

UNITED STATES.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

*Bellevue Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives.*

On our present meeting it is my first duty to invite your attention to the Providential favors which our Country has experienced, in the unusual and rich abundance of its Tributes and in the rich abundance with which the earth has rewarded the labors bestowed on it. In the successful cultivation of other branches of Industry, and in the progress of general improvement favorable to the national prosperity, there is just occasion, also for our mutual congratulations and thankfulness.

With these blessings are necessarily mingled the pressures and vicissitudes incidental to the state of war, into which the United States have been forced by the perseverance of a foreign power, in its system of injustice and aggression.

Previous to its declaration, it was deemed proper, as a measure of precaution, to place that considerable force should be placed in the Michigan territory, with a general view to its security, and in the event of war, to such operations in the uppermost Canada as would intercept the hostile armies of Great Britain, and ever the savages to obtain the command of the Lake, on which that part of Canada borders, and maintain co-operating relations with such forces as might be most conveniently employed against other parts. Brigadier General Hull was charged with this important service, having under his command a body of troops composed of regulars and volunteers from the State of Ohio. Having reached his destination after his knowledge of the war, and possessing discretionary authority to act, he bravely passed into the neighboring territory of the enemy with a prospect of easy and victorious progress. The expedition nevertheless terminated unfortunately, not only in a retreat, to the town and fort of Detroit, but in the surrender of both, and of the gallant corps commanded by that officer. The causes of this painful reverse will be investigated by a military tribunal.

A distinguishing feature in the operations which preceded and followed this disgraceful event, is the use made by our enemy of the merciless savages under their influence. Whilst the benevolent policy of the United States invariably recommended peace and promoted civilization among that wretched portion of the human race; and was making exertions to dissuade them from taking either side in the war, the enemy has not scrupled to call to his aid their ruthless ferocity, armed with the horrors of those instruments of carnage and torture, which are known to spare neither age nor sex. In this outrage against the laws of honorable war, and against the feelings sacred to humanity, the British commanders cannot resort to a plea of retaliation; for it is committed in the face of our example. They cannot mitigate, by selling it a self-defence against men in arms; for it embraces the most shocking atrocities of defenceless families. Nor can it be pretended that they are not answerable for the atrocities perpetrated since the savages are employed with a knowledge, and even with assurances that their fury could not be controlled. Such is the spectacle which the deputed authorities of a nation, basing its religion and morality, have not been restrained from presenting to an enlightened age. The unfortunate at Detroit was not, however, without a consoling effect. It was followed by signal proofs, that the national spirit rises according to the pressure on it. The loss of an important post and the brave men that surrendered with it, inspired every where new ardour and determination. In the State and districts least remote it, was no sooner known, than every citizen was ready to fly with arms to protect his brethren against the blood-thirsty savages let loose by the enemy on an extensive frontier; and to convert a partial calamity into a source of invigorated efforts.

This patriotic zeal, which it was necessary rather to limit than to excite, has emanated an ample force from the States of Kentucky, Ohio, and from parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia. It placed, with the addition of a few regulars, under the command of Brigadier General Harrison, who possesses the entire confidence of his fellow soldiers, among whose are citizens, some of them volunteers in the ranks, not less distinguished by their political stations, than by their personal merits. The greater portion of this force is proceeding on its destination, towards the Michigan territory, having suc-

ceeded in relieving an important frontier post, and in several incidental operations against hostile tribes of savages, and rendered assistance by the subterranean line, which they had been seduced by the enemy a seduction of the more cruel, as it could not fail to impose a necessity of precautionary severities against those who yielded to it.

At a recent date, an attack was made on the post of the enemy near Niagara, by a detachment of the regular and other forces, under the command of Major-General Van Rensselaer, of the militia of the state of New-York. The attack, it appears, was ordered in compliance with the ardor of the troops, who executed it with distinguished gallantry, and were for a time victorious; but not receiving the expected support, they were compelled to yield to the re-advancements of British regulars and savages. Our loss has been considerable, and is to be lamented. That of the enemy, less ascertained, will be more felt, as it includes among the killed the commanding General, who was also the governor of the province; and was sustained by veteran troops, from unexperienced soldiers, who usually improve in the duties of the field.

Our expectation of gaining the command of the Lakes by invasion of Canada from Detroit, having been disappointed, measures were instantly taken to provide on them a naval force superior to that of the enemy. From the talents and activity of the officer charged with this object, every thing that can be done may be expected. Should the present season not admit of considerable success, the progress made will enable for the next a naval ascendency, where it is essential to our permanent peace with, and control over the savages.

Among the incidents in the measures of the United States to call into service and command the militia for the public defence, can be thus frustrated, even in a state of declared war, and of consequent apprehension of invasion preceding war, they are not one notion for the people most of all requiring it; and that the public safety may have no other resource, than in those large and permanent military establishments which are forbidden 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 successful as circumstances impermissible from its early stages could permit. Our public ships and private cruizers, by their activities, and, where there was occasion, by their impetuosity, 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 the skill of every sea man more particularly is wanted, those of the enemy, or American flag, had an unusual triumph. The frigate Constitution, commanded by Capt. Hull, after a close and short engagement, completely disabled and captured a British frigate; going for that officer and all on board, a prize which cannot be too liberally bestowed; nor merely for the victory actually achieved; but for that prompt and cool exertion of commanding talents, which giving to courage its highest energy, and 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 astute of war cannot be exempt, and not to time after it was declared, we have not an armistice founded upon them. This which its progress might be arrested, without awaiting the delays of a formal and final pacification—And our charge of affairs at London was at the same time, authorized to give, on an armistice founded upon them. This terms required, that the Orders in Council should be repealed as they affected the U. States, without 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 imprisonment 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 cessation of dependent hostilities.

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 assagurance to a suspension of the practice of the imprisonment during the armistice, and without any intimation that the arrangement with respect to seamen should be accepted. Whether the subsequent communication from this government affording an occasion for re-considering 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 our measures in any respect, on a presumption of such a 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 Canada, the other from the Irish Government itself, through Admiral Warren; and of the grounds upon which neither of them could be accepted. Our affairs with France remain the posture which they held at my last communication to you. Notwithstanding an authorized expectation of an early as well as favorable issue to the discussions on foot; there have been premature insinuations to the late date. The only intervening occurrence requiring attention is the promulgation of a French Decree, purporting to be a definite repeal of the Berlin and Milan Decrees. This proceeding will make the ground of the repeal of the British Orders in Council, to be rendered, in the time, and manner of it 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 affected by the ruptures between the United States and Great Britain. The media also professes sentiments favorable to the subsiding animosity.

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 is the transient effect of capricious despotism or the fractious of predetermined hostility, is not ascertained. Precautions were taken by the Consul, on the latter supposition.

The Indian tribes not under foreign intimation, remain at peace, and receive civilizing attentions which have proved so beneficial to them.

With view to the vigorous prosecution of the war, to which our national facilities are adequate, the attention of Congress will be particularly drawn to the insufficiency of the existing provisions for filling up the military establishment. Such is the happy condition of our country, arising from the facility of subsistence and the high wages for every species of occupation, that notwithstanding the augmented inducements provided at the late 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 expense incident to them.—The remedy lies, in establishments more favorable for the private soldier, the proportion between his recompense and the terms of his enlistment. And it is an subject which cannot too soon or too seriously be taken into consideration.

The same insufficiency has been experienced in this service for volunteers, and by an act of the last session.—The recompense for the service required in this case, is still less attractive than in the other. Add that patriotic alow has sent into the field some thousands of volunteers, and by an act of the last session, 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 sea-ports-towns under a similar organization, will not be a provident addition to the means of their defence.

I recommend a provision for an increase of the gene-

ral 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 reorganization 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 inculcated 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 and all delay will be avoided in the repair of the residue. Of the appropriations for the purchase of materials for shipping, the greater part has 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 taken with British Manufactures, under an erroneous impression that the non-importation 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 forfeitures, 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 a half of dollars; which have been sufficient to defray all the demands on 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 5,860,000 dolrs. received on account of the loans of last session; the whole sum actually obtained on loan, amount to 11 millions doll. 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 expences 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 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 decreed until every hope of averting it was extinguished, by the transfer of the British sceptre into new hands, and by the former councils; and until declarations were reiterated to the last hour, through the British envoy here, that the hostile edicts

against our commercial rights, and our maritime independence would not be revoked, nay that they could not be revoked, without violating the obligations of Great Britain to other powers as well as to her own interests.

To have shrunk under such circumstances, from manly resistance, would have been a degradation blasting our best and proudest hopes; it would have struck us from the high 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 facilities 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.

#### FROM KINGSTON.

The U. Canada Courier has just arrived from Kingston, he reports that on last Tuesday morning, there appeared off Kingston seven armed American vessels full of men; that they bombarded that place during fifteen hours; struck the Royal George three times; killed one of her crew, a soldier of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. No other lives were lost. The enemy then left there for Sacket's Harbour. No landing was effected.

Montreal, Monday Evening, Nov. 10th.