

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD OUR END."

Vol. I.]

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[No. 17

THE MILITARY MONITOR, AND AMERICAN REGISTER, By T. O'CONNOR,

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NEW-YORK, 1812.

Official.

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the President's Message to Congress.

(CONTINUED.)

Mr. Erving to the Secretary of State enclosing a Correspondence with the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Erving to Mr. Monroe, Secretary of State.

COPENHAGEN, April 12th 1812.

SIR,

My last dispatch upon general business was No. 12. I therein mentioned the case of the "Jane Maria," which had been cut out of the port of Swinemunde by a French privateer; subsequent to the date of that dispatch the Captain arrived, but in the intermediate time, a Frenchman had been put on board as a guard, and this became an obstacle to her departure; my correspondence with Mr. de Rosenkrantz on this affair is herewith submitted viz. No. 1, December 10th, No. 2, January 11th, No. 3, January 15th, No. 4, January 15th, No. 5, January 16th, of the enclosures. I understand that one of the crew of the "Jane Maria," has appeared before a notary and sworn that whilst the vessel lay at Swinemunde she had communication with the English and was to have gone under their convoy; should this de-

claration prove to be correct, yet I presume that she cannot therefore be condemned; the French Minister does not however find himself authorised to release her, but he momentarily expects orders from his government on the subject: the papers of the vessel are in my possession.

In my dispatch No. 10, I mentioned that of the cases which were pending on my arrival in Copenhagen, the "Minerva Smith," Mann, only remained to be adjudged and that I had sought to delay it for the purpose of procuring and in the hope of introducing before the tribunal some further evidence: a part of the evidence to which I referred was soon afterwards received from England, and laid before the Minister of State in a note of December 13th, a copy (No. 6) is enclosed as it serves to explain the peculiar difficulties under which this, a property of very great value, was placed; no change having been produced by this representation in the opinion of the high court, I obtained that the case should be laid before the Danish chancery, and the report of that body not being sufficiently full and satisfactory, the case was transferred to the Sleswic Holstein chancery (on the King's own suggestion) as Kiel where the vessel was taken being within the jurisdiction of that chancery: the affair was not properly cognizable by the Danish chancery: these various operations consumed a great deal of time, but finally towards the latter end of February Sleswic Holstein chancery produced a very labored and voluminous report in favor of the case, pursuant to which his Majesty ordered the high court to pass sentence of acquittal.

With my aforementioned dispatch No. 10, was transmitted copy of a note to Mr. de Rosenkrantz (of September 28th.) respecting the then pending cases generally; still further to promote the

object of it, I again addressed him on November 3d, and in the progress of the business perceiving that the high court had lost nothing of its disposition to condemn, and had actually determined to sacrifice one of the clearest cases in the whole list (the "Brutus") on the 13th December I thought it necessary to require that its proceedings should be arrested, and its opinions submitted to the King through his chancery, (those two notes are No. 7 and 8, of the enclosed); the necessary order was immediately given, and thus two or three cases were saved from condemnation. But though the report of the chancery on the case of the "Brutus," was favorable, that vessel was finally condemned; the particular circumstances of her case will be seen in my note to Mr. de Rosenkrantz of April 10th, and the sentence of the tribunal (Nos. 7 B & 8 B of the enclosed papers.

At the date of said dispatch No. 10, there were ten cases depending exclusively of French captures and inclusive of the "Hannah," and "Two Generals," double captures, as appears by the list which was therewith transmitted. In dispatch No. 11, I mentioned the release of the "Horrace," and "Augustus" two of the list; so that there were at that time only six cases of simple capture depending. I have now the satisfaction of informing you that the whole of these have been acquitted, the "Brutus," has above mentioned, only excepted. The "Hannah" and "Two Generals," must I fear be determined in Paris; the French government has proposed to the Danish, that without reference to these questions of jurisdiction which have always been found so difficult to arrange, to the satisfaction of all parties, the simple rule shall be adopted of determining the question of prize in the tribunals of the country to which the captor may belong, in all cases where he may possess himself of the captured vessel's papers. The pro-

position has not been nor do I believe that it will be acceded to by the Danish government; yet, Sir, you will readily perceive, that if the French government should persist, there can be very little expectation of our obtaining from this the release of a vessel which may have been condemned by the council of prizes; there is even some reason to apprehend that it will so persist since the French consul has now received orders from the Minister of Marine to transmit to Paris the papers of the ship "Olive Branch" which as mentioned in my dispatch No. 12, was seized under the very guns of the fort of Nyborg, and this case is peculiarly strong since the "Olive Branch" had his Danish Majesty's licence on board. But I must in this place also mention, that my correspondence with Mr. Desaugiers (lately French charge d'affaires here) which was submitted to you with dispatch No. 8, having been also submitted to his government, he is now answered by the Duke of Bassano in terms strongly reprehending the excesses of the corsairs in general, and particularly reproving their practice of hoisting the French flag on board the vessels captured, of which he strictly forbids the recurrence.

The "Rachel," "Roxel," and "Packer," three vessels (on the pending lists heretofore transmitted) which have been released, being partly laden with colonial produce, were pursuant to the established regulations with regard to vessels so laden, ordered to quit the port and to proceed on their voyages; the French privateers were then watching for and would infallibly have captured them on their departure. The copies herewith enclosed, viz. my notes to Mr. de Rosenkrantz of November 27th, 28th, and 29th, (Number 9, 10 and 11)—Mr. de Rosenkrantz his unofficial note of December 1st (Number 12) my reply of same date (Number 13)—Mr. de Rosenkrantz his official note of December 2d (Number 14) relate to this matter, which you will be pleased to observe was very satisfactorily settled.

The last list of vessels which had passed this way was dated October 9th; since then a few scattered vessels have presented themselves, viz:

The "Dolphin," Latham, The "America," Briggs, from Petersburg to the United States, passed without interruption.

The "Ann," How, arrived safely at Christiansand.

The "Sally," Brown, turned away from Amsterdam by the English, continued her voyage towards this place and was wrecked on the coast of Jutland.

The "Adriana," Abrahams, of Baltimore (belonging to Smith & Co.) with a cargo of hides conveyed by the Danes from Gottenburg to Copenhagen (having Danish licence) cargo sold in Copenhagen, and reconveyed to Elsinour.

The "Columbia," Jeanison (owners unknown) from St. Ubes with salt, much under the same circumstances.

The "Swanwick," Clark, with a cargo of tobacco, property of Pratt & Kintzing of Philadelphia, do. do.

The "Asia," Ormsby, (Brown and Ives of Providence) with 3500 chests of tea arrived at Gottenburg some months since in her voyage from thence to Copenhagen, captured by a Danish privateer, but immediately released, having the King's permission to come hither and sell.

This completes the account of our trade for the last year as particulars have come to my knowledge. In my dispatch, No. 12, I transmitted certain statements relating to that trade; triplicates of those statements were sent with No. 14, with the addition of a printed tariff of the duties payable on all merchandise passing through the Sound; a duplicate of the tariff is herewith enclosed. I have lately seen a printed statement of our exports from Petersburg during the last year, made by a commercial house of that place, it agrees in general with the documents N. 3, enclosed with my aforesaid dispatch; it is, however, more complete as to the number of vessels, including all those which went up through the Belt, and gives a total of 127 (nothing that in 1810 the total was 100 only) but states that 29 of the 127 were bound to European ports, having as part of their cargoes 23615 *poods* of *flax*; most of these 29 probably returned through the Belt; such as passed the Sound must have had false clearances.

In the course of judicial investigations, the Danes have already discovered, as is supposed, sufficient grounds for distrusting the character of our commerce; such printed information from what is called a "respectable American house" at Petersburg, recommending itself to its correspondents by this species of industry, cannot fail to augment that distrust.

All the old and new cases being now disposed of, I herewith enclose a table (Number 19) bringing the whole of them and the proceedings which have been had on them into one view.—I beg you, Sir to observe that of 38 cases of Danish capture on the list of 1811, there have been only three appeals of the captors against the sentences of acquittal given by the inferior tribunal, so

little have been their expectation of procuring final condemnations; and that excepting the three English and English licenced cases ("President," "Neptune," and "Aurora"), there has been but one final condemnation, viz. the "Brutus," I hope that upon the whole this view will be satisfactory to the President. Mr. de Rosenkrantz told me in the early interview that the administration of justice was as impartial and as prompt here as in any other country; he added (referring to the dispositions of the King), that in future we should have nothing to complain of; how far his assertion was correct, or his promise has been complied with, I will not presume to determine, but I must do so with perfect sincerity and under impressions the most just and friendly, and to believe that where the results fall short of our expectations, it has not been from any failure of those dispositions.

I have taken occasion in former despatches to mention, and in frequent representations to Mr. de Rosenkrantz to remonstrate, against the practices of fining and taking vessels acquitted in the tribunals; these practices nearly indiscriminate as they are I found to be quite unreasonable, in their application frequently most unjust; yet after all for the amount of the exactions, they are not oppressive; perhaps had they been abolished altogether we might not have had quite so many vessels captured, there would certainly have been more appeals and might have been more condemnations. The lists herewith enclosed (paper marked No. 20) show the sums which the cases have been charged under the several heads of costs, fines, and 2 per mille tax in the tribunals of Copenhagen; the 2 per mille goes to the King's coffer, the fine goes to the captor for his trouble in capturing where he is supposed to have had just grounds of suspicion; the court expenses are invariable forty six dollars (equal to \$ 1.2 dollars) in each case! There are no other expenses but advocate's fees; here as in all countries the amount of these is settled by agreement between the council and the client; in the inferior tribunal no advocate is employed.

The situation of the masters of our vessels condemned here was formerly made the more distressing by the prosecutions to which they were exposed on account of wages due to their sailors, the laws here compelling them to provide for their crews; these laws had been executed with great rigor, and large sums had been frequently adjudged to be paid by masters who would

carcely find credit for their own subsistence. The Consul had by frequent representations endeavored to remedy this evil, but without success; when I came to act in this matter I was answered that if the master deceived the men by engaging them in a vessel which was not in fact American he pretended it was but just that he should pay them, his sufferings then were chargeable only to his own misconduct; however, I finally obtained that it should be laid before the chancery: that tribunal by a report of January 11, adopted by his Majesty decreed that "no lawsuit regarding the wages due to North American mariners from their captains shall be admitted before the tribunals." I did not succeed in obtaining payment for the men out of the condemned vessel, but on this point thought it not prudent to go far.

With most perfect respect, &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE W. ERLING.

(Documents to be continued.)

GEN. HOPKINS'S EXPEDITION.

FRANKFORD, K^y Nov. 7.
Copy of a letter from maj. gen. Hopkins, to his Excellency Gen. Shelby, dated, Fort Harrison, 6th Oct. 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,

The expedition of the mounted riflemen has terminated. The Wabash was re-crossed yesterday, and the whole corps are on their way to Busserson, where the Adj. Gen. will attend in order to have them properly mustered and discharged; and where their horses may get forage during the delay necessary for this object.

Yes, sir, this army has returned without hardly obtaining sight of an enemy. A simple narrative of the facts, as they occurred, will best explain the reasons that have led to this state of things.

The army had finished crossing on the 14th inst. marched about 3 miles and encamped. I here requested the attendance of the generals field officers and captains, to whom I imparted the objects of the expedition, and the advantages that might result from a fulfilment of them. The nearest Kickapoo villages were from 80 to 100 miles, and Peoria not more than 160. By breaking up these, or as many as our resources would permit, we would be rendering a service to all the territories. That from their numbers, this tribe was more formidable than any other near us; and from their situation and hostility, had it more in their power to do us mischief of course, to chastise and destroy these, would be rendering real benefit to our country. It was observed by some of

ficers, that they would meet the next morning to consult together, and next to me their opinions—desiring, at the same time, to be furnished with the person on whom I had relied for intelligence of the country.

This council was held, and all the intelligence furnished, &c. had been requested; and I had a report highly favorable to the enterprise. This to me was more gratifying, as I had found as early as our encampment at Vincennes, discontents and murmurings, that portended no wish to proceed further. At Busserson, I found an evident increase of discontent, although no army was ever better or more amply supplied with rations and forage than at this place,—and fort Harrison, where we encamped on the 10th, and where we were well supplied with forage, &c. I found on the 12th and 13th, many breaking off and returning home without applying to me for a discharge, and as far as I know, without any notification to their officers: indeed, I have every reason to suppose, the officers of every grade gave no countenance to such a procedure.—Thinking myself now secure in the confidence of my brother officers of the army, we proceeded on our march early on the 15th, and continued it four days, our course nearly north, in the prairie, until we came to an Indian house, where some corn, &c. had been cultivated. The last day of the march to this place, I had been made acquainted with a return of that spirit of discontent that had, as I had hoped, subsided; and when I had ordered a halt near sun-set (for the first time that day) in a fine piece of grass in the prairie, to aid our horses, I was addressed in the most rude and dictatorial manner, requiring me immediately to resume my march, or his battalion would break off from the army and return. This was a major Singleton. I mention him in justice to the other officers of that grade. But from every information, I began to fear the army waited but for a pretext to return. This was afforded next day by our guides, who had thought that they had ascertained an Indian village on the side of a grove about ten mile from where we encamped on the fourth night of our march, and turned us about 6 or 8 miles out of our way.—An almost universal discontent seemed to prevail, and we took our course in such a direction as we hoped would best avert for the error in the morning. About, or after sun-set, we came to a thin grove affording water. Here we took up our camp; and about this time arose one of the most violent gusts of wind I ever remember to have seen, not proceeding

from clouds. The Indians had set fire to the prairie, which drove on us so furiously, that we were compelled to fire around our camp to protect ourselves.—This seems to have decided the army to return. I was informed of it so many ways, that early on the next morning (Oct. 20th) I requested the attendance of the general and field officers, and stated to them my apprehensions, the expectations of our country, the disgrace attending the measure, and the approbation of our own consciences. Against this, I stated the situation of our horses and the want of provisions, (which to me seemed only partial, six days having only passed since every part of the army, as was believed, was furnished with ten days in bacon, beef or bread-stuff) the reasons given for returning.

I requested the commandants of each regiment to convene the whole of the officers below them, and to take fully the sense of the army on this measure, report to the commandants of brigades, who were requested to report to me in writing; that if 500 volunteers would turn out, I would put myself at their head, and proceed in quest of the towns; and the balance of the army might retreat under the conduct of their officers to fort Harrison. In less than an hour this report was made almost unanimously to return. I then requested that I might dictate the course to be pursued that day only which I pledged myself should not put them more than 6 miles out of the way; my object being to cover the reconnoitering parties, I wished to send out for the discovery of the Indian towns.—About this time the troops being peraded, I put myself in front, took my course and directed them to follow me; the columns moving off quite a contrary way, I sent captain Taylor and major Lee to apply to the officers leading the columns, to turn them. They were told it was not in their power. The army had taken their course, and would pursue it.—Discovering great confusion and disorder in the march, I threw myself in the rear, fearing an attack on those who were there from necessity, and continued in that position the whole day.—The exhausted state of the horses, nor the hunger of the men retarded this day's march; so swiftly was it prosecuted that it was long before the rear arrived at the encampment. The generals Ray, Ramsey and Allen, lent their aid and authority in restoring our march to order, and so far succeeded, as to bring on the whole with much less loss than I had learned; indeed, I have no reason to think we were either followed or menaced by an enemy. I think we

marched at least 80 or 90 miles in the heart of the enemy's country; had he possessed a design to fight us, opportunities in abundance presented. So formidable was our appearance in the prairie, and in the country, (as I am told never trod before by hostile feet) must impress the bordering tribes with a sense of their danger. If it operated beneficially in this way, our labor will not be altogether in vain.

I hope the expense attending this expedition will be found less than usual on such occasions. I have consulted economy in every instance; subject only to real necessity has been the expenditure; and the forage has been the heaviest article.

To the officers commanding brigades, many of the field officers, captains, &c. my thanks are due; many of the old Kentucky veterans, whose heads are frosted by time, are entitled to every confidence and praise their country can bestow. To the adjutant quarter master general, and the members of my own family, I feel indebted for ready, able and manly support, in every instance.— Let me here include our friend, George Walker, our judge advocate general; who lived with me, took more than a common share of the fatigue and toil, and who did all in his power to further the service of the corps of spies and guards, under the direction of major Dubois, and the two companies of Kentucky and Gwatkin, who encamped near me, and were under my immediate orders. I experienced an alertness and attention highly honorable to them. These corps were ready to have gone on to execute any service; the whole amounted to about 120, deserves honorable mention.

Mr. Barton and Messrs. Lacey and Le Plant, interpreters and guides, deserves well of me; I am certain we were not twenty miles from the Indian village when we were forced to retire, and I have many reasons to prove we were in the right way.

I have myself (superadded to the mortification I felt at thus returning) been in a bad state of health from first to last, and am now so weak as not to be able to keep myself on my horse.

A violent diarrhoea has pursued me ten days past, and reduced me extremely low; I had resolved to continue with the line of march a little, if unable to ride. There are yet many things of which I wish to write; they relate substantially to prospective operations.— Soon again shall I have the honor to address your excellency, in the meantime be assured of the perfect consid-

eration and high regard of your obedient friend and servant.

SAMUEL HOPKINS.

Governor Shelby.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

BILL FOR INCREASING THE PAY OF THE SOLDIERY.

(Continued.)

The objections to the section were declared by Mr. Troup to be not only invalid in themselves, but more particularly to demand caution and jealousy, because they were not only novel and untried, but in fact contradictory to the opinions of the greatest and most experienced military authorities, who have uniformly held it as a maxim that the very class of population adopted by this bill and objected to by the gentleman in opposition, that is to say, youths from eighteen to twenty-one years, really constituted the best strength of an army.— So entirely had France acted upon this principle that her whole army was made up of young men of that age. From the advantages to be derived from the adoption of such a principle, and from following so salutary an example, an attempt had been made to move the house, by setting up in *terrorem* a flimsy pretext that by employing such young men would be a violation of the laws of contract, and an infraction of the most sacred moral obligations. If a matter of such grave importance and urgent national necessity were to be permitted to dwindle down to a question of feeling, and sympathy were allowed to usurp the seat of judgement and of reason, the objections made to the section would extend much farther than the gentlemen in opposition had carried them or imagined—and in essential right and spirit go to the disbanding of nearly the whole of our army—since it would be at least as difficult to find a man of more than twenty-one years of age, as it was to find one under it who did not stand in some moral or tender relation, or some serious tie or obligation to a breach of which it would be unjustifiable to tempt him, if some motive of a higher nature and more imperious necessity did not demand it. He hoped and believed that there were few gentlemen in that house who would not concur with him in opinion that a husband separated from his wife and children was at least as legitimate an object of sympathy as any of the hypothetical sufferers alluded to by the opposition:— And for his part he thought that

parent deserted by a son of more than twenty-one years, on whose labours his old age might be dependent for support, was not less an object of compassion than if that son had been one, or two, or three years younger. Of such men are our armies chiefly composed—of such is the recruiting officers' muster rolls very much composed—And yet with respect to such our sympathies to be permitted to lie asleep, to awaken only to the inconveniences of their younger brother soldiers! Thus the doctrines of the gentlemen, whether on the score of morality or expedience, if they apply at all to the cases for which they adduce them, will apply with equal aptitude to the far greater part of the rest of the army.

As to the fitness of men of that time of life for military service. Mr. Troup offered it as his opinion that at the age of eighteen the young men of this country are in point of physical force as equal to the fatigues of a camp as those of other countries are at twenty-one. On many accounts their services were more valuable than those of older men, and, being so, he for one would not agree to dispense with them.

Mr. Lowndes spoke, but in our situation we could not hear him.

The section was carried in its original state.

This question being disposed of, another arose on motion of the speaker to introduce a clause into the bill for raising the pay of recruiting officers. The grounds he laid before the house for supporting his proposition were, that in order to accelerate and facilitate the filling up of the ranks of the army, it was no less necessary to inflame the zeal of the officers by an adequate incentive, than to quicken the alacrity of the private to enlist by a well applied stimulus.— Besides as the law now stood, the officer was frequently a heavy loser by his exertions in forwarding the service.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

Defence of New-York.

No. X.

It may be objected perhaps, by some, that the platoon may as well be wheeled at once into the new position. I reply, that this is only preparatory to a more extended practice by battalion, or brigade; which will be readily understood by those who know, that movements of the smallest portion of the company, should be made relatively to the batta-

tion—that is, the moving body should never consider itself insulated on, but the contrary, act as if it composed a flank or the centre of a larger corps.

The companies having learned the use of firelock:—to file and form—to advance and retire a flank—to form and march in column—to close—to open—to countermarch and form platoon to reduce and increase the front and to change into a new direction on the march equal or less than 90 degrees on the quarter of a circle; may now assemble in battalion; at its alarm post and be divided into portions of two companies each and made to perform what they shall have learned at their company drills. The officers must act as guides and commanders in turn.

A wing may next be exercised and finally a battalion. The advancing or retiring of the battalion should be at first on echelon of companies, from one or both flanks, by advancing the right or left, or both—from the centre by advancing the fifth and sixth companies, with guides perpendicularly placed before the centre.

When capable of moving in perpendicular echelon of companies—then the march should be by alternate wings, the guides on the inner flanks and finally the march should be by battalion in order of battle.

The next assemblage should by brigade; four battalions in each would be sufficient. What had been previously learned should now be practised on a larger scale. The general of brigade giving the cautionary commands and the commands for execution each of which should be rapidly repeated in succession by the commanders of battalions. The brigade should devote a considerable portion of its time to the march in line by echelon of battalions or half battalions. This is an order of march in which it is impossible for a line to engage without orders although composed of the most ardent material.

The brigade should be frequently formed into two lines and taught to advance and retire through the intervals and thus mutually support each other. It is worthy of remark that the "book" of regulation for the United States' army contains no intelligible directions for the movement of a second line when the first takes up a perpendicular position; which is certainly the least complex of any of the movements of two lines; yet this book is said to contain a system of discipline, of which if any one presume to doubt he can be silenced "by authority!"

OF THE ECHELON.

The celebrated Frederick of Prussia, gained the battle of Prague; but, it cost him eighteen thousand men; among whom fell "the pillars of the Prussian Infantry."

In a few weeks after, he lost the battle of Kolin by the imprudence of prince Maurice and Manstein. The raising of the siege of Prague, the capture of Schweidnitz, and the defeat of the prince of Bevern quickly followed. The Prussian army got discouraged and overwhelmed by the memory of recent defeat. *It became necessary (says the king) to appeal to the honor of the officers; to recapitulate their former exploits;—wine was even had recourse to, that the depressed spirit might be renovated. The King conversed freely with the soldiers, distributed provisions gratis; in fine, exhausted every means imagination could supply, and time could admit, to awaken confidence in the troops, without which all hope of victory was vain.*

A new spirit was infused into his army; they became anxious to wipe out the stain which their arms had received at Kolin. The king speedily found an occasion to gratify this wish; but like a great man, as his whole life shewed him to be, his order of march to attack was such as to put it out of the power of temerity to hinder him from gaining a victory. Already (says the King speaking of the battle of Leuthen) had Wedel who with his ten battalions of the Vanguard was to form the first attack, marched in front of the army. The van of the columns had already gained the rivulet of Schweidnitz, without being perceived by the foe. Marshal Daun, understood the motion of the Prussians as a retreat and said to prince Charles of Lorraine, "*these good folks are going, let them go!*"—Wedel, however had formed before the two lines of infantry on the right. The first line received orders to advance in short ranks, like the steps of stairs, the battalions keeping fifty paces in the rear of each other; so that the line being in motion, the extremity of the right was a thousand paces in advance of the extremity of the left; and this disposition rendered it impossible to engage without orders.—thus far the king.—The result of the battle was the total defeat of the imperialists who were sixty thousand strong though the Prussians were but thirty three thousand; the loss of the former including the garrison of Breslaw amounted to 13 generals 993 officers, 39135 men 134 cannon and 69 pair of colours; whilst the loss of the latter was only 2680 men in killed and wound-

ed because (says the King) they there obtained, the first attack excepted, the advantage of ground.

OF THE LIGHT INFANTRY, &c.

The Light Comps. should be armed with rifles but if these could not be procured they should carry light fustils and be instructed in the manoeuvres of light troops which are easier learned than the movements in line—above all things they should be taught not to throw away their fire, such as have had opportunities of seeing light troops and riflemen engaged on service, must have remarked the eagerness of the former to fire towards the point from whence they hear a shot, whilst the riflemen coolly waits for an object at which he can fire with effect. Two 4 pounders should be attached to each regiment, and officers non c. officers and private men equal to a company appointed to exercise them—this duty should be performed in rotation by the whole regiment—Com. officers might now perhaps indulge themselves with a general salute but on no account should the men be kept more than half a minute at the present, after the men should at the C. O. might pass along the front and then between the ranks so as not to put the line to the necessity of facing about which is an absurd custom, be it derived whence it may. I think the colours should not be dropped except to the Governor—but this is a thing of little importance, yet perhaps a hint of the kind may be acceptable to some readers.

AMICUS.

The Military Monitor.

NEW-YORK.

MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1812.

SOLDIERS' PAY.—The unavoidable pressure of war reaches, in some degree, every individual of our country; or none, however, does it so severely press, as on the soldier in actual service.—It is to the soldier in arms that we owe every success against the enemy, it is to his valour and labour that we owe our protection against the enemy, it is to him we owe that we are not reduced to slavery and subjugated by a power that claims us as subjects, and is ready to punish us as rebels.—Our gratitude to our armed defenders, should be commensurate, if possible, with their sufferings and our consequent advantages.—It then becomes those citizens, who remain at home and enjoy the ease and luxuries of peace and plenty, to think of the men who act at the advanced posts defending their country—no general law can command the resources which might be applied to this end, because of the difficulty of reaching or ascertaining the pecuniary means of individuals. This latter difficulty can be in part remedied by

Summary.

interference of the local authorities of cities, towns, &c. who, from their knowledge of their immediate constituents, can best judge how far a local tax for the relief of the Soldiers relief. A voluntary subscription, opened in every town, would be still more productive, because then every individual would be his own tax master; and it may safely be asserted that patriotic emulation would, on such occasions, produce advantages to the country and its defenders, of the first importance.

Should we wish for a successful war, and consequently for a large number of our soldiers, and let these soldiers be well clothed, fed and paid—economy and humanity require it—it is economy to apply, in the first instance, a large portion of the expensidus which must necessarily be supplied in after years; and humanity points out the prudence of sending a large force at once against the enemy, whereby battles would be fewer and less sanguinary. In the application of funds thus raised, it would be advisable to consider how far it ought to be apportioned between those who volunteer for general service and those who confine their services to the limits of the United States—to say that to the latter a large portion, if not the whole, of what would arise from additional pay through the means here intimated, ought to be applied to those brave men who have first to seek, danger wherever it is required of them.

WORTHY OF IMITATION.—After the recapture of Longwy, in the early part of the French revolution, the army marched to Sedan. Their sufferings after, are thus related by MONTY, then marshal de Camp in the French army.

"The march of the army from Sedan, will never be erased from my memory. We had during the whole of our progress to proceed along a road that was half a leg deep in mud, the greater part of the men carried their shoes in their hands; the women waded through with their petticoats sliding on the mud, and all this they endured without a murmur. I perceived several waggons loaded with men, and all this it was against orders. I inquired if they were sick; they answered they were not, but by way of apology for a breach of orders, they showed me their feet covered with blood from the sharpness of the pavement. I had only to comfort them in this manner. I was afterwards with the hopes of having soon more shoes from Paris, and of finding better roads from Mezieres to Rocroy.

"This march was the severest the army made; independent of the badness of the road, it rained incessantly the first day, and the wind was in our faces.

"The distress of the poor women, is not to be described, their hearts were almost broken, their suffering was painted in their countenances; the men were silent and sullen; many quitted their corps (not as deserters) & went by the fields and bye roads, and there was no venturing to say a word to them.

Every one, in short, got as well as he could to his respective cantonment.

One would have supposed it would have been a matter of great consolation to men who had suffered so much to be left in garrison; on the contrary the commanding officer came to me, to request that his battalion (of National Guards) might march with the army.—General Valence would not consent to it;—the Officer however ordered the army to Givet, and there at last, obtained permission to follow.

The news from "The Army of the Centre" as detailed in general Smyth's dispatch to a certain Committee, is—so say the least congenial to a gloomy complexion; whether as exhibiting an instance of insubordination, such as might be expected from the Prætorian guards in the worst days of Rome's degeneracy, or viewed as a National disgrace, which will require victories to blot it from the page of history and prevent the stained record from becoming indelible.

What must posterity think of a nation with a population of seven millions, that could muster an "army" equal in numbers to one of the battalions of modern Europe, to invade the province of an enemy, the defenders of which must be drawn from regions separated from the intended scene of action by an ocean of three thousand miles.

Will future generations not look upon the history in which the following facts shall be recorded as fabulous. That in a country abounding in all the necessaries of life and which exports provisions to her enemy, not more than 35 barrels of flour (not much more than half a bushel) was necessary) could be procured for the subsistence of this "army" that a premium had been offered for desertion in as much as the punishment for that crime was commuted by a fine of 12 1-2 cents.

That disorganization was so complete, 600 deserted from a Brigade consisting of more than 1600 or 1800 men; and that the general could not estimate the force of his "army" till all who chose to go, were actually embarked?

Then, finding the means he possessed inadequate to the end proposed, he, prudently, and in obedience to his "orders" relinquished the design of planting the American standard in Canada, and ordered his troops into winter quarters, to recover from their fatigues. We also understand that the Meazles and Pleurisy have attacked many, and in several instances have proved fatal. Comfortable quarters and proper medical treatment will soon restore the army to health; and we sincerely hope efficient means will be adopted during the winter for organizing and preparing the army by discipline, to meet soldiers in combat, most of whom have seen hard service on the arid sands of Egypt, or sanguined plains of Spain and Portugal.

From what we have witnessed amongst part of a corps that belonged to "the army of the centre" we had very little hopes of the least good being derived to the country from their services.

Insubordination had arrived to such a height that we heard a private tell the general in his room, he would return home regardless of the consequences: Never was a military man's conduct so affecting the situation than this general officer, whose personal influence alone may be said to have kept up the semblance of order.

"The discipline of these men, if it may be so called seemed calculated to destroy on the ground whatever energy they possessed.—Instead of practising with the firelock & learning to seize every advantage that a windy country could afford, the time was wasted in "staring salutes" and "marching salutes" and to cap the climax of absurdity the "manœuvres" usually finished by advancing at

the charge in a hollow square, some of the faces of which were composed of riflemen without bayonets!

General Smyth at the head of the "men of the Six Nations" might have done some good.

Moreau, with such men as we have described could acquire only—disgrace!

A noisy-paper writers give pompous descriptions of parades and reviews: every corps is called "steady & well disciplined," the people believe these falsehoods and expect impossibilities from the commanders; and when misfortunes occur, pride will not permit them to ascribe them to the real cause. The want of proper discipline which does not exist in the country.

To this, and not to traitorous Generals is justly ascribable the misfortune of the American Army.

From the contemplation of these scenes of folly and wretchedness, we wait with the most heartfelt pleasure to witness the arrival of the frigate Macedonian in our harbour, the well earned prize to the gallant Decatur.—We expect her damages will be speedily repaired, and she refitted to cruise, on her native element under the American flag, where no doubt she will in the honour of her adopted country with success, and prevail on many of her former associates to follow her example.

Many such arrivals we may now fondly anticipate, as the Congress have passed an act for building and putting into commission 4 ships of 76, and 6 of 44 guns each. We look upon this bill in the light of a law for the naturalization of some of the British navy, and consequently as the first step towards the best means of preventing the impressment of American seamen into British ships of war!

The following is Mr. Russell's statement to the Committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the message of the President of the United States, of the 4th instant, as relates to the late importations of British manufactures; and sundry petitions of merchant, praying to be relieved from the penalties incurred by them in the late importations of British manufactures into the United States.

Mr. RUSSELL stated that after the revocation of the orders in council, many of the American merchants had applied to him for his opinion, whether they could ship British manufactures to the United States with safety, or not? that before the revocation of the orders upon considering the whole circumstances of the case, examining the words of the law, and perceiving that its operation depended solely on the revocation of the orders in council; considering the evident bearing of the examinations in parliament and the ground on which the opposition contended for the revocation of the orders, which was not so much an act of justice to the United States, as the advantage that was promised to their own manufacturers, he thought it his duty to countenance the idea that shipments made after the revocation of the orders would be admitted into the U. States; that this ground was taken by the advocates for a revocation of the orders, who declared that they would advise their friends to ship, as they believed shipments, in the event of a revocation, might be made with safety, and that he thought poor policy required him to advise them to do so in order to co-operate as far as possible with the advocates of the revocation of the orders.

That after the revocation of the orders, he returned to declare, and to declare to the merchants who applied to him, as his opinion that they might make shipments with safety. This opinion applied only to the cases where shipments were made before war; after a knowledge of the war had reached England he declared distinctly to the merchants, that the ground of a probable annulment of the non-importation act of the government of the U. S. had ceased.

Mr. Russell stated, however, that after the knowledge of the declaration of war had reached England, he did still advise the American merchants to ship; because, if the property remained in England during the war, it would be ruinous to the holders.—Many persons after the revocation of the orders, and before the news of war arrived, had made purchases. He would not be understood to say, that he advised the merchants that in case the law should not be repealed, they would be permitted to enjoy the advantages of a monopoly and the consequent extraordinary profits, but merely that the property would not be a subject of conversation. His opinion that shipments might be made with safety, was founded as well on a presumption that the law would be annulled, as that the shippers would in any event, be placed as nearly as possible on the footing on which they would have stood had the law been annulled. That if the law should not be annulled, the special circumstances under which the shipments were made would entitle them to an exemption from its penalties.

He believes that before the revocation of the orders and after the interdiction, purchases were made under an expectation of a revocation, and these were made at reduced prices. The depression was not very material; after the revocation there was a rise, but they remained throughout lower than in common times when the trade was assuredly free. He did not, however, pretend to be very conversant in these matters.

Some of the goods were purchased before 24 February, 1811, but he would suppose they formed a very small portion of the importation; in the period intervening of between that date and the revocation of the orders, there had been made considerable investments, but he believed the greatest portion was purchased after the revocation. There was then great activity in investments, but we think it probable that a great deal of the funds which had been remaining there for the purpose, and which were appropriated agreeably to orders which had been previously given to be executed in the event of the revocation of the orders in consequence.

The knowledge of the declaration of war reached England about the 25th or 26th July. Official information was not so soon received, and therefore the embargo which was laid by the British government was not imposed till the 20th July. The order subsequently issued permitting the departure of licensed vessels, but limiting their departure to the 15th of August, was extended in some special cases, but not generally.

A CATALOGUE OF MEN.

Who died in the United States' Hospital, in Buffalo, from the 28th of Oct to the 25th Nov. 1812.

| NAMES. | REG'T. | REMARKS. |
|--------|--------|--------------------|
| Taylor | 13 | Residence unknown. |
| Deal | 5 | in Baltimore. |

| | | |
|----------------|----|---------------------------|
| Davis | 13 | near Carlisle, Pa. |
| Ferride | 13 | unknown |
| Easton | 13 | do. |
| Mead | 13 | do. |
| Hasbrook | 12 | do. |
| Rogers | 12 | do. |
| Lamb | 12 | do. |
| Cortland | 13 | do. |
| Jones | 13 | do. |
| Yates | 13 | do. |
| Hart | 13 | do. |
| Daten | 13 | do. |
| Riggs | 5 | Enlist in Alexandria, Va. |
| Marshall | 12 | unknown |
| Reg. Taylor | 5 | Buckingham, Va. |
| Dan O'Brien | 6 | unknown |
| Rd. Bryant | 5 | Buckingham, Va. |
| G. C. Casserty | 5 | N. Y. |
| Baker | 6 | unknown |
| Archd. Denton | 5 | Campbell Co. Va. |
| Gilmore | 5 | unknown |
| Jennins | 5 | Baltimore |

| ROAD. | miles. | miles. |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|
| From Pittsburgh to Meadville, | 90 | 99 |
| To Le Beuf, | 27 | 117 |
| To Erie, | 15 | 132 |
| To Portland, | 30 | 162 |
| To Canandaigua, | 15 | 177 |
| To Cattaraugus, | 15 | 192 |
| To Eighteen-Mile Creek, | 14 | 206 |
| To Buffalo, | 16 | 222 |
| To Black-Rock, | 3 | 225 |
| To Fort Schlosser, | 18 | 243 |
| To Lewistown, | 7 | 250 |
| To Niagara, | 9 | 259 |

Extracts.

BRILLIANT NAVAL EXPLOITS.

The following message was received from the President of the United S. by Mr. Colles his Secretary:

To the Senate and House,
of Representatives of the U. S.

I transmit to Congress copies of a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, from Captain Decatur, of the frigate "United States," reporting his combat and capture of the British frigate Macedonian. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on that officer and his companions on board, for the consummate skill and conspicuous valor by which this trophy has been added to the naval arms of the United States.

I transmit, also, a letter from Captain Jones, who commanded the sloop of war Wasop, reporting his capture of the British sloop of war the Frolic, after a close action, in which other brilliant titles will be seen to the public admiration and praise.

A nation, feeling what it owes to itself and its citizens, could never abandon to arbitrary violence on the ocean a class of their which gives such examples of capacity and courage, in defending their rights on that element; examples which ought to impress on the enemy, however brave and powerful, preference of jus-

tice and peace to hostility against a country whose prosperous career may be accelerated, but cannot be prevented by the assaults made on it.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, Dec. 31, 1812.
U. S. S. United States, at Sea.
October, 10, 1812.

The Hon. PAUL HAMILTON.

SIR—

I have the honor to inform you, that on the 26th inst. being in the lat. 29 N. Long. 25 30 W. we fell in with, and, after an action of an hour and an half, Captured his Britannic Majesty's ship Macedonian, Commanded by Capt. John Carden, and mounting 49 carriage guns (the old gun shifting.) she is a frigate of the largest class, two years old, four months out of dock, and reputed one of the best sailors in the British service. The enemy being to windward had the advantage of engaging us at his own distance, which was so great, that for the first half hour we did not see our carronnades, and at no moment was he within the complete effect of our musketry or grape—so this circumstance and a heavy swell, which was on at the time, I ascribe the unusual length of the action.

The enthusiasm of every officer, seaman and marine on board this ship, on discovering the enemy—their steady conduct in battle, and precision of their fire, could not be surpassed. Where all met my fullest expectations, it would be unjust in me to discriminate. Permits however, to recommend to your particular notice, my first Lieutenant, Wm. H. Allen. He has served with me upwards of five years, and to his unremitting exertions in disciplining the crew, it is to be imputed the obvious superiority of our gunnery exhibited in the result of this contest.

Subjoined is a list of the killed and wounded on both sides. Our loss compared with that of the enemy will appear small. Amongst our wounded, you will observe the name of Lieutenant Funk, who died a few hours after the action—he was an officer of great gallantry and promise, and the service has sustained a severe loss in his death.

The Macedonian lost her mizen-mast fore and main-top-masts and main-yard, and was much cut up in her hull. The damage sustained by this ship was not such as to render her return into port necessary, and had I not deemed it important that we should see our prize in should have continued our cruise.

With the highest consideration and respect I am, sir, your obedient humble servant.

Signed, STEPHEN DECATUR.

List of killed and wounded on board the United States.

Thomas Brown, New-York, Seaman.—Henry Shepherd, Philadelphia, do.—Wm. Murray, Boston, a boy.—Michael O'Donnell, New-York, private Marine.—John Roberts, do.—Killed.
 * John Mercer Funk, Philadelphia, Lieutenant.—John Archibald, New-York, carpenter, crew.—Christian Clark, do, seaman.—George Christopher, do, ordinary seaman.—George Mahar, do, do.—Wm. James, do, do.—John Luton, do, private Marine.—Wounded.

On board the Macedonian there were thirty-six killed, and sixty-eight wounded. Among the former were the Boatswain, one Master's Mate and the School Master, and of the latter

* Since dead.

Copy of a letter from Com. Rodgers to the Secretary of the Navy.

At Sea, Jan. 32, lat. 33, Lon. 1.

Sir—I wrote you on the 18th ult. by the British Packet Swallow, informing you of having captured that vessel with between 150 and 200,000 dollars on board; and I now write you by a British South Sea Ship, loaded with oil captured yesterday, one of two ships under convoy of the frigate Galatea.

The above ship is manned from the Congress, and it is now blowing so fresh, that I cannot learn from Capt. Smith her name, having separated from him yesterday in chase of the Galatea whilst he was manning the prize, and owing to excessive bad weather last night, was unable to join him to day.

I got within 6 or 7 miles of the Galatea by sun set, but the extreme darkness of the night enabled her to escape.

With the greatest respect, &c.

JOHN RODGERS.

Hon. Paul Hamilton.

Secretary of the Navy.

[The prize mentioned above has arrived at Norfolk.]

COURT MARTIAL

Head-quarters, Camp near Buffalo Nov. 15.
 At a general court-martial, whereof maj. Campbell was president was tried capt. John Phillips, of the volunteer troops in the service of the U. S. on the following charges and specifications.

Charge 1st. Violating the eighth article of the rules and articles of war:

Specification. In this, that on the 4th day of this month, at Buffalo, 31 men of his company mutined, stacked their arms, and refused to do duty; and that the said captain Phillips, being present, did not use his utmost endeavor to suppress the same.

Charge 2d. Neglect of duty.

Specification. That on a mutiny in his company on the 4th Nov. 1812, at Buffalo, he did not suppress it, use coercive means to suppress it, or apply to

his immediate commanding officer, or any superior officer, for aid to suppress it. To which charges and specifications the prisoner plead *not guilty*.

The court find the prisoner *not guilty* of either of the charges or specifications, alleged against him and therefore acquit him.

The general believing that the *M.M.* of captain Phillips was *not guilty*, confirms the sentence of the court; and orders that he resume his sword, and return to his duty.

It be will remark, that unless greater endeavors to suppress mutiny, when it appears, are used, than captain Phillips exerted, it would be impossible to keep an army together.

If, when a company mutinies, no effort is made by the commanding officer of the company, the battalion, or the regiment, to suppress it, except reporting it to the general; and leaving it to him to suppress it, HIS task is heavy.

An officer present at a mutiny, who never draws his sword, and uses only words, "cannot be said to use his ut most endeavors to suppress it."

By order,

(Signed) **JAS BANKHEAD.**
 capt. and brig. maj.

Employment of the Indians. An article inserted hastily in the Messenger of the 15th September last, and in the Repository of the same date, has given occasion for great triumph to the apologists and partizans of England, who were glad to justify her employment of the tomahawk and scalping-knife, by the example of our own government.

We are happy to have it in our power explicitly to declare, upon the authority of Erastus Granger, esq. Indian agent, and Jasper Parrish, esq. sub agent, that neither the government or any officer connected with it, has ever authorised the employment of the Indians. The letter of the secretary of war to Judge Granger was explicit, that the Indians should by all means be kept still and not suffered to raise an arm in our cause.

As a means to keep them from going to the enemy, the agents were authorised as a last resource, to embody a few of them as possible and report them to general Smyth, who would order them to be supplied with rations. But this was solely to keep them easy; and they were not to be employed in any offensive operation.

It is believed that gen. Smyth, on Sunday the 22d instant, explicitly informed the Indians; that they should not act in the attack on Canada. This explanation is due to our government, to

the honor of our country. And it is hoped that every editor possessing any pretensions to candor, will give it an insertion.

Ontario Messenger.

A vast quantity of supplies for the Northwestern army left Pittsburg, in about one hundred wagons, on the 22d ultimo. Among the supplies were twenty-eight gun carriages for eighteen pounders, brass twelves, sixes and howitzers, a large quantity of fixed ammunition for cannon; a great number of musket cartridges; several travelling forges, and a quantity of other articles necessary in a winter campaign. (B. Am.)

Grain in Canada. We understand that flour is 25 dollars a barrel in Montreal; which, with the difference of exchange on England, (30 per cent) brings the price to upwards of 33 dollars for every barrel furnished by the British government to their troops in Canada.—Lord Sheffield's ideas of the Canadas maintaining themselves in bread-stuff, and furnishing a surplus for the West-Indies, will not be found to be quite fully realized in the present state of affairs. (Col.)

Game Laws in England.

At Leeds Rotation-office, last week, John Waddington, of Farnley, in that borough, clothmaker, was convicted in the penalty of 20l. and ordered to pay 3l. 4s. for a certificate, for shooting a hare within the said manor.

The Gentleman's Musical Repository.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the public that the above work is now in considerable forwardness, and will be ready for delivery on the 1st of December next. The very extensive patronage which he has met, made it requisite to enlarge the number intended for the first edition, 500 copies, and consequently produced an unexpected delay in the publication. The size of the work has also (as a proof of the author's gratitude) been enlarged from 30 pages half quarto, to 46 pages quarto, being an increase of eight quarto pages—this form will also be more convenient to the musician.

Gentlemen wishing to subscribe for this work, will please to direct by letters, post paid, to the Shamrock Office 24 William street, New-York. CHARLES P. F. O'HARA.

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