

resource, than in those large and permanent military establishments which are established by the principles of our free government and against the necessity of which the militia were meant to be a constitutional bulwark.

On the coast, and on the ocean, the war has been as successful as circumstances inseparable from its early stages could promise. Our public ships and private cruisers, by their activity, and where there was occasion, by their intrepidity, have made the enemy sensible of the difference between a reciprocity of captures and the long confinement of them to their side. Our trade with little exception, has safely reached our ports—having been much favored in it by the course pursued by a Squadron of our frigates, under the command of Commodore Rodgers. And in the instance in which skill and bravery were more particularly tried with those of the enemy, the American flag had an auspicious triumph.—The frigate Constitution, commanded by Capt. Hull, after a close and short engagement completely disabled and captured a British frigate; gaining for that officer and all on board, a praise which cannot be too liberally bestowed; not merely for the victory actually achieved, but for the prompt and cool exertion of commanding talents, which giving to courage its highest character, and to the force applied its full effect, proved that more could have been done in a contest requiring more.

Anxious to abridge the evils from which a state of war cannot be exempt. I lost no time after it was declared in conveying to the British government the terms on which its progress might be arrested, without awaiting the delays of a formal and final pacification.—And our charge d'affaires at London was at the same time, authorized to agree to an armistice founded upon them. These terms required, that the Orders in Council should be repealed as they affect the U. States, without a revival of blockades, violating the acknowledged rules; that there should be an immediate discharge of American seamen from British ships; and a stop put to impressment from American ships, with an understanding that an exclusion of the seamen of each nation from the ships of the other should be stipulated; and that the armistice should be improved into a definitive and comprehensive adjustment of depending controversies.

Although a repeal of the Orders susceptible of explanations meeting the views of this government, had taken place before the pacific advance was communicated to Great Britain, the advance was declined from an avowed repugnance to a suspension of the practice of the impressment during the armistice, and without any intimation that the arrangement with respect to seamen would be accepted. Whether the subsequent communication from this government afforded an occasion for reconsidering the subject on the part of Great Britain, will be viewed in a more favorable light or received in a more accommodating spirit remains to be known. It would be unwise to relax on measures in any respect, on a presumption of such result.

The documents from the department of State, which relate to the subject, will give a view also of the propositions for an armistice which have been received here, one of them from the authorities at Halifax and in Canada, the other from the British Government itself, through Admiral Warren;—and of the grounds upon which neither of them could be accepted. Our affairs with France retain the posture which they held at my last communication to you. Notwithstanding the authorized expectation of an early as well as favorable issue to the discussions on foot; these have been procrastinated to the latest date. The only intervening occurrence meriting attention is the promulgation of a French Decree, purporting it to be a definite repeal of the Berlin and Milan Decrees. This proceeding altho made the ground of the repeal of the British Orders in Council, is rendered by the time and manner of its liable to many objections.

The final communications from our special Minister to Denmark afford further proofs of the good effects of his mission and of the amicable dispositions of the Danish government.

From Russia we have the satisfaction to receive assurances of continued friendship, and that it will not be effected by the ruptures between the United States and Great Britain. Sweden also professes sentiments favorable to the subsisting harmony.

With the Barbary powers, excepting that of Algiers, our affairs remain on the ordinary footing. The Consul General residing with that regency has suddenly, and without cause been banished, together with all the American citizens found there. Whether this was the transitory effect of captious despotism or the first act of predetermined hostility, is not ascertained. Precautions were taken by the Consul, on the latter supposition.

The Indian tribes not under foreign instiga-

tion, remain at peace, and receive civilizing attentions which have proved so beneficial to them.

With a view to that vigorous prosecution of the War, to which our national faculties are adequate, the attention of Congress will be particularly drawn to this insufficiency of the existing provisions for filling up the military establishments. Such is the happy condition of our country, arising from the faculty of subsistence and the high wages for every species of occupation, that notwithstanding the augmented inducements provided at the last session, a partial success only has attended the recruiting service. The deficiency has been necessarily supplied during the campaign, by other than regular troops, with all the inconveniences and expenses incident to them.—The remedy lies, in establishments more favorable for the private soldier, the proportion between his recompense and the term of his enlistment. And it is a subject which cannot too soon or too seriously be taken into consideration.

The same insufficiency has been experienced in the provisions for volunteers, made by an act of the last session.—The recompense for the service required in this case, is still less attractive than in the other. And although patriotism alone has sent into the field some valuable corps of that description, those alone who can afford the sacrifice, can reasonably be expected to yield to that impulse.

It will merit consideration also whether an auxiliary to the security of our frontier, corps may not be advantageously organized, with a restriction of their services to particular districts convenient to them. And whether the local and occasional services of mariners and others in the seaport towns under a similar organization, would not be provident addition to the means of their defence.

I recommend a provision for an increase of the general officers of the army, the deficiency of which has been illustrated by the number and distance of separate commands, which the course of the war and the advantage of the service have required.

And I cannot press too strongly on the earliest attention of the legislature the importance of the recognition of the staff establishment; with a view to render more distinct and definite the relations and responsibility of its several departments. That there is room for improvements which will materially promote both economy and success, in what appertains to the army and to the war, is equally inculeated by the examples of other countries, and by the experience of our own.

A revision of the militia laws for the purpose of rendering them more systematic, and better adapting them to the emergencies of the war, is at this time particularly desirable.

Of the additional ships authorized to be fitted for service, two will be shortly ready to sail; a third is under repair of the residue. Of the appropriations for the purchase of materials for shipping the greater part have been applied to that object, and the purchase will be continued with the balance.

The enterprising spirit which has characterized our naval force, and its success both in restraining insults and depredations on our coasts, and in reprisals on the enemy, will not fail to recommend an enlargement of it. There being reason to believe that the act prohibiting the acceptance of British licences is not a sufficient guard against the use of them for purposes favorable to the interests and views of the enemy; further provisions on that subject are highly important. Nor is it less so, that penal enactments should be provided for cases of corrupt and perfidious intercourse with the enemy, not amounting to treason, nor yet embraced by any statutory provisions.

A considerable number of American vessels which were in England when the revocation of the Orders in Council took place, were laden with British Manufactures, under an erroneous impression that the nonimportation act would immediately cease to operate, and have arrived in the United States. It did not appear proper to exercise, on unforeseen cases of such magnitude, the ordinary powers vested in the treasury department to mitigate forfeiture, without previously affording to Congress an opportunity of making on the subject such provisions as they may think proper. In their decision they will doubtless equally consult what is due to equitable considerations and to the public interest.

The receipts into the treasury during the year ending on the 30th Sept. last, have exceeded 16 millions and an half of dollars; which have been sufficient to defray all the demands of the Treasury to that day, including a necessary reimbursement of near three millions of the principal of the public debt. In these receipts is included a sum of near 5,850,000, dols. received on account of the loans of last session; and the whole sum actually obtained on loan, amounts to 11 millions dol. the residue of which being receivable subsequent to the 30th of September last, will,

together with the current revenue enable us to defray all the expenses of this year.

The duties on the late unexpected importations of British Manufactures, will render the revenue of the ensuing year more productive than could have been anticipated.

The situation of our country, fellow citizens, is not without its difficulties; though it abounds in animating considerations, of which the view here presented of our pecuniary resources is an example. With more than one nation, we have serious and unsettled controversies, and with one powerful in the means and habits of war are at war.

The spirit and strength of this nation are, nevertheless equal to the support of all its rights, and to carry it through all its trials. They can be met in that confidence.—Above all, we have the inextinguishable consolation of knowing that the war in which we are actually engaged is neither a war of ambition or vain glory; that it is waged, not in violation of the right of others, but in the maintenance of our own; that it was preceded by a patience without example, under the wrongs accumulating without end; and that it was finally not declared until every hope of averting it was extinguished, by the transfer of the British scepter into new hands clinging to former councils; and until declarations were reiterated to the last hour, thro' the British envoy here, that the hostile edicts against our commercial rights, and our maritime independence would not be revoked, without violating the obligations of Great Britain to the other powers as well as to her own interests.

To have shrunk under such circumstances, from manly resistance, would have been a degradation blighting our best and proudest hopes; it would have struck us from the highest rank, where the virtuous struggle of our fathers had placed us, and have betrayed the magnificent legacy which we hold in trust for future generations. It would have acknowledged, that on the element, which forms three fourths of the globe we inhabit, and where all independent nations, have equal and common rights, the American people were not an independent people but colonists and vassals. It was at this moment, and with such an alternative, that war was chosen. The nation felt the necessity of it and called for it. The appeal was accordingly made, in a just cause to the just and all powerful Being who holds in his hand the chain of events and destiny of nations. It remains only, that faithful to ourselves, entangled in no connections with the views of other powers, and ever ready to accept peace from the hands of justice, we prosecute the war with united councils and with the ample faculties of the nation, until peace be so obtained, as the only means, under the divine blessings of specially obtaining it.

JAMES MADISON.

November 4, 1812.

Adjutant General's Office,
Fort George, 13th November, 1812.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDER.

On an inspection of the Return of the several Corps of Militia on this Frontier, there appears many absences therefrom; his Honor Major General Sheaffe, being willing on the commencement of the Campaign which has devolved on him, to shew his lenity and forbearance, is pleased to direct that no Proceedings shall be had against such Militia Men as are now absent, who shall voluntarily and without delay return to their duty.—Officers commanding Companies and Regiments, are called on to exert themselves to bring back such as still may persist in absenting themselves.

By command of his Honor Major General Sheaffe.

(Signed) ENEAS SHAW,
Adj. Gen. Mila. U. C.
Officer commanding Militia at York.

The Benefit of the above Order will be extended down to the present time to such of the Militia of the Midland District as are disposed to avail themselves of it.

(Signed) RICHARD CARTWRIGHT,

Col. Commanding the Militia of the
Midland District.
Kingston, 27th Nov. 1812.

By his Honor Roger Hale Sheaffe, Esq. President administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General Commanding his Majesty's Forces within the same, &c. &c.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas divers persons residing within the limits of this Province, claim to be exempt from Military Service, on pretence of being Citizens of the United States of America; I have thought proper, by and with the advice of his Majesty's Executive Council for the affairs of the Province, to direct and require, and I do hereby direct and require that all such persons residing within the Western, London and Niagara Districts, do forthwith report themselves to the Board appointed at

Niagara to examine into such claims. And that all such persons residing in the Midland, Johnstown, and Eastern Districts, do report themselves to the Board appointed at Kingston. And all such persons residing in the Home and Newcastle Districts, do in like manner report themselves to the Board appointed at York for the same purpose, in order that if recognized to be citizens of the United States of America, they may be furnished with proper passports to leave the Province.—And it is hereby made known, that every citizen of the United States of America in this Province, who shall not before the first of January, 1813, have reported himself to one of the said Boards, shall be taken to be an alien enemy, and shall be liable to be treated as a Prisoner of War, or as a Spy, in circumstances may dictate.

Given under my hand and seal at Arms at York, this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and of his Majesty's reign the fifty-third.

R. H. SHEAFFE, President, &c.

President's Office, York, 9th Nov. 1812.

His Honor the President has been pleased in conformity with his Proclamation, bearing date this day, to constitute and appoint the undermentioned gentlemen to be Boards for examining and deciding upon the pretensions of persons who may come forward and report themselves as being subjects of the U. States, and as such claim exemption from Military service, at the following places respectively:

At Kingston, for the Midland, Johnstown and Eastern Districts.—Col. Vincent, 49th Regiment, the Hon. Richard Cartwright, and Allan MacLean, Esq.

At York, for the Home and Newcastle Districts.—the Hon. John McGill, the Hon. Prichard Selby, Thomas Ridout and William Allan, Esqrs.

At Niagara, for the Niagara, London and Western Districts.—the Hon. William Claus, Thomas Dickson & Joseph Edwards, Esqrs.

The following Instructions from his Honor the President, have been transmitted to the several Boards at Kingston, York and Niagara, for their guidance in the execution of the duty assigned to them.

Having thought proper, in conformity with the advice of the Executive Council, to constitute you, or any two of you, to be a Board at [] to receive and decide upon the pretensions of persons in the [] Districts, as the case may be] who claim exemption from Military service, as being subjects of the U. States: You will therefore receive all such applications, and being satisfied that the persons applying are subjects of the U. States, you will furnish them with Passports to cross the lines at such place, and in such manner as you may find expedient to direct. Should however, instances occur in which it may appear to you, that very serious injury may arise to such persons, being settled, and having families in the country, who have not received Lands from the Crown, or taken the Oath of Allegiance, you may report the case to me, especially with your opinion as to the terms of a modified allegiance, or security for good conduct, on which they may be permitted to remain.

(Signed) R. H. SHEAFFE, President.

On the night of the 20th November a party of the Militia of the Counties of Stormont and Glengary, aided by a detachment of the Glengary Fencibles, crossed over to St. Regis and made prisoners of the American troops stationed there, who had before carried off Captain M'Donnell and a party of the Canadian Voyageurs sent from Lower Canada to occupy that Village.—Not a man on our side was hurt.—It is ascertained that the enemy had two men killed, and it was supposed that more had fallen. The prisoners taken were 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, and 4 rank and file.—They were immediately sent to Montreal under an escort of the Glengary Militia.

Report from Niagara states, that a heavy cannonading has taken place in that neighborhood between our Batteries and that of the enemy, by which considerable damage is said to have been done on both sides. From the well tried spirit and loyalty of the brave men composing that Garrison, we may easily anticipate the final result.—We hope soon to obtain particulars.

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MARRIED.—On Saturday Evening last, by the Rev. George O. Stuart, Mr. Robert Talbot to Miss Ellen Pember, both of Kingston.

CAME into the inclosure of the Sublime or sometime in September last, a Cow. The owner is requested to prove property, pay charges, and take her away.

JOHN L. JACKSON.

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