

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD OUR END."

Vol. I.]

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THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

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Official.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives.

At an early day after the close of the last 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, it was immediately accepted; and as a further proof of the disposition on the part of the U. States to meet their adversary in honorable experiments for terminating the war, it was determined to avoid intermediate delay, incident to the distance of the parties, by a definitive 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 authorized 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 their appointment, have proceeded to join their colleague already at St. Petersburg.

The envoys have received another commission authorizing 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 U. S.

time only can decide. That the sentiments of G. B. towards that Sovereign will have produced an acceptance of his offered mediation, must be presumed.—

That no adequate motives exist to prefer a continuance of the war with the U. S. to the terms on which they are willing to close it 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 or on which the 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 seafaring 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 practiced by G. Britain, without a conviction of its life to preference; inasmuch as the latter leaves the discrimination between the mariners of the two nations, to officers exposed by 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; & where a wrong decision, besides the irreparable violation of the sacred 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 efficacy against errors in such cases, and avoids the effect of casual errors on the safety of navigation, and the success of mercantile expedition.

If the reasonableness of expectations, drawn from these considerations could guarantee their fulfillment, 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 & manner, in which the war continues to be waged by the enemy, who, unflinchingly by the varied 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, which destroyed a British sloop of war, with a celerity so unexampled and with a slaughter to 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 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 coasts to intercept them in returning into port, and resuming their cruises.

The augmentation of our naval force, as authorized at the last session of Congress, is in progress. On the Lakes our superiority is near 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 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 nothing to regret but a single act of inconsiderate valour.

The provisions last made for filling the ranks and enlarging the staff of the army, have had the best effects. It will be for the consideration of Congress, whether other provisions depending on 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 U. 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 of March last, including the sums received on account of Treasury Notes, and of the loan authorized 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 31st of April, the sum of one million eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars. The loan of sixteen millions of dollars authorized by the act of the 8th of February last, has been contracted for. Of that sum, more than a million of dollars had been passed 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 authorized 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 authorized, 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 first 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 in 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.

The view of our finances, whilst it shews that due provision has been made for the expenses of 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 adequately 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 sixteen millions was not contracted for at a less interest than about 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 transitory exceptions never to be wholly avoided, are more able than the people of the U. 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 in any other. And in no case could stronger reasons be left 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 on the land, an alacrity in supplying the treasure necessary to give them their fullest effect; and, thus demonstrating to the world the 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 contest in which the U. 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 obligation 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 inconveniences 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.

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 preparation for raising the siege at 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 general 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 ear-

ly as possible, induced me to agree to the dismissal of all the prisoners I had, although there was as many of ours in general Proctor's possession. The surplussage is to be accounted for, and an equal number of ours 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 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 those consisted of all the men out of belonging to the companies of Croghan and Bradford of the 17th regiment, Langham Elliott's (late Gageham's) and Waring's of the 19th, about eighty of major Alexander's volunteers, and a single company of Kentucky militia under captain Sebry, amounting in the whole to not more than 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 commandants 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. Captain Grotiot of the engineers having been for a long time much indisposed, the task of fortifying this post devolved on captain 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, Lt. O'Fallon, who had 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's, on the subject of the Indians within our boundary—this shall form the subject of a communication to be made to-morrow or next day, and for which I will 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 gen. 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.

Milledgeville, (Geo) May 12.
GOOD NEWS!

We have at length the pleasure of announcing to our readers, that Mobile is in possession of the U. States forces.—Gen. Wilkinson at the head of a detachment of U. S. army entered that place on the 12th ult. and has issued the following proclamation to the inhabitants. We hope Pensacola and Augustine will soon receive a similar visit.

PROCLAMATION.

Issued by General Wilkinson on the debarcation of the troops at l'Ance Mobile.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Mobile.

Be not alarmed by appearances, but rest tranquil within your dwellings, and take no part in the scenes which may ensue the display of the American standard in your vicinity.

I visit you under the order of the President, to enforce the laws of the U. S.

and give effect to the civil institutions of the Mississippi territory.

The public faith is pledged for the protection of your persons and property; and those which may be disposed to retire from the place or from the country, will be permitted to depart in safety with their goods and chattels.

Done at Camp near the town of Mobile, April the 12th of the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirteen.

JAS. WILKINSON.

Copy of a despatch from Major-General William H. Harrison to the Secretary of War dated Head-Quarters, Lower Sandusky, May 13, 1813.

SIR.—Having ascertained that the enemy (Indians as well as British) had entirely abandoned the neighbourhood of the Rapids, I left the command of Camp-Meigs with Gen. Clay, and came here last night. It is with the greatest satisfaction, I inform you, sir, that I have every reason to believe, that the loss of the Kentucky troops in killed on the north side of the river does not exceed sixty. On the 10th and 11th inst. I caused the ground which was the scene of the action and its environs to be carefully examined, and after the most diligent search 45 bodies only of our men were discovered—amongst them was the leader of the detachment Col. Dudley. No other officer of note fell in action. I have strong reason to believe that a considerable number of the Kentuckians effected their retreat up the river to Fort Winchester. Gen. Proctor did not furnish me with a return of the prisoners in his possession, although repeatedly promised. His retreat was as precipitate as it could properly be, leaving a number of cannon ball; a new elegant sling carriage for cannon, and other valuable articles. The night before his departure, two persons that were employed in the British gun boats (Americans by birth) deserted to us. The information they gave me was very interesting—they say that the Indians, of which there were from 1600 to 2000, left the British the day before their departure in a high state of dissatisfaction, from the loss which they had sustained in a several engagements of the 5th, and the failure of the British in accomplishing their promise of taking the post of the Rapids. From the account given by these men, my opinion is confirmed of the great superiority of the enemy which were defeated by our troops in the two sallies made on the 5th inst.—That led by Col. Miller did not exceed 350 men, and it is very certain that they defeated 200 British regulars, 150 militia, and 4 or 500 Indians. That Ame-

rican regulars (although they were raw recruits) and such men as compose the Pittsburg Penn. and Petersburg, Va. Volunteers, should behave well is not to be wondered at—but that a company of militia should maintain its ground against four times its numbers, as did Capt. Sebres of the Kentucky, is truly astonishing. These brave fellows were at length however entirely surrounded by Indians, and would have been entirely cut off, but for the gallantry of Lt. Gwynne of the 19th regiment, who, with part of Capt. Elliott's company, charged the enemy & released the Kentuckians. I enclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the whole siege. It is considerably larger than I had supposed it would be when I last wrote to you—but it is satisfactory to know that they did not bleed uselessly—but in the course of successful exertions. The return does not embrace those who fell on the N. W. side of the Miami.

You will also receive herewith a monthly return of the troops at Camp Meigs for the last month; the communication with the other posts being cut off, the returns were not received. A copy of Gen. Clay's report to me of the manner of his executing my order for the attack on the enemies' batteries, is likewise forwarded, by which it will be seen that my intentions were perfectly unobscured & the great facility with which they might have been executed is apparent to every individual who witnesses the scene. Indeed the cannon might have been spiked, the carriages cut to pieces, the magazine destroyed, and the retreat effected to the boats without the loss of a man, as none were killed in taking the batteries, so complete was the surprise.

An extensive open plain intervenes between the river and the hill upon which the batteries of the enemy were placed; this plain was raked by four of our eighteen pounders, a twelve and a six. The enemy, even before their guns were spiked, could not have brought one to bear upon it. So perfectly secured was their retreat that the 150 men, who came off, effected it without loss and brought off some of the wounded, one of them upon the backs of his comrades. The Indians followed them to the woods, but dared not enter into the plain.

I am unable to form a correct estimate of the enemy's force. The prisoners varied much in their accounts; those who made them least, stated the regulars at 550 and militia at 800; but the numbers of Indians were beyond comparison greater than have ever been brought into the field before; numbers arrived after

the siege commenced—I have caused their camps on the south east side of the river to be particularly examined, and the general opinion is, that there could not have been fewer on that side than 1000 or 1200; they were indeed the efficient force of the enemy.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 14th, 18th & 23th ult. and 4th instant.

I am sorry to inform you that Major Stoddard died the night before I left the Rapids, of a lockjaw; produced by a slight wound from a fragment of a shell which struck him on the thigh. Several have died in this way from their great and unavoidable exposure to the cold; but perhaps there never were so many instances of desperate wounds being likely to do well.

The gallant captain Bradford will recover.

I shall go from here to Upper Sandusky, and shall take my station at Delaware or Franklington until the troops are assembled. Gen. Clay, who commands at the Rapids, is a man of capacity and entirely to be relied on.

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

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

The hon. John Armstrong, Secretary at War.

Return of the killed and wounded in the siege of Camp Meigs, and the several sorties of the 5th instant.

U. S. Artillery,	1	killed.	
U. S. Infan.	39	killed	90
U. S. Drag.	3	do.	17
Kent. Milit.	30	do.	42
Ohio Milit.	3	do.	8
12 mo. Vol.	2	do.	29
Detachm. of Infant.	3	do.	3
of the U. S.		do.	6

Tot. Killed 81 tot. wd. 389 tot. kill. & wd. 269

REMARKS.

Major Stoddard and Hukill—the former died of his wounds, the latter slightly wounded.

Sixty-four of the above were killed in the sorties, and one hundred and twenty four wounded; The balance, eighty one, killed and wounded within the fortified camp.

J. O. FALLON.

Acting Ass Adj. General

Copy of a letter from Gen. Clay to Gen. Harrison. Camp at Fort Meigs, May 13, 1813.

Sir—On the 5th inst. about 8 o'clock A. M. descending the Rapids with 1200 of the Kentucky troops in 18 flat bottomed boats, I was met by Capt. Hamilton and a subaltern who delivered me (as he said) the orders of Major Gen. Harrison to the following effect.

"You must detach about 800 men.

from your brigade, who will land at a point I will show about one or one and a half miles above the Fort, and I will conduct them to the British batteries on the left bank of the river. They must take possession of the enemies cannon, spike them, cut down the carriages, and return to their boats."

Observing that the British force at their large batteries was considerable but that their main force was at the old garrison about 1 1/2 miles below on the same side of the river; that the Indian forces were chiefly on the right bank of the river: "The balance of the men under your command must land on the right bank opposite the first landing, and will fight their way through the Indians to the Fort," observing that the route thus to be taken would be shewn by a subaltern officer there in company with Capt Hamilton, who would land the Perogue at the point on the right bank, at which the boats would land."

The order of descending the river in boats was the same as the order of march in line of battle in solid column, each officer taking position according to his rank. Col. Dudley, the eldest colonel, led the van, and in this order the river had been descended. As soon as Capt. Hamilton had delivered these orders, being in the thirteenth boat from the front. I directed him to proceed immediately to Col. Dudley, and order him to take the men in the 12 front boats, and execute Gen. Harrison's orders on the left bank of the river; and post his (Capt. Hamilton's) subaltern on the right bank to conduct myself with the men in the six rear boats to the Fort. I ordered the five boats in the rear to fall in a line and follow me. High winds & the rapidity of the current drove four of the rear boats ashore in the attempt to follow on according to order, where they remained a short time, sufficient however to detain them half or three quarters of a mile in the rear. To land according to order I kept close along the right bank until opposite Col. Dudley's landing. There I found no guide left to conduct me to the Fort as Capt. Hamilton had promised. I then made an attempt to cross the river to join Col. Dudley, but from the rapid current on the falls I was unable to land on the point with him. Being nearly half way across the river, and the waves running too high to risk the boat then driving down the current sideways—veered about the boat & rowed the best way we could to save our boat. My attempt to cross the river to Col. Dudley occasioned all the boats (I presume in the rear of me) and which were then out of sailing distance, to cross over and land with

Col. Dudley. Having been defeated in a landing on the left, we then endeavored to effect one on the right, even without a guide; but before a landing could be effected we received a brisk fire from the enemy on shore, which was returned and kept up on both sides. And I was in this unavoidable situation compelled to make to Fort Meigs with no other force than about 50 men on board, (the other boats being still in the rear) and to receive the enemy's fire until we arrived under the protection of the Fort. Col. Beswell's command (except the men in my boat) having landed to join Col. Dudley, were, as I have been informed, ordered by Captain Hamilton immediately to embark and land on the right hand shore about a mile above the Fort, and prepared to fight his way through to the garrison.

The colonel embarked, landed as he conceived at the proper point, pursuant to Capt. Hamilton's order, and was forming his men in order of battle when he was met by Capt. Shaw and ordered to march into the garrison, at open order, the safest route.

When my own boat landed we were met by two men who took the boat as we understood to bring her under the protection of the fort batteries. Believing our baggage to be thus made safe, we forbid our servants to carry any portion of it, but loaded them with ball which they bore to the Fort. Our baggage was however taken, by the Indians in a very short time after we left the boat. Upon receiving the order of Capt. Hamilton, I asked if he had brought pieces to spike the enemy's cannon, to which he replied he had plenty.

I am, Sir, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
GREEN CLAY Brig. Gen.

His Excellency,
Major Gen. Harrison.

P. S. Captain Hamilton on delivering the orders of Gen. Harrison, observed that the object of landing & marching a portion of the troops on the right bank was to draw the attention of the Indians and by thus engaging them afford an opportunity to the garrison to make a sally, & by a circuitous route surprise & carry the batteries and cannon of the enemy below the Fort on the right bank.

G. C. BRIG. GEN.
A true copy.
G. CROGHAN, A. D. C.

17 A few files of this paper from the commencement, remain yet unsold; and may be had at the subscription price of \$3 per vol. payable at the time of subscribing.

The Military Monitor.

NEW YORK,

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1813.

PRE-IDENT'S MESSAGE.—We, this day, present our readers with the Message of the President of the United States, transmitted to both houses of Congress on the 25th instant. It will be highly gratifying to every American, to learn, that, while no means will be left untried to restore the blessings of peace, no concession dishonorable to the nation will be made. On the subject of impressment the message is distinct and satisfactory.

"A search for or seizure of British persons, or property on board neutral vessels on the high seas, is not (says he) a belligerent right derived from the laws of nations; and it is obvious, that no visit or search or use of force, for any purpose on board the vessels of one independent power on the high seas, can in war or peace be sanctioned by the laws or authority of another power."

In a national adherence to this principle, the naturalized citizen has an assurance that the United States will not prove unfaithful to the condition on which the former transferred his allegiance; and the sailor, who risks his health and life in every clime and on every sea, will learn, with satisfaction, that his rights, both in war and peace, will be a condition, without which peace will not be granted to the ungenerous enemy. The odious system of certificates of citizenship and foreign licenses will be abolished on board of American ships; the national flag will be the only emblem of a "FREE TRADE AND SAILORS' RIGHTS." The foreign nation, which will dare to insult the national flag, must prepare to receive castigation from it's stripes.

On the prospect of peace, the President augurs favourably from the high character of the Emperor Alexander the "common friend of the United States and Great Britain"; and the disposition of the U. States to meet their adversary in honorable experiments for terminating the war." The citizens pre-emptively warned, and justly warned, against placing too much confidence in the reasonable expectations that might be drawn from these considerations; and it is very properly added that "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."

These resources consist in men and money. In respect to the former, even, in this early

ably to our many solemn declarations, we should hasten to follow the example of France. Our ministers answered in a sort of a vague way; but at any rate, they did not repeal—and in February, 1811, the law went into effect against us. Our goods and our vessels were shut out of the American ports, while those of France were admitted. We asserted, that Napoleon had not repealed his decrees. America asserted that he had, but we would not believe her. We insisted, that she did not know the fact nearly so well as we did. In short, we continued to refuse to repeal. At last, the great distresses and the consequent complaints of the manufacturers led to an enquiry, at the bar of the house of commons, into the effects of the orders in council, when such a mass of evidence was produced by Mr. Brougham in support of the proposition, that the non importation law of America was the principal cause of those distresses, that the ministers (Perceval being dead) gave way; and the orders were repealed.

This is the plain and true history of the matter; and I particularly wish the reader to bear in mind, that our orders, had, up to the moment of Napoleon's repeal of his decrees, always been acknowledged by us to contain violation of the known rights of neutrals; but, in our justification, we said, that it was forced upon us by the decrees of the enemy. This was our language up to the moment of Napoleon's repeal. But, what says lord Castlereagh now? So far from acknowledging that the orders in council enforced a violation of any known neutral right, he contends (if the report of his speech be correct) that they were founded on our known and primitive rights. The words, as they stand in the report, are these:—

"The orders in council had been a point on which considerable difference of opinion in this country had prevailed, but they had been abandoned, not so much on the ground of this country not having the right, as with a view to commercial expediency. He rather wished, however, to waive the renewal of that branch of the question, now that the whole proceedings of government were before the house. With respect to the main principles of that system, ministers were still adhered to their opinion, when the conservation of the country rendered it necessary to resort to it. At the time the measure was adopted, such a system was necessary, not only as it respected France, but as connected with the soundest policy for the general interests of the British empire. Had it not been for the manly resistance given by that measure to the power of France, France now would have been as triumphant, in a commercial point of view, as she was with respect to the continent. He begged he might always be considered as an admirer of that system."

Now, I state that the orders in council themselves, and the papers of our diplomatic agents, and the speeches of sir William Scott, almost explicitly acknowledge, that the measure was justified only on the ground of its being a retaliation on France; and that, in the two former, is expressed, his majesty's earnest desire to imitate France in doing away these obnoxious measures.—This was our language up to the moment when the repeal of the French decrees was announced to us.—Our language has, indeed, since changed; and it was during the debates upon Mr. Brougham's motions, coolly argued, that the repeal of the orders would make the Americans the carriers of the commerce of the world. But, though we have changed our language, it does not follow that America should change hers. She always contended that by the orders in council her rights were violated; she always contended, that all the seizures we made under those orders were unjust; and, of course, she demands indemnity for those immense seizures.—But is it really so? can it be possible can the thing be, that a secretary of state has asserted, in open parliament, that without any reference to the conduct of France, and that though the decrees of Napoleon did not exist, we had a right to do what was done, towards neutrals, under the orders in council; and, that whenever we think proper, we have a right to do the same again; if it be so; if this assertion was made by the minister for foreign affairs, and if it be meant to be maintained, then, certainly, the war with America will be long indeed.

Reader, what was it that was done in virtue of these orders in council? I will give you an instance. An American built ship, owned by a native American, manned by native Americans, laden with flour, or any thing else the growth of America, and bound from America to France, or to any other country named in the orders in council, was seized on the high seas by any of our vessels of war, carried into any of our ports, the ship and cargo condemned, and the master and his crew turned on shore to beg or starve, or live and find their way home as they could.—This was done in virtue of the orders in council; and, if the Report be correct, this is what we have a right to do towards neutrals. again, "whenever the conservation of the country" calls for it, that it to say, whenever our government thinks proper to cause it to be done! Now, I will not waste my time and that of the reader by any discussion upon maritime and neutral rights; but will just ask him this one question; If we

have a right to act thus towards America, whenever we think proper, she being at peace with us, what can she lose in the way of trade, what can she risk, in exchanging that state of peace for a state of war?

In my next, I shall discuss the other points brought forward in this debate.

WM. COBBETT.

American Prize-list.

List of Enemy's vessels, captured and brought into port or destroyed by the public and private armed vessels of the United States.

(CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.)

17. The prize brig sent into the Chesapeake by United States' brig Argus, was driven out again by a gale of wind, and re-captured by the Maidstone frigate. We therefore deduct one number from the general account, though we think that 10 per cent, added, would not embrace all the prizes actually made, not being duly published.

283. Brig Venus, from Brazil and London, 10 guns, richly laden with 365 bales of cotton, fustic, &c. sent into Savannah by the privateer Polly of Salem.

286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294

—nine British vessels, sunk, burnt, and destroyed by the Patriot of New-York, during a cruise of 56 days.

295. Packet Townsend, from Falmouth for Barbadoes, heavily armed, captured by the Com. of Baltimore, after a severe engagement in which the captain of the Townsend and four of her men were killed and several wounded. The Tow was but little injured, and had only two men wounded.

296. Brig Burchall, a packet from Barbadoes for Demarara, with an English commissary and his lady on board, captured by the High-Flyer of Baltimore, and sent into that port. The High-Flyer has captured a number of drogers plying between the islands—she released one of them with the commissary and 73 prisoners, and sent her as a flag of truce into Demarara; and governor Carmichael returned a complimentary letter to her capt. for his kind treatment of them.

297. Brig Criterion, sent into New-York.

298. Schooner Neptune, captured by the Revenge of Philadelphia, and given up to release her prisoners, after the proper formalities.

299. Schooner Neptune, with a cargo of salt, oil, fish, &c. sent to Portland, by the Revenge of Salem; on her way from the former to the latter place was wrecked—crew and cargo saved.

300. Schooner—, driven ashore on the coast of Nova Scotia, and burnt, by the Revenge of Salem.

301. Brig Fancy, sent into New-London by the Joel Barlow, privateer.

302. Schooner Nelly and Pamela, was captured by the Revenge of Philadelphia, was wrecked on Chincoteague shoals—crew and cargo saved.

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