels on the high seas, is not a belligerent right derived from the law of nations; and it is obvious that no visit or search, or use of force, for any purpose, on board vessels of one independent power, on the high seas, can in war or peace be sanctioned by the laws or authority of another power. It is equally obvious that for the purpose of preserving to each state its sea-faring members, by excluding them from the vessels of the other, the mode heretofore proposed by the United States, and now enacted by them as an article of municipal policy, cannot for a moment be compared with the mode practised by Great Britain, without a conviction of its title to preference; inasmuch as the latter leaves the discrimination between the mariners of the two nations to officers ex-

posed by an unavoidable bias, as well as by a defect of evidence, to a wrong decision; under circumstances precluding for the most part, the enforcement of controlling penalties; and where a wrong decision, besides the irreparable violation of the rights of persons might frustrate the plans and profits of entire voyages: whereas the mode assumed by the United States, guards with studied fairness and delicacy against errors in such cases, and avoids the effect of casual errors on the safety of navigation, and the success of mercantile expeditions.

If the reasonableness of expectation, drawn from these considerations could guarantee their fulfilment, a just peace would not be distant. But it becomes the wisdom of the national legislature to keep in mind the true policy, or rather the indispensable obligation of adapting its measures to the supposition, that the only course to that happy event is in the vigorous employment of the resources of war. And painful as the reflection is, this duty is particularly enforced by the spirit and manner in which the war continues to be waged by the enemy, who, uninfluenced by the unvaried examples of humanity set them, are adding to the savage fury of it on one frontier, a system of plunder and conflagration on the other equally forbidden by respect for national character, and by the established rules of civilized warfare.

As an encouragement to persevering and invigorated exertions to bring the contest to a happy result, I have the satisfaction of being able to appeal to the auspicious progress of our arms, both by land and on the water.

In continuation of the brilliant achievements of our infant navy, a signal triumph has been gained by captain Lawrence and his companions in the Hornet sloop of war with a celerity so unexampled, and a slaughter of the enemy so disproportionate to the loss in the Hornet, as to claim for the conquerors the highest praise, and the full recompense provided by congress in preceding cases. Our public ships of war in general, as well as the private armed vessels, have continued also in their activity and success against the commerce of the enemy, and by their vigilance and address have greatly frustrated the efforts of the hostile squadrons distributed along our coast, to intercept them in returning into port, and resuming their cruises.

The augmentation of our force as authorised at the last session of congress, is in progress. On the Lakes our superiority is at hand where it is not already established.

The events of the campaign, so far as they are known to us, furnish matter of congratulation, and shew that under a wise organization and efficient direction the army is destined to a glory not less brilliant than that which already encircles the navy. The attack and capture of York is, in that quarter, a presage of future and greater victories; while, on the western frontier, the issue of the late siege of Fort Meigs, leaves us nothing to regret but a single act of inconsiderate valor.

The provisions last made for filling the ranks and enlarging the staff of the army, have had the best ef-

facts. It will be for the consideration of congress, whether other provisions depending upon their authority may not still further improve the military establishment and the means of defence.

The sudden death of the distinguished citizen who represented the United States in France, without any special arrangements by him for such a contingency, has left us without the expected sequel to his last communications; nor has the French government taken any measures for bringing the depending negotiations to a conclusion, through its representative in the United States. This failure adds to delays, before so unreasonably spun out. A successor to our deceased minister has been appointed, and is ready to proceed on his mission; the course which he will pursue in fulfilling it, is that prescribed by a steady regard to the true interests of the United States, which equally avoids an abandonment of their just demands, and a connexion of their fortunes with the systems of other powers.

The receipts into the treasury from the 1st of October to the 31st day of March last, including the sums received on account of treasury notes, and the loans authorised by the acts of the last and the preceding sessions of congress, have amounted to fifteen millions four hundred and twelve thousand dollars. The expenditures during the same period amounted to fifteen millions nine hundred and twenty thousand dollars; and left in the treasury on the 1st of April the sum of one million eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars. The loan of sixteen millions of dollars authorised by the act of the 18th of February last, has been contracted for. Of that sum, more than a million of dollars had been paid into the treasury, prior to the 1st of April, and formed a part of the receipts as above stated. The remainder of that loan, amounting to near fifteen millions of dollars, with the sum of five millions of dollars authorised to be issued in treasury notes, and the estimated receipts from the customs and the sales of public Lands, amounting to nine millions three hundred thousand dollars, and making in the whole twenty-nine millions three hundred thousand dollars to be received during the last nine months of the present year, will be necessary to meet the expenditures already authorised, and the engagements contracted in relation to the public debt. These engagements amount during that period to ten millions five hundred thousand dollars, which, with near one million for the civil, miscellaneous and diplomatic expenses, both foreign and domestic, and seventeen millions eight hundred thousand for the military and naval expenditures, including the ships of war building and to be built, will leave a sum in the treasury at the end of the present year equal to that on the 1st of April last.—A part of this sum may be considered as a resource for defraying any extraordinary expenses already authorised by law, beyond the sums above estimated; and a further resource for any emergency may be found the sum of one million of dollars, the loan of which to the United States has been authorised by the state of Pennsylvania, but which has not yet been brought into effect.

This view of our finances, whilst it shews that due provision has been made for the current year, shews at the same time, by the limited amount of the actual revenue, and the dependence on loans, the necessity of providing more and more quickly for the future supplies of the treasury. This can best be done by a well digested system of internal revenue, in aid of existing sources, which will have the effect, both of abridging the amount of necessary loans, and on that account, as well as by placing the public credit on a more satisfactory basis, of improving

the terms on which loans may be obtained. The loan of 16 millions was not contracted for at a less interest than seven and a half per cent. and although other causes may have had an agency, it cannot be doubted, that with the advantage of a more extended and less precarious revenue, a lower rate of interest might have sufficed. A longer postponement of this advantage could not fail to have a still greater influence on future loans.

In recommending to the national legislature this resort to additional taxes, I feel great satisfaction in the assurance, that our constituents, who have already displayed so much zeal and firmness in the cause of their country, will cheerfully give every other proof of their patriotism which it calls for. Happily no people, with local and transient exceptions never to be wholly avoided, are more ready than the people of the United States, to spare for the public wants a portion of their private means, whether regard be had to the ordinary profits of industry, or the ordinary price of subsistence in our country, compared with those of any other. And in no case could stronger reasons be felt for yielding the requisite contributions. By rendering the public resources certain, and commensurate to the public exigencies, the constituted authorities will be able to prosecute the war more rapidly to its proper issue; every hostile hope, founded on a calculated failure of our resources will be cut off; and by adding to the evidence of bravery and skill, in combats on the ocean and the land, an alacrity in supplying the treasure, necessary to give them their fullest effect; and, thus demonstrating to the world a public energy which our political institutions combine with the personal liberty distinguishing them, the best security will be provided against future enterprises on the rights or the peace of the nation.

The contests in which the United States are engaged, appeals for its support, to every motive that can animate an uncorrupted and enlightened people; to the love of country; to the pride of liberty; to an emulation of the glorious founders of their independence, by a successful vindication of its violated attributes; to the gratitude and sympathy which demand security from the most degrading wrongs, of a class of citizens, who have proved themselves so worthy the protection of their country, by their heroic zeal in its defence; and finally to the sacred obligations of transmitting entire, to future generations, that precious patrimony of national rights and independence which is held in trust by the present, from the goodness of Divine Providence.

Being aware of the inconveniencies to which a protracted session at this season, would be liable, I limit the present communication to objects of primary importance. In special messages which may ensue, regard will be had to the same consideration.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, May 25, 1813.

Vice-President's Speech

TO THE SENATE.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

Our fellow-citizens, in the free exercise of their constitutional authority, having been pleased to honor the person addressing you, with this distinguished station, have conferred on him an indispensable obligation to meet their just expectations. To attain this desirable object, and to preside over this honorable body, in conformity to their magnanimity and dignity, which at all times have been conspicuous, will be his primary pursuit. Whilst the constitution has invested him with legislative and executive pow-

ers, in cases only that are casual, to the decisions of these it has attached a great responsibility; in anticipating which, and his other duties, he has the pleasing prospect of reposing on his liberality and candor. But if in this high and influential branch of the government, such unanimity should prevail, as to decide for themselves every question of policy, the example will still increase their lustre and add to his happiness.

It is a subject of cordial congratulation, that the liberties of the people in so great a degree rest on that wisdom and fortitude, which mark the character of the exalted personage who fills the supreme executive, of the dignified members who constitute the national legislature, and of the eminent officers who direct the ministerial departments. Public virtues, emulated by few governments, need no encomiums: Fidelity and integrity, unsubdued by the severest ordeals, and presaging to public calamities a favorable issue, will be ever held in high estimation; whilst a government, scrupulously faithful to its trust, and measures which meet the highest applause, have a just claim to the public support.

The present epoch is momentous, and leads to observations which would not occur on ordinary occasions.

Our country is again involved in a sanguinary conflict, the issue of which, in the estimation of the enemy, is to determine, whether the republican system adopted by the people, is imbecile and transient, or whether it has force and duration worthy of the enterprise. That it can never fail whilst they are true to their interests, is beyond doubt. And, is it not equally so, that they will not desert the government of their choice, or attach themselves to a foreign domination, from which, under the benign smiles of Divine Providence, they have lately by their own valor emancipated themselves? Can they need arguments to convince them, that in proportion to the purity of republican governments, have ever been the reproaches and efforts for overthrowing them, by imperious sovereigns who once ruled them?

"To divide and to conquer," have long been the objects of the enemy. He has presumed on his own arts; and on impotency in our system of governments; but in both instances he will be convinced of his error. The people and constituted authorities of the several states, those great pillars of our confederate system, numerous as they are, and inevitably discordant in some of their interests, have evinced in various ways, a firm determination to support it. The interior frontier states, where the territorial war commenced and continues, assailed by innumerable difficulties, have surmounted them, and by their unanimity and Spartan valor, are establishing for themselves immortal honor. Through the extensive wilds of our military operations, some of these, as in all wars, have been successful, and others unfortunate. But to whatever causes the latter may be traced, they never can be imputed to those heroic officers or privates of the army or of the militia, who have bravely combatted the enemy; and of whom, some have been crowned with laurels, others have submitted to irresistible misfortunes, and many have nobly fallen, enshrined with glory. The Atlantic states have repelled, with magnanimity, maritime invasions, and have also given proofs of their patriotic ardor, by conquests on the ocean. Their enterprises and victories have been sources of national triumph and renown. Are not our officers and mariners, in naval combats, unrivalled by fame? Have they not presented infallible stratagies for signaling themselves on great occasions? How vain, then, is the hope of *division or conquest*? Does the enemy expect, by burning defenceless towns and villages,

to promote his views? Such conduct may entail on the nation which sanctions it, eternal infamy, but can never subdue the elevated souls of our brave fellow citizens; or even depress the sublime minds of our innocent fair, of the ornaments of our country; who, amidst the unmerited distresses inflicted on them and their tender offspring, by a merciless foe, will soar above sympathy, and claim the just tribute of universal admiration and applause.

Whilst the executive, in the full exercise of its authority, is left to test the sincerity of pacific overtures, it is a happy circumstance, that the United States, at all times desirous of an honorable peace, and superintended by an officer whose capacious mind embraces, and whose patriotic fortitude will pursue every interest of his country, thus meet with ardor an indispensable war. Is not their power a pledge that they can, and their sacred honor that they will with intrepidity maintain the conflict? They demand justice; and can they relinquish it, without a surrender of their sovereignty?

Great Britain is in collision with her best customers, and once her commercial friends, who had viewed peace as a mutual blessing; and who by their moderation had preserved it, until necessity had pointed to a different line of conduct. They had annually sent to her their productions and specie to a vast amount, had thus employed her mechanics, purchased her manufactures, extended her commerce, and become a great source of her national wealth. Hence her zealous and persevering opposition to their commercial restraints, representing (in high strains) their great injury to the country; but preserving silence on a most important point, their destructive effects on her own manufactures and commerce.

The United States are now her enemy, and is it not easy to foresee, that if the war should continue, the Canadas will be rendered independent of her; and as friends or allies to the United States, will no longer be instrumental in exciting an unrelenting and savage warfare against our extensive and defenceless borders? To such inhuman acts, in former times, were the Canadians urged by France in her Albiou wars; and by our colonial aid Great Britain obtained jurisdiction over them. She in turn has abused this power, and has justified the United States in their efforts to divest her of it. And is not their energy adequate to the object? Will not this be evident by a view of their effective national and state governments? of their great and increasing resources? of the unconquered minds and formidable numbers of their citizens? of their martial spirit? of their innate attachment to their rights and liberties? and of their inflexible determination to preserve them? But if any one still doubts, will he not recollect, that at the commencement of our revolutionary war which terminated against her, the united colonies had not a third of their present population; nor arms nor military stores for a single campaign; nor an efficient arrangement for warfare; nor specie in their treasuries; nor funds for emitting a paper currency; nor a national government; nor (excepting two instances) state governments; nor the knowledge either of military or naval tactics? Will he not also remember, that Great Britain was then in the zenith of her power; that neighboring nations trembled at her nod; that the colonies were under her control; that her crown officers opposed every mean for resisting her; that excited amongst the colonial governments, (over which they presided) unfounded jealousies of each other, and embarrassed every measure for their union; that she was loaded with less than a fifth of her present national debt; that she was then at peace with all the world, and

that she is now at war with a great part of Europe, as well as the United States? If Great Britain herself reflects on these things, will she not relinquish her vain attempts to awe the citizens of the United States, by exaggerated statements of her military and naval power—or by delusive views of their unprepared state for a war; of the great expence of it; and of the difficulties they are to encounter, in defence of all that is valuable to men? If, in lieu of fruitless artifices, she will make rational and equitable arrangements, which the government of the United States have been always ready to meet, can there be a doubt that the two nations will be speedily restored to their wonted friendship and commerce?

Your fellow-citizen, with sensations which cannot easily be conceived than expressed, perceives that there are in the government many of his former friends and compatriots, with whom he has often cooperated in the perilous concerns of his country; and with unfeigned pleasure he will meet the other public functionaries, whose acknowledged abilities and public services in like manner claim his high consideration and respect. With a sacred regard to the rights of every department and officer of government, and with a respectful deference to their political principles and opinions, he has frankly declared his own; for to have concealed them at a crisis like this, might have savored too much of a want of candor.

And may that Omnipotent Being, who with infinite wisdom and justice superintends the destinies of nations, confirm the heroic patriotism which has glowed in the breasts of the national rulers, and convince the enemy, that whilst a disposition to peace, on equitable and honorable terms, will ever prevail in their public councils, one spirit animated by the love of country, will inspire every department of the national government.

E. GERRY.

Washington City, May 24.

Legislature of Maryland.

Communication of the governor of Maryland to the legislature.

IN COUNCIL, ANNAPOLIS, May 17.

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and of the House of Delegates,

Since the adjournment of the legislature, considerable alarms have pervaded the state, in consequence of the appearance of a large naval force within the waters of the Chesapeake, and the wanton destruction of our houses and property by the squadron of the enemy.

We have furnished all the means in our power to repel the invasion of the enemy, and as our resources are too limited to afford complete protection, it is for the wisdom of the legislature to make such further provisions as the exigencies of the state, in their opinion, may require.

By virtue of the powers with which the officers of the militia are invested, the militia of many counties have been called into actual service; and by law are entitled to the same pay and rations as allowed to the troops in the service of the United States. No appropriations have been made to defray the expences thus incurred. We would recommend to the consideration of the legislature, the propriety of authorising, by law, the organization of volunteer companies of infantry (a portion of which to be mounted) with the privilege of choosing their own officers. Such a force, it is believed, might be employed with more effect than any other in repelling or preventing any invasion of our shores, or attacks

upon the property of our citizens. It would also relieve the ordinary militia, in a great measure from the hardships and sacrifices to which they are now compelled to submit.

All the swords and pistols which have been purchased by the state have been distributed, and many companies of cavalry yet remain to be supplied. We submit to the legislature the propriety of ordering the purchase of an additional number, and also a supply of cannon and muskets. By letters from the secretary of war dated March 20th and 21st, the governor was required to call out 500 militia, to be stationed at Annapolis—one of the exigencies mentioned in the constitution on which the militia may be called forth having occurred, it was considered the duty of the executive to comply with the requisition, and the necessary orders for that purpose were issued. By another letter from the secretary of war, dated April 16th, a further requisition of 2000 men to be stationed at Baltimore, was made; orders have been issued in consequence of this requisition; copies of the requisitions are included in the documents communicated.

It being by the constitution the duty of the general government to provide for the common defence, we have represented to the secretary of war some time since, the exposed and defenceless situation of many parts of Maryland. So much of the correspondence with that officer as has relation to this subject accompanies this communication. A copy of a letter written by this department to the president of the United States, being in part connected with this subject, is also transmitted; to this letter no answer has been received.

A vacancy in the senate of the United States having happened during the recess of the legislature, the executive proceeded in conformity to the provisions of the constitution of the United States, to "make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the legislature," and the honorable Robert Henry Goldsborough, of Talbot county, was appointed, and has been commissioned.

Upon the approach of the enemy to the seat of government, it was deemed expedient to remove the public records. The legislature will take any order that may be thought necessary in relation to them.

We have thought proper to introduce these subjects to your notice at the commencement of a session which has been directed in consequence of the present alarming state of things. We had hoped that answers from the officers of the general government to the communications which we have had the honor to make to them, would have given some assurances of future protection and security. To provide for the common defence was one of the important objects for which the federal constitution was formed. To protect each state against invasion is made the imperative duty of the national government: and for that purpose every necessary power is delegated to the national authorities. The means of defence reserved to the state governments are very limited, and their powers, in the conduct of a war, defined. If however the general government should fail to afford adequate security against the violence of the enemy, the law of self preservation, which belongs to communities as well as to individuals, would demand that every effort, which it is within our power to make, should be made for the defence of this state. But it seems necessarily to follow, as the defence of the union and of the several parts of it has been committed to the general government, that all expences incurred in affording protection by the several states ought to be reimbursed by the United States. It would be proper, there-

fers, to authorise by law the appointment of officers to keep regular accounts (with the proper vouchers) of the expences to which the United States may be subjected.

We have the honor to be, with much respect,
your obedient servants,

LEVIN WINDER.

IN COUNCIL.—Annapolis, March 5, 1813.

SIR—The attention of the Executive of Maryland has been directed to the defenceless situation of this city. There are, at present, very few men at either of the forts; and in case of attack, it would be impracticable to afford timely aid to Fort Madison. As it is important to be prepared in case of a visit from the enemy, we have thought proper to address you upon the subject, and beg to be informed, what force it is contemplated by the general government to send to this place.

We have the honor to be, &c.

LEVIN WINDER.

The honorable John Armstrong.

IN COUNCIL.—Annapolis, March 20, 1813.

SIR—We had the honor to address you some weeks since upon the subject of the defenceless situation of the forts at this place, and with a request to be informed what aid was contemplated to be afforded to it by the general government. We also deem it our duty to represent that other parts of the state are equally defenceless and unprotected, and in many quarters incursions of the enemy, and depredations to a considerable extent may be made. In this situation, we must repeat our anxiety to be informed, what portion, on any emergency, may be expected from the general government; what regular forces can be furnished; and in the event of the militia of the state being called out for its defence, whether the expense will be defrayed by the United States.

We have the honor, &c.

LEVIN WINDER.

The honorable John Armstrong.

WAR DEPARTMENT, March 20, 1813.

SIR—The disquietudes prevailing at Annapolis for the security of the city against a naval or other attack, from the enemy's squadron now on our coast, render it proper to put in requisition a detachment of drafted militia, consisting of four hundred and seventy infantry, and thirty cavalry privates, musicians and non-commissioned officers; with one lieutenant-colonel, one major, five captains, five first lieutenants, five second lieutenants, five third lieutenants, five ensigns, and one commissioned officer of cavalry. This detachment will rendezvous at Annapolis. The necessary orders for this purpose are requested from your excellency, who will do me the honor to accept the assurance of my high respect and consideration.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

His excellency the governor of Maryland.

WAR DEPARTMENT, March 24, 1813.

SIR—I have received the letter you did me the honor to write to me on the twentieth instant, that referred to by your excellency of earlier date has not been received at this department.

The disquietudes produced along our eastern frontier, by the appearance of an enemy's fleet, have induced the president to make requisitions upon the militia drafts of the several states. That upon your excellency for one battalion for the particular defence of the city of Annapolis, and the forts in its vicinity, was transmitted yesterday.

A train of light artillery, of fourteen pieces, is prepared here, and waits only the completion of a corps to take charge of them: They will be reserved to field service on the other shore of the Potomac.

One regiment of the twenty authorized by a late act of Congress, has been assigned to Maryland.—Some of the field officers are already appointed, and means are taken for filling the ranks without delay.

Such, sir, are the measures which have been taken by the president, in relation to the general subject of your letter; and I cannot but express my hopes that they will be found competent to the occasion. Should there be new evidence of annoyance from the enemy; additional measures will be taken.

I have purposely omitted saying any thing of the organization of a strong body of militia at Baltimore (who are held in a state of constant preparation for service, under the command of an experienced officer) because I have understood, that the measure was not unknown to your excellency. I seize this occasion to offer to you, sir, and to the executive council of Maryland, the assurance of my very high respect and consideration.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

His excellency governor Levin Winder.

IN COUNCIL.—Annapolis, March 30, 1813.

SIR—We have the honor to forward to you a copy of a memorial from the inhabitants of Easton which has been laid before this department. By the laws of Maryland, in case of invasion, or threatened invasion, the brigadier-general or commissioned officer of the place invaded, has power to call out the militia, and it was the opinion of this executive, that no step within its power to take, could give to the inhabitants of that place further security. We thought it due, however, to the memorialists, to represent their situation to the general government, and would beg leave to observe, that the town of Easton, being a place in which many of the public records are lodged, and in which too there is an armory of the state, it is of importance that every protection and security, which can be afforded to it, by either government, should promptly be given.

We have the honor to be, &c.

LEVIN WINDER.

The hon. John Armstrong.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 13, 1813.

SIR—I have had the honor to receive your excellency's letter of March 30. Lieut. Clarke has been instructed to provide for the accommodation of the detachment at Annapolis, and a copy of the regulations relative to quarters, and so forth, will be transmitted to colonel Watkins.

In a country so intersected by rivers and bays as ours, it is impossible to embody troops at all the points an enemy, having a naval superiority, may menace or assail. In this case it might be well to remove the armory.

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

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

His excellency the governor of Maryland.

IN COUNCIL.—Annapolis, April 26, 1813.

SIR—We have the honor herewith to transmit a copy of a letter, with sundry enclosures, just received by us from Jacob Gibson, esquire, of Talbot county. From those papers, of the correctness of which we entertain no doubt, it appears that the enemy visited Sharp's Island, of which he is proprietor, last week, kept the possession thereof for seven

ral days, and took therefrom such supplies as they were in want of. Mr. Gibson was not in a situation to resist any demands that might be made upon him, and of course is not to be censured for the conduct of the enemy. It is now for the constituted authorities of the country to decide, whether, under the circumstances disclosed, and when that protection, which is the just claim of every citizen, has not been afforded to him, this gentleman shall receive the compensation which the enemy offers, or it would be better by refusing such permission in all cases, and indemnifying the injured out of the national resources, take from individuals the temptations which might sometimes be offered, to an underhanded and dangerous traffic with the enemy. The determination of the government upon this subject, as soon as it can be given, we respectfully ask.

We cannot close this communication without some observations upon the unprotected and defenceless state in which many places of Maryland are left. Application from various quarters are constantly pouring in upon us, and so far as the very limited means within our power will enable us, we are endeavoring to afford protection. But besides that, we have not sufficient arms and ammunition to supply the demands of every section of the state; the unavoidable expense of calling out the militia for its protection would generally exceed the ability of the state government. By the constitution of the United States, the common defence is committed to the national government, which is to protect each state against invasion, and to defray all the necessary expenses of a national war; and to us it is a most painful reflection that after every effort we have made, or can make, for the security of our fellow citizens, and their property, they have little to rely on but the possible forbearance of the enemy. The capital of the state, notwithstanding the late call of the militia, we are informed by the commanding officer, has not a sufficient force for its protection. Indeed it must be obvious, that while there are only twenty or 30 regulars stationed in its forts, the militia, in whatever force, cannot give to it that protection which it has a right to claim, and without which Maryland may be essentially injured. A communication from the secretary of war some time since, gave us to understand, that a regiment of the troops to be raised under the late act of congress would be assigned to Maryland, and that a train of light artillery, of fourteen pieces, would be stationed north of Patuxent. We beg leave to urge the necessity of some immediate aid being ordered to the seat of government, as well as other parts of this state. Any delay may be of fatal consequence, as from the force which the enemy now has in our bay, we have much to apprehend, unless other means of defence than those which we now have are afforded to us.

We have the honor, &c. LEVIN WINDER.

The President of the U. States.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 16.

SIR—The movement of the enemy's fleet within the upper parts of Chesapeake bay, render it prudent to require from your excellency fifteen companies of infantry and five of artillery, organized; viz:

OF INFANTRY.

- 2 Lieutenant Colonels
- 3 Majors
- 15 Captains
- 15 1st Lieutenants
- 15 2d Lieutenants
- 15 3d Lieutenants
- 15 Ensigns
- 1 Surgeon
- 2 Surgeon's mates, &

1500 rank and file.

OF ARTILLERY.

- 1 Major
- 5 Captains,
- 5 1st Lieutenants,
- 5 2d Lieutenants,
- 5 3d Lieutenants,
- 5 Ensigns,
- 1 Surgeon's mate, and

500 rank and file.

To which will be added the following brigade staff: one Brigadier-general, one Brigade-major, one Aid-de-camp, and one Brigade-quarter-master. The whole to assemble at Baltimore as expeditiously as possible.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your excellency's most obedient, very humble servant.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

His Excellency Governor Winder.

True Copies,

NIXON PINKNEY, Clk of the Council.

Legislature of Virginia.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, May 17, 1813.

To the Senate and House of Delegates,

It has become my duty to communicate to you the circumstances which made necessary an extraordinary meeting of the legislature.

It is known to you that your predecessors at their last session passed a law entitled "an act providing for the defence of the state against invasion or insurrection." After waiting a convenient time to give publicity to the law, so as to afford the citizens of every part of the commonwealth who were disposed to enter the service, an opportunity of making known their wishes, and thereby greatly extending the range of selection, the executive proceeded to make the necessary appointments; of which they gave information to the parties concerned, but withheld the commissions. In this stage of the business, letters were received from the secretary of war, and of state, which in the estimation of the executive gave an aspect to our situation entirely different from the one existing at the time the law passed. These letters as well as mine to those officers of the general government, connected therewith, are enclosed and will be found in packet A. The exists which led to the passage of the law were not only disclosed in its preamble, but are of general notoriety. A powerful armament of the enemy had entered the waters of the commonwealth under circumstances well calculated to justify the most serious alarm; an event of this kind not having been anticipated, no effectual measures had been adopted for our defence, and our eastern frontier was greatly exposed. Such was our condition and such our danger, when the law received the assent of the legislature. Shortly after its adjournment, the general government, having in conformity with its power and duty, taken upon itself, the defence of the state, sanctioned the course pursued by the executive in calling out the militia, authorized such further detachments as might be necessary, and also having determined to raise a regular regiment for the defence of the state, to be officered by our citizens exclusively—and further having promised such other additional aid, as the exigency of our affairs might require; presented a state of things, which, could it have been anticipated by the legislature, the executive believed would have prevented the passage of the law. Under this impression, it became a question of much importance with the executive what course they should pursue. To carry the law into effect after such assurances from the general government, was to adhere to a system of defence, in its extent, inadequate to the object for which it was intended—justifiable only in cases of extreme necessity, and establishing a precedent liable to be perverted to the worst of purposes, and also involving the state in an expense of half a million of dollars; by which, our little resources heretofore husbanded with much care, were to be immediately squandered, and our constituents exposed to new burthens. To forbear

to execute it, was not without its difficulties. For the executive to take upon itself the responsibility of executing the law of the land, was so hostile to the constitution, and a precedent of a nature so dangerous as to be entirely inadmissible. The convention of the legislature was exposed to two objections. The inconvenience to the members, and an expense to the commonwealth. The known patriotism of the representatives of the people which counts as nothing, personal inconvenience made necessary by the public service, removed the first; the last, when opposed to the interesting considerations which dictated the necessity of an extraordinary meeting of the legislature, dwindled into insignificance. Under this view of the subject a call of the legislature was supposed less liable to objection, than any course we could adopt. If the facts now disclosed should produce on the minds of the general assembly an opinion, coincident with that of the executive, it will be to them highly gratifying; if otherwise, we shall console ourselves with the reflection that we have manifested our devotion to principle and subserviency to the just theory of the constitution which renders prudent, in all cases of doubt, difficulty, and importance, an appeal through the constitutional organ, to the public will.

No change has occurred in our foreign relations since the last session of the legislature, except a proffered mediation of the emperor of Russia, with a view to a negotiation with the enemy. This was accepted by the American government with its characteristic frankness, and in conformity with its uniform and sincere professions of solicitude for an honorable peace, and in consequence two envoys extraordinary have been appointed to repair to St. Petersburg, and who have sailed, to meet the diplomatic representatives of the British nation. Notwithstanding this new evidence furnished by the American government of its disposition for peace, and notwithstanding also the advances it has made by a law which passed at the last session of congress in relation to seamen, removing every pretext on the part of Great Britain to persevere in hostilities, yet such is the character of the enemy as to render the result of the negotiation so precarious as in no degree to authorise an abatement of our most vigorous efforts.

Presuming that it is your wish that the session should be as short as is compatible with the public service, I shall forbear to call your attention to any other subject except such as cannot be avoided, of which class are two vacancies in the general court, produced by the death of the honorable William Nelson, and the honorable Richard Parker. To supply the vacancy produced by the former, Robert Saunders, Esq. of Williamsburg, was appointed, who declined acceptance; the reasons which produced that determination, are disclosed in his answer to my letter communicating his appointment, a copy of which is herewith enclosed in packet B. marked No. 1. William Daniel, Esq. of Cumberland, was then selected, who accepted, as will appear by his letter, a copy of which is also enclosed, marked No. 2. Eilison Currie, Esq. of Lancaster, was appointed to supply the vacancy produced by the death of Richard Parker, Esq. and accepted; a copy of his letter is also enclosed marked No. 3.

I think it necessary to advise you that our endeavors to elect a settlement of our accounts with the general government of the United States, which were communicated to the last legislature, have been ineffectual; should it be your wish to act upon this subject, a correspondence between the two governments will be transmitted.

The operations of the enemy, with the defensive measures we have adopted, are of a nature to require a separate communication which is now prepared and will be made to-morrow. I cannot forbear, however, to avail myself of the present opportunity of paying a just tribute of applause to the patriotism of our citizens, who with cheerfulness and alacrity obeyed the summons to the field. It is a highly gratifying evidence that the spirit of their fathers is unabated. As a successful issue of the glorious revolution crowned the efforts of the one, so an honorable termination of the present contest, under Providence, will reward the other.

JAMES BARBOUR.

DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED IN PACKET (A.)

Washington, March 21st, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I had the pleasure to receive yours of the 17th, yesterday, and should have answered it by the return of the mail, had I not had some official engagements which rendered it impossible. With an invasion of Norfolk, it is painful to say any thing tending to check my measures, having for its object the defence of the country. Without having examined the constitutional propriety of the measure in question, for which I have not had time, I have supposed that every object contemplated by it might be secured by means of, and under the authority of, this government. A regular regiment is ordered to be raised for the defence of Norfolk, and the neighboring coast, the officers are appointed, and are engaged in recruiting the men, and it being known that they are not to be removed from the state, it is presumable that they will soon be raised. A large body of militia are already in service at Norfolk, and a power given to the commanding officer, to call for as many more, as in his judgment the public exigencies may require.

Should the British forces continue to invade Norfolk, or other parts of the state, I have no doubt, that the president will order the regular troops when raised to be increased there beyond the regiment allotted for their defence. You may be satisfied that nothing will be omitted, necessary for the protection of the state, compatible with its general duties, which the means in the hands of the government will enable it to perform.

No change has taken place in the relations between the United States and Great Britain. The mediation of Russia, lately offered by the emperor, to both parties and accepted by the president on the part of the United States, was the incident to which I alluded in my conversation with major Campbell. It is not known whether Great Britain has accepted this mediation. The president acts on motives independent of that consideration. If she accepts, with a view to a fair and just accommodation, it may probably lead to peace. If she declines it, the responsibility will be on her government. In the mean time no relaxation should take place in our military operations. They should, on the contrary, be carried on with greater vigor.

I am, dear sir, with great and sincere regard, very respectfully, yours,

JAMES MONROE.

His excellency James Barbour, Esq.
governor of Virginia.

Richmond, March 24, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—The prompt and satisfactory answer received from you in answer to mine of the 17th, lays me under obligations. I lost not a moment of time in presenting it to the council of state, and in

consequence of the efficient measures promised and adopted by the general government to recommend for the present, that we should abstain from the execution of the law of this state, connected with an eastern defence, I have the pleasure to inform you, that they coincided with me in opinion, and for the present it will not be carried into effect. Among various considerations which have induced us to adopt this measure, an ardent disposition to cherish concord between the two governments, is not among the least.—In taking upon ourselves this high responsibility, we have been influenced by the belief, that had the legislature been in session, and possessed of the measures adopted by the general government, they would have repealed the law.—An entire confidence is indulged by us that the general government will hereafter continue to adapt the means of defence to the exigency of the occasion.

Yours, &c. JAMES BARBOUR.
Col. James Monroe,
Secretary of State, Washington.

War Department, March 22, 1813.

SIR—I had this day the honor of receiving your excellency's letter of the 20th inst. enclosing the copy of one from brigadier-general Taylor of the 17th. The substance of the information given in the latter had been already received directly from that officer.

The measure taken by your excellency, as well in ordering out the militia in the first instance, as in consigning them to the service of the United States under the requisition made by lieutenant-colonel Freeman in the second, merits the entire approbation of the president.

The force now ascribed to the enemy for land operations, is much greater than has hitherto been supposed. In the only statement we have had of it from general Taylor, it is not made to exceed one thousand combatants, viz: six hundred marines, and four hundred seamen.

If the enemy have objects beyond a blockade of the bay, and particularly if they meditate an attack on the city of Norfolk, and its defences, the delay put into the execution of that project is unaccountable upon any supposition other than that of an expectation of greater force—in which case our means should also be increased. I have accordingly on the 16th inst. authorized brigadier-general Taylor to make such further requisition upon your excellency for additional militia drafts, as his knowledge of the enemy's strength and movements shall render necessary.

I have the President's orders to express his thanks for the assurances which close your excellency's letter, and his entire confidence that the measures taken for the public defence will be equally marked by wisdom and by spirit.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer to your excellency the assurance of my very high respect.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

His excellency the governor of Virginia.

[We have omitted the very interesting letter of the governor of the 20th, as well as one sentence in Mr. Monroe's letter, because they contain information, which in our judgment, ought not to be unmasked to the enemy.—Enquirer.]

Uniform of Officers.

OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

The Coat.—Single breasted, with 19 buttons, and button-holes marked with blue rivets, in front, 5 inches long at the top and 3 at the bottom. The standing collar to rise to the tip of the ear, which

will determine its width. The cuffs, not less than 3 1-2 nor more than 4 inches wide. The skirts faced with blue, the bottom of each not more than 7 nor less than 3 1-2 inches wide; the length to reach to the bend of the knee. The bottom of the breast and two hip buttons to range.

1. On the collar one blind hole 3 inches long, with a button on each side.
2. The blind hole on each side of the front, in the herring bone form, to be in the same direction with the collar, from the top to the bottom.
3. Blind holes (in the like form) to proceed from 4 buttons placed lengthwise, on each skirt. A gilt star on the centre of the bottom, 2 inches from the edge.
4. The cuffs, to be intended within 1 1-2 inch of the edge, with 4 buttons lengthwise on each sleeve, and holes to the three upper buttons corresponding with the indentation of the cuffs, on the centre of which is to be inserted the lower button.
5. All general officers will be permitted to embroider the button holes. The commissary general of ordnance, the adjutant, inspectors and quarter masters general, and the commissary general of purchases, will be permitted to embroider the button holes of the collar only.

Vests, Breeches and Pantaloon.—White for buff for general officers.—blue pantaloons may be worn in the winter, and nankeen in the summer. Vests single breasted without pocket flaps.

1. Ergaches, or pantaloons, with 4 buttons on the knee, and gilt knee buckles.
2. High military boots and gilt spurs.

Black Stock.—Of leather or silk.

Chapeaus.—Of the following form: the fan not less than 6 1-2 nor more than 9 inches high in the rear, nor less than 15 nor more than 17 1-2 inches from point to point, bound round the edge with black binding an 1-2 inch wide.

1. Button and loop, black.
2. Cockade, the same, 4 1-2 inches diameter, with a gold eagle in the centre.

Swords.—Yellow mounted, with a black or yellow pike. For the officers of the adjutant, inspector and quarter master general's departments, silver; for all others, straight swords.

Waist Belts.—Of black leather. No snakes.

Epulettes.—Of gold; according to rank.

NOTE.—Officers of the corps of engineers will wear the uniform already established for that corps.

The dress of the hospital staff will conform as to fashion, to the uniform of the staff, except that they will wear pocket flaps, and buttons placed diagonally on the cuffs, four to each, and covered buttons in all instances, of the color of the coat, (black.)

Officers of the line appointed to a staff station, which confers no additional rank, will wear the uniform of their rank in the line, with high boots and spurs.

OF THE ARTILLERY.

Coat.—Of the same general description with that of the staff: and

1. Pocket flaps, cross incanted below, not less than 2 1-2 nor more than 3 inches wide, with 4 buttons and blind holes; two buttons on the opening of the pocket of each skirt; and a diamond of blue silk, ornamented 1 1-4 inch on each side, the centre two inches from the bottom of the coat.

2. The blind holes on either side of the front, with the coat buttoned close to the color, accurately to form lines with the corresponding ones opposite, from the top to the bottom, i. e. not to represent herring bone.

3. The cuffs with 4 blind holes, extending from 4 buttons diagonally placed on each.

4. Two blind holes on the collar, 3 inches long, with two buttons on each side.

5. Gilt buttons of the size and insignia furnished the commissary general of purchases from the war department.

Vests, Breeches and Pantaloon.—For the field and staff, the same as those described for the general staff; and vests and pantaloons, for the officers of the line, the same, except the 1st and 2d particular articles.

Stocks and Chapeaus.—Of the same description with those of the general staff:

1. Button and loop of the chapeau, yellow.
2. Black cockade of leather, 4 1-2 inches diameter with a gold eagle in the centre. A white feather to rise 8 inches; that of the adjutant, white and red.

Swords.—Cut and throat, yellow mounted, with a black or yellow pike.

Waist Belts.—Of white leather.

Snakes.—To be worn only on a tour of duty, and round the waist.

Epulettes.—Of gold (ballion and strap) according to rank. The adjutant, quarter master, and pay master, to wear a counter strap on the opposite shoulder.

The surgeons and mates, to include parolan surgeons and mates will wear the same uniform except the cap, which is of black velvet; the plume black.

OF THE INFANTRY.

The same as that pointed out for the officers of artillery, with the following exceptions:

The sword of the sabre form and mounted with silver or plated. For the medical staff, small swords.

Epulettes, buttons, spurs, buckles and trimmings, silver or plated.

Wonderful Preservation.

A fire broke out at Harrisburg, Pa. on the morning of the 30th ult. and destroyed several houses before it could be extinguished. The following re-

markable incident is mentioned in a letter from the place:—"The lady of a Mr. Croover (Market square) was brought to bed about seven days before, and was removed to a place of safety—she called to her friends to bring her infant, but none could tell where it was. In vain was search made—the poor mother nearly distracted. After the danger had subsided, and the goods which had been removed in the market-house, &c. had been returned, the child was found. In the bustle and alarm it had been bundled up in a bed and hastily thrown out of a two story house (which every moment was expected to take fire) and then carried to the market house and thrown among a mass of goods, uninjured!"

Events of the War.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The ship Brutus has arrived at Newport, R. I. direct from Liverpool, with 8000 bushels of salt, 80 casks coppers, crates and dry goods; a full cargo. She brought 10,000 letters.

We hear nothing certain of the *Tyulun* squadron.

A letter from New-Orleans dated April 19, says that gen. Wilkinson had some days before taken possession of Mobile without opposition. The inhabitants were in a state of starvation, and the soldiers had 2 years pay due them from the Spanish government.

The Creek Indians have put to death some of their people who lately murdered certain white persons; and have out-lawed the Little Warrior.

It appears that the *Bonne Citoyenne* had not arrived in England on the 7th of April, though so reported heretofore. Much anxiety is expressed for this vessel in the British papers. They suppose she has been taken by the *Essex* frigate.

A very brisk trade exists between Block Island, the British station on our coast, and the neighboring main. Hitherto it was the practice of the people of this island to send articles of marketing and small supplies, such as eggs, cheese, butter, &c. to the towns of the continent; but they now import large quantities. Such are the changes in the commercial world! We trust some means may be adopted to check this infamous traffic. But it is an affair of great difficulty. The islanders pay for the supplies in English guineas and Bank of England tokens.

Postulate.—As the British news-papers say nothing about the proposed mediation of the emperor of Russia—it is concluded, at Boston, that he has made no such proposition.

The *Baltimore Brigade*, commanded by general Stricker, was reviewed on Monday last by major-general Smith, and brigadier-general Miller, whose volunteers and drafted militia were also on the field. It was generally agreed that not less than 6000 men were under arms, all completely equipped, and the greater part well disciplined. The regiment of artillery, in full uniform, about 1000 strong, with nearly 40 pieces of cannon, made a splendid appearance. But the spirit that appeared to actuate the whole, was truly exhilarating.

The ship masters and mariners of New-York have formed themselves into a marine corps for the defence of the city; and will, doubtless be a very efficient force.

The New-York *Columbian* tells us that the *Vallent* and *Acasta* lately seized a schooner, and placed her for a target; at which they fired 400 shot, and actually made out to haul her eight times!

A vessel under Swedish colors sailed from New-

London, a few days ago, laden with *wood, water, potatoes, calves, poultry and fresh beef!*—Her destination is not questionable.

Several cannon on the battery at New-York were spiked on Saturday evening last; and the market at Block-Island is glutted with supplies for the British, though the people of the parts adjacent are suffering for food. Certainly, no country was ever cursed with so many traitors as we have; and, unfortunately, the law of treason is such that it is almost impossible to convict an individual of this most hideous of crimes.

A letter from London, dated March 13, informs us, that there has been a deficiency of four millions sterling, in the British customs and excise since the American war commenced, from what was formerly paid into the exchequer in the two quarters previous thereto. The sufferings of the people are excessive; and appear sustained only by the prospect of a trade to the north.

The act to raise a state regiment has been repealed by the legislature of Virginia.

The 38th Reg. U. S. Infantry, it is understood, is designed particularly for the defence of Maryland. The officers are already nearly all appointed, and the selection has been fortunate. It is thought the regiment will be very speedily raised, and chiefly in Baltimore. The field officers are, Peter Little, col. William Stewart, lieut. col. Leonard Frailey and George Keyser, majors.

The capture and safe arrival of a British vessel, with a quantity of wheat, from *Bermuda for Halifax*, at Machias, Massachusetts, is hailed as a "seasonable supply for the starving inhabitants of the eastward"—and the entry of the ship *Mudoc* at Newport (R.I.) from the Chesapeake, with flour, is accounted "good news for house-keepers." The safe arrival of this vessel is said to have reduced the price of flour at Boston two dollars and a half per barrel. Those are among the strange events of these wonderful times.

Norfolk, May 12.—Mr. Swerichoff, the Russian chancellor, left Washington a few days since, in order to proceed again on board the British fleet, which having previously proceeded down the bay, it is probable that Mr. S. has followed them, and in corroboration of this supposition, we understand that a flag came down the bay on Sunday afternoon.

Dayton, (Ohio,) May 19.—Between 20 and 30 Indians arrived in town on Monday last, as hostages from the Miami tribe.

MILITARY.

Letter to the Editor of the WEEKLY REGISTER, dated "Fort Charlotte, Town of Mobile, April 18.

"Sir—On the 15th inst. Don Cuyetano Perez and the Spanish garrison, surrendered to the United States troops under general Wilkinson, and were immediately shipped to Pensacola, in public transports. The fort was well supplied with munitions of war and military stores—and presented a formidable battery of sixty-two pieces of ordnance.

"In a few days we march with a considerable detachment to the Perdido river—the extreme eastern boundary of the Mississippi territory, to the Indians, who are said to be encouraged to acts of hospitality by the Spaniards. An express arrived a few moments since, advising, the governor of Pensacola had sent runners to the Creeks and Seminoles, with an offer of arms, ammunition, and presents, if they would attack our frontier settlements on the Alabama and Tombigby. General Wilkinson, anticipating such measures, has deposited a number of muskets in the hands of the colonels of militia, for defensive operations; and the citizens, very much alarmed, are erecting block-houses, to retire to in case of necessity."

The pressure of matter, the present week, compels us to omit some interesting details of the affairs connected with the surrender and taking possession of *Mobile*. But we shall not fail to record them as early as convenience will allow.

Five persons, called a council of war, have been appointed, by the legislature of *Rhode-Island*, to advise with the governor.

The following is given as a correct account of the killed and wounded, &c. at York—

AMERICAN LOSS.	
Killed in battle,	14
do. by explosion,	52
Total,	66
Wounded in battle,	23
do. by explosion,	180
Total,	203
ENEMY'S LOSS.	
Killed and wounded,	200
Prisoners militia,	703
do. regulars,	50
Total,	930

Colonel R. M. Johnson has been directed by gov. Shelby to proceed to fort *Meigs* with all speed.—He has issued his orders accordingly; and his regiment was to rendezvous at *Newport* on the 22d inst. there to receive their arms, &c. His force will consist of 1500 mounted men, and probably reach general *Harrison* by the first June.

The remains of general *Pike* were conveyed from York to Sackett's Harbor, and interred amidst the lamentations of the soldiery, with military honors.

The British are said to be increasing their force at *Prescott*—it is stated to amount to between 1000 and 1500 men.

Between 8 and 900 men, under lieutenant colonel *Tuttle*, passed through Albany on the 19th, for the frontiers.

One hundred and eighty fine recruits for the 4th regiment, marched from Portland, (Maine) on the 17th inst.

On Wednesday last, 330 regulars, hale and hearty young men, under the command of major *Dix*, left *Baltimore* for Sackett's Harbor.

The volunteer and militia and corps in the district of Columbia, are represented to be in excellent condition. A portion of them have been detached for regular service, and gone into camp.

General *Boyd* is assigned to the brigade lately commanded by general *Z. M. Pike*.

Albany, May 22.—After the battle of York, the government buildings, barracks, &c. were destroyed; all the public stores which could not be brought away, shared the same fate, and the town entirely evacuated on the 1st of May; the militia prisoners paroled, and the troops embarked. But owing to contrary winds, the fleet, consisting of 16 or 17 sail, did not leave York until the 8th. In the afternoon of that day they arrived at Four Mile Creek, below fort Niagara, and landed the troops and public property.

On Sunday evening, two schooners under command of lieutenant *Petregue*, having on board 100 picked men under captain *Willoughby Morgan*, of the 12th regiment, sailed for the head of Lake Ontario, for the purpose of seizing a quantity of public stores. On their arrival they found the public stores guarded by about 80 regulars; the guard retreated before our men landed; the stores were brought away and the public buildings burnt. The expedition returned on Tuesday last without loss.

The day after lieutenant *Petregue* sailed for the

head of the lake, commodore *Chauncey*, with the remainder of the fleet, sailed for Sackett's Harbor.

The return of the fleet from the Harbor is daily looked for, with a very respectable reinforcement. [Com. *Chauncey* sailed from Sackett's Harbor on Tuesday last.—*Argus*].

NORTH-WESTERN ARMY.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Wm. H. Harrison to the Secretary of War.

HEAD-QUARTERS, CAMP MEIGS,

9th May, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that the enemy having been several days making preparations for raising the siege of this post, accomplished this day the removal of their artillery from the opposite bank, and about 12 o'clock left their encampment below, were soon embarked and out of sight. I have the honor to enclose you an agreement entered into between gen. Proctor and myself for the discharge of the prisoners of the Kentucky militia in his possession, and for the exchange of the officers and men of the regular troops which were respectively possessed by us. My anxiety to get the Kentucky troops released as early as possible, induced me to agree to the dismissal of all the prisoners I had, although there was not as many of ours in gen. Proctor's possession. The surplusage is to be accounted for, and an equal number of our released from their parole, whenever the government may think proper to direct it.

The two actions on this side the river on the 5th, were infinitely more important and more honorable to our arms, than I had at first conceived. In the sortie made upon the left flank, captain *Waring's* company of the 19th regiment, a detachment of 12 months' volunteers under major *Alexander*, and three companies of Kentucky militia under colonel *Boswell*, defeated at least double the number of Indians and British militia.

The sortie on the right was still more glorious; the British batteries in that direction were defended by the grenadier and light infantry companies of the 41st regiment, amounting to 200 effectives and two companies of militia, flanked by a host of Indians. The detachment sent to attack this consisted of all the men off duty belonging to the companies of *Croghen* and *Bradford* of the 17th regiment, *Langham*, *Elliott's* (late *Graham's*) and *Waring's* of the 19th, about 80 of major *Alexander's* volunteers, and a single company of Kentucky militia under captain *Seby*, amounting in the whole to not more 340. Yet the event of the action was not a moment doubtful, and had not the British troops been covered in their retreat by their allies, the whole of them would have been taken.

It is not possible for troops to behave better than ours did throughout—all the officers exerted themselves to execute my orders, and the enemy who had a full view of our operations from the opposite shore, declared that they had never seen so much work performed in so short a time.

To all the commanders of corps I feel particular obligations. These were col. *Miller* of the 19th infantry, col. *Mills* of the Ohio militia, major *Stoddard* of the artillery, major *Ball* of the dragoons, and major *Johnson* of the Kentucky militia. Capt. *Griatot* of the engineers having been for a long time much indisposed, the task of fortifying this post devolved on capt. *Wood*. It could not have been placed in better hands. Permit me to recommend him to the President, and to assure you that any mark of his approbation bestowed on capt. *Wood*, would be highly gratifying to the whole of the troops who witnessed his arduous exertions.

From major *Hukill*, acting inspector general, my

aid de camp major Graham, lieutenant O'Fallon, who has done the duty of assistant adjutant general in absence of major Adams, and my volunteer aid de camp John Johnson, esq. I received the most useful assistance.

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the siege and in the two sorties; those of the latter were much greater than I had at first expected.

Want of sleep and exposure to the continued rains which have fallen almost every day for some time past, renders me incapable of mentioning many interesting particulars; amongst others a most extraordinary proposition of general Proctor, on the subject of the Indians within our boundary—this shall form the subject of a communication to be made tomorrow or next day, and for which I shall provide a safer conveyance than that which carries this. All the prisoners and deserters agree in saying that the information given to major Stoddard by Ryland, of the British having launched a sloop of war this spring is incorrect, and the most of them say that the one which is now building will not be launched for many weeks.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your humble servant,

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

Hon. John Armstrong, Secretary of War.

P. S.—Captain Price of the regiment of light artillery, and the 20 regulars, prisoners with general Proctor, were taken on the N. W. side of the river, with the Kentucky militia. We had no prisoners taken on this side during the siege.

Head-quarters, Fort Mifflin, 9th May, 1812.

GENERAL ORDERS.—The information received by the general, and the movements of the enemy indicating their having abandoned the siege of this post, the general congratulates his troops on having completely foiled their foes and put a stop to that career of victory which has hitherto attended their arms. He cannot find words to express his sense of the good conduct of the troops of every description and of every corps, as well as maintaining and returning the heavy fire of the enemy, as for their assiduity and patience in the performance of those laborious duties which the occasion called for. Where merit was so general—indeed, almost universal—it is difficult to discriminate. The general cannot, however, omit to mention the names of those whose situation gave them an opportunity of being more particularly useful. From the long illness of capt. Gratot, of the corps of engineers, the arduous and important duties of fortifying the camp devolved on capt. Wood, of that corps. In assigning to him the first palm of merit, as far as it relates to the transactions within the works, the general is convinced that his decision will be awarded by every individual in camp who witnessed his indefatigable exertion, his consummate skill in providing for the safety of every point, and in foiling every attempt of the enemy, and his undaunted bravery in the performance of his duty in the most exposed situations. An unfortunate wound in the commencement of the siege deprived the general, after that time, of the able services of major Stoddard, of the artillery, whose zeal and talents had been eminently useful. Capt. Gratot, in the remission of a severe illness, took charge of a battery, and managed it with ability and effect. Capt. Cushing, of the artillery, and capt. Hall, of the 17th infantry, (but doing duty with the former corps) were extremely active and attentive to their post. Colonel Miller and major Todd, of the 19th U. S. infantry; majors Ball, of the dragoons, Sodwick and major Ritter of the Ohio militia, and major Johnson of the Kentucky

militia, rendered the most important services. To each of the above gentlemen, as well as to every captain, subaltern, non-commissioned officer and private of their respective commands, the general gives his thanks and expresses his warmest approbation; also to adjutant Brown, Mr. Peters, conductor of artillery; Mr. Lion, principal artificer; Mr. Timberlee, and to sergeants Henderson, Tammes and Meldrum, who severally had charge of batteries and block-houses. The battery managed by sergeant Henderson was, as the enemy confessed, managed with peculiar efficacy and effect with respect to the sorties which were made on the 5th inst. The subsequent information which has been received from the prisoners, has given the gallant troops which were engaged on those occasions additional claims upon the gratitude of their general.—It is ascertained that in both instances the enemy far outnumbered our troops. The general gives his thanks to brigadier-general Clay, for the promptitude with which the detachment of his brigade were landed, and the assiduity shewn by him in forming them for the attack on the left. To col. Boswell and major Fletcher, for their gallantry and good conduct in leading them in the charge made on the enemy, and to capt. Dudley, Simmons and Medcalf, the subalterns, non-commissioned officers and privates, for the distinguished valor with which they defeated the enemy. The general has in the order of the 6th inst. expressed his sense of the conduct of the regular troops and volunteers, which were engaged in the sorties on the left flank, but he omitted to mention capt. Sebr's company of Kentucky militia, whose gallantry was not surpassed by that of any of the companies which fought by their side.—The Pittsburgh Blues, led by lieutenant McGee, in the illness of their gallant captain sustained the reputation which they had acquired at Massillon. The Peterburgh volunteers and lieutenant Drum's detachment, discovered equal intrepidity. To the detachments from the 17th and 19th U. S. regiments under their respective commanders, capt. Croghan, Bradford, Langham, Elliott, Nering, the honorable task was assigned of storming the British batteries, defended by two hundred British grenadiers and ad light infantry, flanked by an host of Indians and two companies of Canadian militia. Colonel Miller speaks in the highest terms of the captains being mentioned, and lieutenants Campbell, Gwyn, Lee, Kercheval and Rees, and of ensigns Shep, Hawkins, Harrison, Mitchell and Stockton. The general requests colonel Miller, major Todd, and each of the officers above named, together with all the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers who were engaged on the 5th instant to accept his thanks. The general is under the highest obligation to his staff for their conduct, as well in the action of the 5th as for the assistance he received from them throughout the siege. Major Hukill, the acting inspector-general, distinguished himself by his assiduity in forwarding the part of our works which was most necessary and which was most exposed to the fire of the enemy. From major Graham, his aid-de-camp, his volunteer aid-de-camp J. Johnson, Esq. and from lieutenant O'Fallon, acting assistant adjutant general, as well as from the deputy quarter-master Mr. Eubank, he received the greatest assistance. It rarely occurs that a general has to complain of the excessive ardor of his men, yet such appears always to be the case whenever the Kentucky militia are engaged. It is indeed the source of all their misfortunes. They appear to think that valor alone can accomplish anything. The general is led to make this remark from the conduct of captain Dudley's company of the regiment, as he has understood,

that that gallant officer was obliged to turn his back upon the enemy, and to desist from a further pursuit of the enemy, in compliance with an order from the general. Such temerity although not so disgraceful, is scarcely less fatal than cowardice. And in the instance above, had it been persisted in, would have given a different result to the action, as the whole of the enemy's force which were placed near the batteries would have been precipitated upon the rear of our detachment. The pursuit being stopped, allowed time for a new disposition under cover of our cannon, and the enemy's batteries were attacked and carried without any difficulty.

(A Copy)

JOHN O'FALLON,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.
(CIRCULAR.)

LOWER SANDUSKY, CAME RESOLUTION, May 12, 1813.
To all Volunteers of the state of Ohio, on their march to fort Meigs.

The British and their barbarian allies have abandoned the siege of fort Meigs.

It is fortunate for the savages that they retired before your arrival at the point of destination.—From the zeal, promptitude, and perseverance which has animated all those free and brave men, who have marched with, followed, and are following me, I entertain the belief, that we should have drove our red enemies from the state of Ohio—but they have fled. General Harrison, I am pleased to inform you, is in camp, adjoining. Return to your homes—I thank you. The frontiers shall be safe.

R. J. MEIGS, governor of Ohio.
GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD-QUARTERS, N. W. ARMY, Franklinton, May 16, 1813.—The commanding general has observed with the warmest gratitude, the astonishing exertions which have been made by his excellency governor Meigs, and the general and other militia officers of this state, in collecting and equipping a body of troops for the relief of fort Meigs; but the efforts of these gentlemen would have been unavailing if they had not been seconded by the patriotic ardor of every description of citizens; which has induced them to leave their homes at a most critical season of the year, regardless of every consideration, but that of rendering service to their country. The general found the road from Lower Sandusky literally covered with men—and amongst them many of those who had shared in the toils and dangers of the revolutionary war, and from whom, of course, their existed no legal claims for military service. The general has every reason to believe that similar efforts have been made in Kentucky. He offers to all these brave men from both states his sincere acknowledgments, and is happy to inform them, that there is at present no necessity for their longer continuance in the field. The enemy has fled with precipitation from fort Meigs; and that fort is in a much better situation to resist an attack, than when the late siege commenced.

The quarter-master and commissaries are directed to furnish the troops of every description upon their return, with provisions and forage in the same manner as the troops which have been called regularly into service.

By the General,

Ra. GRAHAM, Aid-de-camp.

Letter to the editor of the WEEKLY REGISTER, dated CHILICOTHE, 18th May, 1813.

We now receive "news from the army" almost every day. The communication between us and Fort Meigs is completely open, and goes on as usual. Since my last, we have received the most

pleasing intelligence from the Kentucky militia who were taken near Fort Meigs. Of the 650 who were cut off from the fort, nearly five hundred survived the dreadful conflict, and surrendered themselves prisoners. Of these, about thirty (the greater part of whom were wounded) were massacred by the savages, before the British officers could effectually interfere. They were immediately, the same day, paroled, and about 450 of them hurried on board of boats, and sent down the bay and through the lake, coastwise, to the mouth of Huron river, where they were landed. A number of them passed through this place yesterday and to-day, on their way home, and all are expected in a few days.—I have received from several of them the particulars of their capture, and the circumstances that led to it. There was a great slaughter among the officers; some companies being left without any higher than a sergeant. Col. Dudley was wounded in the conflict; and when the Kentuckians were endeavoring to retreat, he was noticed by the Indians, who pursued him; the two men who were supporting him were obliged to abandon him to his fate; and he was immediately tomahawked and scalped. Among the few that were massacred, several instances of savage barbarity are related by the Kentuckians. One, which is, indeed, truly horrible, I cannot forbear mentioning.—An unfortunate victim, a stout, well-looking man, was singled out, and drawn out of the wood and knocked down by tomahawks. He was then held while three scalps were taken from his head, and his naked skull beaten with a tomahawk. The wretched sufferer lay on the ground writhing and groaning in agony. In this situation one of the Indians attempted to cut his throat with a butcher-knife, but only succeeded partially, by the exertions of the sufferer to prevent it. He was then held down by three or four others, while he received several stabs in his body, which terminated together his sufferings and his existence! Even after a strong guard of British soldiers had been placed round the prisoners to protect them from the cruelty of the allies, such was the thirst for blood in these "horrible hell hounds of savage warfare," that they several times fired into the crowd, and would then rush through the guard and drag out the slain and scalp and tomahawk them!—But, enough of this.

All the men, with whom I have conversed, attribute their capture wholly to their own imprudence. They acknowledge the orders of the officers were to retreat to the fort immediately after spiking the cannon; but, elated with their success, and believing victory complete, they thought they had only to pursue the enemy and cut them off; and it was not until they had continued the pursuit more than a mile and an half into swamps and were surrounded by the enemy, that they discovered their error; then too late to be remedied. Consternation prevailed; the line being broken and disordered in the pursuit, all subordination was at an end, and they were thrown together in a confused crowd; in which situation they were surrendered. The enemy, it appears, were almost in a starving condition, having nothing to give the prisoners but horse beef!—of this gen. Harrison was acquainted by a flag, and he sent the prisoners a plentiful supply.

All the volunteer and militia companies, which marched lately for the relief of Fort Meigs, have returned. Those from this place, being an advance corps, had got within twelve miles of Lower Sandusky, when they were met by gen. Harrison. The general was much pleased with their promptitude; but informed them a relief was now unnecessary, as the enemy had disappeared; and the troops in the fort were fully sufficient for its defence—he, there.

fore, directed them to return to their homes. The companies of drafts which had been previously called out, and placed at the different posts and garrisons beyond the frontier (which are now in a most respectable state of defence) remain there.

Gen. Harrison was in Franklinton on Sunday night (16th) and was expected in town this evening. I have not learned the object of the general's visit; but think it very probable it is to complete the arrangements which his late sudden return to Fort Meigs had partially suspended. Many may be again surprised at the general's absence from the army, especially so soon after a severe siege by the enemy. But let it be observed that all hopes which the enemy may have had of success, are now totally destroyed, having failed under circumstances the most favorable; and the greater part of the Indians have left the service for a while, for the purpose of raising their crops of corn, and procuring subsistence for themselves, which is now very precarious. It is understood to be the general's intention to delay his march to Canada for a few weeks longer, till the flotilla at Erie is ready for co-operation. He says he could now subdue Malden, and perhaps retain it too; but it would be at a wanton and unnecessary expense of blood and treasure. Indeed, it is said he has positive orders from the secretary of war to act only on the defensive—to proceed no farther, but maintain his ground.

Among the slain at Fort Meigs, I am sorry to mention the brave major *Stoddert*. He was wounded in the hip by a cannon ball, and died soon after. Capt. Langham's company of the 19th U. S. reg. infantry, has been almost totally destroyed in the conflict between col. Miller and the enemy, in attacking their batteries on the 5th inst. Only ten or fifteen of them it is said remain. Capt. Langham is a most gallant and intrepid officer. I have heard several anecdotes of his cool and determined bravery in the heat of action. He served one of the cannon in the fort, himself, all the time of the siege; one of the wheels of which was cut down by a shot from the enemy's batteries.

You will no doubt see the official detail of the siege shortly; and many particulars with which I am unacquainted will make their way to the public through other channels."

NAVAL.

On the 16th inst. the launches from the Shannon and Tornado frigates entered the port of Cape Ann, and after a smart brush succeeded in cutting out the corvette *Invincible* Napoleon, captured by the Alexander of Salem, then being in possession of the British and bound to England. The prize was moored so far from the fort that only two guns were fired at the launches, and their shot fell short.—The militia turned out and fired upon the boats, and the British discharged upwards of 150 shot at them from the frigates. We suffered no damage; the loss of the enemy is not ascertained.

Capt. *Lawrence*, it now appears, is to take command of the *Chesapeake*, ready for sea; and capt. *Evans* is to have charge of the navy yard at New-York. Capt. *Biddle*, late of the *Wasp*, takes command of the *Hornet*.

The last positive account we have of the Essex frigate is, that she watered at St. Salvador the latter end of November, ult. She was thought to be in the neighboring seas, at the date of the last accounts from that place.

From Erie we learn that great progress is made in the erection of a naval force there. Some of the gun-boats are launched, and the two 20 gun ships were expected to be in the water by the first of June. We have a fine body of sailors and stores

at that place, and they will soon be brought into play.

It appears that the British off New-York have not yet received official directions to blockade that port; but were daily expecting them.

The privateer Alexander of Salem, of 18 guns, has been chased on shore in Well's bay by two British vessels. She was so closely pushed that only 20 of her crew made their escape; but the greater part of her complement were on board seven prizes she had taken. She had upwards of 100 British prisoners on board, who were re-taken. The Alexander was got off and taken away by the British.

Fifteen dead bodies have floated on shore near the hulk of the brig *Holkar*, from which it is evident the British lost more men in destroying that vessel than was at first supposed. Capt. Collins of the *Marines* was killed.

The *United States*, *Macedonian* and *Hornet* went through Hurl Gate on the 25th inst. and were immediately to put to sea.

Extract of a letter from New-London, dated the 18th of May—The inspector of New-London, on Friday evening last, took charge of a flag, with the prisoners taken in the Fox, and returned on Saturday. Was treated by commodore Hardy with every attention; waited on by him and the first lieutenant to every part of the ship, even to the births of the officers. The commodore expressed to the inspector a total disapprobation and abhorrence of their conduct at the southward, in burning the defenceless towns and villages; and understanding by the officer who went from New-London, that some families were moving from there, he begged him to assure the ladies, that they may rely on his honor, that not a shot should be fired at any dwelling, (at least while he had the command) unless he should receive very positive orders for that purpose, which he had not the most distant idea would be received—he hoped soon to have the pleasure of making N. London a visit, not as an enemy, but a friend. On the whole, Hardy must be a noble fellow.

BLOCKADE OF THE DELAWARE.

At the date of our last accounts from *Lewistown*, the enemy force in the bay consisted of 4 or 5 frigates, well furnished with barges and small vessels, for predatory excursions on the shore.

BLOCKADE OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

We have nothing important or interesting the present week. The few ships of the enemy yet in the bay, remain near the capes, inactive. The United States hired schooners, *Revenge*, West, of 17 guns, *Comet*, Boyle, 14 guns, and *Patapsco*, Mortimer, of 12 guns, the whole commanded by captain Gordon, of the navy of the United States, have been cruising down the bay. Admiral *Warren*, with the greater part of the force lately in the Chesapeake, has gone to Bermuda. The packets have commenced running from *Baltimore*, and wood, &c. is supplied as usual. Oak wood from 4 50 to 85 per cord.

American Prizes.

WEEKLY LIST—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 198.

*The winds and seas are Britain's wide domains;

**And not a sail, but by permission, spreads its

British Naval Register.

424. Schooner — of 8 guns, captured at York, U. C. by the squadron under commodore Chauncey.

425. Schooner *Delight*, from Bermuda for Halifax, laden with wine and silks—sent into Machias, by the privateer boat *Fame*, of Salem.

426. King's packet *Mary-Ann*, 12 guns, from Malta, having touched at Gibraltar, for England; captured after an obstinate battle, by the Governor

Tompkins, of New York, and sent into Boston.—\$50,000 in gold and bullion, and the mail, are among the spoils of the conquerors. The privateer has no person hurt: 1 man was killed and several wounded on board the packet.

Proceedings of Congress.

In conformity to law, the thirteenth congress of the United States assembled in the capitol at Washington-city, on Monday last, the 24th of May.

The vice-president of the United States appeared in the senate chamber at 12 o'clock, and took his seat. On calling the roll it appeared that 25 members were present—the vice-president then rose and addressed the members. See page 202.

Precisely at 12 o'clock the late clerk of the House of Representatives called the members of that house to order, and the roll by states, being proclaimed, it appeared that 148 members were present.

A speaker was then chosen—the votes were.

For Henry Clay	89
Timothy Pitkin	4
Scattering	5

Mr. Clay was accordingly declared duly elected, and introduced to his seat—on which he addressed the house in an appropriate speech.

The members being sworn, Patrick Magruder was re-elected clerk, having 111 votes. Thomas Claxton was re-appointed door-keeper; Thomas Dunn sergeant at arms and William Birch assistant door-keeper.

The usual order for furnishing the members with papers, &c. was adopted; and a joint committee of both houses appointed to inform the president they were ready to receive any communication he might have to make.

☞ A complete roll of the members of the 13th congress may be expected in the next number of the REGISTER.

IN SENATE, Wednesday, May 25.

No material business was done.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. Goodwyn, it was resolved that the standing committees be now appointed.

[These committees will not be announced until to-morrow.]

On motion of Mr. Dawson, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Macon in the chair, on the state of the Union, for the purpose of taking into consideration the President's message, delivered yesterday, see page 201.]

The following resolutions were moved by Mr. Dawson, and adopted without objection:

Resolved, That so much of the message as relates to the military establishment of the United States be referred to a select committee.

Resolved, That so much as relates to the naval establishment be referred to a select committee.

Resolved, That so much as relates to the revenue be referred to the committee of ways and means.

On motion of Mr. Grundy, it was

Resolved, That so much of the message as relates to foreign affairs, be referred to a select committee.

BARBARITIES OF THE ENEMY.

After the adoption of these resolves,

Mr. Clay (speaker) rose and adverted to that part of the message which alludes to the inhumanity of the enemy, expressed his abhorrence of the enormities committed by them, as well in the massacre of our citizens on the Western frontier, as the conflagration of our little towns on the maritime border. The latter outrage had not been pretended to be denied, but had been apologized for (by, whom he did not say) on the pretence that our people had first

fired on one of their flags. Although he believed the allegation false, he was glad that it was thought necessary to make any apology for it. The facts, however, in both cases ought to be enquired into and distinctly ascertained. If found to be as public report had stated them, they called for the indignation of all Christendom, and they ought to be embodied in an authentic document which might perpetuate them on the page of history. These were substantially the remarks, as written from memory, with which Mr. Clay prefaced the following resolution:

Resolved, That so much of the message of the President of the U. States as relates to the spirit and manner in which the war has been waged by the enemy, be referred to a select committee.

The resolution was adopted without opposition or division.

The committee then rose, and the several resolutions adopted in committee of the whole were agreed to by the house.

After these resolutions were agreed to—

Mr. Grosvenor moved to reconsider the resolution moved in committee by the Speaker, for the purpose of amending it. Quoting the message of the president, he said that the barbarity of the enemy was herein contrasted with the humanity which had characterized the war on our part. He wished to see the evidence on this head also, and therefore was desirous of amending the resolution, if re-considered, by adding, after the words "by the enemy," the words "and by this nation."

Mr. Desha suggested the propriety of recommitting the subject to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, that the mover of this resolve (Mr. Speaker Clay) might have an opportunity of speaking to it, if re-considered.

Mr. Grosvenor said he had not the slightest objection to this course. He also intimated a disposition to withdraw the motion he had made; but,

Mr. Wright took the floor. He was opposed to the proposed re-consideration, principally because he thought the amendment suggested would cast a reflection, by insinuation, on the conduct of our officers. He was not disposed at this moment to give his sanction to a procedure which would be a libel on our land and naval officers, who had distinguished themselves during the war, as much by their humanity as by their valor. The same paper which recorded the great exploits of our navy, would record the humanity along with the bravery of its officers. [The Speaker here apprised Mr. W. that he had misunderstood the gentleman from N. York, if he had supposed him to have cast any imputation on the conduct of our officers.] Mr. W. then said he wished to know, that he might act understandingly, whether it was intended to insinuate or suggest that there had been any impropriety of conduct on our part; or whether, in referring the subject to a committee, it was intended to state any facts, or shew any cause in support of that reference. He hoped the resolve would not be reconsidered; although, if there were the slightest ground for such a course, he should not hesitate to institute an enquiry into the conduct of any individual who should have dared to violate the usages of war so sacredly observed by the government and our people in general.

Mr. Grosvenor said he had merely wished, as the object of the honorable Speaker had been avowed on making his motion to be the obtaining of an historical document to perpetuate the barbarity of the enemy; and as in the message that barbarity had been contrasted with our humanity, that the facts on the one hand should accompany those on the

other. He should hope, he said, that the call for such a paper, would be far from presenting a libel on our officers, as the gentlemen from Maryland seemed to suppose. Mr. G. was not however solicitous about the fate of his motion, for which, he said, he felt but little anxiety.

The question for re-consideration was then taken, and lost.

For reconsideration, 62
Against it, 74

The house then proceeded to ballot for a chaplain.

The reverend Jesse Lee was chosen:

First ballot.

Rev. Mr. Lee,	76	Mr. Lee,	81
Mr. Addison,	58	Mr. Addison,	66
Scattering,	18	Scattering,	2

At 1 o'clock the house adjourned.

Thursday, May 17.—Mr. Gholson presented the petition of John Taliaferro, praying that the election of John P. Hungerford may be set aside and himself admitted to a seat. Referred to the committee of elections.

Mr. Eppes presented the petition of Burwell Bassett, contesting the election of Mr. B. y. e. Referred to the committee of elections.

Committees Appointed

Committee of Elections—Messrs. Fisk, Burwell, Davenport, Anderson, Condit, Avery, Pickering.

Committee of Ways and Means—Messrs. Eppes, Roberts, Bibb, Pleasants, Pitkin, Gourdine, Montgomery.

Committee of Claims—Messrs. Archer, Brown, Mosely, Sage, Stanford, Goodwyn, Caldwell.

Committee of Commerce and Manufactures—Messrs. Newton, M'Kim, W. Reed, Benson, Seyber, Parker, Telfair.

Committee on Public Lands—Messrs. M'Kee, Robertson, Breckenridge, Rigelow, M'Clean, King, (of N. C.) Comard.

Committee for the District of Columbia—Messrs. Dawson, Kent, Lewis, Pearson, Ringgold, Grosvenor, Bowen.

Committee on the Post-Offices and Post-Roads—Messrs. Rhea of Ten. Lyle, Franklin, Law, Jackson of R. I. Bradley, Sharp.

Committee of Revisal and Unfinished business—Messrs. Alston, Ely, Roane.

Committee of Accounts—Messrs. Pickens, Moore, Winter.

Committee on Enrolment—Messrs. Crawford and Bayley.

SECRET COMMITTEES.

Committee on Foreign Affairs—Messrs. Calhoun, Grundy, Desha, Jackson of Va. Ingersol, Fisk of N. Y. Webster.

Military Establishment—Messrs. Nelson, Ward of Mass. Alston, Sockton, Skinner, Davis, Post.

Spirit and manner of waging the War—Messrs. Macon, Forsythe, Wright, Gaston, Clarke, Humphreys, Cooper.

Expose of the French Empire.

From the Bordeaux L'Indicateur of March 3.

LEGISLATIVE BODY,—Sitting of the 25th Feb. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 187.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

In 1809, the number of pupils in the literary academies was but 9500, 2700 of whom were day scholars, and 6800 boarding scholars: at present the number of pupils is 18,000, 10,000 of whom are day scholars, and 8000 boarders.

Five hundred and ten colleges, afford instruction to 50,000 pupils 12,000 of whom are boarders.

One thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven boarding houses, or private institutions, contain 47,000 pupils. Thirty-one thousand primary schools give classical tuition to 920,000 youths. Thus it is, that 1,000,000 young Frenchmen enjoy the benefit of public instruction.

The university forms distinct subjects in the sciences and belles-lettres, as well as the manner of their being taught. They bring yearly to the lycées good traditions and perfect methodical plans.

The thirty-five academies of the university have 9000 auditors, two thirds of whose pupils are students in medicine.

The polytechnique schools give yearly to the special schools of genius, of artillery, of bridges, heights and mines, 150 youths, commendable for their knowledge and ingenuity.

The schools of St. Cyr, St. Germain, and La Fleche, furnish yearly 1500 youths for a military career.

The number of pupils in the veterinaire (farrier) schools is doubled. The interests of agriculture have dictated a better organization of this species of schools.

The academy of the Crusco of Florence, a depository of the purest Italian language: the institute of Amsterdam; and the academy of St. Luke, at Rome; have all received new regulations, as well as sufficient donations.

The works of the institute of France continue—one-third of its dictionary is completed, and the whole may be accomplished in two years. The researches made into our language and into our history, occupy a number of its members.

The translations of Strabo and of Ptolemy, do honor to the useful sages who undertook the task.—The sixteenth volume of the compilation of the ordinances of the kings of France has been published.

OF MARINE.

France has experienced, by the events at Toulon, the civil wars in the south, in La Vendee, and in the western departments, as well as in the affairs at Quiberon, very great losses. The best naval officers and experienced seamen perished on the above occasions. Our squadrons since that epoch, have been manned by inexperienced crews. The insufficiency of our maritime means has been acknowledged, and the decrease of these means is yearly more sensibly felt; being the unavoidable result of the constant superiority of the enemy, and the almost entire annihilation of our maritime commerce.

It were needless to dissemble what was to be the result; either to despair of the restoration of our maritime power in the time of war, or have recourse to new measures. In giving way to the former, we would have acted as did the administration under Louis XIV. and Louis XV. which were discouraged by the defeat of La Hogue, and by the following war of 1758. At both these periods the maritime system was abandoned, and the building of warlike vessels ceased. The resources of the finances were appropriated to the army. But the result of this neglect proved very fatal to the glory and prosperity of France.

England domineered over us—she imposed upon us treaties which should be torn from our records. We should ourselves demolish our ports, and admit English commissaries to superintend said demolition. From the natural result of the superiority of her naval force, England imposed on us commercial treaties destructive to our industry; and whenever she thought proper to declare war against us in order to plunder our commerce, or possess herself of our settlements in different parts of the world, she was conscious of finding us destitute of naval means

to defend the honor of our flag. Hence that contempt which the people of England have, on every occasion, manifested towards us.

Were the administrations under Louis XIV. and Louis XV. obliged to embrace the fatal measure of renouncing a navy, by the deranged state of their finances, or by the real impossibility of France re-occupying her former boundaries, and of building and re-organizing large fleets in time of war?

Nothing scarcely is practicable in Brest, or at least, every thing is rendered extremely difficult, whilst that port is blockaded by a squadron superior to the one in that harbor. But it is probable that the state of the finances, the wants accruing from the continental wars, and the difficulty of re-organizing the navy, added to the want of energy in those administrations, contributed greatly in creating despondency, and suffering our navy to decay.

The fatal blows which our squadrons have since experienced, were the immediate results of our civil dissensions; they placed us in the same situation as in the days of Louis XIV. and Louis XV. But if there is a similarity in the situation, the other circumstances are in every respect different.

The possession of Holland and of L'Escout; the extension of our power on the coasts of the Adriatic, in the ports of Genoa and Spezia, and on the Rhine and Meuse, have afforded us maritime means of much greater importance than those possessed by the ancient monarchy. We can now build fleets without being disturbed by superior hostile force, and without any additional expense.

The good administration of the finances of the empire has placed us in a state to meet the expenses produced by the establishment of an extensive navy, and to defray the expenses of continental wars. Finally, the energy of our government, and its undeviating firmness were alone capable of surmounting greater obstacles.

The administration of marine, however felt the necessity of adopting a fixed system, and the first steps to be adopted were the establishment of new ports, the building of new ships, and the instruction and training of sailors.

In the Channel nature has done every thing for England, and has done every thing against us. From the reign of Louis XVI. we felt the importance of having a port on that sea. The project of Cherbourg had been adopted and the foundation of dykes was formed. But during our civil dissensions, all those works being interrupted, they were wasted and abandoned, and it afterwards became a problem whether La Hogue would not be preferable to Cherbourg. The administration turned its attention to this important question, and the decision in favor of Cherbourg being confirmed, the works of the dykes were resumed, and every exertion is making to render the harbor secure from attacks. But this harbor had the disadvantage of being exposed. To careen heavy ships of war was either impossible or very difficult. But the administration would not be deterred: no expense was spared to render the locality correspondent to the original designs; in having a port sufficiently spacious to contain fifty ships of war, and places to build a squadron.

After ten years of labour which attended the enterprise justified the hopes of those who had undertaken it. A squadron is on the stocks at Cherbourg, and the basins will be able to receive this year a very numerous squadron. It was great, indeed to supply a want felt ever since the battle of La Hogue, by having a warlike port in the Channel. But it was not less important to have a similar port in the North Sea, and to avail ourselves of the numerous and safe harbours of L'Escout.

The basin of Flushing, and that of Anvers, have cost many millions. Twenty ships may be constructed at the shelter at Anvers, and upwards of sixty may find shelter in the ports of Anvers and Flushing.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE CHRONICLE.

Rumors.—It is said the emperor of France to secure the co-operation of his father-in-law, will restore to him his former maritime possessions on the Adriatic with the whole of the ancient Venetian states.—It is stated that England will bestow the island of Guadaloupe upon Sweden as the price of fighting France. It is said the Duke of Cumberland is to command an expedition from England to the north of Europe, where great disturbances exist. The French sailors at Flushing and Antwerp and in the Texel are said to be much disaffected; and the conscripts deserting in great numbers. Bonaparte was tempting the Turks to declare war against Russia. The Russian forces in Germany are given at 350,000 men. Prussia had joined her fate with Alexander's, &c. &c.

Petitions for a general peace have been presented to Parliament from several of the manufacturing towns; and many addresses are offering to the princess of Wales on "her happy escape from the conspiracy formed against her honor and life."

We hear of some pleasant movements in the provinces of Caracas. The spirit of patriotism is breaking out afresh. Nearly the whole of Cumana is in the possession of the republicans; and it is thought they would soon approach the capital.

Inspections at Richmond for the three months ending May 1, 1813.—\$1,903 bbls. flour, 637 half do. 18,307 bbls. fine do. 4,359 middling do. 552 condemned, 179 ship-stuff—TOTAL 56,437.

A letter from St. Mary's says, that Amelia island was evacuated on the 6th of May, with the greatest order and decorum. Gov. Kinderland, from St. Augustine took possession at the same time. He brought a collector of the port and several civil officers.

Robert H. Goldsborough, Esq. has been appointed a senator of the United States by the legislature of Maryland, vice colonel P. Read. Mr. R. was opposed to the leading measures of the government, and the war. Mr. G. is a "federalist."

Duelling.—In South Carolina, Walter Taylor, Esq. has been fined \$300, sentenced to be imprisoned 3 months, and to enter into recognizance in the sum of \$2000 to keep the peace six years, for sending a challenge.

Letters from Nantz of the 12th of April, state, that the ship Congress, Clarke, from this port, for London, with flour, and naval stores, taken by the French, and carried into Cherbourg in March, 1812, was restored by the council of prizes, the amount of the part of cargo sold and paid over to the agent of the ship. The Congress was to sail shortly with Mrs. Barlow and other passengers.

Baltimore Coffee-House Books.

☞ We have on hand, a considerable quantity of foreign state papers of much interest, elucidating the polity and condition of European nations; but the pressure of our own affairs is so great as to deny their insertion at present. The long promised APPENDIX will be finished next week, and forwarded as soon as possible thereafter—we shall then have opportunity to meet, by supplements, the matter as it comes.

About 70 complete files of the Register may yet be had, by paying 15¢ for 3 years subscription.